



FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

FROM IVIRON TO PHILOTHEOU

Distance: 5.6 km Journey Time: 2 hours

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This journey is an attractive alternative to the one that follows the main road to *Megistis Lavras* and then the ascending path from *arsanas* to *Philotheou*. At the beginning it ascends along path and roads passing close to *Skiti Timiou Prodromou* (also known as *Skiti Iviron*) and then joins the route coming from *Koutloumousiou* and *Karyes*. While the initial and final sections are mainly along traditional *kalderimi* paved stone paths, a long middle section follows roads. But there are fine views from the roads down to *Iviron* and along the adjacent coast.

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: ΚΑΡΥΕΣ = *Karyes*; ΚΟΥΤΛΟΥΜΟΥΣΙΟΥ = *Koutloumousiou*;
ΙΒΗΡΩΝ = *Iviron*; ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ = *Timiou Prodromou*;
ΦΙΛΟΘΕΟΥ = *Philotheou*; ΚΑΡΑΚΑΛΟΥ = *Karakalou*

Description of Route:

Walk (m) And then . . .

- 0 **20** Leave *Iviron* entrance and turn L on track (K) between buildings and garden wall and then under archway.
- 210 **19** Cross stone bridge (signed). At fork after the bridge, with former shrine on L, KSO/L on track (signed *Skiti Timiou Prodromou*).
- 50 **18** Turn R off track (signed *Philotheou*) to cross open area / wood yard towards small bridge (not visible from this point).
- 90 **17** Cross bridge and turn R now on FP.

- 50 **16** Arrive at T-junction of FPs. Turn R uphill (signed *Skiti Iviron* and *Philotheou*). The FP (*K* in parts) ascends in the woods, steeply in places.
- 450 **15** FP emerges at road. Turn R along road (signed *Skiti Iviron* and *Philotheou*).
- 100 **14** Ignore FP that forks R. KSO, still on main track.
- Note:** If time allows fork R here onto nice shaded FP to visit **Skiti Iviron (Skiti Timiou Prodromou) Kyriakon** **21** in 600m. To continue from **Kyriakon** towards **Philotheou**, take track that meets the road at **11** below (for these routes look at gpx file).
- 70 **13** Cross watercourse and bear L, uphill, still on road.
- 160 **12** At fork, KSO uphill (signed *Karyes* and *Daphni*).
- 230 **11** Ignore ascending track to back R (signed *Timiou Prodromou*). KSO uphill (signed *Karyes* and *Daphni*).
- 620 **10** At fork ignore track to L. KSO still on road (signed *Karyes* and *Daphni*).
- 750 **9** At major junction, turn L ascending, signed to *kellia* and *Philotheou*. (Straight on, uphill goes to **Karyes**.)
- 250 **8** Ignore track up R and track L; KSO on road (signed *Philotheou*).
- 540 **7** Cross watercourse and bear L, now uphill.
- 200 **6** Ignore track back R, uphill.
- 650 **5** At junction, fork L off road onto track leading gently downhill (signed *Philotheou*).
- 180 **4** Take FP diagonally R off track (signed *Philotheou*). Path contains stretches of *K* and descends into valley.
- 600 **3** Cross bridge with fountain and waterfall, both on R. Path then climbs steeply up other side of valley.
- 290 **2** At top, turn R to arrive at track and buildings with cemetery chapel on L; KSO on *K* between buildings towards Monastery ahead, ignoring tracks to L and R.
- 160 **1** Arrive at **Philotheou 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.