

Walk 3 – to Agios Emilianos

Symi



START POINT: Lefteris's Kafenion

GRADE moderate

TIME: 4 hours each way

This walk from the top of the Kali Strata in Horio, up to what is probably the best Viewpoint on the island (Walk 1) continues on old kalderimia and footpaths across the island to the monastery of Agios Emilianos set on a tiny islet in Skoumisa Bay on Symi's West Coast. It takes in very varied landscapes and, being partly in juniper woodland, it offers more shade than some. Walking both ways can be long and tiring, particularly in a Symi heat wave so one option is to do the walk one-way having previously arranged with one of the regular round-the-island boat trips which calls in at the monastery for the return to Yialos.



Starting from Lefteris's Kafenion (1) just below the last steps at the top of the Kali Strata, follow the directions for [Walk 1](#) up to the small tree and the trig point at the Viewpoint above Horio (2)^{ref}

N 36° 36' 38.3"
E 27° 50' 00.6"

height: 180 metres



N 36° 36' 37.8"
E 27° 49' 59.6"

⊕ continue uphill and almost immediately go through a chain-link gate onto the open mountain and within a few metres to a fork in the kalderimi^{ref}. Take the 'straight-ahead' option rather than going up to the left.

⊕ Follow the easy upward gradient of the rocky kalderimi (3) to the small church of Ag Paraskevi above to the left (4), with a shady courtyard under a spreading oak tree^{ref}

N 36° 36' 29.9"
E 27° 49' 41.5"

height: 217 metres



N 36° 36' 28.2"
E 27° 49' 35.8"

⊕ From Ag Paraskevi the kalderimi has been newly rough-paved with stone. Continue on this, passing a newly built house on the left with extensive newly enclosed terraced fields and then passing a dirt path off to the right^{ref}.

⊕ continue on the paved kalderimi, more steeply, through a series of hairpin bends up to the tarmac road opposite the monastery enclosure of Mihail Periviotis^{ref}

N 36° 36' 24.1"
E 27° 49' 24.4"

height: 274 metres

⊕ at Mihail Periviotis turn right along the tarmac for a few yards and at the end of the monastery enclosure^{ref} turn LEFT onto a concrete road.

N 36° 36' 23.8"
E 27° 49' 23.0"

⊕ after a short while going uphill at an easy gradient the concrete road forks; go right, continuing uphill; DO NOT go downhill to the left towards 'Lower' Ksissos, a small rural community, though keep an eye open for little owls.

⊕ as the uphill climb begins to lessen turn left onto a dirt track^{ref} going slightly downhill while the concrete road continues uphill into the higher part of the small rural settlement – 'Upper' Ksissos

N 36° 36' 19.7"
E 27° 49' 10.2"

⊕ follow this track, with 'Upper' Ksissos, up to the right; At the end of the settlement the dirt track kinks sharply around and uphill to the left. DO NOT follow it. Instead continue straight ahead onto rocky ground and pick up a faint path marked by red blobs^{ref}, trending off to the left over the ridge-line of the col.

N 36° 36' 17.1"
E 27° 48' 57.4"

⊕ the path picks its way through the rocks, very faint in places but identifiable by periodic red blobs, the occasional small cairn, and by rocks polished from use.

⊕ the path becomes increasingly clear as the geology changes, rock strewn ground with oregano, thyme and sage giving way to scrubby juniper woodland^{ref}; from here the path is clear and obvious for a good way.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 18.4" |
| E | 27° | 48' | 28.6" |

⊕ the path begins to bear around the left as it reaches the col with an old settlement off to the right (5); at one point red arrows on a rock indicate that the path splits; keep left alongside a low stone wall skirting the edge of the now disused fields (6)^{ref}; DO NOT take the path to the right into the settlement (other than to have a look around); keep an eye open for tortoises around here.



| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 15.5" |
| E | 27° | 48' | 11.6" |



⊕ the path continues to bear around to the left, becomes scrubby woodland again and soon enters the juniper forest proper with good stretches of shade.

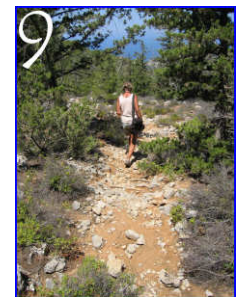
⊕ after a while the path reaches Agios Ioannis Theologos (8)^{ref} where there is good, cool shade, water in the cistern behind, and views through the trees to Ag Emilianos. As with most cisterns, the water is delicious in Spring but a bit low and warming up by September.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 35' | 52.9" |
| E | 27° | 47' | 45.4" |



⊕ on leaving the monastery take care to get back on the 'through path' rather than one of the paths into nearby walled fields. The path runs parallel to the front wall surrounding the monastery and a few yards slightly downhill from it.

