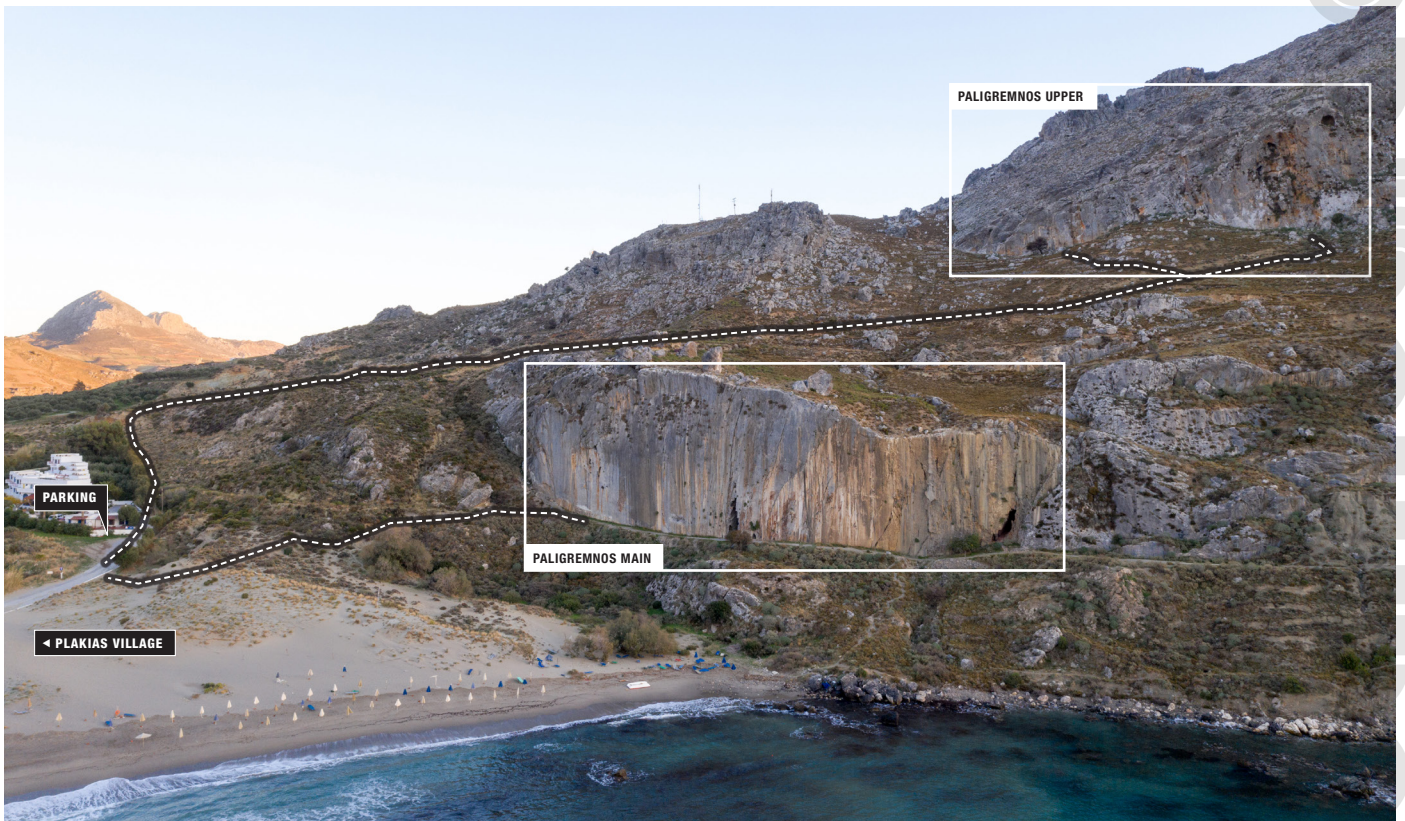
