

Turn right, leading in a few minutes to the little church of Agios Mamas (photo 5) from where the views are dramatic with both the coast and the 2000ft Mt Eros.

Backtrack to the 'T'-junction of the paths but instead of going to the left back down the way you came, go straight ahead, the path rising uphill again. After initial height gain the path tracks around the contours on the northern flank of Mt Eros as a very enjoyable kalderimi (photos 6 and 7). The path between Agios Mamas and Profitis Ilias might not be shown on the map but it is clear on the ground.

As you get higher up the kalderimi there are two options

- **Either** stay on the kalderimi which then drops down until you are overlooking the large monastery of Profitis Ilias and it's high-walled terraced fields (photo 8)
- **Or**, as an alternative, turn off the kalderimi uphill to the right and go to the top of Mt Eros. There is no path so you will need to find your own way up through the rocks and low vegetation (photo 9). The top is marked by a concrete trig point. However, there is a clear, waymarked 'red splotch' path coming down to Profitis Ilias. This option adds about an hour to the walk,

Drop down to the high level agricultural valley floor below the Profitis Ilias Monastery and then go diagonally up the monastery.

From here there is a very clear, long descent back to Hydra.

To do the walk this way round is suggested for two reasons:

- the considerable height gain is relatively painless
- the views are extremely dramatic



5 Agios Mamas with Mt Eros behind



6 Going up the path flanking Mt Eros



7 Looking back down the path



9 Making the way up Mt Eros



8 The monastery of Profitis Ilias

Walks on Hydra
by Barry Hankey



3 circular walks on Hydra

Walk 3 Hydra – Agios Mamas – Profitis Ilias Monastery - Hydra

Grade: strenuous

Duration: 5 hours

To start this walk head up through the maze of streets to the [Hotel Nefeli](#) in the ancient district of Kiaffa. From the harbour turn into the street between the clock tower and Tassos Cafe Bar. After a few metres come to a fork in the road, with a taverna called Ostria, on the right and a butcher's shop in the middle. Take the street to the right of the butcher's passing in front of the hairdresser and go up the short flight of steps, then turn left. From here you will see the yellow signs "Nefeli". Continue up this street until you come to a phone booth then turn right, follow the street up past the bench until you come to a very small square with a statue, then turn left into Tzamadou Street. The Nefeli is a little further up on the left – a great place to stay, with great views.

Continue uphill bearing right, through ancient stone arches (photo 1) until you get to T-junction at the 'Top Road' (photo 2) where you turn right (the photo is looking left from the junction).

Keep going along the Top Road which follows the contour, until you come to a path off the left – leading to the church with the ochre-and-blue bell tower, (photo 3). If you start going distinctly downhill you have missed the turning.

Just to the left of the bell tower in the photo is the start of the path onto the open mountainside. The path goes up left above a dry streambed, which is full of donkey sheds (photo 4). At the top of the donkey sheds the path crosses the streambed bearing right and on up the mountainside. Continue on up the path.

The path is obvious and considerable height is gained comfortably without any steep gradients. The landscape and the views down to the coast are remarkable. Among other views is the one down to Vlychos and its 17th Century stone bridge (photo 4 of Walk 1)

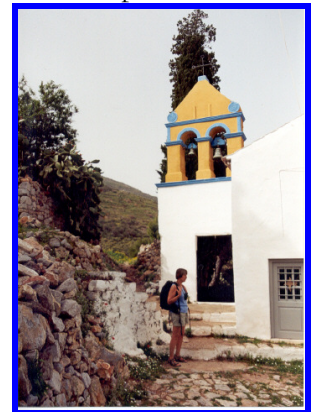
Much of this path is across open mountainside. There is a drop down into a small valley and as you rise up you go into pine woodland. Continue upwards, through a col, until you come to the main ridge of the island which is marked by a signpost in Greek and English. From here there are glimpses through the trees down to the south coast of the island a thousand feet below.



1 The arches (looking down)



2 The Top Road



3 The Urban Fringe



4 Donkey sheds