

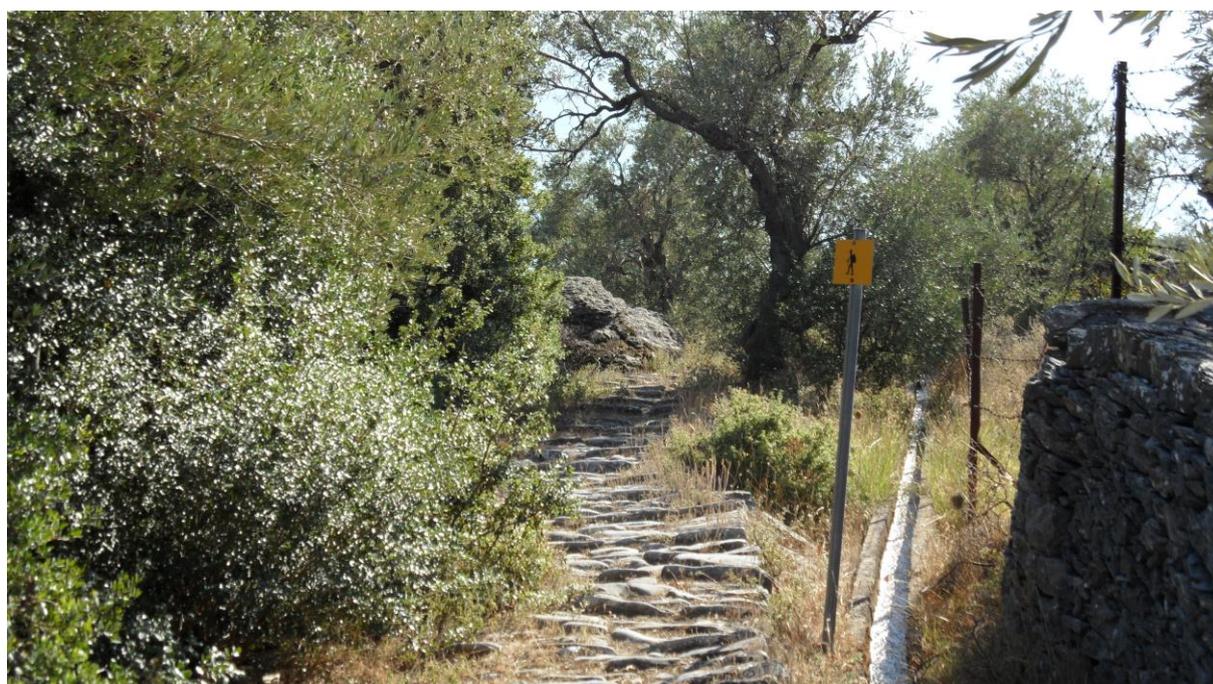
AnnaHiking

Active holidays in Greece

www.annahiking.nl

**Pilion – self-guided:
8-day semi-trekking on the Central Pilion peninsula
taking in 3 accommodations
2023 (SPWM213I)**

May be extended with more hiking and/or free days.



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)

(7-1-2023)



About AnnaHiking

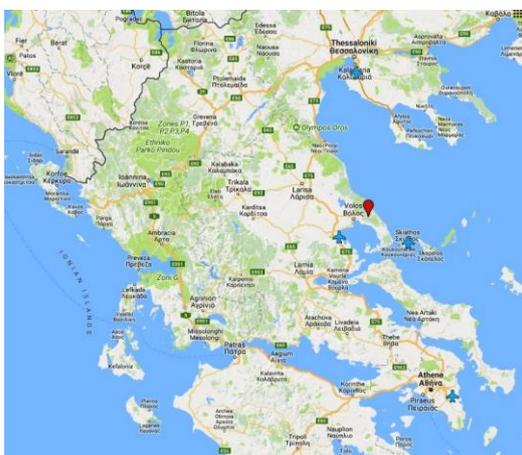
In 1991 we visited Greece for the first time. Our love for the country, the culture, the climate, the food, the language and the Greek has grown ever since. We feel at home here and want to communicate this feeling to others.

Many people are familiar with the Greek “islands with beautiful beaches”. The Pilion peninsula certainly boasts wonderful beaches, and also offers gurgling streams and waterfalls, old paved mule paths (‘kaldermimia’), classical mansions glued to the slopes and warm-hearted and hospitable people.

