

Walk 1 – Emborios to Mandraki via lava bubble and Evangelistra

Nisyros

START POINT: Emborios bus stop

GRADE Moderate

TIME: 2 + 1 hours

This walk is from the spectacularly located village of Emborios, teetering on the rim of the caldera of the volcano, to the monastery of Evangelistra (Part 1) and then back down to Mandraki (Part 2). The top section can only be described as awe-inspiring. It traverses around the inside edge of the rim of the 'Laki' caldera and passes a massive lava bubble before rising to a col and crossing to skirt the rim of the 'Kato Laki' caldera and then dropping down to Evangelistra. The walk can be done in either direction but starting in Emborios it is almost entirely downhill, gives the most spectacular views, and is most convenient for catching the bus.

- From the square below Emborio where the bus from Mandraki turns around^{ref}, follow the broad concrete path uphill

N 36° 36' 11.1"
E 27° 10' 41.2"

- After about 30 metres the path narrows, turns sharp left and then right.(1) Follow it around into the small village square with the 'Balcony Taverna' on the left^{ref} which has dramatic views of the caldera far below.

N 36° 36' 11.4"
E 27° 10' 38.8"

height: 320 metres

- Go through the arches(2) and follow the white-painted concrete path uphill through the village to white-painted steps going up to the left^{ref} (3). Turn left up the steps and go steeply upwards between whitewashed walls (4)

N 36° 36' 13.2"
E 27° 10' 36.9"

- Follow the steps to a 'T' junction^{ref} and turn left up yet more white-painted concrete steps, bending around to the right (5). Go through a white painted stone arch (6) into the remains of the old castle and bear round left to the picturesque 13th Century church of Taxiarchis on the left at the end of the concreted section of the path (7), the second highest point on the walk.

height: 355 metres

- Go straight ahead past the church onto a rough stone path which very soon turns to the left and starts to drop downhill^{ref}.

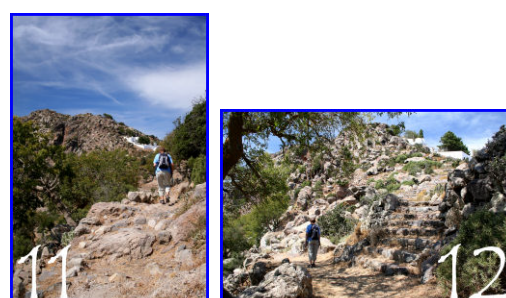
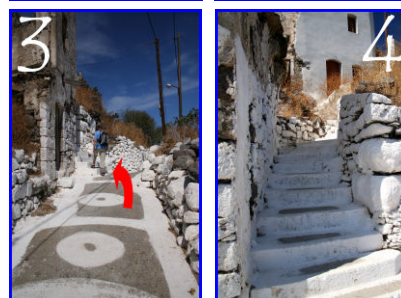
N 36° 36' 13.5"
E 27° 10' 33.3"

- Drop down between ancient stone walls and derelict buildings(8) to a 'T' junction^{ref}. Turn left(9), continuing on a level between derelict buildings and soon out of the village (10)

N 36° 36' 14.8"
E 27° 10' 32.3"

- Come onto a clear path across the top of steeply terraced fields dropping down into the caldera and heading towards the church of Agios Athanasios standing out white on the rocky shoulder of the hill (11). The path goes down and then up again to pass stone steps on the right leading up to the church^{ref}. (12)

N 36° 36' 18.0"
E 27° 10' 20.5"



- ⊕ Continue on the path which is for the most part clearly defined and marked by red dots, blue splodges and blue arrows. It drops down slightly and continues along the inside of the rim of the caldera, and comes to the dramatic lava bubble towering upwards from the path about 25–35 metres.^{ref} (13) height: 330 metres N 36° 36' 15.4"
E 27° 10' 11.7"



- ⊕ Continue along the clear path and pass the small circular opening of a well preserved sterna next to a cave entrance^{ref} (14) after which the path starts to go more steeply uphill, by now becoming more broken but still clear and marked. N 36° 36' 14.8"
E 27° 10' 05.9"



- ⊕ After a short distance climbing uphill the path goes up a few rough stone steps and rises to its highest point in a col at the rim of the main 'Laki' caldera^{ref} (15) height: 370 metres

- ⊕ From the col the view changes dramatically, now looking down to the harbour at Mandraki and over the Aegean towards the pumice-island of Yiali and beyond that to Kos(16). The nature of the path also changes, still clear but between low banks and in places loose pumice. Ignore a path off to the right and continue in the general direction of the distant harbour until the path starts to follow the top edge of the stone wall of a field terrace.



