

# PACTORES

## The "Strata" of Zireia

A Virtual Reality Trek at the Sarakatsanian Routes (Strates) of  
the Peloponnese



Editor: Maria Karatassiou

Thessaloniki 2022

**Title: The 'Strata' of Zireia**

This publication was produced in the framework of the European project PACTORES 'Actors in pastoralism, ecosystem services and society as the main elements of agro-pastoral production systems in the Mediterranean', co-funded by Greece and the European Union through the European Networks "ERA-NETS".

**PROJECT CODE:** T8ERA2-00022

**EUROPEAN PROJECT CODE:** ERANETMED2-72-303

**Editor:** Maria Karatassiou

**Text reviewer:** Zoi Parissi

**3D Design and Applications:** Alkiviadis Poulis, Philippos Nikolaidis, Cotheta Spatial Intelligence Solutions, Epirus Science and Technology Park, Ioannina

**Translation:**

Karatassiou Maria, Parissi Zoi, Stergiou Afroditi. Department of Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

**Copyright 2022** Maria Karatassiou, Laboratory of Rangeland Ecology, Department of Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It is forbidden to republish, reproduce, in whole or in part the contents of the book in any way without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Distributed free of charge.

## Instructions of Use

The book is accompanied by smart virtual and augmented reality (AR/VR) applications with which the traditional Stanes, the Konakia and the Tents of the Sarakatsan people of Peloponnese can be 'brought to life' using Android mobile phones/tablets or in a stand-alone presentation with full immersion virtual reality devices.

### Step 1: Visit [www.stratazireias.eu](http://www.stratazireias.eu)

- To download the app for your mobile or tablet, visit the book's website, where you will find detailed instructions on which devices are compatible, how to install the software and the basic functionality of each app.
- If you have Oculus 3D virtual reality glasses or equivalent you will find installation instructions to enjoy a special experience in a virtual reality environment.



### Step 2: Aim for a unique experience

Where you see the adjacent sign in the book, open the app, aim your mobile/tablet camera at the page through the app and enjoy 3D projections of the intangible cultural heritage of the Sarakatsans of the Peloponnese.



# Introduction



The transhumance livestock in Greece took the form of a social organisation in which numerous, independent family groups 'migrated' seasonally from lowland to mountainous areas. Ethnic Greek groups such as the Sarakatsans, the Vlachs and the Koupatsarians are associated with this activity.

The Sarakatsans, who are spatially located almost all over mainland Greece, especially in Thrace, Thessaly, Macedonia and Peloponnese, are considered to be among the oldest transhumance populations.

The dangers of movement prompted the owners of small herds to unite with each other, to "mingle" in a peculiar informal cooperative and were called 'Tseligato' which was an autonomous, closed society.

According to Nitsiakos (1997) 'Tseligato' was a form of productive cooperative among a number of household groups under the leadership of a powerful herdsman".

'Tseligato' functioned on the basis of rigid hierarchical relationships within itself and within the families that made it up.

These social structures had a distinct identity, social cohesion and efficient use of resources, and sought to practice all the professions and structures associated with it which combined to ensure their autonomy.

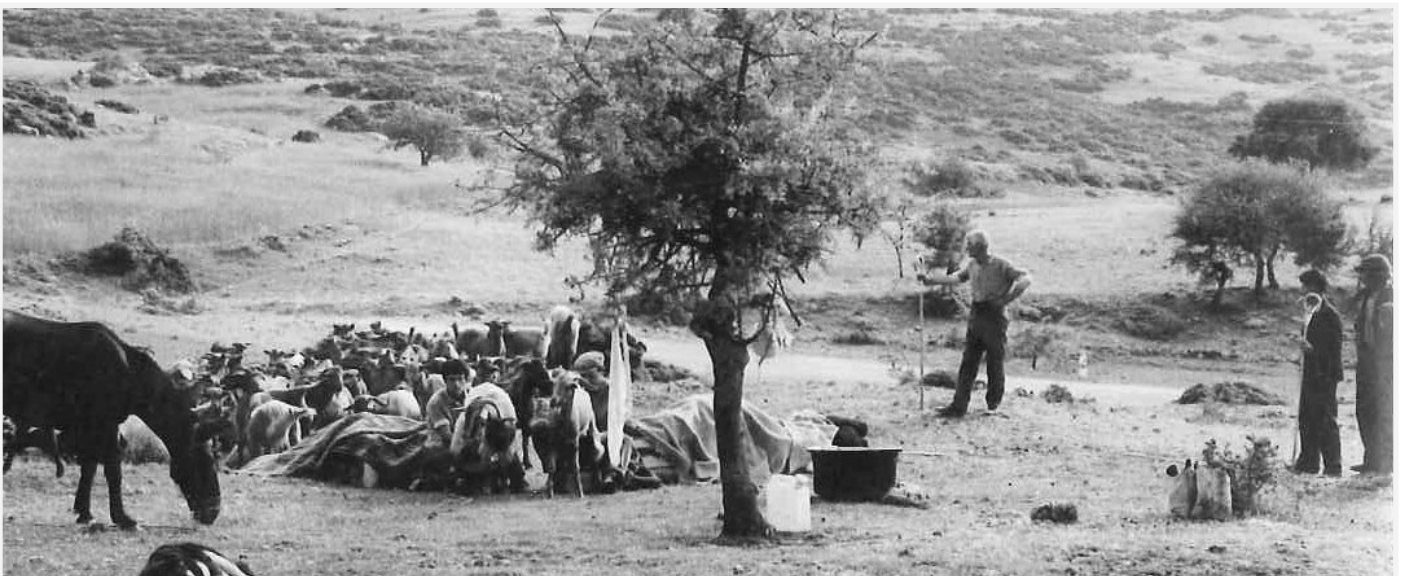


Today, Tseligato has almost disappeared and most Sarakatsans have settled in villages near the summer or winter pastures. However, a significant number of them continue the process of transhumance.



The structure of transhumance in Greece today is not anymore linked to the operation of Tseligato, but it presents a remarkable historical connection to the past with basic elements:

- (a) the use of family labour and the maintenance of a purely family-based management model,
- (b) the limited introduction of technological innovations,
- (c) the preservation of traditional grazing practices in mountain pastures,
- (d) the maintenance of sustainable mountain communities and
- (e) maintaining close ties with culture and the general culture of movement.





Transhumance in Greece, as in the whole Mediterranean world, is deeply rooted in time, having formed a set of cultural characteristics, of which transhumant livestock farmers continue to practice.

Recently, it was added to the national index of intangible cultural heritage of our country (July 2017), while in 2019 it was included as an intangible cultural heritage element in the international lists of UNESCO.

The identity and memory of mountain pastoral communities, which are historically identified with transhumance, are built around the practice and ethos of moving from the 'summer farms' to the 'winter farms' and vice versa.





A key element of movement is the road, referred to as 'Strata' or 'Diava'. Until the 1970s, the movement of herds was carried out on foot, with the feasts of Agios Georgios (23<sup>d</sup> April) and Agios Demetrios (26<sup>th</sup> October) being the milestones.

However, the only recorded data we have on the 'Strata' of the Sarakatsan people's movement come from the books of the late Angeliki Chatzimichali (1957, 2007) for the 1960s and refer only to the beginning and end of the Strata.

The recording of all the data concerning them is absolutely necessary, since within a few decades traditional land uses, place names, customs, etc. tend to disappear. This vanishing of knowledge is threatening our cultural heritage.

The present publication is an attempt to document the main "Strata" routes of the Sarakatsan people on Mount Zireia-Kyllini.

