

AnnaHiking

Active holidays in Greece

www.annahiking.nl

**South Pelion – self-guided:
Trekking southern Pilion on the
Long Pelion Trail and the South Pelion Trail
with 7 hiking days 2025 (SPWT215I)**



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

(19-3-2025)



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. Since 2009 we've been living in the mountains near Ioannina. We feel at home here and want to communicate this feeling to others.

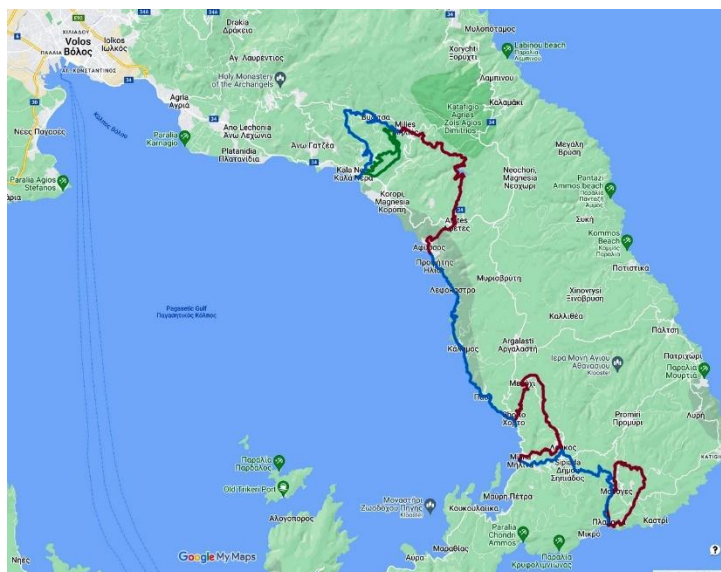
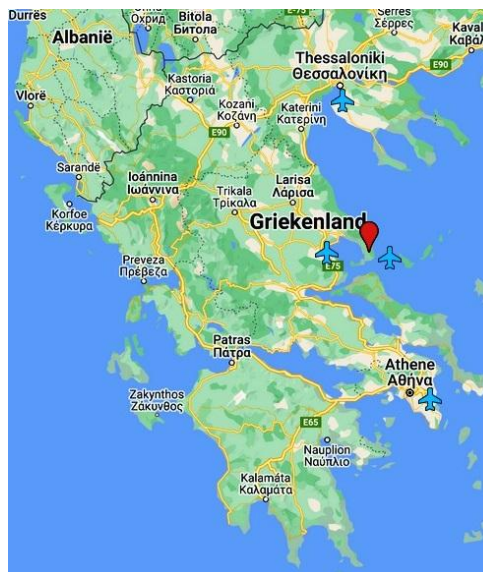
Many people are familiar with the Greek "islands with beautiful beaches". The Pilon peninsula certainly boasts wonderful beaches, and also offers gurgling streams and waterfalls, old paved mule paths ('kalderimia'), classical mansions glued to the slopes and warm-hearted and hospitable people.

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

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



The tour location



General tour information

The trekking starts in Platania in the south of the peninsula, where you'll stay 2 nights. The first hiking day you make a circular walk from Platania, the next day you walk from the south coast to Milina on the west coast.

From Milina you continue through the inland to Chorto, and then along the coast to Afissos. Both Chorto and Afissos are situated on the west coast with lovely beaches.



Then you head for the inland again and walk over the dam of the large artificial lake Plastiras to the mountain village Milies. From Milies you proceed to Kala Nera, again at the coast. From here you make a circular walk along the waterfall and cave of Chiron.

You may extend your trip in every accommodation. All overnight stays are at sea, except Milies, but this hotel has a swimming pool.

Net mean walking time is between 4 and 6 hours (that is excluding breaks).

You often walk on wide 'kalderimia' (historical mule paths), sometimes on dirt roads, sometimes on small and maybe overgrown paths. In the description you'll find the details so you can adapt your clothes and equipment accordingly. The routes are signposted and paint-marked and are shown on the hiking map. Some of the paths are maintained by [The Friends of the Kalderimi](#). Part of the tour is on the [Long Pelion Trail](#) and is maintained by that organisation.

