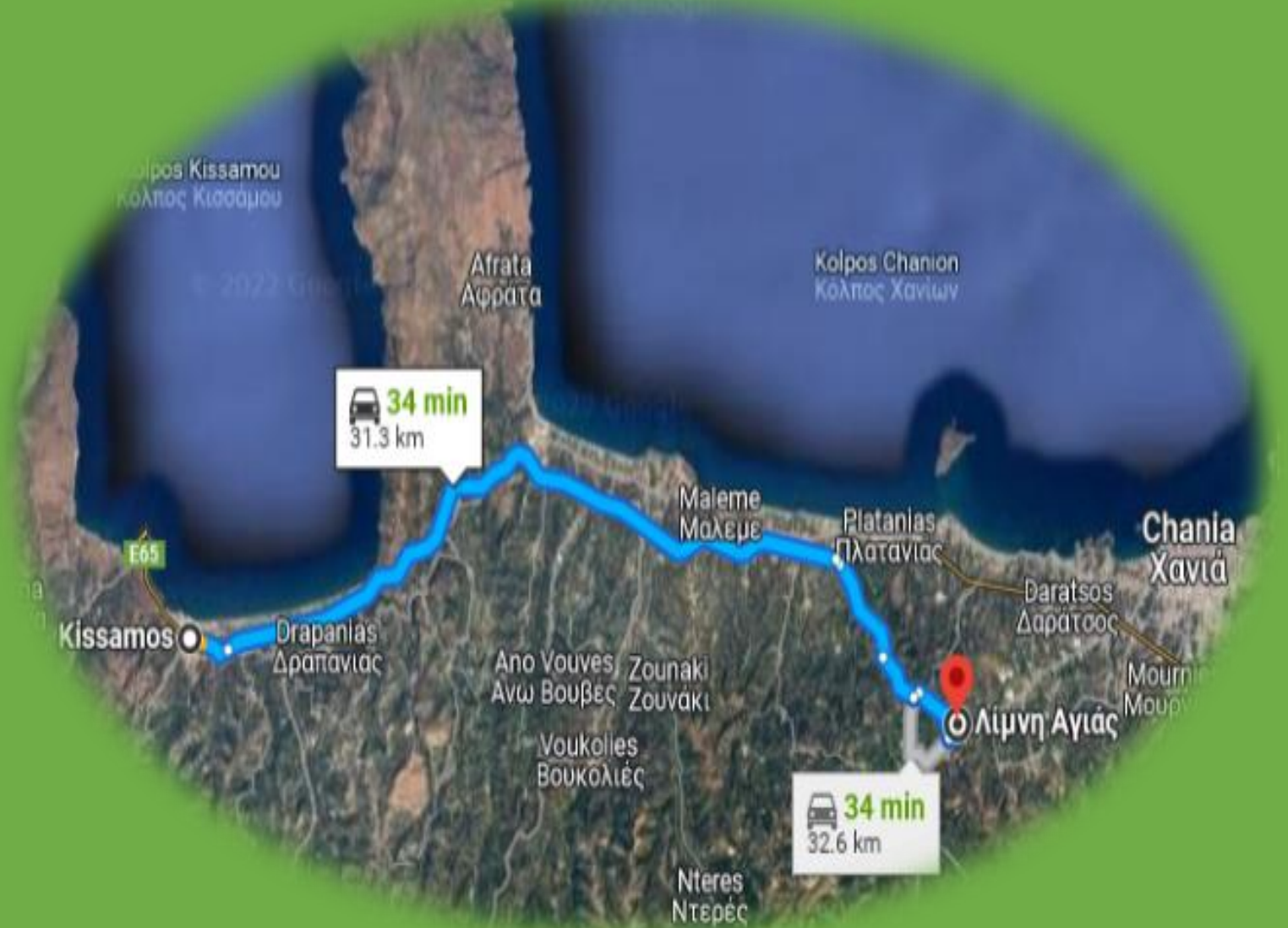


PARKS IN MY HOMETOWN

BY EVA MOUNTAKI
THODORIS MOUNTAKIS
EIRINI SKALIDAKI
NIKOS SIMANTIRAKIS

PARK LAKE AGIAS

- A park with the artificial lake Agia is 33 kilometers from Kissamos. The park and the lake borrow their names from the neighboring village.



