



On October the 25th, we drove to Chania to shop at Lidl. On the way back we went to see the [Izedin fortress](#). It is located right next to the main road between Almyrida and Chania. The fortress was built in 1872 by the Turkish commander of Crete. Earlier a smaller tower stood here. The fortress is named after the eldest son of Sultan Abdul Aziz. The fortress was later also used as a prison.

The last death sentence was executed in Greece in 1972 and it was at this fortress. Later, the fortress has been closed. It opens when concerts are held there in the summer. However, there are many who are working to restore the fortress.



The castle was closed, but we took a walk outside the walls.



From the hill where the castle is located, we see straight down to the main road. We see a bit of Souda Bay and Kalives.

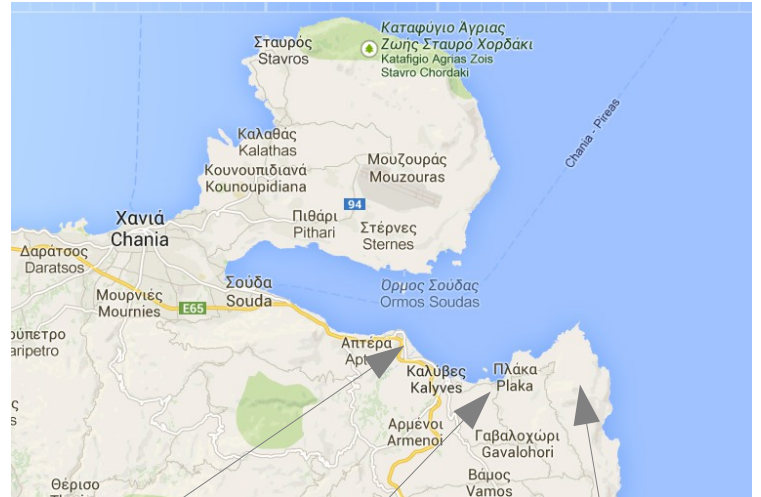
The fortress is located right at the small village of [Kalami](#).



On the hillside below some goats are going eating on the dry thicket that is there.



From the hill we can see the southern part of Souda Bay. Kalives is right and Almyrida below the mountaintop. The mountain is called Drapanos.



Kalami

Almyrida

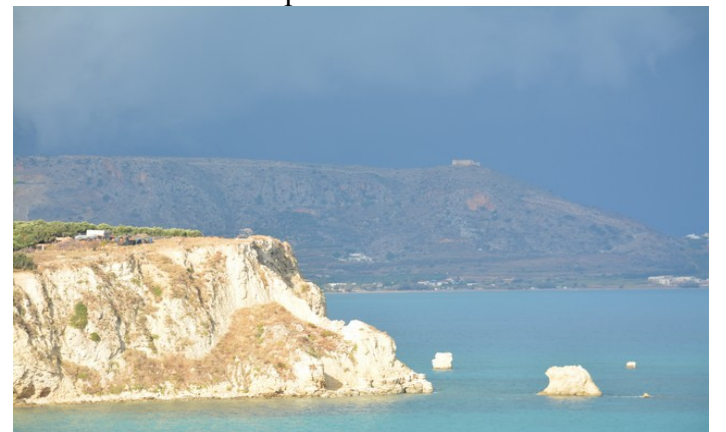
Drapanos mountain



On October the 26th, there was a heavy thunderstorm.

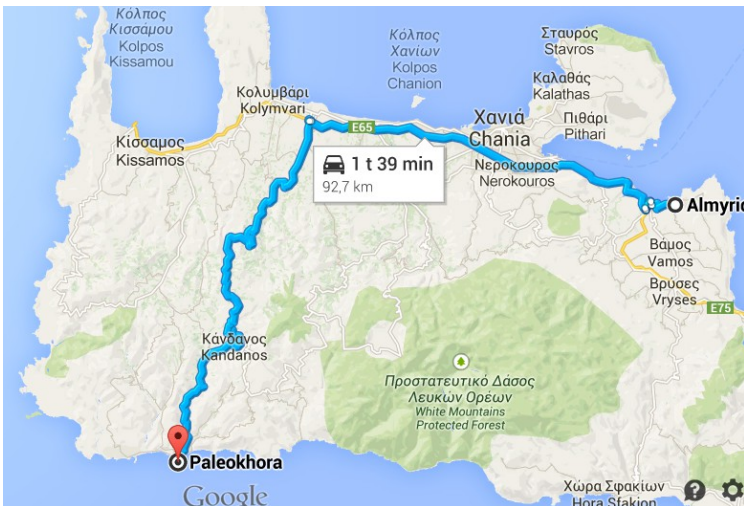


Special colors.





