

**Kythira island hiking – self-guided centre-based:
8 hiking routes from one location
on the hidden gem Kythira 2024 (KYWS114I)**



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)



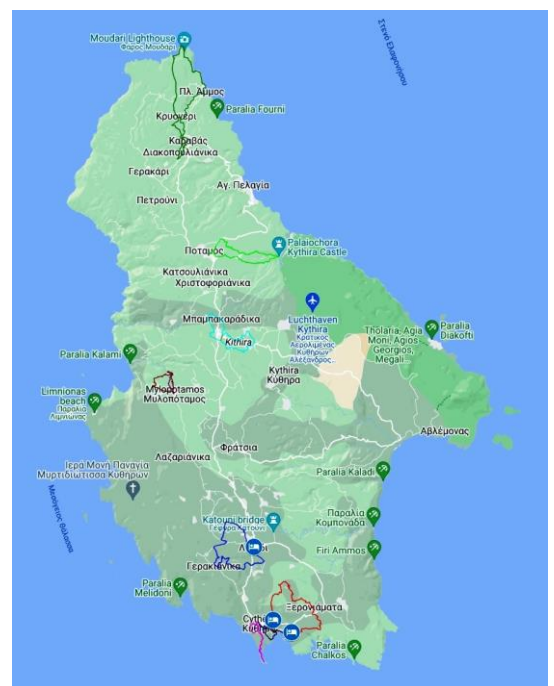
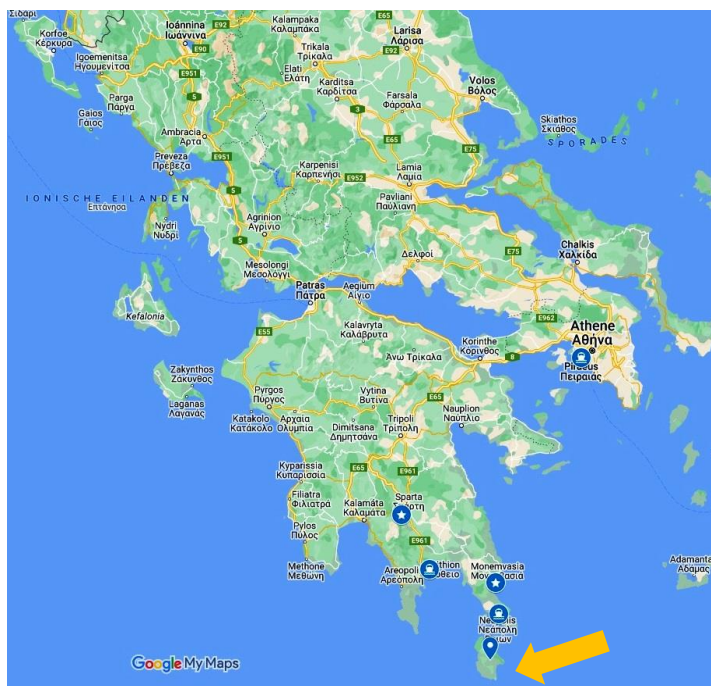
About AnnaHiking and S-Cape

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. Kythira is such an island with much more on offer than beaches alone, and we’d love to introduce it to you.

Our agent S-Cape explored 8 routes for you. As an individual traveller we offer you a roadbook with tour descriptions, GPS-tracks and marked detailed maps, so you can find your way easily. You’ll also receive a navigation app.

The tour location



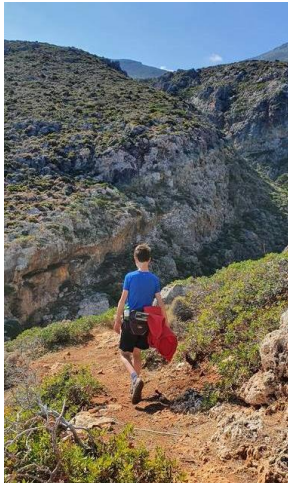
General information about the tour

The island Kythira is a hidden gem between the Peloponnese and Crete, offering a unique character and boundless history. Ancient sites, tiny villages, rural landscapes, lush river valleys and waterfalls unite to produce an attractive year-round destination that one discovers the best way on foot.

Arriving on Kythira by ferry or by plane, you immediately feel the history of this peaceful island. Though less known (and thus not very touristic!), the island is big and offers an exhaustive, well-marked hiking network: the Kythira Trails, a municipal project.