We’d love to introduce you to this side of Greece!

We’ve explored several hiking routes and described them in detail. We regularly revise the routes and the description where necessary. As an individual traveller we offer you these descriptions together with GPS-tracks and marked detailed maps, so you can find your way easily. We also offer you an information package with background information, tips for the best meals and several other useful trivia.

The tour location



General tour information

Your first walks are around the ‘garden village’ Tsangarada, which consists of several kernels with each their own church and square. Then you walk across the peninsula to Kala Nera; your luggage is transported. From Kala Nera you make two circular walks and a walk to Ano Lechonia, where you meet the taxi with your luggage to proceed to Portaria. From Portaria you make another circular walk. Net walking time is between 4½ and 5½ hours (that is excluding breaks); most walks may be shortened by a taxi transfer or a shorter alternative.

You often walk on wide ‘kalderimia’ (historical mule paths), sometimes on dirt roads, sometimes on small and possibly overgrown paths. In the description you’ll find the details so you can adapt your clothes and equipment accordingly. The routes are signposted and show on the hiking map; the path maintenance is sufficient.

We advise you to start the trip trained and fit with well worn-in ankle-high hiking boots. Good shoes enable you to walk without worries about your feet so that you can fully enjoy the surroundings.





The tour is for people who love rural paths and enjoy sea views while walking.

Possible extensions/alterations/abbreviations

1. We offer an extra walk from Portaria. Kala Nera is very suitable for some beach days and a trip with the tourist train from Lechonia to Milies v.v.
2. You may extend your stay on the Sporades islands; daily boats sail from Volos to Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonissos. Walks can be made on the islands, travel bookshops offer various guides.
3. Finally you can combine the arrangement with (parts of) other tours we offer. We'll gladly help you with the logistics.

For all your wishes: ask for advice and an estimate!

About the Pilion

The Pilion peninsula is curled around the Pagasitic Gulf. The sloping coastline along this bay offers lots of sandy beaches and charming villages. The coastline on the outer side, to the Egean Sea, is more rough and consists of cliffs with hidden beaches and inlets.



A mountain range transverses the peninsula, with mysterious forests and gurgling streams. You may well imagine the roaming Centaurs, coarse creatures with a male torso on a horse's body. A rare friendly centaur was Chiron, founder of surgery and teacher of Jason and Aesculapios. One of the walks brings you to the magical spot where he supposedly stayed.

The accommodations

In Tsangarada you stay in a charming hotel with a beautiful garden. It's situated close to the central square with several tavernas and a shop.



In Kala Nera you stay in a medium-sized hotel close to the Pagasitic beach.

In Portaria we offer a traditional guest house on the central square, which offers a great cuisine and even cooking lessons.



In all locations an upgrade with swimming pool is possible at a surcharge.

Bookable

The arrangement can be booked from 15 January until 31 July and from 1 September until 15 December. Mind that in the winter you'll find few places to eat and you'll likely encounter rain or even snow. All accommodations also boast a good cuisine so your dinner is guaranteed. The best period is mid April until end June, and then again September until mid November.



Prijzen per persoon 2023

# reizigers	kamertype	15-1 / 31-7 1-9 / 15-12
solo	single	€ 1255
2 pax	2x single	€ 950
2 pax	double/twin	€ 715
3 pax	double/twin + single	€ 790
3 pax	triple	€ 570
4 pax	2x double/twin	€ 560

Note:

- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- For other group sizes, contact us for an estimate.
- Alternative accommodations with swimming pool are available at a surcharge, ask for an estimate.
- Double room = with double bed; twin room = with 2 separate beds; triple room with double and single room or 3 separate beds.
- From January 1st 2018 in Greece an 'overnight tax' is applicable. This tax has to be paid at check-in at your accommodation. The rates per room per night are: € 0,50 for 2*-hotels, € 1,50 for 3*-hotels, € 3,00 for 4*-hotels and € 4,00 for 5*-hotels.

Start and finish

Volos harbour or bus station.

Included

- 7 overnight stays including breakfast.
- All transfers and luggage transports according to the program.
- A hiking map of the tour area; 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.
- GPS-tracks, detailed route descriptions and marked maps of each walk according to the program; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- Information package with background information and information about catering, shops and facilities; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- Subsidy to the Friends of the Kalderimi for paths maintenance.
- Reservation costs and telephone support.