- Lake Agia was a swamp before it was turned into an artificial lake for the production of hydroelectric power.



- The site has emerged as an important green space and an equally important wetland. The flora of the area includes various species of aquatic plants, while its fauna consists of many species of migratory or non-migratory birds, frogs, etc.



- The Agia lake park is an important site for migratory and wintering water and wading birds. Important species are the egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and the mallard (*Aythya nyroca*)



- Also, the presence of the endemic lizard species *Podarcis cretensis* is important



- The area presents a strongly rural character, it has points of interest such as the natural springs of the lake, the building of the hydroelectric power station, the church of Panagia (early Christian), the water mill.

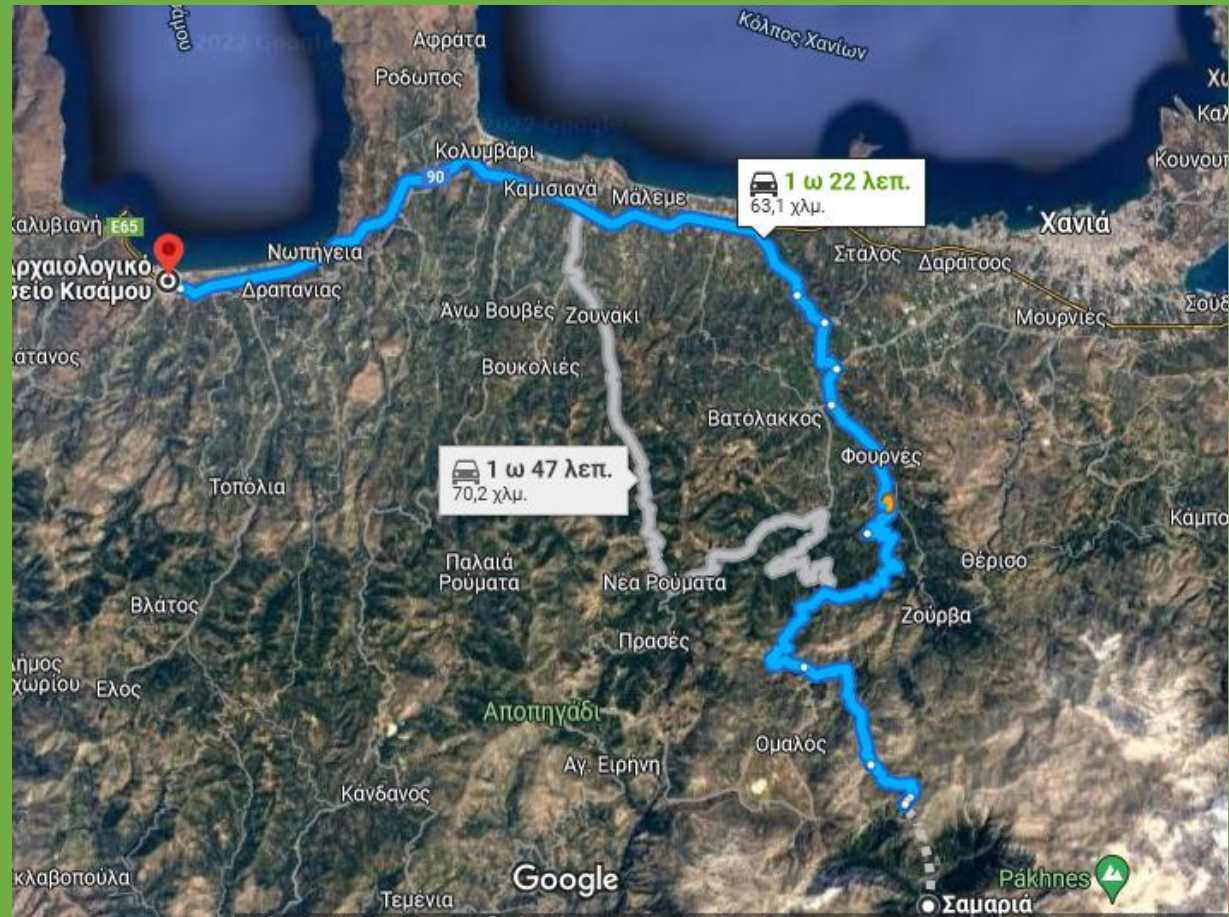


- The park of Agia constitutes a landscape of unique interest and is included in the NATURA 2000 program. It's a tourist attraction and hub for cycling and nature trails, preserving and highlighting its special characteristics.