For this holiday, we have put together the eight greatest walks. All walks are round walks and with your rental car you can easily drive to the starting point. Flexibility is key in this trip, and depending on the daylight and temperature, you choose the walk that matches your mood of the day, or you can opt for a ride to one of the lovely beaches or cosy villages on the island. We recommend a fish meal in Avlemonas!





The walks are mostly unsurfaced tracks; footpaths, dirt roads and mountain trails. During the walk to the Agia Sophia cave the path is during a short section through a steep gorge. If you are very afraid of heights or suffer from acrophobia, this may be challenging.

In the south around Chora, you will enjoy fabulous views of Kapsali Bay, the Venetian Castle, and the narrow peninsula of Trachilos. From inland Livadi, a great round walk leads through vineyards, along windmills and a 13th century church. The waterfalls near Milopotamos are an absolute must-see. From the bigger town Potamos the walk leads to Paleochora, which was once the capital of the island and now serves as a peek into Byzantine history. At the northernmost tip of the island, at the lighthouse Moudari, one admires the views over the Peloponnese.

It's a tour for those you prefer the freedom to manage their own program, with ample choice from walks and cultural highlights.

Trip highlights

- ❖ Views from the castle of Chora on Kapsali Bay
- ❖ The medieval ghost town Paleochora
- ❖ Waterfalls at Milopotamos
- ❖ Lighthouse at Moudari
- ❖ Lively village square of Potamos



Modular set-up: extensions/alterations/abbreviations

The price is based on an 8-day tour with 7 overnight stays and 7 consecutive days (7x24 hours) B-category rental car; ask for an estimate if you want to extend or shorten your stay.

Should you not fly on the airport of Kythira, we may book you extra overnight stays on the way in Monemvasia, Gythion (2 ferries per week to Kythira) or Mystras.

You may even sail from Piraeus – complete antistress! In that case you may book an overnight stay in Piraeus.

We can also book you a hotel in Athens, with optional extras like a guided city walk or bike tour, or a self-guided 'walk & eat' tour where you stop at several tavernas for an extended dinner.

The arrangement may be extended with one of our other walking or bicycle tours in Greece. We'll gladly advise you about the logistics.

For all your wishes: ask for an estimate!

About Kythira

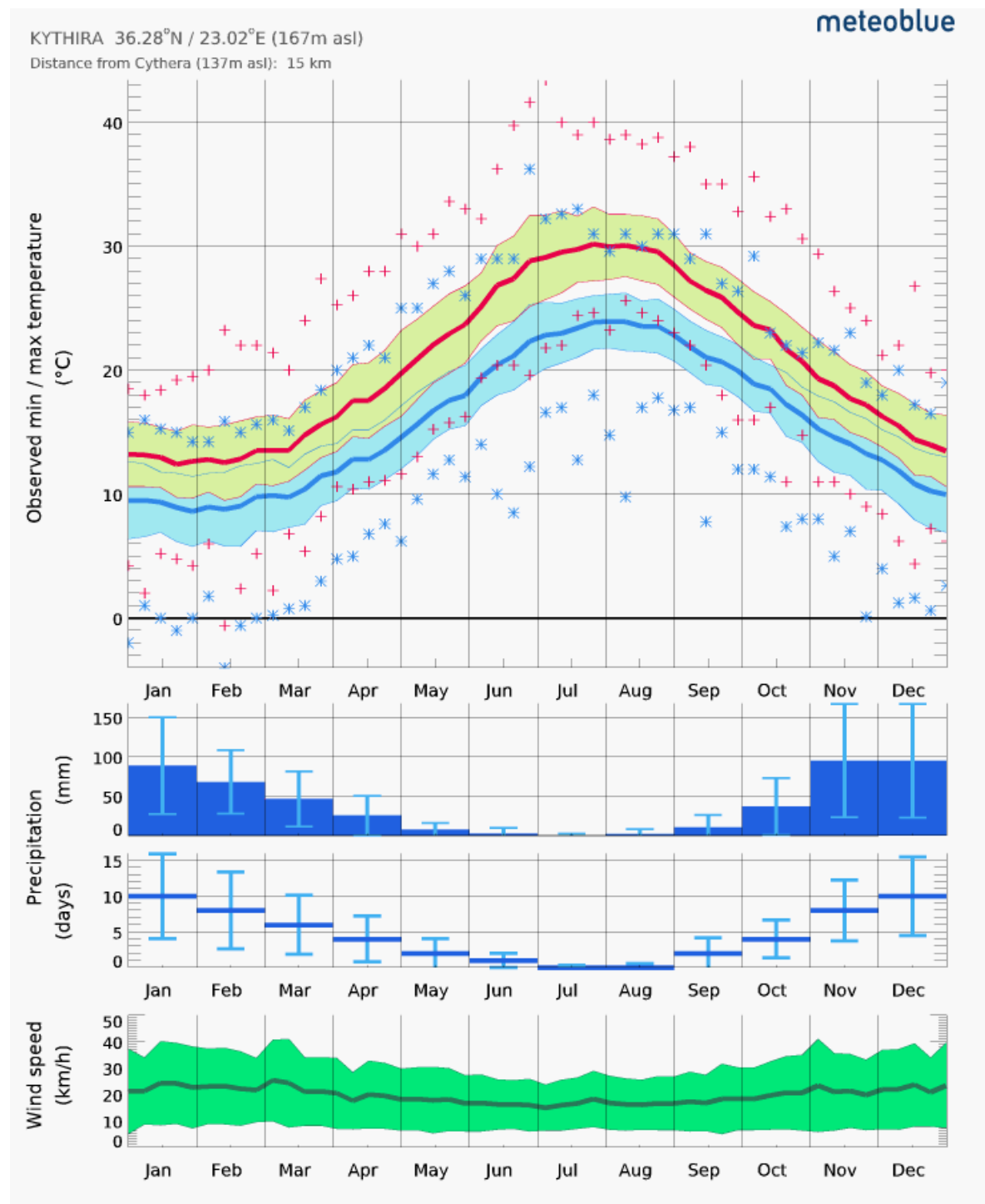
Kythira is situated south of the most eastern 'finger' of the Peloponnese. South of Kythira is the smaller island Antikythira. The surface is 284 km². The 60 villages on the island form one municipality; the capital is Chora (or Kythira). In the 19th century the population was more than 14.000, nowadays only some 3.500.

