

Gavdos



Constantina Christoforou

Dedicated



to a mate...

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GEO CHRONIC

*An imaginative tectonic Rencontre brought the world Upside Down !
And the deep seas became Earth . .*



At the outset of the Miocene Epoch, 25 million years ago, geographical disturbances of great magnitude occurred in the Mediterranean and European region. Among many other occurrences, the emersion of the Aegeis ensued, a continuous land that brought together south-eastern Europe and Asia Minor



During the Pliocene Epoch, 3 million years ago, oceans flooded certain areas while elsewhere land pushed upward dividing Crete into smaller islands. ***Gavdos was submerged ..***



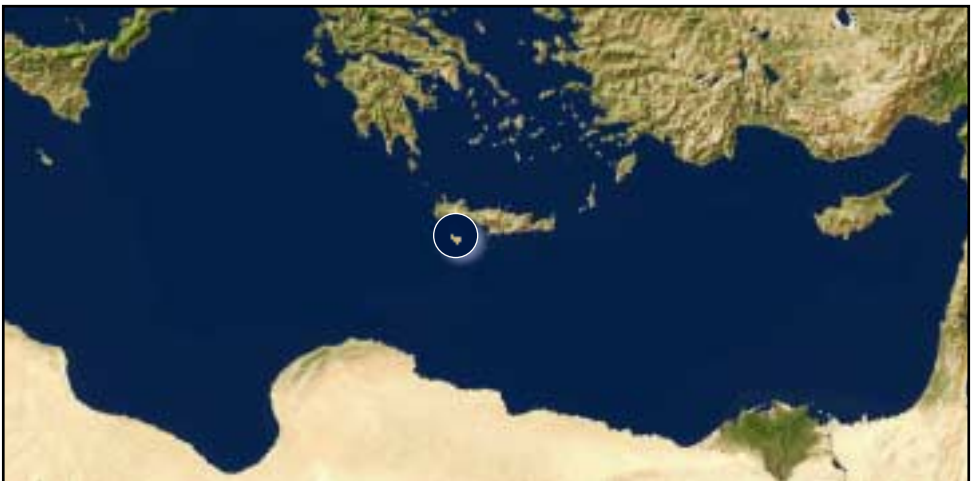
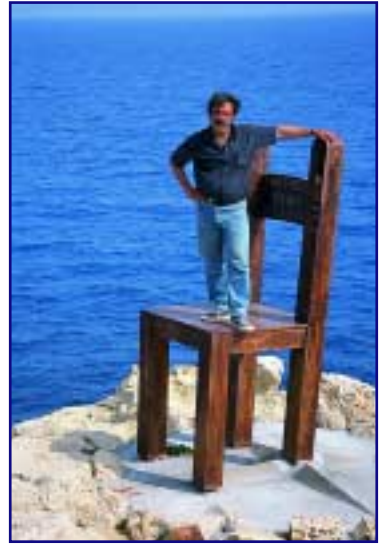
The Pleistocene Epoch, 1 million years ago, was marked by subsequent cold and warm periods that were due to the subsequent development and retreat of glaciers. Each time the ice sheets would slowly spread out from the poles towards the temperate zone the level of the oceans would recede and thus, bridges would form which would unite Crete

GEOGRAPHICS

- **Latitude:** 34° 52' N - 34° 48' S
- **Longitude:** 24° 02' N - 24° 08' S
- **Area:** 30 square meters {Paxoi 25}
- **Length:** 10 kilometres maximum
- **Width:** 5 kilometres mean
- **Shape:** triangular
- **Elevation:** 368 maximum - 100 average
- **Position:** The southernmost point of the European continent.
Its precise position in relation with the two plates, the Eurasian and the African, is not known!

- Distance (nautical miles)

It is equally distant from Sounio, Attica and Tobruk, Libya!
~170 n.m. Sfakia 22 nautical miles, Palaiohora 36 nautical miles.



GEOGRAPHICS



North, White Mountains



South...



- Sea depths:

- Gavthos - Gavthopoula up to 150 metres
- Gavthos - Crete up to 1500 metres
- Gavthos – Libya up to 3500 metres

A British traveller describes:

“Yet I found a tradition existing among the inhabitants, that there was a submarine bank or shallow between Ghavdo and Cyrene. The well-known French traveler Sonani attributed this shallow connexion, to the abrading effect of currents.

