



Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Excursion to Zoniana-Cave (Sfendoni-Cave) / Prefecture Rethymnon **Small Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)**

The Hellenic Society for speleology has listed more than 3,000 caves and grottos for Crete. Over and over they offer valuable information's to scientists and historians, especially since they ever have been used by humans as home or as cult site. The Minoans celebrated their cults at "consecrated places"; e.g. within "holy caverns" or at so called "peak sanctuaries", that means at cult sites at segregated mountaintops.

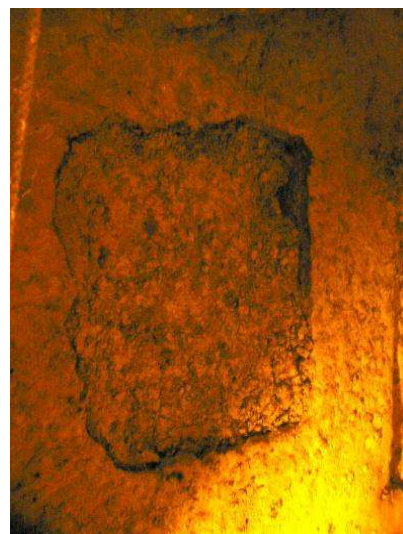
The *Zoniana* cave (grotto "*Sfendoni Zonianon*") is, based on its morphological diversity, one of the most beautiful caves in Crete. Today it is tourist developed and accessible (with official guides) and located around 8.5 miles west of *Anogia* (and less than 1 mile from the village of *Zoniana*) in 800 m high, on the slopes of the *Psiloritis* Mountains. A small spring arises from the foot of the rocks.

The approximately 3,400 sq. m large cave consists of a variety of rooms across several layers, where the various dripstone formations are localised set in amazing combinations and has given imaginative names. For example "Catacombs", "Palace of Zeus", "Parthenon", "Primeval Chaos", "Hall of fossilised waves", "Fossilised Forest" and much more. It is an experience to visit this cave with a professional guide (Guide fee 4 €), where a hominid skeleton has been found.

In the nearby village of *Zoniana* the Potamianos Museum is worth a visit, where life-sized waxworks are used to show scenes from the Cretan history.

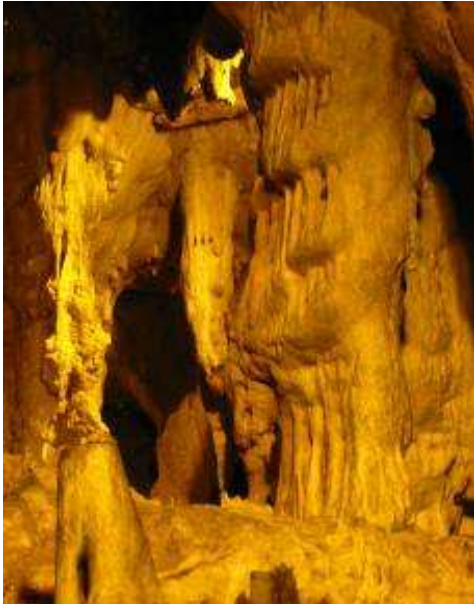


Cave layout



The figures show (from left to right) field trip break at Anogia; the place of discovery of the hominid skeleton nearby the cave access on the 1st level and the "Face of Zeus" in limestone in the "Palace of Zeus".

Pictures: U.Kluge 2003



The figure left show dripstone creations from the hall "Primeval Chaos"; right: the "fossilised waves".

Small Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)

The small cabbage white is one of most common butterflies in Crete. It is a synanthrope which mainly breed in gardens and plantations and is part of the migrant butterflies. The male has only slightly extended grey-black powdered front wing tips and only a single distal spot. The female is widespread black drawn and bears two black dots on the front wings. The light yellow eggs have 11 to 13 longitudinal ribs, of which about 7 rich the tip. The finely hairy caterpillar is matt green and has a fine yellow back Strip. She lives on wild growing mustard family. The caterpillars are often parasitically, manly by ichneumon flies. The nymph is homogeneous light green or brown with a delicate yellow sideline and a fine black point drawing. The butterflies of summer generation are clearly stronger drawn than from the spring generation.



The figures are showing, apart from the female butterfly of *Pieris rapae*, the individual stages of metamorphose with egg, caterpillar and nymph.

For more detailed information see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieris_rapae

[Art.-Nr. 2.779, Zitat-Nr. 4.775]

Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

At this point two Internetaddresses (greek./engl.) with Information about caves: www.speleo.gr (l.) and www.culture.gr (r.).

