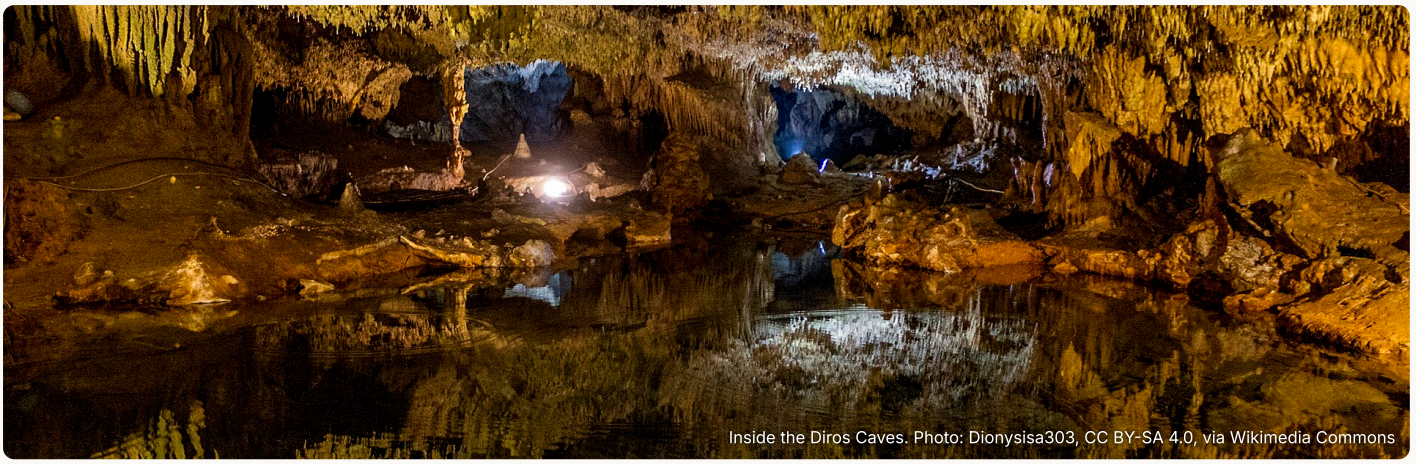


Inside the Diros Caves. Photo: Dionysisa303, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Rainy days and families

Most winter and spring days in the Mani are bright, but when it rains, or when children need something new, there is plenty to do: a boat ride through the Diros Caves, museums and steam trains in Kalamata, castles to climb and old towers to explore. Here are our favourites, with drive times from the cottage.

Best rainy day

The Diros Caves: underground and by boat.