...There is a submarine valley under or rather off it, that is about 4000 feet deeper below the surface of the sea than either the White Mountains are above it. If we add the height of the two, we have a result, indicating a difference of level between the bed of the Mediterranean here and the top of the White Mountains, of nearly 20000 feet in a distance of about 25miles. Thereby giving a contour of the -aerial and submarine Stata of the earth of this part of the Mediterranean almost equal in vertical dimension to that of the highest mountain-ranges in the world.”

T.Spratt, 1860 on behalf of British Naval.



Sarakiniko

- Beaches

North: Sarakiniko, Ag. Giannis, Lavrakas

South: Tripti



Ag. Giannis

Northwest: Pirgos, Potamos, Bo

East: Lakoudi, Korfos, Carave

GEOGRAPHICS



Potamos



Tripiti

- **Inhabited towns:** Kastri, Vatsiana, Ampelos, Sarakiniko.



Vatsiana, the southeast settlement of Europe



Kastri, the capital...



The headquarters of Germans



Ampelos

GEOGRAPHICS



- *Uninhabited towns:*



Asvestoto, Kokkinos Lakkos, Pontakia, Traganou, Manieros, Kefala, Kouleriana, Vardia, photo Alexandriana, Klimousmena, Tsermiri, Galana, Siopata, Fragediana, Kopagelos, Lidia, Drediana, Xenaki, Violana.

Most of the towns were abandoned shortly after the middle of the twentieth century.

- **Population:** 1900= 415, 1920= 145, 1940= 280, 1960= 170, 1980= 80, **2000= 50**

Average population –funny?- in 1990: Gavthos 4. Greece 80, Holland 370

Gozzopoulo, Antigotzo or Gavthopoula

- **Latitude, Longitude:** 34° 55', 21° 00'
- **Position:** 5 nautical miles northwest of Gavthos.
- **Surface:** 3 square kilometres
- **Length:** 1 kilometre
- **Width:** 700 meters
- **Elevation (highest):** 113 meters
- **Coastline:** “sharp” all around the island. A few dozen meters perpendicular to the surface of the sea, its land disappears.
The sunset suits her well!
- **Inhabited:** Until the 19th century. Relics of a settlement were found south of the island.
- **Archaeological findings:** Relics of a *Minoan* settlement south of the island, point Keramos.



- **Sea mammals:**
the shallow waters between Gavthos and Gavthopoula are home to a large number of bottlenose dolphins.



WWF Hellas/ Julia Siori

- **Birds:**
“There is a particularly large number of birds. In just four visits 30 species of birds were recorded. Artemis, Stahtopetroklis, Moustakotsirovakos, Mavrotsirovakos and Mixos (Artena) nest only in Gavthopoula. There are considerable differences among the species which nest on the two islands, which either reverberate in preferences of habitats or remain a very interesting bio-geographic problem.”

Michael Dretakis, Biologist Ornithologist

- **Flora:**
Shrubby. In 1998 a botanist recorded a total of 95 different species of plant in only one visit. Those who search for wild herbage are staggered.

GAVTHODPOULA? Poula!

In 1998 the following Plan was submitted to the Greek government by some Greek and other businessmen:

1. The levelling of Gavthopoula to a height of 6 meters!
2. The debris of the “cut” height of the 107 meters are dumped into Gavthopoula’s coast in order to “expand” the island’s circumference by 50-200 meters.
3. Piers, equalling a total length of 6 kilometres around the island and moorings at a distance of up to 12 kilometres.
4. Factory facilities of an area of 30,000 square meters.
5. Residential installations for 450 workers as well as a port at Potamos, Gavthos.

Aim? The construction of one of the largest centres in the Mediterranean where commercial vessels can anchor as well as load and unload containers.??



Before



After

The greek government has not given a definite answer yet!...

HISTORY

Junction Gavthos is situated in the seaways that join Eastern with Western Mediterranean, Near East with Crete and Africa. Due to its position the island experiences historic encounters with neighbouring Crete but also with the Mediterranean region surrounding Crete.

Catherine Kopaka archaeologist
International Cretan Conference, 1996

In the beginning:

It offered hospitality to the first human settlements during the 4th and 3rd millennium B.C. To the archaeologist known becomes the discovery of the area, of the tension and quality of the human presence on the island

Catherine Kopaka, Paraskevi Drosinou, Ioannis Christodoulakos.
Historic Folklore and Archaeological Society of Crete, Chania 1994

3rd–1st millennium B.C.: During the Minoan years, Gavthos was a valuable intermediate Post in someone's journey to Egypt. The Egyptians import salt and cedar oil from Gavthos for the mummification of their kings and the maintenance of their ships



Homeric Times

*On a sea-girt isle
'tis the navel of ocean,
whereas hath dwelling a goddess,
daughter of Atlas, the wizard of bale,
who of every ocean knoweth the watery depths.*

Homer

Ogigia as an adjective would mean the island that is found very far away from the other world.