On October 27th, we drove to [Paleochora](#) on the south coast to visit Frode and Tove Børresen, who we met at the plane from gardermoen to Chania. We stayed at [Pal Beach Hotel](#). Paleochora sits on a peninsula and there is a sandy beach on the west side and a rocky beach on the east side. There lives about 2,000 people here and the dominant industry is tourism. Winter is low season and many of the hotels and restaurants closes then.



The driving route.

Paleochora seen from air.



We had a glass of white wine before we went to have dinner.



Before going, we took pictures from the terrace of the clouds and ocean.



Here we are at a small cafeteria for an ouzo before dinner.

Here we are at Restaurant [Portofino](#), waiting for the food, which we have ordered. We all had different pasta dishes which were gratin in the oven. All were very good.



After we had eaten we were back at the hotel. I am sated and sleepy, but we continued to talk long into the small hours.



Frode get a call from Norway which he must answer.



The next day we had breakfast at the same cafeteria where we had taken an ouzo the night before. When we had eaten, we went back to Almyrida. Before we went we took a picture of the coast eastwards.



Thursday the 30th we went for a long walk right out to the lighthouse at the tip of the peninsula where we live. This is the manifolds for water supply to the agriculture. The water pipes are mostly on the ground.



Tremendous flowering.



Next village to where we live is called Plaka. The name comes from an old flat stone that the shepherds used to cook in the old days.



Here we get a good view of the mountains Drapanos.



Along the way we come to a wire fence where it is hung up four goat skulls. They are probably of dead [Kri kri goats](#). These live only in Crete. There are only 2,000 left of them and they are protected.



This is really tough. It must have got old to get as large horns.



New shoots are forcing their way through the asphalt.



[Drapanos light house](#)



Cape Drapano.



Here is a good view of the Akrotiri peninsula. To the left of the highest peak is the airport.



It looks like this further east.



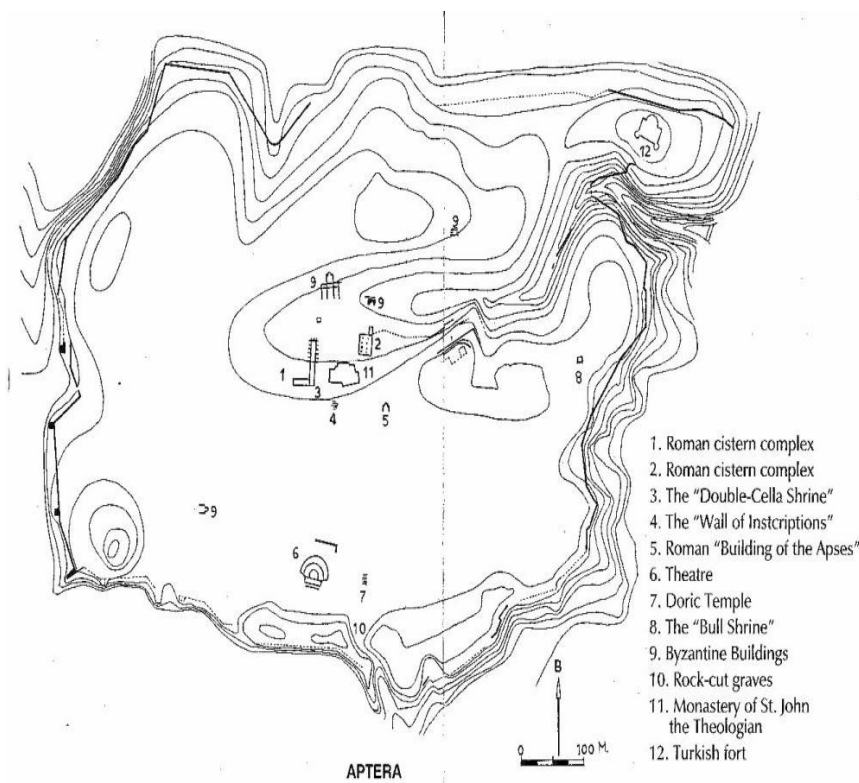
There is a lighthouse further east, too.



Many olive trees has incredibly much fruit.



This is the route we walked. We did not go so fast, because we stopped and looked at different things and took pictures, so we spent 3 hours and 10 minutes against 2 hours and 22 minutes as Google maps calculates with.



On Nov. 4, we drove over to the ancient Aptera, which is located on a hill between Chania and Almyrida. It was a city that was founded approximately 700 years BC. It was one of the most powerful cities in Crete. It was an independent city between 600 and 400 BC, and then made their own coins. They sent troops to Sparta during the second Messianic war in 668 BC. They were also allied with Knossos under the Cretan Civil War in 220 BC.

The city continued to be an important city in Roman times. It was damaged by earthquakes in 700 AD. In 823 it was destroyed by Arab pirates, and was eventually abandoned. It went into oblivion for a long time, but Robert Pashley discovered the ruins in 1834. In 1942 started excavations by the Germans who then occupied Crete. There are still excavations started here.

