Outdoor Activities

ENG

Municipality of Agios Nikolaos

#agiosnikolaoscrete

AGIOS NIKOLAOS
CRETE

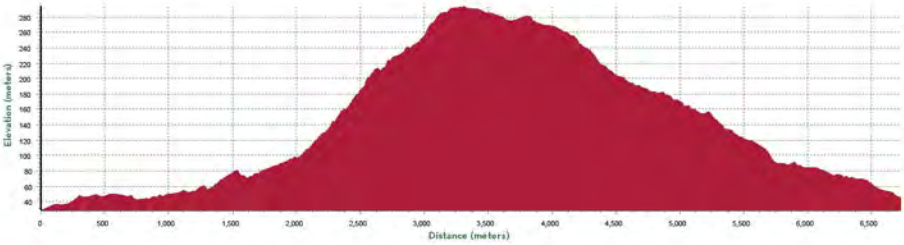
T1 | Katsikantaras

Starting from the village of Pyrgos, we move southwest on a dirt road and then descend the stream. From there, we enter the Katsikantara trail that united Pyrgos with Prina. The entire trail is adorned with lush vegetation, and offers incredible views of Mirabello and the beaches of Kalo Chorio.

Resting point:

Point of view of the first trail

Distance	7.3 km
Time	2 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	Pyrgos Kalo Chorio
Start/End of trail	Pyrgos Kalo Chorio
Connection to another route	B1
Attractions	Gorge, Roman columns



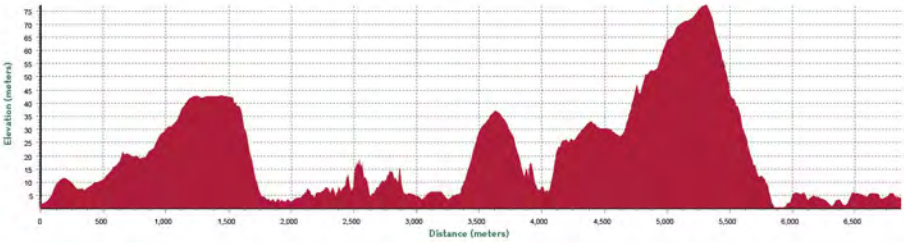
T2 | Kolokytha

Circular route starting from Alykes in Elounda and hiking in the network of the peninsula's old paths. Kolokytha has some of the most beautiful, non-organized beaches in the area. The peninsula also has significant religious and archaeological monuments.

Resting points:

1. Stone houses at the northern point of the route
2. Church of Agios Loukas

Distance	7 km
Time	3 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	-
Start/End of trail	Alykes Elounda
Connection to another route	B2
Attractions	Beach of Chiona, Beach of Dianiskari, Church of Agios Loukas, Early Christian Basilica, Church of Agios Fokas

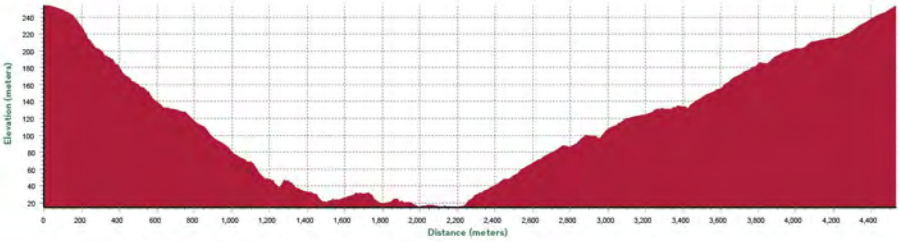


T3 | Aforesmenos Lighthouse

Circular route starting and returning to the church of Agios Ioannis at the end of the wind park. Hiking through rural roads and traces of old trails. In the middle of the route, visitors may see the Aforesmenos Lighthouse, which was constructed by the French in 1864. Based on an old legend, Pontius Pilates is buried here.

