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URL: Webpage Suite Leon

Video tips (Youtube & co.)!!

URL: Experience Crete - Highlights, Tips, Dangers URL: Hiking Guide URL: Crete - Limitless - Discover the world on Crete URL: Crete Chania Sights & Highlights URL: Crete 7-8 Tips - Good and short travel tips URL: Danger of rip currents in the bays! (Minutes 6:16 - 7:00) URL: The Arkadi Monastery near Suite Leon (minutes 9:04 - 11:58) URL: All gorges in the municipality of RETHYMNON URL: Beautiful restaurants and taverns in Crete

Beaches / Lakes

Note: The beaches in Panormo itself are not listed!

1. Geropotamos Strand

4 km west of Suite Leon <u>URL: GPS Data!</u> The beach with the geese. Under a bridge (turn sharp left!). Very tasty club sandwich.

2.

Spilies Beach 6 km west of Suite Leon <u>URL: GPS Data</u> We were there with Dennis in September 2024. Seemingly small and cozy. In a bay:



2.1

Koukistres beach (Peeble Beach)

Approximately 6 kilometers east of Suite Leon

URL: GPS Data Koukistres Beach

A truly beautiful, very secluded spot. Bring your own gear, like a parasol. It's also a romantic spot for anyone seeking sun, sea, and romance.



2.2 Beach Agios Nikolaos

Approximately 15 kilometers and 20 minutes east of Suite Leon URL: GPS Beach Agios Nikolaos

Beautiful beach! The water is fantastic. The beach is only accessible on foot. It's a 20-35 minute walk from the road up the mountain. To get to the path, you have to go through a goat gate, or rather, through the goat fence. There's no other way to reach the beach. But if you make it, you'll definitely be rewarded.



3.

Rethymno Beach

20 km east of Suite Leon

URL: GPS Data

Huge beach in the capital of the district of Rethymno. We've been there several times. It makes sense to combine it with a city visit – afterward, you should take a stroll along the beach promenade!

4.

Aliki Beach

22 km east of Suite Leon

URL: GPS Data!

Tip from Klaus, be careful on the main road towards Heraklion, turn sharp left after about 20 km!

Cozy meadow and old ruined monastery.

Turn right here after exactly 20 km, otherwise it's a 15 km detour!



Agia Pelagia Beach

39 km east of Suite Leon

Agia Pelagia beach

This is the beach with the large rocks in the water and the incredible masses of fish that we saw. The water was crystal clear! 20 kilometers from Heraklion. You can park right on the beach and there are plenty of tavernas, but they're for tourists :(.

6.

Preveli Palm Beach in the south

52 KM southwest of Suite Leon

URL: Preveli Beach Parking (Treppe!)

URL: Translated by GPS

+ Round trip (approx. 60 KM) - Departure 8 a.m.!

Two beach accesses: from the west: more difficult (15-20 minute walk), but with a great view of the sea from the cliffs; from the east: easier, only a 5-minute walk, but with no view.

On the way to Preveli by boat there are 2 great beaches!

<u>URL: Ammoudi Beach!</u> (Item 7) <u>URL: Skinaria Beach!</u>

Option:

We took a boat to the beach. Small boats depart from Agia Galini and **Plakias im Westen** nach Translated.

Go to Plakias by boat to Palm Beach!

Plakias GPS Data - Cafe Smerna for boat trip information

Departure from Plakias at 10:30, return at approximately 3 p.m. (15 euros per person, crossing takes approximately 40 minutes). Information is available at the "Smerna" café/bar at the port of Plakias.

7.

Ammoudi Beach in South Sudan, Plakias

77 KM southwest of Suite Leon

URL: Google Maps

URL: Beach information

Great beach in Plakias (you can also get through if you want to go to Preveli Palm Beach by boat). About 50 minutes by car from Suite Leon.



7.1 Agia Galini Beach

Approximately 75 minutes south and 70 kilometers south of Suite Leon

GPS: Agia Galini Beach

Agia Galini is a small coastal village on the south coast of the island<u>Crete</u>Known for its picturesque location, beautiful beaches, and relaxed atmosphere, Agia Galini has evolved from a small fishing village into one of the most popular tourist destinations in Crete.



8.

Triopetra in the South

92 km southwest of Suite Leon

GPS Data

Approximately 65 KM away from suite Leon / between Preveli and Agia Galino. Tip from Georgia!



