

Greece

- Definitely need to take splits
- Camping looks really easy
- Roads look like they may not be great – fair amount of dirt road driving. Possibly look at 4x4 hire. Certainly get 2 drivers per car.

http://teamadara.com/html/body_list_of_rivers.html

Peloponessos

Island to the SW. Olympia and Sparta are also here. Possibly 3 days would work well...

Erymanthos (IV) 16 km

- Graded IV in guidebook, with unportageable gd V- ... BUT website suggests easier and should be manageable.

http://teamadara.com/html/body_erymanthos.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_description1.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/erymanthos_rivmap.JPG

Lower Erymanthos (II, III) 13 km

Upper Lousios (IV/V/X) 4 km

http://teamadara.com/html/body_up_lousios.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_description.html

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/uplousios.gif>

Lower Lousios / Alfios (II, III) 15 km

Selinus (Selinountas) (III, IV, 1X) 14 km

http://teamadara.com/html/body_selinountas_data.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/selinountas_rivmap_1000.jpg

Other rivers without much info

Neda (III (IV)) 14 km

Dafnon (III (IV)) 14 km

Central Greece

Krikelpotamous (III, IV) 20 km

http://teamadara.com/html/body_krikelpotamos.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_description2.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Krikelpotamos_rivmap.jpg

Upper Mournos (III-V) 5-7 km (poss take all day)

- Sounds very water dependant. If high, will be one of the tougher runs – not for all. If lower, will be interesting IV

http://teamadara.com/html/body_up_mornos.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/UpMornos_rivermap.jpg

Lower Mournos (III maybe bits of IV) 12-15 km

http://teamadara.com/html/body_lower_mornos.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/LMornos_rivermap.jpg

Kamneitikos III, 1X 11 km

- 4 km above this section is IV-V probably not worth it though

http://teamadara.com/html/body_kamneitikos_eng_data.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_kamneitikos_eng_description.html

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Kamneitikos1.jpg>

Agrafiotis III (IV) 13 km

- Extra 4 km above IV (V)
- Highly recommended by the guidebook

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Agrafiotis_rivmap.jpg

http://teamadara.com/html/body_agrifiotis.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_roadbook1.html

Other Rivers

Karpenisiotis (III, IV) 6 km then III 4 km

- top bit sounds very continuous in nature

Lakmos IV 4 km, III (IV) 9-11 km

Petriliotiko III (IV), 20 km

- bitch of a shuttle (3 hours)

Tavropos II, III

- even more of a bitch of a shuttle (110 km)

Acheloos II, III 13 km

- above the dam, below is likely to have been flooded by now :-(

Western Greece

Acheron III (IV) 10-12 km

- Highly recommended

http://teamadara.com/html/body_acheron_data_eng.html

Kallaritikos II, III (IV) 10 km

- Flows into Arachthos. Probably can combine with Arachthos gorge

http://teamadara.com/html/body_kallaritikos.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Kallaritikos_lg2.jpg

Arachthos III (IV) 12 + 18 km

http://teamadara.com/html/body_arachthos_eng.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_history.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_roadbook.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Arahhos_lg1.jpg

Aoos IV 27 km or 15 km

- Would be great to do, but probably pretty challenging. There are 2 days of paddling here after we've got into things.
- Can be inspected by a walk in

http://teamadara.com/html/body_aeos.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_story.html

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Aoos1.jpg>

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Aoos2.jpg>

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Aoos3.jpg>

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Aoos4.jpg>

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Aoos5.jpg>

<http://teamadara.com/assets/images/Aoos6shuttle.gif>

Aoos IV, V (VI)

http://teamadara.com/html/body_aeos2.html

Vikos / Voidomatis II-III (IV) 9 km, IV 14 km, III-IV 5 km

- 2 days worth of paddling 2/3* in guidebook

Fidakia III-IV 4 km, II-III 4 km, II 3 km

- Also needs good water levels
- short shuttle (good for a filler am/pm)

Eastern Greece

Mileapotamus III 10 km, IV 12 km

- Easier 10 km section only possible with good water levels

http://teamadara.com/html/body_meleopotamos.html

http://teamadara.com/html/body_meleopotamos_eng_description.html

Aliakmon I-II 12 km, II (III, IV, V for 2 km) 14 km

- Easy Gd II apart from 2 km III-V (poss) section. Biggest river in Greece.

http://teamadara.com/html/body_aliakmon_b.html

http://teamadara.com/assets/images/AliakmonasB_map_1000.jpg

Mourgani IV-VI 12 km

Hard! Tester for the area. Unlikely.

Peloponessos

South west of Athens, this area is connected to Italy with the port of Patras.

Upper Lousios (C) 4km III (IV,V) from Ancient Gortis to Atsicholos bridge

Lousios-Alfios 1 (R-P) 6km II (III) from Atsicholos bridge to Koukos bridge at Vlachoraptis

Alfios 2 (R-P) 9km II (III+) from Koukos bridge at Vlachoraptis to Matesi

Astras 1(C) 2km III (IV +)from Kalyvia Astra to Astras

Astras 2(P) 4km II from Astras to Tripotama

Erymanthos 1 (R-C) 14km II, III, IV (V) ?2X from Tripotama to Vidiaki

Erymanthos 2* (R-C) 11km II, III (IV) From Vidiaki to Chora

For the rivers above you may find more into our pages. More rivers in Peloponessos area, with no detailed informations, are:

Ladon or Ladonas* 25km II from Kamenitsa to the lake, 23km II after the lake to Alfios confluence.

Melaon or Melaonas (A tributary to Ladonas – seldom paddleable if there is enough water) **(R-C) 5km IV, V, 2X?** from Kernitsis monastery bridge to Kamenitsa bridge (Entrance canyon is class IV - V with one possible unrunnable-dangerous spot and with minimum eddy or bank scouting-support opportunities).

Selinus or Selinountas (R-C)14km III, IV and 1X , from Makelarias monastery to a 4m weir near Kato Mavriki

Vouraikos * From Zachlorou to Ano Diakopto, lies a 22km steep creek, with quite a few unrunnable places and siphons. A 10m vertical slot can be seen over one of the railway bridges. More than one class III-IV small runs, can be scouted by the footpath that follows the railway track.

Neda* A class III (IV)canyon starts from Figaleia bridge. Beautiful waterfalls fall from the sidewalls and a 30m cave with bats living inside has to be bypassed as its small exit ii often blocked with logs. After 15 kms ends to the sea, north of Kyparisia.

Penios* A big river at the west, with a dam and a lake. Its canyon is considered unrunnable

Evrotas* Anothe big river at the south, with no obvious interest.

Dafnon or Dafnonas* From Palaiochori to the sea near Leonidio. When with enough water could offer 14 kms of class III - IV

Central Greece

This area is reached from the eastern main highway connecting Athens and Thessaloniki through the cities of Lamia and Karpenissi. The mountains of Velouchi, Kaliakouda, Chelidona and Agrafa are forming an area of many rivers and ravines that lead to the main river of the area, Achelous, or his dam-made lake of Kremasta. Further south, the mountains of Oiti, Parnassosm Giona, Vardousia and Panaitoloko, drain towards the great Mornos Lake, that diverts the drinking water, through long tunnels to Athens area.

Kriklopotamos (R-C) 20km III,IV (IV+) from Krikelo - Domnista bridge to Dipotama bridge, at Karpenisiotis confluence

Karpenisiotis 1* (R-C) 6km III, IV (IV+) from Megalo Chorio to Karitsa

Karpenisiotis 2 (R) 4km III from Karitsa to Dipotama, Kriklopotamos confluence

Trikeriotis (P) 12km II (III)from Dipotama bridge to the lake of Kremasta

Tavropos (R) 23km II, III (IV) from Sarandaporos - 5km in the tributary - to Dafni

Agrafiotis 1* (C) 4km IV (V) from Trovato to Vraggiana crossing

Agrafiotis 2 (R-C) 6km II, III (IV) from Vraggiana crossing to Epiniana crossing

Agrafiotis 3 (R) 5km II, III (IV) from Epiniana crossing to Karvassaras

Agrafiotis 4* (P) 10km I, II from Karvassaras to the lake of Kremasta

Lakmos 1* (R-C) 4km III - IV from Chaliki to Anthousa

Lakmos 2* (R-C) 9km III (IV) from Anthousa to Tripotama (Polythea)

Aspropotamos (R-P) 7km II, III from Tripotama (Polythea)to Athamania bridge

Acheloos 1 (R-P) 13km II, III from Athamania bridge to Mesochora (arced bridge before the dam)

Acheloos 2* (R) 14 km II - III+ from Mesochora (after the dam)to Terpna

Acheloos 3* (R) I - II 15 km from Terpna to Sykia (dam works)

Acheloos 4* (R-P) I - II 19 km from Sykia to Avlaki

Acheloos 5 (P) 8km I - II from Avlaki to Vrouviana (before the lake of Kremasta)

Kamneitikos 1* (R-C) 4km IV+ (VI) eastern tributary of Acheloos, from Neraidochori to Pyra

Kamneitikos 2 (R) III, 11 km (1X) from Pyra into Acheloos river

Petriliotiko (R-C) 19 km III, IV Acheloos tributary from Rossis to Petroto (Sykia dam works)

Upper Mornos (C) 5km III, IV (V) from Stromi to Mousounitsa bridge

Mornos (R) 12km II, III (IV)from Mousounitsa bridge to the lake after Lefkaditi

Western Greece

This area is defined by the great mountain ridge of Pindos (Tzoumerka, Lakmos, Tymfi and Smolikas mountains)at the east and Panaitoliko mountains in the south. The port of Patras at the south with new Rio - Antirio bridge and the port of Egoumenitsa in the north, give access through Italy and the partly completed Egnatia highway connects this area with Thessaloniki and eastern Greece. Drivers from Athens must pass through the high elevated Katara pass over Metsovo, or access the south way, through Rio-Antirio bridge.

Aoos 1 (R) 25 km III, IV (V) from Vovousa to Palioseli

Aoos 2 (R-C) 14 km III, IV, V (VI, X) from Palioseli to Konitsa weir

Aoos 3 (R-C) 1 km III (IV) από Konitsa weir to Konitsa

Aoos 4* (R) km II? from Konitsa to Bourazani

Voidomatis 1* (C) 5 km III, IV from Vikos fountains to Aristi

Voidomatis 2 (P) 5 km I, II from Aristi to Klidonia weir

Sarandaporos 1* (R-P) 15 km II (III) from Pefkofyto to national road bridge

Sarandaporos 2* (R-P) 15 km II (III) to Lagada

Sarandaporos 3* (R-P) 12 km II (IV) from Lagada to Pyrgos

Sarandaporos 4* (R-P) 10 km II to Amarantos

Kerasovitikos*(R-C) 6 km III, IV from Agia Paraskevi to Sarandaporos confluence

Vikos* (R-C)14 km IV, from Kipoi to Vikos (Voidomatis fountains)

Vikos north fork* (C)5 km V, from Tsepelovo to Kipoi

Vikos south fork* (C)9 km IV, from Fragades to Kipoi

Metsovitikos 1* (R) 18 km III from Anthochori bridge to Mikro Peristeri dam

Metsovitikos 2* (C) 2 km IV (V I) from Mikro Peristeri dam to Hydroelectric station (paddleable until the dam operation)

Metsovitikos 3* (R) 4 km III from Hydroelectric station to Baldouma bridge (into Arachthos river)

Arachthos 1* (R) 10km II (III) from Driskos bridge and Charokopi bridge(when enough water, paddleable from Baldouma)

Arachthos 2 (R) 7km III (IV) from Charokopi bridge to Ambelochori bridge

Arachthos 3 (R) 9km II (III) from Ambelochori bridge to Plaka

Arachthos 4 (P) 13km II (III)from Plaka to Skoupa

Upper Kallaritikos* (C) 3km IV, V from Kallarites bridge to Christoi bridge

Kallaritikos 1(R) 6km II, III (IV)from Christoi bridge to Michalitsi bridge

Kallaritikos 2(R) 4km II, III (IV)from Michalitsi bridge into Arachthos - Ambelachori bridge

Louros* 12km II from Vouliasta to Panagia

Louros* 10km II (IV) from Panagia to Agios Georgios

Acheron or Acherontas 1* (R) 10km I-II from Polystafilo to Serziana

Acheron or Acherontas 2 (R-C) 10km III (IV) 1X from Serziana to Glyki

Kalamas 1* or Gormos 15km I-II from Oraiokastro to Kalpaki

Kalamas 2* (R-C) 7km (VI) from Mazaraki to Lithino (great cataract section)

Kalamas 3* (R-C) 12km I (1km IV) from Lithino to Soulopoulo

Kalamas 4* (R-P) 20km I from Soulopoulo to Vrosina

Kalamas 5* (R-P) 20km I from Vrosina to Kypariso

Evinos 1* (R-P) 14km II-III from Agios Dimitrios dam to Chrysovitsa bridge

Evinos 2* (R-P) 12km II from Chrisovitsa to Poros bridge

Evinos 3 (R-P) 10km II (III) from Poros bridge to Chani Mpania

Fidakia 1 (R) 4km III (IV) from Drymonas bridge to Mantra bridge

Fidakia 2 (R) 7km II, III από from Mantra bridge into Evinos - Chrysovitsa bridge

Platanitis* or Kotsalos from Ambelakiotissa to Chomori (5km)to Platanos(+5km)into Evinos. Not enough information.

Eastern Greece

This area lies east of the mountain ridge of Pindos and falls into the two big rivers: Penios and Aliakmonas. Access is available through the main highway Athens - Lamia - Thessaloniki, the smaller highway connecting Lamia - Trikala - Metsovo and the Egnatia highway, that is partly under construction.

Voiotikos Kifisos*

Inachos 1 (R-C) 7km III, IV (1X=Dam) from Perivoli to Hydroelectric station

Inachos 2 (R) 11km II (III) from Hydroelectric station to Agios Sostis dam. Flows into Sperchios river, NW of Lamia.

Mourgani 1 (R-C) 5km III, IV (V) from Foteino to Flampouresi

Mourgani 2 (C) 7km IV, V (1X) from Flampouresi to Agia Triada

Mourgani 3* (R) 25km II (III+) from Agia Triada to Peinios confluence = Kalambaka-Metsovo road bridge

Malakasiotiko* (R) 10km II from Matoneri to Kastania, also at Kalambaka area

Kastania* (C) 8km IV - V (X) from Kastania to Milotopo

Kleinovitikos 1* (R) 3km III from Glykomilia to west tributary confluence

Kleinovitikos 2* (R) 12km II+ to Ambelia (1X)

Peinios* Big river without much paddling intererst, except from a **12χλμ III, IV** Vernezi gorge, at Rodia, west of Larissa.

Aspropotamos Grevenon 1 6 km III, IV(R-C)from Agios Nikolaos church to the bridge of the road, connecting Mikrolivado to Perivoli

Aspropotamos Grevenon 2* 11 km III, IV(R-C)3km, from Mikrolivado-Perivoli bridge to the confluence of Meleopotamos, plus 8km to Spileo take out

Meleopotamos 1* (R) 10km III, IV- from Krania to Mikrolivado

Meleopotamos 2 (R-C) 12km III, IV (V) from Mikrolivado to Spileo. Unrunnable canyon afterwards.

The tight canyon after Spileo take out, with the stone bridge of Portitsa at the entrance, is considered unrunnable. The last 200m, after the canyon, to Venetikos confluence is class IV-V

Venetikos A (R) 12km II (III+) from Trikomo bridge to Pigaditsa bridge

Venetikos B (P) 9km II από from Eleftherochori bridge to Agapi at confluence with Aliakmon

Aliakmon or Aliakmonas A (R-P) 6km II (III+) from Agapi to Felloi

Aliakmon or Aliakmonas B1 (R-P) 12km I, II from Paliouria to Zavordas monastery

Aliakmon or Aliakmonas B2 (R) 8km I + 2km III, IV (V) from Zavordas monastery to Agios Ilarionas monastery- Dam works in progress at the end of the Red Gorge.

Northern Greece (Unfortunastely not enough information - as we live in the south)

Upper Aliakmon* (NW of Kastoria) (R-C) 20km III (IV+) from Pefkos to Nestorio

Ladopotamos* (W of Kastoria) (**R-C**) **14km II- III+ 1X** from Koromilia to Aliakmon confluence

Premoritsas* (N of Grevena) (**R**) **37km I-II** from Morfi (Pentalofo)to Aliakmon confluence

Moglenitsas* (NE of Edessa) (**R**) **17km II (III)** from Aridea to Aliakmon confluence

Loudias*, Axios*, Gallikos*, Strymonas* (N of Thessaloniki)Big rivers, mostly calm, entering from Bulgaria to reach the sea near Thessaloniki. Interesting wild life - protected areas for birds .

Aggitis* (Between Serres and Drama, originates in a cave)(**R-P**) **6km I-II (III)** from Symboli to Krinida (gorge section) **6km I - II** from Krinida to Aggista railway station. Flows into Strymonas river

Nestos* 25km I-II from Paranesti to Stavroupoli. 22km I-II from Stavroupoli to Toxotes. Mostly beautiful the Stena Nestou gorge part, from Libera to Toxotes.

