

4. Aghios Georgios Nilias - Dhramala and Schidzouravli - Aghios Georgios Nilias



This is a beautiful walk which includes two of the peaks above Aghios Georgios Nilias. You partly walk along earth roads and paths and a large part of the walk is through the woods. The largest part of this walk is marked with red dots. Thanks to the altitude and the shade in the woods you pass through, this walk is also suitable for warmer days. The views from Schidzouravli peak, where you look out over both the Aegean and the Pagasitic Gulf, are spectacular. In May 2011 we saw snow capped Mount Parnassos (2450 metres) on the mainland.

The walk starts at a height of 1150 metres and ascends to 1455 metres. At the beginning especially you need to climb. The walk is a bit longer than 8.5 kilometres and it took us 3 hours.

Start: you get to the refuge where the walk starts and ends by car (but be sure to use a 4X4) or by scooter or motorbike.

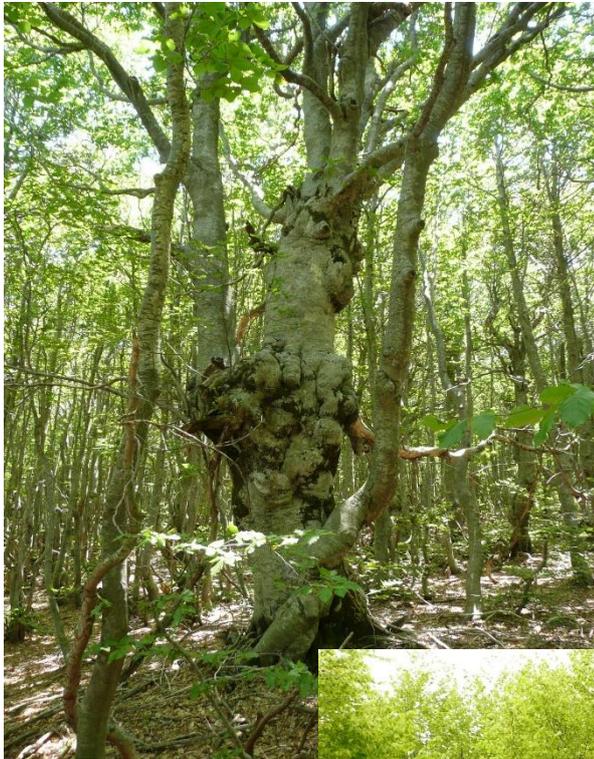
Map: Anavasi 4.3 en 4.4 Thessaly, North Pilio en South Pilio, 1:50.000

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

Food and drink: In Aghios Georgios there is a spring water drinking fountain on the square and there are tavernas.

1. Drive from Aghios Georgios in the direction of Pinakates.
2. After 1.5 kilometres a concrete road turns left, where there is a sign saying *ταβερνα παλιοβίγλα*. This road becomes an earth road.
3. At an intersection just after the taverna drive straight ahead.
4. Where the road makes a sharp turn up to the right, an earth road goes down to the left. Follow the road up.

5. After 1.5 kilometres you see the roof of a small building through the leaves of the trees on your right. This is the refuge where the walk starts. Leave your car or scooter here and walk further up the earth road.
6. After about 0.5 kilometre, just past a bend to the left with a solitary beech tree on the inside of the bend, an earth road goes off to the right. Straight ahead of you lies the earth road towards Chania, as indicated on a sign on a tree. Red arrows also point in this direction. You, however, take the road to the right here. The road narrows and at a large rock it narrows again and continues ascending with a water-pipe running alongside. Red marks indicate the route upwards between rocks. You pass by a walker sign (yellow plate with black walker), and follow the marks to the right and up. Here you walk over a rocky surface, where the beeches grow as shrubs rather than trees.
7. At a crossing with a metal pole you turn left. So you don't take the path to Τσαγαράδα as indicated on a yellow sign. You reach a flatter area where the surface is covered by woodland soil and the beeches grow as trees again. You walk into a forest.



8. About 300 metres into the forest you reach a fork where the red marks continue straight ahead and where a path with blue marks turns left. There is a sign indicating ΔΡΑΜΑΛΑ and ΣΧΙΝΤΖΟΥΠΑΛΙ. Follow the path with the blue marks down to the left.

9. After 130 metres the path is no longer visible. Follow the marks which are now red and keep to the left. You cross a ditch. Soon you will see blue and red marks. There is a well-defined path once again. You pass a few clearings.

10. You reach the top of Dhramala with its concrete pillar. Walk into the clearing and then through the first open space between trees on your right towards a second open area. Continue walking in the same direction and descend between the trees.



Source: www.pilionwalks.com © Caroline Pluvier & Ruud Schreuder

The path descends a bit further and then enters a forest to the left. The following part of the route is along a beautiful and well marked forest path.