Not included

- Flight, transfer to Volos. You may prebook a taxi (see Optional extras) or you may charter your own taxi on arrival at the airport.
- Overnight tax (€0,50-€3 per room per night).
- Lunches, diner, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Insurances.
- Transfers not mentioned in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under "included".

Optional extras (prebooked)

You may be taken from or to the airport of Thessaloniki or Nea Anchialos (Volos). The price is per taxi, until 3 persons per taxi (or as many as allowed by the government).



- Airport Nea Anchialos – Volos: €50 one way
- Airport Thessaloniki – Volos: €250 one way

Flight and transportation to Volos

For charter flights to Volos please look on the Internet; EasyJet offers some flights from the UK.

Easy to find are flights to Thessaloniki or Athens, from there take the public bus to Volos. The seats can be booked in advance through internet.

Read more in our document [Pilion logistics](#).

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.



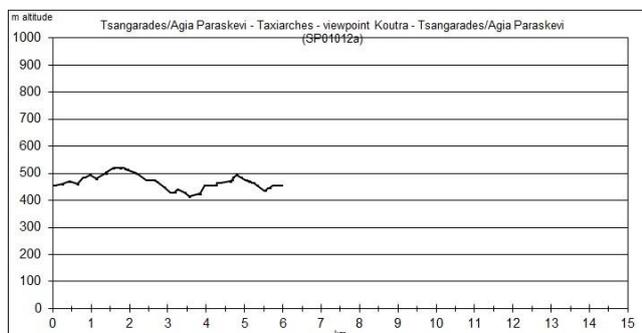


Day to day program

(You can download the elevation profiles separately.)

Note: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks.

Day 1: Tsangarada and the square of the 1000-year old plane tree (SP01012a)



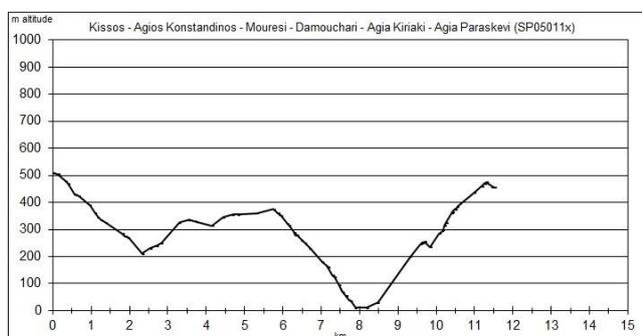
You travel to Volos where you are met and taken to Tsangarada. You stay in the village kernel Agia Paraskevi; on the square you find Greece's oldest and thickest plane tree. Time permitting you may take a short afternoon walk along the various village kernels that form Tsangarada and the Koutra viewpoint.

walking time/distance: 2h / 6km

ascent/descent: 200m

overnight stay: Tsangarada-Agia Paraskevi

Day 2: Along Damouchari harbour and other villages (SP05011x)



A taxi takes you to Kissos village. By forest paths and the villages Agios Konstandinos and Mouresi you reach the charming small harbour of Damouchari. Here some scenes from the film "Mama Mia" were recorded, f.e. the beach house of Meryl Streep. The cafées entice you for a cool drink or a midday meal and the sandy beach near the bay invites you for a swim.

From Damouchari a splendid and flowery kalderimi leads you uphill to Agia Kyriaki and Agia Paraskevi.

You may stop in Damouchari (the lowest point of the walk) and arrange a taxi back.

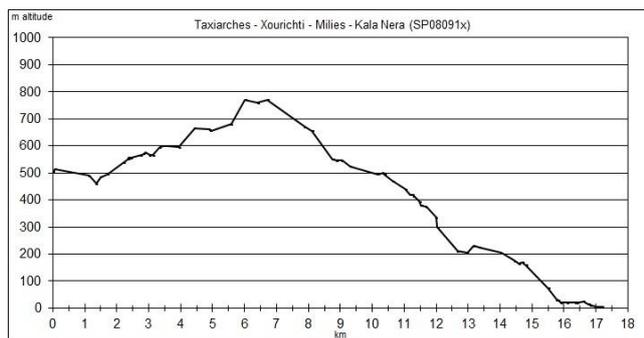
walking time/distance: 4h50' / 11.5km

ascent/descent: 680m / 725m

overnight stay: Tsangarada-Agia Paraskevi



Day 3: From Tsangarades along Milies to Kala Nera (SP08091x)