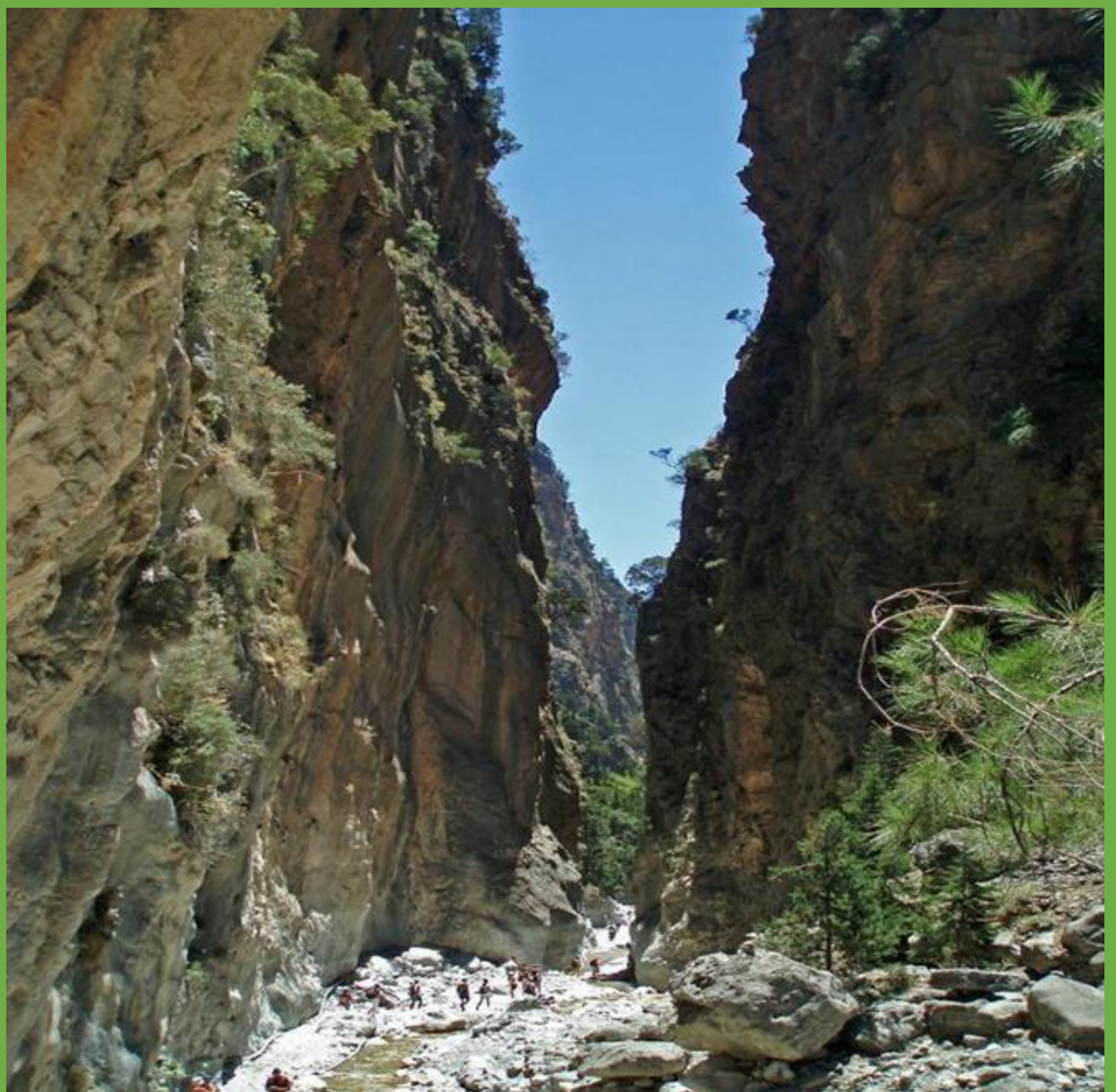


THE GORGE OF SAMARIA

The gorge of Samaria is located in Crete, specifically in the prefecture of Chania. It's about 70 kilometres from Kissamos



