



FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

FROM SKETE OF BOGORODITSA TO SKETE OF PROFITIS ILIAS

Distance: 3 km

Journey time: ¾ – 1 hour

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Returning or continuing from the *Skete of Bogoroditsa* to *Pantokrator* via the large and handsome *Skete of Profitis Ilias* makes an attractive, though rather longer, alternative route, the first part of which is described here.

Initially this path descends mostly through woods with occasional views across to the other side of the valley and the *Skete of Profitis Ilias*. The path then climbs the further side of the valley, still through woods, to reach the *Skete*.

Note: All distances given (in metres) should be taken as approximate. 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: *Βογορόδιτσα* = *Bogoroditsa*; *Προφήτη Ηλία* = *Profitis Ilias*;

Description of Routes:

Walk (m) And then . . .

Leave the gate of *Skete of Bogoroditsa* and head uphill along main track (which leads to the main *Vatopedi* – *Karyes* road).

90

Turn R along FP signed *Profitis Ilias*. Cross stream, passing remains of water system/mill.

- 200 Arrive at fork where the path to the **Skete of Profitis Ilias** and the connector to the historic Vatopedi – Pantokrator footpath diverge (signed).
Note: Straight on/R, downhill, continues toward the **Skete of Profitis Ilias**; L onto FP uphill connects to the *Vatopedi – Pantokrator* footpath.
KSO/R, signed *Profitis Ilias*, now descending more steeply through trees.
- 800 FP narrows and becomes less steep. Pass rocky viewpoint across valley to the **Skete of Profitis Ilias** opposite.
FP then becomes broader and steeper on K.
- 650 FP descends to track. Turn L onto track.
- 55 Opposite small cliff on L, watch for steep descent on R to FP (K) which continues below (signed *Profitis Ilias*).
Descend bank to follow FP downhill through woods.
Caution: Construction of the track has destroyed the original FP here. Its continuation may be difficult to find.
Note: Continuing along the track leads to main *Kayes – Pantokrator* road.
- 100 Cross fine stone bridge over river at valley bottom and continue on FP, now uphill through woods.
- 600 FP emerges onto track with outer gate of **Skete of Profitis Ilias** ahead. Continue through gate towards *Skete* and pass to L of buildings. At corner of wall of *Skete*, turn R and follow wall.
- 200 Arrive at the entrance to central courtyard of **Skete of Profitis Ilias**.

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.