

NATIONAL PARK · GREECE · WHITE MOUNTAINS (LEFKA ORI)

Samaria

at a glance

Crete's most famous gorge: one trail from 1,227 metres (4,026 ft) down to the Libyan Sea, a village with no road at the end and a ferry as the only way back.

BEFORE YOU GO



National park since 1962

The Samaria Gorge in the White Mountains (Lefka Ori) was declared a national park by presidential decree in 1962.



European Diploma since 1979

The Council of Europe first awarded the park the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 1979 and has renewed it regularly since.



By car

Xyloskalo is about 40 km (25 mi) from Chania.



As of 5 October 2026: closed

NECCA reports that the gorge remains closed at both entrances until further notice and will reopen after the required inspections; the ...



Dogs on a lead only

Dogs are allowed, but only on a lead; animals running free are prohibited.



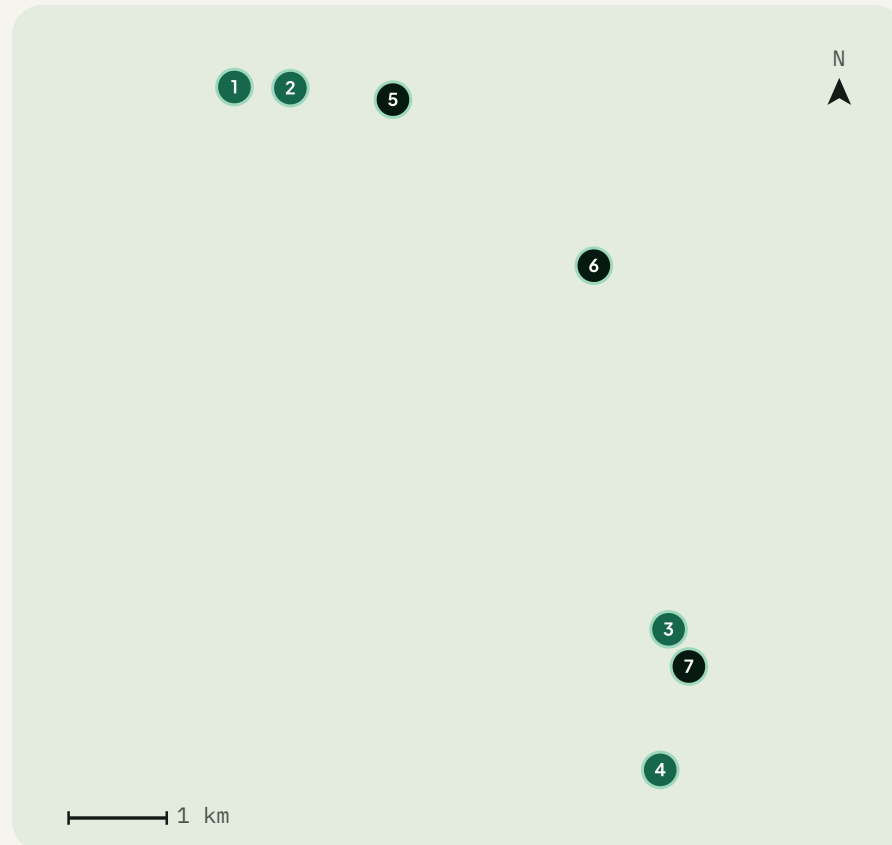
No overnight stays

Camping and staying overnight in the park are prohibited; if you plan two days, sleep in Agia Roumeli or Omalos.



Fees and opening hours, up to date

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date:
nationalparksatlas.com/en/greece/samaria



- 1 Xyloskalo
- 2 Neroutsiko rest area
- 3 Christos rest area
- 4 South entrance, Agia Roumeli
- 5 Agios Nikolaos chapel
- 6 Samaria (abandoned village)
- 7 Sideroportes (Portes)

Green: entrances. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



THINGS TO DO

The classic descent

Most people walk down from Xyloskalo to Agia Roumeli, about 15 km (9.3 mi).

A short walk from Agia Roumeli

If you do not want to walk the whole gorge, walk up a little from Agia Roumeli and turn back; the ticket is ...

The abandoned village

Around kilometre 7 lies the old village of Samaria, which gave the gorge its name.

Kri-kri, the Cretan wild goat

The park's emblem animal now lives only in the White Mountains and on a few islands; protecting it was the ...

[More on the park page](#)

Portes, the narrowest point

The best-known spot lies about 1.5 km (0.9 mi) above the Agia Roumeli forest outpost, where the rock walls ...

Uphill in reverse

From Agia Roumeli to Xyloskalo it is about 1,200 metres (3,940 ft) of ascent.

Water and toilets

There are no shops in the gorge. Springs for refilling and toilets are along the trail.

Bearded vulture

Two of the three Greek breeding pairs of the bearded vulture live in the White Mountains.

TOURS AND GETTING THERE • AD



DAY TRIP FROM CHANIA •
9-12 HOURS • BUS AND
FERRY

**From Chania: guided day
hike through the Samaria
Gorge**

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Gorge with a professional
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Chania: tandem paragliding flight over the coast of western Crete

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