Time for a change of scenery. A taxi collects you with your luggage and leaves you in Taxiarches, the neighbour village. He brings your luggage to Kala Nera and you walk the paths across the mountain ridge. You start with an old arched bridge and then ascend to the ridge. Suddenly you view the sea on the other side of the peninsula: the Pagasitic Gulf. Through chestnut forests you descend further to Milies.

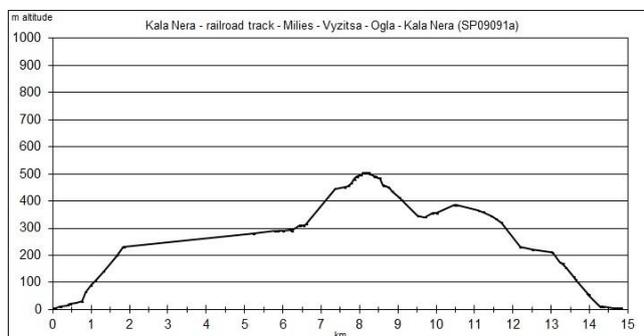
In Milies you may take a break on or near the square with its lovely old church. Then you proceed, ever descending by old kalderimia through olive groves, all the time looking over the sea. Kala Nera, ‘Good Waters’, welcomes you with her beaches and cosy tavernas.

walking time/distance: 5h25' / 17.2km

ascent/descent: 395m / 895m

overnight stay: Kala Nera

Day 4: Circular walk on the railroad track to Milies and Vyzitsa (SP09091a)



You ascend by a lovely paved kalderimi until you reach the railroad track. In weekends a small train rides here from Kato Lechonia to Milies. Don't worry, you'll hear it coming! You walk along the railroad track with ample time to admire the views and the flowers. At Milies station the climb along Chiron's waterfall starts to Vyzitsa.

This Pilion village shows lots of beautiful ‘archontika’, classical mansions. After a stroll through the village you end on the square with some tavernas. Then you descend again, alternating through forest and olive groves until you're back on the railroad track. You follow it a bit until Oglia village and then leave the track to descend to Kala Nera. A very varied hike!

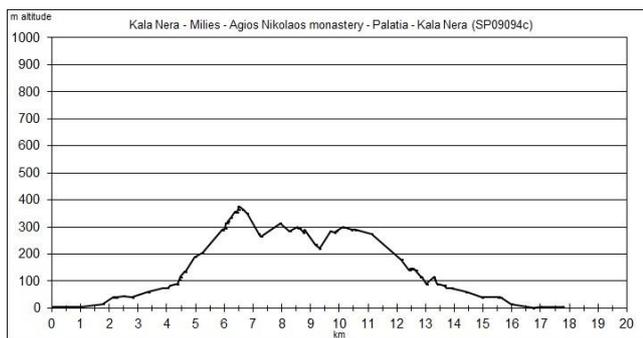
walking time/distance: 5h20' / 14.8km

ascent/descent: 550m

overnight stay: Kala Nera



Day 5: Circular walk along the Agios Nikolaos monastery and Palatia (SP09094c)



From Kala Nera you walk by paths and kalderimia through a stream valley and then olive groves to Milies. From there you proceed eastwards over the woody slopes to the old Agios Nikolaos monastery: a wonderful stopping place with great views. Through the forest you descend until you reach a dirt road winding west again, to Palatia hamlet. The name means ‘palaces’; you wonder who named the place! Back to the stream valley, over a small arched bridge and then by the same path back to Kala Nera.

