

# Walk 3 – Nikia to Mandraki via the caldera and Evangelistra

Nisyros

START POINT: Nikia bus stop

GRADE Moderate

TIME: 2 + 1 + 1 hours

This walk is from the spectacularly located village of Nikia on the rim of the volcano, down a restored kalderimi to the floor of the 'Laki' caldera with an option to visit the craters before following a mountain path to a small deserted settlement in a col and then dropping down to the floor of the dormant 'Kato Laki' caldera with a short climb to the monastery of Evangelistra (Part 1) and then finally back down to Mandraki (Part 2). There is a further option of walking up to the deserted settlement of Nifios dating back to Mycean times. (Walk option 1)

- From the bus terminus/car park in Nikia<sup>ref</sup>,  
(bottom left of title picture) turn right down broad white painted concrete steps and at the T junction turn right (1).

- Continue downhill on the concrete path until becomes a dirt path and turn left<sup>ref</sup>(2) onto a recently restored kalderimi, clear and well marked, zig-zagging down the inside of the caldera(3), with panoramic views of the craters, the road and the caldera route options(4)

- As it nears the bottom, the path crosses a shallow gully strewn with sulphurous rocks, and then drops down into it(5). The gully becomes narrow and steep sided, the path rounds a large rock(6) and then in a few yards becomes blocked by debris, at which point climb

- out of it to the right.<sup>ref</sup> Follow the line of the dry watercourse as it heads towards buildings including an old church<sup>ref</sup>(7) from where there are 3 options as shown in (4)

- A head towards the road and bear left to visit the crater and taverna, for which allow at least an hour, and then backtrack to head north on the road

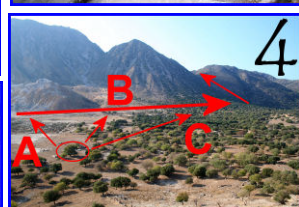
B head towards the road and turn right to get to the path to Evangelistra

C follow footpaths through the woodland bearing right (NW) to meet the road further on. In all cases, eventually follow the road northwards to a rough but clear footpath up to the left signed to

Evangelistra, Mandraki and Nifios<sup>ref</sup>(8) height: 115 metres

- The path becomes increasingly loose and steep as it goes uphill(9 +10). In about half an hour it becomes stone-paved as it passes through the remains of an ancient settlement in the col<sup>ref</sup>(11) with dwellings beneath terraced fields and a tiny church hidden at the back of one dwelling built into the rocks.

- Continue rising upwards on the path on the mountain flank beyond the top of the col and reach the path to Nifios going steeply off up to the left marked by spots, arrows and a red 'N'<sup>ref</sup>(12). height: 335 metres





- ⊕ At this point choose whether to continue direct to Evangelistra (about 45 minutes from here plus 1 hour to Mandraki) or to divert up to Nifios, for which allow at least another hour (Walk Option 1).
- ⊕ For Evangelistra, continue upwards for a short distance to the highest point on the path<sup>ref</sup> on the flank of Oros Diavatis height: 340 metres N 36° 35' 50.2"  
E 27° 09' 43.5"  
with views down to the Kato Laki caldera far below, before gradually descending on an easy path (13) to the caldera floor.
- ⊕ The path reaches the floor of the Kato Laki caldera at a point crossed by a broad path along the length of the valley<sup>ref</sup>. Go straight ahead height: 225 metres N 36° 35' 59.3"  
E 27° 09' 14.6"  
across the valley path(14). If you have time and enjoy exploring ancient cultural and geological landscapes, turn right to explore the caldera, but return to the same point.
- ⊕ Follow the path first straight on and then up to the left as it rises up terraces, passing the covered opening of a cistern. As the short climb out of the caldera finishes<sup>ref</sup>, there is a sharp right turn onto a broad dirt path going slightly downhill. Follow this as it bends round in a few yards to the large shady tree at Evangelistra(15), the First significant shade on the walk so far and a good place to sit before the walk down to Mandraki (Part 2).



### Notes of caution: Nikia – Evangelistra

The walk from the floor of the caldera to the col is a long pull and can be very hot especially as in the steep sided valley there can be little by way of cooling breeze. Like all walks in Greece, in the height of summer it can be tiring and cause dehydration. It is therefore important to set a comfortable pace, particularly on the uphill section, and to keep enough water in reserve for your needs.

Most of the walk is fairly easy-going underfoot, some of it on renovated stone paved kalderimia. However much of the climb up from the floor of the caldera to the col is loose stone. Many people might therefore choose to wear boots or walking shoes. However, it can be done quite comfortably and safely in walking sandals such as Teva or Merrell. Urban sandals, flip-flops and slip-on shoes are 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 on Nisyros

Walk 1: Emborios to Mandraki via bubble  
 Walk 4: Emborios to Mandraki via caldera  
 Walk 5: Mandraki to Oros Diavatis  
 Walk 6: Nikia to Mandraki via Stavros  
 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

# 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.

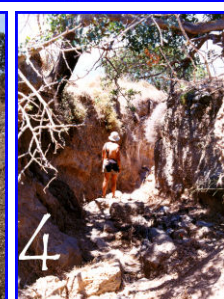
- ⊕ Leaving the shade of the tree at Evangelistra follow the concrete road until the first sharp bend to the right<sup>ref</sup> (1)

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)

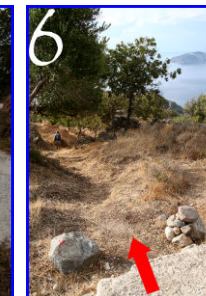


- ⊕ Rejoin the road again at another sharp bend to the right<sup>ref</sup> (5) and go straight across the bend to the next section of path which leaves the road at a level (6)

N 36° 36' 18.6"  
E 27° 08' 40.6"

- ⊕ Follow the path a short way to rejoin the road<sup>ref</sup>. 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"

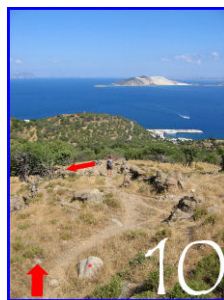


- ⊕ The path soon reaches a broad stone-paved access to a gated agricultural enclosure and then the road<sup>ref</sup>.

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



- ⊕ Eventually reach a fork in the path<sup>ref</sup> (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<sup>ref</sup>(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<sup>ref</sup>.

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 – Evangelistra–Mandraki

This part of the walk is entirely downhill with significant parts in the shade of trees. However, at the end of a longer walk and with little by way of breeze, like all walks in Greece, in the height of summer it can be tiring and cause dehydration. It is therefore important to set a comfortable pace and to keep enough water in reserve 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, parts of it are 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.

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### Other walks via Evangelistra

Walk 1: Emborios to Mandraki via bubble

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



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