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Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Cretan Handcraft: glassblowing and barber "Glassblowing": a handcraft with "puff"!



With regards to the information leaflet No. 065-05: Cretan Handcraft: "Leatherwear and weave works" you will read, amongst others, within the preface: "... but they still exist"!: the often tiny workshop shops! In the mountain villages and the narrow streets of the cities of Crete, you will still find. Often as "One man" business, the Cretan handcraft is here still driven and kept in according to ancient traditions even if it is foreseeable that the end is near, when the "One man" leaves!

How long the tradition of glass-blown exists on Crete, is not precisely known. About a dozen workshops should exist on the island today, although the trend of manufacturing of utility glass to the (creative) beautiful glass containers (in particular in terms of tourism) is recognisably.

Besides the "souvenir glass blowing" there is also a glass recycling company (in the village **Kokkino Chorio**, East of **Apokoronas/Chania**), which manufactures glass from used glass and is thus making a considerable contribution to active environmental protection in Crete (see leaflet No. 314-09/E).

A traditional glass blowing, which makes also use glassware in addition to craft glass objects, is that of **Nikos Haritakis** in **Agia Galini**. The workshop is located, coming from **Spili**, around 1 mile before the crossroads **Agia Galini – Timbaki** right the street, right besides the petrol station. It is not directly recognizable as such, unless you can read Greek and are able to read the "perimeter advertising" to the house wall or discovered the note in English in time.



The pictures show from left to right: view of the glass-blowing from the street; the workshop space and the sales room

The energy requirement of the glass-blowing is very large. It takes up to 2 cubic meters of wood to produce one kilogram of glass. Quartz sand, lime, soda and potash are the basic components (in the form of so-called "pallets"), which are melted at 1400 degrees to a glowing mass. It is then further processed in glowing state.

The tools required for the glass production are: scissors, circular shears, gutter, blow-in form, "Wulger" shovel, floor shear and glass making pipe. Various additives are added depending on the desired colour that you want to have for the glass product. To obtain for e.g. green glass you need to add chromium oxides, for yellow glass silver is used and blue glass is achieved through the addition of cobalt oxides.



The photos show (from left to right): an "old" and a "new" furnace: for colour producing necessary oxides (in small bowls) and glass rods, needed to pull glass. The following pictures show a small selection of glassware from the glass blowing range.



The craft of glass-making is about 2000 years old and has two basic techniques: "glass-blowing, where by corresponding glass consistency from the viscous glass the desired shape is blown in by selective blowing and "glass-pulling" where the raw material, glass rods is heated over a flame to make them workable.



for: the hair cut, without additional "special offers" (gel, hair lotion etc.) but with all necessary good service. Here is talking not only about the weather; but current events on the island are discussed or political discussions. An experience (for 7 €) that you shouldn't let slip - but you can also go to the Hairstylists in the Hair Studio in the City of Iraklion (for 18 €). You don't bok different afterwards (and the hairstyle is not better)! The difference between "traditional" and "modern" is not the quality but is exactly 11 € !

The pictures show a "traditional" gentleman barber in an old town street of Iraklion. About 2 metre wide, 4 metre long, 1 barber chair, 4 chairs for wait, 1 small side table and "Harmony": the human with his individuality is in the foreground. Here only is made what you came

Pictures: (8) U. Kluge / (4) H. Eikamp (5/2005)