Resting point:
Aforesmenos Lighthouse

Distance	4.5 km
Time	2.5 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	-
Start/End of trail	Church of Agios Ioannis
Connection to another route	B3
Attractions	Church of Agios Ioannis, Aforesmenos, Lighthouse, Wind park

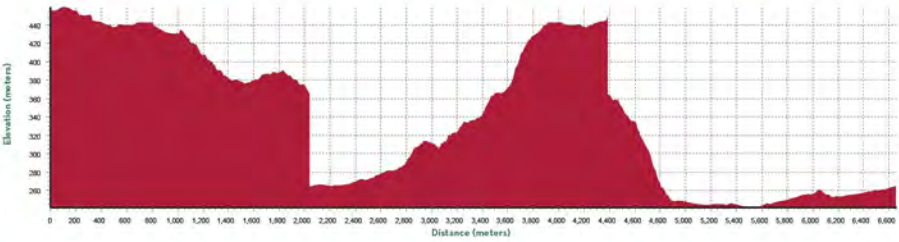


T4 | Neapoli - Pashaligo - Voulismeni - Fraro

From the main square of Neapoli, we head towards Agia Varvara and the road that becomes a trail leading to the forest of Pashaligo. From there to a cement road to Panagia Vigliotissa and the wonderful trail to Voulismeni, with the impressive couleur locale. Further down the trail, we stumble upon the Franciscan Monastery of Fraro, a 14th-century monument. Petros Filagris was a monk living there and later became Pope Alexander the Fifth.

Resting point & water: Panagia Vilgiotissa

Distance	6.2 km
Time	3 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	Neapoli, Voulismeni
Start/End of trail	Neapoli
Connection to another route	B5 | B6 | B7 | B8
Attractions	Forest Pashaligo, Church of Panagia Vigliotissa, Monastery Fraro, Tower of Maslum Karakasis



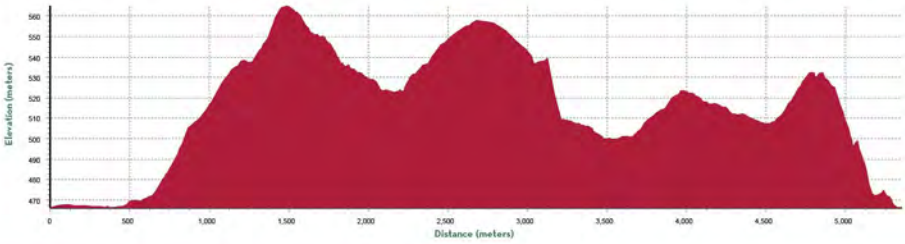
T5 | Dories - Monastery of Kardamoutsa - Aretiou Monastery - Karydi

Starting from the village of Dories, we pass through the church of Agios Konstantinos and head towards the monastery of Kardamoutsa. We continue from the old cobbled street to the Aretiou Monastery and then through a paved road and a trail to the old village of Karydi and Dories.

The route is of great religious interest, as it includes 4 monuments of great historic importance.

Resting point & water: Aretiou Monastery

Distance	5.8 km
Time	2.5 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	Dories, Karydi
Start/End of trail	Dories
Connection to another route	B5
Attractions	Church of Agios Konstantinos, Aretiou Monastery, Monastery of Kardamoutsa, Church of Agios Antonios

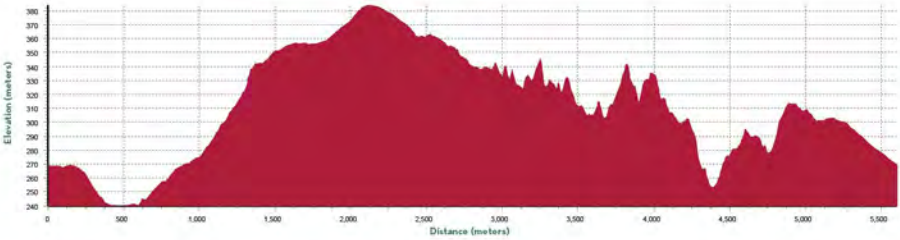


T6 | Gorge of Kritsa

Kritsa is one of the most important villages of Crete with a rich history. Walking through the village, we stumble upon the churches of Panagia Odigitria and Afentis Christos, as well as upon two museums. Upon exiting the village, we enter the gorge until its first exit. The view of the plain of Kritsa and the mountains of Sitia on our way back is impressive. At the end of the route, we go through the place where the movie He Who Must Die by Jules Dassin was shot.

