FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

FROM DIONYSIOU TO AGIOU PAVLOU

Distance: 2.7 km Journey Time: 1 hour

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The first half of this attractive journey is on a footpath which is parallel to the sea along the edge of a cliff. This footpath offers spectacular views down the coast and up to the mountain. The second half is almost entirely on an unattractive broad track apart from a small stretch of traditional *kalderimi* close to *Agiou Pavlou* Monastery. But the fine views of the Monastery and Athos summit compensate for this.

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)

Description of Route:

Walk (m)	*And then . . .*
0	**9** Leave ***Dionysiou Monastery*** entrance and go straight ahead on paved track (*K*), with buildings on L and sea to R. Take signed FP (*K*) which zigzags downhill, passing below ossuary on L.
120	**8** Paved track (*K*) ends. KSO on FP.
160	**7** Pass viewpoint with cross on R. Excellent views of the shore and the *arsanas* of both monasteries.
650	**6** FP ends at track. KSO on track (concrete in a few meters), parallel to the shore, past tower (under restoration in 2016) on L. ***Note:*** Extensive construction and landscaping in progress between ***Agiou Pavlou Monastery*** and the shore in March 2016. It is likely that new roads or tracks may be created, possibly providing a more direct route towards the Monastery than that given below.

360 **5** Cross streambed at ford or take the narrow corridor on the R above track (corridor crosses streambed on nice wooden bridge with wooden guardrail and joins track in a few meters). KSO, still on broad track (concrete ends) towards *arsanas*, parallel to the shore.

320 **4** At junction close to *arsanas*, turn L inland on broad road.

600 **3** Track joins from back L. Turn hard L onto that track, ascend four steps to go through small 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 **2** 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 **1** Arrive at ***Agiou Pavlou Monastery*** entrance.

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.