



FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

FROM KARYES TO VATOPEDI

Distance: 10.2 km Journey Time: 3 – 3½
hours



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This is an attractive journey, with some fine views and scenery, for the most part along historic *kalderimi* or paved mule tracks. The initial section involves a gradual climb out of *Karyes* to around 450m. The route then roughly follows the contour of the mountain, often with views first back towards *Karyes* and *Mount Athos* and later down to the sea. It then descends from the ridge through forest to *Vatopedi*, near sea level.

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: ΒΑ ΤΟΠΑΙΔΙΟΥ = *Vatopedi*; ΚΑΡΥΕΣ = *Karyes*;
ΠΑΝΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ = *Pantokrator*;
ΜΑΡΟΥΔΑ = *Marouda*; ΠΑΤΕΡΙΤΣΑ = *Pateritsa*

Description of Route:

Walk (m) And then . . .

- 1** From the *Karyes* square where the buses arrive, face down main street towards *Protaton*. At the end of the square, before the street begins, immediately before fountain (on R side of street), turn R, uphill on *K*, signed WC.
- 20 **2** Pass WC on L. KSO uphill.
- 90 **3** Ignore FP (*Kalderimi*) up L. KSO on *K*.
- 300 **4** Cross *Daphni-Karyes* road. KSO on track, signed *Vatopedi* & other monasteries, with *Skete of St Andrew* on R.
- 400 **5** Ignore gated track R to Kellion. KSO on concrete, now uphill.

- 280 **6** Ignore broad concrete track R (signed to *Kellion Pateritsa*). KSO/L, uphill.
- 180 **7** At junction with large painted metal cross (ahead, L), turn hard L uphill.
- 30 **8** At junction, turn R onto FP (*K*) uphill, signed *Vatopedi* (remains of fountain in wall to L of FP).
- 100 **9** FP joins track coming from back L. KSO/R on track.
- 100 **10** Ignore track up to L (signed *I K Marouda*). KSO on track (now *K* in places).
- 250 **11** At junction, fork L, signed to *Vatopedi* and various kellia.
- 400 **12** At fork in tracks, turn R, downhill.
Note: L, uphill leads to the main road to *Vatopedi*.
- 200 **13** At fork, where main track bends R, downhill, and lesser track bears L, uphill, take narrow FP ahead, between the tracks, signed *Vatopedi*, initially towards white building.
Note: Early sections of this path may become seasonally overgrown, but it becomes *K*.
- 900 **14** Cross road; KSO on *K* (signed).
- 150 **15** Pass ruined fountain on L.
- 450 Bear R at possible fork, away from hillside and across streambed, towards very large and ancient tree (signed *Vatopedi*).
Caution: FP may be overgrown & difficult to spot.
- 30 **17** FP turns R at large ancient tree, with another fountain (dry) on L.
- 200 **18** Footpath becomes forest track; fine views down R to ***Pantokrator*** and the coast. Ignore track joining from open area on L after about 600m.
- 1200 **19** Emerge at main road and turn R along road (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 100 **20** Fork L up forest track (in line with track past cement works). Track soon becomes FP (*K*).

- 1150 **21** Turn L onto main road, downhill.
- 250 **22** Turn L off road up bank onto FP (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 150 **23** Cross minor road. KSO on FP steeply down bank immediately to R of installation with solar panels (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 1300 **24** FP emerges onto road. Cross over road and follow track opposite (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 40 **25** Turn R off track onto FP (*K*), downhill (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 800 **26** FP ends at level track from back L. Turn R along track.
- 200 **27** Track joins main road. KSO/ L along main road, downhill.
- 300 **28** At T-junction bear L (signed *Vatopedi*). Then KSO, downhill, ignoring two turnings to L.
- 200 **30** At junction beside olive grove, fork R onto *K* (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 150 **31** At T-junction turn R, following *K*, soon passing covered well on R.
- 200 **33** Arrive at the gate of ***Vatopedi Monastery***.

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.