



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



Excursion to the cave of Thériso / Prefecture Chania

From *Chania* follow the main road (marked in red on map in 1:125.000) towards south (Omalos Plateau / Samaira Canyon) until the village of *Fournes*. In *Fournes* branch off to the side road (marked in yellow) to *Meskla* (around 3.7 miles). In *Meskla* than follow a approx 7.5 miles long gravel road (marked in white on the map) via the small mountain village *Zouvra* to *Thériso*. The road is partly asphalted and can be used with e normal car. The route runs across the foothills of the mountain *Xerakocefala* (1,238 m) and offers beautiful views of the wild mountains of this region.

About 1.8 miles after the village of *Thérios*, where the road runs in a right curve besides the river *Kladissos*, lead (left the road) stairs (approx. 230 levels) with a wooden railing (to be used with caution because the stability leaves much to be desired) 150 metres up the mountainside; for way up takes (depending on conditions) 10-15 minutes. The narrow entrance to the cave is located at the end of the stairway trail.

A use (settlement) from Neolithic times is ascertained for the cave of *Thériso*. Based on stories of the locals the cave has "no end", and also German soldiers shall be buried in times of the 2nd World War¹. The cave is (including the entrance) very closely and in most sections (up to the 1.Hall) to commit only in "creeping"; steep passages and vertical tunnels (so right to the left shortly after access) are "sources of danger". The cave should be entered only with appropriate experience and extreme caution. Without strong lamps and cave equipment a inspection definitely is not a good idea. Also who do not climb in: there is a good and beautiful view in the Gorge of the "Therissou Canyon" from the cave entrance.



The fig. (above from left to right) show the way up and the cave entrance from outside (2 x) and inside.

Fig. right: the cave exit area;

Fig. left: a "creeping tunnel" within the cave with opening of a vertical tunnel (yellow mark).

Pics: Kluge / Eikamp (2004)



