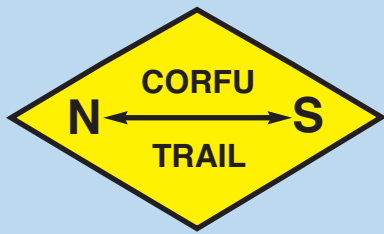


The Companion Guide

to Corfu's
Long-Distance Footpath

Hilary Whitton Paipeti



Welcome to the Corfu Trail, Corfu's long-distance footpath.

This Companion Guide is designed to enable walkers to follow the Trail in its route of some 220 kilometres from the island's southernmost tip to its most northern point.

People familiar with the geography of Corfu will be aware that the island measures around 60 kilometres in length. So why is the route so long? When choosing the course of the Trail we aimed to create a walk which would both avoid heavily developed areas and also, in passing through all the island's rural regions, take in as many as possible of its finest locations - obscure spots as well as familiar ones. Thus the Trail meanders across the island, sometimes almost doubling back on itself, its wide loops linking beauty spots, biotopes, beaches, picturesque villages, viewpoints, monuments, monasteries and museums. Everywhere it wends through diverse landscapes, rewarding the walker with a change of scenery at every turn.

Making use of this guide, you will walk the Trail from south to north. While we have waymarked the route in both directions, we recommended the south to north option for two fundamental reasons. Firstly, the landscape in the southern section of the island is gentle compared with the mountainous north, and, day by day, hikers on the Trail will walk themselves into fitness. Secondly, the scenic highlights and most interesting sights lie mostly in the centre and north, so that each day's trek on the Trail surpasses the previous one. We also took into account that, when the route heads mostly northwards, the midday sun shines from behind rather than in the walker's eyes.

Discovering the countryside of Corfu along the Trail, the walker, much more than the petrol-driven traveller, connects with the landscape and its people. The walker encounters the real Corfu, where old women still lead their goats to pasture, where the olive harvest is still a way of life, where, under the Tree of Idleness in every village square, old men still sip their thick coffee.

Enjoy the Corfu Trail, leave nothing but footprints, cast only your own shadow, and take home with you nothing but the best memories.

WAYMARKING

The Corfu Trail is waymarked with yellow aluminium signs attached to trees, telegraph posts and other (we hope) permanent objects. These signs are supplemented by yellow paint arrows, spots and blazes, with these being the main markings in mountainous regions where trees are few. So as not to create visual pollution, we have tried to keep the signs to a minimum.

While waymarks are checked and renewed on an annual basis, we cannot guarantee that they will remain in place. There are several locations where signs are continually removed or vandalized. We try to check trouble spots regularly.

Other walking organizations have waymarked some routes, using red and blue paint. These may not correspond with the course of the Trail. Ignore them, except where they are indicated in the route description.

Most waymarks were emplaced during the winter months, and during other seasons may be obscured by growth of grasses and shrubs.

A rule of thumb is always to follow the main way, straight ahead, unless indicated otherwise by the route directions in this guide and/or the waymarks.

Please do not remove our signs. They are made of thin aluminium and are destroyed by being wrenched off. Souvenir signs are available at a small charge. Please apply to us for your nearest stockist.

The Corfu Trail is administered by a non-profit-making trust. In order to maintain and improve infrastructure, we kindly request that walkers pay a sum of three euros for the use of the Trail. This is a nominal fee which covers any distance or number of days.

USING THIS BOOK

PLANNING Using the programme given in this book, the Trail takes eleven days to complete. Strong hikers may use this schedule. Others may want to take it slowly. In either case, walkers can work out their own programme by totaling the approximate timings given for each section. These timings are estimates based on our own experience, and are guidelines only. They do not include extended rest stops.

For the purposes of this guide, the Trail route has been divided into sections corresponding with each walking day. Your agent will give you separate instructions regarding your accommodation.

MAPS are based on sections of a 1940's contour map, which have been overlaid with the route as explored on the ground. Scale and alignment are therefore consistent throughout. Due to the small scale used, maps are diagrammatic and some details may be missing, especially on complex sections. Numbers on the maps correspond with numbers in the text and are intended to facilitate reference.

ASCENT is the approximate sum in metres of all significant gradients, but this does not include minor undulations.

TERRAIN is indicated in the text body. All routes were checked just prior to publication, but changes in conditions underfoot may sometimes take place due, for example, to bulldozing of a footpath for access purposes or because of asphaltting of dirt or gravel tracks.

AMENITIES such as shops and refreshment facilities are noted in the planner in the introduction to each day's walk. In villages, these mainly consist of traditional coffee bars, which serve alcoholic and soft drinks as well as coffee. They often function as the village store, and, though you should not count on it, they may stock snacks and food. They are generally closed in the afternoon between 14.00 and 17.30.

EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

When walking the Corfu Trail you should be properly equipped for the sometimes unsettled climatic conditions. Many parts of the Trail, especially in the north, lead through remote regions where you will not find any assistance if you get into difficulties. *Do not assume good weather just because you are in the Mediterranean.* We ran into trouble once in early May when, starting a walk in mild drizzle, we encountered sleet and high winds on the tops. Therefore, except when walking in the high summer months of July and August always carry **FULL WATER- AND WIND-PROOF GEAR**. Also a warm hat, and extra clothing. You can remove layers if necessary. In mountainous regions, proper three-season **WALKING BOOTS** are vital. On beach sections, **WALKING SANDALS**, which you can easily remove to walk in the sea, are recommended.

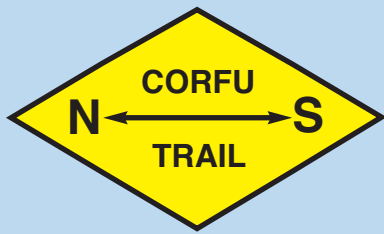
In summer, you will prefer to wear shorts, but carry **LIGHTWEIGHT LONG TROUSERS** for narrow footpaths, where thorny vegetation will scratch bare legs. Also, carry a **LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT** for protection against the sun, and a **SUNHAT**.

Always take plenty of **BOTTLED WATER**. Check the maps for on-route amenities and supply yourself accordingly. For **EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES**, sesame seed bars, *halvas* or dried fruit are a practical option in warmer weather when chocolate would melt.

Pack a small **MEDICAL KIT** comprising insect repellent, cream for bites and stings, sunscreen, plasters and elastic bandages. Also a plastic bag for litter, and a whistle and torch to attract notice if you have an accident.

Preferably do not walk alone, and always leave a written message to let others know where you have gone. On mountain walks, turn back if the weather looks threatening; it can change very quickly.

If bitten by a snake, don't panic. Corfu's only venomous snake, the Sand Viper, has a relatively slow acting poison which acts on the respiratory system, and an adult with no serious allergies should with hospital treatment experience no long term ill affects. In such an event, apply a tourniquet (a bootlace works well) to the limb and get to the hospital as soon as possible, without rushing and without panic. Death from the venom of this snake is very rare.



COUNTRY CODE

DO NOT LIGHT A FIRE for any reason whatsoever. It is illegal to light any outdoor fire between 1 May and 31 October. Thoroughly extinguish cigarettes and dispose of them carefully. Or, better still, don't smoke.

DO NOT LEAVE LITTER and especially not broken glass, as this can cause fires.

TRY NOT TO WALK ON THE NETS laid under olive trees. They tear easily and are expensive to replace. If a net is laid across the path, tread carefully.

DO NOT PICK FRUIT OR VEGETABLES in cultivated areas. You may be picking somebody's lunch.

DO NOT UNTIE TETHERED ANIMALS. They have been secured by their owner, who will return to collect them later.

LEAVE ALL GATES as you found them. If, however, a path has been blocked by a makeshift brushwood barrier, remove it.

DO NOT DRINK FROM STREAMS AND WELLS, however clean they look. They may be polluted with fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals.

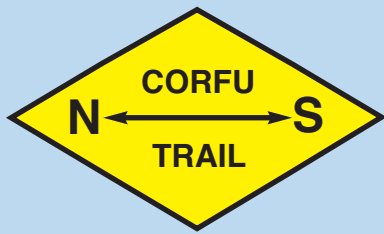
RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE. Stick to the path and do not wander onto private property or cultivated areas.

DO NOT MAKE A NOISE during siesta hours, from two o'clock to five o'clock. Go quietly through villages.

SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE YOU MEET. Etiquette dictates that you, as a visitor, speak first. The most useful greeting is *Hairete* (be happy), which has three syllables with the stress on the first. The H is pronounced as in the Scottish *loch*. Outside the resorts, any attempt to speak Greek is generally met with a response quite out of proportion to your effort.

DO NOT PICK WILD FLOWERS. Leave them for others to enjoy.





Day 1 (Half Day)

ASPROKAVOS TO SPARTERA

Starting from just south of Kavos, you head out on a track to the southern tip of Corfu, where the ruined monastery of Arkoudillas hides in a forest. A footpath leads down to the island's southernmost beach, a seemingly endless stretch of golden sand. Leaving the beach at its northern end, you follow tracks to Spartera.

HIGHLIGHTS

Arkoudillas Monastery
Arkoudillas Beach

PLANNER

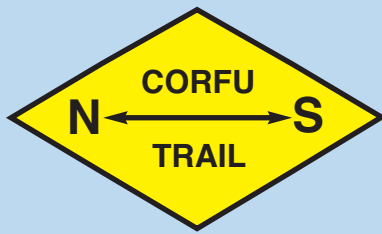
Asprokavos - Spartera: 2 1/2 - 3 hours
TOTAL TIME: 3 HOURS
Total ascent: 200 metres

REFRESHMENTS

Asprokavos, Spartera

Start at Asprokavos, just to the south of Kavos. Your track is marked with a brown sign indicating the way to the 'Monastery of the Blessed Virgin Arkoudillas'. Follow this track, ignoring minor tracks branching off the right and left, and after about 45 minutes you reach the Monastery. The building has collapsed, though the fine arch remains, so you skirt the buildings to the left. You then follow a steeply descending wide footpath, which gradually narrows. It crosses a watercourse and heads uphill briefly to emerge on a track at a junction (1). Here turn left and take the wide track to the beach. At the beach go right and keep going along the shore, over an outcrop of rocks, and as far as the first track which leaves it at the end of the beach steeply uphill (2). Head up the track and go right at the first junction. The 20-25 minutes climb is steep, with dangerous edges to the track and great views over the beach you came from. Keep to the main track straight ahead and, about 50-60 minutes after leaving the beach, you reach a road (3). Here turn right and walk for a few minutes to the centre of the little village of Spartera.

Follow the road all the way through the village to reach your accommodation.