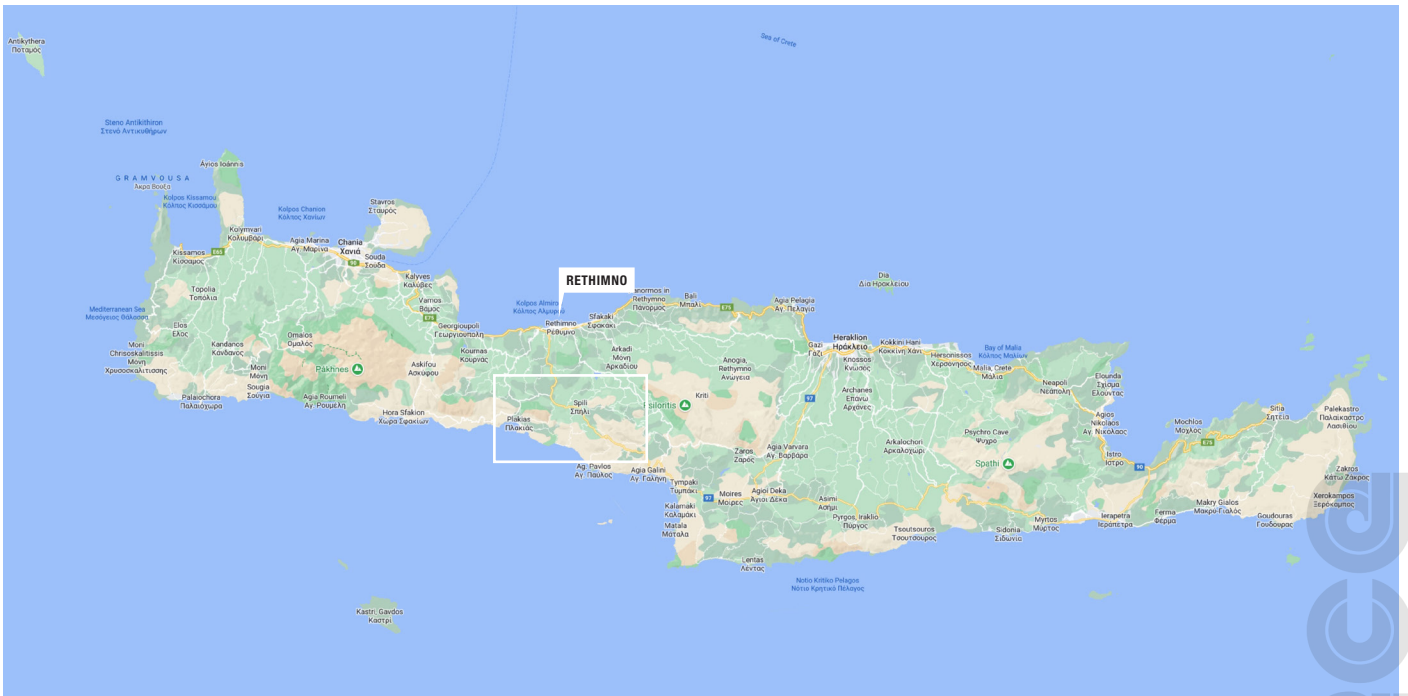


