

Walk option 1 – to Nyfios

Nisyros

START POINT: path from caldera to Evangelistra

GRADE: Moderate

TIME : 1 hour +

This an optional addition to walks to Mandraki from Embrios or Nikia via the Laki caldera and Evangelistra (Walks 3 and 4). Starting from close to the high point of main path to Evangelistra a path climbs steeply up to the ancient settlement of Nyfios, considered to date back to the Minoans about 1500 BC. At the entrance to the high-level valley are rock-carved horns, thought to indicate an ancient Cretan sanctuary, and a complex of dwellings and a church built into the rocks. Within the valley is a large rock with beam ends cut out, a cave-church with carved rock pillar, and at the far end, views into the craters far below. Allow at least an hour for the additional walk and exploration.

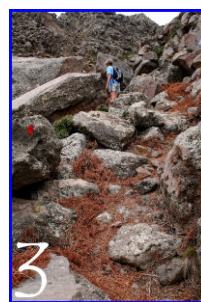
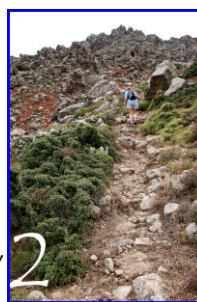
- ⊕ On the path from the caldera floor to Evangelistra, beyond the settlement in the col and just before reaching the highest point of the path, the path to Nifios goes steeply off up to the left marked by spots, arrows and a large red painted letter 'N'^{ref(1)}.

height: 335 metres

N 36° 35' 49.3"
E 27° 09' 44.7"



- ⊕ Follow the narrow, rocky path steeply upwards, first clearly defined (2), then less so (3), and finally scrambling around rocks (4), but always well marked with red and blue spots and, periodically, the letter 'N'.



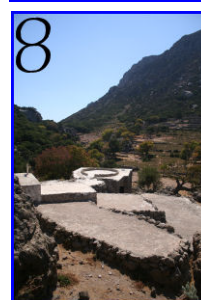
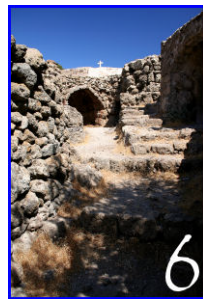
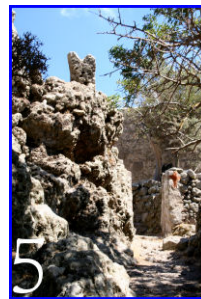
- ⊕ After 15-20 minutes steeply uphill the path levels out, curves left and comes to the 'horns of consecration' carved in a 4 metre high pock-marked rock at the entrance to the Nifios settlement^{ref(5)}

height: 410 metres

N 36° 35' 40.8"
E 27° 09' 42.8"

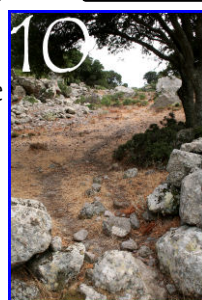
- ⊕ Turn left to get into the main settlement (6), a complex of dwellings and a church built into the rocks (7) overlooking a small valley flanked by Oros Diavatis towering above (8)

- ⊕ To explore the valley turn right at the 'horns of consecration' and follow the path down (9) into the fields, marked by cairns and red spots. Continue to follow the path rising up beyond the fields (10) to reach a viewpoint^{ref(11)} looking straight down into the Polyvotis crater and beyond that the larger Stefanos crater



N 36° 35' 28.0"
E 27° 09' 43.0"

height: 425 metres



- ⊕ Things to look out for in the valley include the remains of an ancient dwelling marked by a large rock with square cut holes for beam ends and opposite that a low white-painted door into cave (12) with a carved rock pillar and votive alcoves.



Retrace your steps to the main Nyfios settlement and then back down to the path to Evangelistra, and turn left.

Walks on Nisyros
By Barry Hankey