

**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**  
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:**Minoan settlement places in Gouves and Panormo / North Crete**  
(Early (New) Palace period: Neopalatial period: 1700 – 1400 BC)

In addition to the many tourist refurbished and famous archaeological sites from Minoan times (e.g. Knossos or Malia), there are far more interesting archaeological sites of Minoan settlement places on the North coast of Crete, two of these will be presented in this data sheet (with pictures). They are not as spectacular as the large Palace plants, but at least as interesting (scientifically speaking) and worth seeing.

In **Gouves**, 11 miles east of Heraklion / 12.5 miles west of Malia, the archaeological site is located in the eastern part of the tourist resort, directly on the seaside promenade. Unfortunately it finds little attention and is also "suffering" among the "tourist construction activities" (so e.g. a part of the former settlement place "disappeared already under a new part of the promenade"); the rest of the excavation site is usually "fallow" and more scientific excavations are held only rarely (and if, by foreign archaeologists).

In **Panormo**, 30 miles west of Heraklion / 31 miles northwest of Knossos, the archaeological site is located in the village centre, directly above the coast road. Also this Minoan settlement site unfortunately "neglected" rapidly and a necessary continuation of the started excavations is not taking place (since several years).

Both settlement places should probably dating back to 1650 - 1450 BC and belong to the Early Palace period (Neopalatial period) and where destroyed by an unexplained "natural disaster" (~ 1700 BC); see also our leaflet No. 032-04/E. "Eras of cultural development of Crete". Both sides are exposable and free accessible down to the last corner. Everywhere on the ground fragments of vessels (over 3000 years old) can be found, also within the walls of the "search" trenches, which indicate a large, still existing archaeological potential of these sites.

To the vessel shards here the note that also "shards" are considered cultural heritage and according to Greek archaeological law (3028/2002) without permission/authorization are not allowed to collect and/or executed; that means that each "pick-up" is already a "violation" and you should leave the objects "in situ" on the spot!

**Pictures from the excavation site in Gouves**

Fig. show an overview of the plant from East (left) and West (right). The foundations of buildings are clear to see and wait on a full excavation.

**Pictures: H. Eikamp (4/2003)**



Fig. left shows a covered excavation area in Gouves, where no one was active for a long time. Right figure shows an approx. 40 x 50 x 30 cm large rock with two circular wells, their purpose (origin and significance) is still unclear.

**Pictures:** *H. Eikamp* (4/2003)

Pictures from the excavation site in **Panormo**



Fig. left shows an overview of the excavation area in Panormo. The Center shows a "drómos" (corridor) which could lead to a building as well as to a tomb complex; it is somewhat "isolated" from the other building remains in the Northwest of the site. The figure on the right shows the remains of a floor mosaic, which become smaller and smaller year by year because the tessella are probably taken as "Souvenir".

**Pictures:** *H. Eikamp* (5/2002)

While GOUVES is already established as a tourist destination, the tourist development begins in PANORMO. Yet the town has preserved its charm and its tranquillity. Panormo has a small harbour which is shielded by a mole against the frequent westerly winds. Above the small beach (on the harbour) are the remains of a Venetian fortress; the village itself shall have been the harbour of ancient Eleftherna at times of the Dorians. The actual village centre is situated above the small harbour. Here you will find several small, typical taverns.