Livadi village (where the standard accommodation is situated) is one of the liveliest villages of Kythira. The villages on the 'spine' of the island, Livadi, Aroniadika, Potamos and Karavas, are generally more lively than the coastal villages.

For more information on Kythira: <https://www.kythira.gr/en/>



The weather on Kythira



A bit of history on Kythira

According to the legends Afroditi was born here. When Gaia (Earth) decided to punish her husband Uranus for all the harm he had caused her, she called her children and asked them to kill their father. Kronos then took a scythe out of his mother's womb and killed him by cutting off his genitals. These fell into the sea of Kythera and turned into





small islands (perhaps Dragonares). When the dripping blood touched the sea, the union of these two elements gave birth to Urania Aphrodite, the goddess of love. She didn't stay in Kythera though; she traveled in a large shell to Cyprus where she lived. The symbolism of Aphrodite and Kythera has influenced the arts through the centuries, one of the most famous is Botticelli.

Kythera has been inhabited since the Neolithic era. Even before the 20th century BC, the Minoans had extended their domination on the island and used it to control the surrounding area. One of the earliest Minoan colonies is in Kastri, current Palaioiopolis, with Skandia as its seaport. On the mountain of Agios Georgios archaeologists found traces of a Minoan sanctuary and libation vases, stone objects and bronze figurines.

The Phoenicians maintained a colony on the island during the 15th century BC; they processed laver (red algae) in order to give their garments a deep red color and had specific laboratories for that, called "porphyreia". Ancient Kythera was also known as Porphyris or Porphyrousa at the time.

Then came the Mycenaeans, Spartans and Athenians who fought over the island for its strategic position. Peace came in 421 BC. At that time Kytherians worshiped –apart from Aphrodite- the Dioscuri, Castor and Pollux. The age of the Macedonians comes next, followed by the Roman Empire. In 365 AD an earthquake hit the island and drastically changed the geomorphology at the area of Skandia.

Since the 6th century AD Kythera, similar to the rest of the Mediterranean basin, belonged to the Byzantine Empire and the strong religious element left its mark on at least three hundred monuments and churches. In 1000 AD the island was deserted and it was only after one century that the Evdemonogiannis families from Monemvasia came to the island and remained the only dominants until 1204. It appears that the settlement of Agios Dimitrios in Paleochora was built by them. Legend has it that Paleochora had 365 churches, one for each day of the year!

During the 17th century many refugees from Crete came to the island, bringing along their customs, habits and culture. The Turks arrived to Kythera in 1715 but did not stay for more than three years. In the last years of Venetian rule the island's population had reached 7500 people. The island remained Venetian until the republic's demise in 1797.

