

CRETE – OKTOBER 2014 – APRIL 2015

This winter we had planned to stay in Crete. We traveled on October the 18th by taxi from our apartment to the station in Kongsvinger where we took the airport bus to Gardermoen. Our flight, Norwegian, was scheduled to depart at 14.00 o'clock and be in Chania, Crete at 19.10 o'clock. It was a bit delayed from Gardermoen because of fog, but the plane had a tailwind, so we arrived before schedule anyway.



Chania International Airport, «Ioannis Daskalogiannis» is located near [Souda Bay](#). The airport is named after Ioannis Daskalogiannis, a rebel from Crete, who fought against [The Ottoman Empire](#) in the 1700s. The airport is also used by the Greek Air Force, and the United States. The Norwegian F16 effort unit for air operations over Libya was stationed here.

We had booked a car in advance. We had booked it for the whole winter and we had got a good offer for long term rental from a company in Kissamos. The rental company is called [Autofun](#). They delivered the car, a SEAT Cordoba, at the airport, and having filled in the necessary forms, we traveled to the apartment, which we had rented in Almyrida for the winter. We had with us GPS from Norway, so it was easy to find the place.



We were going to stay in this apartment.



The entrance / garden.



We had the terrace to the left.

Crete is the largest Greek island, the fifth largest in the Mediterranean and the most populous of all Greek islands.

The first human settlement in Crete is dated to 130,000 years ago during the Paleolithic era, the first Stone Age era. The first inhabitants probably came from the east Anatolia and crossed the Aegean in primitive crafts.

The Minoan culture originated around 2000 BC and was the first civilization in Europe and the first who built palaces. During the Minoan culture was Crete an evolved, literate civilization. It was later ruled by various Greek units, the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, the Muslim emirate Crete, Republic of Venice and the Ottoman Empire. After a brief period of autonomy (1897-1913) under a provincial government in Crete, the island was part of the kingdom of Greece. During World War II, the island was occupied by Nazi Germany.



Almyrida is situated on the south side of Souda bay.

It is said that Almyrida has only 75 residents, but I think there are a few more who live here.

There is a main road that runs through the town and a small road along the bay where most of the restaurants are located. There are also a couple of supermarkets, butcher and bakery.



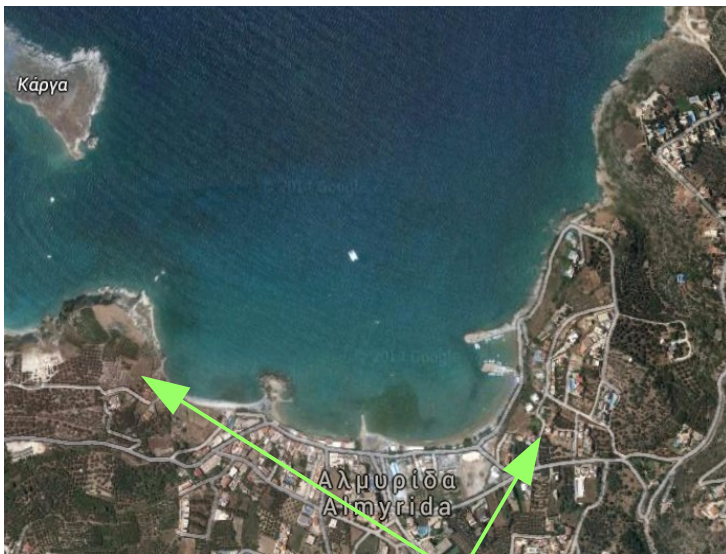
At first a couple of views from the terrace.



Oranges in the garden.



Monday the 20th we were in [Kissamos](#) to pay the rent for the car.



Tuesday the 21st we went sightseeing along the sea. We walked from here to here.



Right below the apartment we can see down to the breakwater for the marina.



Right down is also a part of the beach where one can rent small sailboats.



Here we see further along the beach.



A restaurant by the beach.



Further along the beach.
We look towards a cape west of town.
The island off the cape is called [Karga](#). Here are ruins from Phoenicians and it was dug tunnels here during WW2.



Her we had lunch the day after we arrived.
The restaurant is called [Psaros](#).



The sea goes all the way to the brick wall at the restaurants.
We see the little promontory with a beach and the large cape behind it.



Here we are on the beach on the promontory, looking back to the town and where we stay.



There is a little breakwater here.



The beach and the restaurants lying beyond.



There is a small memorial out on the promontory.



