



## FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

### FROM SKITI AGIA ANNA TO NEA SKITI (SKITI THEOTOKOU) AND AGIOU PAVLOU

Nea Skiti to Ag. Pavlou: Distance: 2.4 km Journey Time: ¾ hour  
Ag. Anna to Ag. Pavlou: Distance: 3.4 km Journey Time: 1 hour  
Ag. Anna to Nea Skiti: Distance: 1.8 km Journey Time: ½ hour

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***Note:** This path description can also be used for the pilgrims walking from Nea Skiti to Agiou Pavlou.*

This beautiful route has special importance as it is the part of the SW route from *Megisti Lavra* which goes up to the 'desert' (*erimos* in Greek), and thence on to *Mount Athos Summit*, *Ag. Anna* and *Ag. Pavlou*, ending up at *Simonopetra*. This route offers spectacular views down the western coast of Athonite peninsula, Mount Athos summit and nearby *Sithonia*.

**Note:** All distances given (in metres) should be taken as approximate. The numbers shown in the form **1** are Waypoints to be found in associated **GPS tracking**. The route described is liable to unpredictable change: for example, forestry work, road or track construction and plant growth may alter the route, or its appearance. Signposts may disappear or new ones appear. The Friends of Mount Athos strives to keep this description correct and up to date but cannot take responsibility for its accuracy.

**Abbreviations:** L = Left; R = Right; KSO = Keep straight on;  
FP = Footpath; K = *Kalderimi* (stone-paved FP or track)

**Transliterations:** *ΝΕΑ ΣΚΪΤΗ* = *Nea Skiti*; *ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΑΥΛΟΥ* = *Agiou Pavlou*;  
*ΑΓΙΑΣ ΑΝΝΗΣ* = *Agia Anna*

#### Description of Route:

Walk (m) And then . . .

- 1** Leave *Agia Anna Kyriakon* yard entrance and go towards bell tower.
- 20 **2** At bell tower ascend steps and turn L on FP (signed *Nea Skiti* and *Ag. Pavlou*).

**Note:** Continuing straight on here on the FP uphill leads to *Stavros* pass (altitude 760 m) and thence to *Mount Athos Summit* and to *Megisti Lavra*.

- 90 **3** Pass small heliport on L. KSO on main FP ignoring minor FPs to the L or R leading to various cells.
- 250 **4** Go through iron gate and KSO/R still on main FP (signed).
- 350 **5** Pass through gate with iron cross at the top. Excellent views of **Nea Skiti** and the coast.
- 470 **6** Track joins from R. KSO on FP descending concrete steps.
- 50 **7** With hut at R, KSO on main FP (signed), descending on concrete steps.
- 220 **8** Arrive at junction where the FP from *Kyriakon Nea Skiti* joins the main FP *Ag. Anna* to *Ag. Pavlou*.  
To go directly to **Agiou Pavlou** continue at † below.  
*Otherwise:*

#### For **Nea Skiti (Kyriakon)**

- 8** KSO here, downhill initially on concrete steps (signed). Continue downhill between the buildings (cells), of the *Skiti*, pass the tower of *Skiti*, on R, and descend more steps.
- 300 **17** Arrive at shrine. Turn R here on concrete steps.
- 20 **18** At junction of FP turn L on paved track. (Turning R here, leads to the *arsanas* of *Nea Skiti* in 170m.)
- 50 **19** Arrive at **Nea Skiti (Skiti Theotokou) Kyriakon** entrance.

#### From **Nea Skiti Kyriakon** to **Agiou Pavlou**:

- 19** Leave **Nea Skiti (Skiti Theotokou) Kyriakon** entrance and KSO on paved track.
- 50 **18** Turn R uphill on concrete steps. (Continuing straight on here, leads to the *arsanas* of the *Skiti* in 170m.)
- 20 **17** At crossroads, with shrine ahead/L, turn L, uphill, initially on paved steps. Continue uphill between the buildings of the *Skiti (cells)*, ascend more steps and pass the tower of *Skiti*, on L.
- 300 **8** FP joins the main path from *Ag Pavlou* to *Ag Anna*.

## To continue to ***Agiou Pavlou***

- † **8** Turn R here onto FP (signed). (Turn L if coming from ***Nea Skiti Kyriakon***).
- 40 **9** Go through iron gate. KSO. FP ascends for a while and then continues on level. FP goes parallel to the shore, offering spectacular views of the western coast of the *Athonite* peninsula and nearby *Sithonia*. Ignore descending paths to L.
- 900 **10** Just after black iron guardrail on L, go through gateway and KSO.
- 200 **11** Go through iron gate.
- 200 **12** FP emerges at track with view of ***Agiou Pavlou*** Monastery ahead (signed opposite direction). Continue onto track towards the main road ahead.
- 30 **13** Arrive at main road from *Agiou Pavlou* to *arsanas*. Turn hard L (signed *Dionysiou*) onto main road towards the *arsanas* of the Monastery.
- Note:** Continuing straight on / R here on main road, also leads to the Monastery (in 700 metres), but the route is entirely on unattractive road and less pleasant than the one described below.
- 130 **14** At fork with track to R, bear R onto that track, ascend four steps to pass through wooden gate and enter narrow corridor above track with wooden guardrail. Corridor crosses streambed on nice wooden bridge. KSO to pass to the L of shrine.
- 140 **15** Just after passing the shrine (on R), KSO/R through gateway ahead and turn L onto broad *K*. The *K* ascends between buildings and the monastery's garden, zigzagging in places.
- 330 **16** Arrive at ***Agiou Pavlou Monastery*** entrance.

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This description has been produced by ***The Friends of Mount Athos***, a charitable organisation which, among other activities, works with monasteries to keep this, and certain other footpaths on the Holy Mountain, open. Copies of this and similar descriptions are available, free, from the Friends website, [www.athosfriends.org](http://www.athosfriends.org) and in a number of places on or associated with the Holy Mountain.