Agios Pavlos Beach in the south

99 KM southwest of Suite Leon URL: GPS Agios Pavlos Beach

Tip from Georgia!

An excellent beach, a 20-minute drive from Agia Galini (which also has a great beach!), on a beautiful road by the sea. The beach has umbrellas and sun loungers, a taverna next to the beach, showers, toilets, and Wi-Fi from the taverna.

10.

Marathi Beach 93 km west of Suite Leon <u>Marathi Beach - Explanation</u> Small beach just east of Chania, where we went with Leon! Paddle up! Beach Name: Marathi Beach

10.1
Beach Seitan Limania
98 KM west of Suite Leon
<u>GPS to the beach</u>
<u>URL: Crete's best insider tip - Seitan Beach</u>
Small beach directly east of Chania - nice quiet insider tip



10.2 Kalami beach <u>URL: GPS Kalami beach</u>

98 KM west of Suite Leon

A beautiful beach with crystal-clear waters off Chania. It's not very crowded, has a cozy café, and offers affordable sun loungers. Perfect for kids and adults who like to jump off the pier.

9.



Falasarna Beach

URL: GPS Data F. Beach

URL: Travel Guide Elaphonisis and Philosophy

URL: good hotel recommendation Falasarna for a trip in the west!

155 KM west of Suite Leon, about 1.5 - 2 hours drive

Also west, a 2.5-hour drive from Suite Leon. I haven't been here before, but I have a strong desire to visit this beach. Near**Elafonissi Beach, just not as busy.**

12.

Elafonissi Beach (ca.

180 km west of Suite Leon, about 2.5 hours drive

URL: Google Maps Parking

URL: Elafonisi Beach - The Maldives on Crete

URL: Travel Guide Elafonisis

I was there in June 2024 and it was beautiful. You can park your car quite close to the beach (about a 300-500m walk) and visit the islands and the beach from there. There aren't many sun loungers - I brought an umbrella and lounger - so it's best to arrive a little early in the morning.



13. Balos Beach Lagoon

Approximately 130 kilometers, over 2 hours drive URL: Parking Balos Beach! URL: Travel Guide BALOS

I was there in June 2024 - I stayed at the Balos Beach Hotel. From there, it's a 7 km walk over a very bumpy road/terrain to the parking lot (about 35 minutes!). Then it's on foot (you should be fit) - a steep path down to the beach (about a 25-30 minute walk). The area is full of wild goats, and a fantastic view makes the descent and later the ascent easier.

14.

Voulisina Beach

Approximately 130 kilometers and 1h50 away - east of Suite Leon URL: GPS Data

Near Agios Nikolaos 721 00, Greece. Very beautiful, quiet, and tidy beach with great water (shallow beach). We were there in October 2021.

15.

Kournas See

Approximately 45 kilometers and 50 minutes away - west of Suite Leon URL: Google Maps Kournas See

The only freshwater lake of this size in Crete is located west of Panormos.



16.

Orthi Ammos Beach

South West, about 75 kilometers away & 1.5 hours. <u>URL: Ammos Beach GPS</u> <u>URL: Infos Ammos Beach</u>

Orthi Ammos is a stunning sandy beach with a very warm climate, near Frangokastelo, which is located 80 km south of Chania and is situated on the edge of a large valley.

17.

You will build Beach Stalis

Near Heraklion, about 75 minutes, 90 kilometers east of Suite Leon

URL: GPS Bach Stalis

Stalis beach is known for its family-friendly atmosphere, soft sand and clean water



18.

Pirate Fjord / Calypso Beach - 33 kilometers south of Rethymnon

Approximately 1 hour and 60 kilometers from Suite Leon URL: Parking Lot Calypso Beach / Piraton Ford

Pirates Fjord is located 33 km south of Rethymnon, in a small bay south of Cape Mouri (Karavos), near Plakias. The bay is very narrow and lies between huge, vertical cliffs. The small beach begins with sand and is a maximum of 2 m wide.



19. Korakas Beach & Dorf

Approximately 70 minutes and 65 kilometers from Suite Leon

URL: Coraka Beach GPS URL: GPS ano Rodakino Dorf

The village of Rodakino is located 45km southeast of Rethymno town, at the exit of a steep gorge that runs over Mount Kryoneritis, a few kilometers west of Plakias resort and east of Fragokastelo.