From the promontory, where we are standing, we see further west to the big cap. There is a pebble beach between.



Looking across to the cape.



Going along the pebble beach. We are looking back towards the promontory with the beach.



On our way up.



We came up this path.



View from the top of the cape, back to Almyrida.

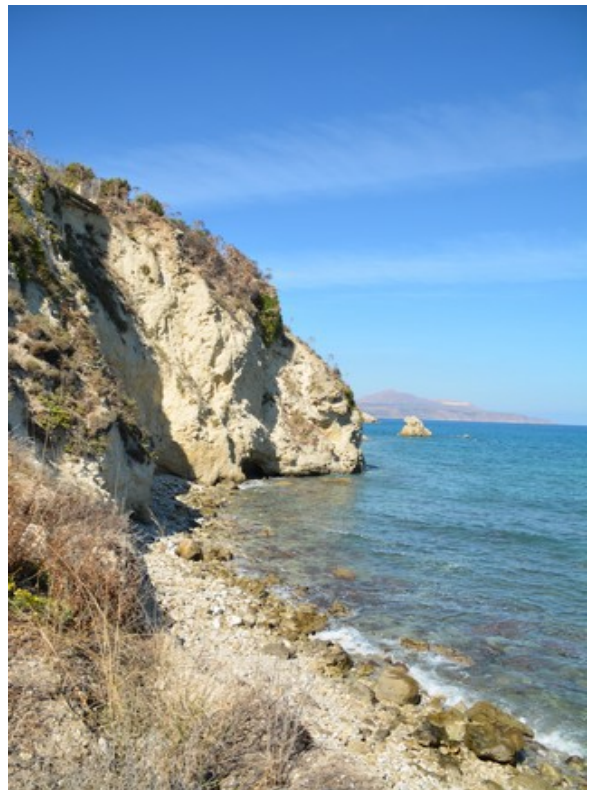


Umbelliferaes on the hill top.



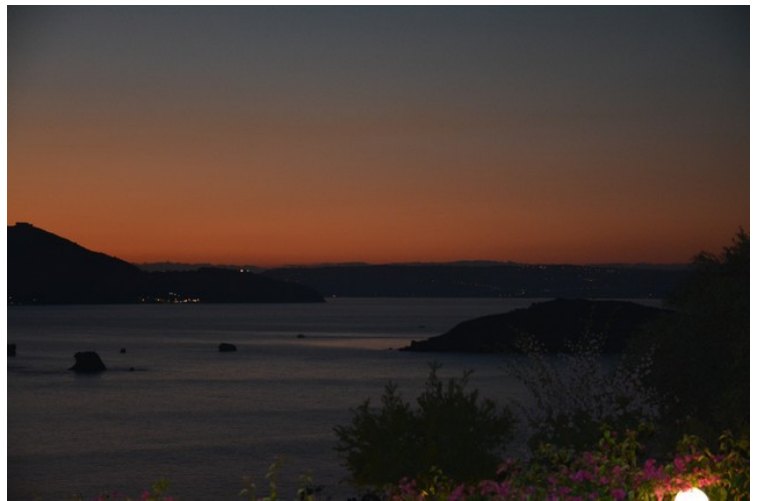
These umbelliferaes there was a lot of.

Here we are on our way back to the town again, looking along the hillside on the cape.

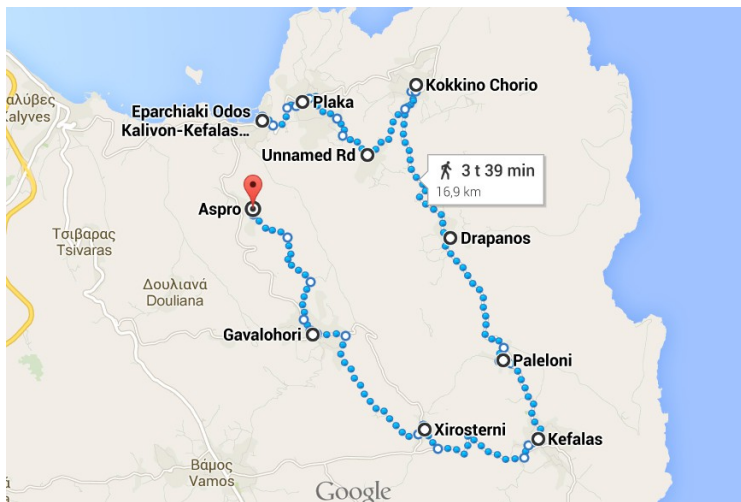




One of the restaurants along the beach.



