



Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

**Spili – Crete wide importance as bishop’s see,
also as seminary of the Orthodox church**



Spili (Greek Σπήλι, outdated also Spilion) is a mountain village on the Greek island Crete. It is located about 11 miles south of Rethymno, on the road from Rethymno to Agia Galini, and belongs to the regional district Rethymno. The place has about 700 inhabitants including the Viller Dariviana (Δαριβιανιά) with its 62 inhabitants, lain outside of the place. Spili has its name from a cave in the neighbouring mountain (Greek “spileon” = cave), which is not opened for the tourism, but can be explored on one’s own.

Spili is located on a hill of the southwest slope of the Kedros Mountains and is surrounded by much green. High plane trees donate shade in the place and well-known is probable the Venetian well coming from the 16th Century in the village centre. Cool, drinkable water from the sources above the village flows out of its 25 spouts the form of lion heads all year round (see fig.)



Touristic importance Spili has only as a destination for daily trips with the bus or as starting point for migrations. Accordingly there are relatively few accommodations, but many businesses, which sell traditional woven and knitted goods to day trippers. Furthermore Spili has three churches AGII THEODORI, AGIOS GEORGIOS and METAMORFOSIS TOU SOTIRA whose mural painting represent the damned.

Spili has Crete width importance as bishop’s see with attached seminary, seat of the Metropolitan of Lambi and Sfakia, whose building SANKT PETER AND PAUL (Άγιος Πέτρος και Παύλος) is at the west edge of the village at the road towards Rethymno.

One has a beautiful overview of the plant and the whole village from the road over to the Amari valley towards Geraki, which branch off directly at the bishop palace (coming from Rethymno left at the local entrance) (see fig).



The large, white building complex is impressive and supplies, including the in 1999 with natural stones extended and disguised outside wall, numerous illustrations of religious motives; see in addition also the following (without comments) pictures



Geophysical Note: The ditch of Spili shows 2 geological fault zones by seismic events (Holocene); see in addition CAPUTO, R., ET. AL. (2006): Multi-seismic cycle deformation rates from Holocene normal fault scarps on Crete. – Terra Nova **18**: 181-190.