



# Useful Info visiting Mani, Greece

## Scoutari Beach, sand & turquoise waters!

**Skoutari** is located on the west coast of the Iacanian gulf, between **Githeio** and **Kotrona**. It is a beautiful village with *old churches* and *castles*. Its major attractions include the *Skoutari Palaiopyrgos historical Tower*, which belongs to Kalkandi family, and the churches: *St. John Chrysostom (with frescoes of 1750)*, *the Assumption (18th century, with frescoes)* and *Mary (Assumption - Panayitsa)*. Nearby lies **Skoutari bay**, with lovely, **sandy beaches** (*KALAMAKIA, BORDONA, AGIA BARBARA*) and **turquoise waters**.

The **Byzantine church of Agia Varvara**, in the homonymous beach is of particular interest. Moreover, the **monastery of St. George**, built on a slope (the catholic old frescoes are preserved), offers great view of the bay and Skoutari.

**Drosopigi** village with the stone houses and the towers, and **Karyoupoli**, the traditional village with its unique architecture, are a magnet for those seeking genuine and authentic samples of Greek buildings.

## Diros' Caves, the jewel of eastern Mani!

South of Areopolis is located **Pirgos Dirou**, a historical village of **Mani**, since there the residents of Mani rebelled against Ibrahim's forces, in June 1826. Guests have the opportunity to admire, among other things, *Haria*, one of the oldest and most representative *Mani's buildings* and also some excellent examples of *Byzantine church architecture* in the surrounding area.

But the visitors' interest in the area of Diros' Tower monopolize undoubtedly the famous **Diros' caves, which are the finest of our country**.

**Cave Vlihada**, was systematically explored by the cavers John and Anna Petrocheilou, who from 1949 to 1960 had explored and mapped 1,600 meters. Nowadays, the known length of the cave is not more than *14 km*. The findings of the cave with the **impressive stalagmites and stalactites** include *hippopotamus*, *as long as panther's, hyena's, lion's, deer's and ferret's fossils*, and *pottery*, suggesting human presence there.

**A boat tour on the lake is a unique experience**, allowing guests to enjoy a magical journey through space and time.

**Cave Alepotrypa**, one of the largest and most important **Neolithic** caves of our country, was discovered in 1958 by the cavers John and Anna Petrocheilou and was nominated by the local residents. Short and long halls are developed along a central corridor, that runs through the cave (length *240 meters*). Alepotrypa was used during the Late and Final Neolithic Period, but not as a residence. *Warehouse goods, homemade lab activity, landfill and worship for the dead* are some of the findings in it. **An intense earthquake** in the late fourth millennium BC caused extensive detachment of rocks from the roof and the side walls of the cave, **blocked the entrance and caged its users**. The rich *osteological material* and the numerous findings - *pottery, stone, bronze and bone tools and weapons, silver, stone and bone jewelry, stone and bone anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines* - testify that Alepotrypa developed a populous shipping commerce society and had a farming character. At the entrance of the cave lies the Neolithic Alepotrypa **Diros' Museum**, where representative findings of the cave (pottery, tools, weapons, jewelry, figurines, animal bone material) are exposed.