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### March bracelet

From March 1<sup>st</sup> on many Greeks wear the 'March bracelet': a red and white braided string. The white string represents the snow and cold of winter which -hopefully!- will be behind us soon. The red string represents the sun which gains in strength. The bracelet is supposed to protect children against sunburn.

Both strings are braided because March is known for both cold and warmth interspersed. And indeed: on the first of March we had snow and sun!

The sun is gaining strength and in March is the equinox: 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours night. At that moment day length in Greece and the rest of Europe is the same: on the shortest day Greece had 1½ hours more daylight than f.i. the Netherlands and southern England; on the longest day this is the opposite.

In March we also welcome the swallows: in Ioannina around March 20<sup>th</sup>, with us in the mountains a week later. Traditions makes you leave your March bracelet on the 31<sup>st</sup> in a rose bush, where the swallows take it to weave into their nest. Nowadays they often are real jewelry which you keep for next year.

The name 'March' by the way derives from the God Mars (Latin) or Aris (Greek). It's the first month of the old Roman calendar; in Byzantine days there were lots of festivities at the first of March. For those who want to read more and really master the Greek language we have an article [here](#).



### New hiking tour: Naxos Strada

We proudly present our new [trekking along the Naxos Strada](#), explored in 2021.

The Naxos Strada is a route of 50 kilometer, running from Plaka in the west to Apollonas in the north and taking in 4 stages. We added a circular walk along the Demeter temple in the south, a circular walk along the highest summit Zas and a route from Apiranthos to Lionas on the east coast. Thus you gain a complete picture of the whole island.

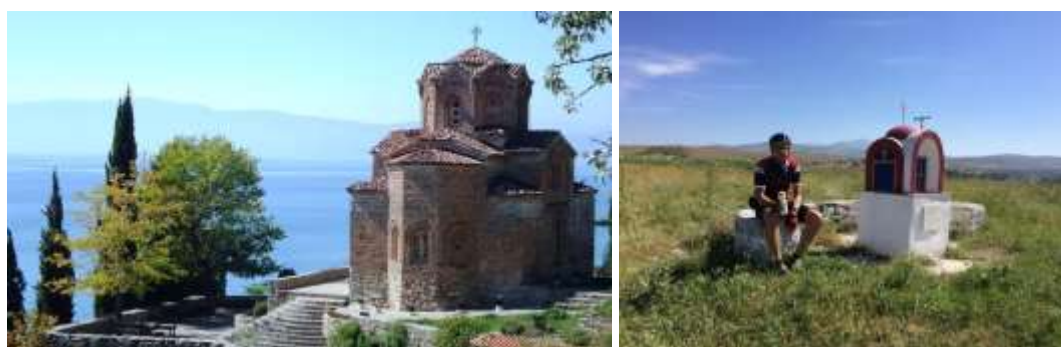


It's a 10-day tour including arrival and departure, so 8 hikes. For those who wish to extend their stay we have 3 more hikes on Naxos.



### Guaranteed departure guided bicycle tour Ohrid-Meteora

The [guided bicycle trekking from Ohrid to Meteora](#) will definitely take place on 20 June 2022. Who else wants to join?



### Clean Green Andros

#### New initiative

The organisation [Andros Routes](#), which maintains the paths on Andros, undertakes every effort to make Andros cleaner and greener. They launched a new website: [Clean Green Andros](#) showing how you may help.

Read [here](#) about our tours on Andros and the other Cyclades.





### Survey

Andros Routes is also very interested in the opinion of the visitors of the island. As there are certainly visitors that did not book their Andros tour through us, I'd like to draw attention in a general newsletter.

There are only 30 questions and your participation is highly valued! This is the link to the [survey](#).

### Former newsletters

Should you like to read former newsletters: [you may download the latest versions here](#).