An aerial photograph of a vast, flat, arid landscape in Plakias, Crete. The terrain is a mix of light brown and greyish soil, with scattered small green shrubs and patches of darker, possibly wet or shaded ground. A person wearing a green tank top and blue jeans stands in the middle of the landscape, providing a sense of scale. The overall scene is desolate and expansive.

Mini guide: Plakias, Crete 2022



1 Plakias Beach Paligremnos (Main)

Crag parking



SHADE | Until about 15:00

Paligremnos Main is the eye-catching smooth large cliff at the end of the beach (see page 2). It is an established and iconic climbing sector. The Climb Greece team rebolted one route (KOUFALA 7b) in 2021 using titanium bolts.

Climbing

On a very smooth vertical and slightly overhanging wall with assorted cracks, small tufa pipes, horizontal crimps, small jugs, and sidepulls. Paligremnos Main features 32 routes up to 45m long with grades between 6c–8a. The first routes date back to 1979.

Because of the unusual climbing style, grades can—and will—feel harder for most climbers, especially grades in the lower range.

Conditions

Best for climbing in spring and autumn. Summer climbing in the shade is also possible. Plakias is not good for climbing on days with strong northerly winds.

Kids

Very good. The approach is minimal, and the terrain is mostly flat.

Approach (Walking time: 2 mins)

Plakias is 35km from the city of Rethimno, and almost directly south of it. Therefore, from Rethimno, drive south to Plakias. When you arrive at the seafront, drive east (left) along the coastal road to the edge of the long beach. The cliff at the end is the main sector, and it can't be missed. Drive a bit further and park on the right-hand side past Paligremnos Studios (35.180561, 24.402740). Walk up the obvious path to the cliff.

1	TRIHES STIN PALAMI R Kosir, M Kabourakis	1★	5b	15m
2	VANDALUP R Kosir, M Kabourakis	1★	5b	15m
3	VANDALUP EXT R Kosir, M Kabourakis	2★	6a	22m
4	MENIOS R Kosir, M Kabourakis	2★	6a	20m
5	EPTAPSYHOS R Kosir, M Kabourakis	2★	6b	25m
6	DOG-MAN R Kosir, M Kabourakis	3★	6b+	25m
7	DOG-MANOLIS RIGHT FINISH R Kosir, M Kabourakis	3★	6c+	28m
8	MINIMALIST DIRECT	3★	8a+	28m
9	MINIMALIST A Mavromatis 2007	3★	7c+	28m
10	MINOTAVROS Unknown equipper. Rebolted by M Kabourakis	♪	7b+	28m
11	SPACE CAKE A Mavromatis, V Poulakis 2008	3★	8a	28m

12	OPIOS FOVATAI PEFTEI KE KOIMATAI A Mavromatis 2008	3★	7c	28m
13	PROJECT?	?★	?	35m
14	KOUFALA Kostas Roussos, D Stalikas 1997 (rebolted in December 2021 by the Climb Greece team using 12mm RHEA Titanium bolts by Lappas Climbing).	2★	7b	18m
15	PROJECT?	?★	?	25m
16	PROJECT?	?★	?	25m
17	FISFIRI M Mesarhakis, N Fotiodimitrakis	2★	6b+	25m
18	TA VIZONIA TOU KANARONE A Mavromatis 2007	2★	7b+	28m
19	ARIADNE Unknown	3★	6b+	15m
20	ARIADNE EXT Unknown	3★	7a+	45m
21	TSAMPA BIRRA M Mesarhakis, C Tsoutsias	3★	7a+	25m
22	FODELE D Korres, G Martzoukos 1979	3★	5c	23m
23	FODELE EXT D Korres, G Martzoukos 1979	3★	6a+	40m
24	KILL THE DOC R Kosir, M Kabourakis	2★	6c+	30m
25	HELENJE D Titopoulos 2007	♪	6c	23m
26	HELENJE EXT D Titopoulos 2007	3★	7a	35m
27	PERPATOULADA A Mavromatis	3★	7a+	25m
28	PROJECT?	?★	?	38m
29	AHIVA LA OSTIA A Mavromatis 2008	3★	7b+	35m
30	ORIGINAL A Mavromatis 2008	3★	7c+	38m
31	MAFALDA V Floros, A Mavromatis 2008	2★	7c	35m
32	PROJECT?	?★	?	25m

climbup

1 Plakias Beach Paligremnos (Upper)

SHADE | Until about 15:00

Located above the main cliff (see page 2), **Paligremnos Upper** also exhibits tectonic mirror-like characteristics; thanks to more and bigger features, though, it offers the possibility for easier climbing. All routes here are new, bolted by the Climb Greece team in 2021.

Climbing

On vertical or slightly overhanging short routes to the left, and longer slabby routes with good pockets to the right. Routes are well-protected, with grades ranging between 5c and 7b+. The limestone is generally sharp at the upper part but it will improve with traffic. Route names, inspired by Cretan traditions, are engraved on discreet stainless steel plaquettes and fixed on the rock.

