

The Traditional Village of Analipsis

The area of Analipsis was first developed during the Turkish occupation, when a small group of Turkish families built several stone houses here, and called their little village "Svourou Metochi."

After the occupation, the Turks left the area and the abodes were taken over by shepherds from the Lassithi Plateau, who needed a warmer place to pasture their animals in the winter, when the Plateau was covered in snow. The area began to grow as more villagers from the upper regions moved down, purchased land and built houses. With them they brought their culture, and a small church was built. Above the church door, carved in stone, was the word "Analipsis", meaning "the Ascension".

Analipsis is first mentioned as a small settlement of 68 inhabitants in 1920. The name "Svourou Metochi" remained in use until the early 70s, when the area started experiencing Crete's new industry – tourism. As with many villages, the new name was taken from the church, and Analipsis was born.

Today, Analipsis is still used by shepherds to pasture their flocks in the winter, but now there are thousands of tourists also taking advantage of the area's summertime delights, such as the lovely landscape and beautiful beaches.

The restaurants and tavernas are many and varied. There's a lovely town square situated in an open area, with a star-shaped decorated pavement and a huge palm in the centre. Also, you'll find several adjacent side streets which should be investigated. The well-paved beach road, with its many seaside tavernas, runs for a distance of almost two kilometres, and offers access to the area's fine beaches and accompanying water activities.

Analipsis differs from the neighbouring seaside resorts in that tourist development began much later here. This gives you the impression, on entering Analipsis, that you are in a verdant Cretan village with houses and pretty gardens alternating with fields and olive groves.

On reaching the beach of Analipsis, the first thing you see is the tiny church with the waves almost lapping at its foot. It is a very picturesque church and every tourist who passes through Analipsis stops here for a commemorative photo.