

### 13. Platania circular walk



*A beautiful and varied walk in the valley of Platania, a fishing village on the southern coast of Pilio. The old cobbled path (kalderimi) between Platania and Promiri has largely been cleared. The walk takes you along this kalderimi, but also along narrow paths and earth roads. You pass a shady riverbed, two small churches and two spring water drinking fountains. The northern part of the walk gives you lovely views over the valley in the direction of Platania and across the sea towards Evia. The walk is 10.5 kilometres long and spans a height of 280 metres. It took us 2.5 hours. The walk consists of two circles – in the middle is a small section that you walk twice.*

*Start: Platania lies on the southern coast of Pilio and can be reached from Volos by car through Argalasti, Lafkos and Methochi. There are three daily buses between Volos and Platania.*

*Map: Anavasi 4.3 Thessaly, South Pilio 1:50.000 Pilio. Or: Mt. Pilio, Road Editions 33, 1:50.000.*

*Map for waypoints and tracks: Anavasi Topomap 3D on CD-Rom, Pilio – Mavrovouni, South Pilio.*

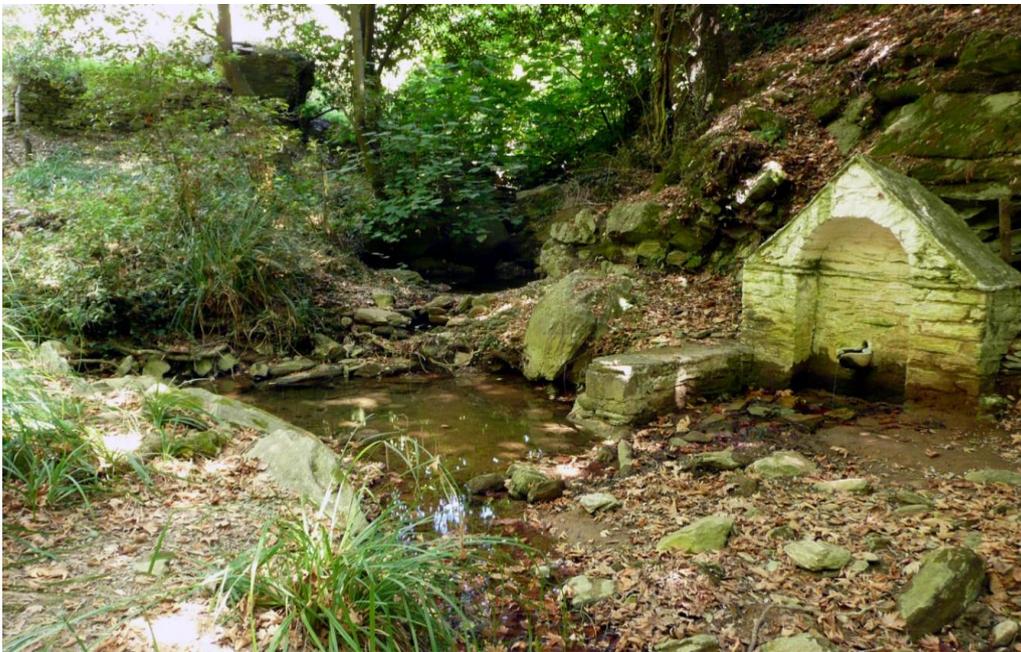
*Food and drink: There are various tavernas in Platania and at the start of the walk there is a spring water drinking fountain. Along the walk you pass two more spring water drinking fountains.*

The walk starts at the end of the road, at the bridge in Platania. There is a large board here with details of hotels and restaurants. On a pole you see round yellow walker signs made by the Friends of the Kalderimi. This is the organisation that maintains the kalderimi on Pilio and this walk was made in cooperation with them. We will follow their Plataniias Circular signs during this walk.

1. Follow the asphalt road away from the sea along a riverbed. At Hotel des Roses leave the asphalt and follow the wide river bed. Walk out of the village. Further on the river bed narrows and becomes a little overgrown.



