

**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

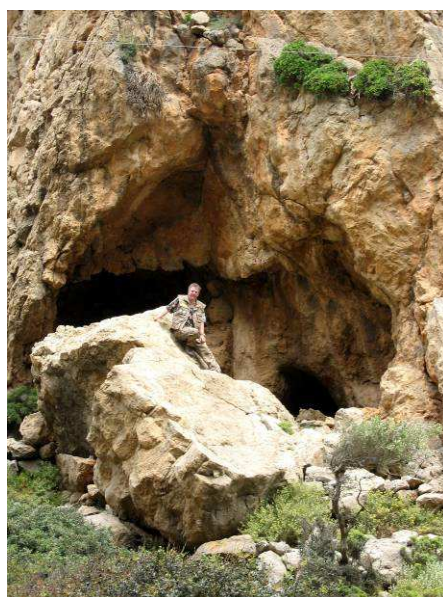


Jeep-Tour from *Ano Zákros* to the Bay of *Xerokampos* Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*)

There is currently only a 7.4 miles long “dirt road” from *Epano Zakros* (*Upper Zakros*) [Ζάκρος] to the Bay of *Xerokampos* [Ξερόκαμπος]. The trip is breathtaking – not only because of the beautiful view. The route is risky and therefore recommended only to experienced off-road fans with an appropriate vehicle (Jeep). Meanwhile a new, upgraded and paved road leads down from *Ziros* [Ζίρος] down to the Bay (which you should use for the “return” or continuation of your journey just because of the panorama).

(Remark by the translator: Meanwhile, the route from *Ano Zakros* to *Xerokampos* has been splendidly constructed and can be used smoothly with a “normal” car.)

At the beginning the road leads through olive groves but gets barren after approximately 1/3 of the way. Chalk rocks and sparse garrigue shape the further view. The last third leads over a sharp ridge which allows on the left for about 2 miles long an impressive view into the “unnamed” Canyon of *Xerókampos*. The Canyon is geologically and botanically similar to the “Ravine-of-the-Dead” (Nekron Canyon) of *Zakros* (see also leaflet 002-04E – Valley of the Dead). *Xerókampos* itself is an “Oasis” with a beautiful sandy beach. Speculation that here the Minoan settlement of port *Ambelos* has been located are contradicted. A walk to the about 2.5 miles south lying, abandoned village *Agia Irini* and further on to the former Minoan Summit sanctuary on 627 m high Hill *Agridoumuri* is recommended only for cooler weather.



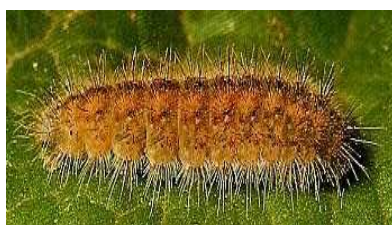
Encounters with goats are none rarity, often they provide illustrative images. Karst appearances are also frequently to be seen as small cave formations through erosion (the Middle image). They are omnipresent within the *Xerokampos*-canyon, see right image, here the Canyon outlet with dry stream bed, which directs water from the mountains to the sea during winter and spring.



Even if very unusual the use of this vehicle wreck as "Flowerpot" for an *Agave* does have a certain charm. The *Agave* (*Agave americana*) develops leaves 1-2 m x 15-25 cm in its basic rosette. The inflorescence is a pyramid-shaped panicle (see Middle image). The plant dies after fruit ripening; the stolon lives onwards. Fig. right shows the typical landscape of this region, mainly *Euphorbia*. The small Karst caves of the mountains bordered with stones are often used as "natural goat stables".

Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamearis_lucina)

The focus of spread of this moth is in the central mountain zone at 900 m height. The main time of the flight period is, depending on the altitude, between May and mid-June. *Hamearis lucina* is part of the family *Lycaenidae*, also called gossamer-winged butterflies, and is often found in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. Mainly found close to bushes or around forest, here places with direct sun. The Falter's food biology is only inadequate recorded so far for Crete, however it seems to visit rarely flowers for feeding.



Picture left is showing a copula (mating); the lizards are done individually or in small groups on the bottom of slightly super-script leaves.

The grub (Fig. top right) is situated within the last phase; the Fig. below shows the doll of *H. lucina*.

Photos: U. Kluge / H. Eikamp / G. Ebert 2003 / 2004

Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

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At this point tips for accommodation and property search on the north coast of the island



www.tdsv.de/mariamar/

Ktimatoemporiki Kritis

Property agency, in Chania, offers not only real estate of any kind but is endeavours to find the right solution and the right real estate for their customers.

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