

**AnnaHiking**  
Active holidays in Griekenland  
[www.annahiking.nl](http://www.annahiking.nl)

**Cyclades – Naxos Strada – self-guided:  
10-day walking tour along the Naxos Strada  
2024 (CNWT214I)**

**Great combination with Santorini, Andros and Tinos!**



*Our hiking philosophy: active during the day, and in the afternoon a warm shower, a good meal and a comfortable bed in a small-scale accommodation.*

*We invite you to join us!*

**more information: [www.annahiking.nl](http://www.annahiking.nl)**



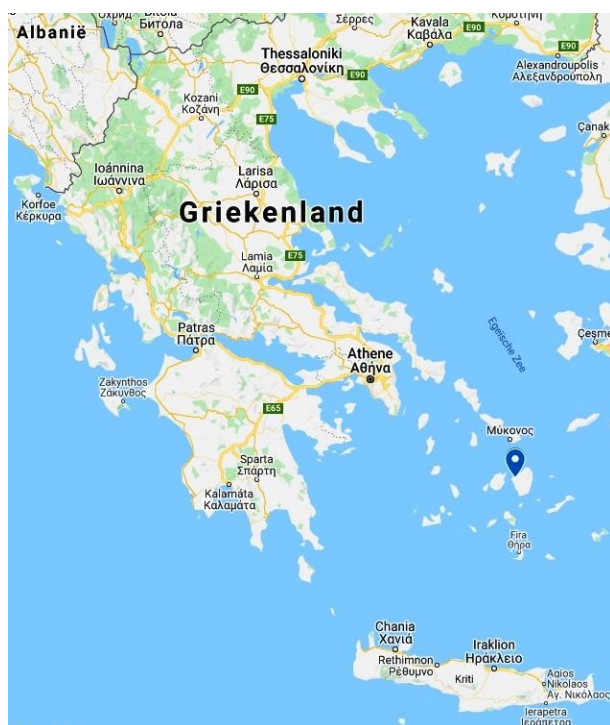
### ***About AnnaHiking***

In 1991 we visited Greece for the first time. Our love for the country, the culture, the climate, the food, the language and the Greek has grown ever since. We feel at home here and want to communicate this feeling to others.

Many people are familiar with the Greek “islands with beautiful beaches”. Many islands also boast a splendid inland with historical paths, ideal for hiking. Naxos is such an island with much more on offer than beaches alone, and we’d love to introduce it to you.

We explored several hiking routes and described them in detail. As an individual traveller we offer you these descriptions together with GPS-tracks, a navigation app for your smartphone and marked detailed maps, so you can find your way easily. You’ll also receive an information package with background information, tips for the best meals and several other useful trivia.

### ***The tour location***



### ***General tour information***

Naxos is the largest island of the Cyclades archipel and is situated in the Aegean Sea. You may fly to Santorini, Mykonos or Athens; the connection to Naxos is by ferryboat. Naxos does have an airport, but this is only serviced from Athens.

The Naxos Strada is a 50 kilometer route, starting in Plaka at the west coast and ending in Apollonas on the north coast. It’s divided in 4 stages, the red and blue lines on the map. Included in the tour is also a circular walk along the Demeter temple in the south, a circular walk along Mount Zas, the highest summit of the island, and a diversion from the Strada to Lionas on the east coast.

The first 3 overnight stays are in Naxos town (Chora), close to the harbour. Then you stay 2 nights in Filoti, a charming village with various tavernas and cafes,





built like an amphitheater. From there you walk north to Koronos, which also boasts cosy tavernas, cafes with great views, an enclosed square and an old-fashioned cobbler. The last two nights will be in Apollonas, a village in the north on a sheltered bay. Here one of the 'kouroi' is situated, a giant marble statue.



The walks take place on (paved) paths, gravel roads and small stretches on quiet asphalt roads. The paths are well maintained and often paved, but they might be stony. The waymarking is generally good. We thus recommend you to start the tour well trained and prepared with well worn-in ankle-high walking boots.

Most walks have a net walking time between 4½ and 5 hours (that is excluding breaks); once 2½ hours and once 5¾ hours. The last day is a very short walk with ample opportunity to relax in the charming village or on the beach.

There are several extra walks for an extended stay, see at the end of this document.

It's a tour for active people that want to enjoy culture and nature and the contrasts between the lively villages and a mountaineous innerland.

### **Highlights**

- ❖ The 2800 year old Kouros statues on Naxos.
- ❖ The temple of Demeter.
- ❖ 360° round view from the summit Zas (1000m altitude).
- ❖ Old paved paths through an unspoilt landscape.
- ❖ Charming and hospitable villages.

