

Walk 1 - to Viewpoint above Horio

Symì



START POINT: Lefteris's Kafenion

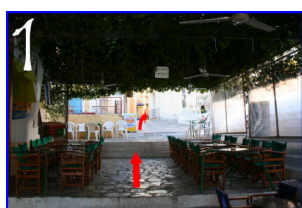
GRADE easy

TIME: 30 minutes each way

This is a walk from the top of the Kali Strata in Horio along the narrow alleys of the old village up to what is probably the best Viewpoint on the island ... If not in Greece!! It is a short, easy walk with great payback for effort, ideal for the cool of the early morning or evening when the light is also best for photographing the truly gob-smacking views down into the harbour and over Horio to Pedi Bay and Asia Minor beyond. It is also the start for a number of other more strenuous walks.

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE WALK ON SYMI, THIS SHOULD BE IT!!!

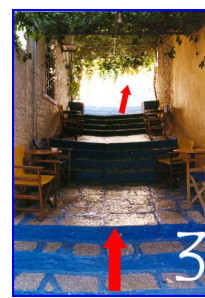
Navigation is a matter of negotiating the maze of narrow, labyrinthine, un-named alleys where GPS is of limited value, so photos of key points are used instead.



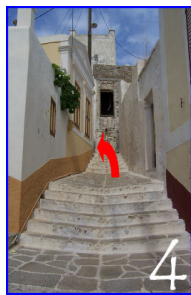
Starting from Lefteris's Kafenion (1) just below the last steps at the top of the Kali Strata continue uphill to the 'Glaros' Taverna on the left (2)



Opposite the 'Glaros' take the blue-edged steps steeply up to the right (3)



at the 'T' junction at the top turn left (4) and continue along the narrow alley



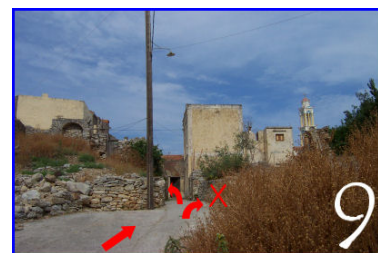
After about 30 metres, at a wooden electricity pole, the alley kinks sharply to the left and down one step, then continues in the same direction.(5) DO NOT go up the steps to the right.



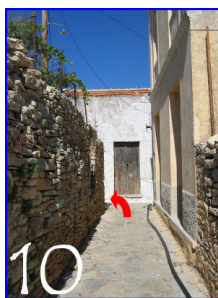
Soon, at another wooden pole and marble steps up to the right, the alley kinks left again up one step. Continue in the same direction NOT left towards the shop (6)



Continue along the alley which becomes very narrow (7), then turns right and goes up 6 steps onto a broad path through a derelict open area (8)



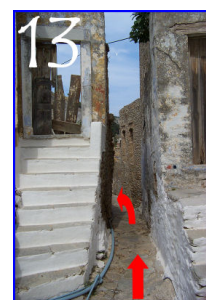
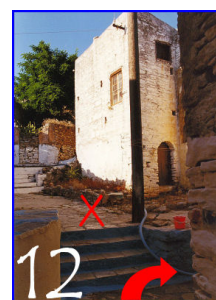
.....the 'T' junction by an old wooden door and turn left (10)



Follow the narrow alley, bearing right at the side of a small shop (food and drink) and up one step (11)



Follow the obvious broad path through this area(9). DO NOT turn right at the coloured dots but continue 10 metres to



A few metres after the shop, straight ahead are 4 steps going up to a wooden electricity pole (12) DO NOT go up the steps but instead turn sharp right down a very narrow alley between two flights of steps up to derelict doorways (13)

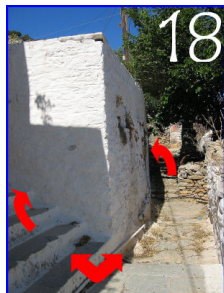
... Follow this narrow alley downhill (no steps). After a few twists and turns it crosses the dry stream bed of the Kataraktis(14) which first drops away to the right through a slit in a low wall and then, after a few metres as part of the alley, rises up to the left (15). At this point follow the blue-edged steps up to the right (16)



Continue up a series of steps, about 30 in all, finally going up to a church with a 'ship's mast' flag-pole, characteristic on Symi (17)



With a whitewashed wall and the church high above on the left EITHER turn left up broad steps into a small square and then right towards the alley at far end of it OR continue along the alley up to the same point (18) Note the black and white pebbled 'hochlachi' courtyard of the church.



from the far end of the small square continue uphill along the narrow alley (photo 19). At the point marked with 'X' (photos 19 and 20) DO NOT follow the main alley which turns sharply to the right, broadens and starts to drop downhill but continue straight ahead up wide steps turning first to the left and then right around a house with an elevated terrace (photo 20).



Follow the alley until it becomes an increasingly rural path out of the town, passing the last few buildings on the left (photo 21)



Continue uphill and after a few of hundred yards, as the built-up area is left behind, there is a small tree on the right (photo 22)(GPS 01). This is possibly the finest viewpoint on Symi looking straight down into Yialos, Horio, Pedi and Asia Minor beyond.



GPS 01
N 36° 36' 38.3"
E 27° 50' 00.6"

NOTES OF CAUTION

With the exception of the final section which is on a kalderimi – a somewhat crumbling paved donkey path – (photo 22) this walk is on paved alleys in the old village. Most footwear suitable for walking is therefore appropriate – boots, shoes, trainers or sandals.

It is a short walk but 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 sufficient water for your needs.

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.



Walks on Symi

By Barry Hankey

This walk is the start of a number of other walks.
Walk 2: Horio to Agios Vasilios
Walk 3: Horio to Agios Emilianos
Walk 4: Horio to Nanou