Best with children

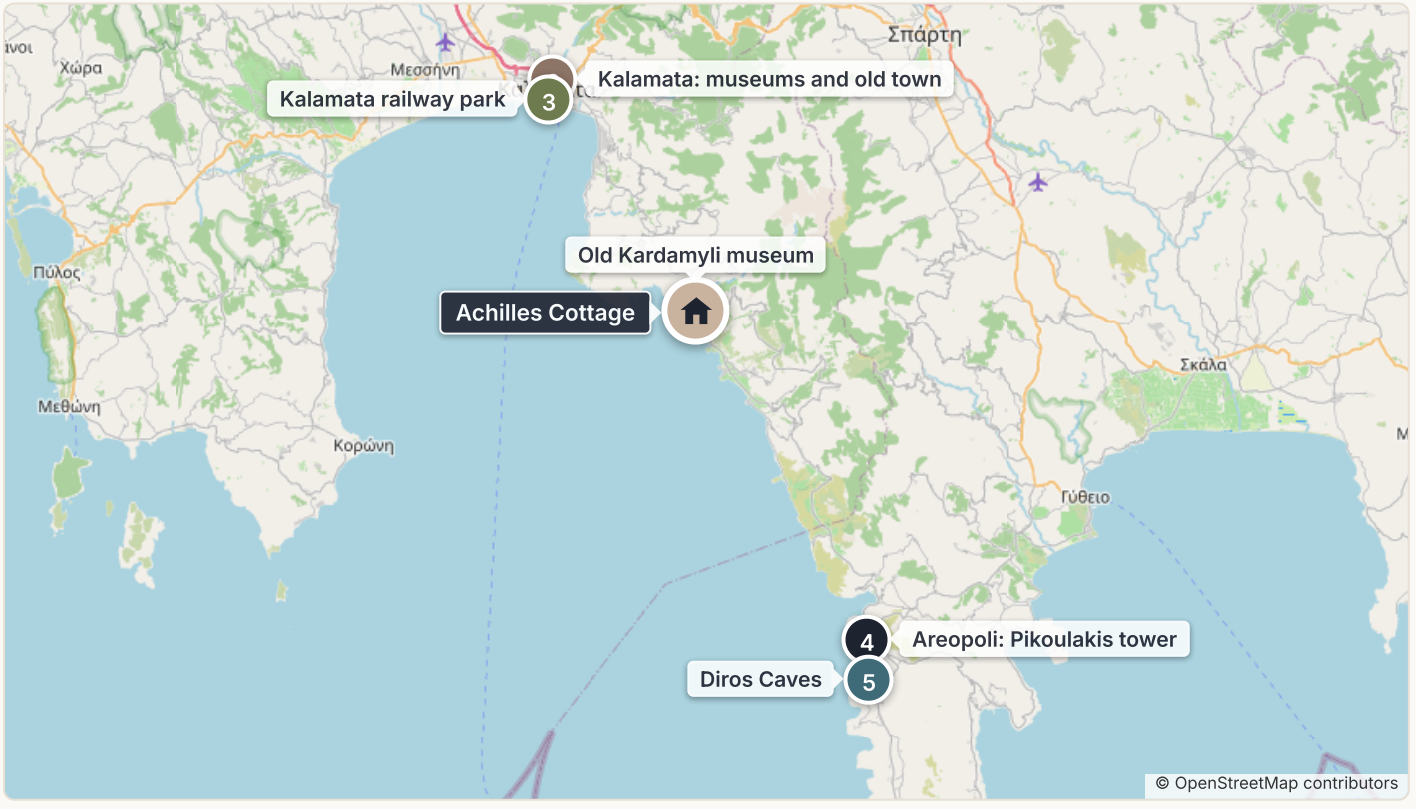
The railway park in Kalamata and Stoupa's sandy beach.

Indoors in Kalamata

Archaeological Museum of Messenia and the History and Folklore Museum.

Check first

Many museums close on Mondays or Tuesdays.



Tap a place to open it in Google Maps

1. Old Kardamyli museum
2. Kalamata: museums and old town
3. Kalamata railway park
4. Areopoli: Pikoulakis tower
5. Diros Caves

Underground

- **Diros Caves (Vlychada).** About 1 hour 25 minutes from the cottage. A tour of about 1.5 km, mostly by small boat through flooded passages, then a short walk out. Suitable for most ages.
- **Good to know:** tours can stop after very heavy rain, and summer queues are longest late morning.

Museums

- **Archaeological Museum of Messenia, Kalamata.** Finds from Mycenaean to Byzantine times in the old town.
- **History and Folklore Museum, Kalamata.** Costumes, crafts and relics of 1821; closed on Mondays.
- **Old Kardamyli.** The restored Mourtzinos towers, a short walk from the village.
- **Pikoulakis tower, Areopoli.** A museum of Mani churches in a tower house.

With children

- **Kalamata railway park.** Old steam engines and carriages to climb on, with a café; free and partly shaded.
- **Castles:** Kalamata castle, Zarnata above Kambos and Kelefa near Areopoli are all fun to explore.
- **Beaches:** Stoupa and Kalogria have sand and shallow water. Guided kayak tours from Kardamyli take children from about age 5.

Bigger days out

- **Ancient Messene,** about 1 hour 35 minutes: a huge ancient city with a good museum.
- **Mystras,** about 1 hour 45 minutes: a Byzantine town on a hillside, best on a dry day.
- See our day trips map for more.

Good to know

- Opening hours are shorter in winter; check before you drive.
- Kalamata has large supermarkets and play areas along the seafront.
- Michael, our local manager, is a phone call away during your stay for ideas on the day.



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. Operators, opening hours, prices and timetables change: check before you go. Second photo: Kalamata Municipal Railway Park by McKaby, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.