The traditional village is located on both sides of the gorge, which divides into two villages, Kato and Ano Rodakino. Overlooking the deep blue Libyan Sea, the village is worth a visit.

20.

Kalamaki Beach

Approximately 105 minutes and 75 kilometers from Suite Leon URL: Info Kalamaki Beach

URL: GPS Kalamaki Beach

This is a popular beach on the south coast, known for its fine sand, shallow, clear waters, and amenities such as umbrellas, sunbeds, and tavernas.

The beach is above Matala (hippie village), it makes sense to combine both.

21.

Agiofaraggo Beach

Approximately 120 minutes and 100 kilometers from Suite Leon

URL: GPS Agiofaraggo Beach

URL: Trip to Afiofaraggo, Crete

An incredibly beautiful beach. The beach can be reached by a 30 to 50-minute hike through the gorge or by boat from nearby ports such as Matala, Agia Galini or Kali Limenes. The beach is below Matala (hippie village), so it makes sense to combine the two.



Hikes

Hiking trail near the monasteryArkady(Arkadi George)

<u>GPS Data Monastery Arkadi</u> These are the 2 most beautiful hiking routes <u>Option 1: Monastery of Arkadi – Gebeinhaus Runde von Skouloufia</u> (11 KM) Preferred route (through many villages): <u>Option 2: Kapsaliana village: Ossuary tour from Amnatso</u> (12,5 KM)

2.

Imbros Gorge

Difficulty level: light Long: approx. 6 kilometers Duration: approx. 2.5 hours

URL: GPS Data

About 70 kilometers from the house. The only path that used to lead south, by donkey and horse, is magnificent. A lot of rock, sturdy shoes required. Some narrow sections. About 2.5 hours. About 7 kilometers, the rest short. It was also open in the past, unlike the Samaria Gorge.

URL: YouTube Video

3. Samaria Gorge

- Samaria Gorge (be there at 8am!) Gorge opens at 7am! URL: GPS Parking
- Entrance: Omalos/Xyloskalo. From here we go to the village of Agias Roumelis on the Libyan Sea. The ferry then goes either toSougia or Chora Sfakion – from here, the bus returns to the parking lot. Sougia is a much shorter bus ride back to the parking lot at the entrance to the gorge (westbound)! (36 km/1 hour). Chora Sfakion, on the other hand, is about 100 km/2 hours.

<u>URL: For the long tour through the Samaria Gorge</u>. <u>URL: Samaria Gorge: The Ultimate Hiking Guide to the Iconic Spot in Crete</u> <u>URL: Original Homepage - Tips for crossing Samaria</u> <u>URL: Timetable Public Buses back to Omalos/Xyloskalo</u>

- The actual hike through the gorge from entrance to exit is 13 km. To reach the village
 of Agia Roumeli and take the ferry back to Sougia, you'll need to walk another 3 km,
 making the total distance 16 km.
- Take with you: Drinks, sunscreen & backpack!!



Miley Gorge near Rethymno

Only about 24 kilometers from Suite Leon.

Mili Gorge is a stunning green oasis near the town of Rethymno. It's actually a gorge with a huge variety of plants and trees, a true botanical garden. It's located north of the village of Chromonastiri and south of Xero Chorio.

URL: Info Mili Gorge GPS Data

5.

Kourtaliotiko Gorge

URL: GPS location of the gorge URL: Visitor review and tips! URL: Kourtaliotiko Gorge – A paradise for hikers and nature lovers

Located about 45 kilometers south-west of Suite Leon and ends westof the village of Asomatos.Above the freshwater river from the palm beach of Preveli!Between the rock walls flows theKourtaliotis River, also called Megalopotamos, which flows into the Libyan Sea at the famous Preveli Beach -This gorge ends in Preveli where we have already been.

You park on the street, so it's best to arrive early (before 9:30). It's not accessible by public transport. Water schools are also a good idea! The water must be pretty cold ;).



6.Patsos Gorge(also called Tsirita Gorge or Agios Antonius Gorge)43 KM away from Suite Leon - South of Rethymno

URL: GPS Data Parking at Taverna Drimos

Difficulty level: medium to difficult Length: approx. 5 kilometers Duration: approx. 2.5 hours



The Patsos Gorge, also called Agios Antonios Gorge, has always been one of the most popular and beautiful hiking options in Crete.