It is the largest canyon in Greece, its length is 18 kilometers. Its descent starts from the smooth mountain of the White Mountains and ends at the coastal village of Agia Roumeli.



- The largest width of the canyon is 150 meters while its narrowest point is 3 meters at the doors location just before the exit. The rocks at this point reach a height of 600 meters.



- In the forest of Samaria lives the Cretan wild goat (kri kri)



- but also many other animals that are not found anywhere else such as the Cretan badger (arkalos)



- the Cretan marten (zourida)



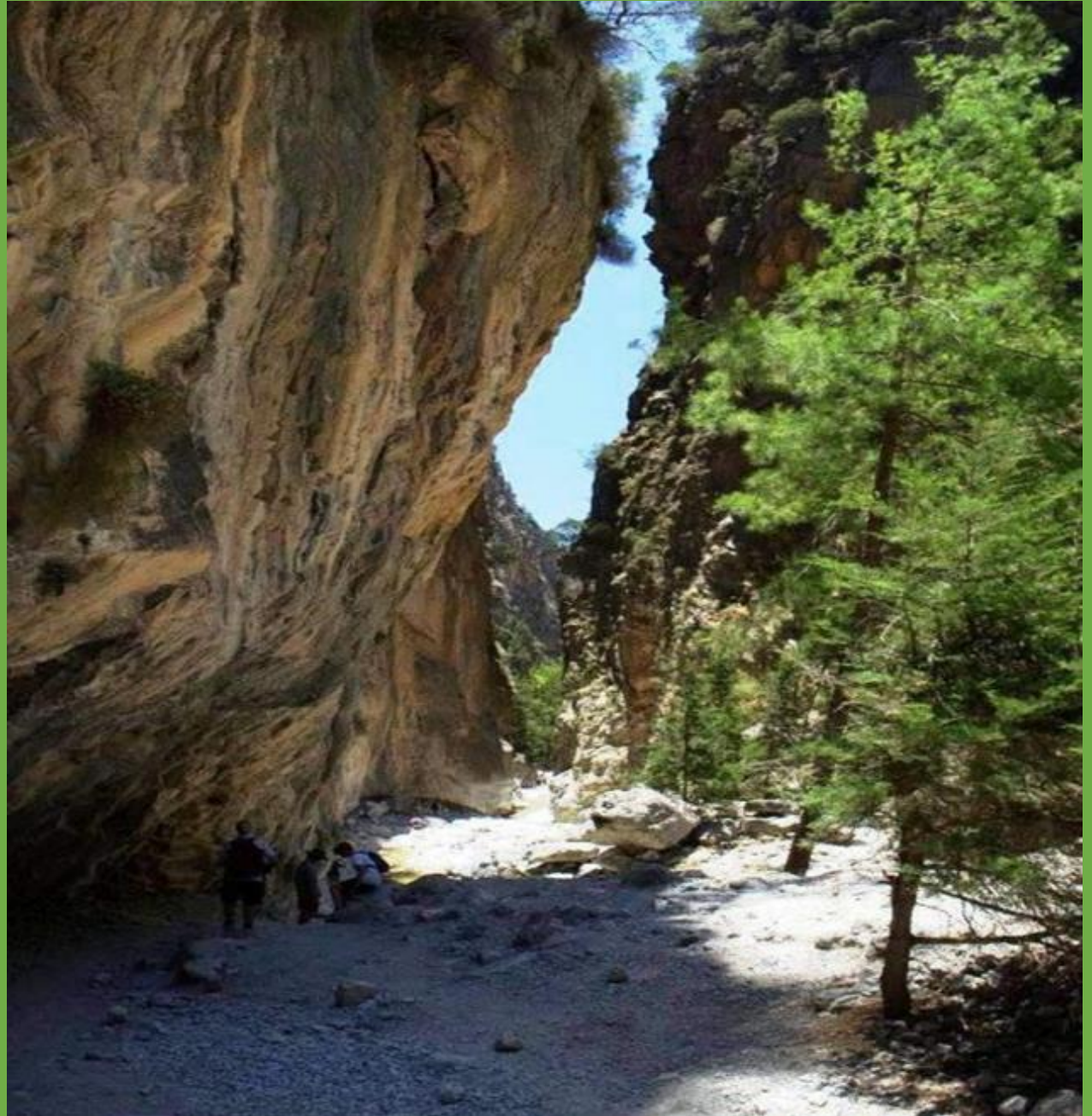
- the Cretan weasel (kalogiannou)