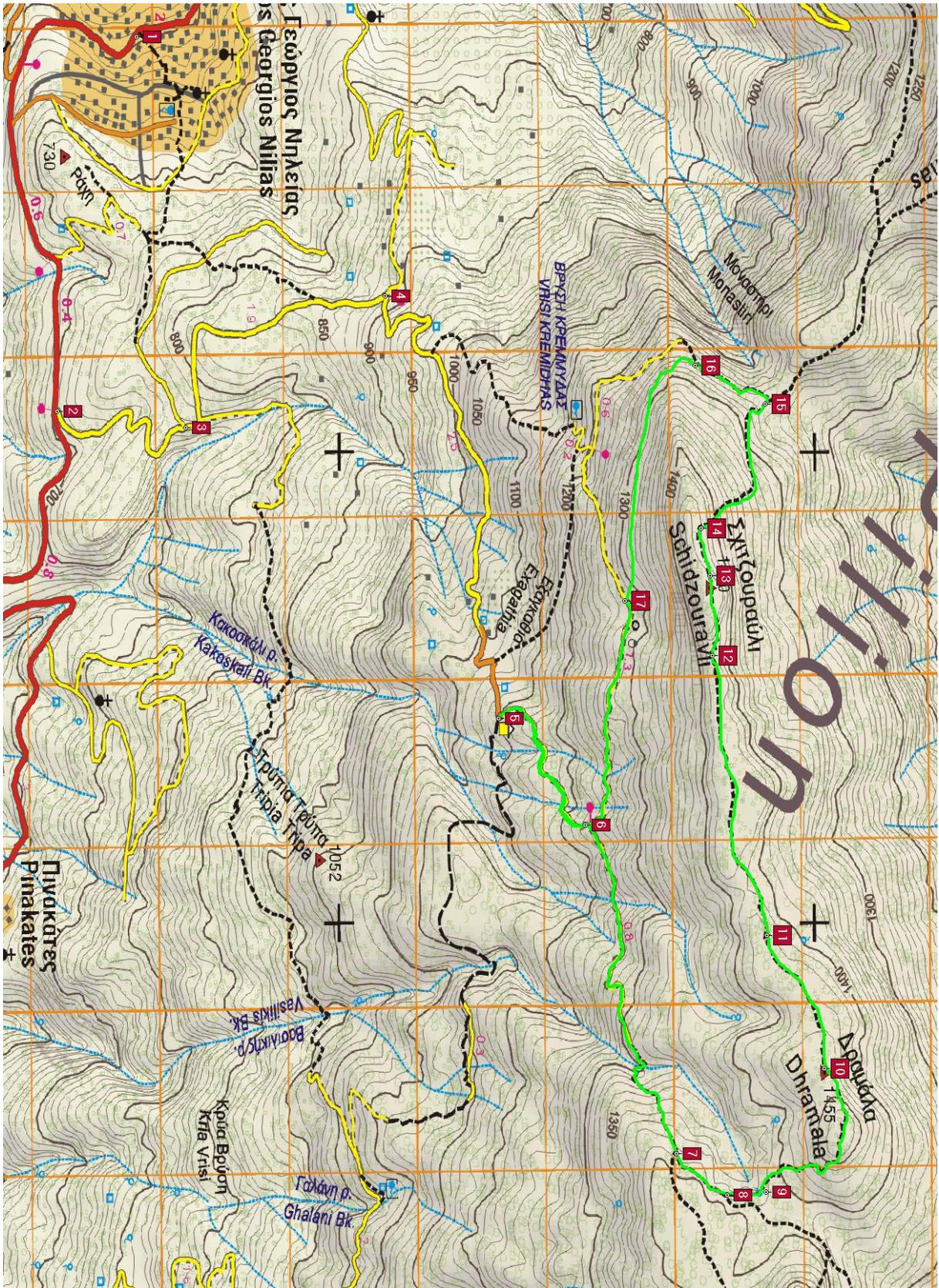
11. At a group of trees with extensive markings the path forks. You take the path to the right.
12. After walking for a long time in a practically straight line, at a large tree that has fallen across the path, you will see large rocks scattered along the route. Here you have to climb up to the right between the rocks, following the red marks.



13. Once you reach the top of Schidzouravli, continue walking over the top in the same direction. Pass a few clumps of trees and you will come to another open area on the top; the highest point has a concrete pillar. Walk on as far as you can, once again past shrubs.
14. About 20 metres before the end of the open area, a red dot to your right indicates the beginning of the path by which you will descend. This path is marked with all kinds of red signs and initially it has very steep sections. At the most difficult part over rocks, there are two cables to help you down. This part is unpleasant for people with a fear of heights. Further down the path is more gully-like and you descend more gradually through the forest.
15. The path ends at a broad path. Another path starts here, with a sign indicating Chania. We turn left here onto the broad path.
16. After almost 300 metres, just before you reach a sign indicating Aghios Georgios and where there is a red arrow on a rock, a path ascends to the left over rocks. There is a sign indicating East Shelter and, a little further along this path, a sign indicates Xourichti. The path ascends through the forest and is marked by red and other signs. Follow this path through the forest and then across a lovely open terrain with ferns and wild flowers. After a short stretch of forest, followed further down by some more open terrain, the path descends to an earth road.
17. Turn left here. Follow this earth road until you reach the fork at point 6, with the beech tree on the bend. From there you descend further down to the refuge at the beginning of the walk.

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

Source: www.pilionwalks.com © Caroline Pluvier & Ruud Schreuder



Source: www.pilionwalks.com © Caroline Pluvier & Ruud Schreuder