### **Modular set-up: extensions/alterations**

The arrangement can be extended with overnight stays in all accommodations. There are more walks; see '[Extra walks](#)'. You may rent a car from Chora, Filoti and Apollonas; with this you can drive around or use to go to the start point for one of the circular extra walks.

You may split all the stages of the Naxos Strada in one of the villages on the route and return by taxi or public bus to your accommodation. Thus you may divide the Strada in shorter and therefore lighter stages; the total tour will be more days.

The tour may very well be combined with one of our hiking tours on the neighbouring island Andros or the hiking tour on Tinos. Several ferries connect the Cyclades islands. See the [possibilities on the Cyclades](#) on our website.

Finally you may combine the arrangement with (parts of) [other tours we offer in Greece](#). We'll gladly help you with the logistics.

**For all your wishes: ask for an estimate!**



### *About the Cyclades and Naxos*

The Cyclades are situated in a circle ('kyklos') around the holy island Delos or Dilos. The legend tells us that Apollo and Artemis were born here, so Delos was the religious centre of Ionia in the 7th century B.C. The current capital is Ermoupoli.

Nowadays the Cyclades are famous for their square white houses with blue doorposts and window frames, the vast beaches and lively villages.



The climate on the Cyclades is gentle. The days are warm early in the year, but the spring nights are still cool. In autumn the day and night temperature is around 20°C. Short showers are to be expected in spring and autumn.

Also heavy winds are possible. In summer they cool you down, but in spring and autumn you may find it sometimes chilly. Due to the sun the temperatures are very pleasant from April until the end of October. Normally shorts and t-shirts are appropriate walking clothes, with a blouse or light sweater for the cooler moments.

Naxos is with 450 km<sup>2</sup> the largest Cyclades island and counts around 25.000 inhabitants. It's been famous for centuries for its marble, wine and local lemon liqueur (Kitron). The people grow citrus fruit, olives and grapes, while the sheep and goats in the innerland give their milk for the production of the finest cheeses.

The capital Chora or Naxos-town has 15000 inhabitants and is the seat of a Greek-orthodox bishopric and a Roman-catholic archbishopric. In the Kastro (the old inner town) you'll find the catholic cathedral close to the orthodox church Panagia Theoskepasti, containing wonderful icons. On the peninsula Palatia next to the harbour stands the Portara, a 6 meter high marble gate, meant to be the entrance of a temple that never was concluded.



Another place of interest is formed by a couple of Kouroi, statues of naked young man several meters high. One lies still unfinished in the marble quarry near Apollonas in the north. You'll come across some fallen statues on your walk to Melanes.

The island is quite mountaineous, the highest summit being Zas, 1000m above sea level and visible from almost everywhere on the island. Along the coast are vast sandy beaches and sand dunes, attracting many sun-worshippers. The varied landscape has several lovely and quiet paths for hikers.

### *The accommodations*

In Chora you may choose between three hotels: standard is Anixis in the old town; at a surcharge you may also choose the more luxury Grotta on the cliff with splendid view or Naxos Beach Resort just outside town on Agios Georgos beach. Grotta has a small spa: a small indoor pool with jets, jacuzzi and sauna. In all three accommodation breakfast is served at the hotel.



In Filoti you'll stay in a small apartment hotel (5 studios). Breakfast is in the "44 Miles bar" next door.

In Koronos you'll stay in one of Matina's traditional houses: she manages the taverna on the square, her children the two accommodations. They consist of studios with all facilities. You'll prepare your own breakfast from the goodies in the kitchen.

In Apollonas you'll stay in family hotel Adonis. The spacious rooms all have a balcony. Breakfast in the hotel.

### Booking

The arrangement may be booked with start date from 11 April until 12 October. From mid July until end of August it may be very hot and availability is limited unless you book early. Also in the week of Protomaia and Greek Easter (1 until 6 May) and Greek Pentecost (23-24 June) the accommodations will be fully booked early in the year.

### Prices per person 2024

# travellers	room type	11-4 / 30-5 30-9 / 12-10	31-5 / 23-6 1-9 / 29-9	24-6 / 13-7 18-8 / 31-8	14-7 / 17-8
alleen	single	€ 1830	€ 1875	€ 1990	€ 2075
2 pax	double/twin	€ 1015	€ 1035	€ 1115	€ 1160
2 pax	2x single	€ 1380	€ 1415	€ 1530	€ 1620
3 pax	triple	€ 770	€ 780	€ 855	€ 895
3 pax	double/twin + single	€ 985	€ 1015	€ 1105	€ 1160
3 pax	3x single	€ 1225	€ 1270	€ 1385	€ 1470
4 pax	2x double/twin	€ 790	€ 805	€ 890	€ 935

Note:

- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- The dates apply to the start day of the tour.
- For other group sizes, contact us for an estimate.
- From January 1st 2018 in Greece an 'overnight tax' is applicable. This tax has to be paid at check-in at your accommodation. Tourorganisations are not allowed by law to pay this tax.

