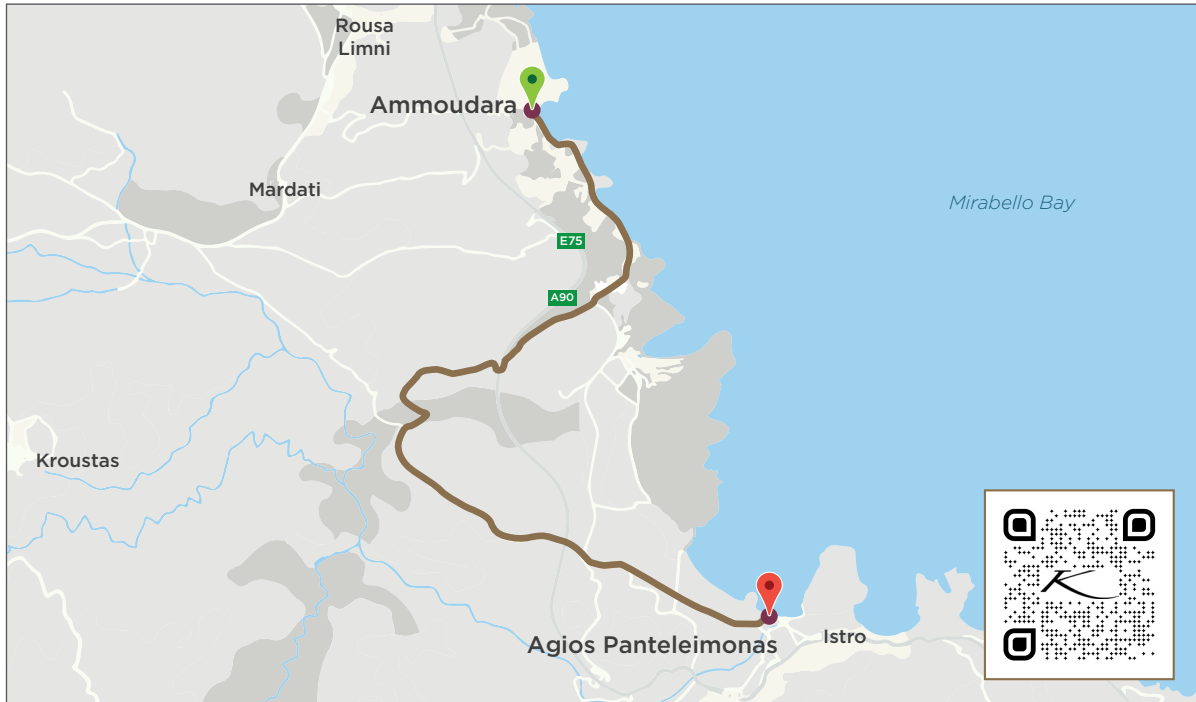


TRAILS ACCESSIBLE FROM KARMA MINOAN

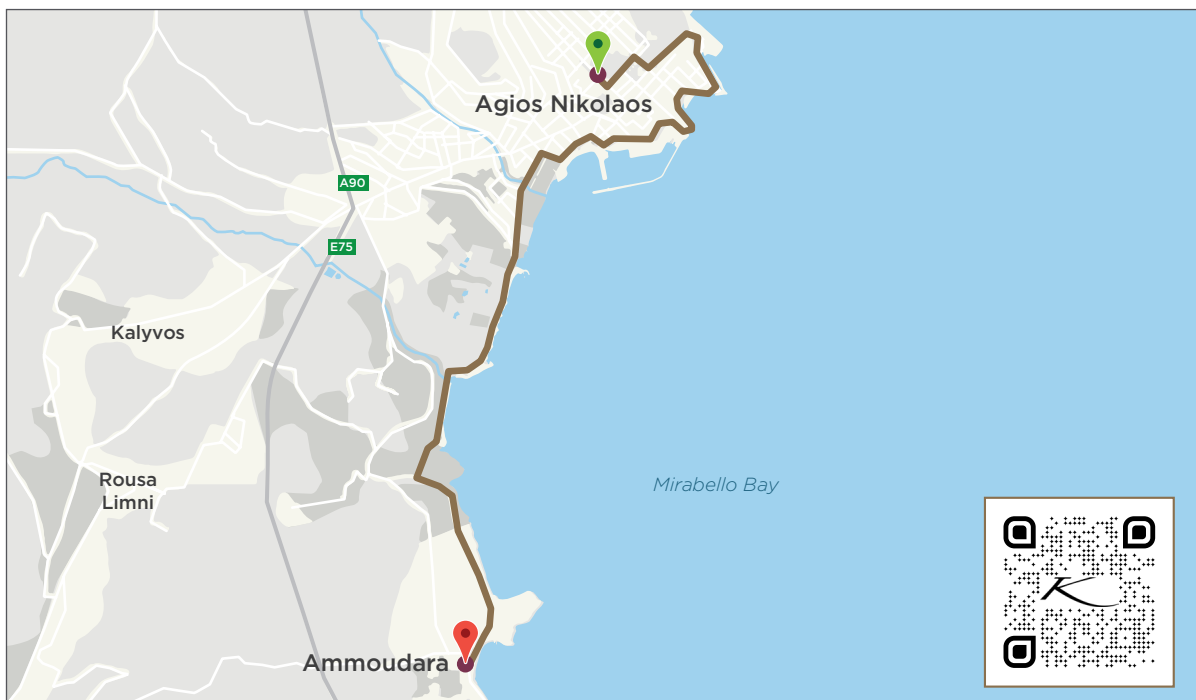
- KARMA MINOAN TO AGIOS PANTELEIMONAS BEACH

🕒 AROUND 7KM



- KARMA MINOAN TO AGIOS NIKOLAOS THROUGH ALMYROS BEACH

🕒 AROUND 4KM



TRAILS REACHABLE BY CAR OR BY BUS

📍 KRITSA GORGE

The cypress wood of Kritsa is located about 10km west of Kritsa village, very close to the asphalt road that heads to the plateau of Katharo. It is formed across a deep ravine, at the southern foot of Mount Tsiva. The forest is in the middle of the ancient path that led Minoans to the plateau of Katharo, with many Minoan pottery remains found here.

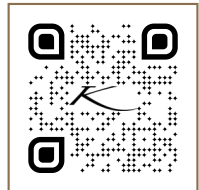
The kernel of the forest is covered by cypress trees, and its surrounding vegetation consists of cypress, oak, maple, holly, wild olive and holm oak trees. Today, the wood can be accessed very easily because the nearest trail starts from the road and ends after 30 minutes of easy walking in the forest. The starting point of the path is located at position Favetoprinos, where there is an information kiosk and several benches with spectacular views of the area and the Tsivi Mountain. The kiosk has a detailed map of the local trails and the area attractions (caves, archaeological sites, springs, etc).

Fairly moderate walk, decent walking shoes required. Easy to follow in general.

The Gorge is an impressive feature of nature that should be walked at a nice easy pace to allow you to enjoy the scenery better.

