

In search of

KYTHERA

and ANTIKYTHERA

It's printed and on the way from Greece!

A dedicated guide book on Kythera, in English.

Highly acclaimed professional photographer and travel writer, Tzeli Hadjidimitriou was the author and visual artist behind the ***Unexplored Kythera & Antikythera*** guide book in Greek. It's probably the best selling book relating to Kythera, ever.

The English version is called ***In Search of Kythera & Antikythera*** and expected to be available for purchase in Australia from the end

of May, just in time to take over for Kytherian summer. Great for those visiting the island for the first time, or seasoned travellers wanting to get more out of their stay. Great for the grandkids!

A handheld guide book with 252 dedicated pages on Kythera, available for \$25 plus postage from the Kytherian Association of Australia, who partly sponsored the book.

See www.kytherianassociation.com.au/books.html for more information.

Opposite the south eastern tip of the Greek Peloponnese peninsula, the islands of Kythera and Antikythera have long been places of exile and pirate caves. They still remain resistant to the ferocious spread of mass tourism that's marred many of the other Greek islands.

Kythera, the island where Aphrodite was born, reveals its true essence to the reflective traveller. Walking misty tracks with long abandoned ruins, surrounded by calm or stormy seas, gentle breezes or forceful winds, visitors are led to hidden beaches and caves, tiny villages and historic monuments.

A drift at sea, 38 kilometres from Kythera, lies the time forsaken island of Antikythera. Overlooked by run-of-the-mill tourists, Antikythera remains unyielding to the modern desire for comfort travel. Instead it rewards the adventurous with an unadulterated milieu of simple living and a fascinating past.

In Search of Kythera and Antikythera boasts an extensive array of stunning photographs, carefully researched information and a passion for what makes Kythera, Antikythera and its people distinctive. Writer Tzeli Hadjidimitriou reaches beyond secrets old and new, accompanying us on a vivid journey to two remarkable destinations.

In Search of Kythera and Antikythera gives details about local history, mythology, architecture, arts and crafts, cuisine and local lifestyles. A selection of excursions describe the least travelled parts of these unforgettable islands, as well as current listings of essential services, how to arrive safely on the islands, where to stay and a variety of recreational advice to make your "Search of Kythera and Antikythera" a fun and informative adventure.

Tzeli Hadjidimitriou

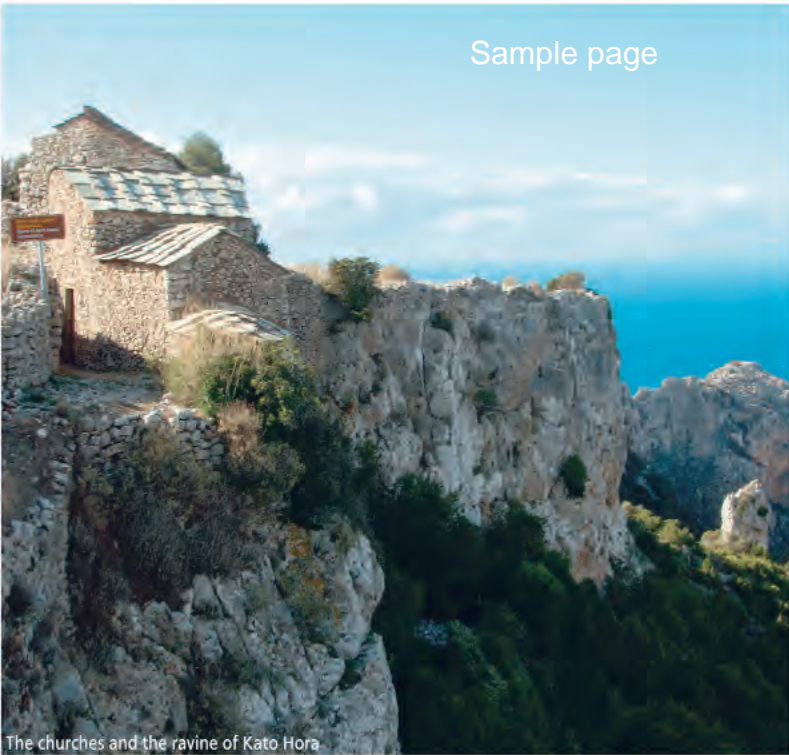
In search of
KYTHERA
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Venturing to the Island of Aphrodite

ISBN 978-960903305-3

photographer's site
www.odoiporikon.com

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The churches and the ravine of Kato Hora

Option One

(recommended for walking as far as Kato Hora)

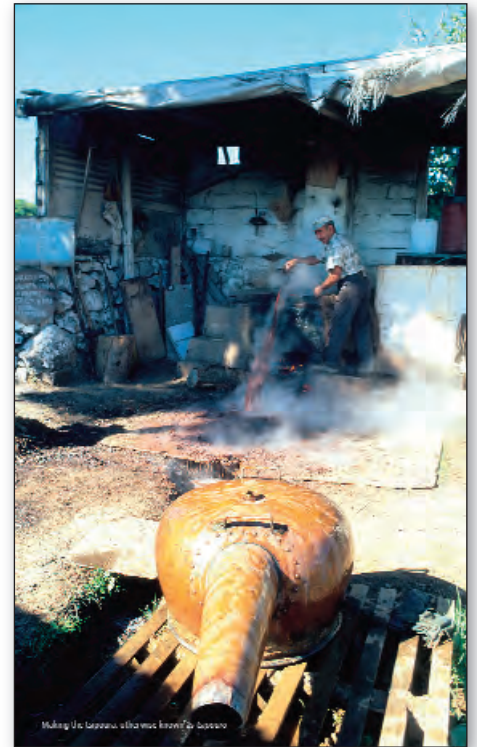
Your **first walk**, in order to cover the historical landscape of Mylopotamos, entails going down to the district of **Kato Hora**, with its Venetian castle and fantastic view and romantic sunset. We recommend you come to this point on foot to enjoy the architecture of the houses and arches as well as the gardens full of bougainvilleas in the houses along the narrow lanes.

