

# Walk 4 – to Agios Stavros Polemou and Nanou Beach

Symi

START POINT: Lefteris's Kafenion

GRADE Moderate/strenuous

TIME: 3-4 hours

This walk is from the top of the Kali Strata in Horio up to what is probably the best Viewpoint on the island (Walk 1) and then on kalderimia and footpaths up to the dramatically located mountain-top monastery of Agios Stavros Polemou, perched on the edge of cliff's with great views across much of the island. From here EITHER walk down through woodland to Nanou Bay with the option of a taxi boat back to the harbour OR take an alternative path back via an old kalderimi. An additional option is to include a walk to the impressively restored Byzantine stone wine presses.



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 Viewpoint above Horio (2)<sup>ref</sup>

N 36° 36' 38.3"

E 27° 50' 00.6"

height: 180 metres

Continue uphill and almost immediately go through a chain-link gate onto the open mountain.



⊕ Within a few metres come to a fork in the path.<sup>ref</sup>

N 36° 36' 37.7"

E 27° 49' 59.5"

Go left up broad stone steps (3) and then continue on the traditional kalderimi as it zigzags at a comfortable gradient up the steep slope.

⊕ Reach a broad track bulldozed across the kalderimi and turn left onto it, continuing up to the tarmac road<sup>ref</sup>.

N 36° 36' 31.6"

E 27° 49' 57.5"

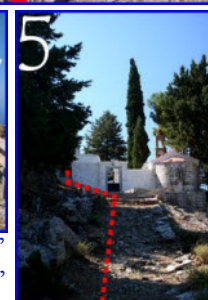
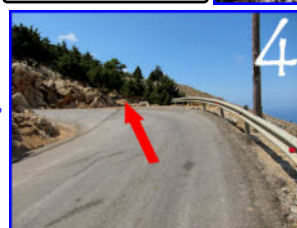
height: 260 metres

⊕ Turn right and follow the road uphill. In about 500 metres reach a fork and take the left option, continuing uphill to reach a hairpin bend in another 800 metres.<sup>ref</sup>

N 36° 36' 12.9"

E 27° 49' 32.5"

At this bend leave the road and go straight ahead onto a kalderimi, initially under overhanging trees. (4)



⊕ Follow the kalderimi up to the monastery of Ag Ekaterina.<sup>ref</sup> Go up the steps around to the left (5) and follow the narrow concrete path along the side to a concrete road. Follow this 200 metres to a junction with a road coming in from the left at a high point with good views, then continue straight ahead dropping down in 100 metres to the small monastery and chapel of Panagia Stylou.<sup>ref</sup>

N 36° 36' 02.2"

E 27° 49' 33.3"

height: 420 metres

N 36° 35' 51.7"

E 27° 49' 28.0"

⊕ The road ends here. Continue straight ahead with the monastery enclosure on the left (6) and join a path contouring the hillside. The start of it can be difficult to find but cast around without losing height (7) Having done this the path is mostly clear and is well marked by red spots as it winds through low scrub and rocky outcrops. (8)



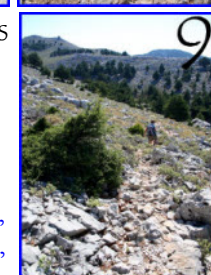
⊕ **Note:** in one place as the path meanders through the cypress trees it is becoming obstructed but the red spots show the way through.

⊕ In about 15-20 minutes reach the shoulder of the hill (8) and then a deep valley coming in from the left and running down to the sea at Lapathos Bay. As it reaches the valley the path turns left (9) until it drops down to a stream bed and crosses it.<sup>ref</sup> (10).

N 36° 35' 33.6"

E 27° 49' 23.9"

height: 280 metres



⊕ Drop into the shallow gorge and up to the right on the other side(10). The path zigzags up to the ridge where it turns leftward to follow the flank of the next, deeper, wider valley. The path on this section is very clear through low scrub and rocks but is very uneven and needs care. (11)



⊕ It then goes into cypress woodland. (12)<sup>ref</sup> N 36° 35' 20.1"  
E 27° 49' 35.8"  
This affords good shade and is easier underfoot but in places requires more attention to identifying the line of the path, partly because it is carpeted in pine needles which obscure it and partly because there are a number of thin trails. In particular there is a fork in the path either side of a tree where you should go left.(13) N 36° 35' 15.7"  
E 27° 49' 40.7"



⊕ Generally the path is well marked by frequent red spots. Reach a low stone wall on the left and follow it to reach the small enclosure of the Agios Prokopios chapel and monastery on the right. Follow the wire fence of the enclosure round to the entrance gate. (14)<sup>ref</sup> height: 420 metres N 36° 35' 04.6"  
E 27° 49' 49.1"



⊕ From the entrance gate follow the broad dirt track with the mountain-top monastery of Agios Stavros Polemou in view ahead (15) to reach a 'T' junction (16)<sup>ref</sup>



⊕ A straight choice here. Turn left for the direct route to the top of the descent to Nanou Bay. Turn right to go to the mountain-top monastery of Agios Stavros Polemou.

### To go direct to Nanou Bay

⊕ Turn left at the 'T' junction and follow the track 500 metres up to the tarmac road<sup>ref</sup>. N 36° 35' 03.6"  
E 27° 50' 02.5"

⊕ Turn right on the road and follow it about 300 metres to the chapel of Panagia Strateri on the right, opposite the entrance of which, on the left hand side of the road, is the top of the path down to Nanou Bay(17)<sup>ref</sup> N 36° 34' 56.5"  
E 27° 50' 07.1"  
The path is steep and in many places loose underfoot. Allow an hour to walk down to the beach from where the taxi-boat can be taken back to Yialos by arrangement.