There are several parts that have iron rails drilled into the rocks to aide you negotiate up the larger boulders.

Activity duration with breaks : 2-3 hours
Difficulty : Easy
Suitability : Suitable for all



📍 KROUSTAS FOREST

One of the rare forests of eastern Crete, the Kroustas Forest Park was first systematically settled and intensively used by man about four thousand years ago. In the older Minoan Palace period many agricultural installations (pens, enclosure walls) and house foundations were built with large blocks and are visible on the surface until today. Beginning of the nineteenth century the forest was used again for small scale agriculture and animal husbandry (sheep, goats). The park offers marked paths through the forest along which many of the Bronze Age ruins - unexcavated so far - can be visited.

Environment During all seasons rare and endemic plants can be found all over the park, and a great variety of birds and other animals live in this habitat. Due to its height between 800 and 1000 m above the sea the region's climate is much cooler than on the coast. Together with the forest shade this has always provided a pleasant stay in this area that is also protected by the surrounding mountains from hot summer and cold winter winds. Still there are many spots with beautiful views over the Aegean and even Libyan seas that invite visitors to stay. Fragrance from aromatic herbs and trees contribute to create a unique experience.

Activity duration with breaks : 4-5 hours
Difficulty : Difficult
Suitability : Suitable for people with good physical condition / Previous experience required

