

**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**  
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:**The archaeological site Vassiliki, Prefecture Lassithi**  
**A Minoan settlement from Prepalatial; 3500 – 1900 BC**

The archaeological excavation site *Vassiliki*, near the village *Vassiliki*, is located on a hill, right of the road from *Pachia Ammos* to *Ierapetra*. Around 2.5 miles after the intersection Pachia Ammos - Ierapetra comes right the junction towards *Vassiliki* (see sign). Following this road you will see after around 200 m another sign; here is also the possibility to park on the roadside. Further on by foot, on left side of the road, over a beaten path, through a olive grove; there are approximately 200 steps to the final destination. Coordinates: N 35.081 99°, E 25.811 40°, altitude 70 m.



Vassiliki was first excavated by the American archaeologist SAEGER (1903-1906); N. PLATON (1953) continued the excavations. 1970 ZOIS began with further excavations until 1982; 1990 work has continued then, particularly in the western part of the settlement. ZOIS identified four areas with identical houses, built side by side and considered this as an indication that *Vassiliki* was no Palace, but a settlement community of equal citizens. There are currently no indications that this Minoan town has ever experienced a threat by neighbouring cities or foreign civilizations; however, it went through a series of construction phases and was probably destroyed by three successive fires - and always rebuilt. There are two types of houses in Vassiliki, the "Red House" and the "West House". The "Red House" takes its name from the red painted lime plaster on the walls and is situated in the centre of the town, the "West House" is located in the western part of the early Minoan settlement and remains only with its foundations (see fig.)







Further pictures of Vassiliki



Vassiliki is also the eponym of the “Vassiliki-Art”, which is a Minoan ceramic style of the middle pre-palatial time (2800 - 2300 BC) in Crete and their ceramics (pitchers with flat base, tea pots, plates and cups) were first found in Vassiliki. Indicators of the “Vassiliki style” (see **figure**) are a differently coloured flashed surface obtained by an uneven burn.



The site is open during the tourist season (from May); Admission is free

Finally a reference (Link):

ZÖLLER, S. (2005): Die Gesellschaft der frühen "Dunklen Jahrhunderte" auf Kreta (The society of early "dark ages" in Crete). An investigation of archaeological remains of the population of Crete during the late Minoan III C and sub Minoan periods concerning the social significance and importance. – Master's thesis, 176 pages, Uni Heidelberg.

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