By 1815 Kythera, along with all the Ionian islands, formed the United State of the Ionian Islands with Corfu as its capital. In 1864 the Ionian Islands were united with Greece.

The accommodations

The accommodations we have chosen are ideal choices as regards the atmosphere, comfort and hospitality. All rooms have private facilities and almost always a balcony or terrace.

Year round we offer this package with a hotel stay in Livadi, a lively village situated 5 kilometres from the capital Chora. Family-run hotel Aposperides (2*) offers clean, comfortable rooms-en-suite with air-conditioning and WiFi and a large breakfast buffet.

In Kythira the tourism season is very short, lasting from May to end of September. For these summer months you may opt to book our upgrade option in hotel El Sol. This hotel has a nice swimming pool, is located on a hilltop between Chora and Kapsali Bay and offers great views over the sea, Chora and Kapsali Bay. Even in peak season, the El Sol offers a stay in quiet surroundings. Should El Sol be full, we offer hotel Porto Delfino as alternative.

In Livadi is a tavern and grill open year-round. There are several shops, a petrol station, bakery and supermarket. In the summer months you'll find lots of tavernas, supermarkets and



local minimarkets open. There are also fresh bakeries in the bigger villages Livadi, Potamos and Karavas. There are always some taverns open, also in winter, in Livadi and Potamos and a few more places. Between October and April the taverns that are open on the island are very few! Make sure you shop for your lunch before you set off in the low season.

Should you drive by car towards the island, you may book accommodation on the way in:

- Monemvasia (lovely stop coming from Athens)
- Mystras (lovely stop coming from Athens)
- Gythion (ferry twice weekly from Gythion to Kythira)
- Piraeus (also port for Kythira, for a complete de-stress)

How do you reach Kythira

Note! Times are indicative. Search the mentioned websites for your travel dates. During Greek holidays different times apply.

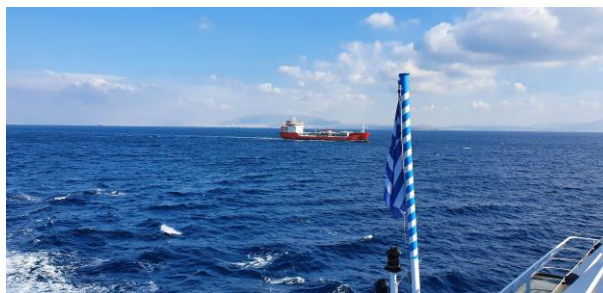
By airplane

During summer there are some charter flights to the island. Check if there is a charter flight from your home country.

Kythira has its own airport that connects with Athens Airport and with Thessaloniki Airport by domestic flights operated by Sky Express and Olympic Air.

By ferryboat

Kythira's harbour is Diakofti, at the east coast. You can book ferry tickets through us at additional costs.



1. Most frequent ferry connection is from **Neapoli**, by Triton Ferries (www.tritonferries.gr). The duration of the ferry crossing is 1 hour 15 minutes.
2. You may also sail from **Gythion**, by Sea Jets (<https://www.seajets.com>). The schedule is twice weekly at Sundays and Wednesdays, duration of the ferry crossing is 2½ hour.
3. For the ultimate holiday feeling you may sail from **Piraeus**, by Sea Jets (<https://www.seajets.com>). The schedule is twice weekly at Tuesdays and Fridays; back to Piraeus on Thursdays and Sundays. The duration of the ferry crossing is 6½ hour.

How to reach Neapoli harbour from Athens

1. **Drive yourself.** At a surcharge you may collect your rental car at Athens airport. This is approximately a 4,5 hrs drive and 325 km. We offer optional hotels in Mystras and Monemvasia for this purpose.
2. **Public bus** KTEL Laconias (www.ktel-lakonias.gr), change buses at Sparta. Buses run a couple of times per day. Duration of the trip: 6 hours and 15 mins. You can prebook the bus tickets as optional extra.
First departure in the morning is at 06:30 hrs, reaching Neapoli 12:45 hrs. Earliest return from Neapoli back to Athens would be 8:00, arriving in Athens at 14:15.

How to reach Gythion harbour from Athens

1. **Drive yourself.** At a surcharge you may collect your rental car at Athens airport. This is approximately a 3 hrs drive and 260 km. We offer optional hotels in Mystras, Gythion and Monemvasia for this purpose.



2. **Public bus** KTEL Laconias (www.ktel-lakonias.gr), change buses at Sparta. Buses run a couple of times per day. Duration of the trip is 4,5 hrs. You can prebook the bus tickets as optional extra.