Conditions

Best for climbing in spring and autumn. Summer climbing in the shade is also possible. Plakias is not good for climbing on days with strong northerly winds.

Kids

OK, with a relatively easy approach.

Approach (Walking time: 10-12 mins)

Park at the same spot as for Paligremnos Main (35.180561, 24.402740). Walk straight ahead (east) and follow the path that starts at the right of Plakias Bay Hotel. After 200m turn right onto a path that leads above the main sector. After 500m turn left and continue to the foot of the cliff straight ahead.

1	ANTIKRISTO	2★	6c+	12m
2	NEFALO	2★	6c	13m
3	EROTOKRITOS	2★	7b	15m
4	MANTINADA	2★	7a+	15m
5	MOUSAFIRIS	2★	7b+	16m
6	FAMOPILAFO	2★	7b	15m
7	VENTETTA	2★	6c+	15m
8	DOMINIKOS	3★	7a	15m
9	OFIS	2★	7a	17m

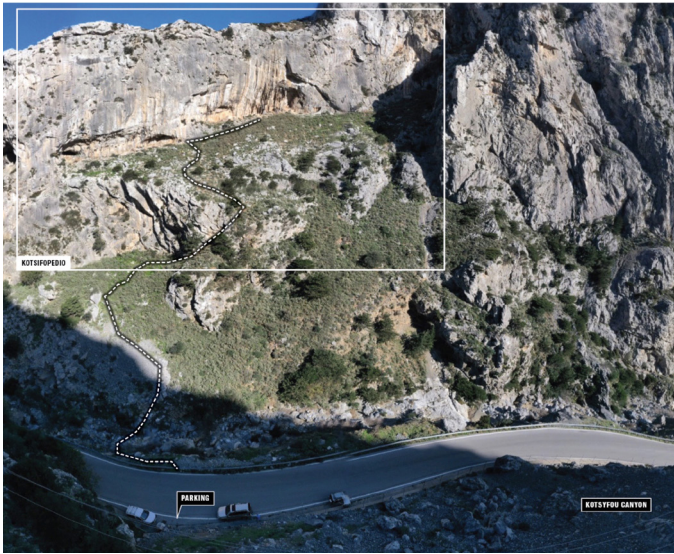
10	KOUMPOURI	2★	6b+	17m
11	EPAE	3★	6b	20m
12	KOTSIFALI	3★	6a+	18m
13	NTAKOS	2★	6b	17m
14	ORNITHA	2★	6b	18m
15	TZATZIKISTAN	♪	6b	20m
16	EROPHILE	3★	6a+	15m
17	EMPATHY	3★	5c	18m
18	FAKORIZO	3★	5c	18m
19	LIATIKO	1★	6a	20m
20	MANDILARIA	1★	6b	20m
21	TSIKOUDIA	2★	6b+	22m
22	ARISMARI	2★	6b+	22m
23	RIFI	2★	6a+	22m
24	MADARA	3★	6a+	20m
25	AMANITIS	3★	6b	25m
26	EGA	3★	6b	32m
27	STAMNAGATHI	3★	6b+	32m
28	KAGIANAS	2★	6b	20m
29	XIA SOU	2★	6b	20m

Kotsyfou Canyon

Kotsifopedio

SHADE | Almost all day

Craig parking



Kotsyfou Canyon (or Kotsyfou Gorge) is a 2km-long gorge only 15 minutes by car from Plakias Beach. Sector **Kotsifopedio** is located approximately halfway through the gorge, on the left-hand side as you drive in the direction of Plakias and the sea.

15 routes were originally bolted here between 2009 and 2014 by Fabrice Molle, Stelios Kosmopoulos, Iakovos Mavroidis, and Vangelis Lavas. The limestone is solid and excellent, with an enticing middle section decorated with stalactites and tufa pipes, and grey slabs off to the side. The routes at Kotsifopedio were rarely climbed, though. The most likely reason is a combination of non-stainless-steel bolts and their placement on colonettes.

The Climb Greece team replaced nearly all old bolts, most of which were corroded and dangerous. Furthermore, they enhanced the sector with eight new routes.

