

Fact File

Amoudi

This area is dominated by members of the Mousakis families who have farmed this area for generations. Olives are the main crop but also some Lemons and vegetables which can be purchased from Kozanos supermarket next door to the clear Horizon Hotel. The gentle sloping natural beach here has led the families to develop some of their land for tourism, but this remains one of the quieter beaches on the Island.

Olives

The hills behind Amoudi are terraced with olive groves which were first planted by the Venetians who ruled the island from the 13th to 17th centuries. The Koroneiki variety of olives are resistant to insect attack and do not require spraying as much as other varieties. These small olives are harvested from November onwards when they begin to turn from green to purple. They are picked and knocked from the trees into nets then taken to the press where they are ground into a paste before pressing occurs. This process is called cold pressing and results in the finest flavoured oil.

Ano Gerakari

This village was built high on a hill for a reason, for many hundreds of years Zakynthos was regularly raided by North African Pirates and so to offer some defence from these raiders villages were built high up in the hills. The churches and cemeteries here served all the surrounding farms in the lower lands and so it was quite a trek up for a funeral procession on foot. The church of St Nicholas at the very top of the village has a wonderful panoramic view from where you can virtually see the whole island.

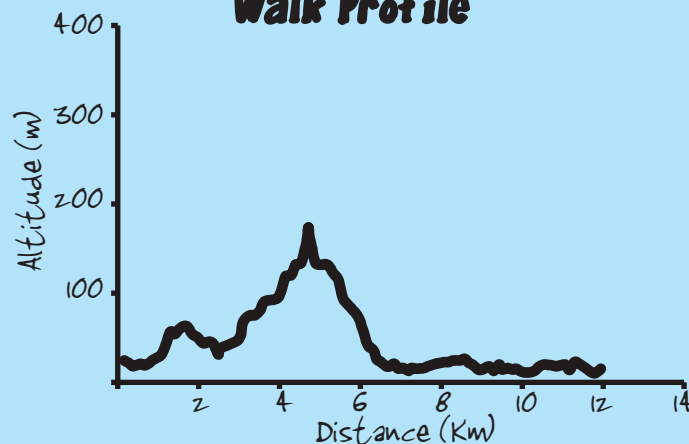
Grapes

Grapes are grown on the island both for drying to make raisins and for wine. The most popular wine is Verdea a white wine that now is made quickly and spends little time in the barrel before bottling although traditionally it was kept in the barrel for longer and used to develop very strong flavours almost like sherry. But this became less favoured and so the wine process developed to produce a modern lighter wine. Red wine used to be drunk only in the winter and so it was made dark and sweet, often to be knocked back in one glog, but this has also been updated and you can find some very good red wines on the island. Many tavernas serve their own wine which you buy in jugs by the kilo (litre) it can be very good and sometimes you will find it like the old method so ask to taste it before you decide.

Alikanas Beach

On the road down to Alikanas Beach you will find a small house that sells fruit and vegetables as well as "olive oil with out Drugs" stop & buy something as what little you spend will go a long way for them and it is good to put something directly back into the local economy. Following the track across the beach and up to the shop stop and look to the left of the shop front - you will see a spring head with a tap sticking out. This spring has provided natural water for many many years and locals still come to collect it and take it back to their homes to drink.

Walk Profile



Walking in Greece

Provisions

Always ensure you have water and a little food with you so that you are not caught out and make sure you drink plenty of water as you go.

Equipment

We always recommend walking boots with full ankle support as a mild sprain can ruin your holiday. A walking pole can be very useful and many people find they make walking on rough terrain much easier. Sun cream is essential but don't forget to cover up as well with a hat and long sleeves.

When to Walk

It is a good idea to avoid the hottest part of the day, so we recommend that you plan to finish your walks around 2pm or 3pm at the latest. Greeks siesta from 2pm to 6pm each day so don't be surprised if you don't see anyone during these hours, go with the flow and start your walks early leaving you time to relax and swim in the afternoons.