- ⊕ Follow the path as it bends around to the left on the top of the wall until it drops down to the right off the terrace^{ref} through stunted trees to cross a broad field, trending leftward.(17) N 36° 36' 14.1"
E 27° 09' 51.4"



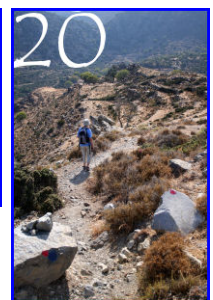
- ⊕ Follow the footpath to a slab of rock with a blue arrow^{ref} (18) Go straight ahead, reaching the rim of the now dormant 'Kato Laki' caldera. Drop down through the terrace, and follow the easy and spectacular path trending downhill to the right for a short way before turning right to follow along the top of the stone wall of field terraces high on the rim of the caldera N 36° 36' 13.8"
E 27° 09' 47.2"



- ⊕ The path is through an ancient landscape with the stone walls of narrow field terraces all around, many with houses built under them. One such offering a good place to sit for lunch or to take in the view is up to the right^{ref} (19) N 36° 36' 14.0"
E 27° 09' 40.7"



- ⊕ After a while the path starts to drop down diagonally through the terraces, with red dots and large blue splodge at the point where it does so.^{ref} (20) N 36° 36' 13.0"
E 27° 09' 34.8"



- ⊕ The path is clearly marked with dots as it gradually loses height and then comes to an agricultural enclosure on the right surrounded by a wire fence^{ref}. Follow the path past the enclosure, with a stone wall on the left, and pass an underground church just beyond. N 36° 36' 10.1"
E 27° 09' 25.6"

- ⊕ Continue along the clear and well marked path which bears sharply to the right just after a second old church, and then meets another path coming in from the right ^{ref}. N 36° 36' 08.8"
E 27° 09' 22.7"

- ⊕ Continue straight ahead, the path becoming much broader, turning into a rough track^{ref} N 36° 36' 05.8"
E 27° 09' 15.1"

- ⊕ Follow this to a sign-posted T junction at which turn right the few metres to the monastery of Evangelistra^{ref} with its large shady tree, the first significant shade since leaving Emborios(21) height: 250 metres



Part 2 – Evangelistra to Mandraki

Nisyros



START POINT: Evangelistra monastery

GRADE Easy

TIME: 1 hour

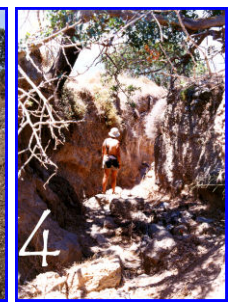
This is not generally regarded as a walk in itself but is the completion of a number of other walks to take you back down to Mandraki and is an attractive alternative to walking back down the road. The views are dramatic down to the harbour and across to Yiali and Kos. On an old kalderimi, it is very varied with sections reminiscent of 'sunken ways' in Britain but cut into high banks of pumice, and other sections meandering between ancient walls of terraced fields.

- Leaving the shade of the tree at Evangelistra follow the concrete road until the first sharp bend to the right^{ref} (1)

N 36° 36' 17.7"
E 27° 08' 43.4"



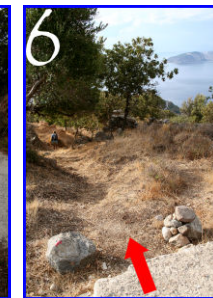
- Straight ahead is the start of a series footpaths which cut off the bends and lead to Mandraki avoiding the road. At this point the path drops steeply down to the left, and goes into a 'sunken way' on loose pumice. (2)



- After a short distance it emerges into an open area where another, broader path crosses at right-angles. (3) Continue straight ahead and drop down between vertical pumice banks 3-4 metres high. (4)

