

12. Flamouri monastery circular walk



A lovely walk in a beautiful remote forest around a monastery and over a mountain top. In 2011 the monastery is being renovated but it is open for the public (however only for men). The walk takes you through high shady forests and offers beautiful views along the north western coast-line. It starts at a height of about 800 metres, descends through the forest to 480 metres and then climbs up along a rocky path and later through the forest to 945 metres. The whole walk is marked with red marks. It is 12.5 kilometres long and spans a height of 480 metres. It took us 4.5 hours.

Start: The Flamouri monastery lies to the north east of Volos. It takes about 1.5 hours by car to get there. From the ring north of Volos you take the road to Melisatika. You follow the road to Ghlafira, Kerasia and Ano Kerasia. From there you continue in the direction of the monastery along an earth road, for which you need a 4WD. In Februari the almond trees along the route are in blossom.

Map: Anavasi 4.4 Thessaly Northern Pilio Mavrovouni 1:50.000.

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

Food and drink: In the first part of the walk, before you reach the monastery, there is a spring water drinking fountain.

1. The earth road stops at an open area. From here you walk down the path. There is a spring water drinking fountain along the path. This is the last chance to fill your bottles.
2. The path descends to the Flamouri monastery. Follow the wide kalderimi that runs along the monastery. It becomes an earth road. Further down at a fence ignore a path up to the right.
3. At a hill with a red cross on top bear to the left. The path runs further down and enters a forest. This path eventually goes to Veneto, at the coast.
4. At a fork you see Δ/Π ΒΟΛΟΥΥ on a sign, that refers to the boy scouts that made the sign. On the other side it reads ΚΟΡΟΜΗΛΙΑ, the name of the mountain where the path leads to. We turn to the right at this fork. The path becomes rocky and



descends further along the slope. Follow the red marks. At the lowest point arrows indicate the



direction. From there the path climbs up the rocky slope to the top of the mountain.

5. You reach the top of the Kato Koromilia. Follow the red marks and walk further up between shrubs and ferns.
6. You reach the memorial for Alfons Hochhauser, an Austrian who died a self-chosen death by freezing on this mountain top. From here follow the red signs further up.



You reach the forest. From here the path runs a while through the forest and ascends a little.

7. The path opens out onto an earth road. Follow this road down for 230 metres.

8. After 230 metres, before a bend to the right, you take a path to the right. Once again you walk in the forest. After a short while you cross an earth road.
9. The path opens out onto an earth road. Turn left here and follow the earth road for almost 1.5 kilometres.
10. After 1.5 kilometres a path begins to the right above you. On a tree you see a yellow walker sign. Red dots mark the beginning of the path.
11. At a fork bear to the right, as a red arrow on a tree indicates. On another tree you see more red dots. You now gradually descend through the forest and sometimes through open areas with ferns and junipers. Further down you cross rocky open areas with man-sized boxwood shrubs. After another stretch through the forest you reach an open area with a large flat stone. This stone is meant to be the new doorstep for the monastery. However, it is not yet clear how it can be transported from here to the monastery. A little further down the walk deflects from the path – here you follow the red marks to the left along a narrower path.
12. At a fork turn to the right.
13. You reach the path that descended to the monastery in the beginning of the walk, close to the spring water drinking fountain. Bear left here and walk back to the beginning.



With many thanks to Kyriakos Stathakis, who showed us this walk.