Resting point: At the exit of the gorge

Distance	5.5 km
Time	2 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	Kritsa
Start/End of trail	Kritsa
Connection to another route	B1
Attractions	Women's Cooperative of Kritsa, Church of Panagia Odigitria, Church of Christos Afentis, Museum of Rare and Endemic Flora, Folk Art Museum of Kritsotopoula

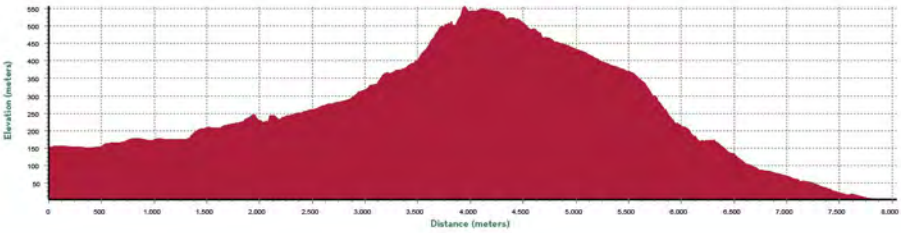


T7 | Ellinika - Oxa - Elounda

From Ellinika towards the Temple of Aphrodite and then on the way to Makraki's house. Before the end of the road a path starts, ascending towards the peak of Oxa, and via a trail goes through the ruins of Ancient Naxos and several cisterns to Timios Stavros. Then, on the other side, through the existing trail and from the road that leads to Elounda, there is a trail descending towards Elounda from another way.

Resting point: Church of Timios Stavros

Distance	8.5 km
Time	4 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	No
Villages	Elounda, Ellinika
Start/End of trail	Ellinika | Elounda
Connection to another route	B2
Attractions	Temple of Aphrodite, Ancient Naxos, Elounda



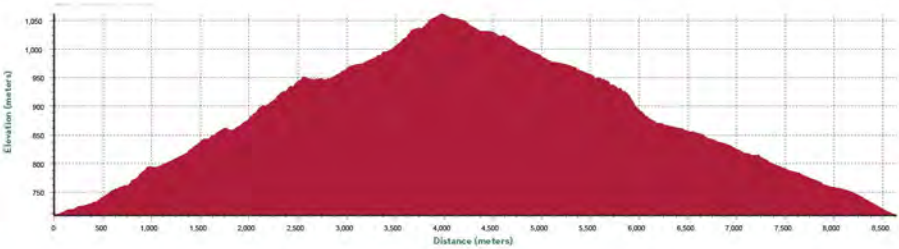
T8 | Katharo Plateau

The route starts with an ascent on the old path, leading to the Katharo plateau. The cobbled street extends to Astividopo, and the trail continues to Damakas.

The return is through a paved road, with a detour for the cave of Gaidourotrypa.

Resting point: Astividopo

Distance	8.8 km
Time	3.5 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	-
Start/End of trail	Location Paterogiorgis (Detour from the village of Tapes)
Connection to another route	-
Attractions	Cave Gaidourotrypa



