**Warning:** In a number of places (indicated below) the route may be difficult to follow. The route from Konstamonitou to the ridge has been severely damaged by winter rains and in one place has collapsed.

The first part of the route involves a steep climb from Konstamonitou Monastery at around 200m to the ridge at 550m altitude. Much of this route is through forest, but there are some excellent views back to Konstamonitou and the west coast.

Then the route follows the ridge all the way to the Vatopedi – Karyes road, partly along minor roads and tracks and partly following the historic Way of the Bey which remains kalderimi in places. The last section of the original route would entail following the main road, so, instead, the final part of the route described drops down to follow the FP from Vatopedi to Karyes. Where necessary or helpful, the route is marked with orange tape and/or waymark arrows.

**Note:** All distances given (in metres) should be taken as approximate. The numbers shown in the form 1 are Waypoints to be found in associated GPS tracking. The route described is liable to unpredictable change: for example, forestry work, road or track construction and plant growth may alter the route, or its appearance. Signposts may disappear or new ones appear. The Friends of Mount Athos strives to keep this description correct and up to date but cannot take responsibility for its accuracy.

**Abbreviations:**
- L = Left; R = Right; KSO = Keep straight on;
- FP = Footpath; K = Kalderimi (stone-paved FP or track)

**Transliterations:**
- ΧΕΡΑ = Chera;
- ΚΩΝΣΤΑΜΟΝΙΤΟΥ = Konstamonitou;
- ΒΑΤΟΠΑΙΔΙΟΥ = Vatopedi;
- ΚΑΡΥΕΣ = Karyes;
- ΕΣΦΙΓΜΕΝΟΥ = Esphigmenou;
- ΧΙΛΑΝΔΑΡΙΟΥ = Hilandar;
- ΖΩΓΡΑΦΟΥ = Zographou;
- ΠΑΝΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ = Pantokrator

**Description of Route:**

**Walk (m) And then . . .**

59 Leave the gate of *Konstamonitou Monastery* and turn L, heading for the gap between the single story building to L and large storehouse to R, to pick up broad track which begins to zig-zag uphill (signed *Karyes*).
58. Broad track levels and arrives at open flat area. Turn L here on road that ascends gently, signed Karyes.

57. Where road bends R, turn L onto overgrown track, uphill, signed Karyes.

56. As track bears L, KSO/R on narrow FP uphill, signed Karyes.

55. Path emerges at track. Turn L along track, uphill (signed).

**Caution:** After about 100m a major landslip **has carried the track away. Cross uphill of the landslip with care.**

53. Track, now overgrown, levels out. Fork R, uphill on remains of severely water-damaged and overgrown former track (signed).

52. Rocky section of track ends; telecommunications mast on skyline ahead. Turn R up FP into wood (signed Karyes) on FP which has been severely damaged by storm water.

**Caution:** May be hard to spot. Take great care.

51. FP emerges at road on bend, with stone boundary marker beside road to R. KSO/L uphill along road, signed Karyes. (Altitude 535m)

50. Road, now concrete, makes sharp bend L. KSO/R on FP (signed Karyes and Vatopedi) through narrow gully. FP traverses hill (on L) soon descending.

28. Reach junction with ridge FP. Turn R, downhill (signed Karyes). (Ridge FP is straight on/L, signed Esphigmenou, Hilandar and Zographou.)

27. FP ends at road ascending from back R. KSO on road on level, passing large stone plinth with cross inlay on R. (This stavros, or cross, marks a crossing point of the ridge.)

26. T-junction with track to L which leads to FP down to Vatopedi (signed). KSO on forest road which continues initially along crest of ridge, ignoring possible paths to R.

25. Where road bends L, KSO/R along track.


**Note:** The track to the R leads to a fountain with running water to the R of the building.
When level with steps of cell (to R), turn sharp L, uphill, on faint track which soon bends R and levels out, with woods uphill to L. Track becomes FP which crosses open area.

**Caution: The route here is likely to be seasonally very overgrown and may not be obvious – watch out for red and white waymarks and orange marker tape.**

Bear L into trees on indistinct but marked path (watch out for red and white waymarks and orange tape). Route passes distinctive 8-trunked tree after which it becomes obvious historic FP which climbs gently through woods with hill to L.

FP emerges from woods onto open hillside with view of sea to R. Bear L on narrow level path following contour of the hill across level scrubby area.

**Caution: FP may be overgrown and indistinct. Watch for orange tape.**

FP re-enters woods and begins to descend gently, becoming less distinct (follow waymarks and orange tape). Pass below and to R of massive ancient chestnut tree and then bear R.

**Note:** Hollow interior of tree contains a small makeshift chapel.

Cross stream (and wire rope if across path) with fountain (dry) to L on further side. FP now begins to climb again. Ignore any possible paths or tracks down to R.

FP reaches open area with stone pillar above to L. **Do not** take track uphill to L. **KSO on level FP** which may be seasonally overgrown. FP follows contour of hill. Telecommunications mast may be visible on summit ahead. FP then bears R, below hill. Track from mast descending hill soon runs parallel to, and to L of, FP.

FP emerges onto this track just before track joins main Vatopedi – Karyes road. Turn R onto track and then R onto main road (towards Karyes).

Arrive at major crossroads with large wooden cross (**Stavros Makrygenous**). Turn L, downhill, on minor road signed to Karyes, Pantokrator and the Kellion of Agios Georgios Phaneromenos.

After sharp bends first to R and then to L, FP from Vatopedi to Karyes crosses road. Turn R along FP, signed Karyes, on level. Fine view ahead to **Skete of St Andrew, Karyes** and **Mt Athos** briefly appears.
13A At fork, ignore track to L. KSO on K.
13 Emerge at road at outside of bend, with track back to R. KSO along road, gently uphill.
12 At 3-way junction where main road bends R, KSO/L (signed Karyes).
11 At T-junction, turn R on track. Track shows evidence of K.
10 Ignore track up R (signed I K Marouda). KSO, signed Karyes.
9 Fork L off track, downhill onto FP (signed Karyes).
Alternatively, or if missed, continue a further 100m to T junction with large ruined building on R, and turn hard L onto concrete track downhill (signed). FP joins track from L in 30m (see next entry).
8 FP emerges at track. Turn L onto track, downhill.
7 At junction with large metal cross (on L), turn R onto track signed Karyes.
6 Ignore broad concrete track L (to Kellion Pateritsa). KSO/R.
5 Ignore gated track back L to kellion. KSO on main track.
4 Cross Karyes-Daphni road. KSO, now on K, signed Karyes.
3 Ignore FP (K) up R.
1 Arrive at Karyes square where the buses arrive.

This description has been produced by The Friends of Mount Athos, a charitable organisation which, among other activities, works with monasteries to keep this, and certain other footpaths on the Holy Mountain, open. Copies of this and similar descriptions are available, free, from the Friends website, www.athosfriends.org and in a number of places on or associated with the Holy Mountain.