The rates per room per night were until 2023: € 0,50 for 2\*-hotels, € 1,50 for 3\*-hotels, € 3,00 for 4\*-hotels and € 4,00 for 5\*-hotels.

It seems they'll be raised to: €1,50 for 2\*-hotels, €3,00 for 3\*-hotels, €7,00 for 4\*-hotels and €10,00 for 5\*-hotels.

**Start and finish:** Naxos harbour.

### Included

- 9 overnight stays including breakfast.
- Hiking map of Naxos; sent by post. If you live within the European Union we'll send it to your home address, otherwise the package will wait for you in the first accommodation.
- Detailed roadbook and maps; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- GPS tracks per hike: sent by WeTransfer.
- Use of the Active Nav app for navigation with your smartphone.
- Luggage transport and transfers according to the program.
- Telephone assistance and reservation fee.



***Not included***

- Flight and own travel expenses to Naxos.
- Lunches, diner, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Overnight tax (see above).
- Insurances.
- All transfers not mentioned in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under “included”.

***Luggage***

You carry a day pack with water, lunch, warm and rainproof clothing, possibly swimming gear, items for personal care, binoculars/camera etc.

The remaining luggage stays in the accommodation or is transferred.

Before departure we send you a list with essential and advised items.



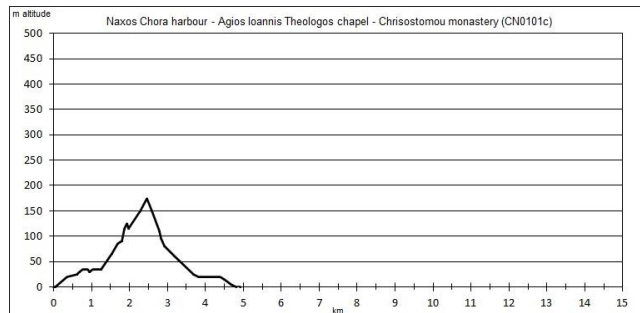


## Day to day program

(You can download the elevation profiles separately.)

**Note:** walking times mentioned are net times without breaks. The elevation profiles are on different scales.

### Day 1: Arrival on Naxos, walk Chrisostomou (GR00299)



A short walk, very suitable for the end of the afternoon.

You start in Chora harbour and ascends through the village to the east. You pass the neighbourhood Grotta, where hotel Grotta is situated. Where the asphalt road starts winding upwards, you take shortcuts by cattle paths. You visit the Agios Ioannis Theologos chapel and then the Chrisostomou monastery, a still inhabited nunnery with a pretty church.

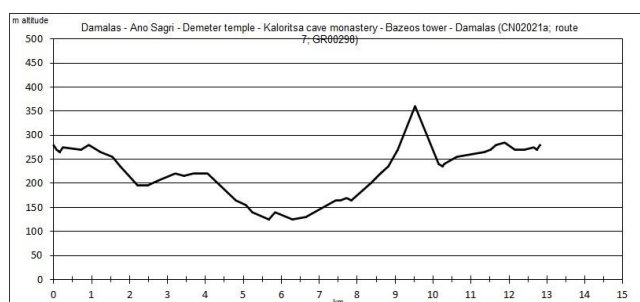
You descend along meadows and meander through the alleys of Chora until you've reached the harbour.

walking time/distance: 1h45' / 4,9km

ascent/descent: 170m

overnight stay: Chora

### Day 2: Circular walk Demeter temple (GR00298)



A walk to explore the south of the island, which is not in the Naxos Strada. You'll be brought by taxi to the bus stop near Damalassos, south of Chalki

You descend past the village Sagri (with taverna) to the temple of Demeter (Dimitra), mostly on paths. You may visit the archeological site (2022: open Wednesday-Monday 8:30-15:30, closed on Tuesday, entrance fee €4).