A whitewater interest, still not veryfied, lies with Nestos tributary, **Arkoudorema***, as well as Xanthi torrent **Kosinthos*** and the 30kms of river **Kompsatos***, that drains the mountains NE of Xanthi. Access can be found near Thermai, Kalampaki and Polyanthos.

Lissos* or Filiouris, **28km** from Myrtiski to Skaloma

More rivers and more details will be added as soon as information is known to us. Last update at 16.01.05

Erymanthos river : Section 1 from Tripotama to Vidiaki

Length: 15 kms.

Put in: Tripotama. There are several places to access the river. One at the village square, a small dirt road, facing the pharmacy, another by the road to Vidiaki, after the confluence, where the gauge meters are. There is a small sign, just before the village square, when arriving from Tripoli, to a small downhill road, turning left, at the gauge keepers (Nikos Antonopoulos) house. After passing a small arched bridge the asphalt climbs up towards Paraloggi and Vidiaki. At the first left turn, there is a small dirt road that descends to a possible parking place, over the river.

Take out: Vidiaki. The take out point is not very obvious, so one should be careful to the landmarks. 1.5km from the last canyon, the gorge had opened and a small white house is visible on the right slope. A left bend with a huge brown-red rock, marks the last short stretch. Take out is 50m further, on the left.

A nice campsite is available there, but is a little higher and not visible from the river.

A quite difficult dirt road (d2) climbs up to Vidiaki, in approx. 5kms.

Character: The river flows through secluded gorges, and three tight canyons. Between the canyons, the river flows calmly in no more than class II.

Unfortunately, there are numerous colourful garbish remnants, that shame the landscape's virginity and the great Arkadian people reputation

P.S. Mr. Antonopoulos, the very friendly gaugekeeper, told us that the community has taken some measures against river pollution. We really hope, to a succesfull outcome.

The first canyon, has short walls of great geological interest, but the four significant rapids are too scrambled and usually jammed. We usually portage at three occasions.

The whitewater interest comes in the second canyon, which is very difficult to scout, especially at the last 300m, in high flow. There are the greatest difficulties too!

Time: 5-8 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Gauge info: There are two gaugemeters, at the put in confluence, at river right bank. As they have a 40cm difference, we measure the newer, taller gauge, next to a small building.

Up to 100cm, the flow is restricted in a small channel on the right. Then the water, covers the whole riverbed, rising the difficulty rapidly.

In our own experience, the difficulties encountered in various runs, were the following:

01 May 2001, gauge 70cm, III (IV)

10 Aug 2002, gauge 42cm, II (III) (extreme low - not recommended)

13 Apr 2003, gauge 115cm, III,IV

23 Nov 2003, gauge 78cm, III (IV)

24 Apr 2004, gauge 87cm, III (IV)

In higher flows (over 120cm) the gorge rapids may become continuous and harder (V)

Maps: Anavasi publications, Achaia, 1:100.000

Shuttle: The shuttle from Tripotama to Paraloggi, Kardaritsi, Vidiaki and to the river, takes almost 40min.

The road is mostly asphalt, except a part from Tripotama to Paraloggi that is under construction and a difficult dirt road from Vidiaki to the river.

Be careful, to take the road from Vidiaki to the river, take a very sharp right turn, immediately after the village square and take the next crossing to the left.

An other option, is the west access, through Lambia and Marmara, still has a difficult dirt road that reach the river at the same point. We have crossed the river by 4x4 at this point, in August 03 (40cm)

GPS marks list

First rapid: 37o 51.310N, 21o 52.068E

Second rapid: 37o 51.275N, 21o 51.852E (possible X in low-med flow)

Siphon: 37o 51.069N, 21o 51.225E (bi-passable in low flow)

Log jam: 37o 50.789N, 21o 51.157E

First arced footbridge: 37o 50.436N, 21o 50.662E

4 drops section: 37o 49.653N, 21o 49.317E (entrance of 2nd gorge)



Second arced footbridge: 37° 48.642N, 21° 48.451E
Big ramp: 37° 47.743N, 21° 47.744E ??

More pages about Erymanthos: [River description](#), [River map](#), [Gallery](#)



Erymanthos river.

Km by km description: (Based on a medium flow run - 87cm)

0.0km: Put in (gaugemeters)

3.0km: The river flows calmly (I-II) through a small white gorge. The slopes are lower on the right and the road to Lambia is visible (and accessible). After a few windings, comes the 1st rapid. A spur of rock, emerges in the middle of a corridor, demanding a technical driving. (III) See photo 1.



3.3km: The river turns sharp left and after a short class III- step, follows an identical left blind turn. This is a mandatory inspection rapid, so catch an eddy on the right!

The river is secluded in a 3m wide mini canyon, running down a multisteped right bend. A tree has stucked in there, creating a possible trap, in lower to medium flows. See our tries to free the pass at photo no 2.



Even if we normally portage this section, we had run it in a higher flow, where the tree is not visible (class IV). It is a dangerous spot, as due to its combined gradient, small width and sharp bend, it usually blocked. Look what we found in November!

4.5km: A sheep pen is visible on the low slope on the right, where the river takes another sharp left turn. Manadatory stop and inspection, as the first ledge leads onto a possible siphon. In low flow, it can be bypassed on the right. This is the 2nd usual portage.



4.8km: 300m later, a big tree has created a river wide log jam.

6.0km: An old arced bridge, marks the end of the first gorge. In a case of emergency one may find the old footpath, climbing to Paralogi, on the left.

8.7km: 2.5km of easier waters, until we see a brown-red landslide on the far left slope. A small tributary enters on the right and the difficult second gorge is in front of us.

I've been told of a possible take out, somewhere at this area, where a small road, serving the hydroelectric station of Lambia, access the river. I personally haven't spotted it.



The river turns sharp to the right and the gorge welcome the advanced paddler, with a sequence of 1m pool-drops, that can be splitted using the eddies between. The first one has an alternative routing on the left. See Pavlos in the left routing at photo no 5, Pavlos and Nikos in the second drop, at photo no 6 and Dimitris carving between rocks and ledges at the last part of the canyon that can be scouted from the bank, at photo no 7.



9.0km: After the first 300m of drops and ledges, vertical wall close high above us , to make scouting much more difficult and safety setting on- shore, near

impossible. At the entrance of this 300m canyon, lies a difficult rapid, a split level - left turning ramp ending in a pool. See photos 8,9.

50m later, is the leaning rock rapid. In higher flow, it is possible to make the 2m boof on its right, but usually you run the scale around its left side. See photo 10.

9.2km: Some more easy slalom around big boulders and we reach the canyon's last significant drop, where the water squeezes to the right wall. In higher flow this is a really pushy rapid, with a sticky hole in the bottom! See photo 11.

9.3km: In 100m the canyon walls lower and get tighter, to leave just a 1.5m opening at the end. We may now relax and play at the great playspot, formed here, in medium flows. See photo 12.

11.0km: In the next kms, we may gain some distance, paddling continuous class II, until the second arced bridge.

11.3km: 300m later we enter the third (and last) gorge. A big pyramid like boulder, seems to close the river path. In high flows, the only option is to shoot the tight drop on the left (Paddle hard and keep a safe distance from the kayaker in front of you. Konidis nearly crash onto my lifting bow, as I was undeliberately catching ends in the bottom of it!)

In lower flow, you just might try to run the diagonally rapid to the right and squeeze your boat around the boulder. See photo 13.



(?)12.7km: The big ramp (IV+) We slowly enter another tight canyon, of white limestone walls. The water is pretty relaxing here, but be alert. Suddenly the river drops a steep and tight 3m ramp, climbing up the sheer left wall, while in the bottom, a really powerfull hole, creates a mini room of doom, prone to hold you recycling, if you fail to land beyond its grasp.

13.0km: 300m later the canyon loosen its grip and we paddle the remaining 1.5km to the take out, in easy class I-II waters.



14.5km: The gorge opens, a white building appears through the trees on the right slope and the last stretch, a left bend around the huge brown boulder, to reach our take out, 100m later, on the left shore.

More pages about Erymanthos: [River Data](#), [River Map](#), [Gallery](#)

River: Upper Lousios

Location: Arkadia - Peloponesos, South Greece

Put in: Ancient Gortis, Polygenis bridge

Take out: The 8th km of Karytaina - Atsiholos road bridge

Length: 4km

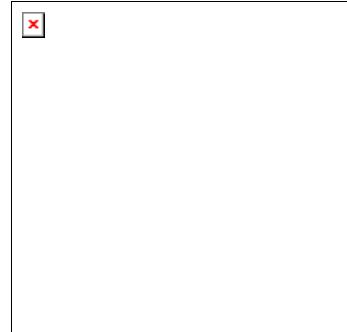
Difficulty: III, IV (VI or X)

Time: 2 to 5 hours, depending the number and ability of paddling team.

Suggested number of 3 to 5 paddlers.

Character: Low volume creek, tight, boudary, in a V shaped gorge.

Continuous difficulty. Scoutable from the bank. Runnable all the year, due to the fountains at Dimitsana area.



Km by Km description:

0.4km: 1st rapid - 1m tight drop - mandatory inspection Class III+. Continue in class III for 400m

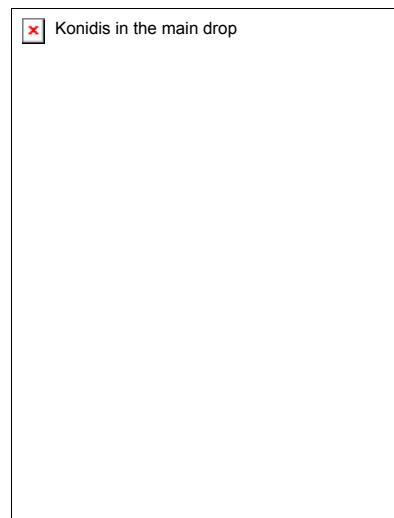
0.8km: 1st (main) 2m pool-drop Class IV. Tricky entrance! Possible portage on the right.

0.95km: Dangerous double drop after a left turn. Class VI? or X (Possibly paddleable in higher water levels). Portage on the right for 50m. The next 50m section is class IV- to IV+ in higher flows.

1.5km: 2nd drop (1.5m) in a left turn. The approach is close to tree brunches and at the landing zone there is a small cave on the right.

1.5-3.0km: Easier, class III course with 2 play spots.

Class II (III) for the last part.



Highlights: The first drop 2.0m high (0.8km) and the 50m rapid after the unrunnable section (1.0km)

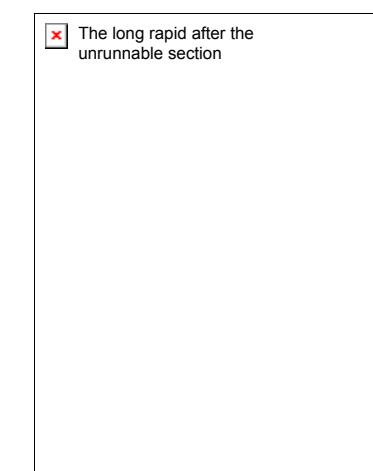
Caution: The unrunnable 50m double rapid (possibly a hard V in higher flow)- see picture on the right.

Portage is on the right. Difficult approach to the take out eddy, may involve some rock climbing in the right rocky edge.

The undercut at the entrance of the 1st major drop (0.8km) in low water

The tricky approach to the drop and the slot-siphon on the left of that point.

Serious log jam potential after floods. Until lately there was a log jam 400m before the take out, after a right bend.



Access: From Tripoli to Megalopoli and then to Karytaina, we head towards Atsiholos until we reach the Take out bridge 6km from Karytaina. To the Put in, we continue the asphalt road towards Atsiholos for about 5km, just before the village we take a desenting dirt road to the right, towards the ruins of ancient Gortis. We ignore a right crossing to a church, we pass the start of a restored stone walking path to the left and we reach a small vyzantine era church and the stone bridge of Polygenis. Be careful the bridge is strong but perhaps too tight for a van or a bus! The path to the river is on the right at the other side of the bridge.

Intermediate access: A goat path follows the left bank for most of the way.

Emergency exit: From the left bank of the 1st drop, to the road over the landslided slope (10min walking) through terassed fields to a pen and via a short dirt road, to the asphalt road, connecting the put in bridge and the village of Helliniko or Stemnitsa.

Through paths on the right slope and the left bank, near old water mills, after the second main drop.

Shuttle: From the put in to the take out will take 15 to 20minutes

Gauge Info: There are three gauge meters at the put in. The old one at the right shore is almost equal with the new and official one, at the measuring piping unit, on the left foot of the bridge. A measure of 30 to 35 is considered low flow. Expect generally grade III with 2 rapids at grade IV. With a medium flow 35-40cm expect WW grade III+ and more IV to IV+. With a flow of 40-50 expect continuous grade IV with the stretch after the unrunnable to be a solid class V. At such a flow the unrunnable is possibly a V+.

Road Book: Upper Lousios can be accessed from the northeast via Korinthos > (70a1)Tripolis > (25a2)Megalopolis > (16a2) Karytaina > (8a3) Atsiholos bridge (Take out for Upper Lousios, Put in for Lousios-Alfios run) > (4a3)Ancient Gortis-Atsiholos crossing > (2d2) Ancient Gortis-Polygenis bridge. Index:

70a1=70km asphalt 1st class road

2d2=2km dirt 2nd class road.

Services: In the village of Karytaina you can find a gas station, a good tavern, the Café Vrenthi and Rooms to let (ask at Vrenthi). You can find better hotels at Dimitsana or Helliniko.

Closest store and bank at the larger towns of Megalopolis or Dimitsana. In the area you may also find a few outdoor activities companies, that also offer many different programs for non kayakers.

Sightseeing: At the put in you can visit Ancient Gortis, the Byzantine chapple. A walking path to Lousios gorge and the old monasteries of Filosofou, Prodromou and Aimialon, also starts at the put in. Further up, at the small but historical town of Dimitsana, you may visit the hydrokinisis museum where you can see how the old water mills used to work and manufacture powder for the 1821 revolution.

70kms from Dimitsana is ancient Olympia and in Karytaina stands an impressive castle and another vyzantine church.

Maps: Anavasi Topo 25, Lousios 1:25.000

GPS marks(WGS84):

Exit ramp to Anc.Gortis: 37o 31.459, 22o 01.811

Put in: 37o 32.377N, 22o 02.766E

Main (1st) drop: 37o 32.010, 22o 02.831 (eddy at pool below)

Main Portage: 37o 31.857, 22o 02.825 (last take out on the right)

2nd drop: 37o 31.601, 22o 02.714 (eddy at pool below)

Take out: 37o 30.675N, 22o 02.296E

More pages about Upper Lousios: [River Description](#), [River Map](#)

Classic Upper Lousios rapid

2nd drop

Ancient Gortis ruins



Upper Lousios - River Description

The river tackles between small boulder gardens and through small ledges, in series of class III to IV rapids, that not all can be scouted from the boat. We may divide the run in three sections, according to the three major features: The first drop, the unrunnable double rapid and the second drop.

A few class III rapids bring us to the first drop that is formed near km1.0. There, a huge boulder in the middle of the river, constrain most of the water to the river right, into a just 1m wide gap, over a 2.5m pool drop. (This drop was at least half a meter higher in 2002). The stopper at the pool underneath, created by the undercut rock, is not the sole drawback to this impressive rapid. The entrance of the drop has also deteriorated lately, scrabbling the access and forming a vertical siphon to the central boulder. In medium to high flow, speed is your friend to hit a perfect line there. On the left side of the river, a landslide has created a boulder haos, prone to hold everything going that way.

Scouting and portage is possible from the right bank. If anyone has already regret it, it's possible to leave the river there, ascending an easy slope to the left.

An easier course through class III rapids, leads us a few hundred meters later, to the second highlight, the unrunnable section. A left bend, almost hidden in the vegetation, leads to a complex of boulders and chutes. This eddy free run is better be portaged from the right bank, even if catching that eddy is trickier, as the left bank portage, involves passing through an unstable rockslide and a trickier put in back.

After this double unrunnable rapid, the river offers the most technical stretch. The next 50m is a series of turning chutes and holes, class IV to class V in higher flows. Mandatory safety positions, as in the next turn, a new set of drops await!

Keep navigating through class III to III+ whitewater, we pass an array of ledges choosing to jump from the further right one, bypassing an island type division from the right and encounter a semi blind chute to the left, followed by a speeding ramp to the right. Finally, we reach the second main drop.

Following the flow to the right, the leaning branches of a tree shadow the river's sudden fall to the left. 2m lower the drop ends in a pool. A quick scouting of the drop and the cave-eddy on its right, is possible and suggested via the left shore.

The last section is fast, less demanding and even offers two good playspots. In half an hour, the Atsiholos-Karytaina road bridge marks the end of this beautiful creek and the start of the combined Lousios-Alfios river run.

More pages about Upper Lousios: [River Data](#), [River Map](#)



Selinountas River Data

Long, intense and demanding river, for teams with experience at class 4 and tight gorges. The last 5 kms of the river is a class 3 joyful run.

Name: Selinus or Selinountas

Area: Achaia – North Peloponessos

Closest town: Aigio, Patra, Kalavryta

Facilities: For bank, post, fuel at Aigio, Kalavryta. For hospital at Aigio, First aid at Kalavryta. Smaller food & sleep facilities also at the village of Fteri.