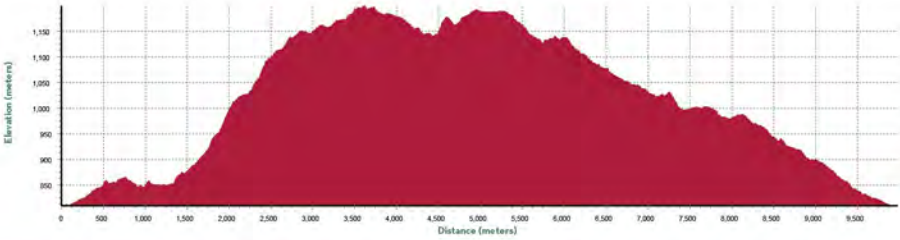
T9 | Krousta Mountains

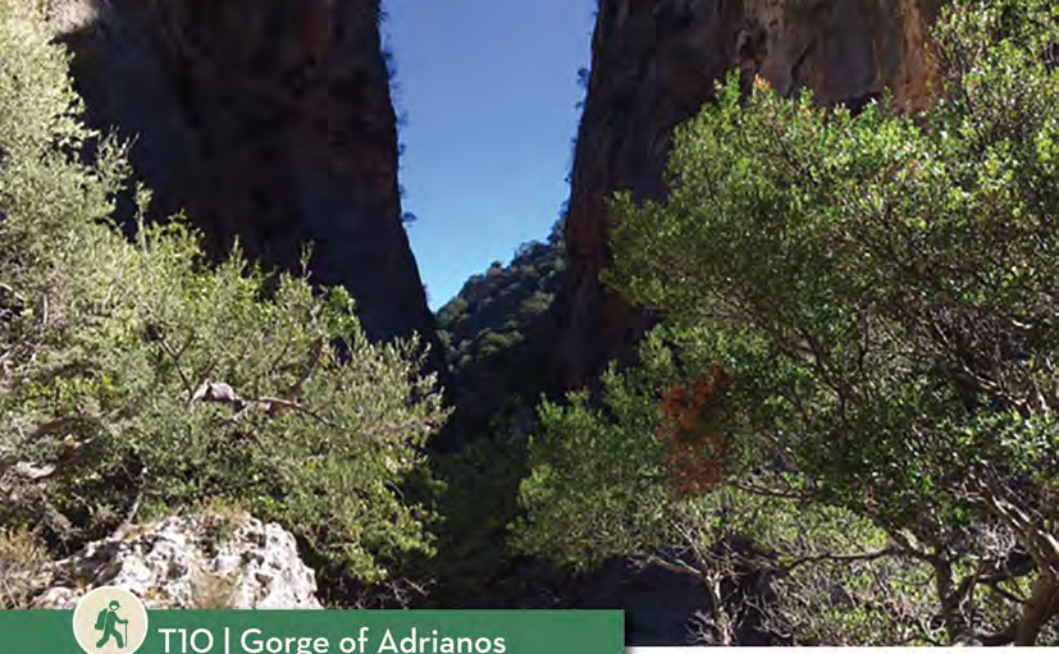
From Tourkisses we head to the Minoan trails, and then to the left and onto the forest. We arrive in Trapezi, where there are small plateaux in the forest, as well as an ancient settlement. From there we continue towards Katharios Lakkos and Psychro.

We then head towards Kainourio Nero up to Lakkos of Omeris. We take the trail on the left and descend towards Korakia, and at the end of the road we follow the trail right back to our starting point.

Resting point & water: Psychro

Distance	9.8 km
Time	4 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	-
Start/End of trail	Tourkisses
Connection to another route	-
Attractions	Minoan trails



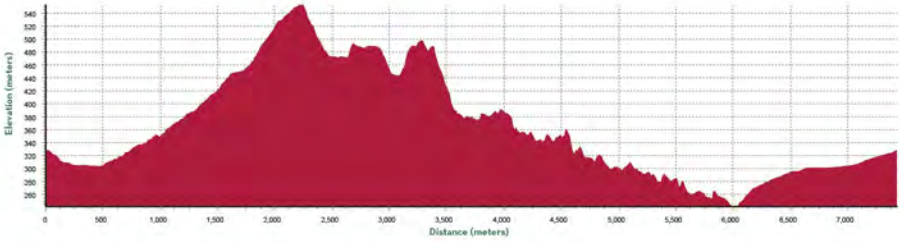


T10 | Gorge of Adrianos

The route starts just before the village of Agios Konstantinos, towards the church of Agia Sophia. From there, we descend and then ascend up to Adrianos. There is the option to visit the cave of Marides, and the village of Adrianos. We, then enter the imposing gorge. The route includes difficult passages, where attention is needed. There is a 5 meter high cliff passage.

The route is suitable for experienced hikers or accompanied by a guide.