Climbing

Harder climbing on high-quality solid limestone with tufas, colonettes, and vertical walls. Route names are written on the rock.

Conditions

Generally good for climbing year-round. Not good on cold, rainy, or very windy days, as it is unprotected from the north..

Kids

Not good.

Approach (Walking time: 10-12 mins)

From Plakias village, drive in the direction of Myrthios village. From there, continue in the direction of Kanebos village. The road to Kanebos village will take you to the entrance of Kotsyfou Canyon. At the beginning of the gorge, drive past the chapel of Agios Nikolaos on the left. Drive 200m further and park on the left-hand side, at the end of a barbed wire fence (35.222593, 24.400381). Cross to the other side and walk down to the stream, then uphill following the marked trail.

1	CROCUS V Lavas (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	6a	20m
2	PISTOLA J Mavroidis (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	7a+	40m
3	GYMNASIUM F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	8?	30m
4	LA BAUCHARD F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	8b+?	30m
5	COLO NET F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	8b?	32m
6	KOPACABANA Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	8a	28m
7	SNAKE GODDESS S Kosmopoulos (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	7b+	25m
8	SNAKE GODDESS EXT S Kosmopoulos (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	8b?	35m
9	WINDY TIME F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	7c/8a?	35m
10	PYRICHIOS F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	7c+?	35m
11	ZEBULOU F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	7b	35m
12	KATSOUNA S Kosmopoulos (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	8b+?	22m
13	LIKE A VIRGIN F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	7b	22m
14	LIKE A VIRGIN EXT F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	7b	40m
15	DAZE US! F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	6a	22m
16	MPALOTHIA Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	6a	22m
17	HOHLIOS Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	6b	22m
18	GOOD MORNING PLAKIAS This is a 3-pitch route (6c+, 7b, 6a+), but only Pitch 1 (6c+ 20m) is rebolted and ready to climb. F Molle (rebolted by Climb Greece team, 2021)	3★	6c+	20m
19	PENTOZALI Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	8c?	25m
20	NTRETA Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	8b?	25m
21	KOUZOULOS Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	7c	20m
22	ARETOUSA Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	7c	15m
23	RIZIMIO Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	8a	16m

3

Lefkogeia village

Gianniou

SHADE | Almost all day

Crag parking



Lefkogeia or Lefkogia (pronounced lef-KOYA) is a traditional village less than 7km from Plakias, close to the historic monastery of Preveli. Sector **Gianniou** (pronounced ya-NEW) is a slab a bit further south, just outside a small hamlet of the same name, next to an ancient water spring. (The name Lefkogeia is inspired by the white flowers that fill the fields in springtime; the village is located between streams that flow down to Ammoudi beach.)

Climbing

Slab climbing on six routes graded 5a to 6c+. Well-protected and very good for new climbers, families with kids, and climbing schools. Route names are written on the rock..

Conditions

Generally good for climbing year-round. Not good on cold or rainy winter days.