- Vultures
- golden eagles
- and many other species of smaller birds.



- The species of flora of the canyon are more than 450, many of them are unique in the world, therefore their collection is prohibited. The gorge is green and overgrown with pines, cypresses, holly trees and others.

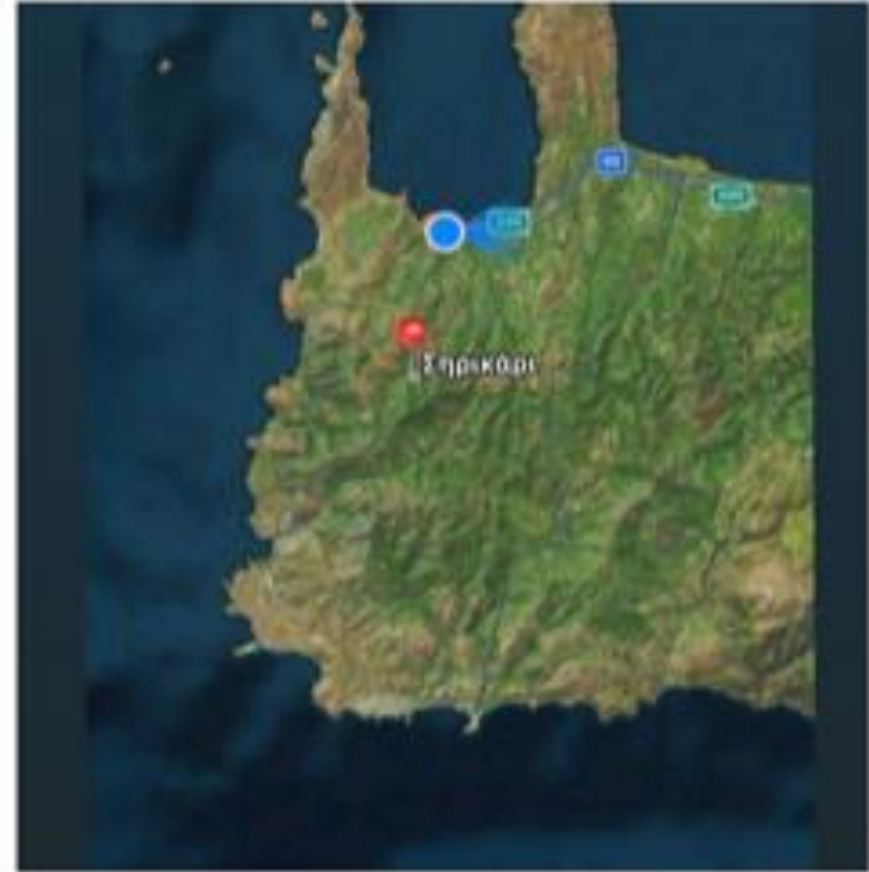


- The gorge of Samaria takes its name from the small Byzantine church of Saint Mary that was built in 1379. It is located about halfway along the route where the village of Samaria is. The Samaria Gorge and its surrounding area of 48,500 acres have been designated as a national park since 1962. In 2010, it joined the Unesco world network of biosphere reserves. The village was abandoned by its inhabitants that year
- It is estimated that the canyon was created 14 million years ago when geological upheavals broke through the stone volumes.
- For visitors to Crete, it is one of the favorite destinations for most. Depending on the physical condition of each one, the descent lasts from 4 to 7 hours of hiking.
- The gorge remains open to visitors from April to October, depending on weather conditions