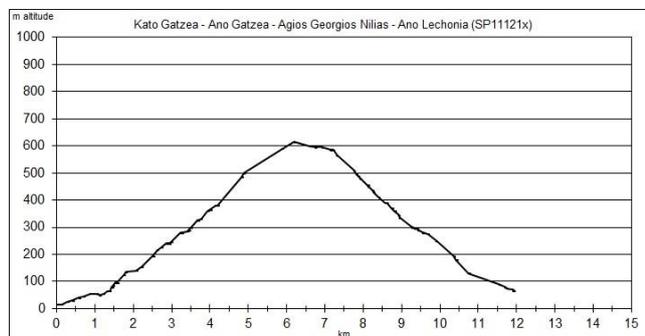
You may also take the public bus to Milies and start the walk from there.

walking time/distance: 5h15' / 17.8km

ascent/descent: 570m

overnight stay: Kala Nera

Day 6: Along Agios Georgios Nilias to Lechonia (SP11121x)



A short transfer takes you to Kato Gatzea where the walk starts. You may also walk from Kala Nera to Gatzea, without transfer.

In Ano Gatzea you cross the railroad track. You keep ascending until you reach Agios Georgios Nilias. Here you find again the lovely ‘archontika’ and the museum of sculptor Nikolas in one of those mansions.



Proceeding your walk you pass Agios Georgios church and a fountain with a small lions head. You descend along apple orchards until Kato Lechonia village and the small-track railroad station. Here the taxi awaits you with your luggage and takes you to Portaria, another mountain village.

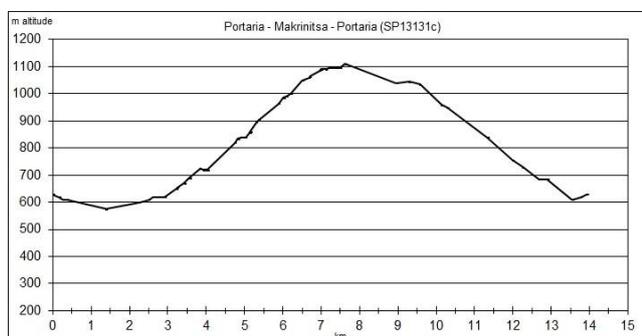
walking time/distance: 4h30' / 11,9km (from Kala Nera: 5h45' / 16.7km)



ascent/descent: 600m / 550m (from Kala Nera: 685m / 635m)

overnight stay: Portaria

Day 7: Circular walk Makrinitisa and the Centaur fairy dale (SP13131c)



You follow the asphalt road to Makrinitisa (you may also take the public bus). This village is spread along the slope: 300 altimeters difference between the lower and the higher houses! You walk next to the gutter of three-storey houses that stands in the street below you. The square is a picture with the big plane tree, view over Volos and the Pagasitic Gulf, a lovely ethnographic museum, an old chapel and a marble fountain.

Having taken this all in you walk uphill through Makrinitisa along the Agia Panagia monastery with the quiet courtyard. Then through a semi-derelict hamlet and forest until you reach Agia Paraskevi Chapel: another old monastery, in process of restauration. You keep ascending through forest and flowery meadows until you reach the dirt road on the saddle. From there it's downhill again by dirt roads with splendid views until you reach the asphalt road.

You follow the asphalt for a couple of hundred meters and then a surprises springs upon you: the Centaur path through a fairy dale. Along gurgling streams with cute wooden bridges you walk back to Portaria square.



walking time/distance: 4h30' / 14km

ascent/descent: 565m

overnight stay: Portaria

Day 8: Departure

You're taken back to Volos to start your return trip.

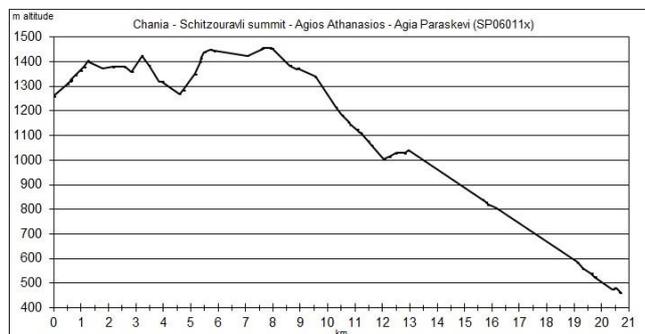
But we have some more trips for those whose holidays are extendable!



Optional extra walks for an extended stay

From Tsangarada: Schitzouravli summit and beech forests (SP06011x)

NOT IN THE WINTER!!