Put In: The left tributary bridge below Makelarias monastery, 2km before the confluence.

Take Out: Above the 4m weir, 2.5km after Kato Mavriki bridge (10km after the Korinthos - Patra highway)

Length: 14 km – 11 of them into a remote gorge.

Difficulty: 3, 4 (5) 1X, at medium flow level.

River type: (River - Creek)

Volume: Low

Rapids: Continuous class 3 with several class 4 rapids . The first rapid, half a km from the gorge's entrance is a class 4 rapid ending in a siphon trap. Mandatory portage of the siphon on the left. At the landslide area, at the 6th km, there is a 1.5m high and river wide boulder ledge rapid that is dangerous at certain water levels. All rapids can be scouted and safeguarded from the bank, with moderate difficulty.

Danger: The siphon at the first rapid! Be careful for log jams in a few places. Blind falls should be scouted for pinning reasons.

Playspots: A few good spots at the second part of the gorge. Not a play-river

Access: There is no known road to access the gorge, except to dirt roads that reach the entrance and the exit of the gorge.

Paddling time: 5 - 7 hours for a group of 4

Suggested flow level: Medium. We paddled with no real problems at medium to low level. At lower flows though, many stretches could become dangerous for people and equipment. In higher flow, some rapids could become way more continuous and intense at class V.

Gauge: There is no gauge. During our run, the water was 5-10cm over the side concrete slabs, below the put in bridge. Look at the photos of put in and take out weirs.

Sightseeing: A beautiful waterfall and a surprise illusion by the end of the gorge. For the shuttle bunnies, a visit at Agios Leontios old skete, over Taxiarchon monastery, worth a visit.

Shuttle: A long shuttle. Leave the highway at 175th km at a gas Shell station and go towards Kato Mavriki, around the lower gorge. After you pass the river at a bridge over a broken weir, watch for a dirt road that leads through a work site, to a 4m weir. Take out is above this weir. To the Put in, there are two alternative routes: The safest is to return to the highway and go east until the next exit to Pyrgaki, Fteri and Petsakoi, where you take a dirt road that first crosses the right tributary of Selinountas (Maneseiko) and then reaches the standard put in at the left tributary bridge. (At a white chapel turn right) The shortest scenario involves 38kms of both asphalt and 4x4 suitable dirt roads, via Taxiarchon monastery to Pyrgaki and it lasts around 1h 30min.

Map: Anavasi 1:100.000 Achaia

GPS WGS84 coordinates:

Put in bridge 38o 06.067N, 21o 59.296E

1st rapid 38o 06.589N, 22o 00.518E

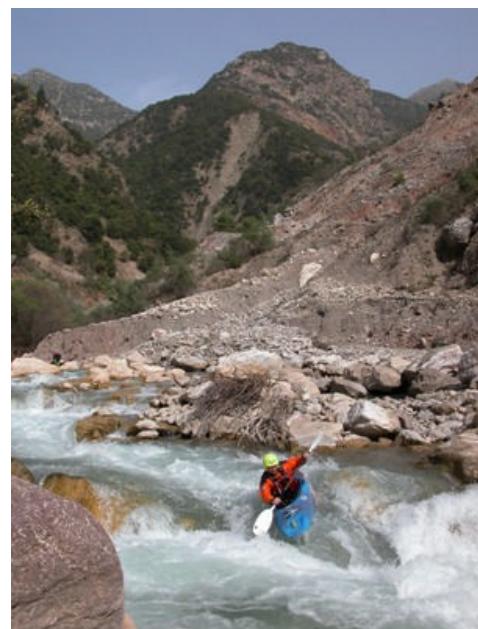
Landslide area 38o 07.897N, 22o 00.507E

River wide ledge rapid 38o 07.925N, 22o 00.327E

Take out weir 38o 10.797N, 22o 02.286E



See also: [Selinountas river map](#)



Krikelopotamos river data:

Length: 20kms.

Put in: The bridge connecting Krikelo and Domnista

Take out: At the confluence with Karpenissiotis, 50m before the bridge Dipotama, connecting Karpenissi and Proussos.

Character: The river flows through secluded vertical gorges, of rare and unique beauty. The always present waterfalls section, called "Panta Vrechi" (picture right) is a highlight, among backpackers in the summer. Technically demanding in both lower and higher flows.

General Difficulty: Grade III with a few grade IV rapids. In low to medium flow. In high flow, more rapids become harder, but no more than class IV+. In a few occasions, portaging in higher flows, is complicated and at least in one case, the Puff Pastry* gorge (see photo below), is not possible, due to vertical walls. (Mandatory passage class III+ to IV+, in high flow)

(*) Name given by the authors of "Greco" guidebook.

Time: 5-8 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Gauge info: There is a gauge meter, at the take out bridge of Dipotama. As this bridge is after the confluence with Karpenissiotis, the readings should be evaluated, regarding the flow of Karpenissiotis, which is affected by the drainage of two more snow covered mountains, Velouhi (Tymfristos) in the east and Chelidona in the north. In normal conditions the two rivers flows are similar.

A gauge meter of 80cm indicates low flow, with 90-100cm marking the medium and over 110cm the high flow. See a picture of the put in and the take out bridge - photo 1, photo 2, in low to medium flow (88cm). Don't be fooled by the low level at put in, as many tributary streams, multiply the flow. If you can paddle without too much bamping, at the put in, then it will be sufficient flow.

Maps: Anavasi publications, Evrytania, 1:100.000

Shuttle: The normal shuttle from the take out, at Dipotama , to the put in, via Karpenissi, Raches Tymfristou, to Krikelo and the put in, last almost 45min (one way), if the elevated passage at Raches Tymfristou, hasn't much snow or ice. Have snow chains, anyway!

More pages about Krikelopotamos: [River description](#), [River map](#)



Krikelopotamos river

Km by km description: (Based on a low-medium flow run >88cm)

2.3km: After a couple of bends, in a very low volume flow (class II) the gorge starts closing and a tributary enters on the right.



3.2km: After the first minor gorge, a landslide on the right slope, has created a boulder garden (III+) See photo 1. The river path has changed, since our last year's visit, due to a flood that undercut the right foot of the slope.



4.7km: A steep dirt road, access the river from the right. This can be an alternative put in, saving a lot of equipment abuse in very low flows, or an emergency take out. This difficult dirt road, starts 0.5km before the put in bridge.

5.9km: Another tributary puts in from the right. Before this point, the river is divided by a cobble island, offering two possible lines (class III+ left and class II+ right) See photo no 2.

7.0km: Psiana arched bridge.

8.2km: We continue paddling easy class II to III stretches, in a geologic wonderland, when we reach a picturesque waterfall (river left)



9.1km: A dirt road reaches the right river shore and a sign announces the villages of Doliana (Stournara) and Roska. This is a river passage in the low summer flow. This access can serve an emergency evacuation, even if there is a very long drive to the put in and Karpenissi, usually closed by snow, in the winter.

After 100m, we reach the first part of the gorge's entrance rapid. This rapid, the most significant of the river, can and should be scouted from the left shore. Usually is run in two parts, while safety settings might be considered, before the entrance of the main 5km gorge. The usual line, middle-left, involves four steps, comfortably parted by an eddy. See photos 4, 5, 6.



9.2km: Entrance of the main gorge of "Panta Vrechi". Wire cable foot bridge, on the rim of the gorge walls. A strong tributary puts in from the right.



9.4km: Paddling this magnificent gorge, shouldn't take our eyes, completely off the water in front of us. After the first 150m from the entrance, the canyon turns to the right. The first rapid of this gorge is right after that turn, a multistep ledges, involving the next winding to the left. Class III in low flow (see photo above), but can be stronger, crashing onto the wall, in a higher one.

9.7km: A few more easy ledges and we can't take our eyes, off the surroundings. Water slides from the gorge's walls, all around us, we paddle under huge overhanging walls, through refreshing watershowers. Everything is green and bright rainbows reveal when we take a look upstream. This is the place to stop, if you have time for a break! (see photo on top)

11.0km: Having enjoyed the surroundings, it's time for some whitewater highlights. Three rapids (class III to class IV, in higher flow), small ledges, combined through S-turns, can be possibly scouted from the eddy above. Portaging is possible from the left.

A huge waterslide, on the right mustard-colored rock slab, marks the entrance of the famous (for some of us, infamous) "Puff Pastry gorge", in the next turn. Scouting and photo opportunities are possible from the right shore (see photo on the right). Portage is not possible here, as the canyon in front of us is very tight, very tall, very long, very vertical and has a multisteped river-wide rapid, right in the beginning. This is a class III+ to class IV+ in higher flows. If you have to swim this gorge, stay on the left, the canyon ends in calm water 100m later. If stacked here, the steep slope on the left, eventually leads to a path which leads to the small country church of Agios (Saint) Georgios and after a couple of hours to the Doliana.

12.2km: A few more class III (III+) rapids and the secluded gorge ends. A concrete bridge is most of the times, a sign of modern civilization, an escape in our remote gorges vocabulary. But this doesn't apply in this case. On the right, a well defined path, climb to the deserted village of Kontiva and after that, keep climbing to the right, to find the path to Ag.Georgios and Doliana (3hours). On the other side of the bridge...??? We couldn't find any path, or some kind of gap through the forested slope. So keep paddling, the difficult part is all behind us.

13.8km: The gorge ends, where a left tributary enters from the left, as the river turns sharp right. From here, the river offers nothing more than relaxing class I-II paddling. Following the ravine to the left, one may reach a road, some 200m above. This road leads to the tiny village of Kastania and from there either the road to Proussos, or the river, 5kms further.

18.8km: An arched bridge to our left, where Proussos monastery gorge reaches Kriklopotamos, is the first place, where a car may approach the river (the road reaches down to the water, in the next meters)

20.0km: Dipotama. Confluence with Karpenissiotis, before the bridge connecting Karpenissi and Proussos. Take out left, before or immediately after the confluence.



More pages for Kriklopotamos:

[River Data](#), [River Map](#), [Gallery](#)

Mornos River Data:
Section 1 - Upper Mornos

Length: 5 kms.

Put in: at the arced bridge at Stromi,

Take out: at the bridge connecting Stromi and Mousounitsa - Put in for section 2 (Lower Mornos).

Character: Tight and remote gorge, with rocky ledges and ramps.
 Can be very bumpy and with pinning potential in a low water situation.
General Difficulty: Grade III,IV in medium flow. More difficult in high flow.

Time: 4-6 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability
Shuttle: From Stromi, we take the road south to Lidoriki. After almost 6km, we take a right turn, towards Mousounitsa. We reach our take out bridge after approx. 1.2kms. This is also the put in bridge for the 13kms of the second section (Lower Mornos) Be careful for the road maybe icy at several points during the winter. In the first 500m , at the start of the steel bumpers at the edge of the road, we may take a look of the first section of rapids (IV).

Gauge info: There is no gaugemeter. If the water flows river-wide, under the take out bridge of Mousounitsa, then there is medium to high flow.

Maps: Anavasi publications, Giona-Oeta-Vardousia, 1:50.000

GPS marks: Take out bridge: 38o 41.402N, 22o 12.922E

Km by Km Descreption:

0.4m: After a couple of bends, we reach a right bend, with a double drop rapid (Nut-cracker*). Both drops need inspection, possible by the left rocky ledge, but safeguarding the two drops, is another problem to be solved. We usually choose the left optional line, due to submerged rocks on the right.

These rapids, together with the next ones, can be seen from the asphalt road above.

1.0km: When a smaller tributary puts in from the right, a blind S-type boulder ramp, has repeatedly surprised us with its power causing a semi-impact to the left wall. A good place to wear your elbow guards!
 1.5km A characteristic rock formation with diagonal layers, like big steps, on the right wall of the gorge, mark the most difficult rapid (Dragon's Maw*). A big rocky protruding crest, dividing the river in two, with the left one possible only in higher flows. The right line, a multi level - multi stopper tight ramp, pumps up the adrenaline levels of both the paddler and safety crew. (class IV-V)

2.0km A few more ledges while the river carves a meandrus like bend through the gorge, that looses its so far vertical walls.

2.5km National mountain path E4, starts descending the left slope, to gradually follow us, not too high above the river.

3.0 - 5.0km The river continues its tight bouldery route, but in a much easier way, class II to III, until the take out bridge.

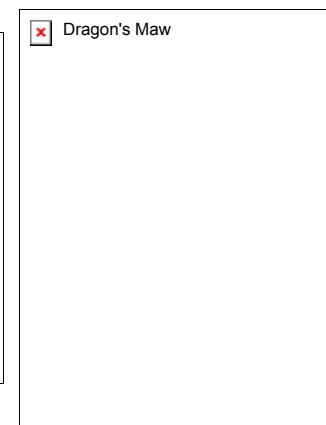
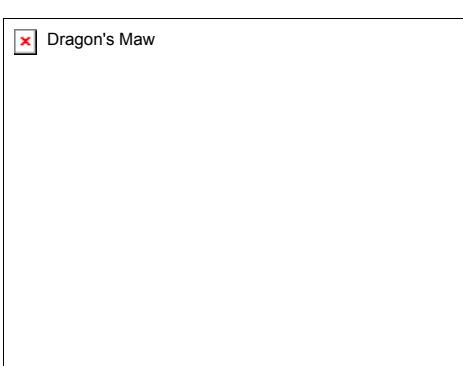
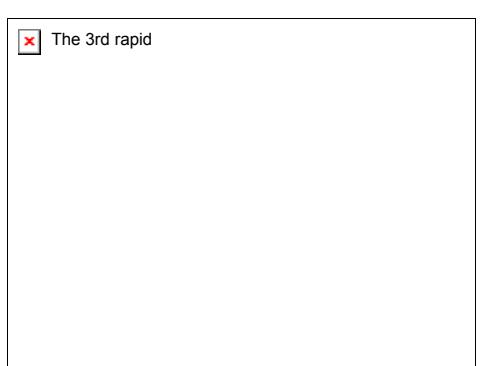
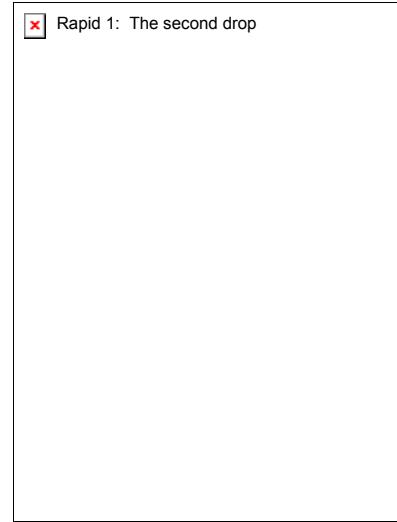
(*)Names given by the authors of Greco guidebook.

More pages about Mornos: [Up.Mornos River map - Lower Mornos Data + Description - Lower Mornos River Map.](#)

 Put in bridge at Stromi

 Rapid 1: The first two drops

 Rapid 1: The first drop



Mornos River Data

Section 2 - Lower Mornos:

Length: 12 kms.

Put in: at the arched bridge below Mousounitsa,

Take out: at the bridge connecting Lidoriki and Koniakos - 200m before the Mornos reservoir.

Character: Medium volume river, wide, flowing through low gorges, offering a splendid view to the mountain ridges of Giona on the left and Vardousia on the right.

General Difficulty: Grade III,IV in medium to high flow.

Time: 3-5 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Caution: The infamous log rapid! Mandatory stop and scout. In lower flow, you have to stay at river left to catch an eddy out, as the river drops suddenly to a channel at river right, through some very unhealthy protruding logs.

Access: Mornos area is accessed from the west, via Thermopyles, then left towards Bralos and before Bralos turn right towards Pavlani and Stromi. If the road over Pavlani is closed, there is an alternative through Amfisa to Itea.

From the south, via Itea (or Nafpaktos if coming from west), Erateini and then north to Lidoriki.

Shuttle: From put in bridge we drive uphill to the main asphalt road, connecting Pavlani and Lidoriki, passing Sykia and Lefkaditi and approx. 2kms later we turn right towards Kallio and Koniakos, until we reach our take out, a big concrete bridge, just before Mornos lake. This shuttle takes 20min. Be careful for the road may be icy or there may be rock falls at several points during the winter.

Services: You may find taxi service at Lidoriki village square, 10min from the take out. In Lidoriki there is also a gas station.

A tavern with delicious grill, can be found ayt upper Pavlani.

Gauge info: There is no gaugemeter. If the water flows river-wide, under the put in bridge of Mousounitsa, approx. 10cm below the foundation of the right column, then there is medium to high flow. Expect WW class III,IV.

At the take out bridge, also in medium-high flow, the water flows around both the bridge columns.

Maps: Anavasi publications, Giona-Oeta-Vardousia, 1:50.000

GPS marks:

Put in bridge: 38o 41.402N, 22o 12.922E

Log rapid: 38o 40.223N, 22o 12.681E

Take out bridge: 38o 35.900N, 22o 11.301E

Km by km description:

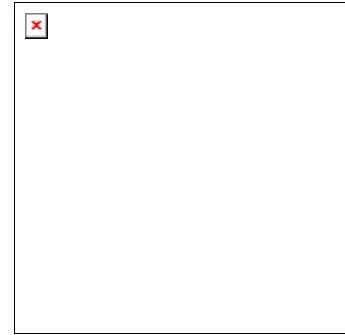
0.2km: Left bend - 1st rapid 50m III

0.3km: 2nd left bend - 2nd rapid 100m III+ (IV) Most difficulties are situated in the left optional line, ending in a clifed in eddy.