Kids

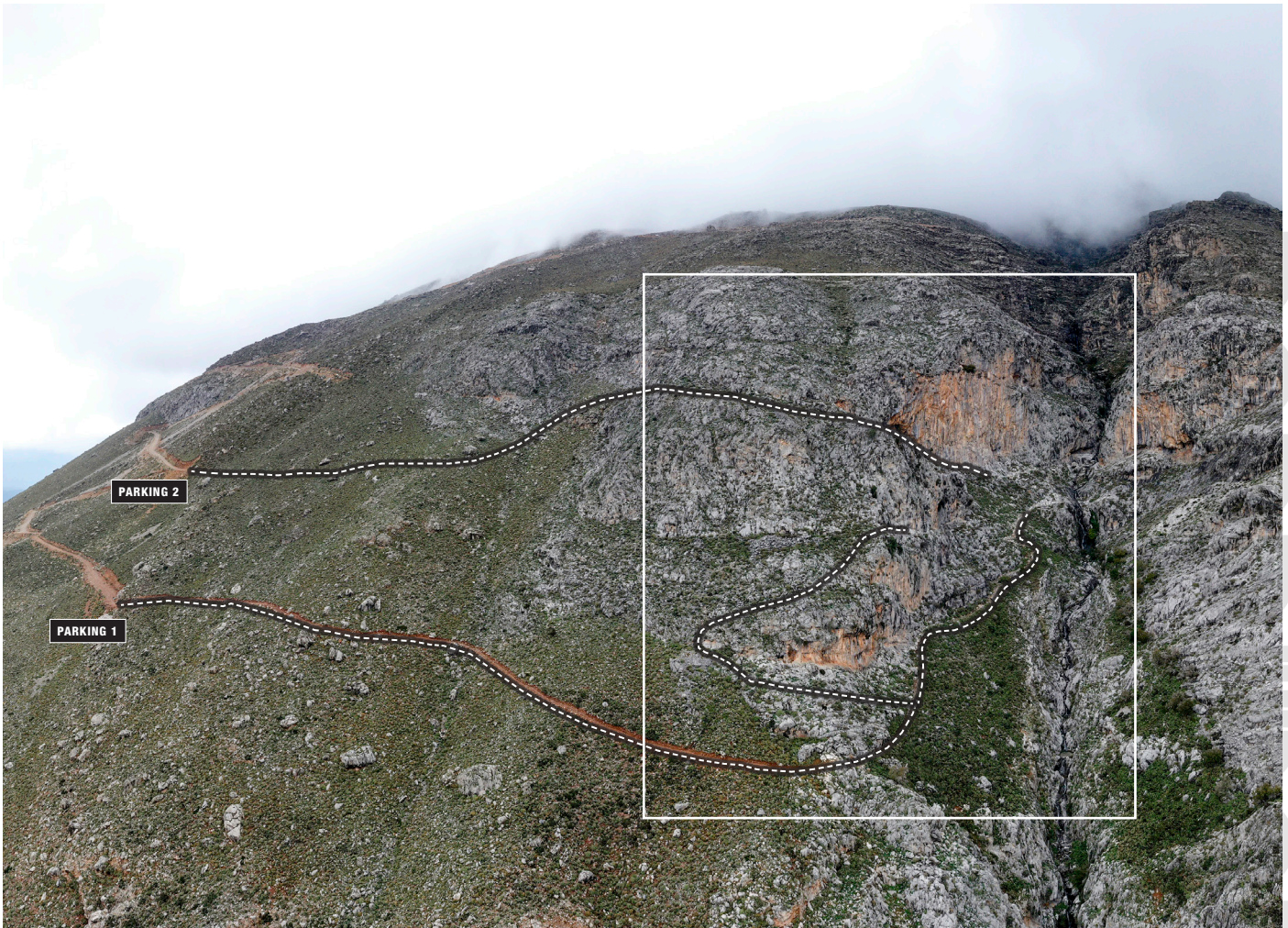
Very good.

Approach (Walking time: none)

From Plakias village, drive to Lefkogeia village. As soon as you arrive, turn right following the sign to Gianniou. Drive carefully through Gianniou; the road is narrow. As you exit the village, turn left. You will come to a concrete structure enclosing the ancient spring (pictured). Park and climb the slab on the right (35.168758, 24.452645).

1	MINOAN JEWELRY Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	6c+	25m
2	THE CHARIOTEER Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	6a+	25m
3	DRAKA Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	5c	22m
4	THE LAST TEMPTATION Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	6a	25m
5	PRINCE OF THE LILIES Climb Greece team, 2021	3★	5c	25m
6	VIDIANO Climb Greece team, 2021	2★	5a	25m

climbgreece



Kria Vrisi is an inland village built at the foot of Mt Kedros, in the southern Rethimno region. The village itself is built at an altitude of 480m, and it is 36km east of Plakias. Kria Vrisi means “cold water spring,” and indeed there is a spring nearby in the Gré Dafni gorge. Sector Kria Vrisi is located at the very end of the gorge, 300m higher than the village, and enjoys spectacular views over the Libyan Sea.