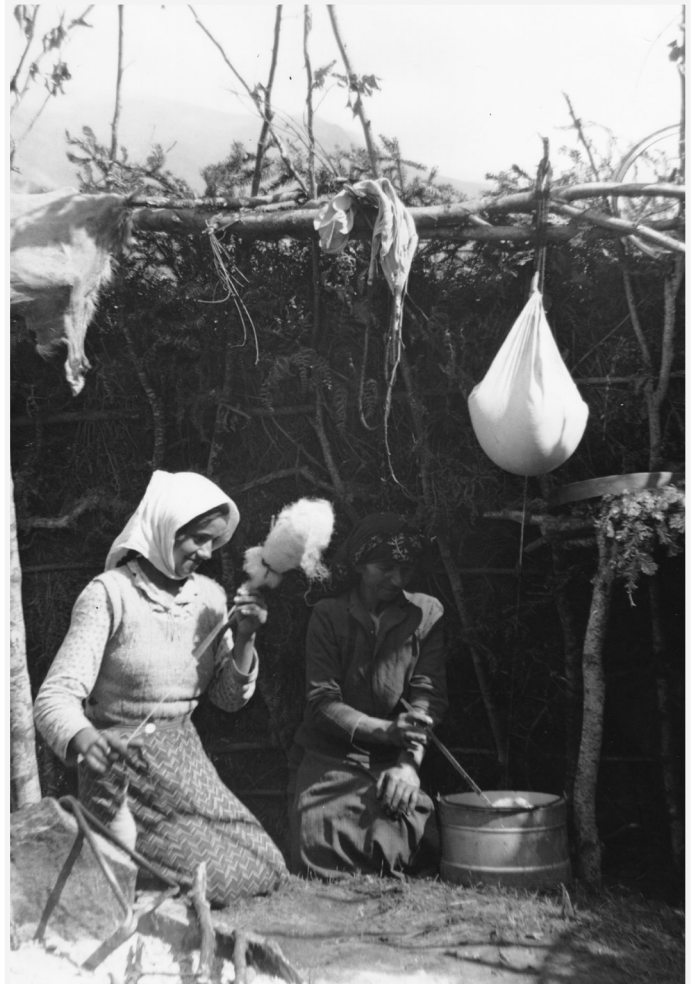
The aim is to highlight the intangible cultural heritage of the Sarakatsans of Peloponnese, allowing the participants of the project, experts and non-specialists, to experience the past, present and future.







*Memories....*





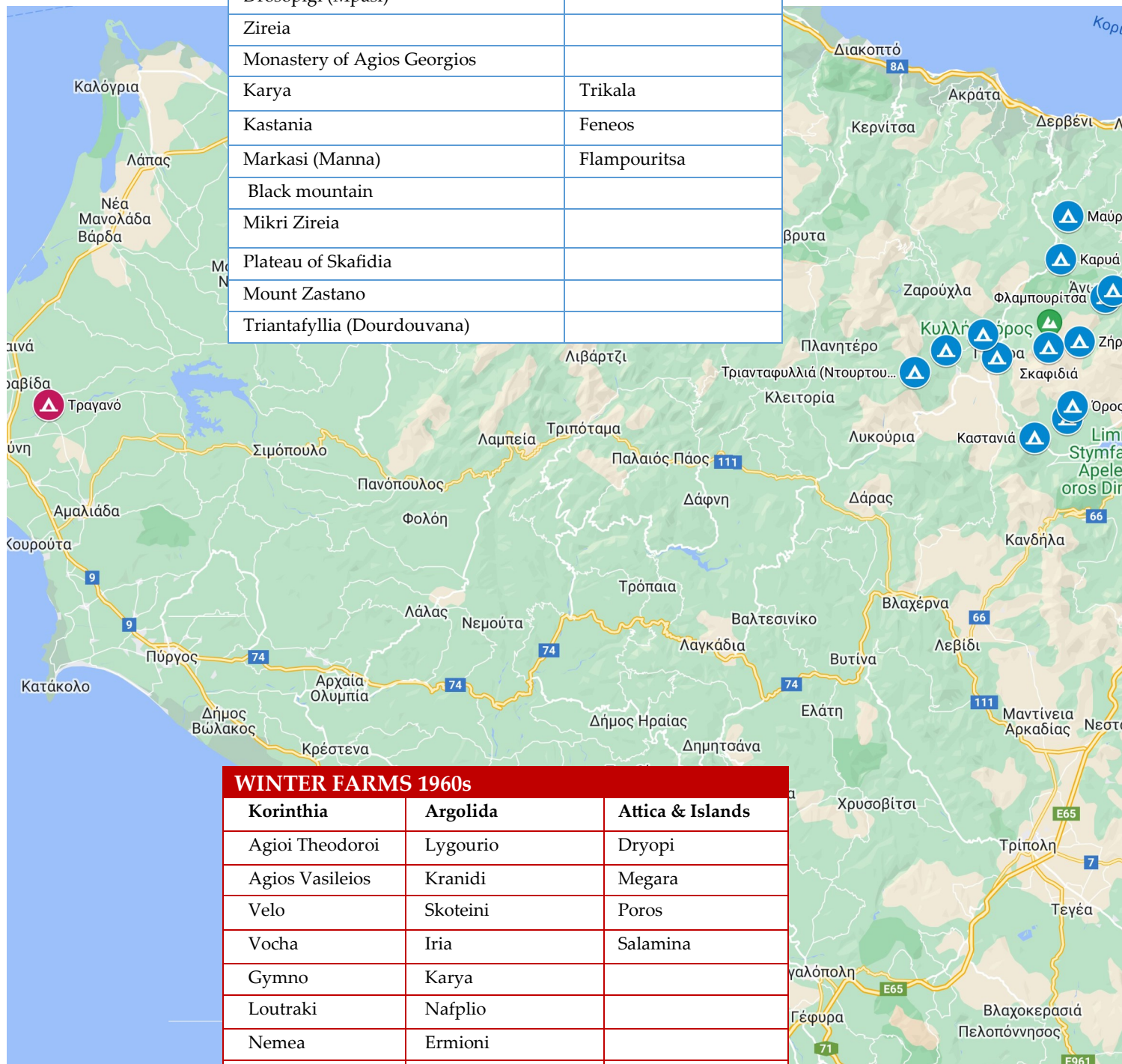
*The 3D Interactive augmented reality representations come to provide an additional unique tool for "immersion" in the past in the intangible heritage of the communities of Sarakatsans. Enjoy the experience.*





### SUMMER FARMS – SUMMER KONAKIA 1960s

Korinthia	
Ancient Feneos (Kalyvia)	
Goura	
Drosopigi (Mpasi)	
Zireia	
Monastery of Agios Georgios	
Karya	Trikala
Kastania	Feneos
Markasi (Manna)	Flampouritsa
Black mountain	
Mikri Zireia	
Plateau of Skafidia	
Mount Zastano	
Triantafyllia (Dourdouvana)	