I. Kakridis

HISTORY - Odyssey

Hermes, thou chosen messenger of heaven!
Go to the nymph be these our orders borne.
Tis Jore's decree, Ulysses shall return.
Nor help'd by mortal hand, nor guiding gods.
Such is our sovereign will and such is fate."

The god who mounts the winged winds
fast to his feet the golden pinions binds,
o'er the wide earth and o'er the boundless main.
He grasps the wand that causes sleep to fly,
or in soft slumber seals the wakeful eye.
Then shoots from heaven to the high steep..

Till the distant island rose in view.

Then, swift ascending from the azure wave,
he took the path that winded to the cave.
Large was the grot, in which the nymph he found,
the fair-hair'd nymph with every beauty crown'd.
She sate and sung, the rocks resound her lays.

The cave was brighten'd with a rising blaze.
Cedar and frankinsence, an odorous pile,
flam'd on the hearth and wide perfum'd the isle.
While she with work and song the time divides
and through the loom the golden shuttle guides.

Without the grot a various sylvan scene appear'd around
and graves of living green
poplars and alders ever quivering play'd,
and nodding cypress form'd a fragrant shade,
on whose high branches, waving with the storm.
The birds of broadest wing their mansions form,
the cough, the sea-mew, the loquacious crow,
and scream aloft, and skim the deeps below.
Depending vines the shelving cavern screen,
with purple clusters blushing through the green.
Four limpid fountains from the clefts distil
and every fountain pours a several rill
In mazy windings wandering down the hill,
where bloomy meads with vivid greens were crown'd
and glowing violets threw odours round.
A scene, where if a god should cast his sight
A god might gaze,
and wonder with delight!

But sad Ulysses, by himself apart,
pour'd the big sorrows of his swelling heart,
all on the lonely shore he sate to weep

and roll'd his eyes around the restless deep..
Toward his lor'd coast he roll'd his eyes in vain,
till dimm'd with rising grief, they stream'd again.

'God of the golden wand
on what behest arriv'st thou here, an unexpected guest?
Lord as thou art, thy free injunctions lay
Tis mine with joy and duty to obey."

"What mov'd this journey from my native sky, a goddess asks,
nor can a god deny. Hear then the truth.
By mighty Jore's command
unwilling have I trod this pleasing land.
For who, self-mov'd, with weary wing
would sweep such length of ocean and unmeasur'd deep..
A world of waters!

A man..., Jove says, resides with thee,
Of all his kind most worn with misery.
Him, Jove now orders to his native lands
Straight to dismiss
So destiny commands
impatient fate his near return attends,
and calls him to his country and his frinds."

Ev'n to her inmost soul the goddess shook,

Then thus her anguish and her passion broke:
"Ungracious, gods! with spite and envy curs'd
still to your own ethereal race the worst!
Ye envy mortal and immortal joy
and love, the only sweet of life, destroy.
did ever goddess by her charms engage.
A favour'd mortal and not feel your rage
a man, an outcast to the storm and wave,
it was my crime to pity and to save
Yet I'll direct the safest means to go.
That last advice is all I can bestrow."

Then to the neighbouring forest led the way.
On the lone island's outmost verge there stood.
Of poplars, pines and firs, a lofty wood,
whose leafless summits to the skies aspire
scorch'd by the sun, or sear'd by heavenly fire, already dried.
These pointing out to view the nymph just show'd him,
and with tears withdrew

Four days were past, and now, the work complete.
Shone the fifth morn,
when from her sacred seat the nymph dismiss'd him.



THE BUILDING OF THE RAFT

Odorous garments given
and bathed in fragrant oils that breath'd of heaven.
The goddess, last, a gentle breeze supplies,
To curl old Ocean and to warm the skies.

Homer

(translated by Alexander Pope, 1889)

HISTORY

Historic years



Mobile and immobile monuments give testimony that humans were present and active during the historic years, mainly during the Hellenistic, the Roman even the first Byzantine years.