Day 2

SPARTERA TO SANTA BARBARA

Your way leads along shady olive grove tracks and through open country to Lefkimmi, where riverside tavernas tempt you for a rest. You continue by winding through the back streets of the neighbourhoods that make up the town of Lefkimmi. Then you head off cross-country to reach the lush valley of Gardeno. The way now climbs onto a ridge, gradually heading for the dramatic west coast cliffs. The last part of the walk follows the shoreline of lovely Golden Beach.

HIGHLIGHTS Golden Beach
PICTURESQUE VILLAGES
Lefkimmi

PLANNER

Spartera - Lefkimmi: 2 1/4 - 2 1/2 hours
Potami - By-pass: 45-60 minutes
By-pass - Gardeno: 60-70 minutes
Gardeno - Santa Barbara: 2 hours
TOTAL TIME: 6 1/2 HOURS
Total ascent: 200 metres

REFRESHMENTS

Lefkimmi, Gardeno, Santa Barbara

SHOPS Lefkimmi

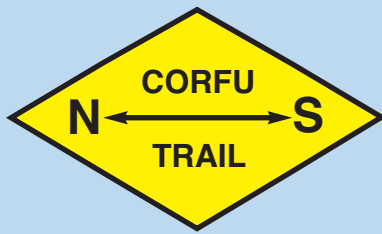
Return towards the village and where the main road bends left, you take the downhill road to the right. Past a little church, you keep going downhill to a T-junction, where you turn left. Still downhill, the track leads through forest then reaches olive groves. Here fork right. At the next junction, where you see a little white church through the trees to the right, go left (4). Turn left and proceed to a T-junction, where you go right. Follow always the main track.

About an hour from Spartera, you pass a miniature white house with an extra storey tacked on. Go left at the next fork and, about 200 metres after the house, take a track to the left, which 30 metres on crosses a bridge (this junction is easy to miss). Keep going along the main track to a major T-junction (5), 20-25 minutes after the bridge. Here you go right and follow the unmade road, which runs out of the olive groves and straight through open country, 40-45 minutes on, you reach the Lefkimmi by-pass (6). Cross (with great care) and continue along the track opposite, which in five minutes meets another road, at Melikia on the outskirts of Lefkimmi. Turn left and, keeping always to the main road, continue to the river bridge at Potami.

Cross the river bridge and immediately turn right along the quayside. Turn off the riverbank at the third junction. Proceed to the first main junction, a crossroads, and turn right. Follow the asphalt road as it winds between scattered houses and garden plots to a T-junction, where the buildings are denser. Turn left to reach the main Lefkimmi street at Agii Theodori. The cafes and shops of this little centre are to the left. But your way continues to the right, gently uphill to the Church of the Virgin, dated 1510. Follow the main street to a very imposing church with twin bell-towers. Molos and Alikes are signposted to the right. After the church, take the next lane to the left, then go right into a wide street with houses set back. At the next junction, the curved rear wall of a churchyard is ahead and on your right, and a view back over Lefkimmi to the left. Bear left to pass the wall, then take the first street left (ΟΔΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΑΝΑΓΥΡΩΝ). A short distance on, the first house of a stone-built terrace stands on the corner. Turn left along the front of the terrace (ΟΔΟΣ ΣΠΥΡΟΥ ΚΟΝΤΟΜΑΦΗ). Now you follow the main way for some distance to a clear junction. Here bear left, then look on the right for a road which is signposted to Corfu. The sign caters for people coming from the other direction, so you have to turn round to spot it. Turn hard right down this road and continue to the next T-junction, where you go left. This more major road heads out of Lefkimmi - passing the little church of Agia Ekaterini which gives its name to the area - and eventually reaches the main Lefkimmi by-pass at a staggered crossroads, with a Shell petrol station on the other side (1).

Cross the road with care for speeding traffic. Take the road opposite, pass the petrol station and cross a bridge, then take the first road to the right, where a small shrine sits on the corner. At the time of writing, this road was unmade, but it looked ripe for asphaltting. Follow this rather uninteresting road for about 15-20 minutes through a landscape of grass-covered hummocks, then through olive groves. You reach a clear fork in the road (2) where you turn right (a hut stands on the bank on the left before the fork, and another is visible a short distance down the right-hand way). You soon plunge into dense olive groves, as the track descends a valley then winds over the flat land of Gardeno Valley. After the first houses, you reach a T-junction, where you go right. A few steps on, you meet a road (where it bridges the Gardeno River). Turn right here, proceed to a wider road and turn left.

Follow this road until, just after a small rise, an unmade road sheers off up a concrete ramp to the right (3). (Alexandros Taverna is a few steps further if you require refreshments offered by people who understand about walking!) The road climbs steeply behind the taverna and round a double hairpin bend. Then it ascends more gently as an earth track amongst olive trees and small sandstone huts. Bear left at one of the huts and continue uphill. You may have to step over a chain across the track - don't worry; you are on a recognised right of way. At a large house sitting on huge concrete walls, the sea to the west of Corfu comes into view. Then you cross the ridge at 4, and the east coast also comes into sight, with the villages of Southern Corfu laid out below as if on a map. A short distance downhill, you reach a T-junction, where you turn left. At the next clear fork, take the right-hand way and climb again to the ridge. Here, you swing right to head along the ridge, with increasingly spectacular views of the west coast opening to the left, in between sections of forest. Keep straight on at two cross ways, and at the next clear fork, go left. At this fork, you gain a spectacular view of Saint George and Lake Korission - detour into the field on the left to admire it. Now you follow the sandy track, which increasingly nudges the edge of the cliff (keep children and dogs away from the sheer drop). After a very steep descent, you reach a five-point junction, where you go hard left and descend a rough track/path to the beach (5). Follow the beach northwards to reach Santa Barbara. Sometimes, depending on tides and the weather, the sea washes at the foot of the cliff, and you may be forced to wade for a few metres.



Day 3

SANTA BARBARA TO PARAMONAS

A day of almost level walking, during which you visit the beach used for scenes in the Bond film 'For Your Eyes Only'. Your way leads on through sand dunes covered with a forest of juniper trees. Then, crossing a footbridge, you reach Lake Korission, where you can be sure to spot a variety of wild birds. North of the lake, the Trail follows tracks and a section of road to reach Paramonas.

HIGHLIGHTS

Issos Forest, Lake Korission

PLANNER

Santa Barbara - Agios Georgios: 30-40 minutes
Agios Georgios - Footbridge: 1 1/2 hours
Footbridge - Halikounas: 30-40 minutes
Halikounas - Road junction: 40-60 minutes
Road junction - Paramonas Bridge: 1 1/2 hours
TOTAL TIME: 5 1/2 HOURS
Total ascent: Negligible

REFRESHMENTS

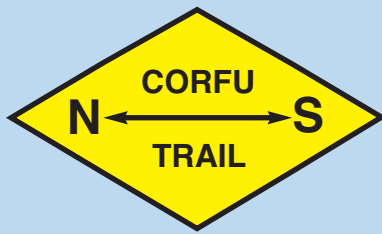
Agios Georgios, Alonaki, Paramonas
SHOPS Agios Georgios

Continue northwards along the shoreline. Then you cross an extensive outcrop of rocks to reach the next beach, Agios Georgios. A low sandy cliff is on the landward side. When this stops, head off the beach up a concrete ramp and turn left along the main resort road. Follow the road through the resort to the northern end, until the empty beach appears clear ahead again. Bear off the road onto the sand again, and keep going along the shoreline. It is easier to take off your shoes and walk in the hard sand at the water's edge.

Eventually, you see low trees growing close to the dunes. Here (4), head up into the dunes (there is no waymarking here due to the terrain and lack of objects to put markings on!). Keep going inland for a couple of minutes then, bearing left, carry on through the sporadic juniper bushes (hard walking on the soft sand) until you hit a 'wall' of denser forest made up of holm oak and evergreens. If you get a clear sight of the inland lake before you find the forest, bear further to your left. Work your way along the edge of the forest in an inland direction until you see a clear gap in the wall of bushes *. The way is suddenly clear running through the gap, and off the sand onto woodland topsoil. The track leads through the woodland to the lakeside. Here, head left along the lake shore; a sandy path (muddy in winter) takes you to the footbridge which crosses the lagoon outlet (5). On the other side of the bridge, follow the track (or the beach) to the northern end of the lake.

At the northern end of the lake, go straight on at the road junction (6), along an eroded cliff path. The way winds past small properties and heads inland. Go left at the first junction. At the time of publication, the road here was in the process of being asphalted; nevertheless, it is little used. After Alonaki Bay Taverna, follow the road, gradually heading away from the coast. At a major T-junction, go left. Now keep to the main road (for about 25-30 minutes) to a junction with a wider road (7), where you turn left. Walk approximately two and a half kilometres on this quiet, olive-shaded road. After this distance, you see a ruined gun emplacement on the right, with rough walls in an open-ended square (8). Here leave the road and take the track beside the building. Keep to the main track, ignoring minor tracks off to the right. In 20-30 minutes you reach a road, where you turn sharp left. The next road right takes you to Paramonas.

* The walk across the dunes is rather alarming, because the terrain - while beautiful and unique - has no landmarks; it's quite easy to imagine you are lost or wandering in circles. Remember, though, that you are on a spit of land with the sea on one side and the lake on the other. The worst that can happen is that you will hit one or the other and be obliged to backtrack. To avoid this, once you bear left, head slightly to the left of the conical mountain on the skyline, and you won't go far wrong.



Day 4

PARAMONAS TO STAVROS

A sharp climb early in the walk takes you over the coastal ridge, with great views, and inland to the villages of Ano and Kato Pavliana. Footpaths and tracks take you down through Vouniatades, then you cross the Messongi River Valley by way of tracks through olive groves and across heathland. Through Strongili, the Trail heads uphill again, on a track and an old cobbled way which leads to Komianata and Stavros.