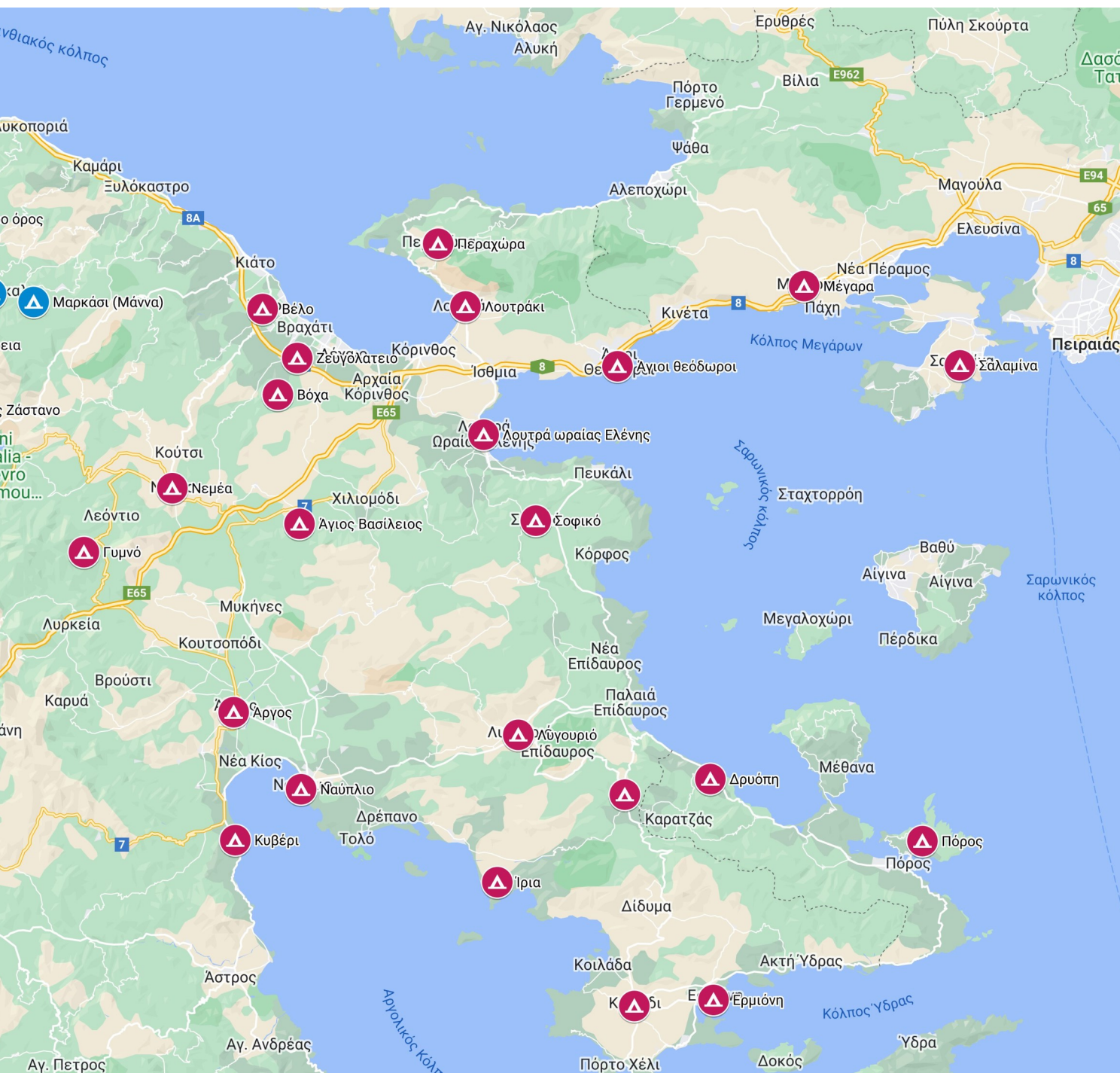


### WINTER FARMS 1960s

Korinthia	Argolida	Attica & Islands
Agioi Theodoroi	Lygourio	Dryopi
Agios Vasileios	Kranidi	Megara
Velo	Skoteini	Poros
Vocha	Iria	Salamina
Gymno	Karya	
Loutraki	Nafplio	
Nemea	Ermioni	
Perachora	Argos	Elia
Sofiko	Trachia	Tragano
Zevgolateio	Epidauros	
	Kiveri	
	Korfos	



## Winter farms and Summer farms of Peloponnese (1960s)



# Tent-Tsiatura

A makeshift construction where they stayed over night during the "Strata" but also until they repaired their Konaki at the summer farms.

The Sarakatsans of the Peloponnese placed a tent over their shelter to protect themselves from the rain.



## Architecture of Tent

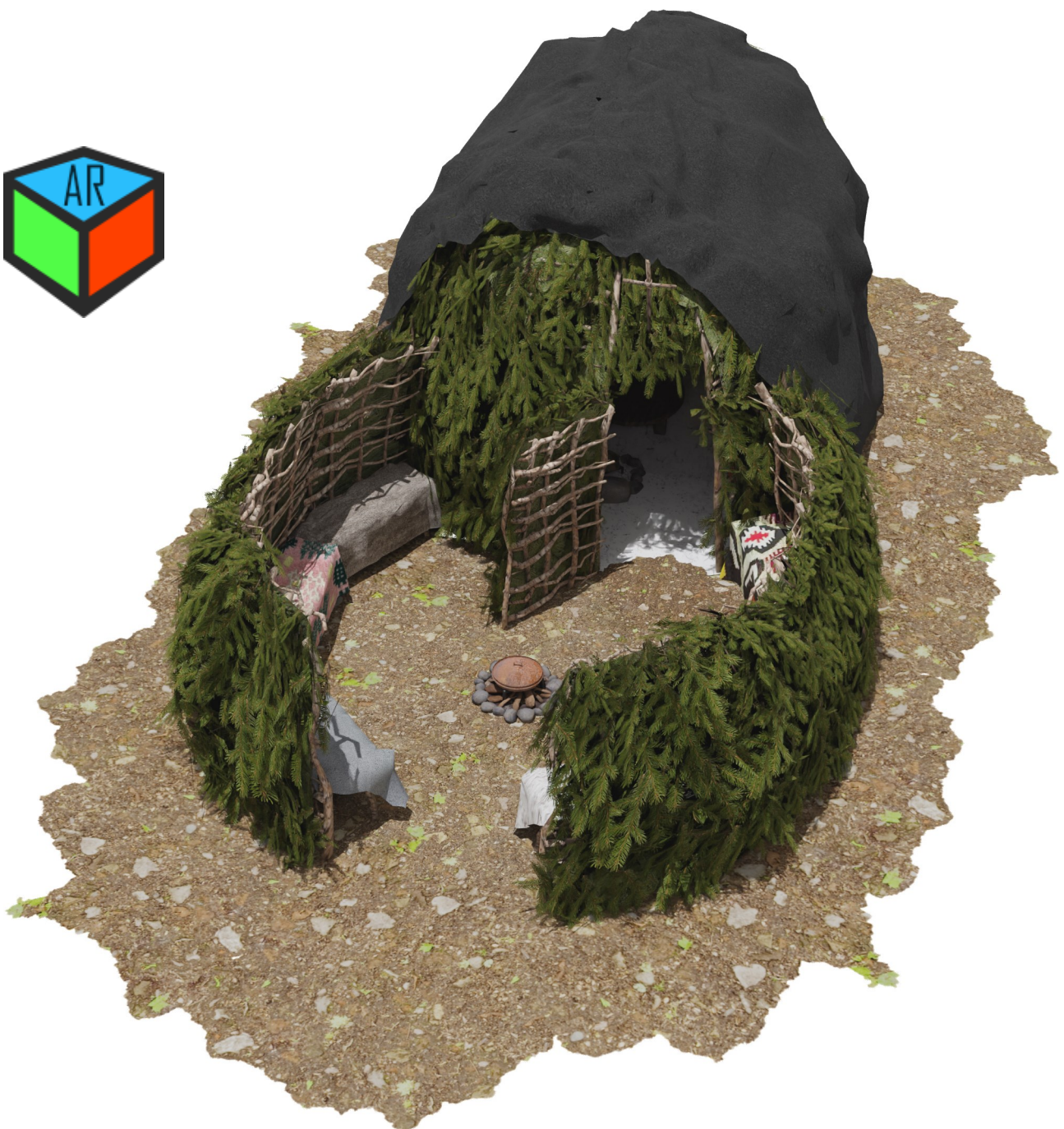
1. Tent poles or Fourkes, two thick and sturdy sticks 2.5 m long with a fork on one side (top) and a point on the other (base).
2. Templi, wood supported horizontally on the bellows.
3. Tent - Tent cloth, woven on the loom from sheep's warp and goat's weft, dark-coloured (black-grey) and dimensions according to the needs of the family.
4. Stakes with forks to fix the awning to the ground.



# Konakia

They are the houses of the Sarakatsan people in the winter farms or in the summer farms. But the word 'Konaki' has a wider meaning and indicates the area where they stayed overnight and set up their tents in the 'Strata'. Consequently, the word 'Konaki' was also used to denote the overnight 'stops' that the caravan made during the Strata. Their shape was oval, slightly flattened on the sides, and their size depended on the number of people in the family.