The small but challenging gorge leads past lush green vegetation, along a cool stream and through impressive rock formations.

Besides caves, small waterfalls, and the rock church of Agios Antonios, there's much more to discover. Hiking is recommended in summer because of the streams.

7. Karfi Circular Trail

Approximately 1.5 hours / 100 km from Suite Leon in the east of the island. <u>URL: GPS Data Parken</u> <u>URL: Karfi Hiking Trail Info</u>

Difficulty level: easy to moderate Length: approx. 8 kilometers Duration: approx. 3 hours



On the Lassithi Plateau, Karfi Mountain, with its barren but archaeologically significant landscape, is an attractive hiking destination in Crete.

Starting from the village of Tzermiado, the route initially follows a rather unspectacular asphalt road towards the Nissimos Plateau until the unpretentious beauty of the mountains unfolds and you slowly and leisurely climb further and further towards the 1,117-metre-high Karfi Mountain.

On your way, in addition to the simple vegetation, you will also encounter a church dedicated to Saint Ariadne and one of the oldest Minoan settlements in Crete. A highlight when hiking in Crete, especially for fans of archaeology.

8.
Kritsa Gorge in the east
Approximately 2 hours / 125 km from Suite Leon in the east of the island.
URL: GPS Data Parking
URL: Kritsa Gorge

Difficulty level: moderate to difficult Long: approx. 10 kilometers Duration: approx. 2 to 4 hours

From the village of Kritsa, a dirt road leads you towards the gorge. Once you reach the entrance, the climb over large boulders into the gorge begins. Hiking through this gorge on Crete is generally characterized by some impassability. The narrowest point of this gorge on Crete is just 90 centimeters wide and the path there takes you over slippery stones, scree and along steep rock faces. Open all year round.



The gorge is located south of Agios Nikolaos, near the village of Kritsa. A sign in the village points us to the parking lot.

9.

Aradena Gorge

Approximately 2 hours / 105 km from Suite Leon in the north-west (near Agia Ruomeli) <u>URL: GPS Parking</u>

URL: Info Aradena Gorge

Located in the southwest, about 2 hours drive, around 100 km away.

Difficulty level: difficult

Long: approx. 8 kilometers

Duration: approx. 4 hours

The Aradena Gorge in southwest Crete is one of the neighboring gorges of the famous Samaria Gorge, but is far less crowded because it is much more challenging and difficult to hike.

Nevertheless, it is no less exciting and impresses with its stark beauty, and perhaps precisely because it is somewhat more rugged, it is one of the highlights of hiking in Crete. You can hike through the gorge in two ways.

You can either start at Marmara Beach and walk up the gorge, or you can start in the village of Aradena and walk down the gorge toward the beach. Either way, the Aradena Gorge is a unique experience.



Gorge of the Dead in Kato Zakros

Unfortunately very far from Suite Leon (220 KM / 3.5 h drive) URL: Youtube - Kato Zakros, Gorge of Death walk URL: GPS Data to the Gorge - Entrance

The **"Gorge of the Dead"** (engl. *Gorge of the Dead*, Greek*Canyon of the Dead*) lies by **Kato Zakros**in the east of the Greek island**Crete**and is known for its impressive rock faces and Minoan cave tombs. It begins in**Pano Zakros**and ends at the sea at**Kato Zakros**, near the Minoan palace.



11.

Hiking in South Crete, from Sfakia to Loutro

Approximately 87 km from Suite Leon, 1.5 hours drive. URL: Hiking in South Crete, from Sfakia to Loutro Infos

URL: Parking GPS in Loutro

A great hiking trail along the south coast, over rocky paths and sometimes along rock faces. You can enjoy great views and have the opportunity to swim in the sea along the way. Duration: approx. 2.5 hours walk one way Sturdy shoes required – no flip-flops

20-30m deep rocky slopes – don't be too afraid



12. Sarakino Gorge

Approximately 135 kilometers and 2.2 hours from Suite Leon.

URL: GPS Sarakinas Gorge parking

URL: Sarakina Gorge Crete - Info & Hiking

This gorge offers beautiful nature and is located near the hiking village of Mirtos. Hiking through this gorge is challenging. You can do both short and long hikes. The gorge is breathtaking, and there's sometimes quite a lot of water in the gorge.

