

13. Plataniás circular walk



A nice and varied walk in the valley of Plataniás, a fishing village at the southern coast of Pilio. The old cobbled path (kalderimi) between Plataniás and Promiri has been cleared for a large part. 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. On the northern part of the walk you have lovely views over the valley in the direction of Plataniás and across the sea towards Evia. The walk is 10.5 kilometres long en 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: Plataniás lies at the southern coast of Pilio and can be reached from Volos over the road through Argalasti, Lafkos and Methochi. There are three daily busses between Volos and Plataniás. 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 op CD-Rom, Pilio – Mavrovouni, South Pilio. Food and drink: There are various tavernas in Plataniás 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 Plataniás. There is a large board here with hotels and restaurants, and on the pole you see round yellow walker signs made by the Friends of the Kalderimia. They are the organisation that clear kalderimis on Pilio, and this walk was made in cooperation with them. We will follow their Plataniás Circular signs during this walk.

1. Follow the asphalt road away from the sea along a riverbed. You pass the bus station. Walk out of the village.
2. At a board saying 'Have a nice trip' bear left into an earth road. At a fork follow the yellow walker signs and keep to the right. At the next fork keep right once again. Ignore a path to the left, and another a little further up. You cross a riverbed. After that follow a walker sign indicating Promiri to the right. You leave the riverbed and walk into an olive grove. Ignore a path to the left.
3. At an irrigation channel you reach the actual kalderimi. Here we follow the channel further up.
4. You reach an earth road. Bear left here.



5. After 50 metres continue straight ahead, away from the earth road. On your right is a water pumping station from where groundwater is pumped up to Lafkos. You cross the riverbed and continue walking along the kalderimi.

6. You reach an earth road. Bear right here. In the bend of the earth road keep right ahead into a path.

7. Ignore a path to the left with a sign indicating VODIN and further up another down to the right with a sign indicating Mousges. You pass the house of ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΧΟΝΤΑΣ, or John Honda who got this name for being the first who rode a Honda 50 cc in the sixties. 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.

8. At a parking bay 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 Katiorgis



branches off.

9. You reach an earth road. Bear up to the right here. You see a small white church above you, the church of Agia Sofia.

10. After rather more than 100 metres bear right into a narrow path.

11. At an earth road bear right upwards.

12. At the asphalt road bear left upwards.

13. 75 metres further on, at an underground water tank, the path to Promiri continues up to the right. You bear left here into an earth road along a fence.

14. After 40 metres ignore a wide path to the left and keep right ahead.

15. The earth road opens out into the bend of an earth road. Bear left here.

16. At a T-junction bear down to the left.





17. At the next T-junction you can see the Agios Spiridon monastery straight ahead between the trees at the other side of the valley. To the right the earth road leads up there. You take the earth road to the left.

18. At a wide left-hand bend and a small blue shrine you make a 180 degrees turn down to the right; ignore the road to the left with the walker signs.

19. At a T-junction bear down left.

20. At a white house bear down right.

21. At a T-junction bear down left.

22. After a yellow house on your left and a ruin of a house on your right, you bear right down into a narrow path passing a concrete water tank. The path bends to the left through an olive grove and reaches the section of this walk where you were before at number 7. Bear left there. You now walk this part of the route for the second time.

23. 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 flat boulder, 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 beautiful vegetable garden.

24. Further down at a fork you bear up to the left. 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.

25. At the next left-hand bend (made of concrete) we bear right onto a path.

26. At the asphalt road turn right.

27. After 200 metres bear right onto an earth road, at a rectangular sign indicating Promiri. At a house you reach number 4 of this walk. Bear down to the left here. At the asphalt road turn right and walk further down to Platanias.

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