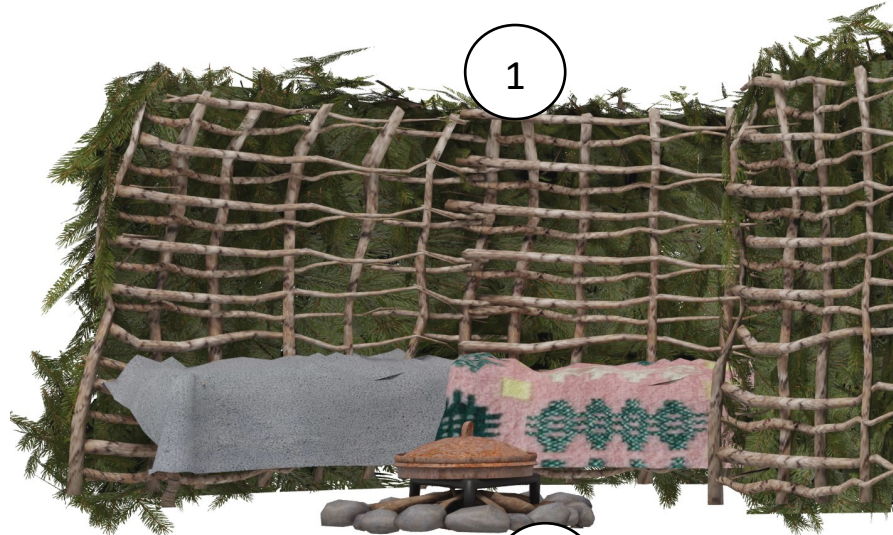
Important in their construction was both the construction of the skeleton and the blocking (closing of gaps) mainly with spruce branches - bats or pine branches. The types of trees and plants used were different depending on the species composition of each area. For the winter's Konakia they used mainly schinos, myrtle, reed, etc. Depending on the number of families, there was a different number of types of Konakia that made up each 'Tseligato'.



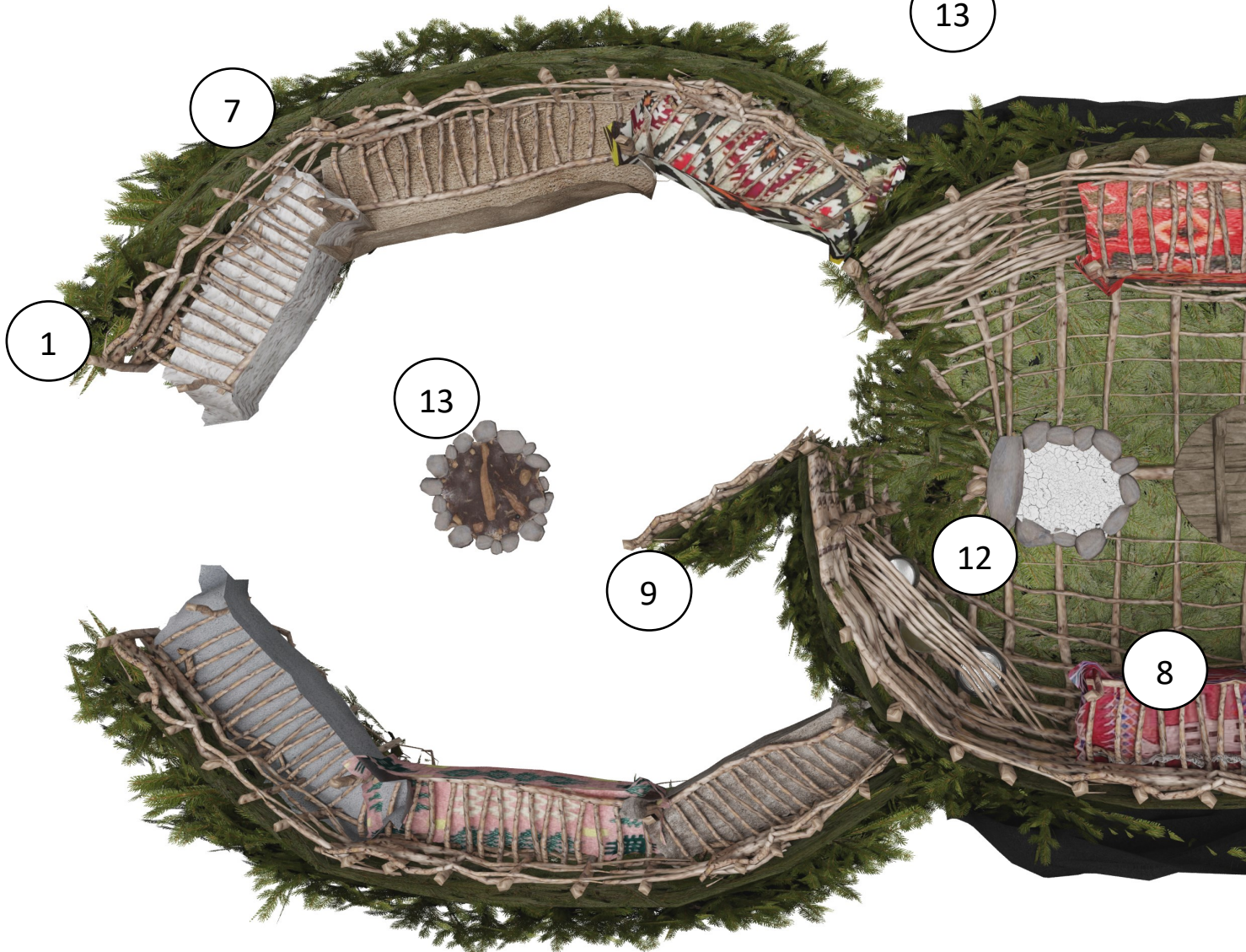


# Architecture of Konaki

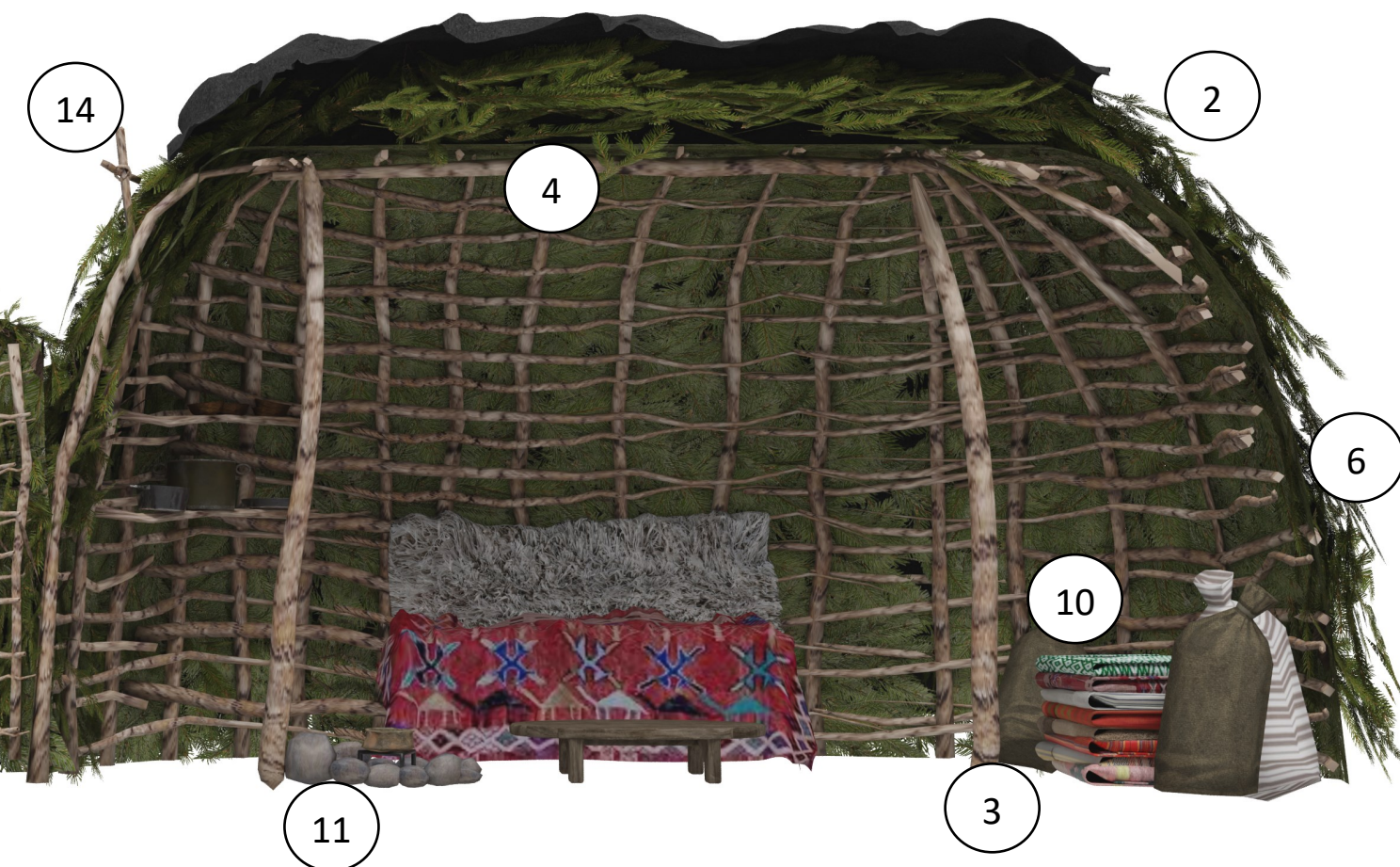
1. Fretzato, fencing as an extension of the small house that serves as a reception area for visitors.
2. Konaki or small house, central area where they stayed.
3. 2 stakes, large thick sticks 2-2,20 m long with a fork at the top on which the templi were fixed.
4. Templi or Korfiatis or Kavalaris: thick wood about 5 m long.
5. Mpixtaria, thick sticks which were inserted vertically into the ground.
6. Loura, thinner sticks placed perpendicular to the cottons to aid in knitting.
7. Twigs, branches, weeds (fern, Spanish broom) for filling and clogging.



