

FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN



FROM STAVRONIKITA TO IVIRON

Distance: 3.2 km

Journey Time: 1 hour

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This is an attractive route offering fine views up and down the coast. But for several stretches the path is narrow and poorly defined, involving some scrambling and going close to the edge of a cliff: anyone likely to be affected by either of these factors is advised to take the (much longer) route along the road.

Note: All distances given (in metres) should be taken as approximate. The route described is liable to unpredictable change: for example, forestry work, road or track construction and plant growth may alter the route, or its appearance. Signposts may disappear or new ones appear. The Friends of Mount Athos strives to keep this description correct and up to date but cannot take responsibility for its accuracy.

Abbreviations: L = Left; R = Right; KSO = Keep straight on;
FP = Footpath; K = *Kalderimi* (stone-paved FP or track)

Description of Route:

Walk (m) And then . . .

- 0 Turn R out of **Stavronikita Monastery** gate and proceed with aqueduct to R. At the end of the aqueduct, turn L and cross the paved area with 4 separate roads ahead.
- 130 Take the second road on the L, (signed *Iviron* and *arsanas*) which is initially paved/concreted.
- 100 Road crosses bridge. KSO down concrete/cobbled road.
- 200 Opposite a yard with 3 tin roofed buildings, turn R onto FP (signed *Iviron*) which soon becomes coastal path. The FP, which is not always obvious, continues over cliffs and descends to cross two coves.
- 1200 FP descends to beach at derelict fountain (now dry). KSO along beach towards the large tower at far end. (This is **Kaliagra**, the *arsanas* of **Koutloumousiou Monastery**.)
- 220 In front of **Kaliagra** turn R up track for 30 metres. Then turn sharp L at red fire hydrant (signed *Iviron*), onto track initially past **Kaliagra**, then with sea to L.

- 200 Track descends onto beach. KSO along the beach.
- 120 Bear R onto track before boat-house at end of the beach.
Track becomes FP which passes above boathouse.
- 250 FP emerges at track, with metal gates to L. Turn R along track.
- 50 Track meets Karyes-Ivion road. Cross road and continue uphill on track on further side.
- 90 At fork, bear L on level. (R continues ahead into vineyard.)
- 300 Pass remains of fountain on L. Track, now showing traces of *K*, begins to descend.
- 350 Arrive at junction of tracks – Monastery is ahead. KSO, passing kiosk on L.
- 40 Arrive at the entrance of ***Ivion Monastery***.

This description has been produced by ***The Friends of Mount Athos***, a charitable organisation which, among other activities, works with monasteries to keep this, and certain other footpaths on the Holy Mountain, open. Copies of this and similar descriptions are available, free, from the Friends website, www.athosfriends.org and in a number of places on or associated with the Holy Mountain.