During the *classic* and *Hellenistic* years, Lavrakas, Aghios Georgios and Aghios Ioannis constituted the island's "commercial triangle". Gavthos was under the protection of Gortina in Crete. "An inscription that was incised on a limestone, found on Gortina, provided a lot of information surrounding the relation of Gavthos with the then powerful Goritan. This inscription clearly reveals Gavthos' tax obligations to its protector. And their obligations reached so high that the impious Goritians demanded a share from the wreckages that occurred around Gavthos –one tenth, supposedly for Apollo."

Stefanos Psimenos

Then came the Romans -1st– 4th century A.D. They rename the island to Claudos –or Claudia or Cauda- in honour of Claudios, the roman commander. What they do next? A water reservoir, of course. Then they found the ores on the island and built a mine. And fuel for the kiln? Plenty of pine trees all around the place.

Claudi was an important port and a place where the merchants of the Mediterranean could rest since it is situated between the seaways of Sicily and Alexandria. Today, the Roman port that was located northwest of the Lavraka coast, is submerged.

In 62 A.D. Claudi was host to one of the most important wreckages in history. The ship that brought Saint Paul as a prisoner to Rome, was hit by "Efkladio", the premature winter storms which come from the mountains of Crete.

In 1860 Spratt, an Englishman traveller, found a headless female statue dating back to the Roman years, in the northwestern part of the island. Today the daughter adorns the showcases of the British Museum.

During the first Byzantine period, Gavthos does really well! It even has its own Episcopate, while it is said that 8000 people inhabited the island!



insecure and there was not a soul to be found on the island!

Then the Pirates came -9th - 12th century- and they wrecked havoc! Arab pirates take control of the island, and they loot and sell the people of the island at the slave markets of the world ... This is when, possibly, many natives found refuge in the mountains of Sfakia.

The "second Byzantine" found no reason to return to the island. It was too far away, the route was



HISTORY

At this period of time tectonic movements submerge the ancient port of Lavraka. The island's ancient center is definitively abandoned. Piracy reaches its peak, while their main "facilities" are transferred to the island's new port, Sarakiniko.

The Venetians followed in the 17th century, and the island is renamed again. They now name Gavthos "Gozzo", and Gavthopoula "Gotzopoulo". The new conquerors do not take a particular interest to the island. And the pirates naturally haven't forgotten about it. No inhabitant resides there permanently any more. Only a few inhabitants of Sfakia sow a few 1000 grains of wheat "alla sfugita per paura delli Corsari".

"Gavthos, located across from Sfakia, is the main passage from eastern to western Mediterranean. Pirates frequently use this island. The island is not guarded heavily, because of the fear they have of the pirates many guards do not stay in their positions."

Basilicata, 1630

Turks have never inhabited the island, but have visited ... from time to time ... "The Temporary Government of Crete through a letter to the consuls, accuses the Ottomans of certain actions. That while during a truce soldiers had been sent from Constantinople, landed on the island of Gavthos and for four days they looted it leaving nothing for the inhabitants, neither food, nor clothing, nor livestock."

Nikolaos Sakopoulos to Charilaos Trikoupis, Chania 1867

Around this time is written the final Piracy chapter. Gavthos is once again inhabited. In 1880 is built the largest lighthouse, second to that of the Tierra del Fuego, and one year later, a "census" reveals that the island has 417 permanent inhabitants!

The ..Previous Century

Until 1925 Gavthos belongs to Anopoli Sfakion. Today it is a self-governing community.

During World War II, a German hydroplane lands 400 soldiers on the cape of Tripiti. The few defenders surrender without resistance. The Germans transform the island to an observation post of Eastern Mediterranean. Leaving the island they made sure not to leave anything behind! On their way back home they bomb the lighthouse.

During the years of the junta of Metaxa, Gavthos is turned into an island of exile. The houses that the exiles built, are mainly found at Sarakiniko and Kastri.

"... the sea around encloses us like a terrible chain,
like a wakeful soldier who guards the island night and day.

The plutocrats sent us to the wasteland of Liviko,

Because we requested what is right
and the Freedom of the People".

Through the first half of the century the trip to Crete (20n.m.) was done by "boats with oars and sails which were built by the inhabitants themselves with a hammer and a saw ... Hours, days or even ... weeks were needed to travel to Crete. From October to March these boats did not travel at all."

Manolis Bikogiannakis, parish of Gavthos

HISTORY



In 1971 Savvas Arkalakis builds the first “shack” in Sarakiniko and feeds the tourists eggs and chips.

At the outset of the 80’s the foundation of a European-Mediterranean Youth Centre is proposed to be here.