13

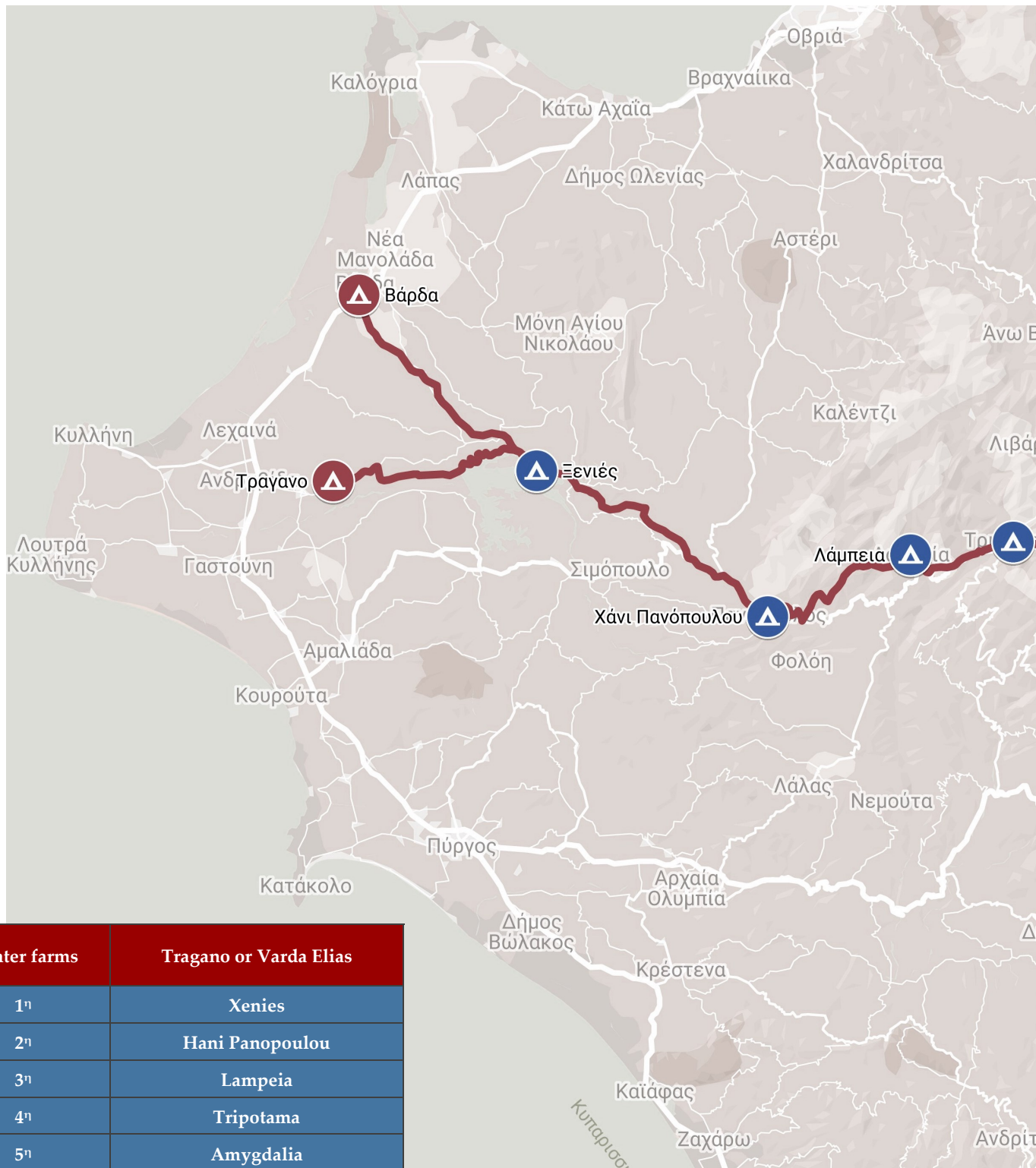






8. Beds, the place where they rest.
9. Lisia or Lesia, the doorway from the Konaki.
10. Gioukos, storage space.
11. Corner or Vatra, the inside space for cooking.
12. Pyromaxos, the vertical wide stone in the corner that protects the Konaki from burning.
13. Gastros, the outer space for cooking.
14. At the top of the Konaki and just above the door (Lesia) they put a cross (Amulet).