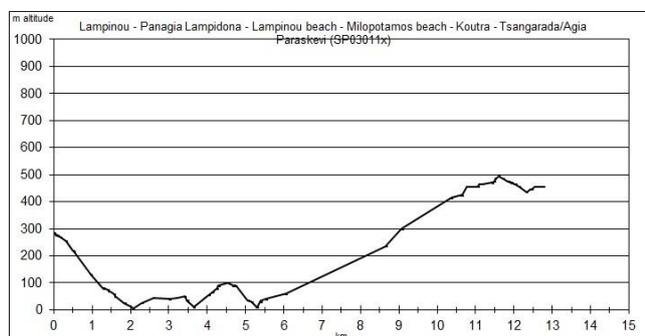
A taxi takes you to Chania ski centre. At the lifts the walk starts to the Schitzouravli summit. The views over the Pagasitic Gulf and the Pilion peninsula are astonishing! After the summit follows a long descent through beech forest, first on a path then a country road with some sea view until you reach Tsangarada again.

walking time/distance: 6h30' / 20,7km

ascent/descent: 470m / 1270m

overnight stay: Tsangarada-Agia Paraskevi

From Tsangarada: The beaches Lampinou and Milopotamos (SP03011x)



You are transferred to Lampinou central square. You walk along kalderimia and forest paths to the Panagia Lampidona monastery. From there it's just a little bit further down to Lampinou pebble beach. You proceed along the coast to Limnionas bay. A slight ascent and descent takes you to the well-known Milopotamos beach: soft and sandy and with a splendid rock arch.

From the beach you ascend to Tsangarada on mostly asphalt and concrete roads (3.5km) and some dirt roads and paths. You may call a taxi from Milopotamos.

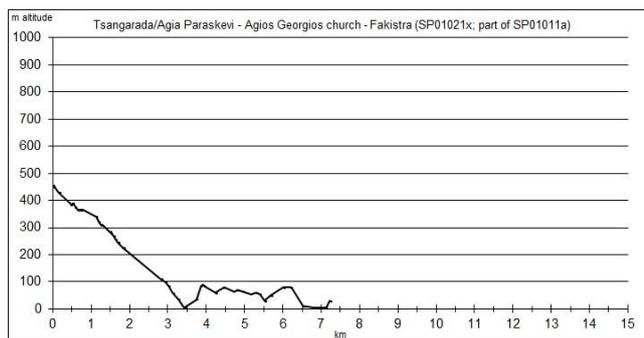
walking time/distance: 4h50' / 12,8km

ascent/descent: 645m / 475m

overnight stay: Tsangarada-Agia Paraskevi



From Tsangarada: Along Fakistra bay to Damouchari (SP01021x)



You start in Tsangarada-Agia Paraskevi, on the square with the “1000-year plane tree”. First a quite steep descent by paved mule paths and a little bit of asphalt to Fakistra bay. The sandy beach has disappeared just a couple of years ago when a large piece of rock fell into the bay.

Then you walk along the coast until you reach the beach and Damouchari village. The village offers several cosy cafes for a drink or a meal with view on the lovely small harbour where part of the movie “Mama Mia” was recorded.

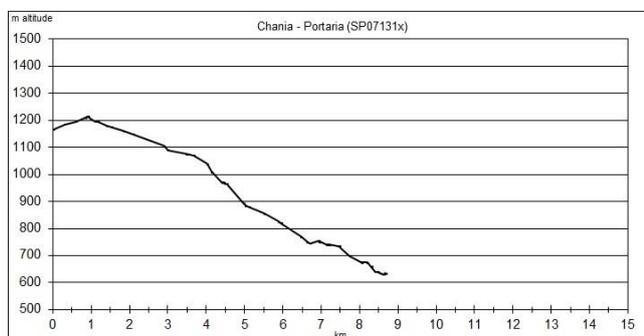
You take a taxi back to Tsangarada-Agia Paraskevi.

walking time/distance: 2h50' / 7,2km

ascent/descent: 195m / 620m

overnight stay: Tsangarada-Agia Paraskevi

From Portaria: Views from Chania to Portaria (SP07131x)



You start in Chania, one of the highest villages of the Pilion. From here it’s almost all downhill along lovely paths, partly forest, partly open. The walk is not very long but very pleasant.

You enter Portaria by some kalderimia.

walking time/distance: 2h40' / 8,7km

ascent/descent: 65m / 595m

overnight stay: Portaria