



## FOOTPATHS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

### FROM DOCHIARIOU TO VATOPEDI

Distance: 9.7 Km

Journey Time: 3 ½ – 4 hours

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Much of this attractive journey follows historic *kalderimi* (stone-paved paths or tracks), starting with a stiff climb from *Dochiariou Monastery* at sea level. There follows fairly lengthy section along roads the rest of the way to the ridge at over 450m altitude, after which another similar *kalderimi* path descends to *Vatopedi Monastery* near sea level. There are some excellent views on both sides of the ridge. Less obvious parts of the route have been 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:** ΒΑΤΟΠΑΔΙΟΥ = *Vatopedi*; ΚΑΡΥΕΣ = *Karyes*;  
ΔΟΧΕΙΑΡΙΟΥ = *Dochiariou*; ΚΩΝΣΤΑΜΟΝΙΤΟΥ =  
*Konstamonitou*; ΕΣΦΙΓΜΕΝΟΥ = *Esphigmenou*;  
ΧΙΛΑΝΔΑΡΙΟΥ = *Hilandar*; ΖΩΓΡΑΦΟΥ = *Zographou*

#### Description of Route:

Walk (m) And then . . .

- 1** Leave the gate of *Dochiariou Monastery* and bear L on K.  
70
- 2** Fork L away from sea, uphill on K with fountain and wall on L.  
80
- 3** At junction at top of rise, turn hard L (signed *Vatopedi* and *Karyes*) onto FP (K) which zig-zags up past terraces.  
370
- 4** Pass cement reservoir on L signed back *Dochiariou*. KSO on FP (K).  
100
- 4A** Where K finishes at small dry fountain with carved spout, turn sharp L up narrow, stony path, marked with orange tape to join track. (FP straight on stops at spring with well-head.). Turn R along track, uphill.

- 600 **5** Track passes small concrete hut and bears L, continuing steeply uphill. (Level FP to R completely blocked by landslide.)
- 70 **6** At fork with lesser track, bear R still on main track.
- 120 **6A** Track levels out and meets another track at T junction. Turn R here (marked with orange tapes), steeply uphill (L leads to solar panels).
- 70 **7A** Where main track bends L, KSO on lesser track.
- 930 **7** Turn L off track ( marked with orange tape) onto FP, which climbs through woods to brand-new church.
- 200 **8** FP emerges onto track. Turn L along the track (signed *Karyes* and *Vatopedi*).
- 100 **9** At T junction with road, turn R along the road, uphill (signed *Karyes* and *Vatopedi*).
- Fine views of **Mount Athos** across valley to R.  
Pass yellow iron cross on L.
- 1250 **10** At fork in road at top of rise, bear L, uphill, signed *Vatopedi*.
- Note:** The road ahead/R may have a chain across it.
- 120 **11** At fork in road, bear R on level/downhill (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 250 **12** Track joins the road from R. KSO uphill on road (signed *Vatopedi* and *Karyes*).
- 900 **13** Reach top of ridge where FP joins the road from L. (This is the ridge path and is signed to *Konstamonitou*, *Esphigmenou* and *Hilandar*.) KSO on road, now level and signed *Karyes*, passing large stone plinth with cross inlay on R. (This *stavros*, or cross, marks a crossing point of the ridge.)
- 90 **14** Turn L (signed) along forest track which may be overgrown. Track initially bears R, uphill, before descending.
- 180 **15** Track narrows to FP which continues downhill, often through trees and may be indistinct or seasonally overgrown in places. Watch out for waymark arrows and orange tape. Views of **Vatopedi** and its bay appear.
- 280 **16** At T junction with another FP, turn L, on level.
- Note:** This junction may no longer be apparent as FP to R may be blocked).

- 60 **17** FP emerges at level road. Cross road to follow track, possibly overgrown, which descends opposite (signed *Vatopedi*). Ignore grassy track slightly to the R. Track crosses scrubland before becoming FP (*K*), which soon descends more steeply into valley. Ignore possible FPs joining from R.
- 700 **18** At valley bottom, cross stream bed below ancient tree and KSO on FP, now level.
- 50 **19** KSO on FP, signed *Vatopedi (monopati)*, which traverses hillside. Ignore descent on R down bank to forest road below.  
**Note:** *monopati (ΜΟΝΟΠΑΤΙ)* is Greek for footpath.
- 450 **20** FP crosses open grassy area (possibly overgrown track). KSO.
- 200 **21** FP bears R and descends to forest road. Cross road and KSO on FP (signed *Vatopedi*), initially across open area. Continue downhill. Remains of *K* evident in places.
- 1050 **22** Reach and cross road. KSO, still downhill, on FP which contains periodic stretches of *K*. On occasions, the waymarked route leaves *K* in one place and joins *K* again later on.
- 550 **23** FP levels out at valley bottom (signed *Vatopedi* and reverse direction *Dochiariou*). Bear slightly R and cross stream. Then turn L and follow R edge of stream bed.
- 80 **24** Bear R out of stream bed to emerge onto road at the outside of a sharp bend in the road. Bear L along road, downhill (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 60 **25** Cross stream at ford.
- 30 **26** Bear R at fork onto lower road (signed *Vatopedi*).
- 200 **27** Cross stream. Then pass orchard on R.
- 240 **28** After end of orchard, KSO/R at fork, uphill with stone wall on R. ***Vatopedi Monastery*** soon visible ahead. Road becomes *K*.
- 350 **29** Track joins from L and *K* road joins from R just before covered well on R. KSO.
- 100 **30** Arrive at the gate of ***Vatopedi Monastery***.

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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](http://www.athosfriends.org) and in a number of places on or associated with the Holy Mountain.