

## C2. Monastery Katholiko Go and return



approx. 3 hrs



approx. 4 – 5 km



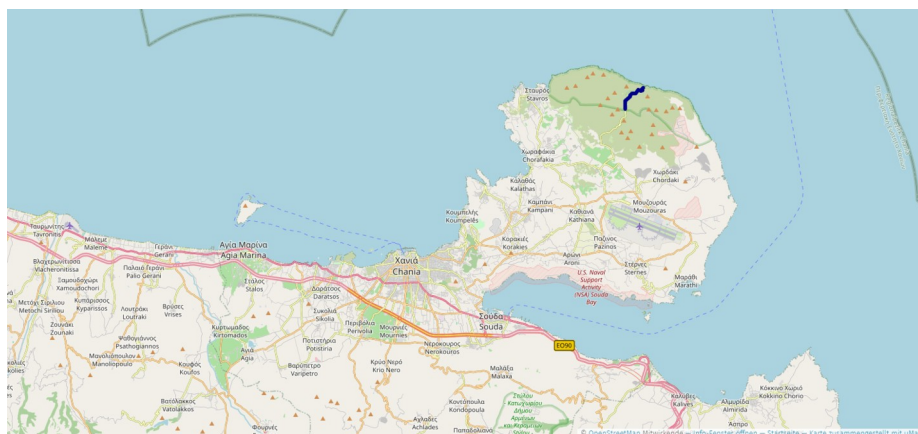
medium



approx. 260 m



mainly sunny



This hike is very diverse, and there is much to see and discover. We start at the Gouverneto Monastery. On a well-paved path, it takes about 15 minutes to reach the Bear Cave. This cave is not organized, and a small flashlight is provided, but it is still easy to explore. The shape of a rock in the middle of the cave resembles a bear. From there, we walk along the path with great views, including of the gorge, always downhill until we reach the abandoned Katholiko Monastery. A breathtaking sight awaits us: old buildings, an ancient bridge, and the church give us a glimpse of what it must have been like here when the monastery was still in operation. From here, we continue on a small, unpaved path under the bridge of the monastery through the Avlaki Gorge. Wonderful nature awaits us on this section down to the small pirate cove of Katholiko.

The hike is possible all year round!

If you have any further questions, please contact us by e-mail:  
([claudiaandsonja@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaandsonja@gmail.com))

### **What is needed:**

- sturdy shoes / hiking boots
- water
- sun protection
- possibly a small torch

**Travelling by bus: **Not possible!** Bus timetables: [www.e-ktel.com](http://www.e-ktel.com)**

**You can find our YouTube video about this hike here:**



<https://youtu.be/sn5bod1hDuo>

## Route description: (WP = waypoint)

We park in the parking lot of the Gouvernetos Monastery (**parking lot**). Through a small door (**WP1 / entrance monastery**), we walk through a small park area until we reach the Gouvernetos Monastery. Here, we go through another small gate and arrive at (**WP2**). This is where the natural stone-paved path begins. We walk about 600 meters to the Bear Cave, which is located on the right side of the path (**WP3 / bear cave**). Continuing along the paved path, we reach the old Katholiko Monastery after about 600 meters (**WP4 / Katholiko monastery**). Now we take the path that leads us under the bridge of the monastery (**WP5 / to the gorge**).

We continue under the bridge and walk about 200 meters on the small unpaved path until we reach (**WP6**). Following the path, we arrive at (**WP7**) after approximately 250 meters. After another 200 meters, we also reach the pirate cove (**WP8 / pirate cove**). We then retrace the same route back to the car.

### Tip:

Bring enough water with you, as there is no opportunity to buy anything!  
Also, keep in mind that you will need to **walk uphill** for the entire return trip.