Distance	8.8 km
Time	4 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Villages	Adrianos
Start/End of trail	Pump station (1 km before the village of Agios Konstantinos)
Connection to another route	-
Attractions	Gorge of Adrianos, Cave of Marides

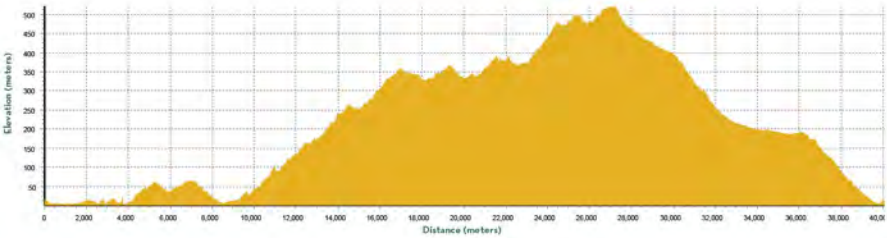


B1 | Agios Nikolaos - Kalo Chorio - Prina - Kroustas - Kritsa

The paved road passes through 5 different villages on the outskirts of Agios Nikolaos. Eastbound, from the old national highway towards Kalo Chorio, and then ascend to Prina and, through the majestic forest, we reach Kroustas. From Kroustas we go downhill through the traditional village of Kritsas, and a stop at the church of Panagia Kera. We continue for Mardati and eventually end up in Agios Nikolaos.

This route is also suitable for mountain bikers.

Distance	40.5 km
Time	4 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
Paved/Dirt Roads	Paved road
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Connection to another route	T1 | T6
Start/End of trail	Agios Nikolaos
Villages	Kalo Chorio, Prina, Kroustas, Kritsa
Attractions	Forest of Prina, Church of Panagia Kera