HIGHLIGHTS

Dafnata Viewpoint
Benitses Waterworks

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

Vouniatades, Komianata

PLANNER

Paramonas Bridge - Ano Pavliana:	1 - 1 1/2 hour
Ano Pavliana - Vouniatades:	40-50 minutes
Vouniatades - Strongili:	60 minutes
Strongili - Komianata:	40-45 minutes
Komianata - Coyevinas:	20 minutes
TOTAL TIME:	5 HOURS
Total ascent: 600 metres	

REFRESHMENTS

Vouniatades, Strongili, Komianata

SHOPS Strongili

Take the road right towards Paramonas. Five minutes further you reach a T-junction where you go right again. Seven or eight minutes on look on your right for a narrow concrete ramp (the route from here is marked with paint only). Up the ramp, you follow a path for about ten metres, then turn right on a less obvious path. After bearing left to pass a couple of huts, the path climbs steeply. Ten minutes on, after circling a cultivated plot, it becomes increasingly overgrown. Eventually, after a hard climb of about 30 minutes, the path emerges into a cleared area (1), where there is a spectacular view from the rocks on the left. Take the track straight on. When the track meets a concrete road, continue uphill. At the top of the climb, ignore a track off to the right. Then you cross the ridge, and the view suddenly opens up inland (you will be on the opposite ridge later). Starting your descent, take the second track right. This soon runs out in a plot of land, but just before the plot a path bears left downhill, towards the village of Ano Pavliana. At the edge of the village, a concrete road leads very steeply downhill to a T-junction. Here take the alleyway right to a little square with a huge tree. Go right again, and the alleyway descends to the village road.

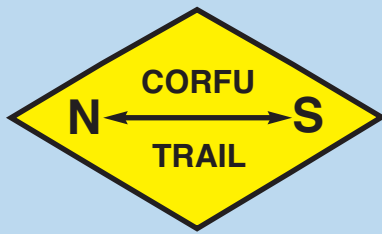
Turn right at the village road. 50 metres along the road, an alleyway leads sharply left, around an electricity column. This quickly becomes a path which winds through olive groves and across stream beds, and eventually reaches a road (2). Here go right and follow the road through the village of Kato Pavliana. After four or five minutes, look on the right for concrete steps descending steeply. At the bottom, the way becomes a rough track which heads down to a concrete road. Here turn right and descend to cross a concrete bridge. A climb of about 150 metres takes you to a junction where you take the left hand way, a track through olive groves. Keep straight on at a crossing track and you soon reach the village of Vouniatades (3).

On reaching the village road (3) turn right, then, after 20 metres, take the first alley left. This alley makes a sharp right turn - after this bend take the first path left (easily missed), which leads downhill to a road. Here go left, then keep to the main track for about half a kilometre until you reach a major fork amongst ancient olive trees. Here bear right. A few minutes on, you see a concrete bridge and a shrine on the left. Turn left to cross the bridge and then follow the track. The track leaves the olive groves and crosses heathland. Keep going straight on, following always the main track. At a T-junction in the middle of the heath, turn right and again follow the main track which takes you eventually to Strongili (5).

Reaching the main road at Strongili (5), cross straight over. At the village square, turn left. You soon regain the main road, where you go right, 50 metres on, you turn off the road, taking a track to the right. Passing a church the track climbs to a gate which you skirt by way of a path to its left. Caution required here; waymarks are continually removed. After the gate, where the trees have been cut, straight on for an old building and head off towards it - a very picturesque abandoned monastery. Pass it, bearing left on a cobbled path which leads down to a track. Here bear right (the way here is also marked with drips of blue paint). The track bears right by a hut, whereafter you leave the track by way of a small path straight on, following the paint marks on fence posts. The path heads gently uphill and meets a rough track. Here go right and, at the top of a nasty slope, you reach a small church (6). Just before the church go right again. You are now on an ascending track through olive groves. This emerges onto the open hillside where olive trees have been burned. Bear right on a bulldozed track which, after crossing a gully, becomes a partially cobbled way leading uphill to the village of Komianata (7).

Entering the pretty village of Komianata (7), you emerge into a tiny square. Leave the square again by way of the second left-hand alley. The alley becomes a road. Head straight on (the only way). Suddenly a dramatic view appears directly ahead; your first sight of Mount Pantokrator. At the corner of the road, benches and a table made of an olive millstone have been placed to take advantage of the impressive view.

Continue down the road, passing through the small neighbourhoods that make up Stavros village. After approximately 10 minutes you pass on the right a low building with olive-log roof supports. 100 metres on, a wide alleyway leads off the road on the left, next to a hit of corrugated tin. Take this alley, bear right on a lane and descend to reach the road again. Further downhill, take paved steps just before a church to cut out a bend and, meeting the road again, go right. The Trail continues downhill for 100 metres to the junction of the main Corfu Town - Strongili road beside the Coyevinas mansion (8), but to reach Benitses via the Waterworks, you turn right off the road again almost immediately, taking a concrete lane between high banks. Directions on the next page.



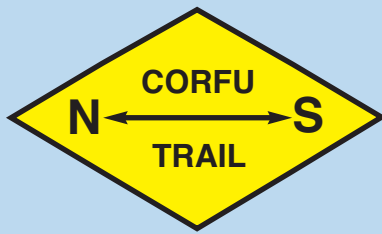
Day 4

**STAVROS
TO BENITSES
NO MAP**

The route down to Benitses via the Waterworks, built by the British in the 1840s to supply Corfu Town.

PLANNER
45 - 60 minutes

Turn right off the road on a concrete lane between high banks, soon becoming a rough track. A couple of hundred metres down, look on the left for a rough path - your onward way. The path descends steeply, then more gently along the right-hand bank of a watercourse. Continuing down, the stream drops away from the path, then you reach fences alongside the path. Here turn left and descend the path, now very steep. At the foot of the drop, you cross the stream bed (it looks slippery but it's not), and bear right to a chapel ahead. A track heads off, but you go right, around the corner of the church wall, picking up a way which descend old stone steps to a glade. Wells carved out of the rock are the remains of the old waterworks. Down more steps and you reach another glade (here, an arch leads into a short tunnel. If you're brave, have a quick look - after rain, there is a waterfall on the other side). The path continues ahead, making a steady descent, sometimes on a low causeway. Down some more steps, a railed causeway leads into houses. Head straight on. As the narrow lane becomes a road, you see the administrative buildings of the old waterworks on the right. Follow the road straight on until, at a fork, you go right downhill (a no-entry sign marks the road, but this does not apply to the locals!). At the foot of the long descent, the road crosses a bridge into a parking area, Here bear left and you are suddenly in Benitses, on a narrow lane between close-packed houses. Proceed straight on and you are soon at the harbour. Turn right and a walk of a few minutes takes you to your accommodation.



Day 5

STAVROS TO PELEKAS

The walk starts with a delightful footpath skirting Agii Dekas Mountain, and leading to Ano Garouna, from where you make a very sharp ascent to the summit of Agii Dekas, Corfu's second highest peak. Here, an abandoned monastery in a walled garden makes an ideal rest stop. Your way continues down a cobbled mule path to Agii Dekas village then along minor roads and tracks to Sinarades, where you might like to visit the Folk Museum (depending on opening times) and admire the picturesque architecture of this large village. Alleyways and a track lead to Aerostato, one of the island's most famous viewpoints, then the Trail leads along undulating tracks with fine views over the west coast and inland to Pelekas.

HIGHLIGHTS

Agii Dekas Summit
Sinarades Folk Museum
Aerostato Viewpoint

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

Ano Garouna, Agii Dekas, Sinarades

PLANNER

Coyevinas - Ano Garouna:	60 minutes
Ano Garouna - Summit:	30 minutes
Summit - Agii Dekas Village:	40-60 minutes
Agii Dekas - Kamara:	45-50 minutes
Kamara - Sinarades:	30 minutes
Sinarades - Yialisari:	1 1/4 hour
Yialisari - Pelekas:	30 minutes
TOTAL TIME:	6 HOURS
Total ascent:	500 metres

REFRESHMENTS

Ano Garouna, Agii Dekas
Aerostato, Pelekas

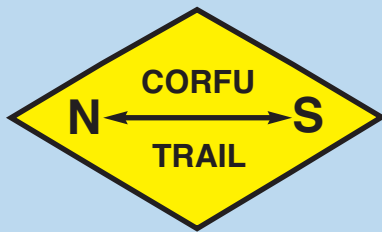
SHOPS Sinarades, Pelekas

Reaching the main road, cross over to take the concrete road opposite. After the road bends right at a chapel and starts to ascend, look for a track leading off to the left beside a cultivated patch and a tin hut (1). This track quickly becomes a path which leads up and down gullies, through a natural 'fortress' of conglomerate limestone in weird formations, and across a hillside with views southwards, after which it meets a track. Head straight on uphill, and you will reach a concrete road where you turn left (2). 50 metres on, leave the road by way of a path on the right. (If you carry on down the road you will reach the village of Ano Garouna where there are refreshments if required. Sunset Bar, after the square, has a great view). Climbing sharply, the path crosses a track and continues steeply up through olive groves, with some level sections where you can catch your breath. It runs by a vineyard, then climbs briefly to an open plateau with more vines, where a clear way may be lost, depending on the state of the undergrowth. Ahead you see a rocky cliff which is the last obstacle to the summit; you are making for the chapel you can see on the skyline. At this point, cross the vineyard diagonally, making for the olive trees. A few steps into the trees, look on the right for a break in the low terrace wall. Here the path heads up two terraces, round a rock and plunges into the shady tunnel of holly-oak trees, circling the back of the vineyard. You go left at a fork and climb very steeply (hands and knees at times!) to emerge suddenly onto a cleared area beside the little chapel you could see from below. Follow the track downhill to the walled monastery grounds just below. You can visit the church, restored in 1994.

To continue, leave the monastery grounds by way of the foot gate out of the courtyard on its north side, beside the concrete slab tables. A path runs straight from the gate beside a fenced orchard of cherry and walnut trees. When the path starts going downhill, bear right. The partially cobbled path makes a sometimes steep and rough descent. Keep always to the downhill path (left at junctions) and take care of loose stones. At one point, some rocks on the left make a wonderful viewpoint. The path reaches a newly bulldozed track (3), where you go left. Where the road bends to the left, look for a path going down towards the right. Follow this path all the way down into the village, which it enters in a parking area. Here go right on a path alongside an old wall to reach the gate of a churchyard. Continue along the alley which leads away from the gate as far as a very old building with a curved wall. Here take the downhill steps to the left to meet the main village road just as it narrows to become an alley.

At the main village road go left and at the first sharp right-hand bend, go straight on. This road leads past the cemetery and becomes a track. Ignore the first main track off to the right, but take the second right hand one. Follow this track for 15-20 minutes until you reach habitation - Alepohori. Immediately before the first building which directly abuts the track, leave the track by a path which leads you into the village square (no facilities except a spring with drinkable water). Turn left and follow the road, which exits the square and then swings left around the houses and then goes right. You now follow the road to the next village, Kamara. Proceed as far as the village square (the coffee bar is not always open). Turn left into the square and then left again out of it along an alley. Take the first path on the right, which is surfaced in concrete with shallow steps. It leads downhill, crosses a stream and heads up the other side of the gully, where it meets a minor road. Bear right to reach, in a few steps, a main road (4). Here turn right, and very soon you will pass a walled churchyard. After this look on the left for a path alongside a chain-link fence. Follow the path (later a track) to a crossroads of tracks, where you take the left hand way and follow it uphill. Go right at two junctions. You will then meet a wide road at an acute angle (5). Here go right downhill, and about 100 metres on, take a concrete road to the left (this is signposted to the Folk Museum). At a junction of alleyways, go right, pass the Museum - not to be missed if open (summer opening times: 09.30 - 14.00 except Sunday) - then carry on down the alley to the village road opposite the church tower. Here turn left into the main square, where there are coffee bars and shops.