First departure in the morning is at 06:30 hrs, reaching Gythion around 11:00 hrs. Earliest return from Gythion back to Athens would be 07:30 hrs, arriving in Athens at 12:00 noon.

Booking

Start can be on any day of the week, year round, for the standard hotel. The upgrade hotel may be booked with start date of the tour from 1 May until 24 September.

If you travel during the months October-April, there are only a handful of taverns open on the island. You'll always find something in Livadi though.

The best time to travel to the Greek islands is between April and June and September to the beginning of November. In the summer months it gets very hot. Active travellers should either go in the spring time (when nature is at its best) or in autumn (when sea water is still warm).



Prices per person 2024

Standard accommodation

# travellers	room type	1-1 / 24-3 1-11 / 31-12	25-3 / 25-5 30-9 / 31-10	26-5 / 23-6 16-9 / 29-9	24-6 / 15-9
1 person	single	€ 1365	€ 1100	€ 1050	€ 955
2 persons	double/twin	€ 885	€ 645	€ 620	€ 570
2 persons	2 singles	€ 1015	€ 835	€ 805	€ 760
3 persons	triple	€ 670	€ 510	€ 490	€ 460
3 persons	double/twin + single	€ 810	€ 615	€ 600	€ 570
3 persons	3 singles	€ 900	€ 740	€ 725	€ 690
4 persons	2 double/twin	€ 710	€ 510	€ 500	€ 470

Upgrade accommodation

# travellers	room type	1-5 / 24-5	25-5 / 23-6 31-8 / 15-9	24-6 / 30-8	16-9 / 24-9
1 person	single	€ 1455	€ 1710	€ 2085	€ 1500
2 persons	double/twin	€ 780	€ 910	€ 1095	€ 805
2 persons	2 singles	€ 1260	€ 1500	€ 1790	€ 1285
3 persons	triple	€ 605	€ 720	€ 860	€ 630
3 persons	double/twin + single	€ 855	€ 1010	€ 1200	€ 870
3 persons	3 singles	€ 1195	€ 1425	€ 1695	€ 1210
4 persons	2 double/twin	€ 685	€ 800	€ 950	€ 695

Note:

- Price is per person for 7 nights, including rental car, flight excluded.
- The data apply to the start day of the tour.
- In 2023 Greece suffered from various natural disasters, like heatwaves, wildfires and floodings, which also effected the tourists. To alleviate the disaster and to take preventive measures, a **climate crisis resilience fee** is issued.



This fee has to be paid at check-in at your accommodation. Tourorganisations are not allowed by law to pay it.

The rates per room per night will be in 2024: €1,50 for 2*-hotels, €3,00 for 3*-hotels, €7,00 for 4*-hotels and €10,00 for 5*-hotels.

Start and end of tour: Kythira airport or Diakofti ferry harbour. At a surcharge the car may be picked up and returned on Athens airport.



Included

- 7 overnight stays on bed & breakfast basis.
- 7 x 24 hrs B-category car rental with delivery/collection at Kythira airport or at the port of Diakofti.
- Detailed road book with drawn-in maps; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- GPS tracks per walk; sent by WeTransfer.
- Use of the Active Nav app for navigation with your smartphone.
- Contribution to the Kythira Trails project (€10 p.p.).
- Reservation cost and telephone support.

Not included

- Flight, insurances and transportation to and from Kythira (see below).
- Climate crisis resilience fee (see above).
- Lunches, diners, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Everything else not mentioned under “included”.

Optional services: prebooked taxi, public bus or ferry

You may prebook the taxi transfers for a fixed price or you may hail a taxi yourself at the airport. The prices are per taxi up to 4 persons.

You'd best book the ferry tickets and bus tickets yourself through internet, some weeks before you travel. This is cheaper then buying them through us. Ticket prices are per person. For more information: see [How do you reach Kythira](#).

Prices prebooked transfers

Taxi Athens airport-Athens	€ 82	per taxi for 1-4 persons
Taxi Athens-Piraeus	€ 32	per taxi for 1-4 persons
Taxi Athens airport-Piraeus	€ 87	per taxi for 1-4 persons
Ferry Neapoli-Kythira or back, CAR	€ 69	per car
Ferry Neapoli-Kythira or back, PERSON	€ 18	per person
Ferry Piraeus-Kythira or back, CAR	€ 118	per car



Ferry Piraeus-Kythira or back, PERSON	€ 32	per person
Ferry Gythion-Kythira or back, CAR	€ 46	per car
Ferry Gythion-Kythira or back, PERSON	€ 14	per person
KTEL bus Athens-Neapoli or back	€ 53	per person
KTEL bus Athens-Gythion or back	€ 38	per person

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 is transferred to the next accommodation.