⊕ the path continues through the juniper forest and is mostly clearly defined (9), with a few red spots to assist. However, there are other paths in the forest and care is needed to avoid following these. In some places a line of stones has been put across the path to indicate not to continue straight ahead for the Emilianos route



⊕ in particular, soon after leaving Agios Ioannis Theologos, the path forks^{ref} with the most obvious path keeping at the same level barred by a line of stones. DO NOT take this path. Instead bear right on a narrower path going steeply downhill (10)

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|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 35' | 49.5" |
| E | 27° | 47' | 40.9" |



⊕ continue going downhill on a winding, sometimes unclear, path over rocky ground in the trees. After about another 10-15 minutes the path forks^{ref} again - bear right and go steeply downhill

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 35' | 53.7" |
| E | 27° | 47' | 22.6" |



⊕ after another 10-15 minutes the path emerges from the juniper forest^{ref} and is clearly visible ahead snaking diagonally down the open hillside after a short steeper section of loose, broken ground (11), heading towards terraced fields.

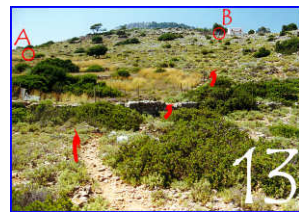
| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 03.0" |
| E | 27° | 47' | 01.0" |

⊕ there is a small beach with a hut and farming enclosures down to the right. DO NOT take any of the minor footpaths going down to the beach if you are heading for Ag Emilianos, though you might wish to go down there for its own sake. One of these paths off to the right is signed by a red arrow^{ref} but keep straight ahead for Ag Emilianos.

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|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 00.3" |
| E | 27° | 46' | 53.3" |



⊕ continue along the path as it goes into a small, shallow valley with a small monastery perched on top of a small hillock up to the right and terraced fields and a couple of small dwellings ahead. Reach a point where the path divides going off in a number of directions^{ref}. Bear downwards to the right into the dip of the valley floor and towards a drystone wall across the head of the valley floor with the wire fence of the enclosed terraced fields on top (13).



| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 01.9" |
| E | 27° | 46' | 41.9" |

⊕ The path to Emilianos from here involves going through the monastery of Ag Filimonos via the gate at 'B' and the path to it is via the gate to the enclosed fields at 'A'. First make for the white-painted 'ΣΧ' on the drystone wall. Climb up the wall to the path on the top^{ref}, turn right, and follow the fence to its corner.

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|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 02.7" |
| E | 27° | 46' | 41.9" |

⊕ from here turn left and follow the fence to the point where a path comes down obliquely from the right to a gate into the enclosure you have been skirting^{ref} - point 'A' in photo (13),

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 04.0" |
| E | 27° | 46' | 37.4" |

⊕ turn right and follow the path going obliquely up to the gate at the entrance to the monastery compound (14)^{ref} - point 'B' in photo (13)

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 06.3" |
| E | 27° | 46' | 38.7" |



⊕ enter the compound and go straight through to a similar gate which opens onto a broad concrete path which winds around over the hillock and down the other side onto the beach opposite Ag Emilianos^{ref}

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| N | 36° | 36' | 13.1" |
| E | 27° | 46' | 31.7" |

⊕ follow the edge of the beach, past the little fishing jetty (15), and then skirt the edge of the bay around to the causeway which crosses to Ag Emilianos (16).



[See the detailed route of this walk in Google Earth](#) 

Notes of caution

Though much of this walk is fairly easy going under-foot, one downhill section of the path is of loose, scree-like material on rocky ground. Most people would therefore choose to wear boots or walking shoes. However, it can be done in walking sandals such as Teva or Merrell. Urban sandals, flip-flops and slip-on shoes are not suitable footwear.

It is a long walk, and even though a significant section is in shady juniper wood, much of it is without shade. In particular the climb up from Ag Filimonos to the woodland on the way back can be very hot and energy-sapping in the afternoon sun. 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 to get both there and back.

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

Other walks starting from Horio
Walk 1: Horio to the Viewpoint
Walk 2: Horio to Agios Vasilios/Lapathos Beach
Walk 4: Horio to Nanou