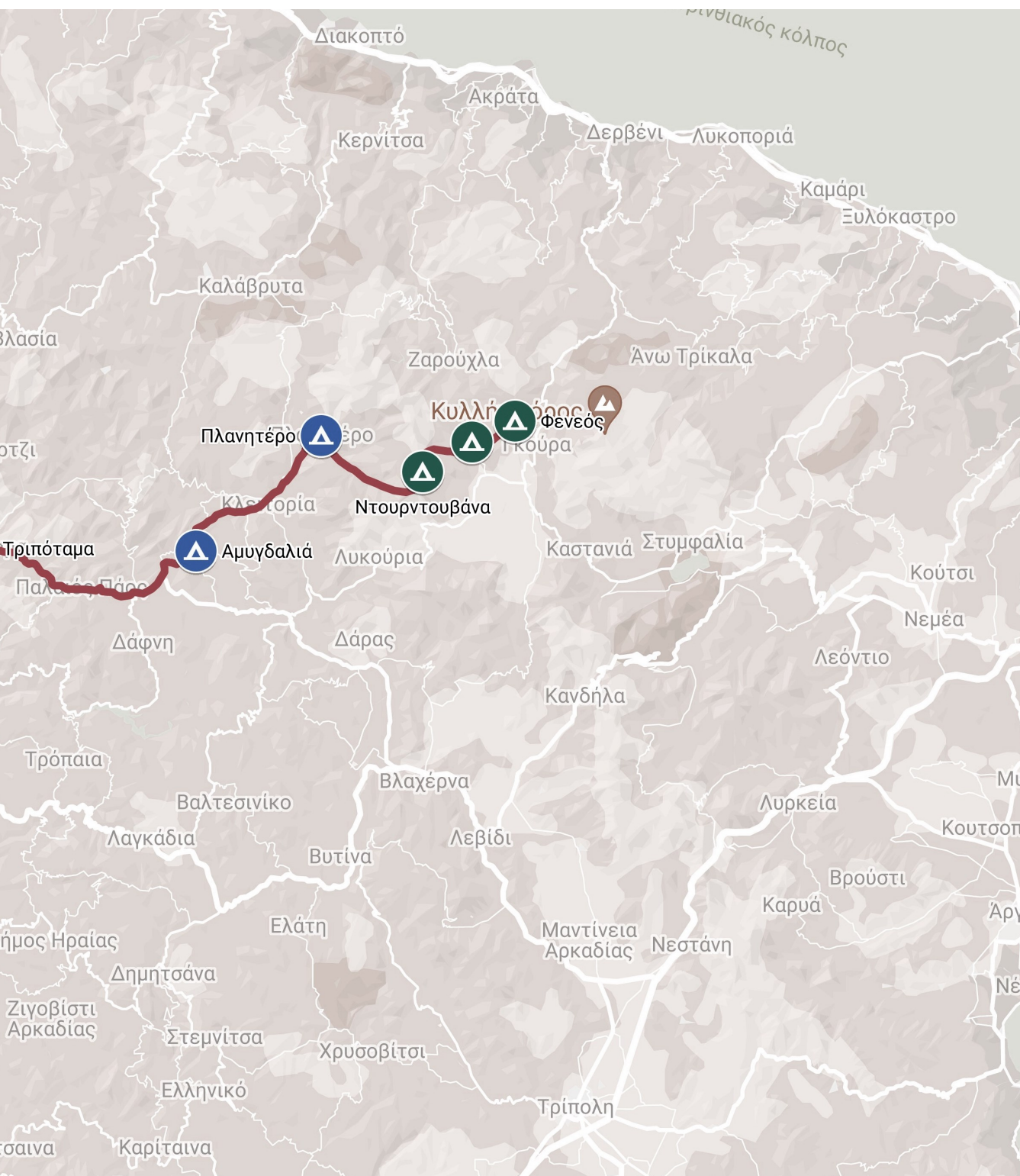




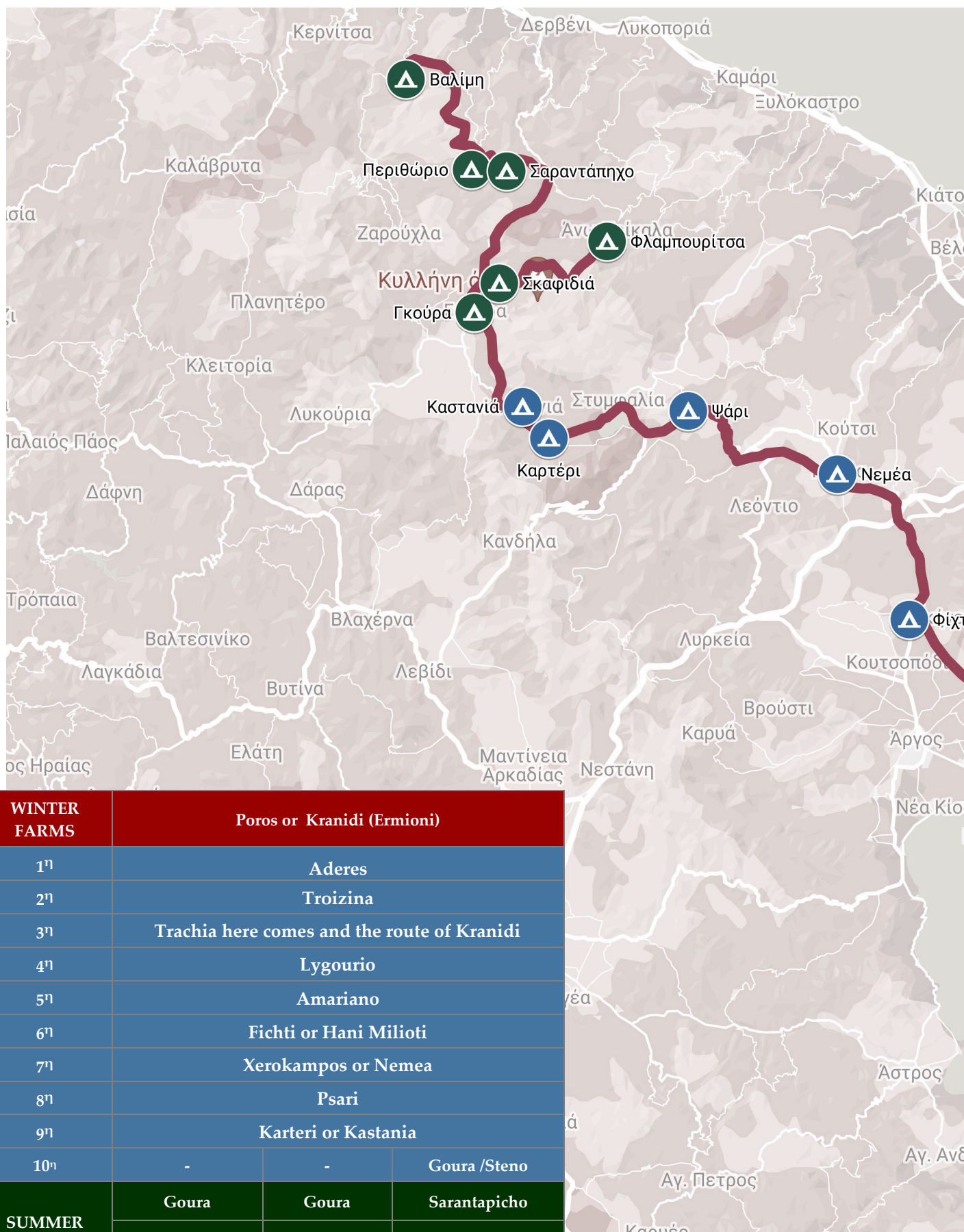
Winter farms	Tragano or Varda Elias
1 <sup>η</sup>	Xenies
2 <sup>η</sup>	Hani Panopoulou
3 <sup>η</sup>	Lampeia
4 <sup>η</sup>	Tripotama
5 <sup>η</sup>	Amygdalia
6 <sup>η</sup>	Planitero
SUMMER Konakia	Feneos, location Dourdouvana or Syvista or Monastery of Agios Georgios