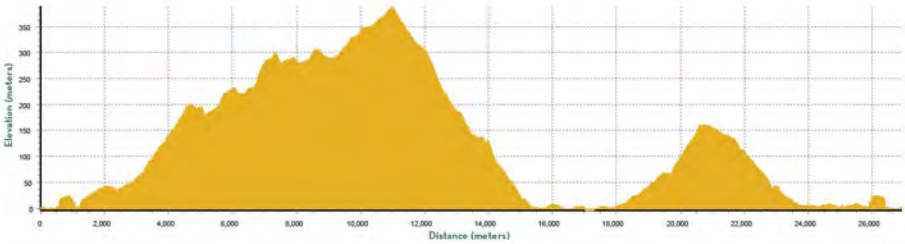


B2 | Agios Nikolaos - Oxa - Elounda

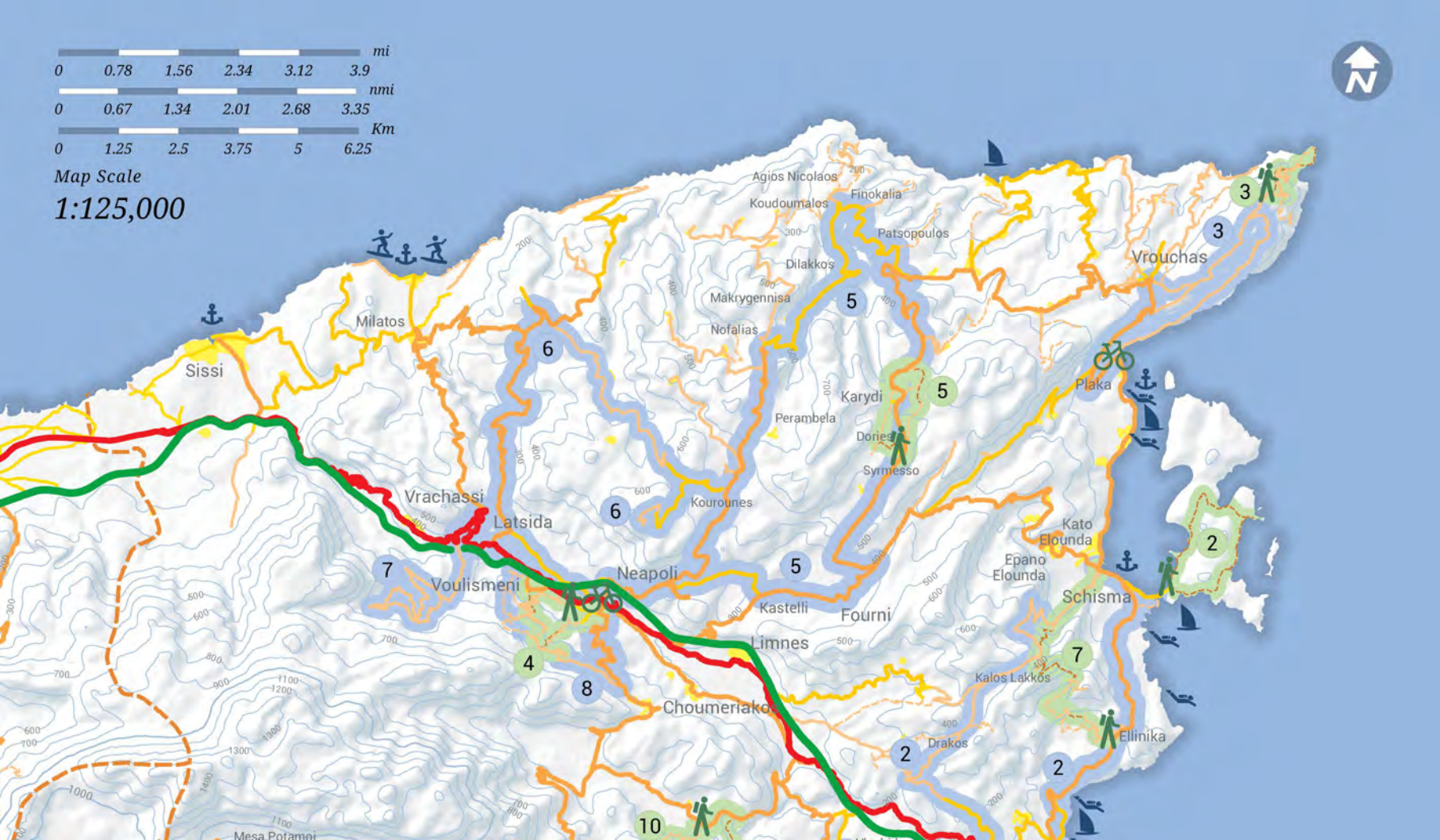
We ascend from Agios Nikolaos to the mountainous village of Drakos, where there are buildings from old Mirabello. From there, we continue to the old mountainous village of Kalos Lakkos and through the foothills of Oxa, we reach a point with a fantastic view of Elounda bay. We descend to Elounda, through the salt marshes. We then ascend to Ellinika, and return to Agios Nikolaos. Shortly before the end of the route, in the area of Ormos, you can visit the church of Agios Nikolaos, a monument of the 8th-9th century, which is where the city got its name from.

Circular dirt road route. Suitable for mountain bikers.

Distance	26 km
Time	2.5 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
Paved/Dirt Roads	Paved and dirt roads
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Connection to another route	T2 | T7
Start/End of trail	Agios Nikolaos
Villages	Drakos, Kalos Lakkos, Elounda
Attractions	Oxa, Salt marshes, Church of Agios Nikolaos



Exo Potamoi
Peponides
Vlachides
Pissidos
Karterides
Exo Lakonia
Fioretzides
Marnellides
Agios Minas
Agios Nikolaos
Margieli
Flamouriana
Schisma Chamilo
Kalyvos
Roussa Limni
Mardati
Kritsa
Katharo
Kroustas
Vathy
Istro
Pyrgos
Kalo Chorio
Prina
Settlement
Municipal Road
Trekking Route
Port
Municipal Boundaries
Other Asphalt Road
Bicycle Route
Sailboat Port (Marina)
European Road (E75)
Main Dustroad
Trekking Route Starting Point
Wind Surfing Spot
National Road
Other Dustroad
Bicycle Route Starting Point
Surf or SUP Spot
Country Road
Trail
Rock Climbing Field
Scuba Diving Center
A Pretty Map designed by
STARIDAS GEOGRAPHY

