



Evoia Helicopter Tour



- *Mountain Ochi*
- *Ancient quarries-Kylindroi*
- *Drakospita*



In ancient years the region of Karystia was renowned for its marble. The ancient quarries are found on the southern flanks of Mt Ochi, between the villages of Mekounida and Aetos. Strabo writes about the magnificent monolithic "Karystian columns". The activity of marble extraction was so intensive that in Marmari, the main post for the export of Karystian marble, there was a temple dedicated to Apollo.

The most remarkable remains of ancient quarrying are found in '**Kylindroi**', at the top of the valley of Myloi. Here we find lying in situ, hewn out of the rock, several giant monolithic columns of about 12 m long - the 'kylindroi' as the locals call them.

A very challenging archaeological wonder lies in the area of Souther Evvia: it's the 25 famous huge constructions called **Drakóspita** (=Dragonhouses). Always located on steep and dominating location, they are built with huge slabs of limestone which form a pyramid-shaped roof: opposite walls converge towards each other as the slabs are put on top one another with each of them protruding as regards its inferior one. Many theories have been proposed in order to explain when, how and for which use the dragonhouses were built. Some have claimed that they were ancient sanctuaries of either Zeus or Hera or Heracles. The most impressive of all the Drakospita of Evvia is the one located on **Mt Ochi**, at an altitude of 1389 metres, above the town of Karystos.