THE GORGE OF SIRIKARI

on the map right here. ➡



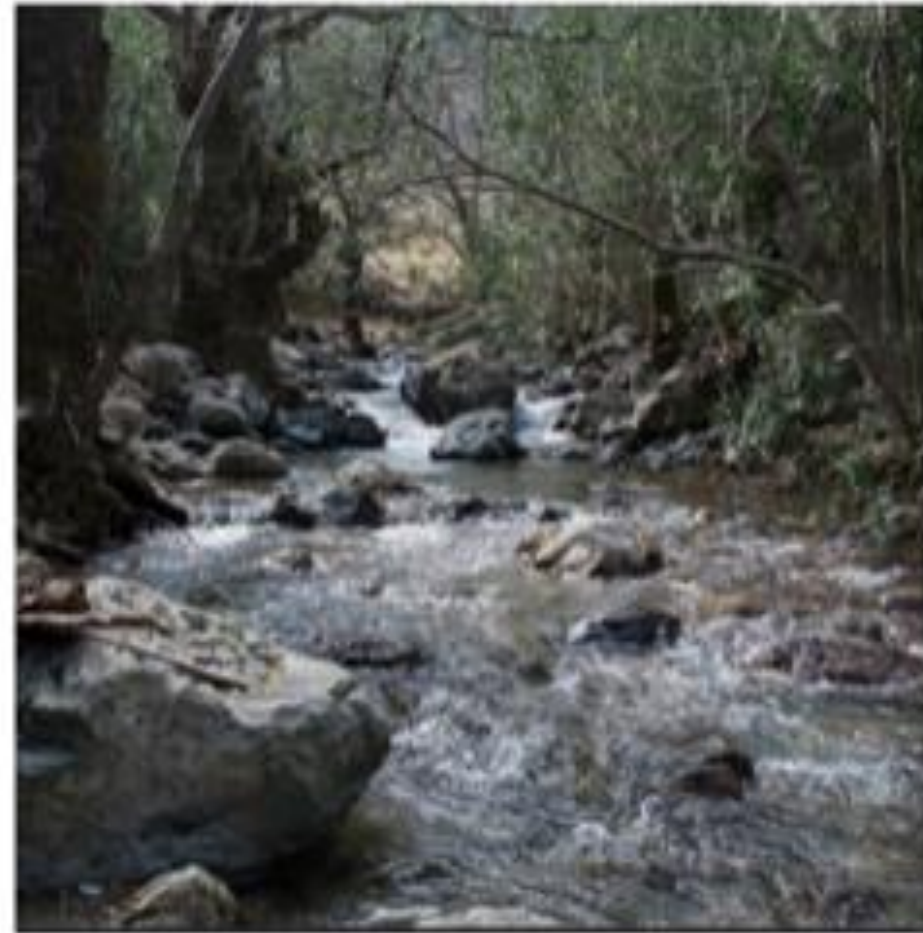
- The gorge of Sirikari is located in Kissamos. It starts from the village of Mesa Sirikari (altitude 500 m, from Chania 50 km) on the road route Chania-Kalergiana Kissamos-Kalathenes-Sirikari) and ends in Polyrnia Kissamos (altitude 400 m) six kilometers from the town of Kissamos.





- It is overgrown, at first with chestnuts and then with sycamores, wild artichokes, wild olives, lioprinas, carobs, skins and others, and the fragrant herbs of diktamo and sage. Halfway along the route we meet the legendary spring "Gra Vrysi". Other legends refer to "demons" and "elves" of the gorge. Its crossing requires a not difficult hike of 3 to 3.30 hours. At its end are the ruins of the famous ancient city of Polyrnia.

The trail is of moderate difficulty and is an activity recommended by tour guides and agents in the area.



- You can visit it at any time and moment with your company and have fun enjoying the beautiful landscapes and attractions that nature has created !



- *THAT'S ALL FOLKS!*