0.4 - 1.2km: continuous class II

1.2km A right tributary forms a long and narrow gravel island, dividing the river in two lines. The left line follows a series of small ledges, class III (III+)

2.5km: A gray rockslide at the left slope, mark the infamous Log Rapid. Eddy out on the left bank and scouting is mandatory. The first



Put in Bridge below Mousounitsa

Pavlos in the 1st rapid

Spyros in the second rapid

Neni approaching the 3rd rapid

ledge is run on the far left, while protruding logs guard the passage to the right. A large gravel island, diverts the river after this point (rapid's 2nd part). While the left option is a carefree class II, the right one, is a powerful wavy line, restricted between the cliff wall on the right and the gravel island on the left, demanding a technical S-line between holes, ledges and log jams (class IV)

2.6 - 4.5km: Going on in a still demanding - class III (III+) - but predicted terrain, boat-scouting every rapid, untill the gorge gradually opens.

4.5 - 7.5km: The river widens, the north face of Giona mountain, stands out over the small village of Sykia. We enjoy the view, paddling easy river stretches for three kms, while three tributaries add to the flow. The characteristic brown sheer rock tower, standing over the river shore on the left, marks the approach to a second smaller gorge. 7.5km - 8.0km: We enter the gorge in a blind right bend. The river turns to the left and for the next 500m, drops in a series of four rapids (class III - IV). At one of them (Sympilades or Red Rock rapid), the flow is squeezed between two bigger boulders demanding, in a higher flow, a boof-to-break-through move (class IV). In our December 2002 run, we had to chase a boat for half a km down that rapid!

8.0 - 10.5km: The gorge opens, the river keeps running in smaller rapids, up to class III-, until the arced bridge of Lefkaditi. This is a possible take out, while the next one, 1.5 fast and easy kms further (class I-II) has better access and is recommended.

12.0km: Take out bridge

Alfredos approaching the Log rapid

Konidis in the Log rapid

Alfredos in the Red Rock rapid

Surfing time for Spyros and Alfredos



More pages for Mornos: [Lower Mornos river map](#), [Upper Mornos data + description](#), [Upper Mornos river map](#)

Kamneitikos river data



Name: Kamneitikos or Kamnaitikos

Area: North Acheloos, south Pindos mountains, Trikala prefecture

Nearest town: Pertouli, Kalambaka, Trikala

Section 1: from Neraidochori to Pyra 3.5km class 3-4 (5)*

(information from Greco guidebook)

Section 2: from Pyra to Acheloos confluence– Katsineles area. 11km class 2,3 (3+)

Type of river: (River -Creek)Gentle woody slopes for the first part, steep canyon after km 9.

Volume: Low

Rapids: section 2: continuous class 2 to 3 stretches with small drops, scouted from the boat.

- km 3+500 Pen
- km 4+500 Bridge to Agios Nikolaos
- km 5+000 Left tributary. A big log jam must be portaged just before the confluence
- km 5+500 Slalom between trees. 25m class 3
- km 9 Canyon entrance. 100m 3+ to 4-

All rapids may be scouted and portaged

Danger: Be careful at the wood area for logjams. At least one must be portaged.

Access: A dirt road access the river above a pen at km 3,5 and discretely follows the river, inside the woods. eventually leading to the main asphalt road

Paddling time: 3 hours

Gauge: No



Highlights: Paddling into the beautiful meanders exit gorge is a picture to remember

Our opinion: Fast and quite beautiful small river, with not a powerful rapid to remember, but a river where eddy hopping and the anticipation of what's coming next, keeps you alert and satisfied at the end.

Shuttle: To reach Kamneitikos, you may come from Trikala, Pyli, Pertouli, Neraidochori, Pyra (from there it's 1,5km to the river), or via Kalambaka, from Kastania and Tripotama. From Alexiou bridge, at the confluence of Acheloos with Moutsiaritiko, we take the difficult dirt road to Paliochori and Armatoliko, that follows the north bank of the river. 4kms later, at a pen at Katsineles village, there is a footpath down to the confluence (Take out).

Distance: Put in - take out: 20km asphalt road plus 5km dirt road (40 min)

Map: Anavasi. Koziakas 1:50.000

GPS: Pyra. Put in. 39o 31.835N, 21o 24.407 E

Pen: 39o 32.615N, 21o 22.464 E

Access road: 39o 32.748N, 21o 22.216 E

Bridge to Agios Nikolaos: 39o 32.636N, 21o 21.676 E

Log jam: 39o 32.562N, 21o 21.590 E

Log slalom rapid: 39o 32.542N, 21o 21.097 E



Log slalom rapid

More pages: [River description - Map](#)

Katsineles

Kamneitikos trip report

Sunday morning, 29th of February 2004.

We met with Zan Coester, who would join us to this day's adventure. Heading southwest, via Kastania, we passed a fresh snow covered pass, to reach Tria Potamia, were Aspropotamos (upper Acheloos) is formed by Lakmos and Kraniotikos tributaries. While we spent a few minutes arguing whether we should paddle Lakmos river, who was obviously in perfect flow conditions, or stick to the original plan of Kamneitikos, some of us didn't care to contribute to the conversation and headed into the wood to spend their morning private time, in the best possible place!

Kamneitikos plan prevailed and we continued south for 10 more kms, driving right next to Aspropotamos, watching all these "useless" signs of kayak slalom courses, until we reached a junction. To reach the put in at the village of Pyra (or Neraidohori, for upper Kamneitikos), we should keep straight. We took the sharp right turn downhill to Alexiou bridge.

From there a not so good dirt road, follows the river (called Acheloos from now on) until Arthamanio and then Mesohora dam.

The works for this hydroelectric project, one of the greatest constructions in Greece, have been completed 5 years ago, but certain roadworks and habitants rehabilitation, still hold the project inoperative.

The dirt road proved quite difficult for Pavlos's Astra - I will never understand why this guy has the impression that this car should be treated as a jeep and most important, to be considered as one - so we followed it until Kamneitikos confluence to Acheloos, where the map shows a secondary dirt road approaching the river, near a sheep pen, at a place called Katsineles. Unfortunately, the road is old and unpassable and the main dirt road gets worse further on, by recent rockfalls, so we decide to leave the return car at the pen and head back to the asphalt road to the put in.

On the way up, Zan couldn't help a remark about our "particular way" of organise things. He always wanted to know, how we end up putting in so late. I guess that while in the put in, he had all the time to figure it out, all dressed up and ready, while we were taken our time to organise things, always busy, doing something remotely nescessary. Welcome to the world of TEAMadara!

From the village of Pyra, we kind of guessed our way to the river, only to reach an extremely small stream, tight and barely paddleable. A quick look in the map, revealed that this was only a side stream, Kamneitikos was 1km further.

The weather is now getting worse, nearly snowing. The water is pretty cold, so we start paddling fast. I'm sure, Zan was surprised of our speedy rythm in the water, as it was our turn to wait for him in the eddie. Or, perhaps, he was just keeping a safe distance...??

The river was fast, with continuous class II-III ledges, woody canyons, and virgin surroundings with picturesque waterslides. A wooden bridge, covered with every possible structural material, serves a likewise built pen.

At a couple of places, big, bigger, or huge logs, demand some scouting and in one case, portage. After the steel bridge, below Agios Nikolaos, the river gets more volume and starts speeding into tighter - but never too tight, or shoreless canyons, in succesive class III+ stretches. Eddy by eddy, we boat scouted almost all of them, keep moving fast, to finally arrive at Acheloos confluence in almost 3 hours.

Shouldering time now, with Zan and Konidis hiking up the steep path to the pen, in no time, I had to stick back with Pavlos, who after the first meters, looked like in the brake of a serious heart attack episode.

Thankfully, Zan came back to help. Looking at Pavlos, he didn't bother to ask who needed any help...



On our way back now, one more stop, to collect the remnants of "jeep's" bumper, which after a close encounter with a 15cm high rock, decided that it was time to separate of the main vehicle. Enough is enough...well I can't say I blame it. So guess what joined our four boats in the top of my roof!

More pages about Kamneitikos: [River data](#) - [River map](#)



Spring was at its full and a trip to the more remote parts of Greece, was in schedule. Agrafa and Argithea mountain range, well secluded in the mountains of central Greece, seemed to be the perfect destination.

The initial plan was to hit two new rivers this weekend. Petriliotiko and Agrafiotis. Two rivers that we hadn't done yet, due to their significant distance from Athens, their short paddling period and their overall seriousness.

Sadly, with Pavlos's last minute cancellation and the rest of the team late departure, we had to change the schedule, as Petriliotiko demanded a long shuttle.

Mornos would be our first day's alternative, as it would be a good warm up before Agrafiotis and a chance for the "lazy" members, to spend some time "leading" the river.

Alfredos entering the "Log Rapid" in Mornos

Leaving Mornos valley, we headed back northeast towards Lamia and Karpenissi trying to drive our way further up towards Agrafa to camp for the night. But Ziakas sensitive back and Alfredos lack of sleeping time (due to working late, as he insisted...not partying, as we thought) we decided to rent a room for the night, at Agios Nikolaos, where we met Pavlos already arrived from Athens.

The road to Agrafa valley was quite longer than we expected. From Karpenissi to Krentis, is the definition of a winding road. But the morning mist coming up the ravines rewarded us with a magnificent view! Read more in our [on the road](#) report.

The Turkish bridge below Trovato would be our put in for the classic run to Karvasaras.

After concluding all the various details of shuttling, leaving the second jeep before the muddy part of the dirt road, by the time we started paddling it was already noon. The weather was splendid. Blue skies and clear water, promised an unforgettable run - a first for us - at this beautiful river.

The first canyon, besides the tricky entrance rapid, proved to be no harder than class III, with just a couple of stretches that required scouting. The road was quite close, not high above the right bank and that encouraged our run through the unfamiliar surroundings. Soon we reached a right bend with a small bridge, where a small road approaches the river bank at some kind of leisure park. "The gates" and the second gorge appeared in front of us. The first rapid shouldn't be far now.

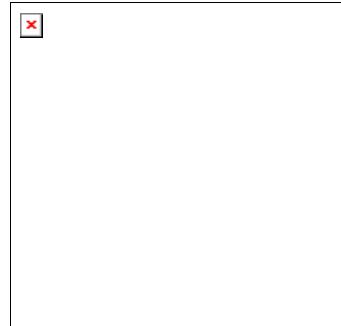
Eddy by eddy, we moved on in a class II to III stretch, boat scouting most of the difficult spots. The river turned slightly to the left and a series of small ledges leaded to the blingd right turn 50m later, which definitely needed inspection.

A protruding log, before the right bend, could only add to the difficulty, as the paddler running that tight bouldery slalom course, would have to stay on the left side of the right bend channel, having space for just one perfect boof stroke, at the small corner drop.

Nikos Mavris at the bend drop of the first rapid Photo by P. Georgilas.

The rapid is visible from the road above, at Tridendro crossing, but can only be judged by a closer look from the river right bank. It finally proved to be a sweet rapid to run and everyone had a nice ride! The two smaller drops following the bend, until after the big boulder, were much stickier than it looked but at the end we all gathered safe and happy below.

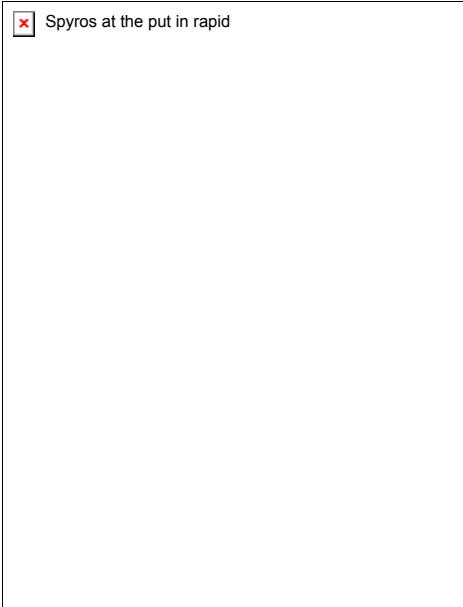
The gorge opens and soon we reach the first of Agrafiotis highlights, a picturesque 4m waterfall dropping in on the right. Photo on the right Time to stop for a quick snack, just above Blo footbridge and back to the river, in a faster but troubleless paddling.



Mornos. Alfredos approaching the Log rapid.



Spyros at the put in rapid



In a while we reach another bridge, at Epiniana crossing, where a few cars have stopped to enjoy the river. People waving cameras were asking to make some kind of trick for the photo. This was a little embarrassing, but at the end we were glad to realise that even if we couldn't see it for most of our run, we were still close to civilization. One by one we passed the somehow tricky rapid after the bridge. A staircase style stretch, confined by a tree branch on the left, demanded speed driving, that really aroused the crowd on the bridge. Soon we were once again lost into the famous remoteness of the greek riverland.

Paddling through relative wider riverbed now, the whitewater is playful, let us try a few rock splats and spins and lots of other mystery moves. We travel fast, but the weather is getting worse and the river clouds start coming down behind us.

In a while we see the road on the left, close to the water level. A bouldery stretch is forming a significant rapid we should better check out from the shore. A wire cable that was formerly used to carry over, people and goods into a basket and a wire bridge, mark the spot of this 2nd rapid.

Dimitris Konstantinidis (Konidis) running the 2nd rapid Photo by N.Mavris.

Landmark setting is essential for route finding in this 50m long rapid. A few mast make strokes are essential to avoid stacking against one of those big boulders, like Mary found out - the wet way! Fortunately we had a good (150m) break of calm water, where Alfredos and Dimitris managed to rescue swimming people and travelling equipment.

Around the next left bend, larks the 3rd rapid. The wide riverbed tightens up to a 4m wide rapid through two powerful holes. As we soon found out, safety boaters were once more valuable at this rapid.

Konidis at the 3rd rapid Photo by N.Mavris.

After this section the river keep running in a class II to class III stretches, while the walls around us get taller and taller. Eddy by eddy, we try to make a progress speeding up our rhythm. After a right bend, we catch a small eddy and get out to scout, as the river seems to disappear at the next left turn, 20m later. A big red boulder seem to be in the way, but there is a passage around it on the right, where the gorge wall is steep, tall and undercut by the water pushing on.

Pavlos Georgilas approaches the "blind" entrance of the great gorge. Photo by N.Mavris.

It normally is an easy S-turn, but you can't help it raising your head to see that remarkable sight! Water slides fall from above, the gorge wall takes all the most peculiar shapes, the rock painted dark red as the storm following us, dramatizes the colors, until they once again change with the rainbows.

At least once, while gazing up, I was pushed by the tricky current, to the undercut wall, so gaze up but keep a safe distance.

The gorge goes on for a few kms. Our speed is fast and there are no difficult spots, so we have the chance to enjoy this magnificent gorge for a few more minutes. We could have stayed more, but the storm is now closer behind us. I can see the rain cloud getting low into the gorge, reducing its distance from us. It smells like rain!

Time to speed up now. The take out bridge shows up after a few minutes. I remind the rest that we should keep to the left, to take the small channel leading to the take out trail before the bridge.

Taking the right channel, means that you have to avoid the traction to the right concreted wall, run over a small but possibly dangerous weir and have a much more difficult climb up to the bridge.

 Nikos in the first class IV rapid



 Dimitris in the 2nd rapid

 ...and in the 3rd

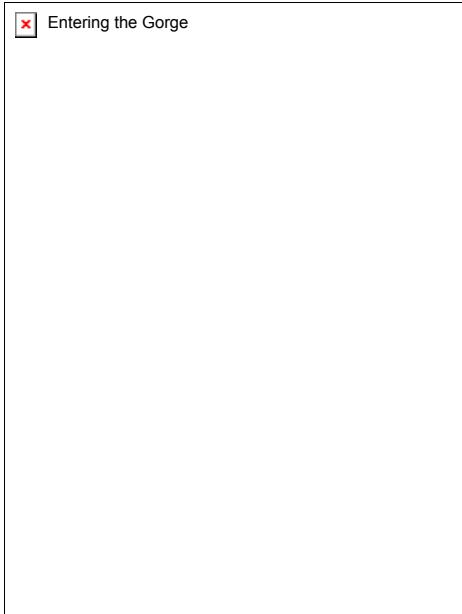
As we reach the take out eddy, the first drops start to fall, followed by the full storm in a few seconds. Taking shelter under the bridge holds a surprise for us, in the face of a group of Austrian paddlers waiting for their shuttle too.

It came up to be one of the groups that also knew about our team and the site, so this little meeting warmed up the cold weather for us!

After the storm, we had a chance to chat for a minute and we were more glad to find out that our new friends were not new to our rivers. One of the paddlers, was in the team of Hans Metz, the pioneer of the Greek rivers.

Unfortunately, the one and a half hour shuttle in front of us, left no more time for conversation. I hope to see you next year too, my friends.