Continuing through the square, follow the main village road. Pass a small square to your right and, just after the Postal Agency on your left, you come to a point where the road bears right. Here take the alley forking left. Now follow the main (paved at first) alleyway up to the top of the village. Widening, the alley reaches a crossing concrete track (6). Here go right and follow the track through the olive groves. Go straight on to reach a road, where you turn left and immediately take an uphill track right (a minute along the road to the left is Aerostato Restaurant with its famous view over Agios Gordis). Go left around the back of the church, following the sign to Yialisari. This track climbs further and follows the coastal ridge, with superb sea views. Keep to the main track. Go left at a T-junction. Continue to follow the main track and you will reach an asphalt road (7). Here go left. Ignore the first track right. A few minutes on, when the road bends sharply left uphill, take a track right. Keep to the main track, which heads mainly uphill through woodland and olive groves. When it joins an asphalt road keep straight on uphill. A hundred metres or so further and you reach a major road on the outside of a sharp bend (8). Continue uphill into Pelekas village.



Day 6

PELEKAS TO LIAPADES

Half an hour's walk takes you to Myrtiotissa, 'the loveliest beach in the world' (now used by nudists). Climbing now, you have to regain the height you have lost (and more!), with a steep ascent on a gravel and concrete track. The west coast views are spectacular. Passing the village of Vatos, the terrain levels out and your way follows the bank of the Ropa River, bordered by pastures and willow trees. Leaving the river, the Trail ascends into olive-blanketed hills, where tracks lead to Liapades, an ancient village full of lovely old mansion houses. You then descend to your accommodation near the beach.

HIGHLIGHTS

Myrtiotissa Monastery, Ropa Valley

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

Giannades, Liapades

PLANNER

Pelekas - Myrtiotissa: 45-50 minutes

Myrtiotissa - Vatos Square:

1 ¼ - 1 ½ hours

Vatos Square - Ermones Bridge:

10 minutes

Ermones Bridge - Ropa Valley Bridge:

45 minutes

Ropa Valley Bridge - Giannades:

30 minutes

Giannades - Liapades: 2 hours

TOTAL TIME: 6 HOURS

Total ascent: 300 metres

REFRESHMENTS

Pelekas, Vatos, Giannades, Liapades

SHOPS Pelekas, Giannades, Liapades

Proceed through the village. 150 metres after the square, fork left to take the Glyfada road, then on to the junction where a road goes left to Kontoyialos Beach. Here, at the junction of the two roads, take a descending concrete path straight on. Keep going straight to a road, where you turn left. Now you keep to the road for about a kilometre as far as a road junction (1). At this point you head diagonally into the olive grove to the left of Malibu Snack Bar, veering onto a narrow path. This leads through the trees and passes close under a house, then emerges onto a track. Bear left and then go right at the next junction of tracks. On your left the view gradually opens out. When you reach a house on the right of the track, turn left down a path. Running steeply downhill, this soon joins a concrete road where you turn left. Now a steep descent takes you down to the sea at Myrtiotissa (Corfu's unofficial nudist beach). Follow the track along the back of the beach, then ascend towards the monastery (you can visit if the resident monk is home - ring the bell at the gate). 30 metres before the monastery veer left on a track. Running between shrubs, the track turns uphill. Go straight on at the first junction, then right at the next one (2). Now you have a long and steep climb on a concrete and gravel road (40-45 minutes from the monastery). At the top of the climb, the road swings round the shoulder of the hill by a set of communications aerials. A few metres after passing the shoulder, a path on the right is signposted to Myrtiotissa. Take this steep and rough path down through forest and then olive groves. You may have to skirt a fallen tree. The path becomes a very rough track, dropping to a road. Here go straight on (left), then immediately leave the road by way of a track on the left. The track soon turns into a well-trodden footpath, emerging onto a road opposite a church. Here go left and follow the narrow street through the hamlet of Kelia. When the village road meets a wider road, turn left and proceed uphill to the square at Vatos.

To leave the square at Vatos, take the road just below it, under the holding wall. Turn right immediately, then left. You now descend on a concrete road. About 300 metres down look out on the right for a path. Take this path and when it meets a road turn left, continuing downhill as the road turns sharply right, then twists down to meet the main road. Here go left and proceed to the bridge (4).

Go straight on over the bridge, then take the first track left, just before the hill. Follow the track between trees. A few minutes along, where suddenly fields are on both sides, an indistinct grass/earth track goes right (a chainlink fence and large double gate is ahead on the right after the turning). Follow the track through open land to a concrete bridge/culvert where the track divides in three. Go right (not hard right; the second one) straight across the open field towards the tree-clad hillside. Reaching the base of the hill, the track swings left. Now follow the main track for some distance between the hill and the flat valley. At an obvious fork, bear left and proceed to a road.

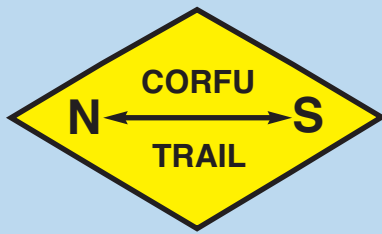
At the road, cross over and take the track opposite, down into an olive grove of widely-spaced trees planted in straight lines. A few steps down the track, go left. The track you are now on immediately swings right to follow one of the 'corridors' between the olives. Half a dozen trees down, leave the track, heading off it at about 45 degrees. This part is off-path, but easier to follow than it reads. You are making for the bottom left-hand corner of this extensive olive grove. You may encounter a ditch or two. Don't head too far to the left. If you reach a line of shrubs, bear right. If you find a crossing track ahead of you (on the other side of a deep ditch), go left. You should find a concrete bridge which crosses the ditch and gives access to the track. On the track, turn left and proceed to a crossing road. Go right and follow the minor road for a couple of hundred metres, then leave the road by way of the first clear track left (a track leads right just before, alongside a deep ditch with a large pipe in it).

Follow the track to a crossing track. Go left and continue climbing to the village road. Here turn left, then take a lane immediately right. Continue the climb up the lane, partly on steps, until you reach the village road again. Take the village road straight on, through the square (6) with its great view and shop. Proceed along the main village road, which swings right between high houses, then runs along the top of a retaining wall. Fork right at the first junction, and go left at the next.

Now follow the main road/track, which swings right again and begins a gentle ascent. Giannades and the Ropa Valley are in view on your right. Ignore minor tracks to the left, and any fork to the right downhill. The main track is clear. Eventually you begin a long climb up a valley. You reach a T-junction at 7 where you turn left, and continue uphill.

Over the top of the ridge, you start descending. At a junction in the middle of some olive groves keep straight on, veering slightly left (signs have been removed here). At the next junction (way-marked) go right, then continue along the main track through endless olive groves (this section is called the 'Olive Way'). Eventually you come to a junction with a small roadside shrine (8). Keep going straight on and at a fork in the road which encloses a farm building, take the narrow concrete road branching left. Becoming a footpath, this soon leads you steeply downhill into the village of Liapades. Take the first alley to the right and continue downhill into the village square.

Leave Liapades Square at the bottom left hand corner and keep going along the narrow road between the houses. Just out of the village a road joins from the right. Keep going straight on, then take the first track to the right. Continue downhill for approximately 400 metres, then LOOK ON THE RIGHT for a small stony footpath. Follow this downhill to a road, where you turn left. It is a short descent to the beach.



Day 7

LIAPADES TO AGIOS GEORGIOS

Start by taking a very difficult footpath to Paleokastritsa. Then you head into the hills again, using a network of lovely cobbled footpaths. A climb of about an hour takes you to Lakones and Bella Vista ('the best view in Europe'). One kilometre of unavoidable, sometimes busy, road here, and the Trail heads across olive groves to Krini, through 'Lily Valley' and on down one of Greece's most remarkable footpaths, which zig zags down a sheer cliff. The way continues down an olive grove track and along the seafront to the resort of Agios Georgios.

HIGHLIGHTS

Bella Vista
Angelokastro (off route)

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

Lakones, Krini

PLANNER

Liapades - Paleokastritsa road:	20 minutes
Paleokastritsa road - Lakones:	60 minutes
Lakones - Krini:	45-50 minutes
Krini: - Agios Georgios:	1 1/2 hours
TOTAL TIME:	4 HOURS
Total ascent: 300 metres	

REFRESHMENTS

Paleokastritsa Lakones, Krini
Agios Georgios

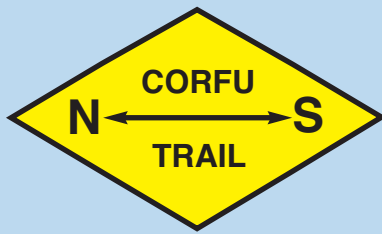
SHOPS

Paleokastritsa, Lakones, Krini
Agios Georgios

Descend to the beach and go right. Walk round the BACK of the Elly Beach Hotel. On the far side, a path leaves the grounds and plunges into the forest. The path climbs very steeply and at one point you have to climb a small cliff (there are footholds and a rope!). Then the path starts descending. It crosses a small road (watercourse in the winter) and continues through the olive groves on the other side, reaching some houses. Turn right into an alley which takes you to the main road (1).

At 1, cross the main Paleokastritsa road (carefully) and continue along a footpath on the other side, which takes you to another road. Go left and walk uphill for a few hundred metres to a where the main road makes a hairpin bend right, and a smaller road goes straight on. Take the smaller road, and a few steps on, turn right up a path. Partly-cobbled, the path climbs steadily through olive trees, then veers right and tunnels under the road, emerging beside the cliff. Turn left DOWNHILL and proceed as far as the first road on the left, a few hundred metres along. This concrete road climbs past a house, whereupon you leave it by way of a path to the left, beside the wall of the cliff. The part-cobbled way makes a steady ascent; at one point, a natural balcony offers a splendid view over Paleokastritsa. At the top of a series of beautifully constructed twists and turns, the path reaches a road (4). Cross straight over and continue uphill on a very steep path - partly a dry watercourse - and up rough concrete steps to join another road. Here bear left and very soon you are in the village of Lakones (5), where there are bars and shops along the main street.

