

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

“Water cave” at Sfakion, with exit to the open sea “Light” at the end of the grotto cares for well-being

We discovered this worth experience and worth seeing cave (grotto) within a wild and romantic location at a almost undisturbed pebble beach in the south of Crete at Sfakion already in 2009. Since we reported about it already within our forum [<http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/wbb2/thread.php?threadid=773> (in German language only)] we would like to add further information and pictures with this leaflet.

The “water cave” can be reached via the north-south connection Vrisses – Sfakia. From the turn-off (right towards west / Sfakia) it is approx 1 mile until the sign for the Hotel Vritomartis appears (the only nudism hotel of Crete; see also [<http://www.vritomartis.com/come/directions/>]). Short after one sees a small ravine which leads to the sea, likewise a gravel path, which left of the ravine turns to the sea; this is the runway to the cave. The distance to the beach amounts approx. 1000 yards, whereby the first 400 yards (up to a turning possibility) are to be well driven. The remaining distance is to be driven only by experienced all-wheel cyclists; we recommend to walk the remaining 600 yd up to the cave.



Leptoceratops looks at the cave entrance



the cave entrance from outside

The cave has the form of a “horseshoe”, whereby the “start point” is at the beach and the “end” at the open sea. Above the entrance to the cave is a rock formation, which reminds of a horn dinosaur (*Leptoceratops* [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leptoceratops>]), which looks standing at the beach towards the cave entrance. From the entrance of the cave to the centre of the “horseshoe”, where is a bag-like expansion of 5 x 7 yd, the gravelly cave soil is damp (with dry places). Up to the exit to the sea the cave soil is however flooded by the sea water and amounts to approx. 15 cm, which rises up to the cave exit to the open sea on up to 1 meter (the ideal “entrance for snorkeler” to the sea). While one must enter the cave entrance from the beach creeping on the knees, one has inside the cave then enough place and can stand upright. On the right of the cave exit to the sea one recognizes a clearly contrasting, “humidity indicating band” in the rock formation, which indicates the fluctuation height of the sea level (approx 1 yd height) within this range to the cave

Hereafter some pictures with comments.

Pictures: *Maria Eleftheria*, Agios Nektarios / South Crete & *Ute Kluge*, Obertshausen.



the Cave entrance seen from inside



in the bag-like expansion



the water level ascends towards the sea



Cave exit towards the sea with “waterline mark”