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 environmental conscious adventurers. In autumn 2023 part of the Pilion has been destroyed by the storm "Daniel". The paths of this tour are restaured, but there are still some troublesome stretches and we need you to keep the paths open. The Friends of the Kalderimi will borrow you a pair of pruning shears and give you a pair of thin work gloves to keep as souvenir.



[Possible extensions/alterations/abbreviations](#)

You may extend your stay in all accommodations. In Platánias, Milina and Chorto several activities are offered, such as a boat trip, a workshop for making biological soap, sea-kayaking or supping.

Before or after the trip you may spend one or more days in Volos: a leisurely stroll along the seaside, visit the small but splendid archeological museum, or just enjoy all the pleasant activity in the town. Your hotel is situated next to the port.

You may extend your holiday yourself with a 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.

Finally you can combine the arrangement with (parts of) [other tours](#) we offer. We'll gladly advice you about the logistics.

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



About the Pilon

The Pilon peninsula is curled around the Pegasitic Gulf. The sloping coastline along this bay offers lots of sandy beaches and charming villages. The coastline on the outer side, towards the Egean Sea, is more rough and consists of cliffs with hidden beaches and inlets. From the south rises the mountain range transversing the peninsula, with further north 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. In Milies you are close to the magical spot where he supposedly stayed.

The most important town is **Volos**, sixth in size, with its harbour, train connections to Thessaloniki and (with change of trains) Athens, and an airport (Nea Anchialos). Mythologically the town is renowned for Jason and the Argonauts.

The central part of the Pilon is well-known, but the south -wrongly!- a lot less. There are beach villages, so lots of beach tourism in the summer months. In the lower season the area is great for walking.

On the peninsula you'll find many historical connecting paths and kalderimia (paved mule paths). Maintenance is by the **Friends of the Kalderimi** and the **Long Pelion Trail**.

AnnaHiking supports these organisations through her membership and by a contributions for every hiker that books through us.



The accommodations

You'll stay in small-scale family-run which we specifically chose for their quiet and lovely location.

The accommodations in Platanias, Chorto, Afissos and Kala Nera are situated on or close to the beach. Only the accommodation in Milies is inland, but offers a swimming pool with view on the sea.

In Milina you may upgrade to an apartment; very suitable if you want to extend your stay here. In this village you can sea kayak or sup.

In Chorto you may upgrade to a resort with swimming pool and various activities as supping or sea kayaking. The standard accommodation in Chorto does not offer breakfast; in the upgrade resort the breakfast buffet is included. Several cafes and a bakery are nearby.



Bookable

The arrangement can be booked in the period from 1 April until 15 July and from 1 September until 27 of October.

Prices per person 2025

number of travellers	room type(s)	1-4/15-7 1-9 / 27-10
1	single	€ 1335
2	2 singles	€ 1015
2	double/twin	€ 795
3	single + double/twin	€ 765
3	triple	€ 630
4	2 double/twins	€ 640

Note:

- Price is per person, flight excluded, in the standard accommodations.
- Some upgrades are possible, download document [Pilion accommodations](#) and contact us for an estimate.
- For other group sizes or other wishes, contact us for an estimate.
- **The dates apply to your tour period, not the departure day!** If your tour is within more periods, the price will be calculated according to the amount of days in the respective periods.
- Since 2023 Greece has 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 2025: €2 for 1*- and 2*-hotels, €5 for 3*-hotels, €10 for 4*-hotels and €15 for 5*-hotels.

Start and finish

Volos harbour or bus station.

Included

- 8 overnight stays of which 7 including breakfast (no breakfast in Chorto in the standard accommodation).
- Luggage transfers according to the program.
- Taxi from Volos bus station or ferry port to the first accommodation in Platanias and from the last accommodation in Kala Nera to Volos.



- 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.
- Donation to the paths maintenance.
- A pair of pruning shears to borrow during the trip and a pair of thin work gloves to keep as souvenir.
- Reservation costs and telephone support.

