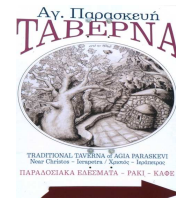



Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Side trip to the source area of Mirtos, South Crete (Water flow in abundance from the Mount Dikti)



In the region of **Selekano** (1100 m) several sources from the Mount Dikti (SE Afendis Christos, 2141 m) form the headstream **Psoriaris**, which unites below **Christos** with the **Sarakinas** source in **Agia Paraskevi** (from the source areas of the Koureli, 1396 m) to the **river Mirtos**, which flows through Sarakinas Canyon, and flows into the Lybian sea at Mirtos.

The primary designation of this trip (Christos - Agia Paraskevi - Selekano) is probably reached on the shortest way from the south coast (Mirtos - Mithi - Christos). However, we selected a route („round trip“) from the north coast, in order to visit and see also further objects of interest and geological givens on this journey.

Route: Gouves - (at Hersonissou on the new ring road) - Moni Ag. Georgios Selinari (for this trip point see also the leaflet at our homepage: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/122-05E.pdf]) - Agios Nikolaos - Istro - **Prina** - **Kalamafka** (therefore see our leaflet at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/195-07E.pdf]) - **Males** - Christos - Selekano - Christos (Agia Paraskevi; „Sarakinas source“) - Mithi - Sarakinas-Canyon (see at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/027-04E.pdf]) - **Viannos** - Kastelli - Gouves (total distance approx. 118 miles).



Geo-Info for the trip (KULL 2012): **Prina:** View of Prina on to the Neogene with the Prina-complex toward SE (Diatomite chalk). Blocks of crystalline marbles arise among them, which are to be regarded as olistolith of the upper cover units. They lie over disturbed Neogen sediments. **Kalamafka:** At Kalamafka the Prina-complex interlocks with the Kalamafka-formation of the older Tortonian, which also overlays it. There is hemipelagian marl (see fig.) with inserted fine limes and sandstones, thus education of deeper water. Good outcrops are North of Kalamafka at the road towards Prina. Here you can observe Breccie and synsedimentary folds in the lime sandstone marl. **Males:** At the road, again and again crops of the Males-formation (Serravallian). Conglomerate and powerful clay-rich marl. The Males-formation corresponds to the **Viannos**-formation in

the East of the ditch of Iraklion; the Dikti-Lassithi massif did not exist morphologically during its education time.

We begin our detailed description of the route from Males towards Christos; see fig.: View of the village Christos. About 300 m before Christos (short behind a link curve) is on the right of the road the „3-houses settlement“ Agia Paraskevi with the tavern and the so-called Sarakinas source, N 35° 4.57.39, E 25° 34.34.63; see in addition the following commentated illustrations on the continuation page. The tavern with chapel and waterfall, which is located under old plane trees, is a very mystic and idyllic place and invites for a stay.



Traditionally Cretan dishes (without menu) are offered after a view into the pots - and are very recommend (we received this tip from our Facebook friend *Stephanie Violin Sfiraki*).



„Sarakinas“-source



Yard of the tavern with isolated bell



Chapel on the yard and water dispenser

At the local entrance of Christos a small sign points right towards Selekano, N 35° 5.31.95, E 25° 32.42.83 (5.8 m). The first mile of the distance is a concrete runway (see fig.), the remainder is a crushed stone and dust runway occasionally interrupted by smaller water rivulets. Nevertheless the distance to Selekano is good enough to drive with a normal passenger car.

The course of the road leads through a water-rich, wild-romantic mountain country shank, which is more than only worth seeing. It so leaves lasting impressions e.g. a Frog pool in 1100 m height or mountain-slopes, whose vegetation became victims of flames (see fig.). A distance section, which you should have seen!



The way back from Christos to the south coast road Ierapetra (left) - Viannos (rh) amounts to about 6 miles and leads left-sided the Mirtos River, which you cross at the Sarakinas Canyon.

Translated by *Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling*

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