

Walking tour through Samaria Gorge

General information

Start: Xyloskalo (1250m)
 End: Agia Roumeli
 Distance: 15 km
 Walking time: 5-6 hours
 Ascending: 20 meter
 Descending: 1250 meter
 Entrance: € 5
 Boat ticket: €10,00



! On your way there are many possibilities to fill up your water bottle. There are also toilets and in the village of Samaria is a small medical post.

! If your transfer is by minibus the pickup is at the public parking in Chora Sfakia. If the transfer is by big touring bus the pickup is at the main coach parking in Chora Sfakia. Please just follow all the people to the parking. In case of minibus do not go up the steps but walk 50m straight ahead!

Walk description

The starting point of the walk through the gorge of Samaria is at Xyloskalo ("wooden stairway"), which is also the entrance point into the National Park. On your right you see the impressive rock walls of Mt Gingilos (1980m). You descend a stepped path cut from the rock and augmented by log stairs and wooden handrails. After 4 km (and 350m descend). Near the bottom the chapel of Agios Nikolaos stands on a little terrace of coniferous trees (some over 2000 years old!).

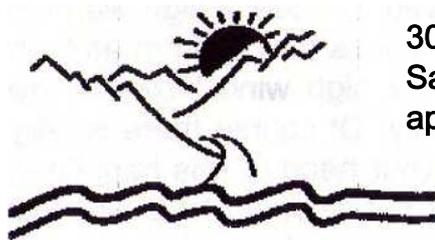
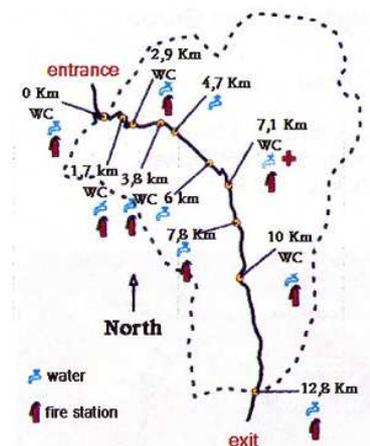
From Agios Nikolaos to Samaria (3,5 km), you will cross the river several times and pass two springs where you can refill your water bottle. This is an easy part of the walk, in the shade and the path is pretty smooth. Samaria is the main resting place for most walkers, with shade, benches, water, a guard post and (generally) a doctor in attendance. If you are experiencing any problems do not hesitate to go and see the doctor, there won't be another one and it is free.

The village of Samaria was inhabited until 1962, at which point the National Park was created and people were forced to leave. It had been inhabited for thousands of years by wood-loggers (there are some remains of sawmills in the gorge). The name Samaria is taken from the church Osia Maria.

To carry on with the walk you need to cross the bridge again and turn left. Less than half an hour later the walk takes you into the riverbed again. From here the gorge narrows and several times you have to cross the river by stepping stones. The colors and shapes of the towering cliffs around you are very impressive.

At km 11 you arrive at the shaded clearing of Christos, where you will find the last spring. A few minutes later you get to the "Gates", the narrowest part of the gorge. Once through the "Gates" the gorge widens considerably and after another 2 km you reach the exit post (where you must surrender your ticket stub) and are out of the National Park and in the old village of Agia Roumeli. From then on, the path is very easy: flat and no stones but also no shade. If you get there in the summer at noon you will often encounter very hot conditions. But soon you see the sea ahead of you and get to the new village of [Agia Roumeli](#) and enjoy a cold drink or a refreshing plunge in the Libyan sea!

Important: From Agia Roumeli please take the 17:30 boat to CHORA SFAKION!



30 e transport, 11e boat, 5e entrance Samaria. Pick up Marianna apartments Almyrida 07.30