Proceed along the road through the village. Take care of traffic in a narrow street just after the square. Walk on past Bella Vista ('the best view in Europe') and a couple of restaurants catering for tour buses. Keeping to the road (this 2.3 kilometres section of asphalt is unavoidable), you pass a convent and Museum of Ecclesiastical Art on the left. Then, halfway along a long stretch of straight road, look for a sign on the left pointing you down a footpath (6). The path bends left into a stream bed which it follows for a few metres, then leaves it again by path right. Veer right at the top of the little slope and follow the clear path through the trees. The path becomes a track and climbs. On a bend look on the right for a footpath over a rock. This leads on through well-kept olive groves and meets the village road at Krini. Here turn right and proceed as far as the diamond-shaped village square (a traditional coffee bar here is worth a visit if open). Turn left out of the square and follow the alley, then take the third alley right. Downhill first on concrete, the way leads across a little cultivated valley. When you reach a track turn left and descend to where the track runs out at a cleft in the rock (7). Here a dramatic walled footpath starts, leading in a series of zigzags down a cliff. The view over Agios Georgios Bay and over a series of promontories to the offshore islands is stunning. Take care of rock-falls and path subsidence. At the bottom of the path turn right and then take the first track left, 100 metres on. You now make a gentle descent through the olive groves, keeping to the main track. 12-15 minutes down, the track doubles back on itself in a sharp left turn. 70 metres after the bend, look on the right for a footpath - the remains of the old path. This drops to meet the continuation of the track, where you go right. The track, becoming less clear, enters a thicket of reeds. Here, look out for a very narrow path on the left (marked also with a red T). At first it pushes through the cane and undergrowth, then becomes a cobbled way, which descends to meet an unmade road (8). Turn right and continue down to the sea. The track/road then follows the coastline around the bay to the resort of Agios Georgios. Follow the beach to reach your accommodation.



Day 8

AGIOS GEORGIOS TO REKINI

A sharp climb from Agios Georgios to the village of Prinilas starts today's walk. Then you descend to the picturesque village of Pagi. Tracks and a quiet road take you through agricultural land alongside the Megapotamos River and over the ridge through Aspiotades to Agros. Leaving the two sprawling villages of Agros and Agios Athanasios, a quiet country road leads past a wealthy monastery, and tracks take you on to the road junction at Rekini.

HIGHLIGHTS

Agios Athanasios Monastery

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

Pagi, Prinilas

PLANNER

Agios Georgios - Prinilas: 45 minutes

Prinilas - Pagi: 25-30 minutes

Pagi - Aspiotades: 45-50 minutes

Aspiotades - Agros: 30 minutes

Agros - Rekini: 1 1/2 hours

TOTAL TIME: 4 - 4 1/2 HOURS

Total ascent: 400 metres

REFRESHMENTS

Agros, Aspiotades Rekini

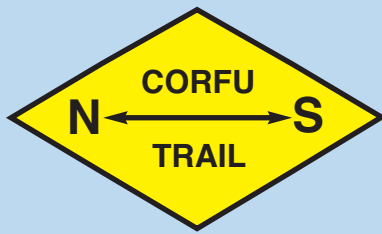
SHOPS Agros, Valanio

Turn left out of the hotel and follow the shoreline. Keep top the beach when the road turns inland. After the road again follows the shore, turn inland on a road past the entrance to the Alkyon Hotel. Follow the road for five minutes, ignoring the first road right opposite a bakery. Take the next one. Soon the track begins a very steep ascent. Keep always to the most uphill track. As it levels out slightly, go left at a junction, then follow the main track into Prinilas. It is a climb of about 40 minutes in total, 20 minutes very steep. At Prinilas you meet a road and turn right (9), then a few metres on you take a stepped alleyway right which leads uphill between the houses. Reaching the village road at the top, turn left and continue for 3-4 minutes to the village cemetery, on the right of the road. Beside the graveyard, on its left side, take a narrow track, a steep descent towards Pagi. Veer left at a junction, then at the village follow the narrow road as it bends left and then right. It reaches the main village road at a church (look for the campanile if in doubt), and here you turn right.

50 metres on, fork left down a small road. Passing through a little neighbourhood, the road becomes a descending track. A few minutes down, turn left at a junction then follow the main track down into a valley and across a stream bed, then down to the river. Ford the watercourse, and follow the track which, 50 metres on, hits a road, where you turn left (10). 4-5 minutes on, leave the road by way of a track on the right, opposite a house. Follow this track in steep uphill zig zags through olive groves to join asphalt road, where you turn right. A couple of minutes uphill, you reach Aspiotades and meet the main road (not usually busy). Here turn right and keep going for a few minutes to the next village, Manatades. Just as the road narrows into the village, look on the left for a concrete alley. This path leads steeply uphill and, in 3-4 minutes, emerges onto a road (11), where you go right. Keep right at a junction and you soon reach the Health Centre. Immediately after the gate, take the gravel track right, past a little church and cemetery. Then you reach a crossroads, where you go right, passing a large church with numbered cornerstones. Reaching a T-junction, you go right and follow the road to where it runs out in a churchyard with a fine view. Here descend the steps through the church garden, and the way leads you into Agros. At a crossing alleyway, go left (one minute's walk to the right is the town centre where there are shops).

Turn left at the crossing alleyway and keep going to the main road, where you go left. Continue for 4-5 minutes (out of Agros and into the adjoining village of Agios Athanasios) and then take the road signposted to the Health Centre. 30 metres uphill, fork right, then proceed straight on at a crossroads to enter a little neighbourhood. Take the first road left, then go right at the next junction. The concrete road now passes through plots of land and descends to a crossing road, where you turn right. 50 metres on, bear right again (not sharp right into the parking area) and follow the road straight on down to the main road. Here turn left and a couple of minutes walk takes you to a minor road to the right (1), signposted to Agios Athanasios Monastery (there is a yellow arrow on the back of the road sign on the left).

Take this road, pass the monastery and continue for one kilometre. Then take a track left (look for paint markers on the road surface). Continue for 10 minutes to a junction, and take the main track left. This descends to a valley bottom, where, immediately after a cane-filled stream bed (2), you take a concrete road left uphill to meet an unmade road, where you turn right. Keep to the main way. After it reaches the valley bottom, bear right. You then cross a river and emerge onto the main road. Here go left and cross the wide bridge to the road junction at Rekini.



Day 9 REKINI TO SPARTILLAS

First you head for Valanio, a village deep in the middle of nowhere. Tracks funnel you up a deep valley. Along a cobbled path, you enter Sokraki, where the village square with its happy atmosphere calls for a stop. The Trail then follows tracks and paths through forest and cultivated land to Spartillas.

HIGHLIGHTS Queen's Leap
PICTURESQUE VILLAGES
Valanio, Sokraki, Spartillas

PLANNER

Rekini - Valanio:	30 minutes
Valanio - Sokraki:	2 hours
Sokraki - Spartillas:	1 1/2 hours
TOTAL TIME:	4 HOURS
Total ascent: 250 metres	

REFRESHMENTS

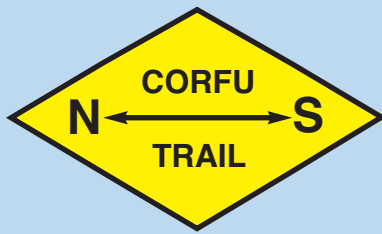
Valanio, Sokraki, Spartillas

SHOPS Valanio, Spartillas

Leaving the other side of the bridge at Rekini, keep to the main road straight ahead (not the one going hard left). A hundred metres on, you see a wooden sign beside the road on the right which indicates the entry point for the Valanio Footpath Network. Here (3) take the rough track and proceed for 3-4 minutes, when the way reaches a stream (a bridge is planned here, as is road improvement). Clamber down the bank, cross the stream (on rocks, or you may have to wade) and climb up the opposite bank. Your route continues to the left on a track. Proceed for 4-5 minutes and turn right to take a footpath which ascends in zig-zags through lush vegetation. After a 10 minutes climb, it levels, becomes a concrete road and reaches a T-junction. Here turn left and in a minute or two you enter the village of Valanio. At the village road turn left.

Leave the village road by way of a narrow road on the right, just before a coffee bar. This road runs up to the cemetery then continues gently uphill. Keep to the asphalt until it runs out, veer left at a fork and after 10 minutes go straight on at the next junction of tracks (4). You pass the wooden sign at Queen's Leap, then start to descend. Follow the track, keeping straight on at joining tracks, 40 minutes or so on, you reach a bridge where the way is asphalt again. Ignore the first clear track to the right, then a few metres on take a stone footpath on the right (5). This mainly cobbled path leads steadily uphill for some distance through dense woodland and olive groves, then skirts a cultivated area, becoming a track. It then enters the village of Sokraki as a concrete road, hitting the main village road alongside a wall. Here you bear left - but the delightful village square is immediately on the right with its two bars. Emily's (on the right) always has traditional ginger beer cooling in the fridge, very thirst-quencing.

From the square, head downhill on the road, keeping left at a fork. When you reach a sharp left-hand bend, take a gravel track straight on. This track ascends a valley where terraces point at previous heavy cultivation. Where the main track takes a sharp turn to the right, keep straight on along a lesser track, which soon becomes a footpath through low forest. At a clearing (6), take a path slightly to the right. The path wends some distance through woodland, then hits a crossing track. The path continues on the other side of the track, parallel with it. **USE THE FOOTPATH**, not the newly bulldozed way. The path and track converge at a stone hut (7). The original footpath then continues as a separate way, now descending. The path here is clear, leading through forest on overgrown terraces, and you have to clamber down several terrace walls. At one point, it hits the new track. Turn right down the track for about 50 metres, and look for the continuation of the original path on the left side of the track. **USE THE FOOTPATH**, not the new track (with a bit of luck it will get overgrown and disappear!). The path eventually emerges into a grove of young olive trees, then turns right to reach an unmade road. Here go left. Your way soon becomes a minor asphalt road leading through the agricultural valley of Spartillas, heavily planted with vines and vegetables. Keep to the asphalt road and when it meets a main road (8), turn right and you are soon in the village of Spartillas. Your first refreshment possibility is Asteras Bar, on the right as you enter the village.



