

FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN



FROM SKETE OF PROFITIS ILIAS TO SKETE OF BOGORODITSA

Distance: 2.7 km

Journey time: 1 – 1½ hours

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

Initially, this path descends through woods into a valley bottom. The path then climbs the further side of the valley, still through woods, with occasional views back to the *Skete of Profitis Ilias*.

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: *ΒΟΓΟΡΟΔΙΤΣΑ* = *Bogoroditsa*;
ΠΡΟΦΗΤΗΣ ΗΛΙΑΣ = *Profitis Ilias*;

Description of Routes:

Walk (m) And then . . .

200 **35** Turn R out of the gate out of the central courtyard of the *Skete of Profitis Ilias* and follow wall on R as far as its NW corner. There, ignore track down R (which leads to lower gate). Instead, bear L along track and continue past buildings on L.

530 **36** Pass the outer gate of the *Skete*, cross track and KSO on FP which continues ahead signed *Bogoroditsa* (red sign) and *Monopati* (footpath in Greek-yellow sign). FP descends into valley through woods.

37 Cross fine stone bridge over river at valley bottom and continue on FP now uphill.

- 100 **38** Climb steeply up bank to reach track. Turn L along track.
- Note:** R along track leads to the main *Karyes* to *Pantokrator* road.
- 55 **39** Turn R off track onto FP uphill, signed *Bogoroditsa*, soon climbing steeply on fine *K*. *K* stops abruptly as FP becomes narrower and less steep.
- 600 **40** Pass rocky viewpoint back across valley to ***Skete of Profitis Ilias***. FP soon climbs more steeply through trees.
- 900 **41** After FP begins to level out, arrive at a junction with another FP joining from above R.
- Note:** This other FP connects with the FP between ***Vatopedi*** and ***Pantokrator*** offering the most direct route from this point to ***Pantokrator***.
- At junction, KSO, signed *Bogoroditsa*. FP curves L passing remains of water system/mill with *Skete* visible to L.
- 240 **42** FP ends at track. Turn L onto track, downhill towards *Skete*. (R along track leads to the main *Vatopedi* – *Karyes* road).
- 90 **43** Arrive at the gate of ***Skete of Bogoroditsa***.

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.