The Hidden Villages of Sicyonia: A Mountain Journey



The Charm of the Hinterland: Beyond Coastal Sicyonia

When most visitors think of Sicyonia, their minds immediately drift to the seaside beauty of Kiato, the lace-like shores of the Corinthian Gulf, and the cosmopolitan aura of a Mediterranean summer. However, the true soul of the region is hidden just a few kilometres higher, where the hills begin to fold into mountains and the landscape transforms into a vibrant canvas of vineyards, silver-green olive groves, and dense forests. The villages of mountainous and semi-mountainous Sicyonia represent an unexplored treasure for those seeking authenticity, serenity, and a deep connection with Greek history.

In this travelogue, we leave the coastline behind and ascend toward Titani, Bozika, and Klimenti. These three destinations, though neighbours, each possess a distinct character. Together, they offer a complete experience of the Corinthian earth—a journey that bridges the gap between the myths of antiquity and the living traditions of today. Whether you are a history buff, a nature lover, or a foodie, these "hidden" gems provide a refreshing alternative to the typical tourist trail.

Titani: Where Myth Meets Antiquity

Titani is our first stop, a village that carries a name heavy with history. Built in a strategic location overlooking the valley of the Asopos River, Titani is inextricably linked to ancient Titane, a small town of Sicyonian territory renowned in antiquity for its sanctuary of Asclepius. The village today serves as a quiet sentinel, guarding secrets that date back thousands of years.

The Ancient Asclepieion of Titani

The most important attraction in the area is the archaeological site of ancient Titane. According to the ancient traveller Pausanias, this site hosted one of the oldest and most revered Asclepieia (healing temples) of the ancient world. The choice of location was anything but accidental: the exceptionally healthy climate, the presence of fresh springs, and the lush vegetation were considered ideal for the recovery of the sick.

Today, visitors can explore the ruins of the ancient acropolis walls, which dominate the hilltop. Walking

among the weathered stones that once formed part of a sacred infirmary, one feels a sense of awe at the continuity of time. The panoramic view from the summit is breathtaking, offering a clear sightline across the valley—a reminder of why this spot was chosen for both its spiritual and strategic value. Titani is not just a village; it is a monument to nature and civilization, waiting patiently for the modern traveller to rediscover its quiet majesty.

Bozika: The Quiet Strength of Tradition

Continuing our route deeper into the hills, we arrive at Bozika. This village is the personification of rural Corinthia. Surrounded by vast olive groves and vineyards that produce some of the region's finest crops, Bozika offers a sense of intimacy and hospitality that is increasingly rare in the modern world. It is a place where "slow living" isn't a trend, but a way of life that has persisted for generations.

Architecture and Daily Life

Bozika has largely preserved its traditional architectural character. Stone-built houses with ceramic tile roofs, the central square (plateia) shaded by trees, and the village church create a setting that feels like a scene from a vintage postcard. Here, time moves at a different pace. The inhabitants, mostly farmers and wine-growers, are always eager to share stories about their land and offer a glass of local wine to a passing stranger.

A highlight for architecture enthusiasts is the old stone primary school, a architectural jewel that bears witness to the village's intellectual and social flourishing in decades past. A walk through the narrow, winding alleys will bring you into direct contact with the daily rhythms of the countryside—the scent of woodsmoke in the winter, the aroma of pressed grapes in the autumn, and the overwhelming quiet that only the Greek mountains can provide.

Klimenti: The "Balcony" of Sicyonia

Ascending even further to an altitude approaching 1,000 metres, we encounter Klimenti. Widely considered one of the most beautiful mountain villages in the entire Corinthia prefecture, it rightfully holds the title of the "balcony" of Sicyonia. The view from here is nothing short of staggering: the entire Corinthian Gulf stretches out below your feet, while the mountains of Central Greece loom majestically in the distance across the water.

Nature, Forests, and Hiking Trails

Klimenti is crowned by the dense forest of "Vesiza," a lush expanse of black pine and fir trees. For hiking enthusiasts, the village serves as an ideal starting point for numerous nature trails. These paths lead through the forest to hidden springs and clearings that offer unique vantage points. The air here is crystal clear, and the temperature remains refreshingly cool even during the peak of the Greek summer heatwaves.

In the heart of the village stands the Church of Agios Nikolaos, an imposing structure that acts as the focal point for social gatherings and religious festivals. After a day of exploring the mountain trails, the village tavernas beckon. They are famous throughout the region for their high-quality meats, traditionally prepared pies (pitas), and the kind of hearty mountain fare that provides the perfect end to an outdoor adventure.

Flavours and Local Products of the Uplands

A journey through Sicyonia would be incomplete without sampling its local products. The region is blessed with fertile soil and a microclimate that favors variety and quality. Gastronomy here is simple, honest, and deeply flavorful.

- **Olive Oil:** The oil produced in Bozika and Titani is of exceptional quality, characterized by a rich aroma

and a slightly peppery finish. It is the liquid gold of the region.

- **Wine:** The vineyards of Sicyonia produce excellent local varieties. Do not hesitate to try the "bulk" house wine in the village cafes; it is often as good as bottled premium labels.
- **Traditional Pasta:** In Klimenti and the surrounding settlements, local women still produce "chilopites" (egg noodles) and "trahanas" (a fermented grain pasta) using traditional methods and fresh mountain ingredients.
- **Honey:** The honey sourced from the Vesiza forest and the surrounding slopes is packed with the scents of thyme, fir, and wild mountain flowers.

Practical Information for the Traveller

How to Get There

Access to the villages of Sicyonia is relatively straightforward, though the roads require a bit of attention. Starting from Kiato, follow the signs toward Stymphalia and Mountainous Sicyonia. The road is uphill and features several hairpin turns, but the dramatic change in scenery—from coastal plains to rugged peaks—makes the drive a reward in itself. The distance from Kiato to Titani is approximately 20-30 minutes, while reaching Klimenti will take about 45 minutes. Ensure your vehicle is in good condition, especially in winter.

When to Go

Each season paints these villages in different colours, making them year-round destinations:

- **Autumn:** This is perhaps the most atmospheric time. The changing colours of the vineyards and the scent of must during the harvest create a magical environment.
- **Winter:** Ideal for those who love the cozy atmosphere of a fireplace, robust red wine, and the possibility of a snow-covered landscape, especially in high-altitude Klimenti.
- **Spring:** Nature is in full bloom, the mountain springs are gushing with water, and the weather is perfect for hiking the forest trails without the summer heat.
- **Summer:** The mountain villages offer the ultimate escape from the sweltering heat of the plains. The evenings are cool enough to require a light sweater, even in August.

Why Visit "Hidden" Sicyonia?

Visiting Titani, Bozika, and Klimenti is more than just a day trip; it is a return to the roots of Greek rural life. It is an opportunity to see Corinthia through the eyes of its people, to taste products grown with passion, and to breathe the pure mountain air. In an era where tourism often feels impersonal, these villages remain "beacons" of authenticity, waiting for those who know how to appreciate life's small, true pleasures.

Whether you are a history lover looking for the footprints of Asclepius, a hiker seeking the shade of the fir trees, or simply someone looking for a quiet corner to escape the daily grind, this journey through the villages of Sicyonia will leave you with images and emotions that will stay with you long after you return to the coast.

Planning your visit to Kiato?

Visit Kiato is the travel guide for the region — hotels, tavernas, wineries and things to do, all in one place.

Browse the guideMore articles

Take it with you

Open this page on your phone
visitkiato.com/en/hidden-villages-of-sicyonia-titani-bozika-klimenti

Enjoy Kiato and Sikyonia!