

## Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

# Tour through the northern territory of the Amari valley (Brief description & hints to detail information's [I])

We start our tour coming from Rethymno, at the village entrance of Spili at the local bishop's see (therefore see our leaflet No.: 379-12/E at: [[http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter\\_en/379-12E.pdf](http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/379-12E.pdf)] ) and turn right here towards Gerakari.

The road to Gerakari leads geologically through a scenically very beautiful tableland of phyllite-quartzite units and reaches a small deeply sunk clod; in which Meta-ultramafic rocks indicate a deposit of the highest topset beds. Small outcrops of serpentinite and red radiolarite are at the eastern local edge of the road. They probably belong to the Preveli (Vatos-) unit.

**Gerakari** is considered as a central region of the cherry cultivation, which is also indicated by innumerable cherry trees. It was reconstructed after the war, since it was completely burnt down up to the foundation walls (177 houses) by the Germans as retaliation for the kidnapping of the general Kreipe; a monument in the centre of the village reminds of it. In Gerakari we turn left (signposted) towards Meronas.

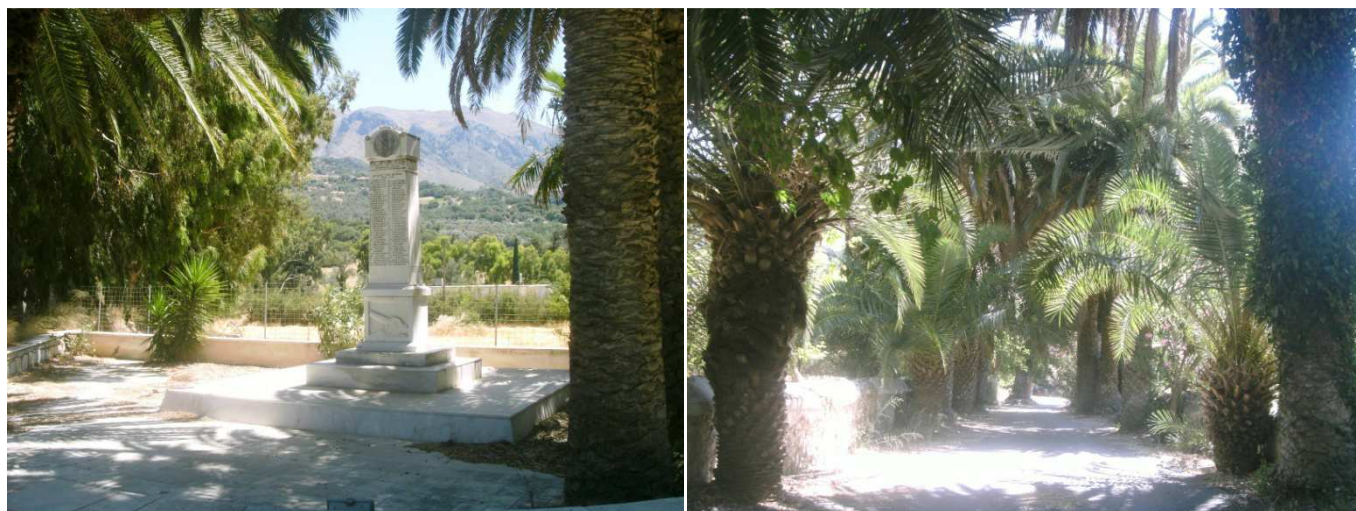
In **Meronas** a stop in the local centre („village square“) is recommended. A beautiful church, a monument and a spring well (see fig. below) are worth seeing. Meronas is the centre of fruit-growing (pip fruit) of the region. Via Apostoli, Asomaton and Monastiraki we drive further on towards Fourfouras.



**Apostoli** has its name by ten martyrs, who were captivated here by Roman occupation troops and afterwards executed in Agii Deka (Messara Plateau).

**Asomaton** (Moni Asomaton) is a large (at present uninhabited) monastic property; for this we wrote a separate leaflet (387-12/E); therefore see at our webpage [www.kreta-umweltforum.de](http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/): „The monastery complex Asomaton in the Amari valley (once spiritual and cultural centre of the region)“. A monument (see fig. next page) is located on the left of a palm avenue, the entrance to the monastery.

It is about 1 mile from Asomaton to **Monastiraki**. Here German archaeologists have discovered a Minoan settlement (left before the village entrance, see fig. below left. 2nd picture row; Coordinates: N 35° 230 472, E 24° 671 197), where with interruptions excavations going on since the 80's. These are parts of a larger plant from the older palace time; we will write another separate leaflet on this.



Back via **Asomaton** we drive further forwards to **Fourfouras**; at this route we meet two worth seeing churches about which we already informed with a separate leaflet (388-12/E); therefore see at our homepage: “Two worth seeing churches in the Amari valley - Agios Nikolaos in Vizari & Agia Paraskevi in Syvritos“; see picture above right: the isolated bell tower of Agios Nikolas in Vizari.

Via **Vizari** and **Fourfouras** it goes further on to **Kouroutes**. Kouroutes is named after the “Kouretes”, the mythological guards of the Zeus in the Psiloritis Mountains.

Via **Apodoulou** we leave the area of the Mount Kedros and the northern territory of the Amari valley; we will likewise write a separate leaflet with brief descriptions & hints to detail information's about the southern territory of the Amari valley [II].

Good information's about gastronomy and accommodation within this region and further detail information can be found within the Crete guidebook by *Eberhard Fohrer*, Pages 385 – 389 (ISBN 978-3-89953-692-8) [German language only].