Not included

- Flight and transfer to Volos. You may prebook a taxi (see Optional extras), travel by public bus, or find a taxi yourself upon arrival at the airport.
- Climate crisis resilience fee (see above).
- Meals (including 1 breakfast), drinks and other personal expenses.
- Insurances.
- Transfers not mentioned in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under 'included'.

Optional extra's (prebooked)

You may book a taxi transfer from the airport to Volos or from Volos to the airport. The price is per taxi, maximum 3 persons per taxi (or as many as allowed by the government).

- Airport Nea Anchialos ("Volos") - Volos or return: € 60 one way.
- Airport Athens - Volos or return: € 375 one way.
- Airport Thessaloniki - Volos or return: € 290 one way.

Flight and transport to Volos port or bus station

There might be a charter flight to Volos airport (Nea Anchialos); in that case most probably there'll also be an airport charter bus to Volos bus station.

Otherwise you'd best fly to Thessaloniki or Athens and take the public bus to Volos. You'd best prebook your e-tickets with reserved seat in advance through the [KTEL website](#).

For more information see our document [Pilon 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 is transferred to the next accommodation.

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



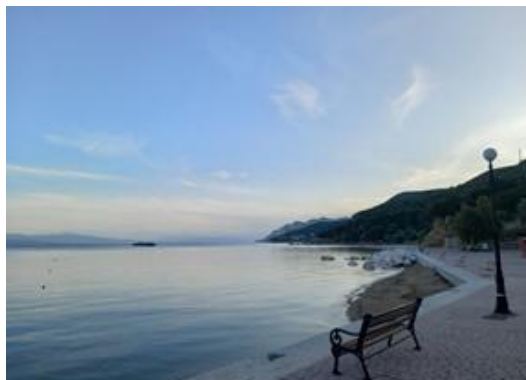


Day to day program

(You can download the elevation profiles separately.)

Note: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks.

Day 1: Arrival Pilon, transfer to Platanias

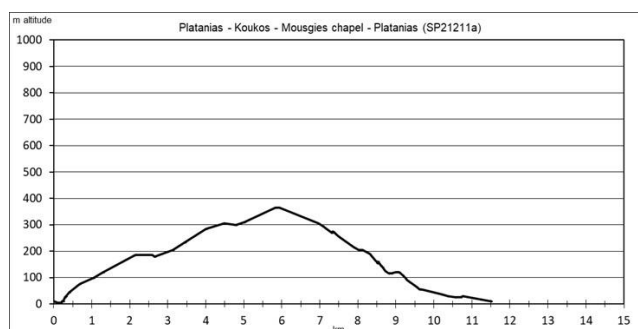


You travel to Volos where you are met and taken to the quiet village Platanias, in the south of the Pilon peninsula. Recently a port has been built here, also meant for ferries.

Should you arrive early then you may visit the neighbour village Mikro (along the beach).

overnight stay: Platanias

Day 2: Circular walk Platanias (SP21211a)



You ascend from Platanias by country roads with spectacular views over sea towards the Sporades islands Skiathos and Skopelos in the east and Evia in the south.

Then you descend by paths, kalderimia and country roads. You pass some streams and the charming chapel of Mousgies. Some stretches of asphalt road and finally along the stream bed which still bears ample evidence how the storm 'Daniel' in 2023 has modified the landscape.

A relaxed walk to get in the hiking mode.

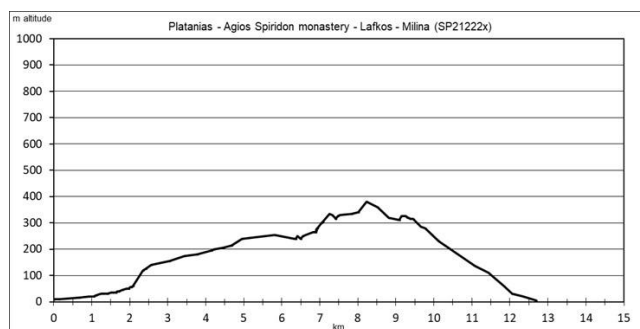
walking time/distance: 4h / 11,5km

ascent/descent: 390m

overnight stay: Platanias



Day 3: From Platanias to Milina (SP21222x)



A walk from the south coast to the west coast of the Pilon. You start from Platanias through the stream bed. Then you ascend by a path and country roads until you're just below the hamlet Kardamata.