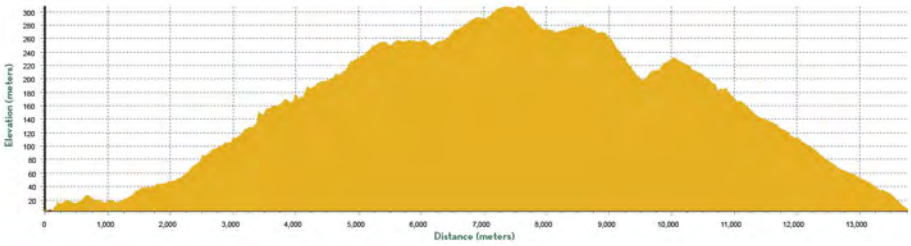

mi
0 0.78 1.56 2.34 3.12 3.9
nmi
0 0.67 1.34 2.01 2.68 3.35
Km
0 1.25 2.5 3.75 5 6.25
Map Scale
1:125,000
N
Agios Nicolaos
Koudoumalos
Finokalia
Patsopoulos
Dilakkos
Makrygennisa
Nofalias
Vrouchas
Milatos
Sissi
Karydi
Perambela
Plaka
Doniés
Syrmesso
Vrachassi
Latsida
Kourounes
Kato Elounda
Epano Elounda
Schisma
Neapoli
Voulismeni
Kastelli
Fourni
Limnes
Kalos Lakkos
Choumeriako
Drakos
Ellinika
Mesa Potamoi

B3 | Plaka - Agios Ioannis - Vrouchas

Starting from the traditional fishing village of Plaka, we ascend, overlooking Spinalonga, towards the chapel of Agios Ioannis, around which there are dozens of wind turbines. From there, passing through the wind park, we head to the village of Vrouchas and through a paved road descend towards Plaka.

Suitable for mountain bikers.

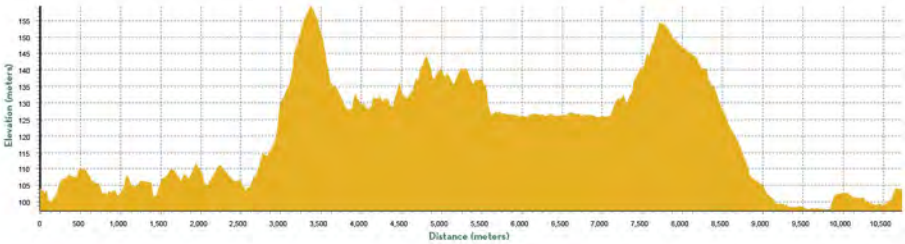
Distance	14.5 km
Time	1.5 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
Paved/Dirt Roads	Paved and dirt roads
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Connection to another route	T3
Start/End of trail	Plaka
Villages	Plaka, Vrouchas
Attractions	Plaka, Spinalonga, Church of Agios Ioannis



B4 | The tour of Lakonia

A route that goes through all settlements forming Mesa and Exo Lakonia. Through the rural areas, we can see the plain of Lakonia and the crops of the Municipality.

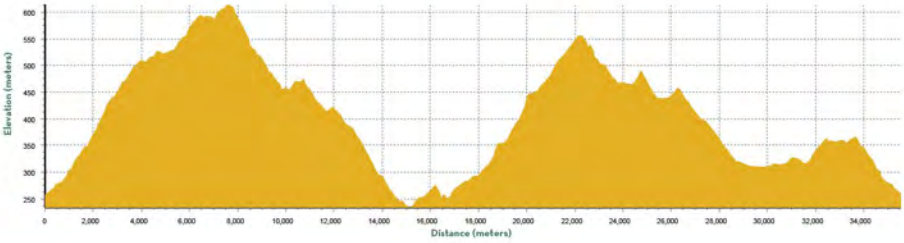
Distance	11 km
Time	1 hour
Difficulty	●●●●●
Paved/Dirt Roads	Paved road
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Connection to another route	-
Start/End of trail	Skisma
Villages	Skisma, Chamilo, Flamouriana Marnellides, Vlachides, Agios Minas
Attractions	Church of Archangel Michail, Plain of Lakonia



B5 | Neapoli - Kourounes - Nofalias - Fourni

We ascend towards Kourounes, enjoying the scintillating view, and then towards the plain of Fourni, the Lasithian Mountains and the mountain of Thrypti. We pass through most of the villages of northern Pano Mirabello, and when we return, a stop is recommended at the imposing Aretiou Monastery. We then descend to Fourni and Neapoli.

