



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



**“Hainospilios”: Cave at Kamaraki**

(Stroumboulos-Mountain, Middle Crete)

You can get to the cave via the route **Iraklion – Anogia**, over **Tilissos – Astiraki – Gonies**. Between **Astiraki** and **Gonies** (about in the middle of the distance) is right the branch towards **Kamaraki** (1.4 miles). Cross the tiny mountain village over the narrow “main street” until the village end with a sharp right curve (where the street becomes wider and you can find a good parking possibility). Within this right curve turns left a gravel path off that leads up to the cave. This path is very difficult to navigate (no turning possibility) and you therefore should walk the way to the cave since its only 250 metre to there.



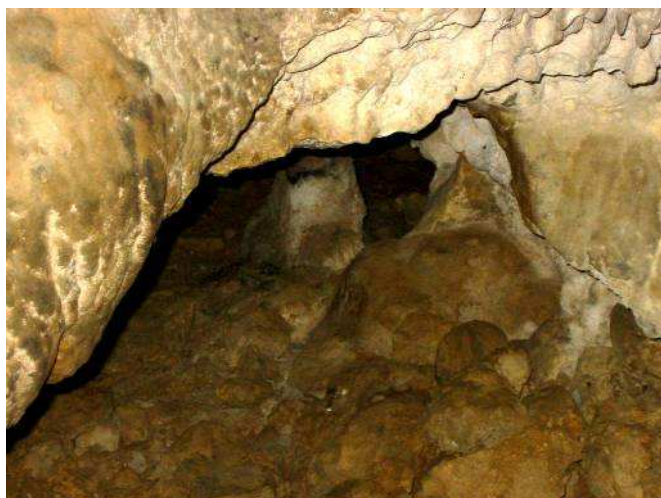
The pictures are showing (from left to right): the cave entrance from outside, the cave antechamber seen from the lower plateau, and the cave entrance seen from inside (towards outside) **Pictures: H. Eikamp (12/2004)**



The pictures are showing (from left to right): a white “calc-sinter curtain”, a first aisle furcation (straight and branching to the left) and brown “wave-sinter” from the cave wall. **Pictures: H. Eikamp (12/2004)**



Touristic the cave is barely developed which includes its exploration. Data about its extension, history and size are not known and the speleological investigations are certainly still not completed. Thanks to the few visits the cave is still pretty "unaffected" and impresses by its varied appearance of small halls with widely ramified corridors and wonderful "sinter curtains"; stalagmites and stalactites and fairytale-like limestone formations.



The picture left show a branching crawl tunnel with a ceiling height of max 1 m; the right picture shows “dripstone noses” at the ceiling of the creep tunnel. **Pictures: H. Eikamp (12/2004)**

A inspection is not very difficult, but should be carried out only with sufficient light sources, a good sense of direction and appropriate clothing. A "solo" is not recommended - the "Commission at your own risk" indicates a sign (in the cave). Because the cave is not "tidied up", therefore you should pay attention to the cave floor (trip points).

The cave entrance (closely and small) is blocked with a iron lattice but not locked! From the entrance the way leads on your right about 1.80 m steeply down to a small plateau where the different tunnels branch off (to the right as well as to the left). The cave corridors (with branching creep tunnels) are almost always maintain and expand in places too small halls with up to 3 m ceiling height. Here is "much to discover at stalactite formations" and compared to the developed tourist caves, this cave is a real experience!

Further information's about caves on Crete can be found at [www.kreta-umweltforum.de](http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de) or over the info leaflets of [CRETEenvironmentalinfo](http://CRETEenvironmentalinfo), leaflet No. 10-04, 13-04, 15-04 to 19-04, 21-04 to 25-04, 29-04, 30-04, 35-04, 38-04, 39-04, 42-04, 44-04 to 47-04 and 53-04.

**Palaeoanthropology (V):**  
**"Tsantsa" – the shrunken heads of SHUAR**



In the border area of Ecuador and Peru are living five different tribes that although enemies but are ethnically related. The root of the Shuar is largest group; they belong to the Jívaro. The Shuar have made shrunken heads of their enemies' heads until the early 20th Century. Based on literature source they gave the shrunken heads with their owners to the graves.. Today the shrinking of human heads is no longer common; it is prohibited by law. The shrink of enemy heads for the Shuar meant far more as to have war trophies. The shrunken heads face revenge of the ancestors for power, prestige and protection. The Warriors wore their Tsantsas during "Festivals" and ritual actions and showed so their "power".

The fig. show 2 shrunken heads of the Shuar: left with dark hair (and Curare-calabash), Inv. No. 091 and right with bright hair, Inv. Nr. 103.

**The objects are in the Editors teaching collection..**