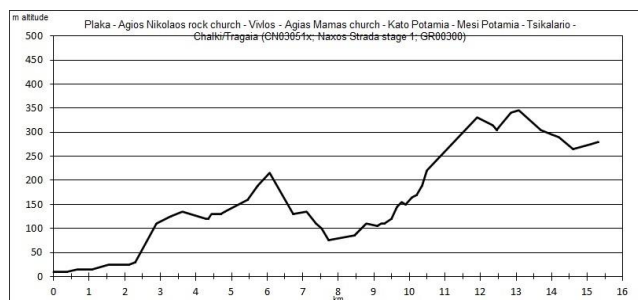
From the temple you ascend back in the direction of Chalki. The detour to the deserted Kaloritsa cave monastery is really worth-while! Along the Bazeos tower you return to the bus stop near Damalas. Here you'll be picked up and returned to Chora.

walking time/distance: 4h15' / 12,8km

ascent/descent: 370m

overnight stay: Chora

**Day 3: Walk Plaka – Vivlos – Chalki (GR00300)**



Today you'll walk the first stage of the Naxos Strada. You'll be taken to Plaka beach.

You start along a beach road. The taxi usually makes it until the start of the path; this saves you 1km. You walk through cane fields towards the innerland, whilst admiring the rock formations of Paliopirgos. From the river bed the ascent starts by an old path until the rock church Agios Nikolaos. Here the plateau starts. You proceed by country roads along several churches until you've reached the village Vivlos, dominated by a couple of old windmills.

From Vivlos you ascend again by country roads and paths until the asphalt road near holiday park Mandilares Village. Now you'll descend along the 11th century Agios Mamas church until a stream bed. Here again an ascent towards the villages Kato and Meso Potamia. Past the villages you ascend even more to the Apano Kastro (Upper Castle), which you'll see above you. Here is the highest point of today's walk. You descend again along the hamlet Tsikalario until you've reached the lively village Chalki. In the village you may visit the Kitron distillery, a local liqueur.

Apart from the cane fields there's not much shadow on this stage. In Chalki you'll be met and returned to Chora.

walking time/distance: 5h15' / 15,3km

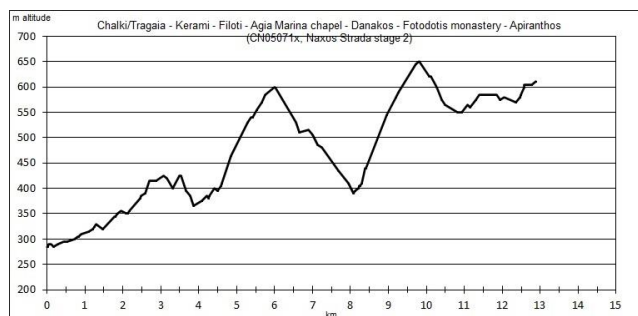
ascent/descent: 545m / 275m

overnight stay: Chora





### Day 4: Walk Chalki – Filoti – Apiranthos (GR00301)



You'll be taken to Chalki village and start along the alleys of the village. At the church and bus stop you cross the asphalt road and leave the village. You'll pass the next village Metochi and arrive in Filoti, with several tavernas and cafes on and near the square.

You leave the village by streets and a path until you've reached the asphalt road and the Agia Marina chapel. You descend along a shadowed stream valley to Danakos, a somewhat sleepy village. From there you ascend again to the Fotodotis monastery, which looks like a castle. You keep on ascending with lovely views over the meadows and back to the monastery. The last stretch until Apiranthos is more or less even. You often walk in the shade.

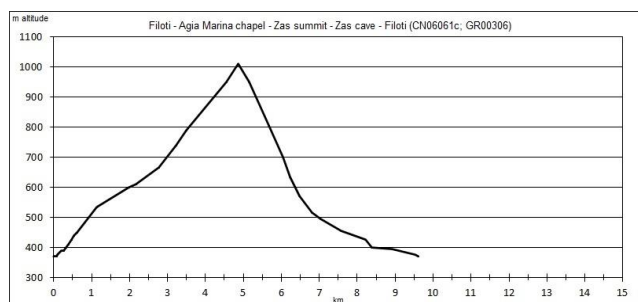
You'll be met and brought to Filoti.

walking time/distance: 5h / 13,0km

ascent/descent: 785m / 460m

overnight stay: Filoti

### Day 5: Circular walk Filoti – Zas top – Filoti (GR00306)



By a stretch of asphalt and then paths you descend out of Filoti until you're at the asphalt road near the Agia Marina chapel. Here the walk starts towards Zas summit. This stretch is not too strenuous, although it may be quite hot on the exposed slope, and very worth-while for the views.

You descend along Zas cave and the Aria spring; this is quite a hefty descent on rocky terrain. Then you enter Filoti village again: time to relax on the square.