- Rejoin the road again at another sharp bend to the right^{ref} (5) and go straight across the bend to the next section of path which leaves the road at a level (6)

N 36° 36' 18.6"
E 27° 08' 40.6"

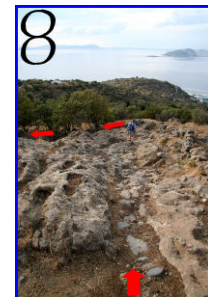


- Follow the path a short way to rejoin the road^{ref}. The next section of path begins at the point of a hairpin bend. The path turns right (7) and runs parallel to the road for a few yards before dropping away to the left over a rocky outcrop (8) and then becomes a rough-paved path between stone walls.

N 36° 36' 21.5"
E 27° 08' 36.4"

- The path soon reaches a broad stone-paved access to a gated agricultural enclosure and then the road^{ref}.

N 36° 36' 23.9"
E 27° 08' 30.3"

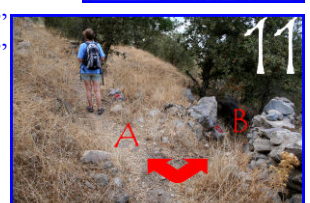


- Go straight across onto path which turns right (9) and runs level and parallel to the road for about 200 metres before dropping away sharply to the left (10) soon to run between stone walls. This is a long section of path, running between terraced fields.



- Eventually reach a fork in the path^{ref} (11), marked by red spots, where there is a choice, either

N 36° 36' 34.7"
E 27° 08' 23.7"



A go right to come out by the harbour or

B go left to come out in the centre of Mandraki

⊕ **A** to get to the harbour

At the fork in the path go steeply down to the right into a small valley overhung with trees. Follow it down a short distance until it comes out at a hairpin bend in the road. Turn right and go downhill until it joins the main coast road just behind the harbour.

⊕ **B** to get to the centre of Mandraki

At the fork in the path take the straight ahead/left hand option, continuing on a level, and follow the path between stone walls. Just after a renovated stone building come to another fork in the path^{ref}(12).

N 36° 36' 36.3"
E 27° 08' 18.0"



⊕ At the fork don't go straight ahead, but turn sharply to the right on a section of path elevated above the adjoining fields. Continue on the path as it meanders between the fields, some with ancient walls made of large rounded volcanic stones, in places overhung by huge prickly pear cacti.

⊕ The final section of the path goes past large houses at the 'suburban' edge of Mandraki on the right, with a stone wall on the left, before it rejoins the road^{ref}.

N 36° 36' 32.4"
E 27° 08' 01.4"



⊕ At the road turn right and follow it as it bears around to the right. Just after the bend is a school on the left. Immediately after this, turn left down a steep urban-paved foot-path. At the T junction at the bottom turn left to go into the main town square, or right to go the the Hotel Porfirys and past that to 'Heroes' Square on the seafront.

Notes of caution – Emborios–Evangelistra–Mandraki

The walk is mostly downhill but it is fairly long and the section to Evangelistra is largely without shade. So, like all walks in Greece, in the height of summer it can cause dehydration. It is therefore important to set a comfortable pace and to carry plenty water for your needs.

Be careful not to be attacked by the prickly pear cacti on the lower section of the path, both overhead and underfoot

Though most of the walk is fairly easy-going under-foot, much of it is on broken, rocky ground, some of it on loose pumice. Most people would therefore choose to wear boots or walking shoes. However, it can be done comfortably and safely in walking sandals such as Teva or Merrell. Urban sandals, flip-flops and slip-on shoes are definitely NOT suitable footwear.

GPS references are given using the common GPS default datum WGS 84 (World Geodetic System 1984) – degrees, minutes and seconds. The final digit is included for completeness but is shown in grey to indicate that it cannot be relied upon as accurate due to the degrading of the satellite data.

Other Walks via Evangelistra

Walk 3: Nikia to Mandraki via caldera

Walk 4: Emborios to Mandraki via caldera

Walk 5: Mandraki to Oros Diavatis

Walk Option 1: to Nifios

..... additional to Walks 3 and 4

Walk Option 2: to Oros Diavatis

..... additional to Walks 1, 3 and 4



Walks on Nisyros
By Barry Hankey