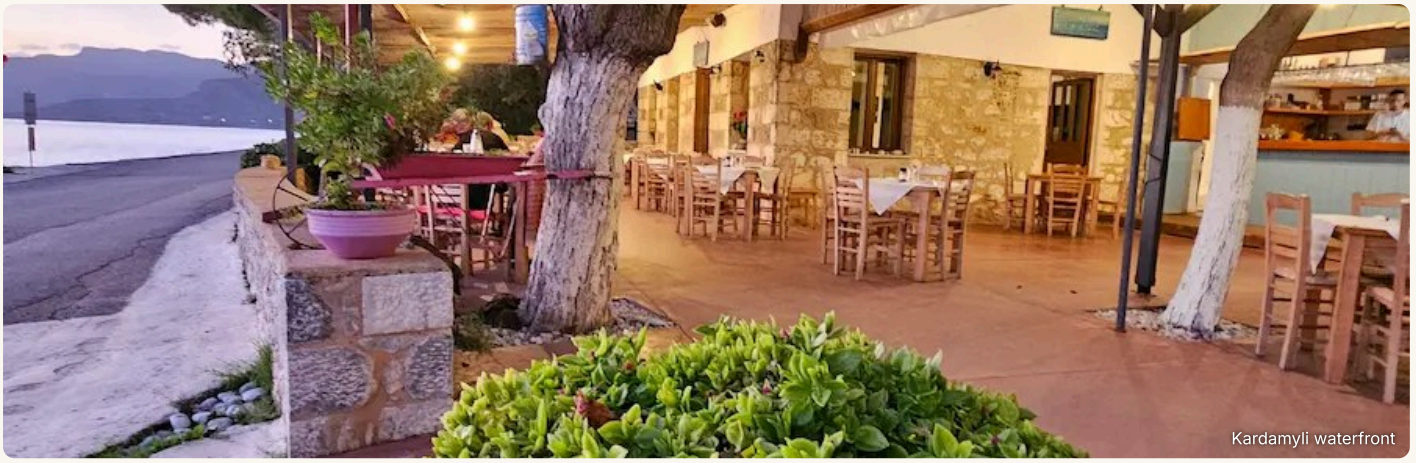

Kardamyli waterfront

Kardamyli

Kardamyli is the village on the villa's doorstep: a few hundred residents, a small harbour, a strip of tavernas and, on the slope above, the fortified hamlet built by the Mourtzinos clan. Behind it the Taygetos rises steeply; in front lies the Gulf of Messenia. It is a couple of minutes from the villa by car, and evenings here are for dinner by the water.

From the villa

About 2 minutes by car; the road is busy and has no pavement, so drive rather than walk.

