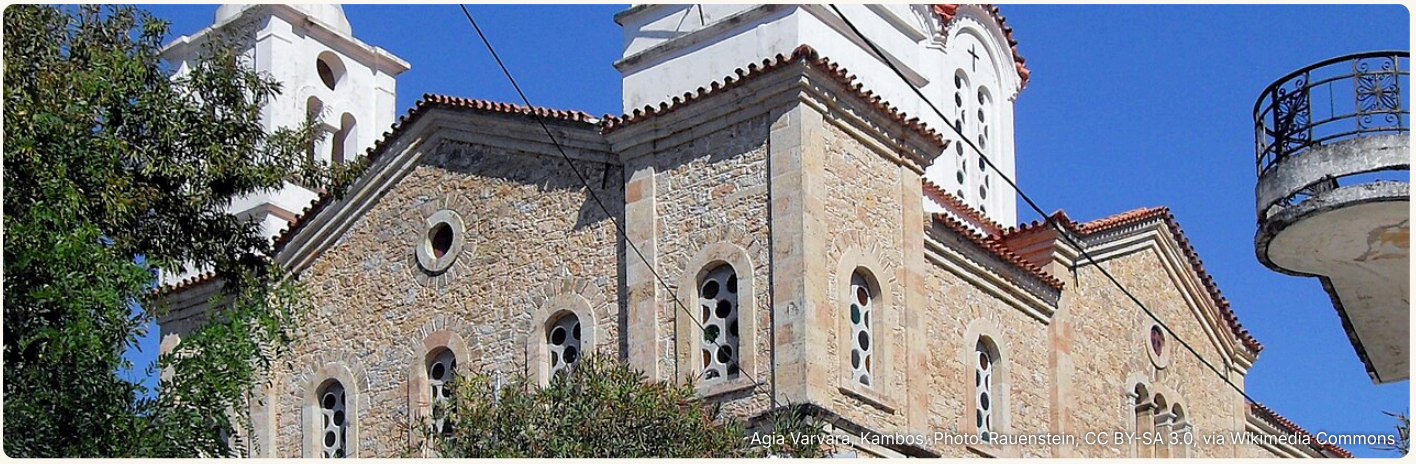


Agia Varvara, Kambos. Photo: Rauenstein, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Kambos and Zarnata

On the road north towards Kalamata, about 25 minutes from the villa, Kambos sits below the hilltop castle of Zarnata, which watched over the way into the Mani for centuries. Painted Byzantine churches, a Mycenaean tomb and the castle walk add up to an easy half day, good on its own or as a stop on the way to the city.

From the villa

Roughly 25 minutes north on the Kalamata road.

Ideal for

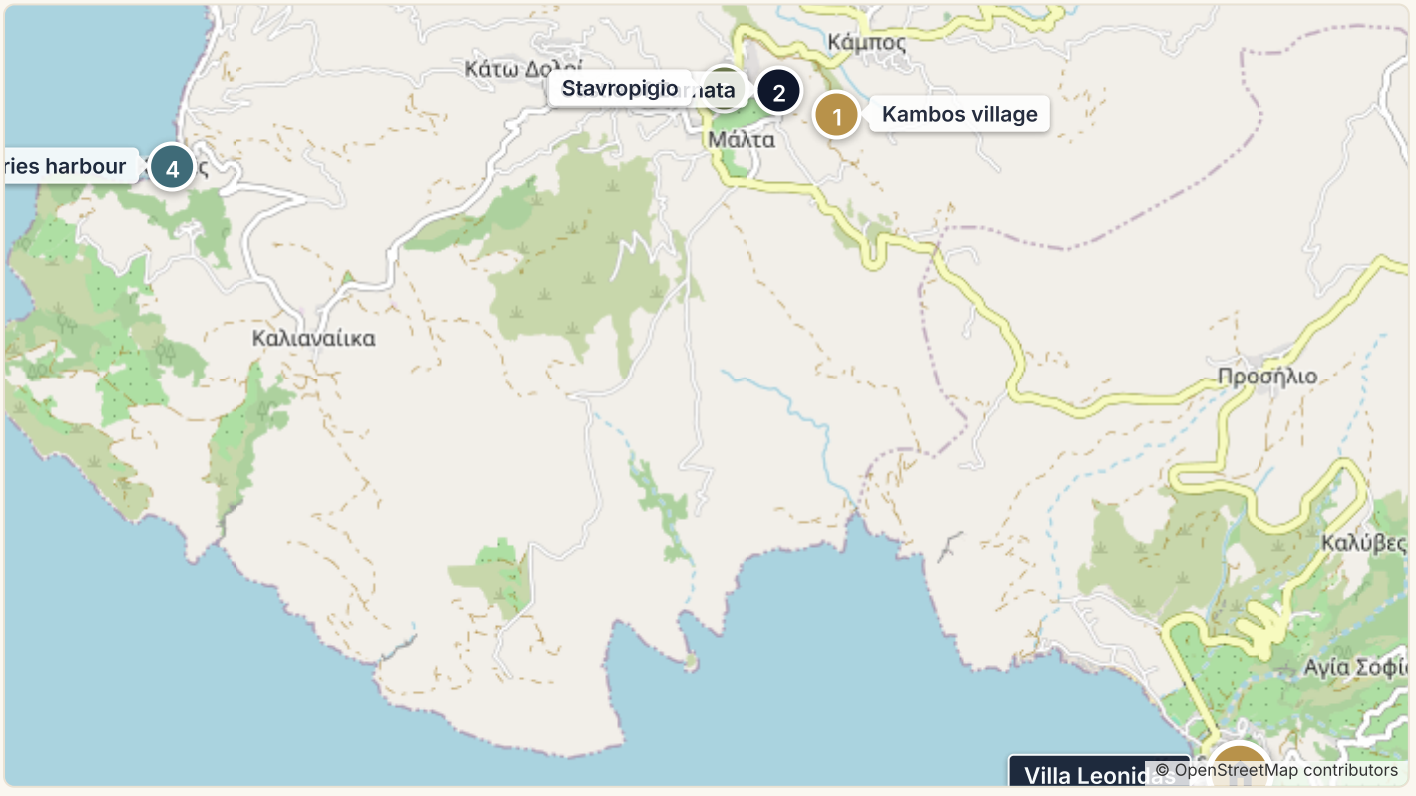
History, a castle climb and a village coffee.

