



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

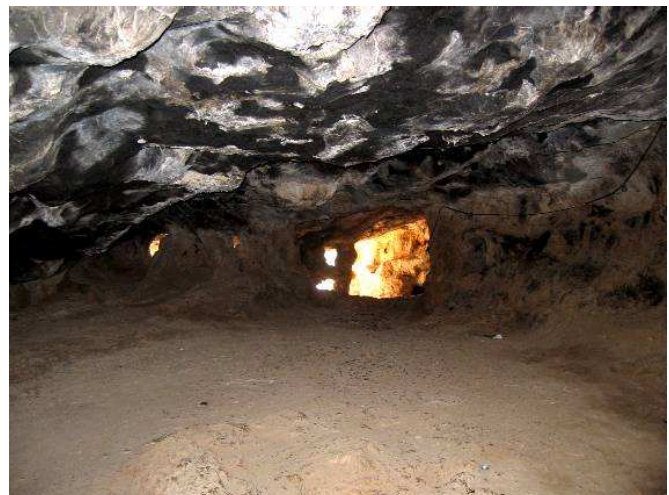
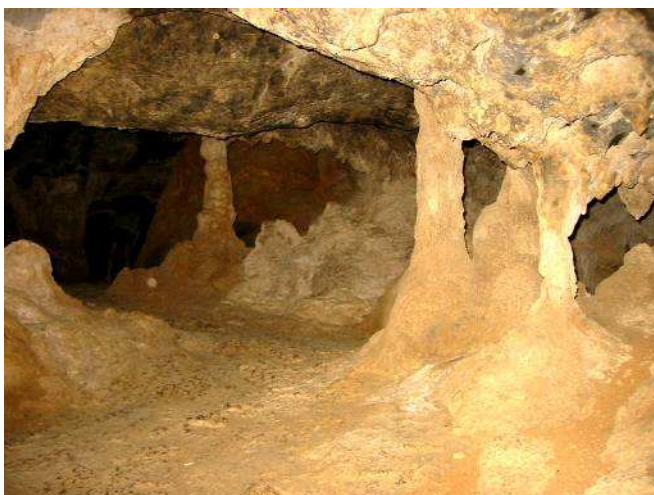


**Excursion to the cave of Milatos / Prefecture Lassithi**

*Milatos* [Μιλάτος] is located about 31 miles east of *Iraklion* [Ηράκλειο] at the north coast of Crete, to be reached via the “*Old National Road*“ towards *Agios Nikolaos* [Άγιος Νικόλαος](well signed). The cave area comprises about 2,000 square meters and is located on the slope of a deep gorge; it has many entrances, which are situated side by side over a distance of 60 meters. The main entrance leads into the middle of 3 cave sections, which each include several floors.

A memorial plaque above the left cave entrance tells, that 1823 the Egyptian Turkish hordes of Emperor Hassan killed 3,600 men, women and children, which had fled into the cave. Young people were abused and sold as slaves to Egypt.

Today, to commemorate this massacre, bones are interred in a shrine in front of a chapel which is located in the "centre" of the right cave section. Here the local commemorative celebrations are held every first Sunday after Easter.



The figure above left shows a view of the Mediterranean from the cave hill. The figure right above shows the main entrance of the cave from the outside, bottom left from inside. The figure at bottom right shows sintering columns in a floor inside the cave.

**Photos: U. Kluge (16.07.2004)**





The top left picture shows the heroic martyrdom with chapel in the far right cave area; the so called “hero hall” (about 18 m long and 9 m wide) is located parallel to the central room of the cave <sup>1</sup>. The top right figure shows the shrine storing the bones of the executed. The figure below left shows the opening of the “hero hall” which shares a glimpse of the vertical slope (approx. 100 m over the Canyon). The picture right show a view at a section of the Canyon, where on the northeast side (right) the caves are located.

<sup>1</sup> A further area of 23 x 12 m is close to the central area of the cave, where voluminous sintering pillars optically divide the cave into several single sections. It is believed that a lake primal was at the deepest point, which today however has no water.