## Elia to Zireia



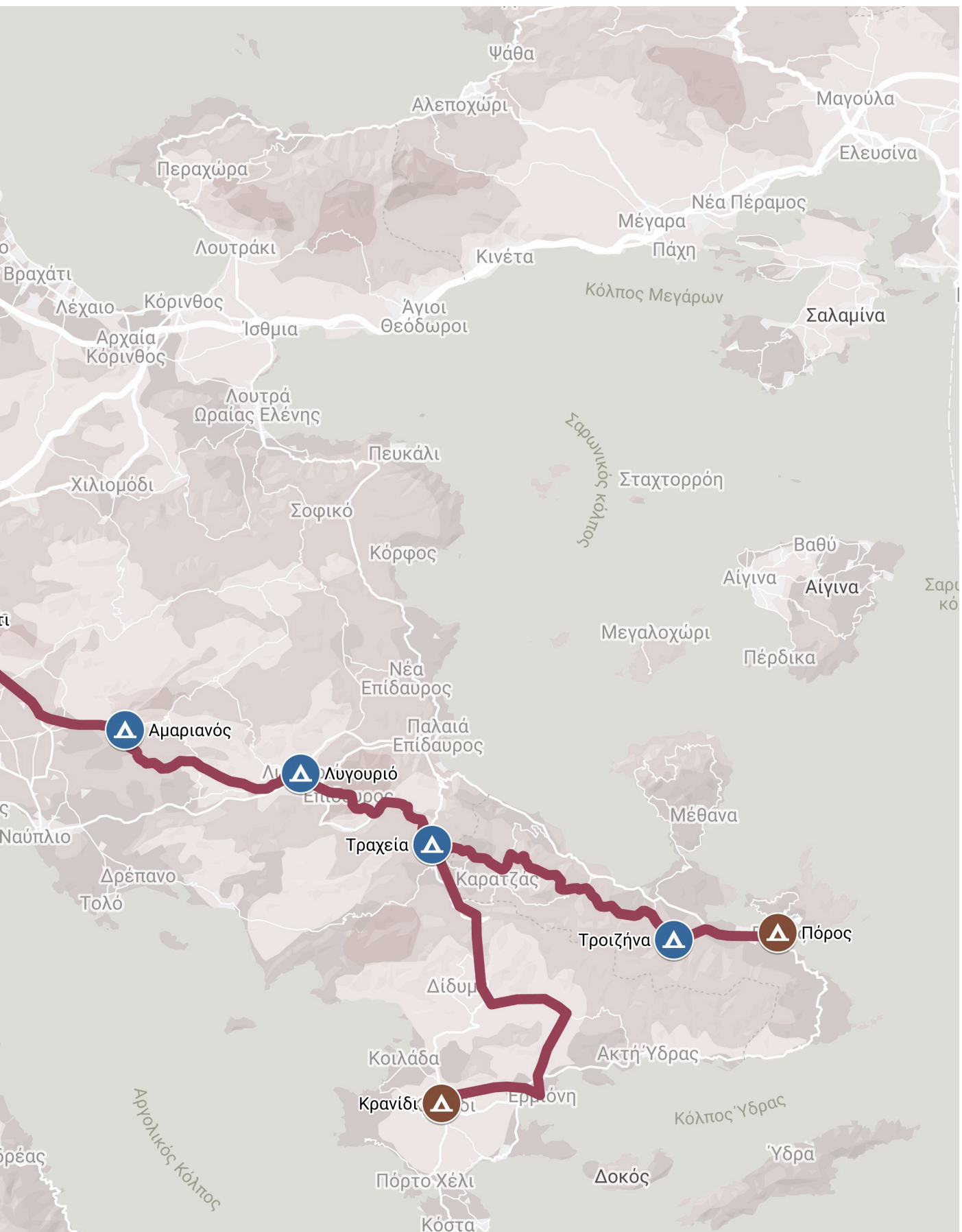
## From Argolida and Poros to t



WINTER FARMS	Poros or Kranidi (Ermioni)		
1 <sup>η</sup>	Aderes		
2 <sup>η</sup>	Troizina		
3 <sup>η</sup>	Trachia here comes and the route of Kranidi		
4 <sup>η</sup>	Lygourio		
5 <sup>η</sup>	Amariano		
6 <sup>η</sup>	Fichti or Hani Milioti		
7 <sup>η</sup>	Xerokampos or Nemea		
8 <sup>η</sup>	Psari		
9 <sup>η</sup>	Karteri or Kastania		
10 <sup>η</sup>	-	-	Goura /Steno
SUMMER Konakia	Goura	Goura	Sarantapicho
	Flampouritsa or Skafidia		Rachouvouno or Valimi



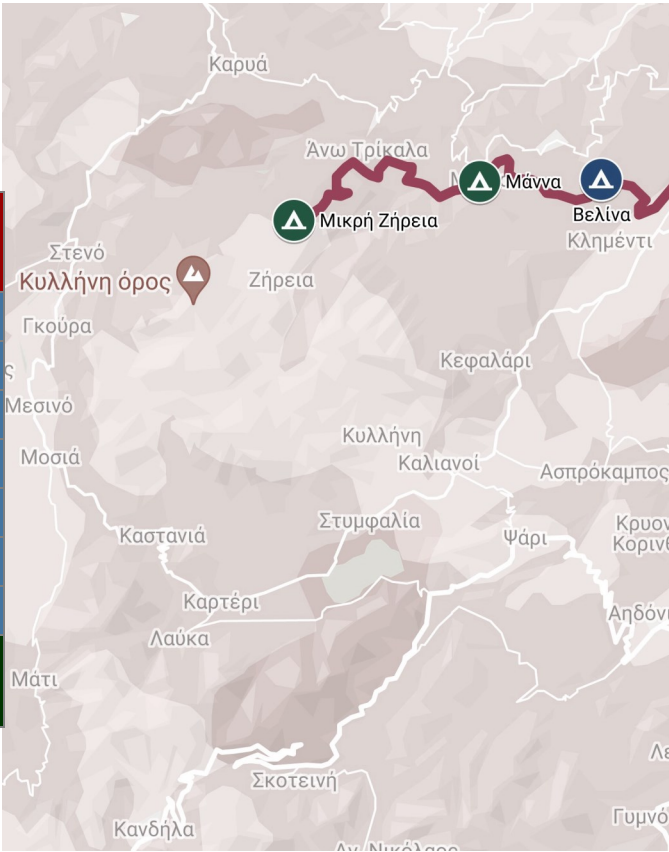
## the summer farms of Zireia



From the winter farms of Attica and Korinthia

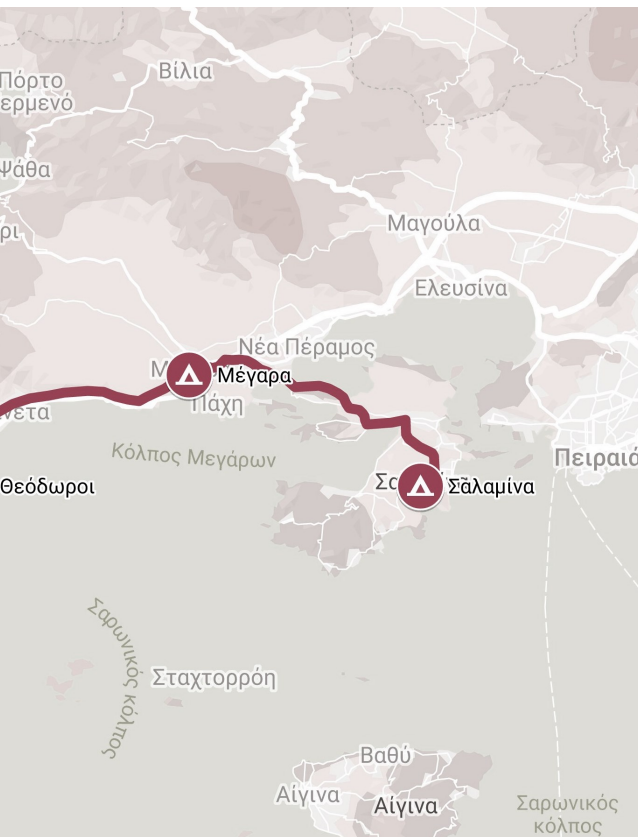


WINTER FARMS	Solugeia (Katakali, Galataki, Loutra Oraias Elenis)	
1 <sup>η</sup>	Ancient Korinthos	
2 <sup>η</sup>	Assos or Lexaion	
3 <sup>η</sup>	Nerantza or Kokoni	
4 <sup>η</sup>	Kiato	
5 <sup>η</sup>	Moulki	
6 <sup>η</sup>	Souli	
7 <sup>η</sup>	Velina	
SUMMER Konakia	Markasi (today village Manna)	Mikri Zireia