You follow a country road above the destroyed stream valley until the Agios Spyridon monastery (uninhabited and closed). The path through the valley had not been restored in 2024; this might happen later.

Just past the monastery starts a passable path until the asphalt road Argalasti-Platania, which you follow for a stretch. You cut two bends by a forest path and reach the village Lafkos. The route veers towards the west at the start of the village, but you may make a detour of 250m to reach the picturesque village square with various shops and tavernas.

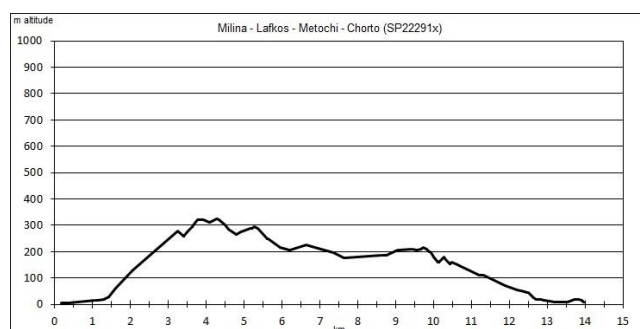
From Lafkos you descend mostly on classic kalderimia with splendid views over the sea until you've reached Milina.

walking time/distance: 4h40' / 12,7km

ascent/descent: 430m

overnight stay: Milina

Day 4: From Milina via Lafkos to Chorto (SP22291x)



By lovely kalderimia you ascend from Milina, past a charming chapel, to Lafkos. Lafkos has a cosy square with regular farmer's markets. Several hiking routes start here.

Your route leads you through the village, descends by low forest, and then ascends through farmers' fields to Metochi. You often have a beautiful view over the Pagasitikos Kolpos. From Metochi you descend further through open areas and forest to the coastal village Chorto.



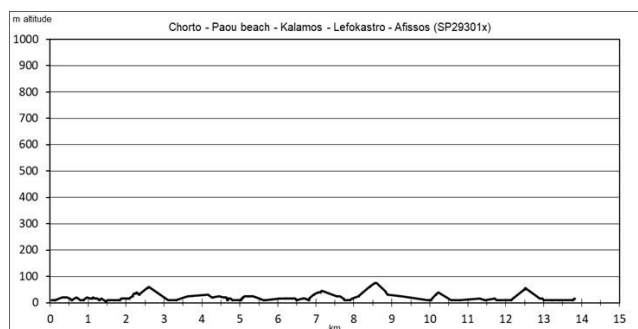
Depending on your accommodation you either walk on to the north, or go southwards for about 15 minutes. In both cases the accommodation is close to the beach.

walking time/distance: 4h40' / 13,2km

ascent/descent: 490m

overnight stay: Chorto

Day 5: From Chorto along the coast to Afissos (SP29301x)



From Chorto you walk along the coast, to the north, past beaches and through olive groves. After 2km you have a small hefty ascend and then you descend again by an asphalt road to Paou beach.

From there you walk parallel to the coast through olive groves and past Marmaro beach until Kalamos village, where you'll find tavernas from end of May until mid September.

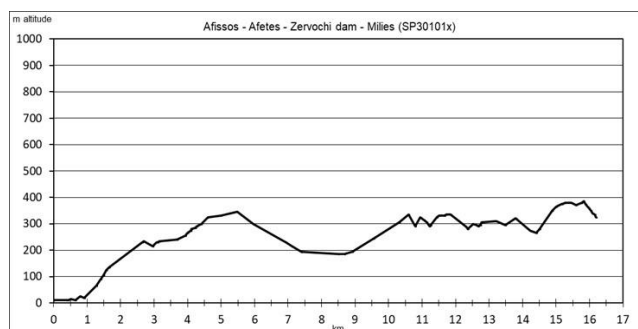
After Kalamos you continue to Lefokastro, again on paths and country roads. The last stretch to Afissos is on an asphalt road and finally along Afissos boulevard with lots of tavernas and cafes.

walking time/distance: 4h25' / 13,6km

ascent/descent: 360m

overnight stay: Afissos

Day 6: From Afissos past the technical lake to Milies (SP30101x)



A long and divers walk.