Distance	38 km
Time	3 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
Paved/Dirt Roads	Paved road
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Connection to another route	T4 | T5 | B6 | B7 | B8
Start/End of trail	Neapoli
Villages	Neapoli, Kourounes, Nofalias, Dilakkos, Finokalias, Patsopoulos, Karydi, Dories, Fourni
Attractions	Church of Megali Panagia, Aretiou Monastery, Monastery of Kardamoutsa, Ancient Driros, Church of Agios Konstantinos



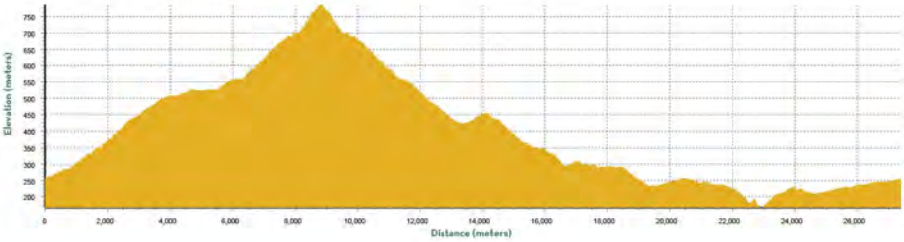
B6 | Neapoli - Timios Stavros - Xera Xyla - Tsambi

We approach Kourounes, and then ascend to the peak of Timios Stavros, to enjoy the panoramic view.

We then follow a downhill dirt road. From up there, we can also admire the heavily vegetated area where the Monastery of Agios Georgios is located.

The area surrounding Xera Xyla is wildly beautiful. We continue to the villages of Tsambi and Kounali, where we can visit the cave of Milatos with a small detour.

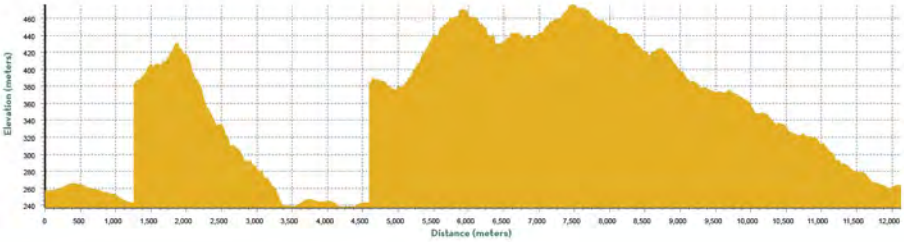
Distance	30 km
Time	2,5 hours
Difficulty	●●●●●
Paved/Dirt Roads	Dirt road
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Connection to another route	T4 | B5 | B7 | B8
Start/End of trail	Neapoli
Villages	Kourounes, Xera Xyla, Frathias Tsambi, Kounali, Agoroi
Attractions	Church of Timios Stavros



B7 | Neapoli - Nispitas - Voulismeni

Starting from the main square of Neapoli, we ascend towards Vrysses and the Mount of Kavalara; a paradise for mountain bikers.

Passing below the Monastery of Kremasta, we continue to the Monastery of Koufi Petra. From there we can enjoy the view of Anavlochos and Timios Stavros.

We continue for Nispita, where the 14th century old Catholic monastery of Fraro is located. We arrive at Panagia Vigliotissa and then descend towards Neapoli.

Distance	13 km
Time	1 hour
Difficulty	●●●●●
Paved/Dirt Roads	Dirt road
View	●●●●●
Circular	Yes
Connection to another route	T4 | B5 | B6 | B8
Start/End of trail	Neapoli
Villages	Neapoli, Voulismeni, Nispitas
Attractions	Monastery of Kremasta, Monastery of Koufi Petra, Church of Panagia Vigliotissa, Monastery of Fraro