2. After a little more than 800 metres, where the river bed meets an earth road, take the earth road that continues in the same direction as the river bed (direction Promiri on the yellow walker sign). At the next fork keep right. Ignore a path to the left, and another a little further up.
3. At an open space at a fence and a small house made of concrete bricks, where the path forms a circle, continue walking straight ahead into a narrow path among grasses and flowers. You cross the river bed. Follow a yellow walker sign indicating Promiri to the right. Ignore a path to the left.
4. At a concrete irrigation channel you reach the actual kalderimi. Here you follow the channel further up.
5. You reach an earth road. Turn left here.
6. After 50 metres continue straight ahead, away from the earth road. On your right is a water pumping station from which groundwater is pumped up to Lafkos. You cross the riverbed and continue walking along the kalderimi.
7. You reach an earth road. Turn right here. At the first bend of the earth road keep walking straight ahead onto a path.
8. Ignore a path to the left with a sign indication VODIN and further up another down to the right with a sign indicating Mousges. You pass the house of ΓΙΑΝΝΙΣ ΧΟΝΤΑΣ, or John Honda who got his name for being the first person to ride a Honda 50 cc in the sixties. His house is a traditional stone cottage. Further up you pass a house with a sign indicating ΒΡΥΣΗ to the right. This is a public path to a lovely shady spot and a small water fountain.
9. At a private parking space and a path up to the left you follow the path straight ahead along the irrigation channel. A little further up the irrigation channel branches off from the path down to the right. Follow the path. Further up is a riverbed and a spring water drinking



fountain, where the path to Katigiorgis branches off.

10. You reach an earth road. Turn up to the right here. You see a small white church above you, the church of Agia Sofia.
11. After rather more than 100 metres turn right into a narrow path.
12. The path ends at an earth road. Cross this earth road and continue upwards along a path. After 20 metres turn left on an earth road, and 10 metres further continue sharply right up a narrow

path. This path soon becomes a lovely kalderimi that was opened in May 2014. Follow the kalderimi and at the end continue straight forward to the asphalt road.

13. Before you reach the asphalt road turn left into an earth road along a fence.
14. After 40 metres ignore a wide path to the left and keep straight ahead.
15. The earth road opens out into the bend of another earth road. Turn left here.
16. After almost a kilometre at the next T-junction you can see the Agios Spiridon monastery straight ahead between the trees on the other side of the valley. To the right the earth road leads up there. You take the earth road to the left.
17. At a junction with a small blue shrine you take the right fork. This road makes a 180 degrees turn down to the right; ignore the road to the left with the walker signs.
18. At a T-junction turn down to the left.
19. At a white house turn down to the right.
20. A little further at a T-junction turn down to the left.
21. After a yellow house on your left and the ruin of a house on your right, you turn right down into a narrow path passing a square concrete water irrigation pond. The path bends to the left through an olive grove and reaches the section of this walk where you were earlier (at number 7). Turn left there. You now walk this part of the route for the second time.
22. 150 metres further on you once again reach the path on your right to Mousges. Follow this path. You cross a small stream and keep to the right. The path on your left leads to a small waterfall. Further on, at a large rock, keep to the left. The path runs along the slope at approximately the same level and then descends into the valley passing a house with a vegetable garden.
23. Further down at a fork you take the left path. Sometimes the path may be blocked by some type of gate used to keep animals from wandering. If necessary pass through this gate and please leave it as you found it before you continue on your way. You cross a stream at a small waterfall. The path runs up along a fence. Further up a path branches off to the left, to a small church. The walk continues straight ahead.
24. Further on at a left-hand bend (made of concrete) turn right onto a path.
25. At the asphalt road turn right.
26. After 200 metres turn right onto an earth road, at a rectangular sign indicating Promiri. At a house you reach number 5 of this walk. Turn down to the left here. Once you're down walk along an earth road until 50 metres before the asphalt road, where a yellow walker sign indicating Platania leads you to the river bed you walked along before. Follow the river bed back to the starting point of this walk.



With many thanks to Chris and Kathryn Wicks, who showed us this walk.

*Enjoyed your walk? Any comments? Let us know! [info@pilionwalks.com](mailto:info@pilionwalks.com)*