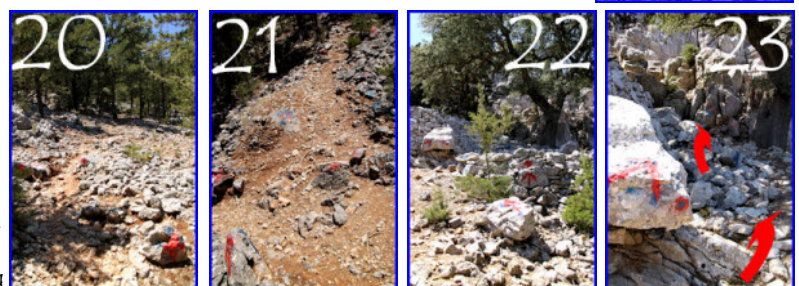
### To go to Agios Stavros Polemou

⊕ In about 100 metres, shortly before reaching a large stone-built barn with red-tiled roof and an agricultural enclosure, reach a faint path off to the left with faint paint marks on a large rock (18)<sup>ref</sup>. Head towards the far corner of the enclosure on the right (19)



N 36° 34' 57.9"  
E 27° 49' 43.1"

⊕ From the corner of the enclosure the path is exceptionally well marked with large red arrows and blue crosses (20+21) winding up through woodland. It leads to the right of the monastery of Panagia Panaidi at the base of steep rocky crags<sup>ref</sup> The path to Ag. Stavros Polemou is up through the rocks to the right and continues to be very well marked (22+23).

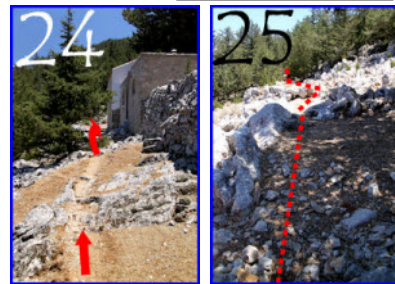


N 36° 34' 48.8"  
E 27° 49' 39.4"

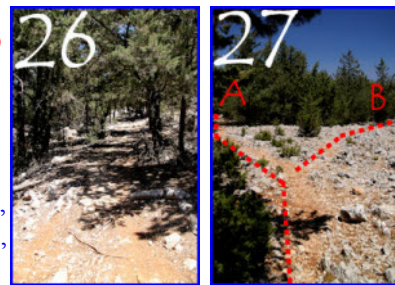
- ⊕ The path winds steeply up through the rocks to Agios Stavros Polemou, the enclosure to which may be locked. If it is unlocked go up to the top courtyard<sup>ref</sup> from where there are dramatic views to the coast far below. If it is locked you can follow round to the right on the outside of the enclosure and come out behind the monastery with equally dramatic views and also dramatic (unlocked) WCs perched on the edge.
 

N 36° 34' 45.7"  
 E 27° 49' 32.9"  
 height: 520 metres

- ⊕ From here drop back down the same path to the monastery of Panagia Panaidi, and go straight ahead to reach it (with a very shady courtyard, up steep steps) on your right.(24) Continue on the path past the monastery and at the end of the high stone wall follow it round to the right. Then 5 or 6 paces after another door into the complex turn left onto footpath through rocks.(25) It is interesting to take some time to have a look at the remains of ancient settlement in this area.



- ⊕ Go through remains of a threshing circle and continue into woods.(26) There is now a very clear path, in some places with concreted steps through rocky outcrops.



- ⊕ After going through the rocks and on more level ground with trees further apart, reach a fork in the path<sup>ref</sup> (27)
 

N 36° 34' 55.9"  
 E 27° 49' 57.4"

Another choice here.

**A** Take the clearer, more worn path to the left to go back to Horio

**B** Take the right hand path, with small cairns on either side at the fork to go to the roadside chapel of Panagia Strateri and from there to Nanou Bay or/and the Byzantine Wine Presses. From Panagia Strateri it is also possible to catch the small island bus back to Horio and Yialos .... always providing that it is not already full on its way back from Agios Pandleimon.

### To go to Nanou Bay

- ⊕ Turn right at the fork in the path and follow it for 10-15 minutes to come out above and behind Panagia Strateri at the side of the tarmac road. The path is at first clear but becomes fainter in the trees. Once the chapel is reached drop down to road level
- ⊕ Cross the road to the top of the path down to Nanou Bay(17)<sup>ref</sup>

N 36° 34' 56.5"  
 E 27° 50' 07.1"

 The path is steep and in many places loose underfoot. Allow an hour to walk down to the beach from where the taxi-boat can be taken back to Yialos by arrangement.



### To go to Byzantine Stone Wine Presses

To be completed

### To go back to Horio by an alternative route

To be completed

## Notes of caution

This walk is long and strenuous, with a total height gain of over 600 metres. Parts of it are over very broken rocky ground, route finding is difficult in places in the cypress woods. 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 definitely NOT suitable footwear.

Unlike other walks there is good shade in the extensive woodland but it can still be very hot and energy-sapping as the trees mask the breeze. So, like all walks in Greece, in the height of summer it can cause dehydration. It is therefore important to allow plenty of time, set a comfortable pace and to carry enough 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 Ag Vasilios and Lapathos Beach

Walk 3: Horio to Agios Emilianos