The storm had muddied the dirt road close to the put in, so we were glad that we had left one of the two 4x4 before that part. But surprise-surprise! Pavlos realised that his station wagon's Ultra Grip tyres, were good in rainy conditions only if those conditions applied to asphalt roads. The two flat tyres suggested that the same wouldn't apply to rocky dirt roads of Agrafa. Thanks of my fully equipped Terios, an air compressor and a emergency service spray, Pavlos wouldn't have to spend the night by the river, waiting for an angel from above to bring another tyre. Because we are no angels... we are mere paddlers working tomorrow!



All photos copyright N.Mavris

More pages for Agrafiotis river:

[Roadbook - River Map & GPS marks](#)

Agrafiotis Roadbook

From Karpenissi we headed north, via Bagasaki mountain passs, towards Krentis, where the asphalt road ends at the entrance of Agrafiotis valley. We continued the dirt road on the river left to reach Varvariada. Then it was maps and GPS time, as the roads and road signs were not as coordinated or helpful.

We finally found the route, crossing Agrafiotis (river left to right) from the bridge near Varvariada (GPS , where an old sign marked the way to Agrafa (while the road river left goes to Marathos) and continue upstream, passing another river bridge access to find a proper take out later, at Karvasaras.

A tributary (Breaziotiko) drops in from the right, in a tight 3m waterfall. See Photo

The new concrete bridge, crosses the river to the left and the road continues through the village to the north, reaching Agrafa-Epiniana crossing in 8kms, another bridge, over another tributary, half a km later and a fourth bridge 2.5km further, over Agrafiotis this time, at Epiniana-Tridendro crossing.

This is the second possible put in, in low water cases. The dirt road continues along the river right, passing the beautiful wooden footbridge of Blo and climbs further up to the gorge rim, where we can admire "The Gates" of the second gorge, and then Tridendro-Trovato crossing.

We take the downhill to Trovato and in 2kms another tributary flows in from the right, through a tight canyon, which deserves a scouting on its own. This part of the dirt road is possibly difficult to pass after rain, as the clay soil can become quite muddy.

We decided to leave one of the two jeeps at the beginning of the difficult part, in case more rain would fall during our run (How prophetic! A foul scale storm, following us closely as we paddling the last gorge, caught us just at the take out.)

After the sign marking the crossing to Trovato, the road approaches the river at the exit of a small canyon and an old stone arced bridge stands beside the new one. This is the normal put in of Agrafiotis. Another, more difficult part upstream, the cave section, is waiting for the lucky ones to find higher flows here.

Access to Agrafiotis valley: Karpenissi-Krentis

0km. Karpenissi

8km. Mpagasaki pass

Kalesmeno - New Viniani - Kerasochori (30km)

34km. Krentis

36km. Leave asphalt road. Take the dirt road on the right.

Driving along Agrafiotis - Dirt road:

0.0km (=36km) Taking the dirt road down to the river.

8.0km. Varvariada bridge. (Possible take out - 21 river kms) Cross the river and take the road to the north (upstream) towards Agrafa.

Kostantina - 11.5km. Tributary bridge (GPS 39o 04.821N, 21o 35.714E) - Kotsitsa - Monastiraki crossing (GPS 39o 04.951N, 21o 35.795E)

13.0km. Karvasaras bridge. (GPS 39o 05.439N, 21o 36.113E) Classic take out. Mpreaziotiko (or Mirisiotiko) tributary. The road climbs up to the river left mountain, over the great gorge.

From Take out to Put in: 17km Dirt road (difficult in certain parts).

0.0km. (=13.0km) Karvasaras bridge.

4.5km. Profitis Elias crossing. Keep straight.

8.0km. Agrafa crossing. (GPS 39o 07.562N, 21o 37.689E) Take the left to Epiniana, Trovato.

8.5km. Tributary bridge. (GPS 39o 07.837N, 21o 37.575E) Possible

All photos copyright N.Mavris



☒ Breaziotiko confluence



river access.

11.0km. Epiniana crossing bridge. (GPS 39° 09.114N, 21° 37.216E)

Possible river access.

11.4km. Blo footbridge. (GPS 39° 09.263N, 21° 37.337E) E4

european mountain trail.

12.7km. Right crossing to the river. Papapostoli.

147.5km. Tridendro crossing. (GPS 39° 10.599N, 21° 37.708E) Keep straight towards Trovato.

15.5km. Right crossing to the river. Glavana.

16.5km. Tributary bridge.

17.0km. Trovato crossing. (GPS 39° 11.670N, 21° 37.276E) Keep straight to the put in.

17.2km. Put in bridge. (GPS 39° 11.756N, 21° 37.304E) Turkish bridge. Road continues to Vragiana.

 Agrafiotis. Blo bridge

More pages about Agrafiotis:

[Trip report](#), [River map & GPS marks](#)



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 Agrafiotis. Blo bridge

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[Trip report](#), [River map](#) & [GPS marks](#)



Acheron River Data

One of the most beautiful rivers of Greece. Remarkable nature, which can only be fully appreciated on a sunny day. Small rapids, not very difficult, make this river enjoyable, for paddlers of any skill.

Name: Acheron or Acherontas

Area: Thesprotia– Paramythia mountains

Closest towns: Kanalaki, Parga, Filippiada, Preveza, Arta

Facilities: Nearest Gas station and Taxi service at Kanalaki. Nearest hospital at Arta and Ioannina.

Put in: The bridge between Serziana and Vrysoula

Take out: Many possible take out points near cafes or taverns after the gorge exit. Alternately the bridge of Glyki, 2kms after the gorge.

Length: 9 kms – 8 of them into the gorge.

Difficulty: At medium level: 3 (4) 1X.

Type: River – Creek. For most of its length the gorge is remote, with sheer rocky walls.

Volume: Low

Description - Rapids: Several class 3 stretches with a few class 4 rapids

Km 1+500: Easy stretches class 1-2 in open grounds, until we enter the famous "Gates of Ades" the mythical god of the underworld. The entrance is very tight - less than 2m wide for a 20m length – watch out your paddles. If you choose to miss the mystery tour, you may climb over and look what is waiting for you around the corner.

Kμ 2+500: Continue into a wider and taller gorge, in careless class 2 stretches for almost 1km, until a right tributary and the first class 3 ledge rapid, easily scouted from inside the boat.

Km 4+000: After 1.5km of class 2 to class 3 stretches, we reach the first class 4 rapid: A three step line, passing close to an undercut flat rock, that hosts a small jammed log. There is probably enough space to squeeze-pass to the right, or even portage. A class 4 (or a class 4-, 3, b in Addison scale).

Right after that, one must follow a technical steep S type line, between boulders, trying to avoid sucked in the left gap, in a somehow uncomfortable place. (Addison: 4-, 2, b). A recovery lake fortunately helps rejoining stuff and equipment after any missed lines.

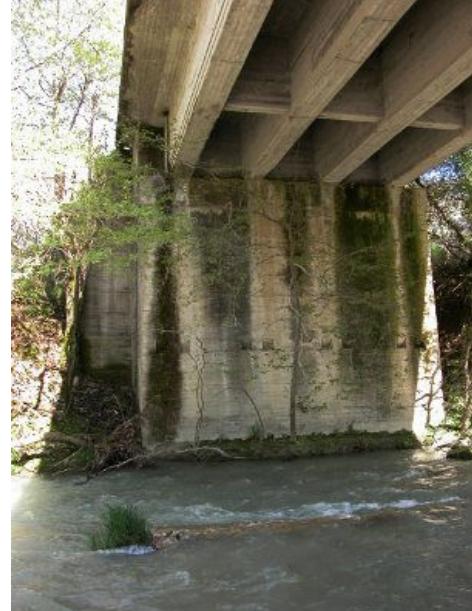
For two more kms we paddle relaxing class 1 -2 stretches, gazing at the beautiful scenery. This is the part where we wish to have some more water under our boat.

Km 7+300: We suddenly see the Suli canyon, a strong right tributary of Acheron. The remnants of an old stoned watermill stand as a guard, to remind us the danger that lays around the corner. The river turns left and 100m further we see the gigantic white-gray limestone boulders that make a dangerous trap for the careless ones. Before that, one may squeeze a short class 4 rap – formerly the "two way cave drop" to a 15 m recovery pull before the X-point.

Km 7+400. The X-point, is a 20m labyrinth channel through gigantic boulders into siphons and log jams, that one must portage. We may also pass an unhealthy looking drop, right after the siphon and seal launch back into Acheron's green waters.

Not far from here, into the steep sided canyon, a serious 1m drop, lays hidden behind a corner, setting traps in big water with a powerful stopper. (4-, 2, b)

Km 8+000 to 9+000 Water springs off the canyon walls everywhere you look. Approaching the two headwaters, we have the chance to have a last gaze at the marvelous gorge as we slowly paddle out. A chance to stop for an ice coffee – frappe in greek – at one of the coffee shops or taverns next to the river.



Above: Serziana bridge at low level. Notice the concrete base in the middle that is just visible.
Below: Ades Gates. The entrance of Acheron gorge.



Scouting-Safeguarding-Portaging: All rapids except perhaps the last one can be scouted from the bank. Setting safety or portaging is also possible for all rapids.

Danger: Immediately after the right tributary we must be prepared for the unrunnable 20m stretch, at km 7+400. It is very dangerous, especially in high water and should be portaged by the left bank.

Access: There are asphalt roads connecting put in and take out. Good dirt roads also access the river along the 2kms between the gorge exit and Glyki bridge. There is no known road for intermediate access. A path, starting at a parking place, near a small tunnel, close to Glyki, leads to the footbridge over the unrunnable stretch.

Paddling time: 3 to 5 hours, for a group of 4.

Suggested flow level: Medium (3 – 6 m3/sec). We paddled the gorge at lower level (1.5 – 2 m3/sec), having to deal with a lot of rocks getting in the way, making lines unnecessary stressful. In high levels (>8 m3/sec) river becomes much pushier in places, turning the difficult rapids of the 4th km to hard class 4 or even 5.

Gauge info: There is no gauge. At the put in bridge, if the water flow is restricted only to the right side, then it is low level. In our last visit, a concrete base between the central pillar and the right foot of the bridge, was mostly covered by the water. We figured there a flow approx. 2m3/sec.

River Highlights: "Ades gates" The tight entrance to the mythical world of the deads is just 1.5km from the put in. The ones that don't afraid the spell may enter, to discover a magical place.. Vertical white walls, a rich variety of colourful flora, make this gorge one of the most beautiful places in the Greek rivers. Before the end, water springs all around us and the river gets colder. Approaching the underworld perhaps?

Shuttle: From Arta, we head towards Preveza and at Louros village we turn right to Ano Kotsanopoulo. From there, to reach take out, we turn left towards Ano Rachi, Despotiko and before Kanalaki, right again to Glyki. From the bridge we may follow the good dirt road, next to the river and choose our take out, or camping place. To the put in, we go back towards Ano Kotsanopoulo and turn left to reach another left crossing, before Vrysoula, towards Serziana, where we reach the bridge over Acheron. The drive is approx. 40kms and lasts 40min. Approaching from Ioannina, we turn right at Derviziana exit. From Egoumenitsa, we follow the road south, towards Margariti and Kanalaki.

Other highlights: Zaloggo, is a monument on top of a cliff, in remembrance of the brave greek women, who chose to fall to their death, than to let themselves to the Turkish conquerors, after the fall of heroic Souli. Nekromanteio is another place that has to do with the myth of Acheron was the river that lead to the land of the dead.

For the early summer visitors, or the shuttle bunnies, Parga is a small and beautiful seaside town that also worth a visit.

Map: Road Editions 1:250.000 Epirus - Thessalia

GPS WGS84: Put in bridge at Serziana: 39o 17.102 N, 20o 41.398 E Km. 0+000

Ades Gates – Gorge entrance: 39o 17.250 N, 20o 40.849 E Km. 1+500
Left tributary: 39o 17.725 N, 20o 40.345 E Km. 2+500

1st class 4 Rapid: 39o 18.386 N, 20o 39.668 E Km. 4+000

Right tributary Suli gorge – Mill: 39o 20.018 N, 20o 38.242 E Km. 7+300



Above: An Italian friend at Acheron's first rapid.
Below: The two more difficult rapids at km4.



Above: Konidis at the last drop before the unrunnable stretch. Below: Portaging the X-Point.



X-point (Unrunnable): 39° 19.940 N, 20° 38.235 E Km. 7+400



Seal launch after portaging X-point.

Kallaritikos river. A trip report

June 5th: Kallaritikos.

For those that against all forecasts, traveled to the west, this weekend offered great whitewater paddling. But as the rivers in the area were already in high flow, from the last of the snowmelt, most of us feared that the forecasted stormy weather would be too much.

Heading instead to the east, the possibility to find enough water after the storms, in Mourgani river, sounded much more inviting.

But where are those storms when you need them? It was supposed to rain all night here at Grevena area, but instead the night sky is full of stars and the ground where we set our camp is dry!

The following morning after checking the water level at the put in and confirmed that there was not enough water there, we decided to take our chances against the weather and head west.

Via Kalambaka and Kastania we drove over Pindos range to Chaliki, where Lakmos was also running very low and finally reached Kallarites and the upper section of Kallaritikos river.

I can never get enough of watching this steep creek. (See photo on the right) This must be one of the hardest runs in Greece, with only one descent as far as I know, back in 2000.

The weather was cloudy but not so heavy and we only had a light rain from time to time. Far from the forecasted stormy weekend. Now the sun was shining again. We reached the bridge of Kallaritikos, after the village of Christi, the put in for the usual Kallaritikos run. The level seemed to be perfect, 25cm at the stone bridge gauge, so we decided to give it a try.

It took us almost an hour to complete the shuttle process, with Yiannis driving to the take out of the combined Kallaritikos and Arachthos run, at Plaka. When he returned to Kallaritikos put in by taxi, Konidis and me had already dragged our boats along a muddy dirt road, to finally put in 400m above the usual put in. We jumbed in below a class IV rapid, a tight S turning ramp with a boulder barrier at the bottom. The next 400m was a fun, class III to III+ bouldery slalom course, much like the first 100m of the normal run.

In 15 minutes we reached the bridge, where Yiannis was waiting. We heared the sound of thunder, not very far away and we noticed that the clouds above us had that raincloud look and smell. We quickly moved on to stop and check the class IV- rapid at the entrance of the canyon. I jumbed out for a quick glance, to decide the best line and Yiannis and Dimitris followed my hand signals and quickly they nailed a perfect line.

I was very glad with our team's progress, especially with Yiannis who's almost a year absent from paddling trips, due to a physical problem, now paddles class III+ rapids with ease, ready for more technical rapids. Those were my thoughts while getting back into my boat, when I realised that my peli case with camera and GPS were not there...Flashback...

I'm getting out to check the big boulder rapid at the upper part, taking the camera along to shoot Dimitris. It looks to be quite easy and it starts raining so I go back to my boat. That's it. It has to be left there! 500m upstream, but the access is possible so I have to return.

I quickly climb up the tiny path out the entrance canyon to reach the bridge. The rain that had started to fall more powerful the last 5 minutes, has already flooded the asphalt road and dropping off the bridge forming a small waterfall. As fast as I can drag myself - I will definitely have to include loosing a few kilos in my TDS (to do soon) list - I crossed the already muddy fields, over the river bank. I soon reached the spot to see the bright orange peli case still standing there



Up: The bridge over Lakmos at Chaliki and Upper Kallaritikos view from up the road. Below: Shuttle to Christoi

beside my eddy. I was relieved as I had realised that the river was rising fast and I started taking side glances for anything orange colored flowing.

On the way back, the small side streams I crossed 10 minutes before, they are now full of grey silty mud and the river starts losing its bright blue color. Reaching the bridge I notice two big waterfalls falling from the two side walls and the guys are scrambling up the goatpath with the boats. The gauge has already gained 20cm and rising. The river has speed up and flooding the gorge entrance. The rain keeps falling and the thunders keep roaring. We have no chance than to abort.

We managed to find a way back to our car after standing in the rain for three hours. The traditional greek hospitality didn't applied to our case, as the local people wouldn't miss their fishing plans, to give us a lift. At the end we managed to hire a truck to load people and boats to Plaka, where we camped for the night.

The next morning, I happily found myself on the back of the same truck, hopping around at every bump of the road, while the others had the "pleasure" of listening for 40 minutes the stories of the truck driver, from his earlier days as a taxi driver in Athens.

The river was still high (at 40cm) but it was clear and the sun was shining. A few clouds on the north could probably bring down some rain, but for the moment, there were too far to worry us. We jumbed in, with the truck driver watching us quite anxious, as Yiannis demonstrated his successful roll at the first rapid. "I thought that was the end" he said to Dimitris, holding his head in dispair "He would be drown for sure!"

In 20 minutes we had left the first canyon behind us. With plenty of class III to IV- rapids, this 300m part is a great ride, before the gorge ends and the river continue its trip through an expanded river bed, in an easier but still rewarding wave train winding route.

After half an hour, we saw a road coming down on the left and at the next turn we reached the big concrete bridge to Michalitsi. A quick inspection for a clean passage and we passed the small weir underneath. 100m further an older, almost destroyed wire bridge, stands as a guard to the main gorge. A gauge at the foot of the stone pillar shows 20cm.