Climbing

On excellent limestone across four sub-sectors (**Spiliari**, **Gré Dafni**, **Poro**, and **Dafnaki**), providing a variety of climbing styles and features. Stalactites, vertical walls and slabs, overhangs with crimps, and small gullies are all here. The nature and scale of the cliff is also good for harder two- or three-pitch routes with the potential and room for easier multi-pitches, too.

Sub-sectors Spiliari and Dafnaki have been developed with beginners and climbing schools in mind. All bolts and hangers are stainless steel, and all lower-offs are clippable. Route names are written on the rock.

Conditions

Best for climbing in spring and autumn. Climbing is also possible on summer afternoons, as well as on winter days when winds blow from the south, as the sector is quite protected.

Approach (Walking time: 10–20 mins)

Kria Vrisi is 36km from Plakias village, 41km from Rethimno city, 90km from Heraklion (the capital of Crete), and 14km from Spili village, the seat of the local Agios Vasileios municipality. From Plakias, drive east to Spili village (approx. 22km). From Spili, follow the signs towards Agia Galini. Then, look for the sign to Kria Vrisi. Turn left and drive 700m to the village. Pass the first two houses and turn left. Drive on a concrete road for 2.1km (it later turns into a dirt road). At the 2.1km mark, park right next to the curve (Parking 1, pictured: 35.159680, 24.622724). From there, follow the footpath that leads first to sub-sector Dafnaki, as pictured, for 15-20 mins.

Alternatively, to approach sub-sector Gré Dafni first, continue past Parking 1 and park at the next curve (Parking 2, pictured: 35.160259, 24.624076). From there, follow the footpath leading to Gré Dafni, as pictured, for 10-12 mins.

Kria Vrisi

Spiliari, Poro, Dafnaki

SHADE | After 14:30

Spiliari

1	MITATO D Titopoulos	2★	4a	10m
2	TSI KOLES D Titopoulos	2★	4a	10m
3	ASFENTAMO D Titopoulos	2★	4a	10m
4	AHLADA D Titopoulos	2★	4c	12m
5	RIAKOULA D Titopoulos	2★	4c	12m
6	WATSELA D Titopoulos	2★	4b	12m
7	ROVITHES D Titopoulos	2★	5a	15m
8	VOLAKOUS D Titopoulos	2★	5a	15m
9	VITSILE D Titopoulos	2★	5a	15m
10	APOKARODO D Titopoulos	2★	5b	15m
11	APOLOUSTI D Titopoulos	2★	5c	14m

Poro

1	ISSOROPISTIS D Titopoulos	2★	6a	25m
2	PU PIANEI EDO? D Titopoulos	2★	6b	22m
3	ZORIKI D Titopoulos	2★	6c+	20m
4	I MIGA D Titopoulos	2★	6a	23m
5	I EXODOS D Titopoulos	2★	6a	27m
6	I EXODOS EXT Easier than the 1st pitch. Around 5a as a standalone pitch. D Titopoulos	2★	6a	55m
7	DIEDRO D Titopoulos	2★	5c	23m

Dafnaki

1	PELAKIDON D Titopoulos	2★	6b+	12m
2	KADIANI D Titopoulos	2★	6c	12m
3	ANGELIKI D Titopoulos	2★	6c+	12m
4	TIROKELI D Titopoulos	2★	6a	17m
5	KATARAKTIS D Titopoulos	2★	6a+	17m
6	KOKALAS D Titopoulos	2★	6c	15m
7	TIS HARAS D Titopoulos	2★	6a	12m
8	EGA D Titopoulos	2★	6a+	14m
9	ATITHASOS D Titopoulos	2★	6b	14m
10	HAROTO D Titopoulos	2★	6a	13m
11	PISTOLERO D Titopoulos	2★	6b+	12m
12	ADAMANTIA D Titopoulos	2★	6a+	12m
13	NATAN KIALI D Titopoulos	2★	6a	12m
14	HOHLIOS D Titopoulos	2★	5a	12m
15	OMANITES D Titopoulos	2★	5b	10m