In 1986, within the framework of a European experimental plan for the exploitation of mild forms of energy, sunray collectors were installed on the island by Siemens. Meanwhile, the company “donates” to each family, a refrigerator, a

television set and 2 lamps “so that this energy can somehow be consumed, to find out after all, what we will do with all these different sources of energy that we have just discovered ..

Today most batteries without liquids melt under the hot sun and the relentless saltwater. Since, this installation “provides” Kastri and Vatsiana with very “weak” electricity. The remaining villages get by mainly with generators.



NEWS FLASH: 1996

“Gavthos is situated outside of Greek territory”, states Tsansou Ciler, the prime minister of Turkey! And we become infuriated!! Since that state lots.. have changed!

“... It was a miracle that, in one night, the required funds were found. Since then a multitude of works, transformed Gavthos into a vast worksite. For all these works that are being carried out, such as asphalt roads, new roads or forest recreation

works, no environmental study was conducted nor were the works based on any management plan.

Conversely, older studies of the Ministry for the Environment, as well as the accession of the region in the “Natura 2000” network were totally ignored. Roads were constructed based on the criteria of accessing ambiguous lots. The Hellenic Telecommunications Organization uprooted a section of the forest to install a Cosmote antenna, while the heliport which can accommodate two helicopters –unprecedented for Greece- uprooted the entire area.”

M. Dretakis, N. Kapetanakis, G. Rousopoulos



Today three families raise children on Gavthos. The eldest of the seven children, attends 1st grade.

Theodora, opens her school alone every morning and when she finishes with her writing and reading, she, again alone, closes her school’s door ...

MONUMENTAL

A 6000 years old ...open-air monument !

Sarakiniko:

Roman architectural relics and ceramics

Kefali:

Relics of a half-finished fortification work during the Venetian rule, at the highest point of Cape

Ampelos:

Lighthouse. A sample of a special construction at the end of the 19th century, invaluable to the study of the evolution of the history of architecture. It was built in 1880 from the French Company of Ottoman Lighthouses. Visible at 42 nautical miles, it was the second bigger lighthouse after that of Tierra del Fuego. Its height reached 14 meters, and its lamp included a wick and oil. Ships that passed between Crete and Gavthos and were destined for Africa, Europe or the Middle East used the lighthouse a point of reference. During World War II it was bombed by the Germans. Today efforts are being made to restore the monument.



Ag. Georgios, Kedres, Lavrakas, Ag. Ioannis:

The broader region was the island's centre during ancient times. Traces of habitation from the Minoan until the Byzantine period.

Ag. Georgios:

A Roman water reservoir next to the church as well as sections of a superterrestrial channel that channelled water to Kedres, Lavraka and Ag. Ioannis.

To the north of Kedre, close to the shore, a classic and Hellenistic cemetery was found, which since 1967 represents an archaeological site. The broader area is rich with ceramics from the Minoan, Mycenaean up to the Byzantine era.

At the beach of Lavraka, is submerged the ancient port of Gavthos, about 3 meters beneath the surface of the sea. Sculptured tombs and remains of the Byzantine episcopate were found in the surrounding area of the church of Ag. Ioannis. In the broader area you can find relics from households, a mine, a sculptured reservoir and a sculptured scale.

MONUMENTAL



Sellakia: Relics of houses, stone tools and rich ceramics of prehistoric years

Siopata: Stone tools and ceramics of prehistoric up to Roman times.

Vatsana: Folklore Museum with remarkable exhibits



ANCIENT SCULPTURED WINEPRESSES



This last winepress was in use until 1950 Galana, domain of N. Galanaki

Deserted fields

MONUMENTAL

Findings: 16 sculptured winepresses with a capacity of 150-1000 litres. Surrounding these winepresses you can find hundreds of ex-cultivated fields, piled shingles, ceramic fragments that date back from prehistoric to historic times.

Sculpturing, an ancient method, seems to have been very popular in this area, which is full of holes. At times, superterrestrial, useful for the gathering of rainwater, while at other times subterranean, the last habitats of the dead. In Ampelo -where else- it is said that is found the temple of Dionysus, the god of wine Bacchus cluster.

Description: Sculptured rocks at two levels of unequal height. On the higher of the two levels: one to three sculptured areas for the crushing of the fruit. On the lower level: collection of the liquid product. Some date back possibly to the Bronze Age.

Today: Most land was cultivated until the 19th century. Today 5 wine-arboars have survived. One or two bear some bunch of grapes.