Signs guide you to the asphalt road on the left and, after 400 m, to the right, down to the gully. After 1.4 km, after passing another district of Mylopotamos, **Piso Pigadi**, you reach Kato Hora, the prettiest village district in the whole of Kythera. It still retains the island's traditional colours and **typical architecture**. The houses built within the castle and those around it share the same homogenous features. Due to the lack of space, they have two storeys and do not communicate internally but via an external staircase that terminates in a terrace supported by an arch beneath which was the ground floor entrance, that was also used as an ad hoc storage space for agricultural produce and tools. The ground floor spaces were low, stone-built **arches** with the characteristic **corner fireplace**. Note the innovative **chimneys**, designed to withstand the force

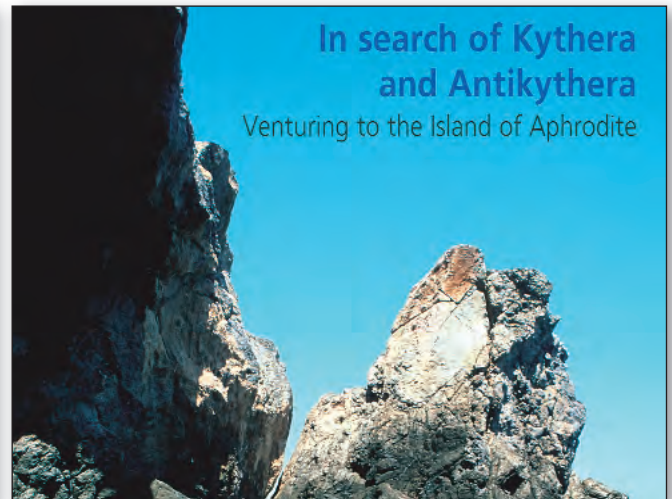
of the powerful winds, as well as the stone **flower-boxes**, standing on stone supports called *fourousia*. These were usually placed under the windows and their origin is Venetian.

In the small square you can also see the old **English School**, built in 1825 with funds donated by Mylopotamiots. Behind it is a little road that leads to the castle. Imposing and dominating, just like his city, the **Lion of Saint Mark** of the Serene Republic of Venice still keeps a lookout over the visitors' entrance. Visitors are impressed with the expansive view from the walls over the gorge towards the permanently stormy west, which is still wild, precipitous and forested.

The castle of **Kato Hora** (Lower Hora) was built by the Venetians to protect the inhabitants from pirate raids and also so that they could oversee the stormy west coastline. It's said that 50 refugee families from Crete and Cyprus who lived in the castle in 1545, supplied the essential army in order to guard it. It grew especially after the destruction of the castle-city of Agios Dimitrios (Paleochora) by Barbarossa in 1537 and after the conquest of Monemvasia by the Turks in 1540, when the inhabitants who were saved fled there for protection. The presently empty, but wonderfully restored, houses of Kato Hora and the narrow lanes



View of Hora and the castle from Agroskyllos



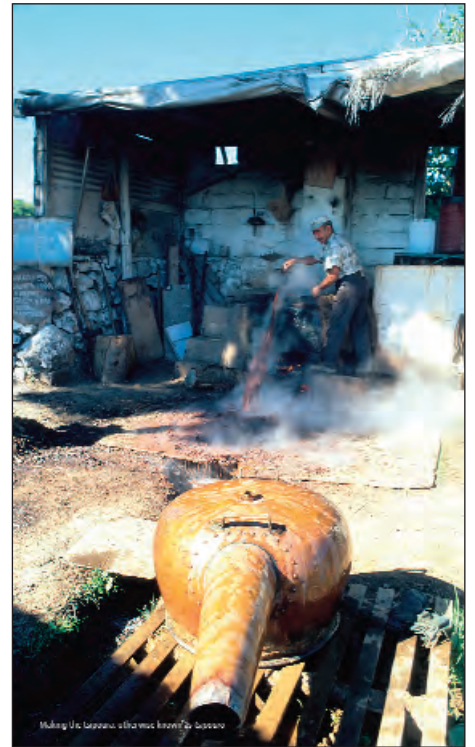
at actual size
**Around Mylopotamos and
Myrtidiotissa Monastery**



Baths of Aphrodite



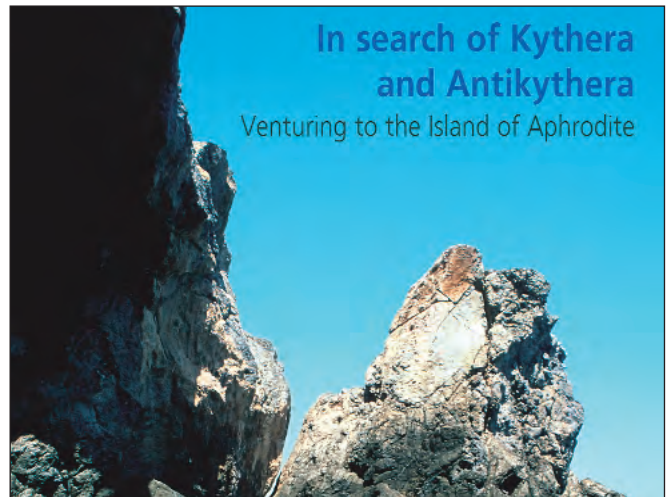
16. 822094 Jiri M. Kouban



Making Uzo. Larissa, a few miles from Hora



View of Hora and the castle from Agroskyllos



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