13.

Agia Eirini Gorge

about 125 kilometers and 125 minutes from Suite Leon URL: GPS Agia Eirini Gorge Parking Tawerne Oasis

Excellent hike. Moderate to easy. We parked down by the Oasis restaurant and walked up first: 2 hours 30 minutes. We took a break at the nice restaurant at the top and then walked back down in 2 hours. Alternatively, you can park in Agia Irini, then walk down and either call a taxi or walk the 5 km to Sougia and take the bus back to Agia Irini.



Excursions

1. Lasithi Plateau, the legendary Zeus Cave and olive oil farm Self-guided tour to a monastery, villages and olive farm!

Stop Number 1: Monastery of the Mother Mary Vidiani - very quiet little place! On the way there you pass the windmills. <u>URL: GPS Location</u>

Stop Number 2: The village of Krasi The traditional mountain village of Krasi is known for its quaint central village square URL: The village of Krasi - Parking

Stop Number 3: Tour of an olive farm! Lyrakis Family S.A. https://lyrakisfamily.gr/ URL: Lyrakis Olive Farm!

2. Meledoni Cave, Reptile House & Bee Farm URL: Melidoni Cave GPS

<u>URL: Reptile House (near the cave)</u> Such a great little reptile land with really nice and friendly staff. You could hold and touch many of the animals.

3.

Katzenkolonie Arkadi Monastery

Moni Arkadiou 741 50, Greece. The monastery is centrally located, right on the way to Matala! Departure is at 8 a.m. Beautiful hiking trails are 100 meters from the monastery. Only 20 minutes away from Suite Leon! <u>GPS Data Monastery Arkadi</u>

Knossos (Palace of Knossos) near Heraklion.

https://maps.app.goo.gl/FaAP7phntWv2urWW8

We visited the Palace of Knossos in February 2022. It became famous through the myth of the Minotaur.

5.

Lassithi Plateau in Crete and Cave of Zeus!

With a height of 850 m, the Lasithi Plateau is the largest mountainous plain in Crete. It is also theonly thatis occupied year-round. The plateau runs approximately 11 km east-west and 6 km north-south. Here is also the Cave of Zeus, which we visited directly on this occasion.

URL: Lasithi Plains

URL: The Cave of Zeus

See also Suite Leon Page to the Lassithi Plateau: <u>https://www.suite-leon-crete.com/index.php/urlaubstipps-auf-kreta/?lang=de</u>

Cities / Villages / Islands

1.

The Village of Stavros

URL: GPS The Village of Stavros

Tip Georgia & Manolis:

And its incredible beach in Chania – 2 hours drive from Suite Leon.

At the northern tip there is an excellent beach and a few bars as well as a place in film history



3.
Gerakari (Georgian Tipp)
40 KM east-south of Suite Leon.
URL: GPS Data Dorf Gerakari

Ain village in the center of Rethymno prefecture. Exciting nature and fantastic people.

4.

Matala in the south

1h45 and 110 kilometers from Suite Leon URL: GPS to Matala

We spent a whole day in Matala during our October 2021 vacation, including visiting the Matala Caves and Matala Beach.Matala Village is also known as the "Hippie Village" because of the many hippies who lived here. These hippies also lived in the caves in the 1960s and even into the 1970s.

Kalamaki Beach is above Matala, you can combine both. URL: GPS Kalamaki Beach

5.

Agios Nikolaos and the "Golden Beach"

Agios Nikolaos is about 100 kilometers from Suite Leon

URL: GPS Data A. Nikolaus

URL: GPS Beach Voulisma Beach

This town is located in the east of the island and is also known as the "St. Tropez" of Greece/Crete. We visited the town during our 2022 vacation.

We spent the second part of the day at a beautiful beach near Agios Nikolaos, Voulisma Beach

6.

Chania

Chania is about 85 kilometers from Suite Leon, 1.5 hours

Apparently the most beautiful city in Crete! We've been there three times, including an overnight stay in a hotel each time, as we also visited the beaches in the north the next day. A must-see.

URL: GPS Data Chania URL: YouTube Video Chania

7.

