

## St. Panteleimon Monastery in Agia



St. Panteleimon Monastery was founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was originally consecrated to the Virgin. During that period, the eastern part of Kissavos had many monastic installations and was named the Mountain of Cells. St. Panteleimon was renovated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when it had an important impact on the region, housing many monks and large property. At that period the commemoration of St. Panteleimon was added, who was a healing saint, protecting people from plague.

The catholicon is an imposing triconchos church, covered with many barrel vaults and three domes, built with the late byzantine system of alternating bricks and stones. It was restored recently by the 7<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities with funds from European Communion. The paintings date from the year 1724 and were made by the painter Gavriel from Peloponnesos.

The interesting iconostasis was constructed at 1580 with funds of the nobleman Ioannis and bears a special painted decoration in form of a veil, hanging over the icons. It was inspired by the liturgy of the Virgin at the 21<sup>th</sup> of November, when the Entrance of the Virgin to the church is commemorated.

Two more buildings from the ancient monastery are preserved, the refectory, painted in 1613 and used for the meals of the monks and the gate-tower, which also dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The wings of cells, used for the living of the monks have collapsed and partially rebuilt.

Today the monastery houses a men's brotherhood.

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