

The centre of Aigira is the starting point and the sign shows you the way to  ${\bf Chrysanthio}$ ,  ${\bf Sinevro}$ ,  ${\bf Oasi}$ 

# Ambelokipi

across from

### **Agios Pandeleimonas**

. You may get dizzy because of the winding road, but when you reach the beautiful town of Aigira you can enjoy the scents of the lemon and orange tress and the sight of olive trees...

As you go further up, you see country homes that enjoy a very good view, while river Krios runs to your left. At 7km a sign warns you that the road to the left takes you to Chrysanthio and

the one to thr right to Ambelikipi and Oasi. However, you can still get to Ambelokipi and Oasi If you take the left road, so take this option. Beautiful cherry trees and vineyards welcome you to **Chrysanthio** 

. It is the old Versova. The houses are traditional, made of stone, A maple tree is situated in the middle of the village, as is so often the case. There is a sun clock and the church of Agioi Apostoloi, and if you take the little street to the next neighbourhood, you will find the **Byzantine church of Agioi Apostoloi** 

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At 9.8km, we are already in Ambelokipi while to your left is the community's park called Chrysambeloi where the wine fest of Ambelokipi takes place. The road to the left of the monument in honour of the pre- Revolution battles of Arfara and Versova, takes you to the Municipal pension. You see the **Mayor houses of Economopoulos and Giannoulis** to your right and the Mayor house of Kouvelis above the pension. Go ahead and you will find a country road at 80 metres. If you turn right, you go to Vela – Oasi – Synevro or Exochi.

If you turn right, you find another road at 20 metres and then at 800metres there are three options: the road to your right takes you back to Chrysanthio, the one ahead of you takes you to Ageira and the other one on your left takes you to the square of Ambelokipi. It's **old Arfara**, a traditional village made of wood and stone, which is deserted in winter and visited by tourists at spring and summer time.

There is a church at the square and the building of the

### **Grand Old Lady**

to the left. Go up from the square and you find a country road at 500 metres that leads you to the Akrata – Zarouhla road at 2.5km. Apart from the driveway to Valimi, at the point where you see the church of Agios Georgios, there is an ancient trail that used to join Arcadia – Nonakrida – Aigeira. You can follow this trail on foot or on a horse, and you will see that the name of Ambelokipi (=vine gardens) is quite justified by the presence of vineyards, cherry trees and wildflowers.

Ambelokipi is not very well sign-posted, so try to make sure you don't get confused. Turn left to Oasi and Sinevro. In the distance you see the

## **Monastery of Agios Vlassios**

, built in the heart of the rock. Go over the Goula rivulet and, at 150 metres, there's a trail that takes you to the Monastery of Agios Vlassios; you can only go on foot. You can go on for 1 kilometre and before you meet the descending road of Koudoussa, turn right and drive in your car to Agia Paraskevi, the church of the first settlement of Tsilardis.

At 13km, there is a fork. The right road takes you to

#### Vela

and the left to

#### Oasi

which you will find at 16.5 km. Again, the signs here might be a problem so you probably have to ask your way to

#### Sinevro

. Take that as a nice opportunity to socialise with the village's residents!

At 18.8 km, a bridge goes over a side river of Krios and you cal already see Sinevro to your left at an altitude of 470 metres, built amphitheatrically with a view to the sea. At 19km, you enter Sinevro with its beautiful cherry trees and almond tress. From the village's square on, you reach the place where the women of the village washed their clothes. According to an old man, the name comes from the words "sin" (=together with) and "evros" (=deer) because after the fire set by the Turks, two deer were together at the village.

### Route on a country road

You have to retrace your steps out of Sinevro to find the road that takes you to the village of **E xochi** 

. At 4 km you find the stone bridge of Seliana that joins the two country roads (17th, 18th). Turn right and go to the village's square where you will find a church, a maple tree and a central spring. Many people are still farmers, tending several thousands of animals, at an altitude of 1,150 metres. There are two big meadows near the village from where you can see

### Sarandapiho

and

#### **Aerodromio**

. Helmos is on the other side. At 5km, you find the village of Agia Barbara in Nonakrida. So, if, at the km of the main route from Egira, you turn right to Vela instead of left, you will find yourselves at the village. Another village that you can see is Veletiko, with all the typical characteristics of a greek village: the square in the middle, a spring and a church. It is a traditional village made of stone and wood. You can reach Exochi if you continue on the road from Vela.