

# Kythira ... The walking paths of Aphrodite



*Small tours in remote corners of Kythira. Old paths, forested ravines, sheer cliffs. Rare beauties that need to be seen.*

## A magical journey in Mitata

We have returned to our beloved Mitata to a walking path that is very familiar to nature lovers of the island of Kythera. We have been enriched with a newly-opened trail to the famous ravines of Mitata to which access after the landslides of 2000 was very difficult.

Many congratulations to the local association of Myrtia and to the deserving Mitatiotes who managed without outside help to re-open a part of the ravine.

The route is easy, very pleasant all year round, and in all respects is comparable with similar walking paths such as the path of the watermills of Mylopotamos and the ravine at Karavas.



We start from the Church of Agios Yianni tou Halinoti, built in a cave in the north part of Mitata. Legend has it that Agios Yiannis tamed the snakes on the island, so that they are not dangerous. In the church there is an icon depicting the Saint surrounded by snakes. A similar tradition exists for Osios Theodoros and Agia Elessa.

We proceed for a while in a north-easterly direction and turn south at the first dirt road that will lead us to the Black Cave.

Carved into the rocky ground are plentiful markers which will lead us to the Black Cave to the left of the dirt road.

South of the cave built into the rock is the little church of Agios Georgios.

We leave behind us the Black Cave and return to the main dirt road. The landscape gently opulent with lush vegetation to soften the many rough rocky outcrops.

Moving constantly south we reach a wire fence that closes the road. We opened it carefully and closed it again, hoping that it had been installed to protect the orchards on the banks of the ravine from animals. We find before us the narrow path that runs for a length alongside the valley. To the left of the



path we see the old watermill, which is in relatively good condition with parts of the mechanism lying on the floor. With a little effort perhaps it would be interesting to restore.

A staircase made with large stones leads to the overburdened orchards, which have now become overgrown. At the top



of the Gorge of Tsakona and having enjoyed the wonderful natural environment we leave behind the ravine and proceed up to the asphalt road near the fountain of Mitata.