Pair with

Kitries harbour on the coast below, or onward to Kalamata.

Entry

The castle site is open and free.



Tap a place to open it in Google Maps

1 Kambos village ↗
2 Castle of Zarnata ↗
3 Stavropigio ↗
4 Kitries harbour ↗

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors.

History

- **Zarnata castle.** On a hill at about 400 m, held in turn by Byzantines, Ottomans, Venetians and Maniots; a later tower house stands within the walls.
- **Mycenaean tomb.** A stone beehive tomb in the village, linked by local tradition to Machaon, son of Asclepius.
- **Agioi Theodoroi.** A small Byzantine church known for its wall paintings.

Close by

- **Kitries:** a tiny harbour below, with a fish taverna and calm water for a swim.
- **Koskaraka gorge:** the main road crosses it on a high bridge between Kambos and Kardamyli.
- **Kalamata:** about half an hour further; see our Kalamata guide.

Walking

- **To the castle:** a short, steep climb from the village lanes.
- **Village lanes:** olive and oak country with tower houses along the way.

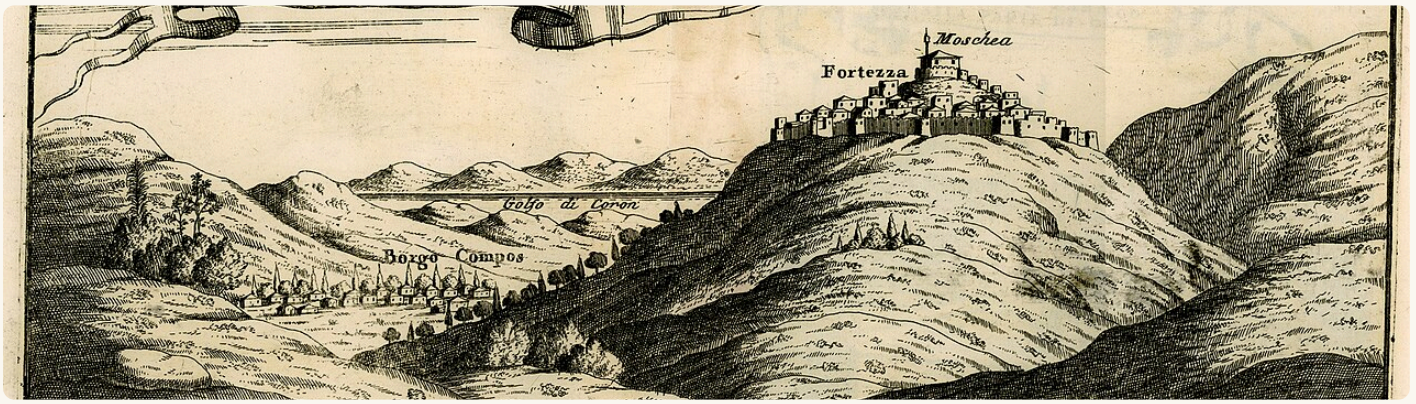
Rough ground at the castle: wear proper shoes.

Food

- **A kafeneio or two** on the main road.
- **Kitries** for fish by the water in season.

Tips

- Little shade at the castle; go early or late in summer.
- Church hours are irregular; you may need to ask for the key in the village.
- Michael, our local manager, is on the phone if you need a recommendation during your stay.



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Activities: On the water · Food and olive oil · Rainy days and families · Walking and hiking
At the villa: Groups and celebrations · Family days at the villa

This guide online

Checked November 2026. Hours, prices, timetables and operators change, so please check before you set out. Second image: Zarnata, engraved by Vincenzo Coronelli, 1688, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.