In the road book you'll find a list with essential and advised items.





Day to day program and hikes

(Note: the scale differs per day!)

Note: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks. The walks are sorted on duration, you choose which walk you do on which day.

Day 1: Arrival on Kythira (KY-A)

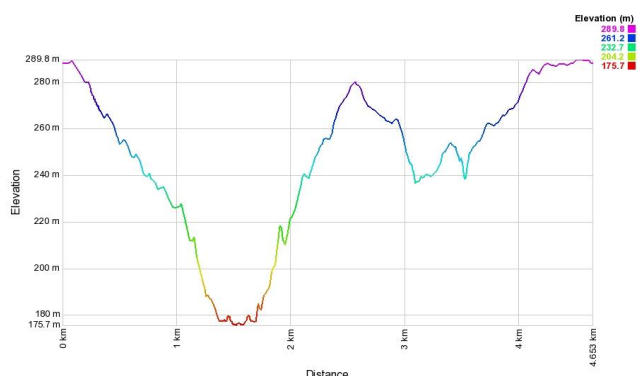


Arrival in the port Diakofti or the airport 'Alexandros Aristotle Onassis' of Kythira.

Your rental car is delivered in the port or airport. After signing the necessary car rental documents, you drive to your accommodation in Livadi (standard hotel Aposperides) or Kapsali (upgrade hotel El Sol). Depending on your time of arrival you may already make up for your first walk.

driving time/distance: 40 or 30 minutes / 30 of 20km

Wandeling 1: Circular walk Mylapotamos along waterfalls and Kato Chora (KY-01/GR00322)



The walk starts at the typical Greek village square of Milopotamos with its Kafeneio (traditional coffee house) under the plane tree. An impressive cobblestone trail takes you down into the gorge, housing the ruins of 23 watermills. There are four waterfalls on this trail that carry water most of the year.

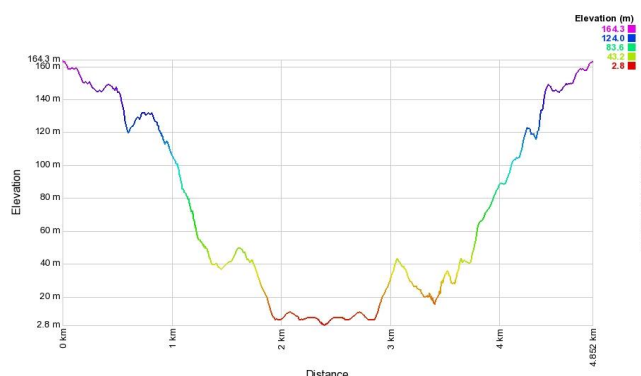
You then ascend to Kato Chora, with its Venetian castle from 1565. It is known as 'Exobourgo', and now an abandoned defensive fortified settlement well worth a visit. The walk crosses the whole settlement of Kato Chora with its narrow alleys and traditional houses.

walking time/distance: 2h / 4,7km

ascent/descent: 150m



Walk 2: Circular walk Chora along Kapsali Bay and Sparagario beach (KY-02/GR00321)



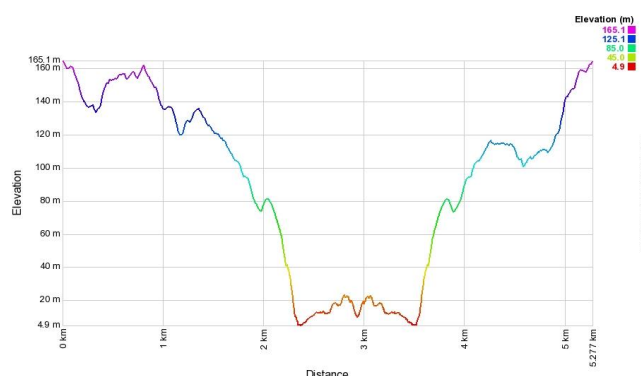
From the central square in Chora, you first descend through the main street of Chora. Just before the Kastro (so-called the ‘eye of Crete’), you head down passing by 14 Byzantine churches. A path cutting through the sharp turns of the road takes you down to the twin bays of Kapsali, the port of Chora. The views here are tremendous!