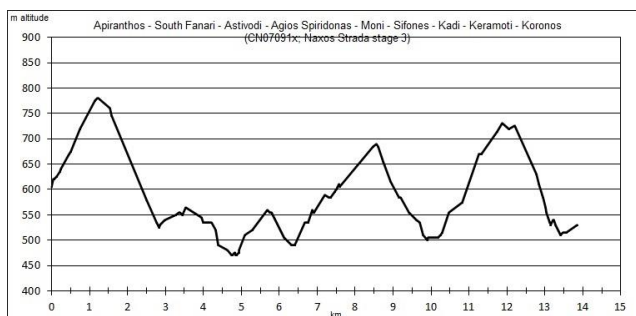
walking time/distance: 4h30' / 9,6km

ascent/descent: 640m

overnight stay: Filoti



### Day 6: Walk Apiranthos – Moni – Koronos (GR00302)



You'll be taken to Apiranthos. You leave the village on foot and soon the ascent starts, with great views over Apiranthos, the windmill ruins and the sea. You reach the 'Fanari' plateau and here the view changes inland, towards Moni and Sifones. You descend to Moni village and then ascend again, past a chapel. This alternation of descent and ascent is repeated several times. You pass the agricultural hamlet Kadi.

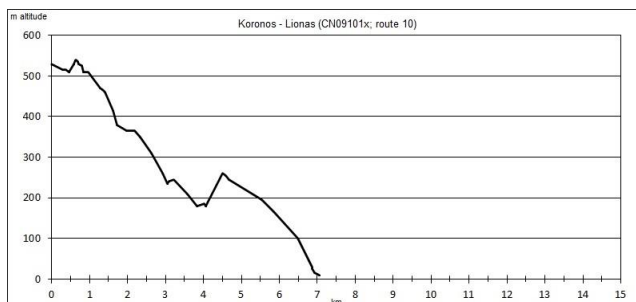
En route you may often enjoy lovely views over the mountaneous inland of Naxos that you cross. Enjoy the peace and quiet!

walking time/distance: 5h30' / 13,5km

ascent/descent: 750m / 840m

overnight stay: Koronos

### Day 7: Walk Koronos – Lionas (GR00303)



Today's walk is relaxed and mostly downhill. From the village Koronos you walk through a lovely stream valley to the beach hamlet Lionas. You often walk in the shade.

In Lionas is a quiet beach and a cosy taverna: great for a relaxed afternoon! You'll be taken back to Koronos.

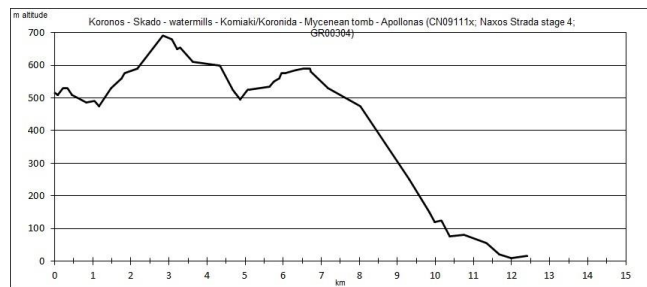
walking time/distance: 2h30' / 6,7km

ascent/descent: 105m / 610m

overnight stay: Koronos



### Day 8: Walk Koronos – Komiaki – Apollonas (GR00304)



From Koronos you first descend into the valley by paths and then follow the valley up to Skado. Next to the path you find some panels with information about the scenery. From Skado you have a small stretch of asphalt with sea view, then again an ascending path up to the saddle. From there you descend into the watermill valley, a shadowed route with lots of little streams. You may visit some of the watermill ruins.

Then you ascend again to Komiaki cum Koronida, you'll find an grill taverna annex cafe annex minimarket here. You ascend through the village until the Mycenaean Tomb. From there you descend again and then traverse to Apollonas, at first quite level and then downhill. The scenery is stony and barren, with almost constantly sea view.

Near Apollonas you make a small detour and then enter the village at the sea front. Following the esplanade you'll reach your hotel.

walking time/distance: 4h45' / 12,9km

ascent/descent: 415m / 930m

overnight stay: Apollonas

### Day 9: Circular walk levada – kouros (GR00305)



It's a short walk, but certainly worth-while.

You ascend through Apollonas village and veer off along a water gully. After crossing the asphalt road the gully turns into a kind of levada: a level path along the water with lots of flowers. The levada ends at the spring, which is a bit disappointing because it's drained. You ascend to the asphalt road which you follow until the paved path towards the Kouros.

This 10.7m high statue weighs 80 ton and lies unfinished in the quarry. You proceed to the top with an ancient inscription in the rock. Then you descend back into the village.



You may extend this walk with a circular walk along the slopes of Sikala and past Wild Beach. This circular walk is also very suitable for an extension in Apollonas. (See under “Extra walks”.)