NATURALISTIC

ANNUAL INSTRUMENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF PERMANENT VACATIONERS OF THE ISLAND
NEWS of GAVTHOS

Excerpt from the newspaper, published from the island's permanent vacationers

ENERGY: People in nature



“The question is: why do we “moor” on the island? To study energy as a universal phenomenon that can be decoded of course. Our motto: I maunder and observe!!

... But in all of this there is a basic objection and criticism! The thought process is deliberately shut down and does not lead you to other paths that mankind has not traversed. They say everything is rationalized. Everything can be verified if ...

Determinism has condemned us!! Thus in an active but isolated system all the differences tend to nullify. And at the end of it we all lose!!!”



Birds

- 121 species of birds have been recorded.
- 96 of these migrate here during the summer. Few of these also stay through the winter.
- 25 species, nest on at least one of the two islands.
- 74 of the species that have been recorded are among the danger groups of BirdLife International, 19 are included in the red catalogue of endangered birds in Greece and 37 are protected by directive 79/409/EOK “..



NATURALISTIC



“ ... During their course to the North in the spring, Gavthos is the first land after the sea and the Sahara desert (250 non stop miles) and the last on their return flight in the autumn. Most species fly past the desert and sea without stopping and place their hopes for refuelling on the first dry land.

Gavthos offers satisfactory conditions for many of these of birds. The shores and the small wet land of Aliko on the southern point, provide the aquatic species an opportunity for food. The island's

forests and ravines fill with birds. The migrating period is particularly long in Gavthos. In reality it never ends! From July many species are encountered on their voyage back south. In spring, the large variety of birds from day to day is always remarkable. One visit in the spring offers many opportunities to observe most of the migrating sparrows that nest in Europe.

In March Starlings, Robin (Redbreasts) and Grosbeaks are particularly affluent. In April the number of Swallows increase (4 species), so as do Nightingales and Wheatears. Finally, in May Yellow Wagtails, Flycatchers (5 species) and Ortolans are affluent. Among the species that the inhabitants of Gavthos ascribe with local names are: Kaliagades- large bird of prey, perhaps Snakeeagles.

The presence of a large number of birds and of a significant variety in species during migration, the sparsity of certain nesting species on a global or European level, the presence of certain at the tips of their proliferation give both islands significant value in terms of bird-fauna.”

Michael Dretakis, Biologist-Ornithologist

Flora

“Today, most of the island is green since it is covered by forests. The tuft of sea cedar (*Juniperus macrocarpa*) is considered among the most ecologically important and widely dispersed tuft among the Greek shores. Nevertheless, the increase of forests results from the spread of *Pinus brutia*.

460 species of higher plants have been found on Gavthos. Most of these are species that geographically proliferate in northern Africa and in the East and reach the Aegean Sea at its most southern point.

The African species that we encounter here, either constitute their sole presence in Europe or constitute one of the fewest!

The spring ponds that form in coves and in rock schisms are a significant ecological area that is frequently found in Gavthos. *Callitriche pulchra* - possibly one of the rarest species in the Mediterranean- can be found in some of the deepest ponds.

The desertion of settlements and the upgrading of older cultivations constantly heighten the problem of erosion and leads to the proliferation of the pine tree, which in turn leads to the reduction of the biodiversity and increases the threat of fire on a local level.



NATURALISTIC

The island's unique beaches become ever so popular to Greek and foreign vacationers. New settlements are founded at a rapid rate and rampantly. The ecosystems of sand dunes may be destroyed locally from buildings and new roads.”

Dr. E. Bergmeier, Dr. P. Dimopoulos, K. Georgios
University of Athens, Department of Biology, Institut fur Biologie II, Germany.

Fossils

In a span of millions of years, the remains of animals that used to live in the sea at the time, formed the bottom of the sea.

Today fossilized organisms, corals, bryozoa, pelecypod and acron-cup cover the island locally.

Most of these lived 20 million years ago.

One of these species, Eupsamnia cylindrical, is 40 million years old! The exceptionally large dimensions of certain coral representatives lead us to the following conclusions: the climate of their age was tropical warm and they lived in clean, lucid waters, the depth of which reached no more than 50 meters.



Determined species at: Ag. Giorgios Korfiatis 34 species
Panagia 28 species
Ag. Nikolaos-Ag. Ioannis 16 species
Lavrakas, Padouraki Cape, Kastri, Ag. Triada

Sea creatures

Sperm whale: the superlative animal

One of a kind in the world! Southern Crete is the only known region in the world where social herds of sperm whale, female, young and lonely males, are simultaneously present throughout the year. The most logical explanation for this is that here they find ideal living conditions!