After a break in one of the many cafés, you head back via a secluded beach. The ascent to Chora is tough, but views are rewarding! Those with extra energy can visit the Kastro before heading for a refreshing drink at the town square.

walking time/distance: 2h / 4,9km

ascent/descent: 180m

Walk 3: Circular walk Chora along the peninsula Trachilas (KY-03/GR00320)



This trail follows the dirt road built by the German Army during WWII. They built a camp to set up their anti-aircraft machine guns, still visible during this walk.

The crossing via ‘Diakopi’, the narrow strip of land to Trachilas, is not easy and requires light scrambling at some points (section can be skipped).

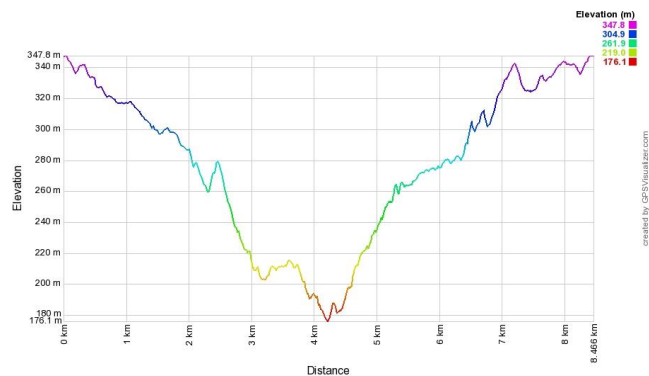
On the way back you pass the cemetery of Chora and you ascend an old foot path back to Chora. Via the main road of Chora you reach the central square.

walking time/distance: 2h / 5,3km

ascent/descent: 180m



Walk 4: Circular walk Potamos past Trifyllianika and Paleochora (KY-04/GR00318)



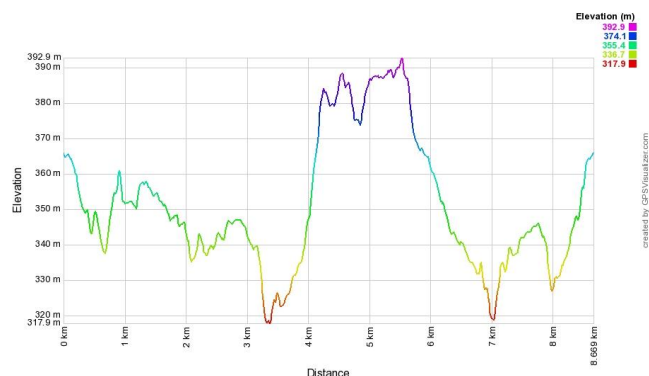
The starting point is on the village square in Potamos which offers a lively market on Sunday morning where farmers from all over Kythira sell their products. Via Trifyllianika you reach the old trail to Paleochora. Once setting foot in the ruined citadel, part of the old fortress (until the 16th century the capital of the island), you can explore the ruins of this remarkable stronghold.

The return via the dry riverbed is physically more challenging, but the shade makes for a welcoming freshness. Through an aromatic pine forest you head back to Potamos.

walking time/distance: 3h / 8,5km

ascent/descent: 200m

Walk 5: Circular walk Aroniadika (KY-05/GR00323)



Though most visitors to the island come for its splendid beaches, the actual history of the local population lies in the heartland of the isle, where small villages were built that they were protected from the strong western winds and the frequent pirate attacks during antiquity.

Still today most permanent citizens live in the villages along the 'spine' of the island. During this walk you pass through 7 of these traditional villages. You will see how close the houses are built to each other. Crossing the fields via old cobbled paths, you see many remains of threshing floors and wells, some still in use by local farmers.

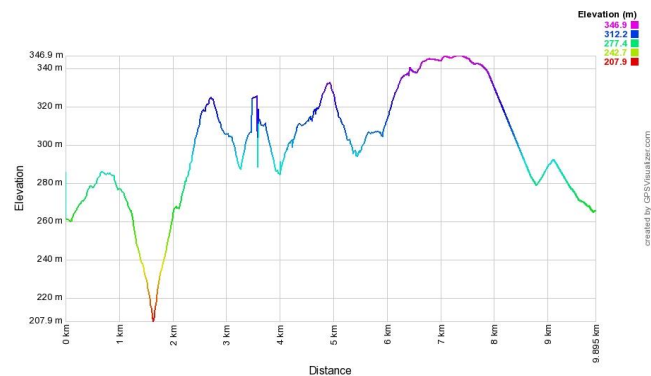
There is a shortcut, which you may also use to do the whole walk in two days.

