

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Tour through the southern territory of the Amari valley (Brief description & hints to detail information's [II])

We start the tour again at the village entrance of Spili (see our leaflet No.: 390-12/E: Tour through the northern territory of the Amari valley (Brief description & hints to detail information's [I]) and turn again right towards Gerakari.

In Gerakari this time we do not turn left but right towards **Kardaki** (about 1.5 miles). In Kardaki the Byzantine church Astratigos (a cemetery church, see fig.) worth seeing; one can see it from the main street underneath the village. Who would like to see the frescos of the church (see fig.), can receive the key in a house at the village square (changes; ask for).



Via **Vrisses** it continues to **Drigies** (about 2.5 miles). Information to bicycle tours and migrations around Vrisses and Drigies can be found at: [<http://peter-thomson.com/walking-and-cycling-in-crete/> 103. Drigies to Vrisses and Kardaki]. The southern territory with its bendy mountain roads and relatively bald mountain-slopes shows, contrary to the villages of the northern territory (with more productive agricultural use), simple herders settlements, in which only few, usually older humans live. Approximately 1 mile behind Vrisses is on the right of the road (see fig.) a beautiful lay-by at a spring (20 steps up the mountain), with a wonderful view into the alpine world of the region. About 500 m before the village Drigies is (right) of the road a (nameless) chapel, which is likewise worth a stop (see fig.) Coordinates: N 35° 199 960, E 24° 644 179.





From Drigies it goes on to **Ano Meros** (1 mile). Memorial places for inhabitants killed by German occupiers during the massacre in August 1944 are seen frequently on the route, remarkable here is the large monument in the road turn before Ano Meros (see fig.; Source: www.kreta-wiki.de; here you find also further and detailed information about the German occupation period on Crete).

From Ano Meros continues to go via **Chordaki** and Agio Ioannis to **Agia Paraskevi** (12 miles). In innumerable serpentines it goes down, along the spares slopes of the Kedros, into the valley of the river Platis (which enters the sea at Agia Galini) and up again on the other side; see photo examples of the landscape. The ruins of an abandoned settlement (picture) are seen between Chordaki and Agio Ioannis within a right curve (down towards the valley on the left of the road). In Agia Paraskevi (on the main street, with the coordinates N 35° 9266, E 24° 42955) is on the right a newly constructed church and left-hand a „Aloni“; which is seen on Crete less and less often; therefore see in addition our leaflet at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/373-12E.pdf].



From Agia Paraskevi we take the road to Timbaki and leave the Amari valley at „the church with the blue roof “ (see picture above right)

Good information's about gastronomy and accommodation within this region and further detail information can be found within the Crete guidebook by *Eberhard Fohrer*, Pages 385 – 389 (ISBN 978-3-89953-692-8) [German language only].