Linker til artikler om gamle Aptera: [Link 1](#) – [Link 2](#) – [Link 3](#) – [Link 4](#) – [Link 5](#) – [Link 6](#) – [Link 7](#)



Outermost on the plateau where Aptera is located, there is a fortress called [Koules](#) and which was built by the Turks in 1866. We drove over there first.



Massive walls.



The east part.



The north.



Directly below is Izedin fortress.
Koules fortress was supposed to assist Izedin fortress.



After that we drove back to ancient Aptera. Right at the entrance we see one of cisterns in the area.



When we look in the direction of the fortress (we do not see it), there is much ancient stone to see. It is ruins of a Roman bathhouse that we see in the background.



This is a monastery, Monastery of Agios Ioannis Theologos.



Just inside the entrance, we see the gate to the right, there is a double temple from the 5th century BC



This is inside the cloister.
We can see the tower of the abbey church.



The garden.



The entrance to the church.



The view from the church.



Inside the church.



Out in the cloister again.



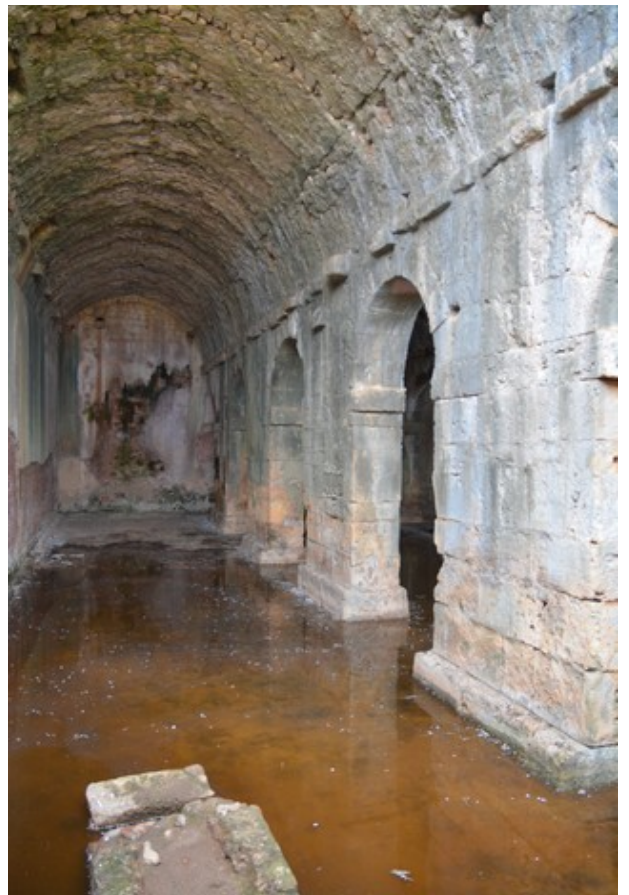
The roof of cisterns below the monastery.



Looking down into one of the cisterns.



Arched ceilings.



Inside one of the cisterns.



Nearby there are some snails that have parked on a post.



The remains of a villa from Roman times.



South of the monastery there is a group that is working with the excavation of a Byzantine villa.



Here some of the pillar pieces that they have unearthed. Bit of a puzzle if they should try to erect them again. One of those who worked here had lived 10 years in Lørenskog and spoke Norwegian.



A machine gun position from WWII.



A flock of sheep have parked under a tree.



We continue walking south, and we can see new Aptera in the background.



This is at the edge of the area, and we see some of the walls that were built around.



It appears that work is going on to restore what can be restored. This was the main entrance through the wall and into the area.



Beyond the excavation area, we see a bit of Aptera.



The church in Aptera.



In [Stylos](#) there are a lot of water sources with water coming from [The White Mountains](#).
More links: [Link 1](#) – [Link 2](#) – [Link 3](#)

On the road to Stylos we passed another excavation field, [Azoires](#). The oldest items here is dated to the early Minoan times, 3000 - 2100 BC There is also a number of buildings from the late Minoan times, 1300 - 1200 BC There is also a church from 1200 AD. The area was closed, so we just managed to take a picture of enlightenment board.



Here the water flows on.



A restaurant in the background.



A church in Stylos.



Another well.



This is where we went. We live in one of the houses at the left rear.

Monday, November the 10th, we went for a little walk up the hill from where we live. Along we saw a sign where this was not allowed.



It is steep on both sides of the valley where we go.



At the top we come past an olive grove.



There grows lichen on many of the branches of these trees.



Many of the trees are heavy cropped.



It begins to approach harvest time.



Here we come past a small church called Agios Vasilios.



Here the ants have dug out an apartment in the ground.



There are old ruin houses around the church.



More ruins.



Here grows shrubs in a window opening.



On our way down to Almyrida again.



On the way down we passed many fine plants. Many plants lose their leaves, but there are also many that bloom at this time.