... The largest toothed organism, has the largest brain which ever existed on Earth! It has a length of 18 meters wide and weighs 44 tons. With a single breadth the sperm whale manages to reach a depth of 2000 meters and can remain there for almost 1.5 hours.”

Dr Alexandros Frantzis,
Institute of Cetacean Research of Pelagos



NATURALISTIC

They are threatened ...

In 1998 the findings of the research* carried out by Professor Alexandros Frantzis are published - Reuters, BBC, World Service, ABC News, Times, Economist, Guardian, BBC Wildlife Magazine, and dozens of other international and Greek Media.

Some months later:

1. NATO is forced to temporarily “freeze” all sonic military tests
2. An international meeting of scientists is held a few months later. The main topics were:
 - a) the effect of military low-frequency sonars on sea mammals
 - b) NATO must implement an environmental policy and undertake measures for the protection of sea mammals



The subsequent years ...

Hundreds of dead whales are washed up in various areas of the planet due to the sonar's sound detecting system.

These sound signals which are sent in order to locate enemy submarines kill the whales by evoking internal bleeding..

The sea of Southwest Crete is one of the areas where NATO conducts military tests.

Dolphins

The great depths of the coastal waters of northwestern Crete host large schools of striped dolphins, which you can encounter almost every day.

The risso's dolphins and the cuvier's beaked whale, which are hard to find in most other Greek waters can be frequently found here.”

They are threatened by noise and chemical pollution, and by drifting nets.

*Does acoustic testing strand whales? FRANTZIS A.,1998.(Nature, 392: 29.)

WANDERINGS



Karave - Korfos

Path: You walk along the seacoast until you reach Korfos. During your course you will meet small deserted beaches with pebbles.

A must: Dive to the depth of the waters.



Korfos - Vatsiana

Path: You leave the sea behind and you ascend the dirt road. To your left you will come across a sign that reads “Korfos - Vatsiana” which signifies your entry to the path. From there until Vatsiana you are guided by the path that is exceptionally marked. The path is ascending and in less than an hour you have climbed 200 meters high. During your wandering the panoramic view of the larger part of the northeastern section of Gavthos is revealed. The path itself is archaic just like the chiselled stairs that you are climbing!

Xenaki - Tripiti: *The Pendulum of Libyan Sea*



Path: Begin by turning right -westward- at Manolo, just before reaching Vatsiana. Walk along the edge of the cliffs of Aspes. Under your feet, 200 meters straight beneath you, lies Liviko. You approach the extreme south! Caution: At the tip Tripa (hole). Have a good trip!

WANDERINGS

A must: Difficult footing, at times narrow, rickety passages. If you are scared of heights or you just wear sandals, you better think twice before leaving...

When you reach the beach of Tripiti, relax in an oasis of dewiness, in the cave at the end (east) of the beach. An easy return from the Tripitis - Vatsiana path. The marking is exceptional, the path is ancient.

Ampelos - Potamos:

Path: you enter the village of Ampelos and you head north where the path, which leads to Eveli,



begins. You can also turn left on the dirt road a few meters before the village and follow it until you reach Eveli. Here you untie ropes, you open a “door”, you close it, tie ropes (goats lie in wait) and ... when you have had enough of Gavthopoula and Potamo from high above ... you continue your descent. At the end of the domain Eveli you repeat the procedure with the door. From here the path may begin to confuse you a little. You always keep left of the

stream while to your right grey mountains of argil rise!

A must: Mud baths with argil! Once the mud dries and cracks (avoid strong sun light) let the sea rinse you. Dive in the mud and you won't regret it...

Kouleriana - Lavrakas

Path: Ascend the dirt road that leads to the farmhouse of Savva Arkalaki. A few meters before reaching the farmhouse, to your left there is an enclosure with two fence doors. (The doors you find



WANDERINGS



everywhere, even in the middle of the streets! (be alert!) are to wall in the goats!...)

So you open the right door after having untied the ropes, and then tying them again! A few meters further down you'll find another door, the exit.

You are now descending towards the ancient centre of Gavthos. The path is fraught with fossils of organisms millions of years old.

A few meters further down to your left, you encounter the church of Ag. Nikolaos. A cemetery used to stand next to the church, whose contents has been unearthed by the land's intent erosion.

Continuing further down on your left you encounter the church of Ag. Georgios, built "next" to the ruins of a roman water reservoir. Notice the grooves on the rocks, which were done to gather rainwater.

