



FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

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

Ag. Pavlou to Nea Skiti: Distance: 2.4 km Journey Time: ¾ hour
Ag. Pavlou to Ag. Anna: Distance: 3.4 km Journey Time: 1 ¼ hours
Nea Skiti to Ag. Anna: Distance: 1.8 km Journey Time: ¾ hour

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

This beautiful route has special importance as it is the part of the SW route from *Simonopetra*, which then continues to *Ag. Pavlou*, *Ag. Anna*, *Mount Athos Summit* and the ‘desert’ (*erimos* in Greek) and thence to *Megisti Lavra*. 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 ΣΚΗΤΗ = *Nea Skiti*; ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΑΥΛΟΥ = *Agiou Pavlou*;
ΑΓΙΑΣ ΑΝΝΗΣ = *Agia Anna*

Description of Route:

Walk (m) And then . . .

16 Leave ***Agiou Pavlou Monastery*** entrance, pass kiosk on R and KSO/R on descending paved track (*K*). The *K* descends between buildings and the monastery’s garden, zigzagging in places.

Note: Alternatively take the main road that leads to the *arsanas* up to the waypoint **13** below where routes rejoin (in 700 metres). This route is more straight forward but less attractive.

330

15 *K* ends at track, close to a shrine. Turn R through gateway and immediately L, pass shrine to find narrow

corridor above track with wooden guardrail. Corridor crosses streambed on nice wooden bridge and continues parallel to the track, ending at small wooden gate. Pass through gate and descend four steps to reach track. KSO on track to arrive at ...

140

14 Junction with broad road coming from *arsanas*. KSO/L onto broad road heading inland (not hard R which leads to the *arsanas*).

130

13 After passing buildings on R, track joins from back R. Turn hard R here onto that track (bear L if coming from the main road towards the *arsanas*).

30

12 Fork L off track onto broad FP (signed *Skiti Theotokou* and *Ag. Anna*). FP goes parallel to the shore all the way to **Nea Skiti**, offering spectacular views of the western coast of the *Athonite* peninsula and nearby *Sithonia*.

200

11 Go through iron gate.

200

10 Go through gateway and KSO. Pass black iron guardrail on R. Ignore descending paths to R. Pass cell on R after 300m.

900

9 After shrine on L and a short descent, FP goes through iron gate. KSO.

40

8 Arrive at junction where the FP from *Kyriakon Nea Skiti* joins the main FP *Ag. Pavlou* to *Ag. Anna*.

To go directly to **Agia Anna** continue at † below.
Otherwise:

For Nea Skiti (Kyriakon)

8 Turn R 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 crossroads with shrine on L. Turn R here down concrete steps.

20

18 At junction of FPs 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 *Agia Anna*:

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

To continue to *Agia Anna (Kyriakon)*

- ‡ **8** Turn L, uphill on concrete steps (signed). (KSO if coming from *Nea Skiti Kyriakon*)
- 220 **7** Concrete steps end with hut on L. KSO on FP (signed). Concrete steps restart in a few metres.
- 50 **6** Track joins from back L. KSO on FP (signed).
- 470 **5** Pass through gate with iron cross at the top. FP continues to ascend, zigzagging in places (partly K).
- 240 **5A** At fork, ignore minor FP ahead on level. Turn L uphill on main FP (signed).
- 120 **4** Go through iron gate and KSO. Ignore minor FPs to the L or R leading to various cells.
- 250 **3** Pass small heliport on R.
- 90 **2** Arrive at the junction at the bell tower of *Kyriakon*. Turn R here descending, and go through iron gate.
- Note:** Turning L here on the FP uphill leads to **Stavros** pass (altitude 760 m) and thence to **Mount Athos Summit** and to **Megisti Lavra**.
- 20 **1** Arrive at *Agia Anna Kyriakon* main gate.

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 and in a number of places on or associated with the Holy Mountain.