The walls get higher and come closer. Eddy by eddy, boat scouting the easy stretches (class II-III) and admire the natural beauty of this white limestone canyon. There are no easy eddy out so we keep our distance as we know that there is a tricky rapid somewhere close. In a while we spot a wire 4m above. Remnant of an old bridge? I can't really say. A rusty pipe is just over the water on the left (So be careful in higher levels!)

A pyramid like boulder stands in the middle of an horizon line, 50m further. This is the infamous Irene's stopper, where our friend Irene was forced to do almost 7 rolls in a raw, before the hole would give her a break. The right leaning ramp at the base of the pyramid rock and the vertical wall 2m to the right, form this sticky hole that should be negotiated with sheer power and a right to left speed-driving of the boat.

The problem with this spot is that in certain levels, there is not an easy way out for bank support and in a case of swimming, this one will not be a short one! No worries though as there are no dangerous spots until the next gravel bank on the left, where paddlers and boats may happily join eachother.

We keep moving through easier waters and great vistas, until the gorge seem to end and all of a sudden we join the much bigger river Arachthos. The speed gets higher the rapids get poushier and soon we find ourselves negotiating big water.

Before reaching the next take out, 1.5km later, at the twin bridge of the road leading to Ambelochori, we have at least one rapid to be cautious



for. Neni's ribs, is the rapid where the vicious pharmacist Ziakas landed his boat on Neni, while she was trying to roll her way out the big hole. A small white boulder on the right side of this 1m ledge, might be out of the water in lower levels to point the boof spot. If not stay on the right and make the must-boof-stroke to the eddy on the right.

Hidden Falls, the Rock Tower and the great Arachthos gorge with the water showers and the small caves and finally the historic single arched stone bridge of Plaka, are the highlights of this part of Arachthos, waiting in front of us. Blessed with sunny weather, blue skies and friendly white clouds, we had the chance to enjoy all these highlights and reach our take out at Plaka pretty soon.

You may read more about this splendiferous section, in Arachthos trip report.



Up: Approaching the footbridge of Michalitsi. Below: Eirini's stopper and the 2nd gorge.



Arachthos River Data

Section 1 (Driskos - Charokopi):

Length: 10km.

Put in: at the road bridge connecting Driskos and Krapsi.

Take out: at the bridge connecting Charokopi and Petrovouni - Put in for section 2.

Character: 5kms of open river and then 3kms into a remote gorge.

Medium to big volume river

General Difficulty: Grade II - III in medium flow, III (IV) in high flow.

Shuttle: From Krapsi to Anatoliki, Palaiochori, Potitsika to Petrovouni.

Gauge info: There is a gaugemeter after the take out bridge of Charokopi, on river right bank. 20cm under the top, marks the high flow upper limit. 120cm from the top, marks the lower paddling limit.

Maps: Anavasi publications, Tzoumerka - Peristeri - Kakarditsa, 1:50.000. Go to our [Arachthos river maps](#).

GPS marks: Take out bridge: 39° 34.573N, 20° 58.601E

Section 2 (Charokopi – Ambelochori):

usually run together with section 3.

Length: 9.0km

Put in: the bridge connecting Charokopi and Petrovouni. See below for GPS marks.

Take out: the bridge connecting Kostitsi and Ambelohori. See below for GPS marks.

Character: Big volume river, flowing through remote gorges. Boulder gardens, walls, wavetrains.

General Difficulty: Grade III (IV-) in medium flow. III, IV in high flow.

Time: 2-3 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Km by km description:

0.2km Main rapid (IV). 150m of class III boulder garden, lead to an eddy below a big boulder at river left, where the rapid gets pushier, featuring Alfredo's siphon (see Caution notes below). The usual line is to the left side. (see picture)

0.3km 2nd rapid (III). 1.5m ledge, usually pass 1-2m left of the boulder.

0.5km 3rd rapid - boulder garden. Possible run far left (III) or diagonally from left to right (IV). Be carefull to avoid the undercut wall to the end of the second rooting (Haris's wall - where Haris had a close encounter with a quite mean cave)

5.8km 4th rapid (III+)

6.3km steel wire bridge

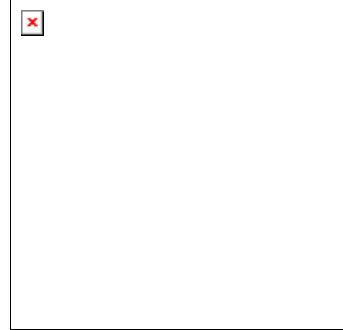
7.0km Kalaritikos river confluence

7.3km 6th rapid (III+) 1m strong pourover, run left of the boulder. (Neni's ribs)

9.0km Take out bridge of Poulitsa (Ambelochori)

Shuttle: Taking the west (river right) road, from Harokopi to Koutsolio, Serviana, Aetochori, Lazaina, to Kostitsi and down to the river bridge (take out of section 2 - put in of section 3)

Caution: The class IV first significant rapid, involves a siphon rock formation, named after our Team member Alfredos, who had concluded the first witnessed swim through it, in spring of 2002! The siphon is at river left, just before the final ledge. Bypass from the left. Portage is also possible by the left bank. Very dangerous in medium



Top: Section 2. First and second rapid.
Below: Alfredo's siphon



flows...(see picture).

Attention should be always present concerning a propable dam release. Piges Aoou Dam (Aoos fountains) release into Metsovitikos river, a northwest tributary of Arachthos, at Chrysovitsa area.

Gauge info: Put in bridge. See section 1

Maps: See section 1

GPS (WGS84) marks:

Put in bridge: 39o 34.573N, 20o 58.601E

Rapid before Kalaritikos confluence: 39o 31.994N, 20o 59.750E

Take out bridge: 39o 30.723N, 21o 00.443E

Section 3: (Ambelochori – Plaka)

usually run together with section 2.

Length: 9km

Put in: the bridge connecting Kostitsi and Ambelohori.

Take out: the bridge at Plaka. See below for GPS marks.

Character: Big volume river, flowing through remote gorges. Boulder gardens, walls, wavetrains.

General Difficulty: Grade III (IV) in medium flow, III in high flow.

Time: 1-2 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Km by km description:

0.9km undercut wall on the right - water showers

1.3km We see power cables coming down the right slope of the mountain, to a concrete pumping house. 100m walk from there there is a highlight, the hidden falls

4.7km The rock tower

5.0km The Room of Doom III(IV) A name given by the authors of Greco guidebook, for a feature that is formed at certain (medium)flow levels. The elevated gravel riverbed on the left, drives all the flow against the wall to the right, forming a whirlpool like corridor, that put every paddlers braces and rolls to test. This spot is situated between the great monolithic tower, approx. 500m before the entrance of the great gorge (see GPS marks list below)

5.4km Two rocks rapid (III)

5.5km Entrance of the great Arahhos gorge (1,7km). Totally unaccesible walls, caves, magnifiscent watershowers 200m before the end. A spectacular place with no difficulties whatsoever.

7.2km End of gorge

8.6km The stone bridge of Plaka. The larger single arced bridge in Greece (see picture)

9.0km The iron (Bailey type) bridge of Plaka. Our take out is at river left, before the bridge or after it, next to Via Natura rafting base.

Shuttle: Taking the west (river right) road, from Kostitsi to Fortosi and Kaletzi, passing from a tight cliff pass, down to the river bridge at Plaka (30min)

Caution: The Room of Doom at certain levels

Gauge info:

Maps: See section 1

GPS (WGS84) marks:

Put in bridge: 39o 30.723N, 21o 00.443E

Room of Doom: 39o 29.018N, 21o 00.503E

Take out bridge: 39o 30.723N, 21o 00.443E

Section 4: (Plaka – Skoupa)



Up: Eddy out to visit the "Hidden Falls" and the "Tower". Below: "Two rocks" rapid, before entering the gorge



Length: 13km

Put in: at the bridge of Plaka.

Take out: the bridge of Tzaris, at Kardabo, on the road connecting Skoupa and Ramia.

Character: Wide, big volume river, flowing through open gorges.

Ledges, walls, wavetrains, huge holes. Technical lines III and IV and great playholes, are easy to find but can also bypassed.

General Difficulty: Grade II, III in medium flow, III (opt.IV) in high flow.

Time: 2-4 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Km by km description:

0.5km 1st rapid II (opt.III, IV). A boulder at river left, forms a powerful eddy line, just at the confluence with Sgara tributary on the left.

7.5km A waterfall on river left, visible from far away, marks a significant rapid III (IV), in a right bend, where the vertical left wall forms a few tricky steps, easily avoided from the right.

9.0km possible take out (not visible from the river) by dirt road to Dafnoti (on the right) or Makrykambos (on the left)

13km Take out at the new bridge of Tzaris, or 100m later, on the right, at a public recreational place, where there are a basketball field, a few benches and a water fountain.

Shuttle: Taking the west (river right) uphill road, from Plaka towards Arta, we reach Skoupa in 18km/25min. From there we turn left towards Kardabo and Tzaris bridge in 5.7km/25min. Another option is to take the eastern way, from Plaka to Sgara, Mikrospilia, Ramia and from there down to Tzaris bridge.

Caution:

Gauge info: Take out bridge: When the water reaches 9.5 lines from the top, on the central column of the take out bridge, then the river is in medium to high flow III (IV)

Maps: See section 1

GPS (WGS84) marks:

Put in bridge: 39o 27.271N, 21o 02.003E

Take out bridge: 39o 22.119N, 21o 03.143E



Up: Another highlight in Arachthos gorge - section 3. Below: Approaching take out at Plaka. Last photo: Section 4 view.





[More pages of Arachthos: History, Geography & Highlights, Roadbook, Maps](#)

Arachthos river. History, Geography, Highlights

History

Arahthos river, during the 4 centuries of Turkish occupation of Greece (1453-1821), for certain periods, had become the natural border between the two nations. The stone bridges of Plaka and Arta, were the official gateways and custom authorities were based beside Arta's bridge.

Bridge of Arta (picture on the right), is also the most famous among old stone bridges, because of a traditional history about its building. Legend says, that the bridge, for mysterious reason, could not stand. 40 builders with 80 helpers, were building the bridge during the day and in the night, it would always collapse. They only managed to finish it, by sacrificing head worker's beautiful wife, building her alive into the main foot of the bridge. They asked her, to go down inside, to reach her husband's watch, he accidentally dropped inside and was very unhappy about it. When she went down, the workers started to build the opening and trapped her inside. The bridge stood still that night and still stands until our days.

 Arta bridge

Some geography

Arahthos river in western Greece, flows from North to South. It drains a very wide area, in south Pindos, to reach sea, at the town of Arta. Its main tributaries are Metsovitikos in the north east, flowing from Metsovo range, joining Arahthos after Baldouma bridge and Kalaritikos in the east, joining before Ampelohori bridge.

Metsovitikos river, occasionally, take water from Aoos reservoir, through a diversion tunnel take out, at Mikro Peristeri. There are not standard or scheduled dam releases, officially reported, so we should always take into account, a sudden rise of the flow in Arahthos, caused by a dam release, far away in Aoos basin.

Many smaller tributaries add their flows to form a wide, big volume river, running through series of remote gorges, offering only a few access points, like the bridge near Krapsi (section 1), the bridge near Harokopi (section 2), the bridge near Ampelohori (section 3), the bridge of Plaka (section 4) and the bridge of Tzaris at Kardabo, near Skoupa (take out of section 4). After that point, the river flattens a lot, approaching the dam reservoir at Rodavgi.

Another dam is designed in Agios Nikolaos, at section 4.

 Plaka bridge

 Kallarites village

 Kipinas monastery

Highlights of the area

Local sightseeings are the villages of Kalarites and Sirako, two of the most beautiful villages in Tzoumerka range, with characteristic architecture.

Kipinas monastery, a very small chappel, firmly nested into the rocks, 20m over the road. Notice the underground river in the foot of the rocky wall.

Kataraktis and Matsouki villages are also known of their big waterfalls. Kataraktis especially, is a must visit during the spring.

Kataraktis

Roadbook

Access for Arahthos and Kalaritikos rivers area

Arahthos river can be accessed from the cities of Arta, Ioannina or Metsovo.

From west, via Ioannina, to Driskos (for section 1), Harokopi (sect.2), Kostitsi (sect.3), Plaka (sect.4) and Skoupa (sect.4 take out)

From the south, via Arta, Rodavgi, to the same places like above.

From northeast, via Trikala, Kalampaka, Metsovo to Baldouma (section 1), or through the mountain pass, from Chaliki to Kalarites, and then to Petrovouni (sect. 2), Ampelohori (sect. 3) and Plaka (sect. 4)

This last access, presently follows roadworks, tunnels (Egnatia odos highway construction*), not controlled high altitude passes (between Chaliki and Kalarites) and dirtroads, with poor direction signs, so it is not recommended, unless you have the proper vehicle (4x4) and you wouldn't say no to some more adventure (running Lakmos river on the way for example). In that case you may ask information in the snow-plough station at Katara pass before Metsovo.

A major highway is being constructed the last years, connecting the port of Egoumenitsa in the west with Thessaloniki and the turkish border in the east, passing from Ioannina, Metsovo and Grevena areas. Parts of Egnatia Odos, have unofficially given to circulation, so it is possible to avoid Katara pass, by following the green Egnatia Odos signs, from Panagia junction to Anilio.

Another secondary access from south east, is the one via Trikala, Pyli, Mesohora, Vourgareli, Ramia. This scenario also involves roadworks and high altitude passes, like Chaliki-Kalarites pass, but is monitored and open during the winter.

Access 1 from Arta

Leaving Arta towards Ioannina, after the old bridge, we turn right towards Rodavgi (if arriving from Patra, it is possible to take the new (soon to be delivered to public) detour at the entrance of the city, before Pournari dam) 13km/13min later, turn right towards Rodavgi. Discover Rodavgi

27km/ 30min (from Arta), we reach Skoupa (taking the downhill, 6km to the right is the take out of section 4), continue straight and uphill and at 40km/47min, reach a cross road:

Going straight, you reach Kaletzi and Ioannina. Going right, you descend towards the river and at 45km/50min, you reach Arahthos bridge at Plaka (section 3 take out, section 4 put in - picture on the left).

Before the bridge there is a mini store for supplies and after the bridge, there are two coffee-restaurants, a gas station and a drinking water fountain. Behind the café on the right, there is a steep tight road that leads to the river level, next to the facilities of an outdoor activities company (Via Natura) that runs commercial trips to Arahthos.

The road after the bridge, continues towards Agnanta (7km), Pramanta (10km), or Kataraktis (16km), three larger villages, where you can find a place to sleep. At Kataraktis, there is a big waterfall sightseeing that definitely worth a visit (picture on the left).

To reach the put in for section 3, the bridge between Kostitsi and Ambelohori, from the cross road over Plakas bridge, you take the direction to Ioannina. 13km (from Plaka) you pass the crossing to Kalivia, reach Kalentzi 16km /15min and at the bus station you turn right into the village and follow an uphill road to the north, to reach the village of Fortosi. Turn left, pass the village of Kostitsi and take a downhill exit to the right. Follow the winding downhill road and take a tight right turn to reach in a couple of km the bridge of Ampelohori. The old arc bridge stands next to the new one.

Ampelohori bridge, is also the take out for the second half of lower Kalaritikos river, that drops into Arahthos, 1.5km upstream. The put in for Kalaritikos is the bridge near the village of Christoi

To reach the bridge of Harokopi, put in for river's section 2, from the village square of Kalentzi, you head left, pass two right crossings towards Fortosi (22km from Plaka) and Ambelohori (23km/30min), continue passing the village of Lazaina (24km) and Serviana and turn right towards the village of Koutselio (great tavernes there!) From there the road leads towards Harokopi and eventually to Arahthos bridge, where the old bridge stands retired next to the new one.

From there the road climbs up, passing Petrovouni and Prosilio to reach the bridge of Christoi, the put in for Kalaritikos river standard run (class III-IV). (Next access for this river is the bridge to Michalitsi) Driving further up, we may reach Kalarites and the road over the mountain to Chaliki and Lakmos river, one of the fountains for Acheloos river. Before Kalarites, we pass a small tunnel and another bridge over Upper Kalaritikos, which is much harder - class IV,V,VI (see picture right)

Access 2 from Ioannina

Access from west, the port of Egoumenitsa, is via the major city of Ioannina and Koutselio. From there like in Arta's road book, we may reach Harokopi (section 2), Kostitsi (section 3) or Kaletzi and Plaka or Skoupa (section 4)

Access 3 from the northeast

Through Katara pass and Metsovo, the standard route is one hour's drive to Ioannina, unless you want to try the mountain pass of Baros (photo). From Metsovo, to Anilio and 20kms uphill to Skafida pass, close to 1650m (see GPS mark). We enter Acheloos river fountain area, approaching Chaliki, where the higher tributaries form Aspropotamos (the white river). This higher part of Aspropotamos, from Chaliki to Tripotama, is also known as Lakmos river (4km class III,IV). The river flows next to the road, for 10kms more, until Tripotama, when the river flow multiplies to become fast and white as its name suggest.