walking time/distance: 3½h / 8,7km (kan worden afgekort)

ascent/descent: 140m



Walk 6: Circular walk Livadi along vineyard and Agios Dimitrios ancient church (KY-06/GR00316)

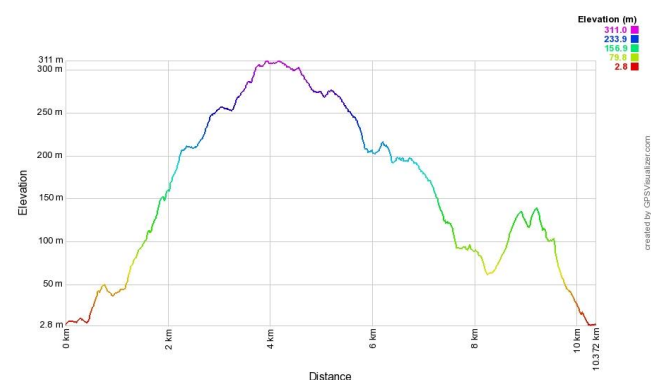


This walk is not part of the local Kythira trail network. Because you may opt to stay in this lively village, this walk is just on your doorstep and should not be missed. The walk leads along vineyards and olive groves and the big church Kaki Melissa ('Bad Bee').

A scenic path leads you to the tiny hamlet of Klaradika. Nearby is the distinctive church of Agios Dimitrios which has a unique shape and is the oldest in Kythira. Along vineyards and through low bushes you walk back to Livadi.

walking time/distance: 3½h / 10km
ascent/descent: 200m

Walk 7: Circular walk Kapsali along Agia Sofia cave church (KY-07/GR00317)



From Kapsali Bay you start ascending via dirt roads, along hotel El Sol. This walk reveals more of the rural inland, and runs on easier dirt roads. From the monastery of Agios Ioannis onwards the trail heads again towards the south and becomes more challenging. During the last section before reaching the Agia Sophia church in a cave the path is very narrow and crosses the ravine at higher altitude.

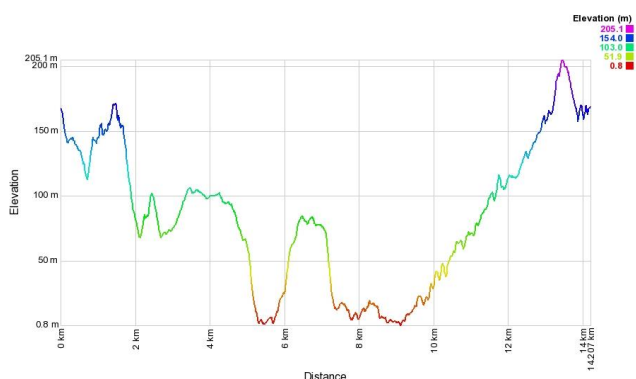
From the cave you walk back to Kapsali Bay. Especially the last section reveals the wonderful bay and turquoise sea.

The path to the Agia Sophia cave church is during a short section through a steep gorge. If you are afraid of heights or suffer from acrophobia, this may be challenging. As you can't skip this section, the whole walk may not be fit for you.

walking time/distance: 4h / 10,4km
ascent/descent: 400m



Walk 8: Circular walk Karavas past springs and lighthouse (KY-08/GR00319)



The longest walk on Kythira starts in the northern village Karavas. First you come to the refreshing springs of Amir Ali. Here starts a cobbled trail that ascends to the abandoned settlement of Mavrogiorgianika, situated high above the valley. Through rural countryside you descend gradually to the Agios Nikolaos church on the beach. Across the sea strait one spots the Peloponnese with the town Neapoli glimmering on the horizon. Further up is the unique light house of Moudari.

A nice coastal trail connects the lighthouse to Platia Ammos beach. After a refreshment it is uphill and back to Amir Ali, the last section through the breath-taking scenery. From Amir Ali you make an optional loop through a lush river valley and along the Keramari springs before heading back to Karavas.

walking time/distance: 4h / 14,5km (may be shortened by leaving out the extra loop)
ascent/descent: 350m

Day 8: Departure from Kythira (KY-V)



After breakfast your arrangement comes to an end. You drive to the airport of Kythira or the port of Diakofti to drop-off your rental car and depart from Kythira.

Had you rented the car from Athens, you sail back with the car on board and drive back to Athens. In that case you may book extra overnight stays to break up the journey.