

## Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

### The Nicholas<sup>1)</sup> - chapel in Georgioupolis <sup>1)</sup> Patron saint of seamen and fishermen



Georgiupoli (Greek Γεωργιούπολη (f. sg), high-linguistically Georgioupolis, Γεωργιούπολις) is a place at the western north coast of Crete within prefecture Chania, about 13.6 miles from Rethymno, 21.7 miles from Chania and 62 miles from Iraklion. Until 2010 Georgiupoli was an independent municipality with barely 2.500 inhabitants. 1997 by incorporations increased and raised to the urban community, on the 1. January 2011 it became one of six municipality districts of the new created municipality Apokoronas.

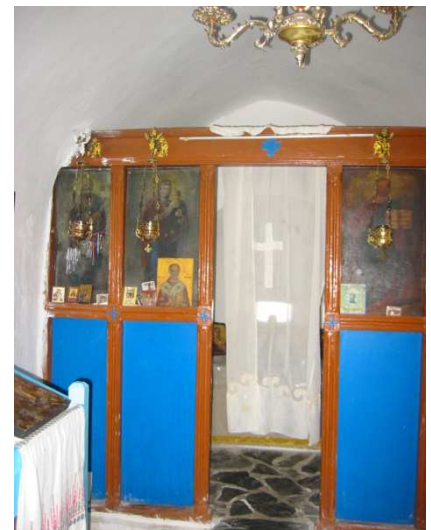
Georgiupoli was created 1893 as Almiropolis and 1899 renamed to honours the High Commissioner of Crete at that time, George of Greece, in Georgioupolis. In order to drain the original swampland, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century numerous eucalyptus trees were planted. An impressive avenue of eucalyptus trees therefore receives today the visitor and characterizes the townscape.

The village is located in the roundness of a bay off a western projective peninsula in a with eucalyptus trees lined river plain. The beach of Georgiupoli consists to a large extent of fine sand and extends more than 6 miles towards the east. About three miles inland is the only natural fresh water lake on Crete, the Lake Kournas.

The village has a small fishing port, which is fed by the short, about 1 mile long, river Almiros (“the salty”). Brackish water turtles are, among other, domestic in the water of the river.

Georgiupoli is strongly formed by the package tourism. In the town area as well as east of it numerous hotel plants have arisen from together with an dependent on the tourism infrastructure with souvenir shops, catering industry, estate agencies and auto rental companies.

A “landmark “of the town is the Nicholas chapel; the pictorial, whitewashed chapel is located off the port, at the end of a rocky, stick out in the sea dyke on a rock formation; see fig. It is sacred to the holy Nicholas, the patron saint of fisher- and seamen. Coordinates: N 35° 365 803, E 24° 263 713.





The rock dam to the chapel is about 250 m long (approx. 350 steps); it is flushed in parts also in the summer by the sea waves. It is advisable therefore, to walk on only with firm, waterproof and skid-proof footwear (or barefoot, which however can be painful).

<sup>1)</sup> [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas\\_of\\_Myra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_of_Myra) ]