Wander through the area ... and if you find mushrooms, do not eat them! From here on down you walk parallel to

the right bank of the river that leads you to the coast of Lavraka through Kedre.

Kedres is a rare forest with perennial cedars.

A must: Leave the path for a while, wander through the cedar forest and self-improvise ... This landscape is truly unique ... Hard to find words ...



GETTING AROUND

Boat:

May - October:

Paleochora - Gavthos: 3 times a week, 2-3.5 hours trip.

Sfakia - Gavthos: 2-4 times a week, 1.5 hours trip.

Ferry boat from Sfakia: Once a week from the end of May until early November.

Only the ferryboat transports large motorbikes and vehicles.



November - April:

... if the weather allows !!

Only from Palaioxora, two times a week.

Transportation:

Community bus, rented motorbikes and bicycles, farming vehicles, occasionally even tractors.

The boat transports gasoline, following an order, from Palaioxora or Sfakia.

Free Camping:



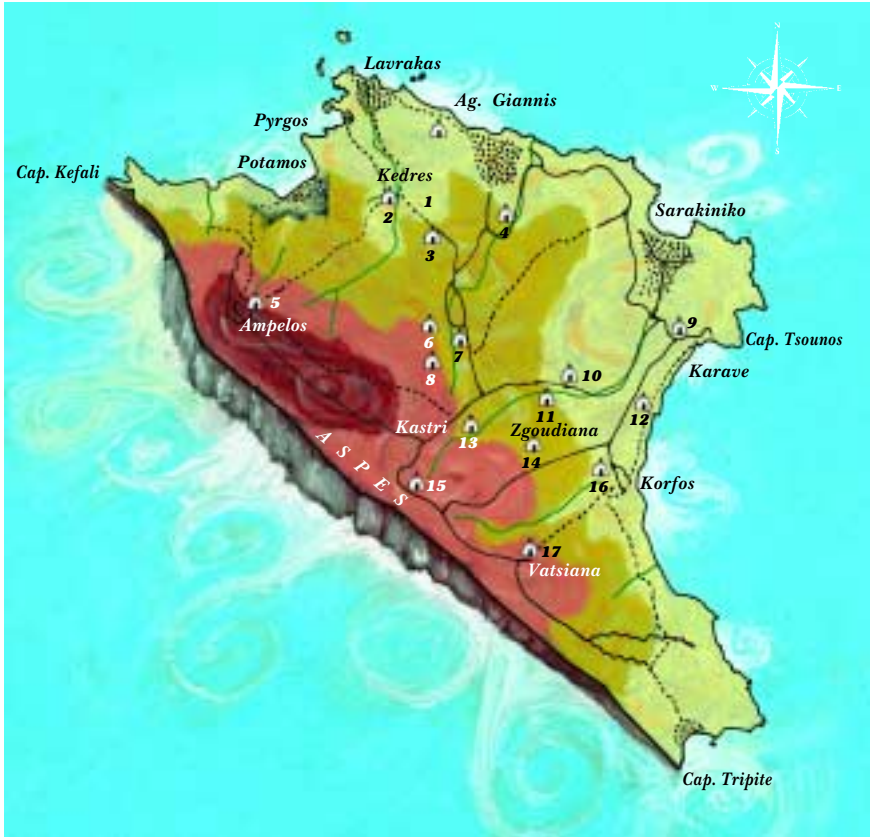
Most summer vacationers set-up their “households” underneath the shade of a sea-cedar.

So if you decide to live on the beach, don't forget that the sand dunes are host to a number of rare species of plants, many of which are threatened with extinction. Do not destroy them so you can run your “household”, because they are the “household” of organisms that cannot relinquish their precedence.

TENTS	June	July	August
Sarakiniko	🏠	🏠🏠🏠	🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠
Ag. Giannis	🏠	🏠🏠	🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠
Lavrakas	🏠	🏠	🏠🏠
Pyrgos	-	🏠	🏠
Potamos	-	🏠	🏠
Tripiti	-	🏠	🏠
Korfos	-	🏠	🏠🏠



Gavdos Island



Churches

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. St. John | 9. St. Nektarios |
| 2. St. George | 10. Christos |
| 3. St. Nikolas | 11. Panagia |
| 4. St. Paul | 12. Agii Pateres |
| 5. Agii Pantes | 13. Agia Triada |
| 6. St. Panteleimonas | 14. St. Michael |
| 7. Timios Stavros | 15. Profitis Hlias |
| 8. St. Antonios | 16. St. George |
| | 17. St. Charalambos |