*walking time/distance: 1h / 2,4km*

*ascent/descent: 130m*

*overnight stay: Apollonas*

***Day 10: Departure from Naxos (CNV)***



After breakfast your arrangement ends. You'll be taken to the harbour or airport.

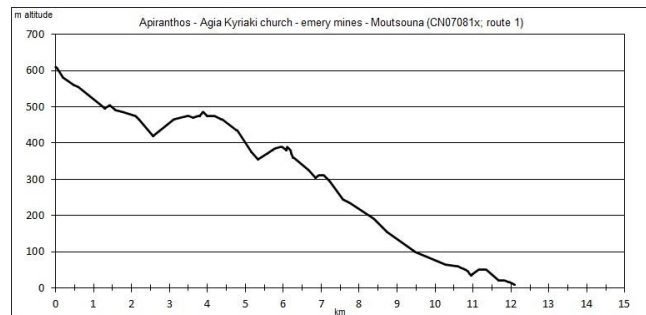
Had you booked an extension, f.i. for one or more of the extra walks, you'll be brought to your extension hotel. (If not in Chora, a surcharge may be applicable.)



## Extra walks

Transportation to the start of the walk and back to the accommodation (public bus, taxi or by the accommodation) is not included and has to be arranged by yourself.

### Walk Apiranthos – amaril mines – Moutsouna (CN07081x)



Transportation to the start and from the finish by public bus or taxi, from Filoti or Chora.

From Apiranthos you descend through a valley. The first two kilometers offer shadow, then you ascend over open grounds to the Agia Kyriaki church. The church dates back until the 7th century and contains unique icons. From June until end September on Wednesday and Saturday somebody will be next door with the key, otherwise you may only admire the chapel from the outside.

You descend again until a shadowed spring, a lovely spot for a break. Past the spring you continue the descent until the old asphalt road, constructed for the emery mines. You ascend a bit along the old buildings and cable car constructions until you've reached the mine entrances. Here you traverse the slope with often sea views. There are some vertigo prone stretches and a clatter of some meters to reach the road again. If you don't feel up to this, you may also follow the macadam road to this point.

At the next mine buildings you leave the road again and descend further towards Moutsouna. In this little harbour village the cable car line stops. At the sea front you may enjoy a drink or a (fresh fish) meal.

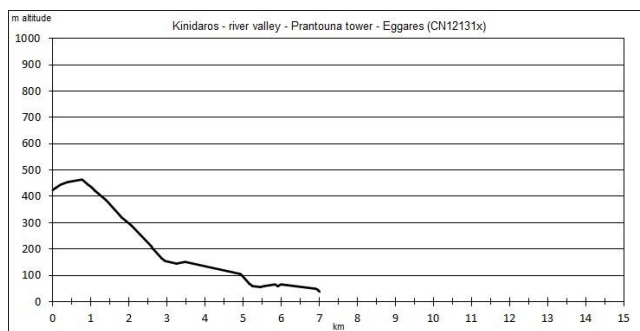
*walking time/distance: 4h15' / 12,8km*

*ascent/descent: 160m / 760m*

*overnight stay: easiest from Filoti (Chora is also possible, longer transfers)*



**Walk Kinidaros – terrapin pond – Eggares (CN12131x)**



Transportation to the start and from the finish by public bus or taxi, from Chora.

The walk starts in Kinidaros, the village with the most dancers and singers of Naxos. From the square you leave the village uphill by paved steps and a small stretch of asphalt road. Then you descend by country roads and paved paths, passing an old marble quarry.

At the river you pass under the bridge and continue through the lush green river valley. You pass some watermill ruins, a stone arched bridge and a romantic pond with terrapins. Other remarkable items on the way are an old 4-arched aquaduct and the Pradouna tower.



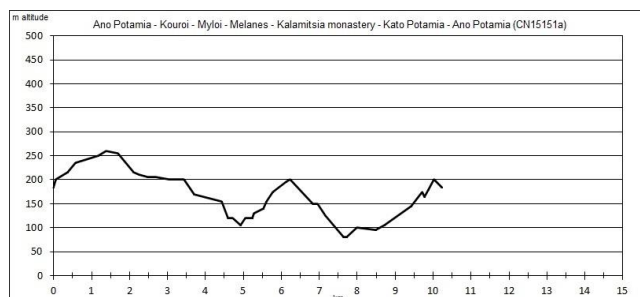
The walk ends in the village Eggares, where you'll find several tavernas and shops for lunch. Next to the imposing church is a restored olive press which you may visit for free. The owners also host a shop with olive and olive wood products and a cafe. You may continue 240m by the asphalt road to admire a marble bridge.

walking time/distance: 2h45' / 7km

ascent/descent: 60m / 445m

overnight stay: easiest from Naxos stad (Chora)

**Circular walk Potamia – Kouroi – Melanes – Potamia (CN15151a)**





Transportation to the start and from the finish by public bus or taxi, from Filoti or Chora. As it's a circular walk, you may also use a rental car.

