



The villages are built on hills, slopes and plateaus near running water. At the highest point, usually the church is built and next to it a fountain. The traditional house consists of a ground floor and an upper floor. The cellar is used for storing goods and for keeping animals and the upper floor is the main home. Entering the house is the upper floor with external staircase.

The mountain colonization began in 1600, when cities and plains are deserted due to economic crisis and the cruel Ottoman taxation. The first colonizations were driven for safety and



protection reasons. The settlements flourished between 1770-1814. The growth continued after

the liberation, especially between 1840-1880, where the best preserved houses, mansions,

churches, bridges and fountains, are dated. Also during the same period we find many pre-industrial buildings such as mills etc. By the end of the nineteenth century the abandonment begins while the lowland colonization prevails.

- Traditional settlements: Visitors will find traditional villages in Panachaikon, such as "Zoumpata Villages" or "Arvanitochoria" of the Municipality of Patras, namely the villages of Souli, Moira and Zoumpata at the sources of Glafkos River. Also, further north, the historical Salmeniko of Erineos and villages Krystalovrysi, Petroto, Kallithea of Messatida, as well as in Leontio and Demesticha of Leontio Community.



Traditional villages are between Panachaikon and Erymanthos and on steep slopes, near Peiros river, in "Nezerochoria» of **Farraí municipality**, vilages **Kataraktis, Kalanistra, Rodia, Kalanos, Platanos, Lacomata Chrysopigi**

and others. Villages exist in

Halandritsa

(mainly stone houses),

Platanovrisi, Valmantoura, Elliniko, Kalousi

and

Koumani

east of Erymanthos and

Tritaia villages: Agia Varvara, Drosia, Alepoxori, Skiadas, Skoura, Velimachi

and

Kalentzi

. Outstanding architecture can be found at

Alepoxori

which is made of stone and has been designated since 1976 as a traditional settlement.

However, most mountain villages with a traditional interest, are in the area of Kalavrita. Throughout the mountains of Helmos numerous of settlements, with a minimum number of people, maintain their traditional character.



On the east side of the county, at the valley of the river Krathi, there are the **"Mastorochovia"** of **Nonakridas**

or

"Kloukinochoria";

. North of **Kalavrita**

at Vouraikos valley, within the rare beauty of nature, is village **Zachlorou**

at approximately the same location (always within the municipality of Kalavrita) you find villages **Rogous**

, **Kerpitni, Doumena**

and

Skepasto

. South of Kalavrita stand the historical villages of **Kertezi** and **Upper-Lower Lucoi (former Soudena)** with excellent

preserved settlements, while further south in areas of **Kleitorea, Daphne**

and

Psofida

, where a dense network of rivers and tributaries cross, are the largest traditional villages in Achaia prefecture. **"... On unseen plateaus or steep slopes ..."** says Vasilis Christopoulos, **"... in lush vegetation or on a dry rock, which often coexist, offering a wide variety of landscapes rich with rare natural beauty..."**. We mention, major historical villages in

Sopoto

(now Aroania), Daphne

... and finally

Leivartzi

and

Lechouri

... Starting from the north "trail" of this region we find

Armpouna, Planitero,

built on a hill where the sources of Aroanios are, vilage

Kastria

, the magnificent Cave of the Lakesand others.



Continuing the "trail" of this beautiful region, further south, across the villages of the **municipality Lefkasio, Filia, Lefkasio, Krinofyta, Likouria, Pangrati,** where the historic "vine of Pausanias" is, and the villages of **municipality of Paion, Skotani (Kokkova)**

and

Amigdalia (Mamalouka)

. Also in the same municipality, which borders the prefecture of Arcadia, we meet three stone villages, characterized by presidential order as traditional,

Paos (formerly "Skoupi"), Dechouni

and

Vesini

, whose inhabitants were transferred and created the village of N. Paos and villages

Nasia, Pefko

and

Hovoli

. Finishing the "trail" we find in municipality of

Aroania,

villages

Alestaina

and

Seires

(

formerly "Versitsi)

with remarkable examples of traditional architecture. All are built by the famous craftsmen of Lagadino who were organized into groups since the Turkish occupation and travelled the villages and built.



