



2nd circular



11th Balkan Caving Camp

Leonidio, Greece

The registration fee for all 7 days of the event (including camping) is 20 €.

Dear Cavers,

On behalf of the **Hellenic Federation of Speleology (FHS)**, we are pleased to invite you to participate in the **11th Balkan Caving Camp**. The event will be held **from 28 August to 3 September 2017** in **Leonidio, the Peloponnese, and Greece**.

<http://www.visitkynouria.gr/index.php/notia-kynouria/leonidio>

Location

Leonidio is one of the oldest naval towns of Greece. It is the capital town of the municipality of South Kynouria.

It is built on the coast of the Myrtoo Sea, at the foot of the mountain Parnonas. It is located 4 kilometers from the coast, close to one of the most fertile Greek plains, where eggplants, as well as citrus and olive trees are cultivated between rocky and rugged mountains. Leonidio is 93 km from Tripoli and 210 kilometers from Athens. According to the census conducted in 2011, the population was 3.826 residents.

Its main feature is the impressive red rock overlooking the town. Today, Leonidio is characterized as a traditional settlement.

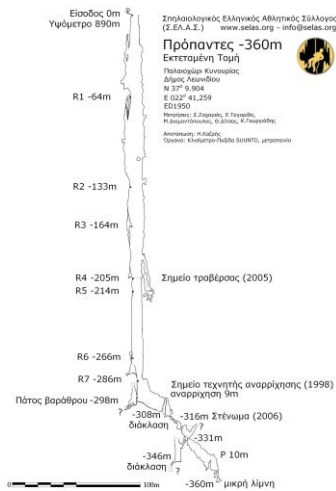
Climate

The climate in Leonidio is moderate, and rather warm. In August the average temperature is 30 °C.

Caves

Leonidio is an area rich in caves.

Propantes



Major caves

- The “Propantes” shaft **Class 4.**

The vertical cave “Propantes”, located in the area of Paleochori, is 360 meters deep. **It is a test for a caver’s stamina and technique.** A unique experience for all cavers, thanks to an impressive pit of **280m** (the 2nd deepest in Greece). The cave will be rigged down to 360m.

Temperature: 12 °C.

A very good knowledge of single rope technique is needed.

- The “Peleta” sinkhole **Class 4.**

It is located 1,5 km SE of the village of Peleta, at the location of “Kato Kampos”. Its depth reaches 620 meters. It includes a variety of meanders, and two sumps, one close to the entrance (which will be dry) and another one at -500 m. The sinkhole will be rigged down to -300 meters.

Temperature: 12 °C. Humidity: 85 %.

A very good knowledge of single rope technique is needed, as well as warm clothing.

Peleta



- The “Dersios” sinkhole **Class 4.**

It is located at the plateau of Palaiochora Tyrou, at an altitude of 760 m, 12 km NW of Leonidio. It has been explored down to a depth of 160 m and its length reaches 1450 m, including two sumps. Its exploration has stopped at a 3rd sump. The cavers will be able to visit about 260 meters of the cave, down to a depth of approximately 80 meters, that is, down to the 1st sump.

Temperature: 12-14 °C.

Knowledge of single rope technique is needed, as well as warm clothing.



- The “Mana” cave Class 3.

It is located at “Poulithra”, a tourist resort by the sea, 9 km from Leonidio. It is an underground river which ends up in the village. Its length exceeds 870 meters. In most of its parts the caver has to swim in the river (the temperature of the water is about 13°C), and at some points the surface of the water is just a few cm below the cave’s ceiling. The visitor should be careful with the large population of bats living in the cave.

The use of a neoprene suit is necessary, due to the temperature of the water. In this particular cave, entrance will be allowed to biologists only. Exceptions can be made for small groups that will be guided in the cave by members of the organizing committee following a particular schedule.

- The “Scorpions” shaft Class 4.

Located in the area of Leonidio, it is 210 m deep, consisting of two pits. The most impressive part of the shaft is a pit about 150 m deep.

Temperature: 12-14 °C.

Knowledge of single rope technique is needed.

Transportation to the above caves will be provided.

Minor caves

Shafts Class 3.

“Rozou”: -60 ms

The hole of the Turk (“I tripa tou Tourkou”): -40 ms

“Tristomo”: -20 ms

“Alikoussi”: -42 ms.

Horizontal caves Class 2.

In the area of “Cosmas” there are small horizontal caves, which can be visited during hiking excursions that have been organized.

Submarine caves

Around the area of Leonidio there are several submarine caves, highly decorated with stalactites and stalagmites that go down to 55 ms below water surface.

These caves will be accessible **to cave divers only**, provided that they sign a declaration that they visit the cave on their own responsibility before every single visit. Personal cave diving equipment is needed. Access to some of these caves is easy, whereas in other cases cave divers will need a boat, which will not be provided.

*Federal classification of cavity difficulty level

The cavities are classified into five categories, defined in the recommendations of the French Federation of Speleology and endorsed by the public authorities:

Class 0: cavity for tourism purposes.

Class 1: cavity or cavity portion not requiring equipment other than a helmet with illumination.

Class 2: cavity or portion of initiation or discovery cavity allowing an approach to the various aspects of the underground environment and techniques of speleology with point obstacles. Their crossing may require equipment and the presence of water should not prevent the group from progressing.

Class 3: cavities or portions of cavities to improve in the knowledge of the environment and in the techniques of progression. Obstacles can occur. The vertical assembly must not exceed a few tens of meters, preferably in several sections. The presence of water must not impede the progress of the group nor cause a change in the equipment of the vertical.