Day 10

SPARTILLAS TO AGIOS SPIRIDON

Today the real mountain territory beckons. Starting, you are soon on a steep mountain footpath climbing a gully to a fantastic viewpoint at Taxiarchis Chapel - a ruin with fresco-covered walls. You ascend further to cross the 'Karst Plateau', Corfu's wildest scenery, under the summit of Pantokrator. Descending now on a mountain track with fine views, you reach the high col of the main ridge, where both the northern and southern sections of Corfu are visible. You then descend to Old Perithia - a semi-ruined Byzantine village located in a high valley. Onwards, the Trail descends a narrow valley on a rough mule track, then continues down on paths and tracks to the northern coastal plain. You reach the sea at Almiros and follow the beach to the wild, bare headland which is Corfu's northernmost point, where a rough path along a low cliff takes you to the end of the Trail at Saint Spiridon Beach.

HIGHLIGHTS

Taxiarchis Chapel, Karst Plateau, Old Perithia, Parigori Gorge, Agia Ekaterini Headland

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

Old Perithia

PLANNER

Spartillas - Taxiarchis: 40-45 minutes
Taxiarchis - Pantokrator road: 1 1/2 hours
Pantokrator road - High Col: 30 minutes
High Col - Old Perithia: 30-40 minutes
Old Perithia - Krinias:

1 1/2 hours - 1 3/4 hours

Krinias - Almiros: 60 minutes

Almiros - Agios Spiridon: 30 minutes

TOTAL TIME: 7 HOURS

Total ascent: 600 metres

BUSES Spartillas, New Perithia

ACCOMMODATION

Spartillas, Saint Spiridon, Acharavi

REFRESHMENTS

Spartillas, Old Perithia, Almiros

Proceed into the village. Where it narrows and makes a sharp right bend, head straight on along an alleyway. Go left at the first alley then right at a T-junction of alleys, arriving at the back of the main church.

With your back to the belfry, ascend the rough steps to the left. At the top, continue to ascend to the right on a steep concrete road. After a couple of hundred metres, where the road turns sharp left, branch off to the right on a very rough track, later a path. Bear left at a fork, then continue through olive groves, and onto the open hillside. The path traverses the slope, swings left at a large rock, then climbs a gully very steeply through thick forest. Gradually the forest diminishes and views open out behind. After a total climb of about 45 minutes, you reach a little plateau (1). Here, look on the right for a path, where you should deviate briefly to reach the ruined church of Taxiarchis, located on the precipice with fantastic views. Admire the lovely frescoes before returning to the main path.

The path crosses the little plateau then climbs a shallow gully through a tunnel of holm oak trees. (Just as you enter the trees, look on the right for an old threshing floor and bothy - a very special spot). Leaving the oak forest, the gully narrows and the path becomes rougher, with boulders on the path. At one point, you deviate left and scramble up to the track. Go right and after a few steps leave the track on the outside of the bend by way of a footpath which climbs the continuation of the gully. Free-range cattle and sheep have made a number of paths, but follow the main way to the high plateau.

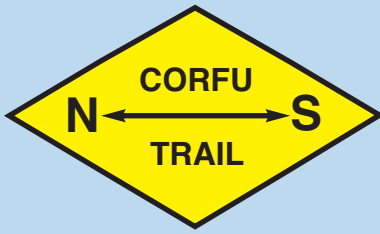
Reaching an extensive flat area, swing left and follow the path across the Karst Plateau. This section is very well waymarked with red crosses and splashes of red paint as well as the Trail markings. In general, you head for the Pantokrator summit, in sight ahead. You reach the Pantokrator road beside a water tank (2). Now you have the choice of climbing to the summit on the concrete road before you continue. Turn right if you decide to do this.

If you are not going to the summit, turn left at the road by the water tank, then right at the first junction. The track descends, and Old Perithia soon comes into view. At the next junction (3), on the high col, with fantastic views to the north and south, bear left. About 300 metres further, still on the col, the way forks again and you go left, now descending. Some 10 minutes downhill, look on the left for a path beside a tree. Take this path, initially quite clear, but increasingly overgrown with bracken as spring and summer proceed. Bear slightly left at a big tree. Caution! The path is difficult to follow here.

Look for a low ruin and pass it immediately on your left. Continue straight on. A shallow valley with old terraced fields is on your left and the path has a rough stone edge. You descend briefly to cross a dry stream bed, whereafter the path is a little clearer ahead. You are descending the left side of a steep gully. Old Perithia is ahead. Some way down, the path makes a zigzag, first right then left. Then carefully follow the paint waymarks down to meet a track above the village (6). Here you turn left.

Take the next track to the right, beside a large church. Descending, the track squeezes between the old houses and then becomes a wide cobbled way. In a couple of minutes, you cross a gully beside a chapel and ascend to the main village square, where two tavernas provide refreshment (Foros Taverna makes excellent traditional pies). To continue, leave the square by the wide cobbled ascending road. 150 metres up, take a track left. Shortly, go left at a fork. 15-20 minutes on, the track runs out (7); 10 metres before, look for paint markers indicating the start of a rough footpath. The path descends gently to a little plateau where it continues straight on and then, built up on a low stone edge, heads down a gully through rocky mountain territory. In 25-30 minutes it passes a tiny shrine and plunges into thick forest. The way twists down, crosses the (usually) dry bed of the seasonal Parigori River and continues through the forest to emerge, in half an hour or so, at the start of a track, which leads through olive groves to the hamlet of Krinias.

CAUTION: There are NO refreshment facilities or shops on the long first part of today's route, until Old Perithia, except if you optionally ascend to the Pantokrator Summit. Carry at least two bottles of water per person. Also note that most of this day's walk is totally without shade, and there is thus a very real danger of sunburn/heatstroke.



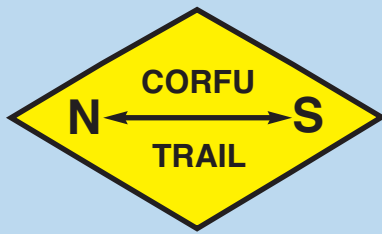
Day 10
SPARTILLAS
TO AGIOS SPIRIDON
(CONTINUED)

Reaching the road at Krinias, turn right. 8-10 minutes down the road, you cross a bridge and immediately take a track left (8). 15 minutes further, the track stops and you proceed straight on, following a vague footpath which heads diagonally uphill (follow the higher path) to hit a minor road on a bend. Take the left hand way and continue to Portes, reached in a few minutes. At the hamlet, pass the car park and then go left at two forks (ignore 'No Entry' signs - this is a right of way). The road finishes at a house, where, at the wall on the far side, you pick up a footpath. Five minutes on, you cross a track. The path continues down a valley smothered in a forest of oak trees then in 10 minutes levels out in an uncultivated almond grove. Just beyond the grove a track takes you on a few steps to reach a minor asphalt road (9). Cross the road and pick up a footpath opposite which runs straight along the border of oak forest. The path veers left and then meets the main coast road at Almiros.

Reaching the main road, cross over and take the road beside the local council's vehicle depot. After the depot, turn right. The road swings left and continues across the flat agricultural land, heading directly towards the sea. The way makes a right-angle turn left, bringing it parallel to the shoreline. 150 metres on, turn off it on a gravel track to the right, heading once again straight for the sea. Follow this straight on to hit the small coast road beside George's Taverna (10). Here turn right and follow the road/sandy track to the footbridge at the outlet of Lake Antinioti. Cross the footbridge and turn left. The track approaches a beach, where you bear left. At the back of the beach, you pick up a clear path which parallels the shore. Soon you pass the beacon which signals the northernmost point of Corfu, at Cape Agia Ekaterini.

Continue to follow the coastal path along low cliffs - rough walking initially on sharp stones - to where it reaches another beach. Continue along the beach and pick up the extension of the coastal path. Just before it reaches the bridge, take a track right. Very soon the track hits the main track. Go left, cross the bridge - and the end of the Trail is a short distance ahead. Agios Spiridon Beach invites a swim, and a taverna provides an opportunity for celebration.

Congratulations!
You made it!!!



Day 11

THE NORTH EAST COAST & THE MOUNTAIN FLANKS

This is an almost circular walk which starts and finishes at Kalami, exploring the North West of the island. You quickly climb into the hills and then onto the high mountain flanks, through Porta and on to part-ruined Mengoulas. Then your descent begins, with wonderful sea views, through Katavolos and down to the sea at Kaminaki. Your return is along the coastal footpath.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mengoulas

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

Kentroma, Porta, Katavolos

PLANNER

Kalami - Agni:	20 minutes
Agni - Kentroma:	20 minutes
Kentroma - Porta:	40 - 45 minutes
Porta - Mengoulas:	1 hour
Mengoulas - Katavolos:	1 1/2 hours
Katavolos - Kaminaki:	30 minutes
Kaminaki - Kalami:	1 hour
TOTAL TIME:	5 HOURS

Total ascent: 450 metres

REFRESHMENTS

Agni, Kentroma, Porta

Leave Kalami along the road which passes Lawrence Durrell's White House. The road makes a gently ascent; at the top, bear left, downhill. The track and cut-off paths take you down to a beach backed by cactus plants. At the shore, bear right and immediately look on the right for a wide path. A few steps on, bear left to pick up the coastal path. Soon you are at Agni Beach (1). Follow the beach in front of the tavernas, and through Nicolas Taverna. Pass the back of a big stone house, then look on the right for a path which leaves the coastal path and heads uphill. This cobbled way crosses a road and continues to Kentroma. At the first houses, your way briefly becomes a track then continues as an alley to the village square and the main road.

At the main road, turn left and then take the first road right. 100 metres uphill, care is required. As the road swings right, look for a concrete cistern on the left. The path (not the vague track bearing hard left) starts at its back corner, a cobbled, walled way. Ten minutes on, the path emerges onto a concrete road (2), which you follow uphill for 300 metres or so. Then look for signs marking a narrow path, which you take steeply uphill through unkempt olive groves. After the terrain levels out, keep right at a fork and keep going to an unmade road. Here turn left. A hundred metres on, take a track left, then immediately a path to the right. The path leads back onto the road again, and you continue briefly uphill to Porta. Meeting the road, you turn left.

Follow the road through Porta (two coffee bars). Keep to the road to a large stone building and church. Just after the church, look on the right for a footpath (3). This lovely path leads through olive groves and then forest, crosses a bridge and ascends to meet a track. Cross over the track and pick up the path again. Bear left at a track and left again on a path and continue to Santa.

Emerging into a large yard at the first houses, go between the buildings and head straight on to the asphalt road. Here turn left and follow this quiet road for some distance to the next main junction, where a road sign on the right (you see the back of it) indicates the way to Mengoulas. Take the rough road to this abandoned settlement.

Swing sharp left at the first houses, then right at the end of the terrace. Your way continues up steps and through little courtyards to the top of the settlement. Here a path leads you across a sheep pasture to join a track.

