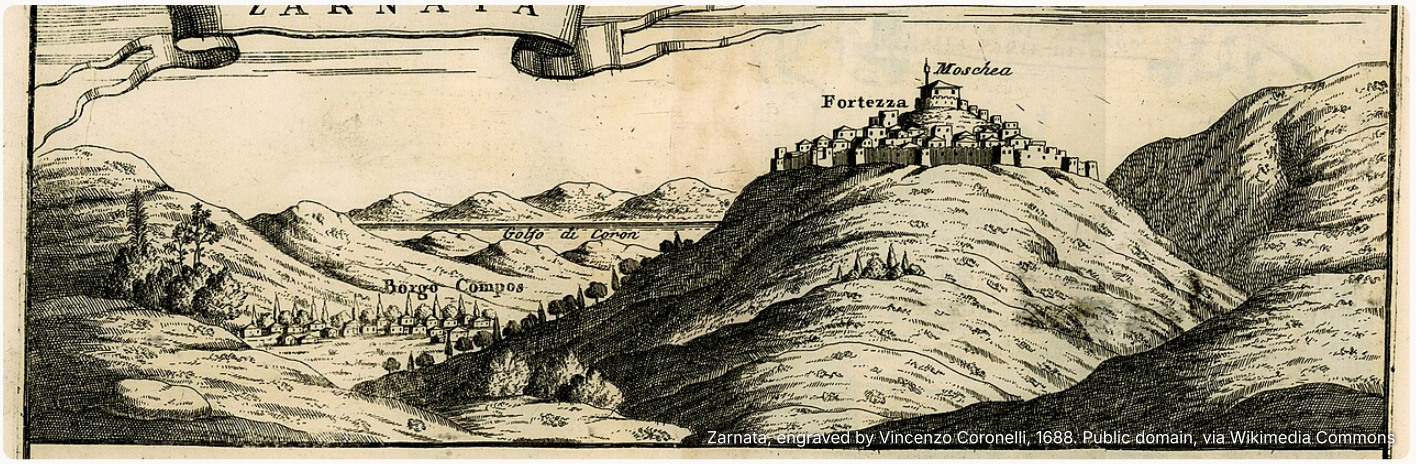


Zarnata, engraved by Vincenzo Coronelli, 1688. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Kambos and Zarnata

Kambos is a hill village on the road north to Kalamata, about 25 minutes from the cottage. Above it stands the castle of Zarnata, which guarded the way into the Mani for centuries. Byzantine frescoes, a Mycenaean tomb and a castle with a view make this an easy half-day of history.

From the cottage

About 25 minutes north on the Kalamata road.

