

5. Drakia – Chania – Drakia



This walk begins and ends in Drakia, a traditional village uphill from Agria. Drakia has two squares. From the upper square you can see a part of the route of this walk. Initially you walk up along narrow paths and past three small churches until you have almost reached Chania, a village higher up on the mountain. When the ascent ends, the walk continues at the same height for a while. The descent is along an earth road. The largest part of the walk is marked with walker signs and red marks, which make it easy to find.

The views of this walk are especially spectacular; from the higher vantage points you are able to see right across the Pagasitic and the whole length of the Pilion peninsula. In springtime many fruit trees are in bloom and in May and June there is an abundance of wild roses, flowers and butterflies along the route. In September you can see the harvest of apples in the orchards. The walk has a length of 13.5 kilometres. It starts at a height of 450 metres and spans a height of 675 metres. In total it ascends and descends 1000 metres. It took us a little more than 4 hours.

Start: you drive to Drakia along a lovely road from Agria, partly through an impressive gully. As you drive up, you will first see Aghios Lavrendios above you and later Drakia.

Map: Anavasi 6.21 Thessaly, Mt Pilion, 1:25.000.

Map for waypoints and tracks: Anavasi Topomap 3D op CD-Rom, Pilio – Mavrovouni, Central Pilio.

Food and drink: There are tavernas in the villages and along the walk there are two spring water drinking fountains..



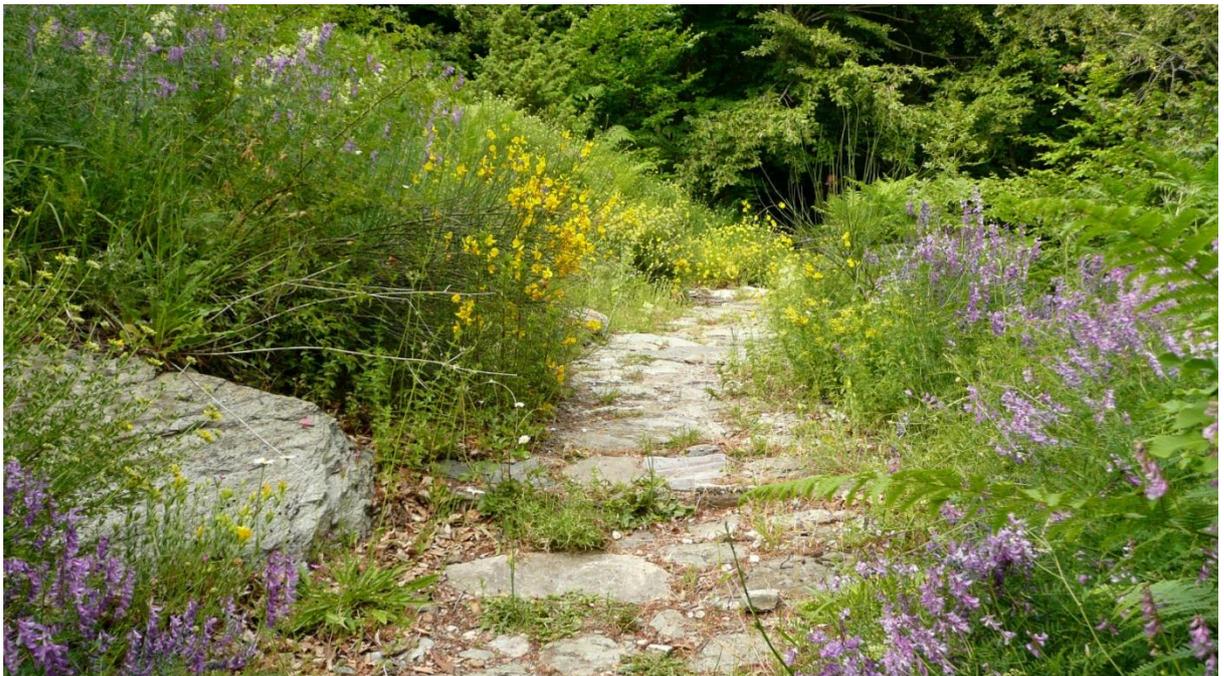
1. The walk begins from the lower square which you almost pass when you drive through the village; it is to the right of the road, slightly elevated, and lies in a part of the village where a few cafes and a shop border the road. If you drive a little further there is a possibility to park your car to the right of a white building with the text Δ.Δ. ΔΡΑΚΕΙΑΣ Δημοτικό Γραφείο on it. Back on the lower square there is a spring water drinking fountain and a taverna. Facing the taverna, take the path on its right hand side. It will take you to the asphalt road. Turn left there.
2. 20 metres further on, a kalderimi (cobble stone path) begins with red marks and a sign on a wall indicating ΠΡΟΣ ΑΓΙΟ ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝΑ and a yellow sign reading Portaria. The kalderimi descends steeply to a stream which it crosses over a wooden bridge. You pass a few houses and a white church, Aghios Spiridon, on your left. There are two trees in front of this church and a drinking fountain along the kalderimi. The kalderimi narrows and crosses a second stream. Further on it crosses a small waterfall. From there the path winds up steeply until it reaches a wide path on a flat area with a small church, Agios Dimitrios.