Etiquette

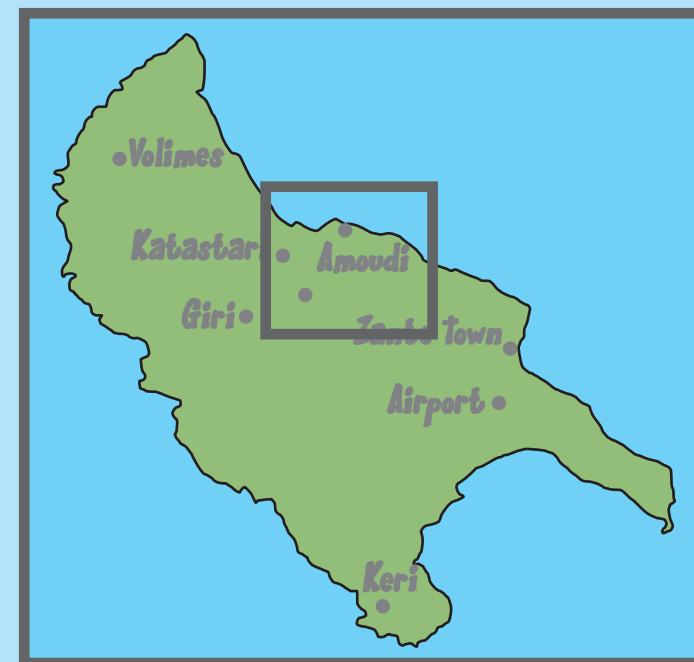
As a traveller it is your responsibility to greet people as you arrive to their village or farm, don't wait for them to speak first. So simply say Kalimera which actually means Good Morning but can be used anytime until after siesta when you say Kalispera - Good Evening. Most churches are locked except Sundays and if you would like to look inside please remember that ladies shoulders must be covered and ideally longer trousers or skirts worn.

Precautions

There are some poisonous snakes on the island which are very nervous and will normally disappear when they hear you - if walking in rough undergrowth simply tap the ground with a stick to warn them of your coming. Always carry a mobile phone and call 112 in an emergency. Whilst great care was taken compiling these guides we cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Any comments or suggestions you may have would be most welcome.

Ano Gerakari

A Circular Walk - 12 Km



The Walk

An easy circular walk from Amoudi beach over the olive planted hills behind then slowly up to the village of Ano Gerakari with its magnificent views of the mountains to the west. Downhill then on to the fertile plains of grape vines, returning via the quiet bay of Alikanas.

Hills Terraced with Olive Groves Contrasted by Plains of Vines

Ano Gerakari

A circular walk - 12 Km



GERA 17
Turn right
at junction
with road

GERA 16
Turn right
to continue
along track



Alykanas

GERA 18
Turn left to old
Alakanas then follow
track right across
beach and up to shop
and spring head.

**Alykanas
Beach**

GERA 19
Up path at
rear of shop to
rejoin road

GERA 02
At a small pink
house turn left off
the road on to this
track then take the
left fork through
the olives

Amoudi

GERA 01
Start at the
clear Horizon Hotel
and walk west along
the road with the sea
to your right hand
side.



GERA 03
Turn left to
continue on
the track



GERA 15
Turn left at
road junction

GERA 14
Take right
fork continuing
on the road

Alonia

GERA 12
Turn right
along track

GERA 13
Turn left
onto tarmac
lane

GERA 11
Take small
lane on left
after shop

GERA 10
Turn right
to join the
road.

GERA 06
Turn right of
the main road up hill
to the village of Ano
Gerakari. You will pass
the old bell tower &
graveyard.



GERA 09
Turn sharp
right at the
bottom.

GERA 08
Take plenty of
time here to walk
around as the views are
fantastic, and the
cafe here is great
for lunch.

**Ano
Gerakari**

GERA 07
The village square.
Leave by the southeast
road to go up to the church
and viewpoint. When you come
back down, take the small alley
down to the northwest at
the opposite end of the
square to the ruined
shop building.



Look Around You

All around the olive groves you are likely to see small lizards running away as you disturb their sun bathing. These are likely to be the Balkan Wall Lizard and are around 15cm long with greenish brown stripes. Alongside the winding road up to Ano Gerakari is a carob tree whose long brown runner bean like pods hold the seeds used to make the chocolate substitute. Also you can see the Kerm oak, a shrubby plant with leaves resembling holly but with large acorns. Grapes thrive in the plains on the island and you may notice that the vines are pruned heavily and are self supporting. During September the grapes ripen and the area is busy as portable wine presses extract the juice from the hand picked bunches. The sweet juice is fermented to produce dark richly flavoured wines that are really quite good.