You start in Ano Potamia, cross the hill to find the Kouros Faraggiou on the other side. The statue is lying on the ground, only one foot is still in place. Then you descend to the Kouros Fleriou. At the parking you take a path and walk along fields of prickly pears to the village Myloi and on to the bigger village Melanes. Here you'll find tavernas and a minimarket for your lunch.



Past Melanes you enter the fields again and follow a path around the derelict monastery Kalamitsia. You descend to Kato Potamia, where you pick up route 6 again. Between the three Potamia villages developed quite some variations of this route 6. You ascend through the village and end back in Ano Potamia.

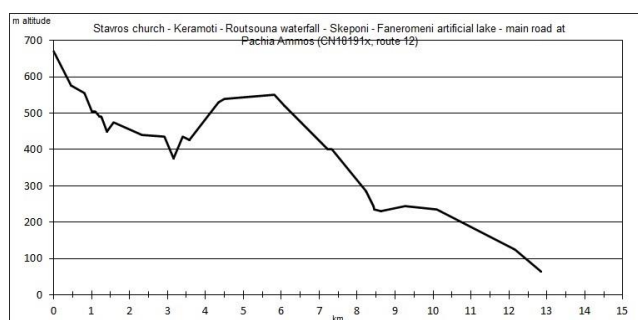
It's a not too strenuous and varied trip with lots of things to see on the way.

*walking time/distance: 3h30' / 10,4km*

*ascent/descent: 365m*

*overnight stay: easiest from Naxos stad (Chora)*

### ***Stavros church-Routsouna waterfall-main road (CN20191x)***



Transportation to the start and from the finish to be arranged with the accommodation in Apollonas; they're quite long transfers. You may also take the public bus from Chora to the Stavros church and return to Chora by taxi. It's a varied walk, use of GPS is advised.

You start at the Stavros church at the junction of asphalt roads and take the descending path into Keramoti. Past the village you descend by paths until you've reached Routsouna waterfall. You can not (safely) reach the pool, but you'll have a marvellous view of the waterfall.

Then you ascend with splendid views past bizarre rock formations until the saddle. On the descending plateau is not very clear we recommend the use of GPS, albeit that you may manage if you cautiously follow the paint markings.



At a goat farm you reach a country road. You may follow it for a while to the right to get a view over the



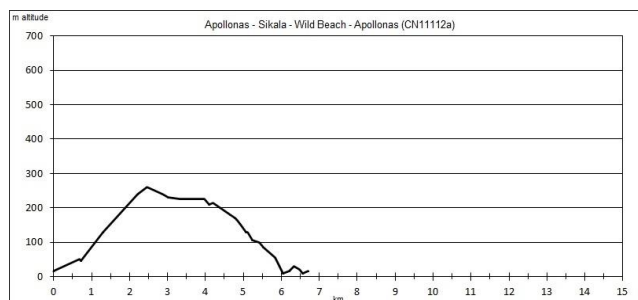
deserted village Skeponi and maybe even visit it. Back along the goat farm and then follow the country road down until the Faneromeni artificial lake. Here the asphalt starts and this may be the pick-up location. You may also proceed until the main road.

walking time/distance: 5h / 12,9km

ascent/descent: 225m / 830m

overnight stay: Apollonas or Chora

**Circular walk Apollonas-Sikala-Wild Beach (CN11112a)**



You may use this walk as an extension for the walk of day 9, or use it for an extended stay.

You ascend through Apollonas village by the asphalt road. After 750m you leave the asphalt and start the ascent by country roads along the mountain flank through "Sikala". Indeed lots of "sikia" or fig trees prosper on the slope! The last 1300m of the descent are by a cattle path through rough terrain until you've reached the asphalt road again.

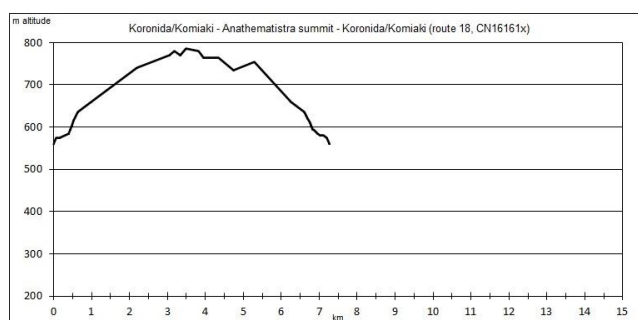
Via stony "Wild Beach" you return to Apollonas village.

walking time/distance: 3h / 6,7km

ascent/descent: 280m

overnight stay: Apollonas

**Walk Koronida-Anathematistra summit and back (CN16161x)**



Transportation to the start and from the finish is to be arranged with the accommodation in Apollonas. As it's a walk forth and back, you may also use a rental car; then you may do this walk from any accommodation. The summit is also reached via one of the two longer walks described hereafter.