Here go left and head along the track, more or less on the level, to the next junction (4). Here bear left, and at the next junction - a short distance down - bear right. Proceed, more or less on the level again, until the sea comes into view. Now take the first track left. A couple of minutes on, the track swings left. Here look on the right among some low rocks for the start of a path (6). This path leads steeply down, passes a water cistern, swings around a gully and joins a new track which has obliterated its former course. Continue down the rough track as far as a long terrace of old houses bordering the track on the bank above. Directly opposite the near corner of the terrace, look for a path leaving the track (a bit of a scramble to get off the track). Five minutes down, the path reaches an unmade road, where you turn right. A hundred metres further down, you enter Katavolos.

At the village parking place, leave the road and take an alley between houses. You reach a paved area under a giant ilex tree, where you take the right hand path to meet the road again. Descend another hundred metres to an open area where the road bends sharply right. Here leave the road and take a track. A minute or so down, look for a path on the left. This cobbled way takes you down through olive groves. A little way down, after a stone bothy, take the first clear path left. Follow the path gently downhill to a road, where you go right. Turn off the road again down some steps at the first houses, where the way continues as a cobbled path descending to a road. Keep going downhill to the main coastal road (7) and turn left. 50 metres along, on the outside of a sharp corner, leave the main road again down a concrete ramp on the right. Immediately bear left and follow the twisting path down to a road. Turn left, downhill, and you soon emerge on the seashore at Kaminaki.

At the sea turn left and pick up the coastal footpath. A few minutes on, you reach a large pebble beach. Head straight on and leave the beach at the hotel swimming pool. Keep going through the pool bar area and across the facade of the hotel, after which you pick up the coastal path again. Follow the path, which is marked also in places with red paint arrows. The way is partly paved and sometimes is directed up steps behind new villas. Continue past a high stone faced holding wall, after which you soon reach Agni and the path on which you began the walk. Continue the same way back to Kalami.