Back to the road: From Chaliki, the road continues south, until a crossing 1km before Anthousa, where after 4kms, we take the right (southwest) road to Baros pass (40kms from Metsovo. See GPS mark). At 1900m, this high altitude dirt road, is usually closed until late spring, when shepherds open the road again to reach their summer pens).

From Baros, we choose the right crossing, downhill to Kalarites and Mistras. There is the put in of the very technical Upper kalaritikos river IV,V,VI). From Mistras, we can head west to Prosilio, Petrovouni, to finally reach Arahthos section 2 put in, after 45 (total 85) difficult kms.

Following the south road, from Mistras to Christoi, we reach the standard put in for Kalaritikos river, or continue towards Pramanta, Ktistades and Ambelohori, to reach section's 3 put in.

GPS marks: The following marks are coordinated to ED50 or EURO50 system and not WGS84

Skafida pass: GPS ED50 mark: 39o 42.920N, 21o 11.670E

Baros pass: GPS ED50 mark: 39o 36.960N, 21o 10.460E

Access 4: from southeast:

From Trikala we take the road to Pyli, Stournareika, Vathyrema and Mesohora. A big hydroelectric work, with a dam in Acheloos, is close to operation stage. Passing the various worksites and tunnels, we reach Vourgareli. From there, we either take an up the mountain road to Kypseli, Ramia and Plaka, or if due to snow conditions (the pass over Vourgareli is high and not usually monitored) we continue our way from Vourgareli towards Arta, until the village of Anemorahi, when we turn right towards lower Arahthos.

GPS WGS84 marks:

Ziogas (Tavern at Kastraki) 39o 43.116N, 21o 37.054E

Pyli (traditional bridge) 39o 27.602N, 21o 36.042E - path to Porta Panagia vyzantine church.

Stournareika (last gas station for 50kms) 39o 26.137N, 21o 28.566E

Gropa mountain pass (usually monitored) 39o 25.141N, 21o 28.682E

Mesohora (Acheloos bridge) 39o 28.362N, 21o 18.590E

Scala Scorliga (tunnel) 39o 24.279N, 21o 16.173E

Those two mountain roads, may not be the faster or the safer, but in good weather conditions, offer unforgettable views and worth those extra hours.

More sightseeing:

If you are coming from Thessaly, you should pay a visit to Meteora cliffs, a world known climbing site. If you do, I suggest you stay in Kastraki (passing Kalambaka), eat at Ziogas tavern (GPS mark)and sleep at camping Vrahos.

Maps

Aoos River Data



Section 1 - (Vovousa - Palioseli):

Length: 25 kms.

Put in: 100m after the arced bridge of Vovousa, below a weir. Optional put in a couple of kms later, following a dirt road river right. Suggested in a low flow situation.

Take out: at the bridge below Palioseli - Put in for section 2.

Alternative take out (or put in): below the village of Armata. A difficult dirt road access the river 6kms before Palioseli, but it isn't visible from the river (see GPS mark below)

Character: A wild river, running through high and inaccessible gorges. Medium difficulty boulder gardens and pool drop rapids. In a low water situation, involves a lot of bumping and scrapping.

General Difficulty: Grade III,IV. More difficult in high flow.

Time: 7-10 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Km by km description:

0 - 5km Bonny, easy stretches I -II

5 - 14km: Entering the first gorge, easy stretches class I - III and three significant rapids:

1st class IV rapid (km 7.0 - see GPS mark), a tight 2.5m chutte, followed by a sequence of small ledges (III+)

2nd rapid (III+), a multilevel step followed by a 2m drop into a powerful hole. The river slow down, entering a 15m length very tight but low wall canyon. A picturesque waterslide, right after it, is a photo must.

3rd rapid. A tight 2m drop, needs a technical boof over a protruding rock (class IV)

14km: Gorge opens and a tributary (Koukoumaneris or Distratiotis) flows in from the right.

14 - 18km: River gains speed and we paddle fast the next 4kms (II-III) until our alternative take out - put in point, below Armata village.

18 - 21km: Fast, class II-III stretches until gray, sharp limestone boulders, spreaded into the riverbed by a deep ravine on the right, forms a 100m tricky boulder garden. Inspection is needed (class III-IV)

23km: 1.5km later, a steep and powerful tributary, Mikro Potami, coming from the village of Pades, multiplies the flow. The rapid that forms below this confluence, is a 200m technical slalom, through small and medium sized boulders, drops and squeezes. Inspection is needed to figure out the best route. Be careful Log jam danger! (Class IV)

23 - 25km: Two more kms of fast class II-III stretches and we reach the take out bridge of Palioseli.

Caution: Inspection for log jams, especially at the tributaries confluence.

Shuttle:

Gauge info: There is a gaugemeter at Vovousa bridge. 32cm marks low flow but good to go for this first section. The flow is increased by many tributaries. Class III-IV expected as described in the report above. (Section's 2 gaugemeter, situated at the left bank, 60m before the arced bridge of Konitsa, measured cm) The optimum gauge reading is 40cm at Vovousa bridge, that depending the tributaries addition reach 1.10 - 1.40m at Konitsa gaugemeter.

Maps: Anavasi publications, Zagori, 1:50.000

GPS marks:

Vovousa bridge: 39o 56.217N, 21o 02.939E, 971m

1st rapid (9th km): 39o 59.205N, 21o 02.154E, 867m

Armata alternative access: 40o 01.455N, 20o 57.872E, 746m

Palioseli bridge: 40o 01.395N, 20o 53.322E, 633m



Photos 1,2: Alfredos Zinis in the 1st and Giannis Bourlekas in the 2nd rapid.
Photos by D.Konstantinidis 2003



Photos 3,4: Giannis Bourlekas and Spyros Ziakas in the 3rd rapid (boof).
Photos by D.Konstantinidis 2003

More pages for Aoos:

- Section 2 Palioseli - Konitsa
- Our June 03 Trip Report
- River maps



TEAMadara goes to Aoos

Day One. The trip to Vovousa

We were planning this trip quite a long time. The target date at the end of May had to be postponed twice, for some team members needed to be in Athens, for reasons...?

The date with Aoos was finally settled for 7 and 8 of June, hopefully there would still be sufficient flow in the upper part. The final details were discussed at Konidis' place, over maps, guidebooks and only one cookie that I discovered well hidden in the kitchen. Unfortunately Meropi didn't arrive until late, to treat us and save the reputation of the house hospitality, but we all know why Dimitris had locked every drawer and every cupboard - didn't want us to see the popcorn stock. Ooops!

With fresh information from Giannis Holevas, Antonis Voulgarakis and Nikos Bouloukos, who had run the river the previous week, with Metavasi kayaking school's experts, we settled the paddling hours, the supporting crew and the extra gear that each one of us would cater.

Friday afternoon at 16.30, 5 kayaks and 1 spare, 5 paddles and 4 spares, were racked on 2 jeeps (we left the spare ones back) ready to go. Giannis Bourlekas, Alfredos Zinis and Spiros Ziakas would be the crew in the first jeep (we still don't know what Ziakas promised his wife, to take the jeep). Dimitris Konstantinidis, Nikos Mavris and the support team Stavros Georgopoulos and Giorgos Balgouranidis, would be the crew of the second car.

First stop at Autogrill for freddo and pannini. Second stop at Kalampaka for another freddo and some local "checking". Refueling at Mourgani crossing - sorry, no water there - and heading northwest to north Pindos range.

Konidis said we would go through Anilio tunnels to avoid Katara pass, he didn't admit until the last minute that his mama had already given him some cases to get to the house up there. So after we circled the whole village, avoiding to be seen by any Dimitri's relatives and had to turn down some dinner invitation (I don't know if we were all unhappy with such a risk at the time), we finally left the overloaded suitcases and headed to Metsovo square for some delicious kontosouvlaki.

George proved his real reason to come to this trip, by ordering a second and a third round of kontosouvlaki and potatoes. He returned then to his supporting job, by sleeping all the way to Vovousa. (OK most of it...)

Saturday, June 7th 2003. TEAMadara's trip to Aoos is a fact.

08.00h. Team's paddlers Dimitris Konstantinidis, Giannis Bourlekas, Alfredos Zinis, Spiros Ziakas and Nikos Mavris, are by the river bank at Vovousa, preparing boats and gear. Supporting team, Stavros Georgopoulos and Giorgos Balgouranidis, will drive through Laista, Eliochori and Vrisochori to our final take out for the day, the bridge to Palioseli. They will also try to reach an emergency take out, 6km upstream, following a difficult dirt road, down the village of Armata.

We manage to start paddling at 9.00, in less than favourable flow (32cm at Vovousa bridge gaugemeter), hoping that the incoming streams will soon rise the waterlevel. We ran the first couple of kms, pushing and abusing our equipment, disappointed to see the side streams almost dry. After 5km of easy, WW I and II, the river walls started to rise around, leading us into the first gorge.

At the 9th km, we reach the first rapid, a tight chute (IV-), followed after 50m, by a sequence of small ledges (III+). A perfect introduction to what the river has to offer next.(see photo)

An easy stretch into the canyon to come to the 2nd rapid, a multi level step ending in a pool (III), followed after 100m from a 2m drop in a power hole (III+). Some bracing and we leave it behind us, paddling through a super tight mini gorge. We named this stretch "Frog sex" as we witnessed the "crime" A picturesque water sluice on the left wall, let us relax and loose our mind for a little, taking some shots, but we need to go on.

The third rapid, has an innocent, welcoming entrance, but as Giannis soon realised, you must always respect an horizon line! As all the previous rapids, scouting is possible by river left.



Vovousa. TEAM at the bridge: George, Yiannis, Spyros, Nikos, Alfredos and Stavros



Water, divided at the start by a rock, drops down a deep tight channel, with another submerged rock mixing the lines, creating a pile in the middle of the chute. Pointing slightly left could be the right line. Alfredos and Spiros wouldn't care to prove my theory. On river right there is a nice path around the drop. No problemo!

Spiros, while portaging over the 4m canyon, assured me that water was indeed deep, as he jumbed in, chasing the boat that dropped from his hands, seconds before. Sorry Spiro, cameraman Bourlekas was on duty...and he is ruthless. Pointing left theory, proved correct and the rest of us came through dry. It looked more difficult than it really was (IV)

The gorge starts opening after 14km, where Distratiotis river (or Koukoumaneris, or Mpreaziotiko) flows in from the right. We gain some speed and we cover the next 4km (WW II to III), up to the advanced RV point, in 30min. I'm sure Konidis didn't like the view of his muddy jeep, parked right on the the river bank. As we've been there before, we knew that it would be difficult to get the car back up the steep gravel road.

We rested for a few minutes, describing the river highlights to Stavros, who had only run the lower section, last year and back into the boats. The Freelander finally succeeded to leave the gravel bank and slowly, managed its way up the difficult track. Stavros contacted 10min later in the radio, that they passed the difficult part.

For the next 2.5kms, the river was friendly, allowing us to keep our speed, until we reached a right ravine, putting in. The water was grey-blur, a shine that the thunders we've heard before, were not so far away after all.

The ravine has brought down sharp, grey, limestone rocks, forming a quite tricky boulder garden (III+), for almost 100m. An inspection for the best way through, is mandatory. Portage is also possible on the left.

Somewhere in this complicated stretch, Giannis who was leading at the time, realised that after a roll, he wasn't in his boat anymore. That's a new way to say eject? Nooo...just a NEW MOVE! Fortunately, boat and paddler rejoined at the end of this continuous staccato. A good lesson for Giannis I think.

After 1.5 km, a steep and strong tributary, brakes in from the right. It's called Mikro Potami (Little river) and it originates from the small village of Pades. It's contribution to the flow, is vital, so the next stretch is strong. Inspection on the right. For 200m the river slaloms through small and medium boulders, drops some 1m ledges and squeezes through tight slots. Attention for logs! At this flow, the stretch is a technical WW IV, but it should be harder in faster water.

A yellow Prijon Fly, pinned just after this class IV rapid, joined us, up to the next rapid, where it decided to pin again.

We keep paddling some WW III and then II stretches, covering the last 2km to our take out. The river mosquitos and other bugs, we had met in the put in, must have informed their relatives at the take out, so they all came to greet us.

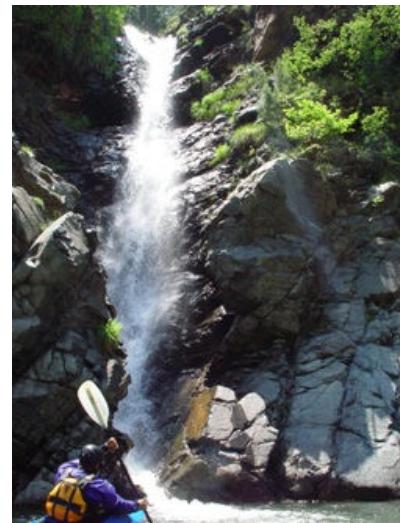
Just in time, the concrete bridge of Palioseli appears, the cars are waiting at the left bank.

9 hours of paddling, but we finally made it. Tonight we'll rest at Palioseli and tomorrow we'll challenge the Famous lower Aoos gorge...

[The story continues >>>](#)



Alfredos Zinis in the first class IV rapid of Aoos upper gorge and Nikos Mavris at the picturesque water slide. Photos by Konidis



Nikos, Yiannis and Spyros in the first drops.
Photos by Konidis





Aoos River Data

Section 2 - (Palioseli - Konitsa):

Length: 15km

Put in: The bridge below Palioseli

Take out: The bridge of Konitsa

Alternative put in - take out:

Below the village of Armata. A difficult dirt road access the river 6kms before Palioseli, but it isn't visible from the river (see GPS mark below)

The small dam 1.5km before Konitsa. A dirt road follows the river at the left shore.

Character: A wild and difficult river, running through high and inaccessible gorges. Medium to high difficulty boulder gardens and pool drop rapids.

General Difficulty: Grade III,IV (V, VI). Difficulty rises in higher flow. A few (1 mandatory)portages

Time: 4-7 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Putting in at Palioseli. D.Konstantinidis in the "gorge keeper" rapid



Photos: 1.D.Konstantinidis in the "gorge keeper" - the entrance rapid of the 2nd gorge. 2.In an eddy at the 2nd Gorge



Photos: 3,4. The 3 gates rapid, immediately after the canyon-like passage. At no 3 we look the powerful hole from downstream. In no 4, we see the 3 exits of the rapid from upstream.



Caution: The great house-sized boulder garden, is full of siphons and safety setting is not possible. Portage is on the left.

The final weir is only run on the right.

Shuttle: Palioseli is connected to Konitsa through a new road, asphalted in most of its 20kms. Shuttle bunnies will be awarded with a magnificent view to Gamila (Tymfi) north face.

Gauge info: There are gaugemeters at the put in and at the take out. We ran section 2, with the gaugemeter, situated at the left bank, 60m before the arched bridge of Konitsa, measuring 137cm. The flow was considered medium (Class III, IV, V) Until recently, the optimum gauge reading at Konitsa, was 1.30 with safety limit a 1.50m gauge. Riverbed changes though have changed those readings.

Maps: Anavasi publications, Zagori, 1:50.000

GPS marks:

Armata alternative access: 40o 01.455N, 20o 57.872E, 746m

Palioseli bridge (put in): 40o 01.395N, 20o 53.322E, 633m

Gorge entrance main rapid: 40o 01.254N, 20o 50.470E, 570m

Our River maps:

Vovousa - Distratiotis
Distratiotis - Palioseli
Palioseli - Drohalo
Drohalo - Konitsa
Shuttle map

More pages about Aoos:

- [Section 1- Vovousa - Palioseli](#)
- Our June 03 trip report



Photos: 5,6. Spyros Ziakas running among huge boulders, at Stomiou gorge and Yannis Bourlekas in the last big hole at the end of the gorge.



Meleoptamos River Data

Name: Meleopotamos or Meleapotamos

North-west tributary of Venetikos. Section 2: Mikrolivado-Spileo

Length: 12kms.

Put in: the bridge connecting Monachiti and Mikrolivado

Take out: 600m before the unrunnable gorge, below the village of Spileo, where a dirt road crosses the river, over a concrete slab.

Character: The river flows through remote woody gorges, rock gardens and series of ledges. Technically demanding but predictable and rewarding in bigger flow.

General Difficulty: Grade III, IV in low to medium flow. A couple of rapids, can be tougher (IV+ to V-) in high flow.

Paddling Time: 4-6 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Road book - see index below*:

- > Put in bridge (Mikrolivado)
- > (4d2)left crossing to Agios Nikolaos and emergency river access
- > (1.5d2)Monachiti village
- > (4.6a3)left crossing to Spileo river access
- > (0.7a3)Venetikos bridge
- > (3.0a3) Trikomo village
- > (2.0a3) left crossing to Paroreio village
- > (5.0a3) Grevena - Mavranaioi junction (higher class road). We turn left towards Ziakas
- > (7.5a3) Ziakas village
- > (1.7a3) right crossing to Avdella. We take the left downhill to Spileo
- > (3.3a3) Spileo village square. We take the road between the two cafes and the next right crossing out of the village.
- > (1.7d2) Wooden kiosk. Stop and enjoy the view! Take the left downhill to Portitsa gorge.
- > (3.5d2) Take out - summer road passage.
- > (1.1d3) Portitsa gorge and arced bridge.