Ideal for

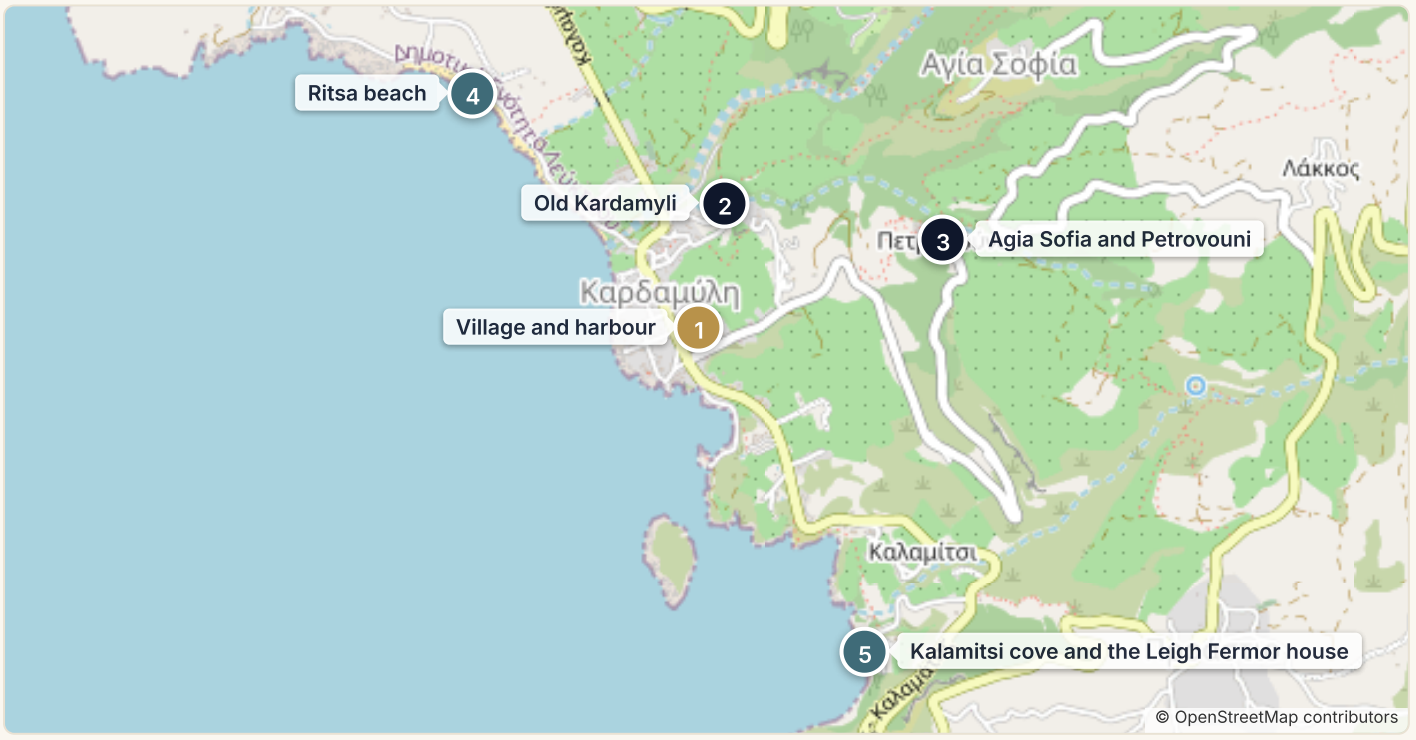
Dinner by the water, history, the start of the footpaths.

Closest swims

Ritsa and Kalamitsi; Foneas and Delfinia about 10 minutes by car.

Daily needs

Two small supermarkets, bakery, patisserie, pharmacy, cash machines.



Tap a place to open it in Google Maps

1 Village and harbour ↗

2 Old Kardamyli ↗

3 Agia Sofia and Petrovouni ↗

4 Ritsa beach ↗

5 Kalamitsi cove and the Leigh Fermor house ↗

What to see

- **Old Kardamyli.** The towers of the Mourtzinos family and the tall bell tower of Agios Spyridon, about ten minutes uphill from the main street. Small seasonal entry fee to the museum buildings.
- **Agia Sofia.** A chapel further up the old path, with the so-called tombs of the Dioscuri and a wide view of the gulf.
- **Leigh Fermor House, Kalamitsi.** The writer's former home, now cared for by the Benaki Museum; guided visits are pre-booked on set days.

Swimming

- **Ritsa.** A long pebble beach at the mouth of the Viros Gorge, with summer sunbeds.
- **Kalamitsi.** A small cove just south of the village.
- **A short drive further:** Foneas, Delfinia and Kalogria. The coast road has no footpath, so take the car.

On foot

- **Old Kardamyli and Agia Sofia** make a loop of roughly 5 km, about two hours. The classic first outing.
- **Viros Gorge:** around 9.5 km and four hours past two monasteries; a proper hike.
- **Proastio** and back through the olive groves, about an hour each way.

Food and supplies

- **Tavernas** along the harbour and main street, Lela's among the best known.
- **Noeas** is the village patisserie; the bakery opens early.
- **Groceries:** two small supermarkets, plus a pharmacy and cash machines.

Some places close in winter; ask us which are open.

Village calendar

- **May:** the Kardamyli jazz festival, with free concerts around the village late in the month.
- **Early October:** the Kardamyli Festival.
- **November to winter:** olive picking and a very local, very quiet village.

Practical notes

- Kalamata airport is roughly an hour to an hour and a quarter away; most guests rent a car there.
- Roads along this coast are narrow and twist a lot; allow extra time at night.
- 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

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