3. At the level of the church the path turns up to the right. Leave the path here to the left at a walker sign (yellow plate with a black walker) and continue along a narrow path that is a bit overgrown. You see red dots and walk a while through high ferns. Further on, at the edge of the forest, the path is well-defined once again. The path winds further upwards, partly through forest, partly through open terrain.
4. The path ends at a bend in an earth road. Continue upwards here.
5. Past the next bend to the left you take a path to the right towards a small white church (Profitis Ilias). Behind the church the path continues up into the forest. A little higher up at a junction keep to the left.
6. The path reaches a bend in an earth road, here you continue up to the right. You pass an exit with a fence and a sign indicating a dead end.
7. 120 metres past this fence a walker sign indicates the beginning of a short cut.
8. When you reach the earth road once again, walk up to the right. On a tree on the inside of the bend there is a walker sign.
9. Past the next bend to the right, a red dot and a walker sign indicate the beginning of the next short cut, to the left.
10. When you reach an intersection of earth roads, continue walking up.
11. A little further a walker sign indicates the beginning of a path up to the right. The path winds up roughly along the right side of a metal fence. At a junction head up to the left. A little later you reach an asphalt road.
12. At the other side of the asphalt road the path continues upwards.
13. A little later there is a fork in the path. To the left it continues towards Portaria. We take the right branch in the direction of Chania. Further up it difurcates into various goat tracks, keep walking up while following the red marks. At a certain point you see a white cross at your right hand side, here also keep walking up. At two transmission towers you reach Aliko Petra Location in the bend of an asphalt road. This is the asphalt road to Chania. At the inside of the bend there is a concrete drinking fountain and a water hole. Turn right onto the asphalt road.
14. Well past the bend red dots indicate the beginning of a path to the right. Take this path. The path runs underneath and parallel to the asphalt road. Further on you will also hear cars on the asphalt road that is to the right beneath you. Follow the red marks and make sure that you eventually end up at the asphalt road at your left. Turn right here and continue walking towards a hair-pin bend.



15. At the beginning of this bend a concrete path starts to the left. There is a sign reading Χάνια and a walker sign. You pass a few orchards. The path is wide and fairly flat at the beginning and later on ascends gradually. It is an easy and well defined path. Further on the path becomes narrower between lush vegetation and (in June) an abundance of flowers, butterflies and other insects. For a long while you walk through a sea of flowers and then, suddenly, you walk into a beech forest.



16. The path ends at an earth road. To the left it leads up to Chania. Turn right here. From here we descend to Drakia. The earth road passes through shaded bushy areas as well as open areas of low vegetation and flowery orchards. In the first part it crosses a clear stream a few times. Ignore side paths and keep walking down.
17. At a T-junction with a concrete road you turn down to your left.
18. At an asphalt road turn right and keep descending.
19. After about 100 metres just past a left hand bend a small concrete road begins at your right hand side. Keep descending along this road.

20. After 140 metres, in the second right hand bend and just before the lowest point in the road, an overgrown kalderimi starts to the left. Walk down along this kalderimi to an asphalt road and turn right. Further down, where the road forks at a bend, turn right.
21. At a right hand bend take a concrete path up to the left.
22. At a T-junction (with an irrigation channel crossing it diagonally) turn right onto a concrete path. Follow the path where it bends down to the left. It changes into a kalderimi and – further down - into a concrete path again where it bends down to the right.
23. At a fork in the concrete path you turn right.
24. After 50 metres you turn left onto a path between houses. Follow the path to the right. You continue walking down. You will see the upper square of Drakia to the left.
25. Turn left onto a concrete path. This leads you to the asphalt road. Turn left here and continue walking down.
26. Before the next bend to the right, turn left onto a concrete path. This ends on a wide path; continue down to the right here.
27. Where this path ends at the road, a kalderimi to the left leads to the lower square. From the road you can see the big tree in the square.

Enjoyed your walk? Any comments? Let us know! info@pilionwalks.com

