Kastania: the mountain village of Ziria and Papanikas of 1821

At 920 metres, on the southern slopes of Kyllini, today's Mount Ziria, lies Kastania. It is one of the best-loved mountain villages of Sikyonia, especially in winter.

The chestnut forest

A large chestnut forest was a source of wealth for its people during Ottoman rule. Thanks to it, the villagers were able to support the War of Independence of 1821 with food and ammunition. The forest was burned during the Revolution.

Papanikas and the statue at the pass

The villagers were led in the Revolution by the priest Georgios Nikas, known as Papanikas, the local chieftain of Kastania and a comrade-in-arms of Kolokotronis. At the Kastania pass, where the road runs between Ziria and Oligyrtos towards the Feneos plateau, stands his statue, with open views of the surrounding mountains.

What to do nearby

- Kastania makes a good base for Mount Ziria and mountain walks.
- Further down, on the Feneos plateau, you will find Lake Doxa.
- For winter ideas, see Winter in mountainous Sikyonia.

Practical tips

- In winter the road can have snow or ice: check the forecast and carry snow chains.
- The pass is a lovely place to stop for photos on the way to Feneos.

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