(*)Road book Index: 4d2=4km dirt road class2, 4.6a3= 4.6kms of asphalt road (class 3)

Depending the situation, class 2 dirt roads may be used by normal cars, class 3 dirt roads only by 4x4 or trucks. Class 2 asphalt road, is a 2-lines prefecture road, where class 3 is a smaller, not signed road connecting smaller villages.

Maps: Anavasi publications, Valia Kalda, 1:50.000

Gauge info: There is no gauge meter. If the river passage at the take out is paddlable (10-20cm) and in the put in you can paddle without too much bamping, then the flow is low but ok (WW III-IV). If there is over than 50cm at the river passage then the flow is high, but still ok (WW IV-V). See also the photos of the two bridges available, for high flow indication.

Km by km description: (Based on a high flow run)

2.0km: After a couple of bends, the gorge starts closing, entering the first canyon. The first horizon line appears in front of us. Scouting is possible by a micro eddy on the river right. (III+)

3.7km: A few more ledges and we reach the second rapid. The water has carved a 4m wide corridor, where it drops down a 2.5m steep chatte, with a nasty hole in the left. The rapid continues with three smaller ledges in the next 30m, to end in a calmer stretch. (V-) Portage is possible from the right bank.

4.2km: According to Anavasi detailed map, an emergency access dirt road, over the canyon's rim, can be reached with some scrambling and some scouting. Road leads to the country church of Agios Nikolaos in 1.5km and in 5km more it reaches the village of Monachiti.

4.8km: Achillea's heel* The river turns to the left, droping down a multistep river wide ledge and squeezes through a tight gap to the left. (V-)

Scouting and portage option, is again on the right bank.

(* Name given by the authors of "Greco" guidebook.



Above: Meleopotamos ends in the unrunnable tight canyon of Portitsa. Below: Put in bridge at Mikrolivado and Portitsa bridge (below take out) at high - but paddleable - flow.



6.0km: The Pyramid rapid. An extended (100m), straight forward, eddy-hoping rapid, through ledges and power holes. In the end, a pyramid shaped boulder, creating big reaction waves, urges you to catch an eddy out, before crashing onto it. Staying with the flow, is the key point to this rapid too, as the water winds a left S turn around it. (III+)

6.2km: The river stops its northern course, where a tributary enters from the left, to continue towards the east, for the last (and much easier) section. Still paddling successive WW III stretches.

6.4km: A confusing boulder garden, needs scouting from the left bank, as big boulders and logs jammed in various tricky places, create a quite technical and surely dangerous passage. In higher flow, there is a safer line by river left. Portage is difficult, due to tree branches, but surely possible, on the left.

6.5-12.0km: The river gradually eases to WW III - II, for the last section, letting us enjoy the beautiful landscape. The gorge starts opening and in a while, the village of Spileo appears before us, high on the shoulder of the mountain. In less than 20min we reach our take out point, 1km before the arched bridge of Portitsa gorge.

Shuttle: The normal shuttle from the take out, below Spileo to the put in (Mikrolivado bridge), is almost 40kms, mostly asphalt road, lasting almost 45min, but if the river passage at the take out is low, and the dirt road to Monachiti has not been closed by any rockslides, one may reduce the shuttle by half. See the detailed map

GPS (WGS84)marks:

Rapid 1: 39o 57.645N, 21o 14.229E

The Ramp: 39o 58.069N, 21o 13.987E

Achillea's heel: 39o 58.552N, 21o 13.905E

Pyramid rapid: 39o 59.061N, 21o 13.987E

Boulder Garden: 39o 59.154N, 21o 14.187E

Take out: 40o 00.050N, 21o 16.535E

More pages about Meleopotamos: [Trip report](#) - [River map](#) - [Below Portitsa canyon](#)



Above: Running the first two rapids of Meleopotamos - second is the Ramp (IV). Below: Achilleas heel rapid



Meleopotamos river. Trip Report

28th of February 2004

For one more time, we managed to hassle around for 6 hours, putting in 5 hours before total darkness and still make it through those quite unknown, 12 difficult kms, proving the theory, that the time factor add to the paddlers decisiveness in the river. The most difficult part, is to keep evacuation voices down, until we enter the no-way-out gorge...he he he!

We put in at the bridge of Mikrolivado. The flow was high. We had realised that before, when we had driven to the take out, below the village of Spileo, where the river was flooding the entrance of the unrunnable gorge, at Portitsa's arced bridge.

The day's paddling, seriously endangered by retreating voices, had been saved once more, thanks to the friendly guy who runs the restaurant-cafe at Spileo square. He informed us, that the local rafting company would run the river, which is definitely worth it, when it's in high flow. So, when locals agree with the guidebook, what more, to finally put away our second thoughts...

That's why I always say: "When in doubt, scout. Still in doubt... stop by the local cafe. The locals always know!"

The river was fast and cold. Riding the wave trains all the way from the top to the bottom, it was fun at first, pretty cold later, in a while we let ourselves slide to the side, riding a wave only to avoid another major hole in front of us.

Most of the rapids could be judged from the boat, without the need of safety settings. There were mostly extended class III stretches of big water, where you should boof over some 1m high ledges, sneak around some 1m deep holes, ordinary paddling class III+ to -IV.

At the first really powerful rapid, a rocky crest was pushing the water to drop into a river-left, 20m long corridor. Having eddy out on the left, while Konidis and Pavlos were taking their time, studying the rapid and comparing possible lines, on the right shore, I opted to run first.

They didn't tell me that they had already decided to portage the rapid, until later. What a better chance for them, to test their theoretic lines, make bets, keep my expensive digicam, even my boat, if it would come through the whirlpool... alone! The thumbs up were on, I approached my entrance point...I can't remember if I concluded my boofing stroke, when lights went out. I managed to roll away on my third attempt, before the last ledge.

Pavlos ran to congratulate me, possibly because he didn't have to throw me a rope (meaning that he would be anxious for his aiming - I can't recall the last time I have seen him throwing a rope...), or he had won the bet.

The rapid can be easily portaged on the right, trust me I've seen it...twice!

In a while it was my time to take photographic position. We had reached a sharp left bend, where all the water was dropping an almost river-wide ledge and through a whitewater chaos, ended to squeeze in a small gap between boulders. That rapid has been named Achilles heel, for its L shape possibly, or maybe it has to do something with immortality?

After my last beating, I was pretty sure, not to try that one. But I wouldn't say anything, not yet, as I would really like to have the human element or at least a colorful spot in my photo. (A photographer's mind!)

Dimitris and Pavlos were closely scouting the rapid, studying possible lines and throwing a few glances to my side every other minute. Soon they realised that they wouldn't have a standman available this time. Eventually, Pavlos started walking towards the boats and Dimitris "smiling", told me that we should carry our boats downstream, to be ready for Pavlos, just in case.

Thumbs up again, Pavlos started paddling...but where is he going? The normal line would be far right, around the big boulder and then



diagonally, all the way to the exit. Pavlos instead, paddles straight to the big river wide stopper, he lands inside and starts drifting to the left. Suddenly he went upside down and rocked all the way down. Thankfully the pressure pussed him quickly away, through the exit gap, where eventually he rolled up. What a footage that would be, if only I had my videocamera...

The guide book, referred to at least three rapids around class V in high flow, so Konidis was entitled to try the third. He was not happy with the prospect and he deliberately stayed as far back as he could. I hoped that in time, he would change his mind, as we needed all the footage we could get!

A few rock alleys, some more extended rapids and a big pyramid boulder, appeared in the end of a big pumpy stretch (see photo on the right). The water pile on its face, seemed huge, as I was paddling my way up and down the wave train towards it. I spotted a small eddy just before it and I managed to stop somehow. There was a clean S-line to avoid it, so alarm off and instructions were given to the others waiting further up.

A rock garden, featuring a big black boulder in the middle and a few logs around it, was the next problem to be solved. Fortunately, we managed to bypass this dangerous spot, via a small corridor to the far left.

A few more class III+ rapids and the gorge started to loosen up and in a few minutes we spotted Spileo, high on the left mountain ridge. It was a matter of minutes now, to reach our take out point, the concrete slab, used as a road across the river in the summer, where some wave surfing would be the perfect desert.

More pages of Meleopotamos: [river data](#) - [river map](#) - [Below Portitsa canyon](#)

Above: 1. Portitsa unrunnable canyon entrance.
2. The Ramp from above. 3,4. Running and running away from the Ramp. Below: Achileas heel



Above: In Achillea's heel rapid, Pavlos Georgilas experiencing the power of the river wide stopper, which should normally be avoided.
Below: The pyramid rapid



Left: Scouting the canyon below Spileo, from a safe distance...
The gorge entrance from above

Aliakmonas river data.

Name: Aliakmon or Aliakmonas

Red Gorge section. Agios Ilarionas hydroelectric project

Length: 12kms.

Put in: 500m after Zavordas monastery (Osios Mikanoras monastery) after a steel footridge.

Take out: 200m before Agios Ilarionas hydroelectric project's worksite.

Character: One of the very few "big water" rivers in Greece, slow moving in the flat sections, but very powerful at the 2km rapid section. It is generally remote, moving through high rocky gorges. A river section soon to be flooded (after 2009) by the big dam of Agios Ilarionas.

General Difficulty: Grade I - II, from put in to km 6 and from km 8 to km 12 (Dam). From km 6 to km 8, grade III to IV (V in higher flow). All rapids can be scouted, safeguarded or portaged.

Paddling Time: 3-5 hours, depending the flow and the group number and ability

Access:

Note: With this river presentation we present the greek writing for the names of the villages, as the road signs in certain areas don't offer the english fonts. While in Greece, take the opportunity to learn the few unique greek alphabet letters and understand their pronunciation. Example: Chromio (Χρώμιο)

Red gorge area is a 6-7 hours drive from Athens, through Kalampaka and Grevena, or Kozani. Put in - take out shuttling needs 1 more hour. Take out can be accessed either through the worksite - with special permission from the site manager – or by a dirt road that starts just before the worksite. The worksite can be reached through the asphalt road, connecting Grevena (Γρεβενά) and Kozani (Κοζάνη). From Grevena take the exit to Poros – Knidi, that pass under the new tall highway bridge. Follow the road to Poros (Πόρος) – Knidi (Κνιδή) – Pilori (Πυλωροί) – Turn left towards Kozani (Κοζάνη) - Chromio (Χρώμιο) and right to Agios Ilarionas (Άγιος Ιλαρίωνας) Taking the downhill to the worksite, you reach two dirt roads on the right. The first one leads to Skoutza mines (Μεταλλεία Σκούτζας). This is the one that we will follow afterwards, to reach the put in. The second dirt road, is a little further down the asphalt road and just before the worksite. This road seems to climb up the hill on the right, to reach the bottom of the ravine on the other side, 400m before the deviation tunnel. Even if we have never use it, it seems ok, but as it is seldom used, it may be unpassable from time to time – that is something that you must check yourself.

The dirt road to the put in, looks good and has a sign, leading to Skoutza mines (Μεταλλεία Σκούτζας). 21 kms after, it reaches the asphalt road near Agios Nikanoras (Zavordas monastery). Going left for almost 1km, soon as we see the monastery, we take a small dirt road – difficult to spot – on the left. 1.85 km later, the difficult dirt road, reaches the river bank, just after the steel foot bridge.

To reach Kalampaka or Grevena from there, we pass the dirt road crossing to the take out and continue on the asphalt road, north to Paleochori (Παλαιοχώρι) and from there left to Sarakina (Σαρακήνα) - Paliouria (Παλιουρία) – Anixi (Ανοιξη) towards Kalampaka, or right, via Pontini (Ποντινή) and Pilori (Πυλωροί) towards Grevena.

Shuttle: 25 kms, most of them in good dirt road, takes almost 1 hour to connect put in and take out for the Red Gorge stretch of Aliakmon.

Maps: Anavasi - Grevena 1:125.000

Gauge info: There is no gauge meter in this section, except one in the deviation tunnel entrance, which measures only in higher levels.

Best level: High, for really powerful, big water rapids, but even in lower levels, rapids are technical and there are more and better playspots.

Km by km description: Important note: All the data above and the difficulty



Photo1: Aliakmon dam construction site. Photo 2: A good surfing spot at km 4, was named Elena, after the Greek singer's victory in Eurovision the night before. Photo 3: Spyros Panagopoulos in the first rapid. Photo 4: Spyros at Yo Yo - the big rapid, featuring 'Bouloukos siphon' on the left.



rating is based on our own experience while descending the river on May 22nd 2005, with a flow considered medium. Read our Disclaimer.

For the first 6 kms, we paddle through open gorges, in grade 1-2. A few windings of small steps may offer good playspots, depending the flow. We had good surfing time in one of these spots, on the 4th km. (photo 2)Spyros named it Elena Paparizou, after the Greek singer's victory in Eurovision the night before our Aliakmon run.

Km. 6+300: Entering the "Red Gorge", a series of 20-50m long, staircase or ledge rapids, follow one another, with a 100-200m calm stretch between them. The first one - photo 3 - is after a right hand turn – a smooth but fast 1.5m high ramp, creating a big wave. Grade 3+ Not far away, lays another easy step, running left from some rocks.
Km. 6+900: The second rapid, known as Yo Yo, from Greco guidebook, is a three level boulder garden. Usually run by a staircase on the left – grade 4- – but it can be more demanding on the right. The top flat rock on the center of the stretch is the well known "Bouloukos" siphon – named by the Greek paddler, that was washed through it, right after his Eskimo Kendo was sucked under his feet!

Km. 7+000: 3rd rapid is easier, a wide straight forward staircase rapid, clifed on the left and a bit tricky at the end - grade 3+.

Km. 7+150: 4th rapid, is another boulder garden, known as Nectar of Gods. There are several possible lines, slaloming through pushy holes and between big boulders. On the right, the river hits a big wall, going down a fast carving staircase, onto a big boulder at the end of the ride. Grade 4- to 4+

Km. 7+300: 5th rapid is a 1.5m high, river wide step, steeper and stronger at the mid-right, where the wall cliffs in. Grade 4-

Km. 7+600: The ruined steel bridge. A dubious rapid, dangerous at certain levels, where a few steel rails bridge the left cliff to a boulder in the river's mid-right. At lower to medium levels we may pass underneath the bridge, but in higher levels we have to stay on the right and mandatory safeguard the passage, or portage. This spot has claimed the single lethal whitewater accident in Greek rivers, where a single team of recreational rafters, with a custom – and probably non suitable raft – had broached under the rails.

Km. 8.0 – 12.0: Whitewater has ended. There is a 4 km grade 1 paddling before us. Consider it as a chance to relax, talk to each other, recollect the great times of the 2km section above and imagine your dinner table, probably at a grill taverna, at Kalampaka or Grevena. Before the river turns right to enter the final canyon to the dam worksite, we can see the small dirt road climbing down the hill.

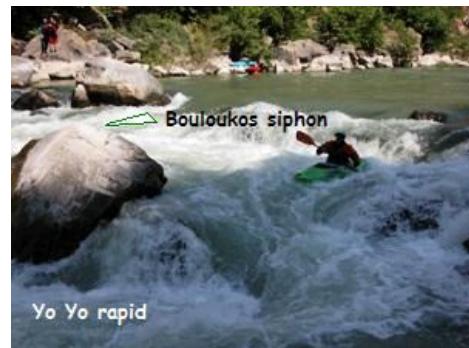
GPS WGS84 marks:

- Put in Footbridge: 40o 00.339N, 21o 48.468E
- 4th kms surfspot: 40o 01.080N, 21o 48.527E
- 1st rapid - ramp: 40o 02.977N, 21o 47.362E
- 2nd rapid – 1st boulder garden (Bouloukos siphon): 40o 03.471N, 21o 47.447E
- 4th rapid – 2nd boulder garden: 40o 03.576N, 21o 47.437E
- Ruined steel bridge: 40o 03.885N, 21o 47.483E
- Possible Take out before the final canyon: 40o 05.643N, 21o 47.456E
- Final Take out (before deviation tunnel): 40o 05.558N, 21o 47.690E

More rivers in the area:

- Venetikos – Aliakmon confluence stretch (grade II, III)
- Aspropotamos (grade III – IV)
- Meleopotamos (grade III- IV)
- Mourgani (grade III, IV, V)

Area highlights: Visit Zavordas monastery, with interesting tapestry, built by Saint Nikanoras at 16th century. Also visit archeological site and museum of Aiani (Αιανή) and the 11-12th centuries ruins. An



Giannis Bourlekas (Photo 5) Alfredos Zinis (photo 6)and Spyros Panagopoulos (photo 7)running the 4th rapid, known as "Nectar of Gods"



interesting shettling fron Neolithic era lays at Knidi (Κνίδη) Non paddling birdwatchers may visit the long artificial lake of Aliakmon, just below the take out.

More pages about Aliakmon: [River Map](#)



Photo 9: Alfredos ducking under the steel bridge ruins. Photo 10: The deviation tunnel's input, with the gauge over the medium level's marking



Right up: Zavordas monastery view, from the put in. Below right: Checking the take out, in the worksite, before the deviation tunnel. The opening visible at the background is the last accessible take out before the site. Left: Team posing in front and inside my trusty and heavily loaded - once again- Terios!

