



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

**Ancient town
of Praisos**

Praisos – the old town of the Eteocretans, Prefecture Lassithi

Probably the last “save haven” of the founders of the Minoan culture

Directions: On the road from *Sitia* [Σητεία] (towards south) to *Ierapetra* [Ιεράπετρα], passing the villages *Piskokefalo* [Πισκοκέφαλον] and *Maronia* [Μαρωνία], you also get to *Epano Episkopie* [Επάνω Επισκοπή]. In the middle of the village *Ep.Episkopie* is a sign (right side) pointing to the archaeological site “*Praisos*” [Πραισός], here towards the left turnout from the main road (towards *Agios Spiridon* [Αγιος Σπυρίδωζ], *Ziros* [Ζήρος]). It’s about 3.5 miles to *Ag. Spiridon*. There is another sign short after the village end; here turn left at a small concrete track. From here it’s about another 1.5 miles to the destination. The ancient ruins of *Praisos* are located on top of a hill (see **pictures**).

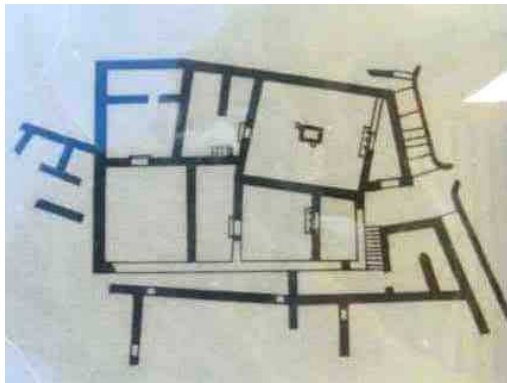


Praisos probably was the most important city within the “homeland” of the *Eteocretans* (“real Cretans”); they were the “pre-Indo-European” population in Crete who participated significantly in establishing the Minoan culture. They settled still in ancient “tribe” in the East of the island (see **map**). *Praisos* as well as the *Eteocretans* are named in the tales of Homer *Odysseus* [Od. 19, 276] and also in the tales of Herodotus as “Men from *Praisos*” [He. 7, 170].



Praisos was probably continuously inhabited from the Neolithic up to the Hellenistic era. Despite the loss of the Minoan culture [“*Eteocretan*” inscriptions from the 7th Century BC up to 3rd Century BC have been preserved where 3 has been found in *Praisos*] the *Eteocretans* probably survived up to 2nd Century BC when the Dorian’s took over the dominion in Crete.

The scenic setting excavation site shows the remains of houses, a temple and parts of the city wall (see **picture** left at next page). From the formerly 3 Acropolis hills, the Hellenistic House or the tombs which have been found (see **map**, right next page) is today unfortunately little preserved and to see. However a visit of this historically important archaeological site is worth.



Also in the surrounding of the "mountain of city" there are many old building ruins (see pictures.) that indicate previous settlements, which are worth to be taken "in focus".



Remark: The certainly necessary, further excavations in *Praisos* are intended and promoted by the Mayor of the town *Agio Spyridonas* (*Nikos Kokkonias*, Email: praisos@yahoo.com). However, in order to continue the excavations (and public funds for this) he requires the cooperation and support of 3 universities. Up to date two universities have pledged their support (Naples: University of Naples "Sour Orsola Benincasa" / Bristol: Panepistimio Cardiff Bretanias [*Prof. J. Whitley*]). A third is still searched and it is to be hoped, that it does not take too long so the excavation can be continued.



More information and details can be found at our Homepage (Forum) at: [\[http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/wbb2/thread.php?threadid=1835\]](http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/wbb2/thread.php?threadid=1835), at **Radio-Kreta**: [\[http://www.radio-kreta.de/praisos-eine-alte-stadt-der-eteokreter/\]](http://www.radio-kreta.de/praisos-eine-alte-stadt-der-eteokreter/), on the **Website of Praisos** (in Greek.) at: [\[http://www.praisos.com/arkiki1.htm \]](http://www.praisos.com/arkiki1.htm) or on the **Web link** (in Engl.): [\[http://www.carolandray.plus.com/Eteocretan/Praisos1.html\]](http://www.carolandray.plus.com/Eteocretan/Praisos1.html).

Picture: The "Lion of Praisos"