You start and finish in the village Koronida or Komiaki, at a café cum minimarket which is open all and every day. You ascend through the paved streets until you've reached the country road above the village. You follow this road up with lovely views over the north coast. Just





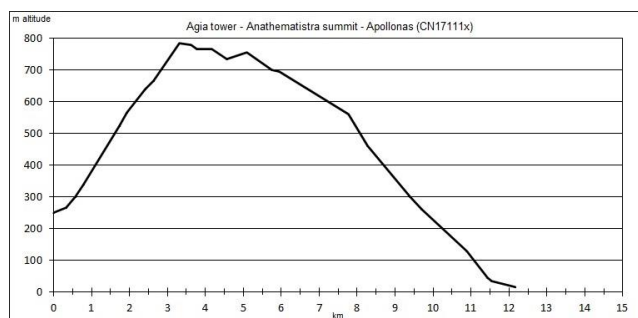
past the saddle you continue on a path, slightly ascending, until you've reached the Anathematistra summit. Here you have surround view over Naxos and many neighbouring islands like Paros. You'll take the same way back.

walking time/distance: 2h30' / 7,3km

ascent/descent: 255m

overnight stay: best from Apollonas

**Walk Agia tower-Anathematistra summit-Apollonas (CN17111x)**



Transportation to the start is to be arranged with the accommodation in Apollonas; you end in the village itself.

You start at the Agia tower and monastery; you may visit them before you start the walk. The tower is in danger of collapsing you so won't be able to go in, but during the walk you'll have plenty of opportunities to make photographs. Past the tower the path continues until the monastery and picknick area. Same way back to the asphalt road. All in all it will take you about half an hour.

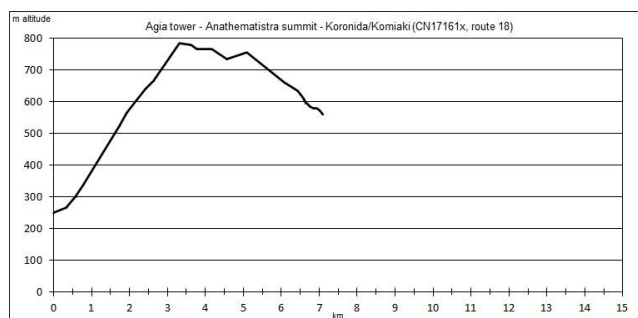
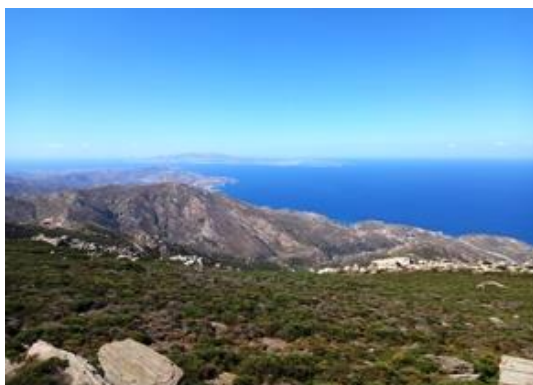
Then you take the asphalt road west for 300 meters. There an ascending path starts towards the Anathematistra summit. Here you have surround view over Naxos and many neighbouring islands like Paros. You descend and ascend another few meters past a second summit and from there it's all descent. After 4 kilometers you'll reach a country road and thus descend into Apollonas.

walking time/distance: 5h / 12,2km

ascent/descent: 555m / 790m

overnight stay: Apollonas

**Walk Agia tower-Anathematistra summit- Koronida (CN17161x)**



Transportation to the start and from the finish is to be arranged with the accommodation in Apollonas.



This walk starts the same as walk Agia tower-Anathematistra summit-Apollonas (CN17111x), but ends in Koronida. Thus you descend less and end at the café-minimarket where the walk Koronida-Anathematistra summit (CN16161x) begins. Here you may wait for your transport back while enjoying the splendid view over the watermill valley.

*walking time/distance: 3h10' / 7,1km*

*ascent/descent: 555m / 245m*

*overnight stay: Apollonas*