

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

Cretan Handcraft: Spinning works and Spoon maker

Spoon maker of Zenia – Spinning works at Agios Konstantinos



Driving from *Neapoli (Agios Nikolaos)* towards the *Lassithi-Plateau*, you come to the village of *Zenia*. Here you will still find some native spoon makers practicing this traditional handcraft and offering their products “roadside”. In general, it is the “elderly” who still exercise this craft “producing” around 3 spoons per day. Based on a sales price of 7 Euro per piece they have a daily income of 21 Euros (provided that they sell all spoons carved that day, which occurs rarely). The wooden spoons are from indestructible quality and last a life long. Some pictures follow.



The pictures show the „sales gallery“ of the spoon products on the roadside (right) and the spoon carver in the midst of his work utensils (left). In the shade of his house he practises his craft with expertise and calmness although his retirement age has surely been reached, by far. Whether you buy a spoon or not, the Cretan hospitality is practiced here and every visitor is made welcome. For example, the spoon carver’s wife offered us apple and sweet pastry to take with us upon leaving.

Pictures: (1) H. Eikamp / (1) K. Eckl (15.07.2006)

If you select the southern by-pass of the plateau from the route specified before into the *Lassithi-Plateau* (direction to *Agios Georgios*) you will pass the village *Agios Konstantinos*. The main street of the village is marked by many stores with hand-woven or stitched, crocheted or laced products, the hand spinning mill is still traditionally practiced here! Wool is still “twitched” and twisted to yarn by means of wood spindles. Also the colouring of the yarn is still made traditionally with sap from vegetation of the region (e.g. courgette, vanilla, walnut, etc.). The goods made out of this yarn are of high-quality und the price corresponds to the quality. Picture impressions follow.





The upper row of pictures show (left) a house front in *Agios Konstantinos* as can be seen in almost all vil-lages of the *Lassithi*-Plateau. The hand-made products (mainly during the winter months) are abundantly presented. While waiting for customers, Marie passes the time with spinning (right). The lower pictures show an original over 100 years old loom which has been repaired with new wooden parts and is still in service not only for demon-stration (left). In spite of her high age, Maria's mother still helps within the family business pulling wool for a few hours a day so Maria's hand spinning mill does not run out of yarn (left).

Pictures: (6) U. Kluge / (2) K. Eckl (15./23.7.2006)
Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

[Art.-Nr. 2.747; Zitat-Nr. 4.640] impr. eik.amp 04/2009

Tipp's for car renting and private accommodation in Gouves, 18 km east Iraklion as well as a good information possibility about Crete.



www.kreta-info.de.vu



www.tdsv.de/mariamar



www.kreta-umweltforum.de