Best for

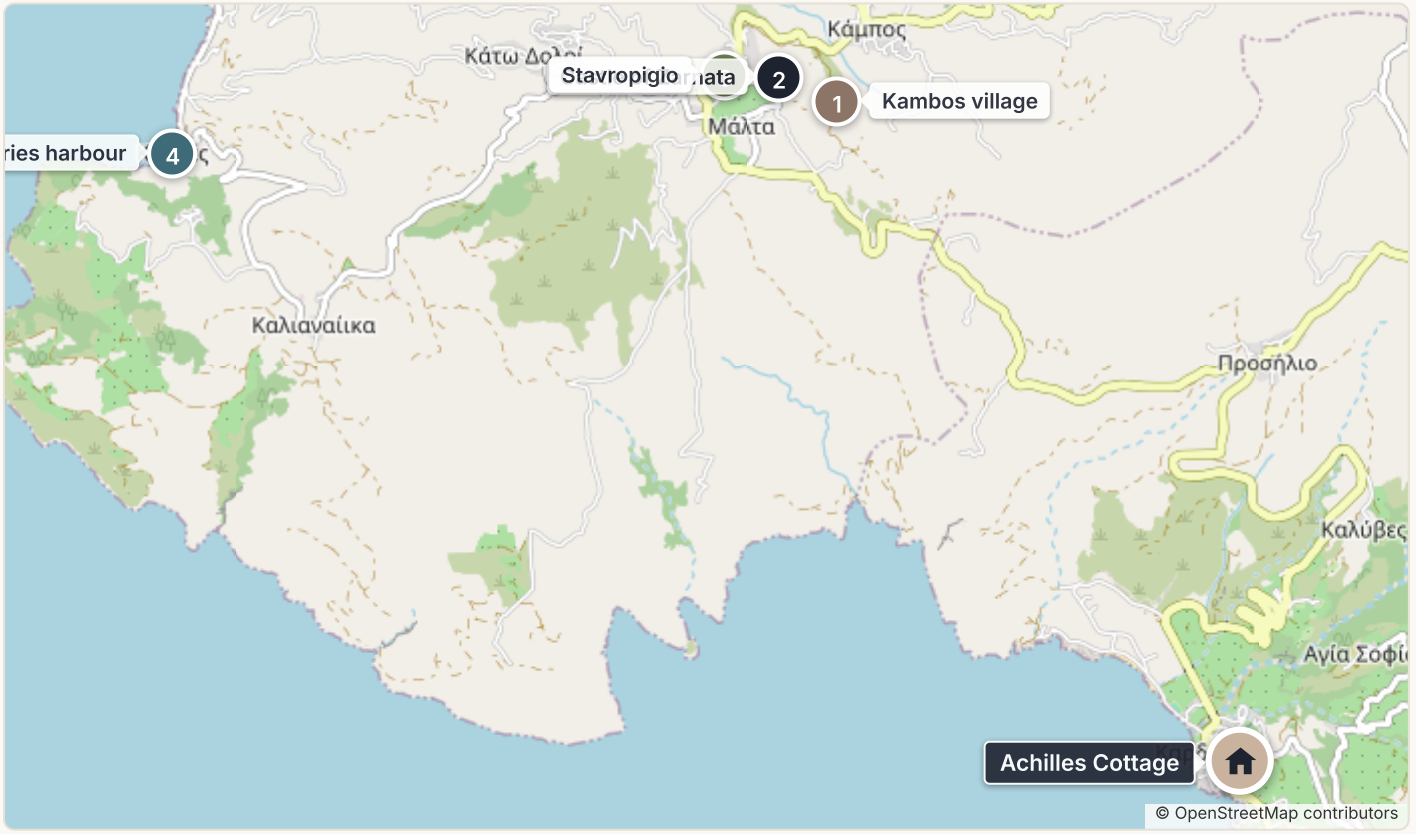
History, a castle walk and a quiet village coffee.

Combine with

Kitries harbour below, or a trip on to Kalamata.

Entry

The castle grounds are open and free to walk.



Tap a place to open it in Google Maps

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

See and do

- **Castle of Zarnata.** On a hill at about 400 metres, fought over by Byzantines, Ottomans, Venetians and Maniots. Inside the walls stands a later fortified tower house.
- **The Mycenaean tomb.** A stone beehive tomb in the village, linked by local tradition with Machaon, son of Asclepius.
- **Agioi Theodoroi.** A small Byzantine church known for its wall paintings.

Nearby

- **Kitries.** A tiny harbour on the coast below, with a fish taverna and a calm swimming spot.
- **The Koskaraka gorge.** The main road crosses it on a high bridge between Kambos and Kardamyli.
- **Kalamata.** About 30 minutes further on if you want to make a day of it.

Walks

- **Up to the castle.** A short but steep climb from the village lanes.
- **Around the village.** Olive and oak country with old tower houses along the lanes.

Wear proper shoes: the castle paths are rough.

Eat and drink

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

Good to know

- There is little shade at the castle; go early or late in summer.
- Church opening is irregular; you may need to ask in the village for a key.
- Michael, our local manager, is a phone call away for directions.



More guides from Achilles Cottage

Getting here: From Kalamata airport · From Athens airport
Town guides: Kardamyli · Stoupa · Agios Nikolaos and Trachila · Exochori and the mountain villages · Kambos and Zarnata · Kalamata · Areopoli and Limeni · Diros, Gerolimenas and Vathia
Activities: On the water · Food and olive oil · Rainy days and families · Walking and hiking

This guide online

Details checked November 2026. Opening hours, prices and dates change: check before you go.
Second photo: Agia Varvara church, Kambos, by Rauenstein, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.