Mochlos Peninsula

Mochlos, a very quiet fishing village with a lot of charm - an island in the north-east of Crete, an insider tip, very quiet, beautiful. Unfortunately, it's also a bit far from Suite Leon (approx. 160 km + boat ride).

https://maps.app.goo.gl/XJssejC918gQ86BT8



8. Akrotiri Peninsula <u>GPS Data</u> <u>URL Youtube Video: Ab Minute 4:47 - 5:18</u> In the northwest of the island of Crete. Great peninsula, few tourists, great monastery, fantastic beaches.

9. The Lehre

The Lebra Island of Spinalonga

URL: GPS DATA

We were there in the summer of 2022 (sweltering heat!) and explored the island. It's located 125 km east of Suite Leon, near Agios Nikolaus. Much has been restored. Unfortunately, much is in disrepair. Until the 1950s (1957), 1,000 lepers lived here – supported by the state.

10.

Krissi Island

URL: GPS Insel Crissi

<u>Chrissi Island</u> is an uninhabited island in the Libyan Sea and can be reached from the port town of lerapetra on Crete.

11.

Agios Georgios (Kolokasia) - the abandoned village Approximately 80 kilometers and 1.5 hours from Suite Leon

URL: GPS Agios Georgios (Kolokasia)

URL: Hike to Agios Georgios (Kolokasia) (PDF)

Agios Georgios Kolokasia is an abandoned village on Crete, also known as Kolokasia, named after the local church of Saint George (Agios Georgios). The village was abandoned in the 1970s, and the residents moved to the newly established Agios Nektarios. The <u>Beach Vatalos</u> is nearby and worth a detour!

Glyka Nera Taverna von Chora Skafia

<u>URL: GPS - Chora Sfakia - Der Ort</u> <u>URL: GPS Glyka nera Tavern am Strand</u> <u>URL: Glyka Nera - Book a boat trip from Chora Skafia</u>

Chora Skafia is about 1.5 hours and 85 kilometers from Suite Leon.

The Paralia Glyka Nera, also called Sweetwater Beach, is a short boat ride <u>(with Deligian Lines)</u>from Chora Sfakia. Boats from Skafia go to Glyka Nera and Loutro.

Otherwise, the only way to reach the bay, surrounded by steep cliffs, is by hiking. There you'll find a few beach chairs, a tavern, and some mountain goats. The water is crystal clear and great for swimming. There's no way to get to Paralia Glyka Nera from Loutro!

Remark:

By boat you also have the opportunity to enjoy and combine both points, Glyka Nera and Loutro, during the day and thus create your own day trip.



12.1
Option:
Bootsfahrt Sfakia nach Loutro
Approximately 87 km from Suite Leon, 1.5 hours drive.
URL: Parking GPS in Loutro
URL: Glyka Nera - Book a boat trip from Chora Skafia

Restaurants & Taverns

Tavern Wood Saw Fancy something authentic? The Wood Saw Tavern in Kato Poros

URL: Youtube Video (Minute - 24:40 - 26:50) URL: GPS Data

There's (supposedly) no menu, just whatever the chef is cooking, great! :) Away from the tourist area, just Crete. 45 minutes west-south of Suite Leon (46 km).

2.

Taverna Zorbas Pigi bei Maria

During a visit to Crete in March 2022, we happened to drive through the village of Pigi, this tavern located about 25 km west of Panormo/Suite Leon. Maria has run this tavern since the 1970s. The tzatziki is truly addictive, and the other dishes are also fantastic! GPS Data



3.

Lykastos Tavern - 19 - 19:30

There we had dinner with Manolis and Georgia, where Leon painted with Manolishas while eating.

URL: Lykastos Tavern

4.

Essen in Panormo bei Suite Leon

There are numerous options in the village of Suite Leon. I've listed some of them on the Suite Leon website in the section: "Where can we eat in Panormo?" <u>URL: Essen in Panormo</u>

5.

Bakaliko Tavern

We had dinner there with Manolis and Georgia, where Leon painted with Manolis while eating.

URL: Tawarne Bakaliko in Archnanes

6. Village: Katalagari - Taverna Kleidi

Is the nice Taverna (Kleidi) with the different layers and tables located on the stairs - eastwards from Heraklion. We were there with Manolis in 2024.

URL: Taverna "Kleidi" The Key || Open As of May

URL: Taverna "Skalopatia" Tavern-Cafe - all year open! (good alternative)