Class 4: the rest of the cavities not classified in the previous ones are found.

Alternative activities

Hiking excursions.

(Organized for the 11th BCC.)

Climbing

<https://www.facebook.com/Climbing-Park-Leonidio>

The climbing park of Leonidio is one of the most well-known in Greece. It offers 800 sport and multi-pitch routes.

Recreational diving

There is a diving centre in Leonidio, where you can rent equipment. (This activity is not provided.)



and



We suggest



Accommodation

There will be a camping ground in Leonidio. The facilities will include tent spaces, showers, equipment washing facilities, drinking water, toilets, eating area, WiFi, electric power supply for campers, and small stands for the charging of electrical devices.



and



is also provided space for

The camping area is provided from 28 August to 3 September, and the use of the facilities is included in the 20 € fee.

Not included in the 20 € fee: T-shirts, meals (you can pay extra for breakfast and one more meal).

For those who may want to stay elsewhere:

<http://climbinleonidio.com/wp/accommodation/>

There are also small camps by the sea, outside Leonidio.

<http://www.camping-semeli.gr/location/>

<http://www.campingzaritsi.gr/>



Exhibitions and presentations

Every country of BSU is allowed up to 2 presentations.

The duration of each should not exceed 20 minutes.

Please send the title of your presentation by **30 July**.

The presentations will be held in the afternoon, as they will be scheduled and announced.

All presentations, exhibition material and photograph subtitling should be in English; otherwise they will not be accepted.



Photography contests

Every country is invited to take part in a photography contest with up to 5 photographs, which will be exhibited in Leonidio from the middle of August.

Submission of photographs by **20 July**.



Stands

There will also be a space specifically reserved for stands. Every country will be able to display material such as photographs of caves, explorations, research and any other material relevant to caving. All displayed material will form an exhibition, which will be open to the public on the days of the 11th BCC.

How to get to Leonidio

By car from Athens Airport

<https://www.viamichelin.com/web/Routes?departure=19019%20Diethn%C3%ADs%20Aerolim%C3%A9nas%20Athn%C3%B3n%20Elefth%C3%A9rios%20Veniz%C3%A9los&arrival=Leonidio%20greece&arrivalId=31NDNhbmcmGNNemN1TVRZM09EST1jTWpJdU9EWXhPVGc9&index=0&vehicle=0&type=0&distance=km¤cy=EUR&highway=false&toll=false&vignette=false&orc=false&crossing=true&caravan=false&car=hatchback&fuel=petrol&fuelCost=1.36&allowance=0&corridor=&departureDate=&arrivalDate=>

Using bus

From Athens Airport. If you choose to travel by bus, there is a direct connection from Athens Airport to the KTEL (Central Bus Station) at 100 Kifissou avenue, where you can take a KTEL bus **for Leonidio from the Terminal of the KTEL of Arcadia.**

KTEL Kifissou Bus Station: tel: +30 210 5124910, +30 210 5124911, +30 210 5132601

By car from the north

<https://www.viamichelin.com/web/Routes?departure=%CE%98%CE%B5%CF%83%CF%83%CE%B1%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%B7%20&arrival=Leonidio%20greece&arrivalId=31NDNhbmcmGNNemN1TVRZM09EST1jTWpJdU9EWXhPVGc9&index=0&vehicle=0&type=0&distance=km¤cy=EUR&highway=false&toll=true&vignette=false&orc=false&crossing=false&caravan=false&car=hatchback&fuel=petrol&fuelCost=1.36&allowance=0&corridor=&departureDate=&arrivalDate=>

By car from Hgoumenitsa port <http://www.olig.gr/it>

<https://www.viamichelin.com/web/Routes?departure=Hgoumenitsa%20port%20&arrival=Leonidio%20greece&arrivalId=31NDNhbmcmGNNemN1TVRZM09EST1jTWpJdU9EWXhPVGc9&index=0&vehicle=0&type=0&distance=km¤cy=EUR&highway=false&toll=true&vignette=false&orc=false&crossing=false&caravan=false&car=hatchback&fuel=petrol&fuelCost=1.36&allowance=0&corridor=&departureDate=&arrivalDate=>

Travel Information

Passports and Visas

- For the citizens of countries-members of the European Union no visa is required. What is needed is a valid passport, ID, or any other valid document of identification.
- For the citizens of most non-Schengen countries a visa is required. Visitors from those countries should ask for information at the local Greek embassies or consulates, or ask their travel agents.

and from Patra's port <http://www.patrasport.gr/?lang=en>

<https://www.viamichelin.com/web/Routes?departure=P%C3%A1tra&departureId=31NDFkYnYxMGNNemd1TWpRMU9ERT1jTWpFdU56TTFOalk9&arrival=Leonidio%20greece&arrivalId=31NDNhbmcxMGNNemN1TVRZM09EST1jTWpJdU9EWXhPVGc9&index=0&vehicle=0&type=0&distance=km¤cy=EUR&highway=false&toll=true&vignette=false&orc=false&crossing=false&caravan=false&car=hatchback&fuel=petrol&fuelCost=1.36&allowance=0&corridor=&departureDate=&arrivalDate=>

Tolls – Διόδια

<http://www.tolls.eu/greece>

Once you get to Leonidio, there will be signs and information for access to the camp and the secretariat of the 11th BCC.

More details on the schedule will follow soon by the Organizing Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you all there and we promise unforgettable time!

For further information please contact the Organizing Committee through:

Website: www.balkanspeleo2017.gr

Email: info@balkanspeleo2017.gr