Day 1

ASPROKAVOS
TO SPARTERA

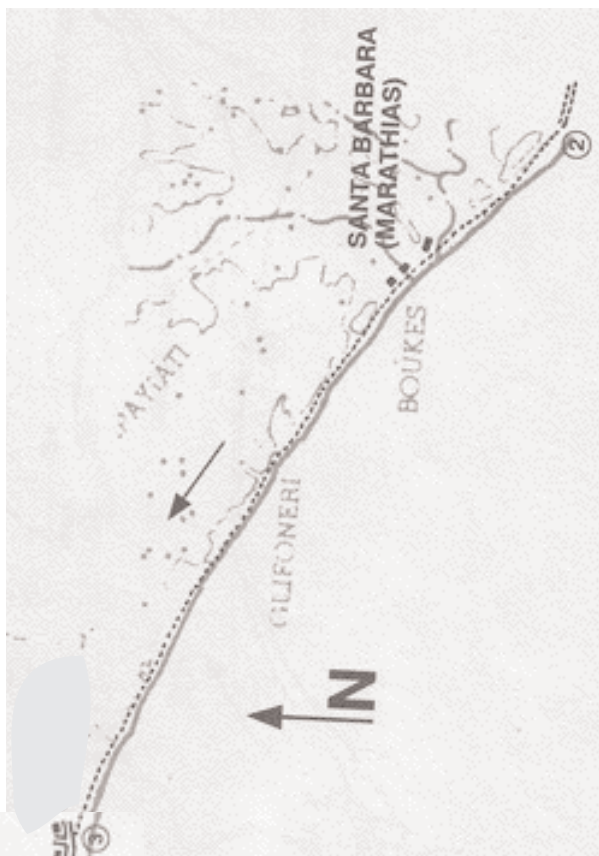


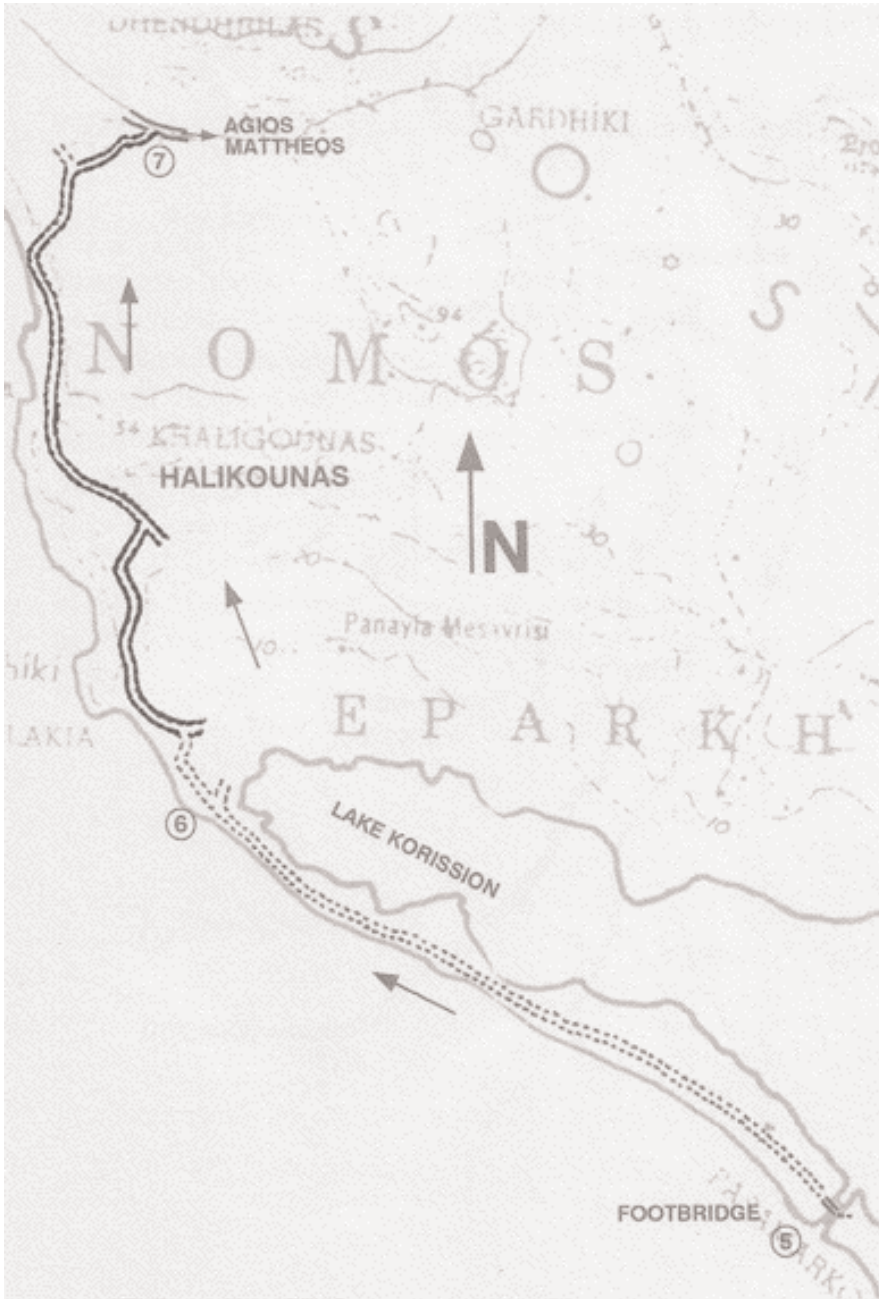
Day 2
SPARTERA
TO SANTA BARBARA

MAP FROM HERE
TO SANTA BARBARA
UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Day 3
SANTA BARBARA
TO PARAMONAS

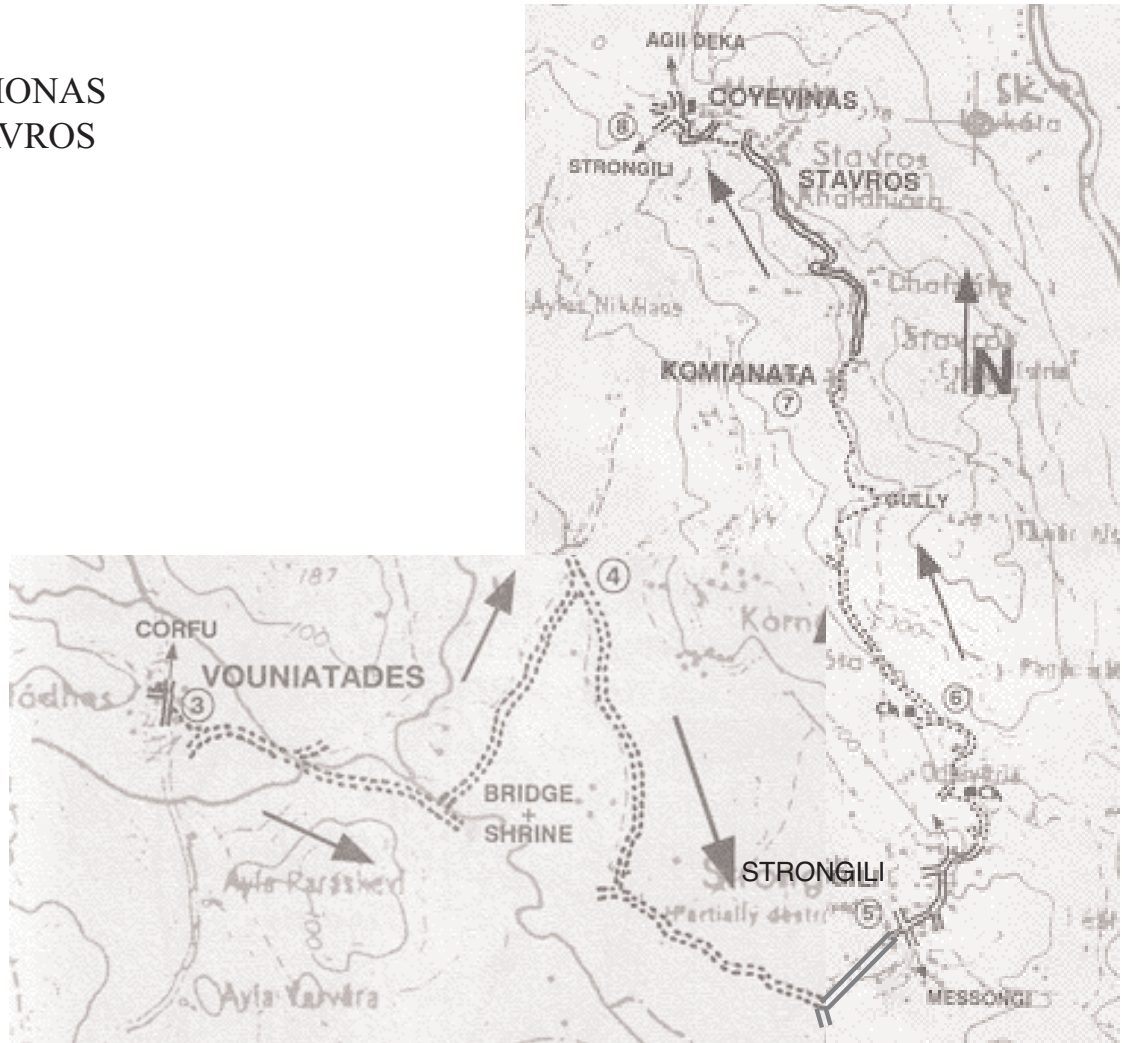




Day 3
SANTA BARBARA
TO PARAMONAS
CONTINUED

MAP FROM 7
TO PARAMONAS
IS MISSING

Day 4
PARAMONAS
TO STAVROS

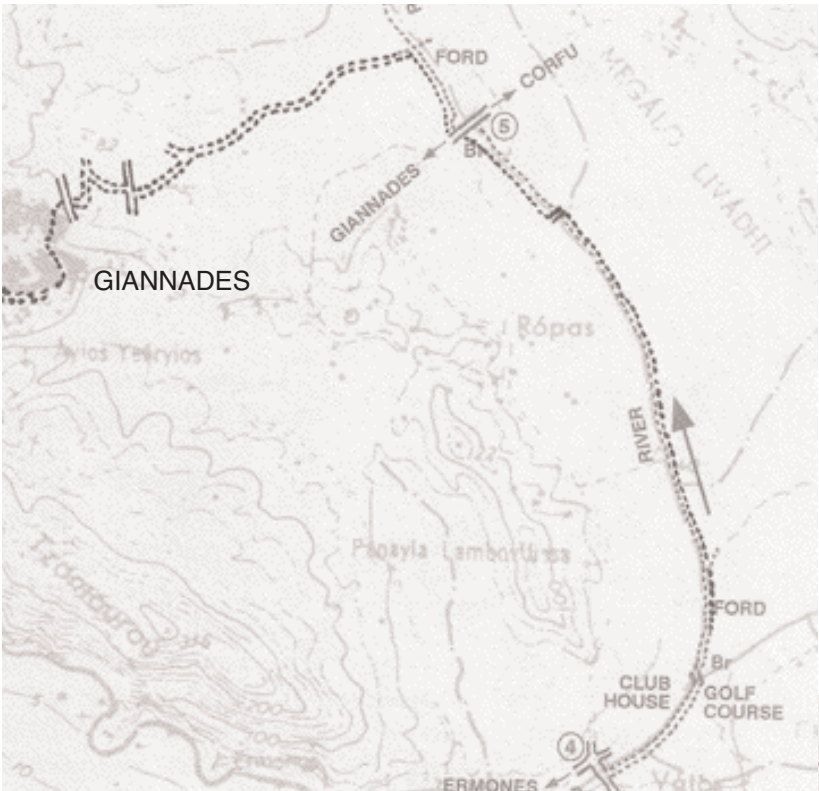


Day 5
STAVROS
TO PELEKAS



Day 6
**PELEKAS
TO LIAPADES**

MAP FROM GIANNADES
TO LIAPADES
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

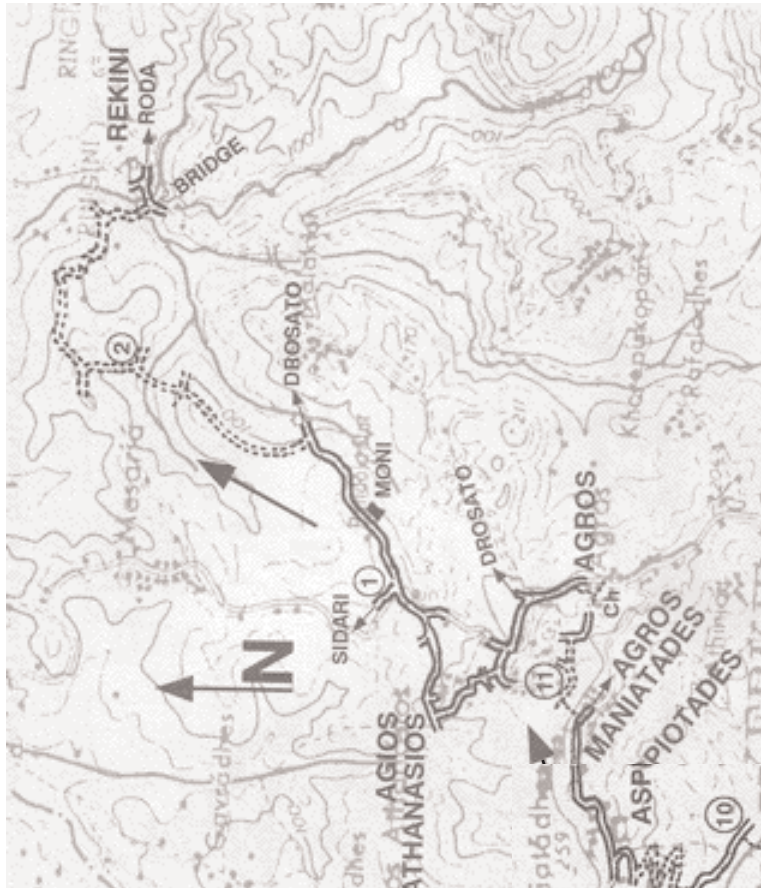


THIS MAP IS INVALID
FROM 4. PLEASE FOLLOW
THE WRITTEN GUIDE AND
THE NEW YELLOW WAY-
MARKS



Day 7
LIAPADES
TO AGIOS GEORGIOS

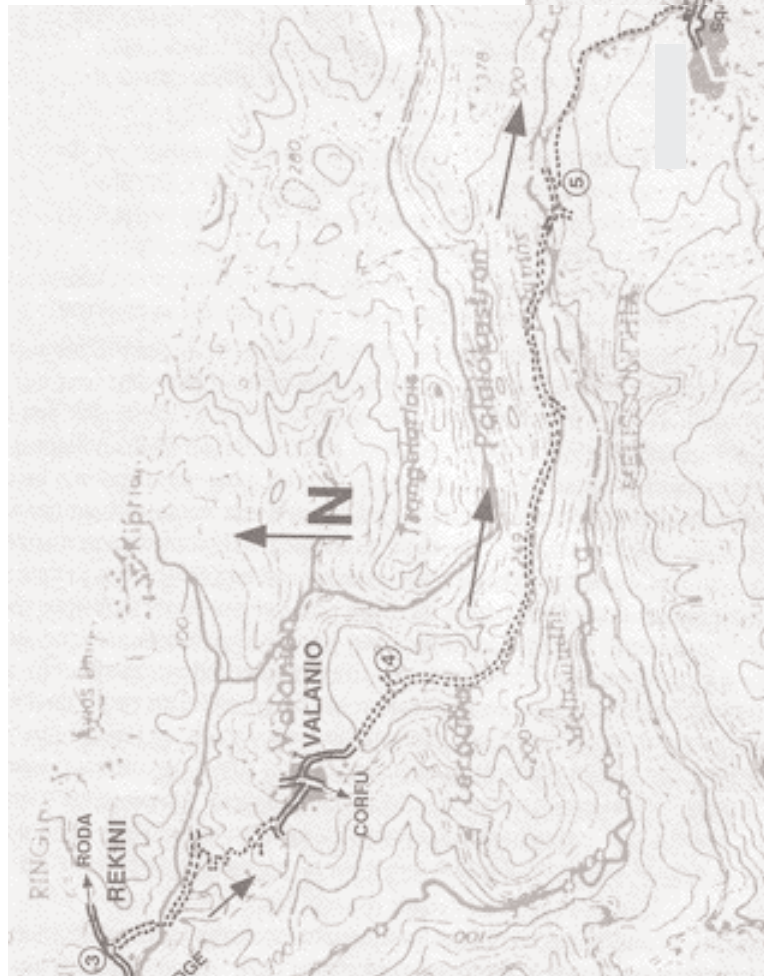




Day 8
AGIOS GEORGIOS
TO REKINI



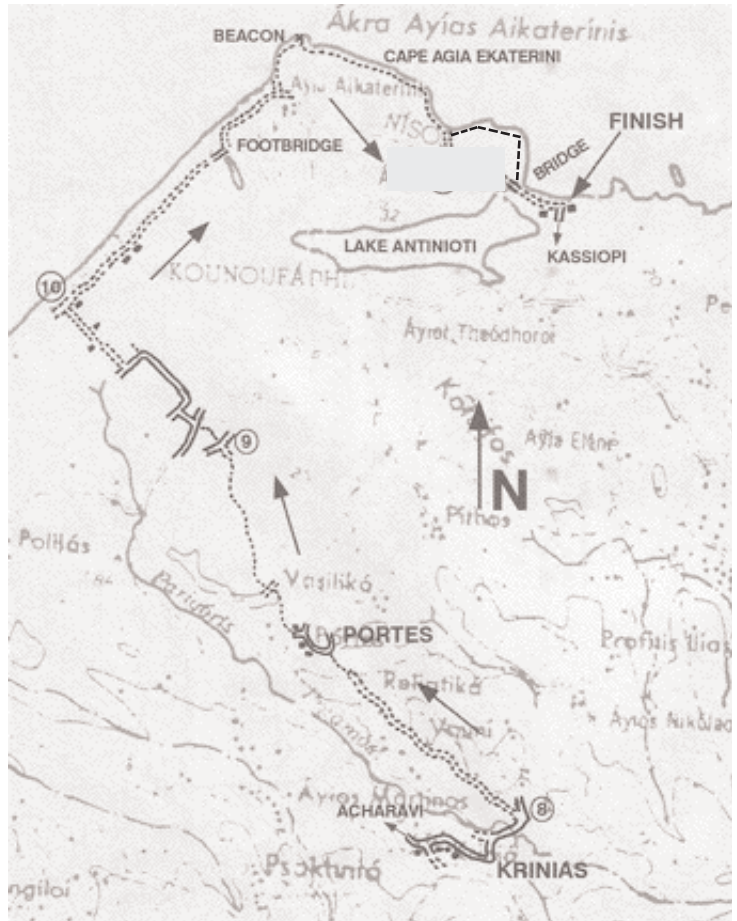
Day 9
REKINI
TO SPARTILLAS



Day 10
SPARTILLAS
TO AGIOS SPIRIDON



Day 10
 SPARTILLAS
 TO AGIOS SPIRIDON
 CONTINUED



Day 11
 THE NORTH EAST COAST
 & THE MOUNTAIN
 FLANKS