You leave Afissos village by a quiet asphalt road. You cut a bend by an old path. Again some asphalt until the churchyard, and then by country roads and kalderimi through the village Afetes or Niaou. You'll find cafes here.



After Afetes you ascend by country roads until a high point, and from there you descend towards the Zervochi or Panayotika dam. At the dam is a lovely spot for a break. Then you'll ascend again on country roads with lovely views.

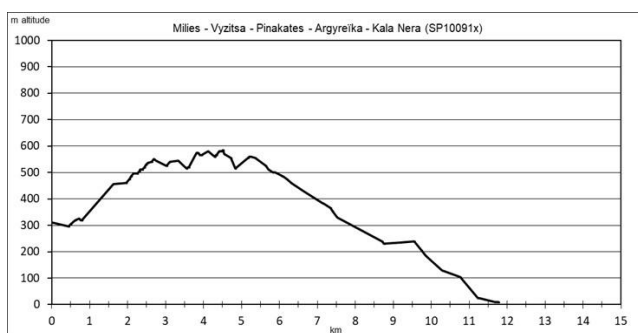
You leave the country road and start descending by a path. After a kilometer and several ascent and descents you're again at a country road, which you'll follow for a while. Then paths until you reach the asphalt road at Milies. You pass the village: time for a drink on the square? From there it's only a 10 minute descent by village kalderimia until you've reached the hotel, where the swimming pool is beckoning you.

walking time/distance: 6h / 16,6km

ascent/descent: 795m / 490m

overnight stay: Milies

Day 7: From Milies past Vyzitsa and Pinakates to Kala Nera (SP10091x)



From the train station of Milies you ascend past Chirons waterfall until the central square of Vyzitsa village. This typical Pilion village boasts lots of splendid 'archontika', classic mansions. Just before Vyzitsa you may make an optional detour to the Katafidi waterfall.

Leaving Vyzitsa you walk by ancient paths to Pinakates village. On the way you'll have to pass two destroyed stream beds; you'll have to climb here.

From Pinakates it's almost only descent. You reach the railroad track and follow this for a while, almost flat. From Ogla you descend through olive groves until you've reached Kala Nera.

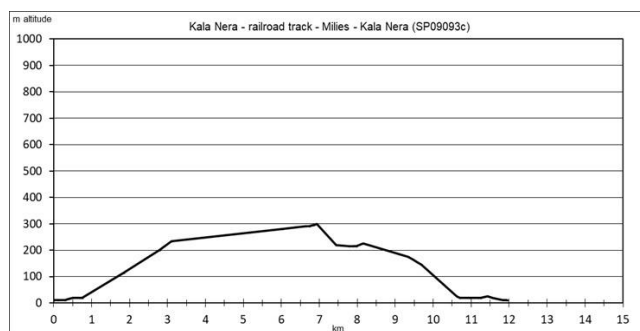
walking time/distance: 5h10' / 11,8km

ascent/descent: 435m / 735m

overnight stay: Kala Nera



Day 8: Round trip "Chiron's walk" from Kala Nera (SP09093c)



You gradually ascend by country roads until you've reached the railroad track again near Oglá. In weekends a small train goes from Kato Lechonia to Milies and back. Along the railroad track you walk to Milies, and have ample time to enjoy the views and flowers.

Just before Milies you'll pass Chirons waterfall, a good spot for a break. You may make a detour (up and down) to Milies central square, or enjoy drink and food at café-taverna "Palio Stathmo" ("Old Station") just past the train station.

From here you walk on down-hill. You walk on old kalderimia through olive groves, always enjoying sea views, back to Kala Nera. On the way you'll also pass Chirons Cave.

walking time/distance: 3h50' / 11,9km

ascent/descent: 305m

overnight stay: Kala Nera

Day 9: Departure from the Pilion



You are brought back to Volos for your return trip.