Sunset seen from the terrace.



Tuesday the 22nd we went for a rode trip in the [Apokoronas](#) district, where we stay. We followed the route as shown on the map.



We came first to [Plaka](#) on the hill above Almyrida. Plaka has about 400 inhabitants, of which about half are foreigners, mainly British.



The church in Plaka.

A memorial of [Mikalís Papadakis](#), who was born in Plaka. He was a famous lyre player.





This is a view from [Kokkino Chorio](#), the red town, in the direction of Souda bay.
This village was the filming location for many of the scenes in the film «Zorba the Greek».



The square below the church with a restaurant in the background.



This is the church, St. Haralambos. It is one of three churches in this little village.



A water post below the church with two dolphins, the name Kriti (Crete) and a map of Crete.



Right above the church is a large memorial.



The whole memorial.



Here we arrive at [Kampia](#). It is just a small cluster of houses. Here we are welcomed by a cat.



This is the main road through the village. He who lives in the house to the right feeds the cats here, and it is possible to leave money on the table to help with food shopping for cats. He received € 5 from us.



Here are some of the cats eating. Here there was no fighting for food.



The smallest one.



Here we have walked to the end of the main street and look back.



From [Drapanos](#) we have just one picture.



From the village of [Paleloni](#) we don't have any picture.
Most of the houses here are in ruins.
Just arriving in Kefalas we took this picture of the ruins
of a large wind mill.



Arriving in [Kefalas](#).



The square in Kefalas.
The statue to the left has the names to those who lost
their lives in the last world war.

The village must have been founded in 1175. The name comes from Kephhalades who immigrated from the Byzantine kingdom in 1182. Now there live about 300 people here. The city sits high, 349m. It has been a prosperous city and it reportedly found 30 churches here.



A kafeneion by the square.

Below are some pictures from the streets of Kefalas.



This dog wanted to follow us.



Water wells.



Just before we get to Xirosterni, we discover this monument right by the road.
We think it is a kind of memorial.



The church in [Xirosterni](#).

The street passing by the church.



Just before Gavalohori we come past the flowering bushes.



In [Gavalohori](#) there is a big monument listing the names of those who lost their names in various wars.

Another monument.



Two tables for outdoor dining.



The tables belong to this restaurant, [Nicos Grill House](#).



Next to this restaurant there is an exhibition of various relics from ancient times.



This is some of the items to be seen.



A little further away in the street, we can peek into a small restaurant. They have pictures on the stone walls on the passage into the restaurant.



Farther away there is an old water post.

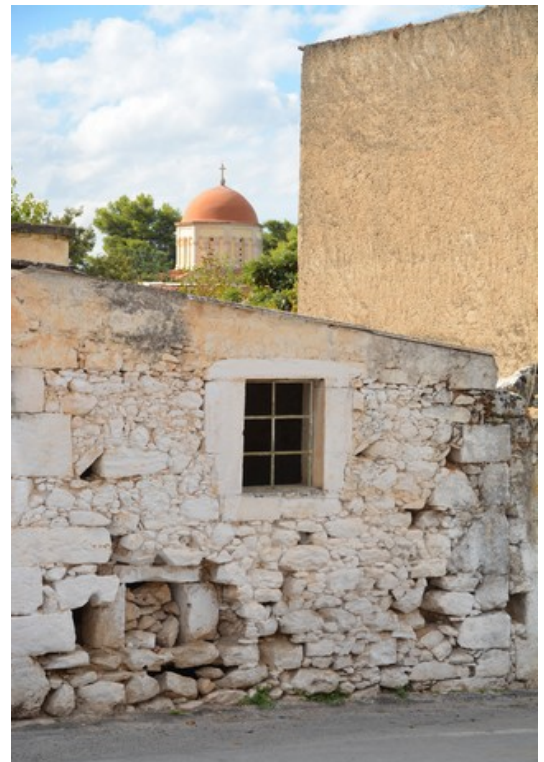


A little further we come to this restaurant. Two pictures taken before and after we have passed it.



Opposite the restaurant is this shop where it is being sold locally produced honey among other local produce.

As we travel further we take picture of a church tower a little further away.



The last village we drive through is named [Aspro](#). About 70 people live here, but we guess that they live in the outskirts of the old village, because it is mostly in ruins. Below are some pictures from the village.





On the outskirts there are some nice houses.



Here is the road that goes up to the village.