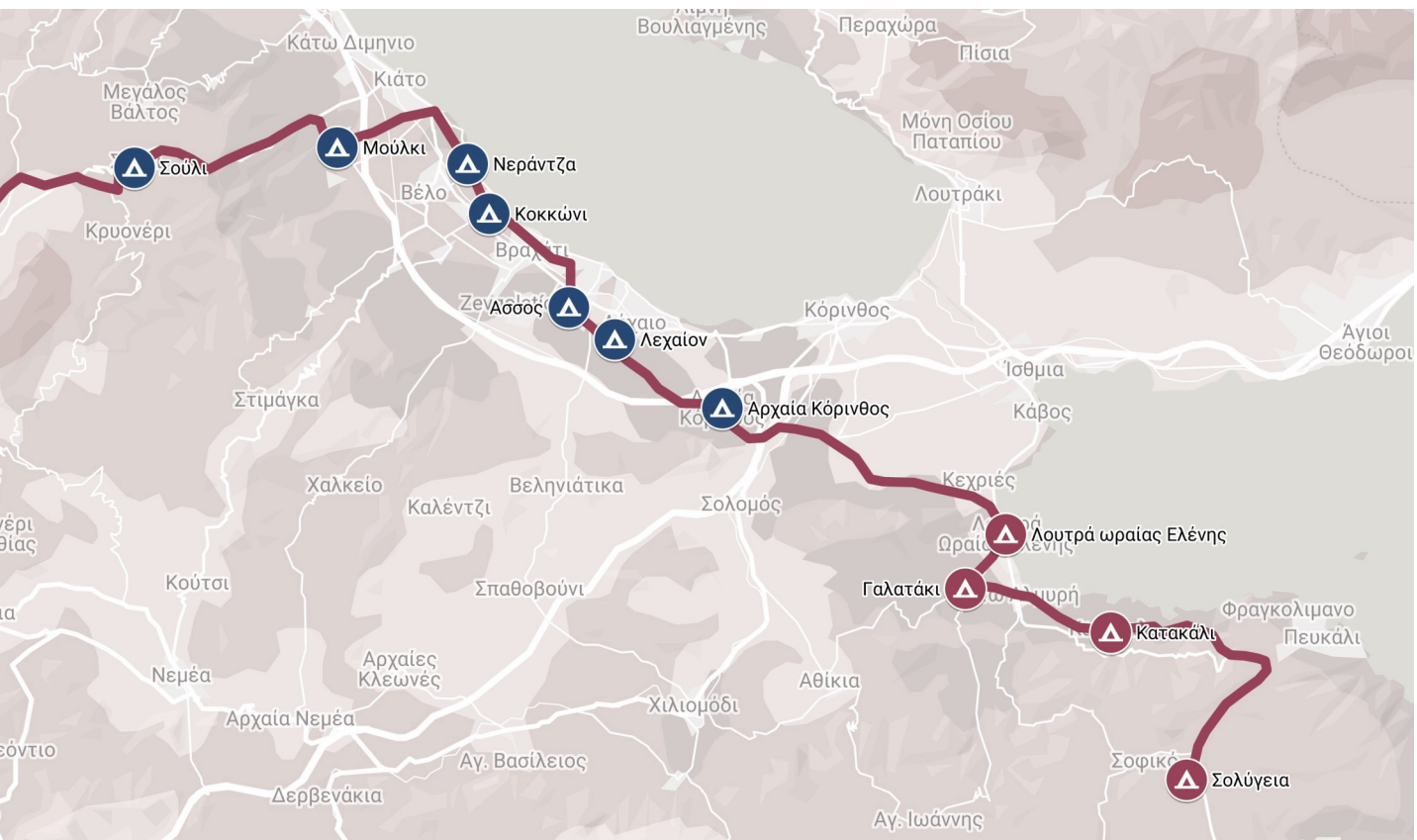


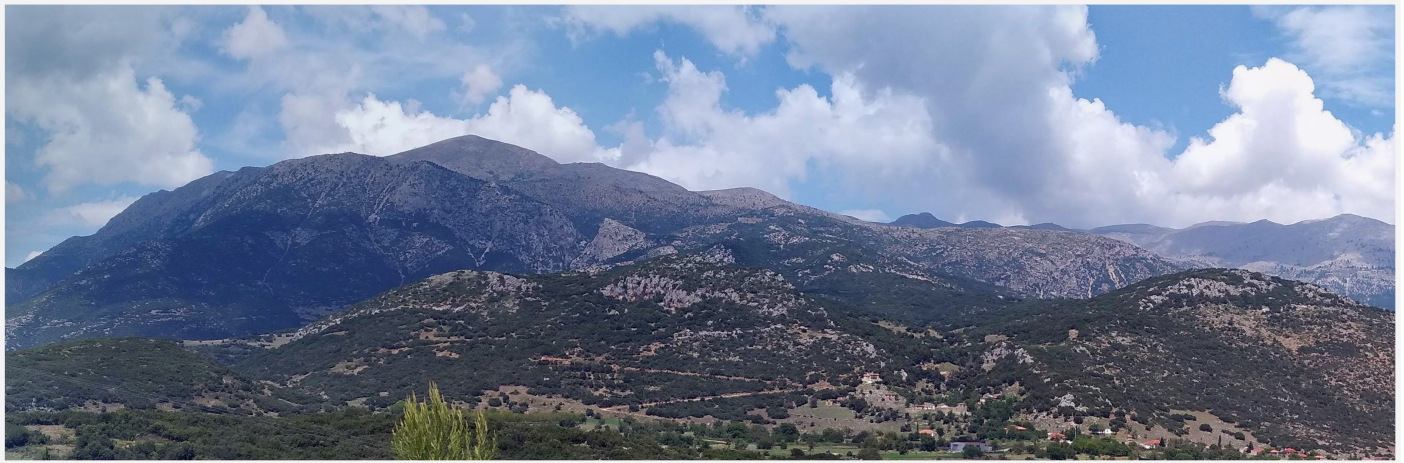


## Isthmia to the mountainous rangelands



WINTER FARMS	Megara or Salamina	Perachora
1 <sup>η</sup>	Agioi Theodoroi	
2 <sup>η</sup>	Isthmus of Corinth, Assos or Lechaion	
3 <sup>η</sup>	Nerantza or Kokoni	
4 <sup>η</sup>	Melissi	
5 <sup>η</sup>	Amariano	
6 <sup>η</sup>	Dendro or Rethi	
SUMMER Konakia	Zireia or Black mountain	





## Bibliography

- Nitsiakos V., 1997. 'Tsifliki and Tseligato: The complementarity of two socioeconomic formations'. Folk Heterogeneities, Ed. Odysseas, Athens.
- Chatzimichali, A. 2007. Sarakatsan people. 2nd Edition, Athens.
- Karatassiou, M., Parissi, Z. M., Stergiou, A., Chouvardas, D., & Mantzanas, K. 2021. Patterns of transhumant livestock system on Mount Zireia, Peloponnese, Greece. Options Méditerranéennes A 126, pp. 197-200.
- Websites: <https://metakinoumena.gr/el>, <https://www.pactores.eu/>

## Acknowledgements

### Warm thanks to:

The Peloponnese Sarakatsan's Association 'Tseligades' for their support and help throughout the progress of the project.

Mr. Christos Gogolas and Mr. Fotis Ioannou for the collection of the material.

The Sarakatsanians Association of Efxeinoupoli and Surroundings 'Stani' for the provision of photographic material.

The families of Mr. George and Mr. Konstantinos Drougas for the availability of photographic material.

Mr. Sotirio Gogakis for the recording of the traditional travel routes.

### Photographic material from:

- The archive of the Peloponnese Sarakatsan's Association.
- The archive of the Sarakatsanians Association of Efxeinoupoli and Surroundings and in particular from the photo album "Journey to Sarakatsanians Memories".
- Personal archive of the family of Mr. George and Mr. Konstantinos Drougas.
- Personal archive of Mrs. Maria Karatassiou.
- Personal archive of the Late X.G. Aravantinou, Laboratory of Rangeland Ecology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



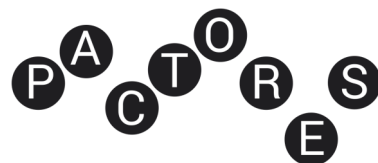
**Scientific Project Manager:**

**Maria Karatassiou**

Laboratory of Rangeland Ecology

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

[karatass@for.auth.gr](mailto:karatass@for.auth.gr)



**ERANET MED**



**ARISTOTLE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF THESSALONIKI**



**CIHEAM  
BARI**



**CREDa**  
CENTRE DE RECERCA EN ECONOMIA  
I DESENVOLUPAMENT AGROALIMENTARI



Université Ferhat Abbas Sétif 1



INRAA ALGÉRIE



**UNIVERSITÀ  
POLITECNICA  
DELLE MARCHE**



**UVIC**

UNIVERSITAT DE VIC  
UNIVERSITAT CENTRAL  
DE CATALUNYA



**ISPAAM**  
Istituto per il Sistema Produzione  
Animale in Ambiente  
Mediterraneo

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE







Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση  
Ευρωπαϊκό Διαρθρωτικό  
και Επενδυτικό Ταμείο

**ΓΓΕΚ**  
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ  
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ

**ΕΠΑνεΚ 2014-2020**  
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ  
ΑΝΤΑΓΩΝΙΣΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ  
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΜΑΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ  
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑ

**ΕΣΠΑ**  
2014-2020  
ανάπτυξη - εργασία - αλληλεγγύη