## The following coordinates can be used for orientation on the hike:

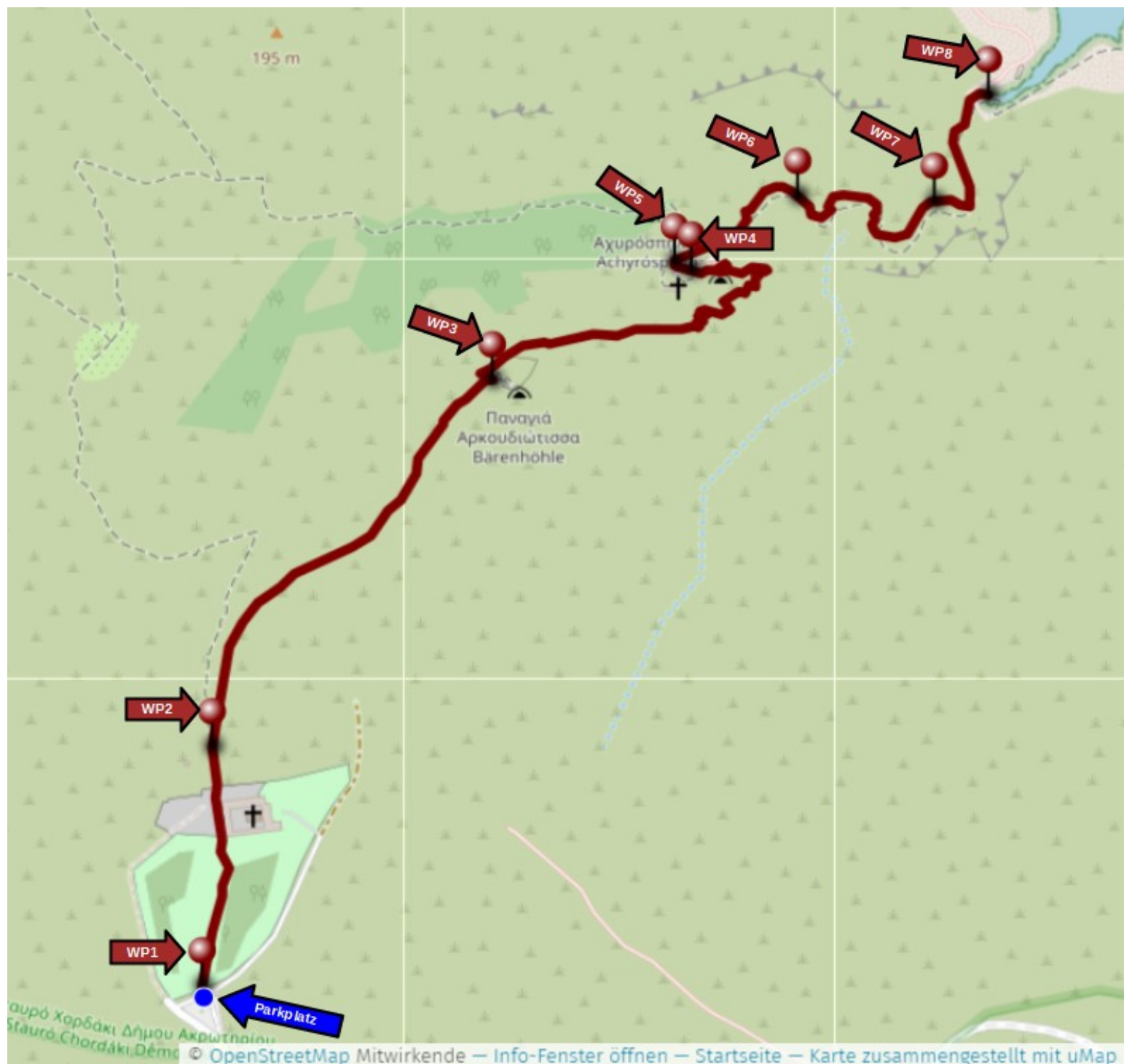
You can copy these coordinates and paste them into your online map provider (Google Maps, OpenStreetMap) or use the interactive hiking map. (WP = waypoint)

### Coordinates:

<b>parking lot:</b>	35.58244, 24.13993
<b>WP1 / entrance monastery:</b>	35.58257, 24.13989
<b>WP2:</b>	35.58511, 24.14003
<b>WP3 / bear cave:</b>	35.58903, 24.1436
<b>WP4 / Katholiko monastery:</b>	35.59018, 24.14612
<b>WP5 / to the gorge:</b>	35.59029, 24.14592
<b>WP6:</b>	35.59097, 24.14746
<b>WP7:</b>	35.59093, 24.14921
<b>WP8 / pirate cove:</b>	35.59205, 24.1499

**Walk along the WP in sequence. WP = waypoint**

For more details, simply open the side panel of the interactive map and click on WP.



## **Sights in the surrounding area:**

### *Monastery Agia Triada*

This monastery is one of the richest and most beautiful on Crete. It dates from the Venetian era, from the 17th century and is still in operation today. There is also a museum with old ecclesiastical artefacts.

Opening hours: Monday: 08:00 - 19:00

Tuesday - Friday: 07:00 - 19:00

Saturday - Sunday: 06:30 – 19:00

For more information: <https://orthodoxcrete.com/en/places/holy-trinity-monastery/>

**Out of season, you should always confirm the opening hours by telephone!**

## **General tips for hiking on Crete:**

- Start the hike early in the morning.
- Save the location of the rental car (parking lot) in Google Maps.
- Before the hike, inform someone about where you are hiking, e.g. by text message and check in again after finishing the hike.
- Always close gates that have been opened!
- Check weather conditions.
- Check bus connections and opening hours in advance.
- Don't forget enough water!
- Wear sturdy shoes.

**Weather apps:**      Meteo      <https://www.meteo.gr/>  
                                 K24.net      <https://gr.k24.net>  
                                 Windy.com      <https://www.windy.com>

## **Emergency numbers:**

Police: 100

Emergency services: 112

## **General opening hours for pharmacies:**

### **Monday to Friday:**

usually mornings from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and afternoons from approximately 5:00 p.m. to 8:30/9:00 p.m. in many locations

**Saturday:**

usually only in the morning, approx. 08:30–14:00 / 15:00.

**Sundays & public holidays:**

Most pharmacies are closed, but there is a rotation of emergency or on-duty pharmacies that are open at certain times during the day or at night.

**Emergency service/on-call:**

There is always at least one pharmacy on duty in each area, even at night and on weekends. Which one is on duty is posted at each pharmacy and online (e.g. via [vrisko.gr](http://vrisko.gr))

**Medical centres:**

There are medical centres in almost all holiday resorts on Crete. Treatment is usually available without prior appointment, and with a valid insurance card, the costs are usually reimbursed by your health insurance company.

**Note on archaeological sites and places of interest:**

If you are visiting archaeological sites and places of interest on your own, it is usually better to go in the afternoon. In the morning, these places are often very busy with organised tour groups and coaches.

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**All information is provided without guarantee and may change!**

**If you want to know more about hiking in Crete, visit us on our YouTube channel:**



[www.youtube.com/@claudiaandsonja](http://www.youtube.com/@claudiaandsonja)



**Claudia and Sonja@claudiaandsonja**

**We wish you lots of fun !!!**