

ΚΑΛΩΣ ΗΡΘΑΤΕ ΣΤΟ ΜΟΝΟΠΑΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΦΥΣΗΣ
"Η πικρόβρυση της Μερίκας"
WELCOME TO THE NATURE-TRAIL
"Pikrovrisi tis Merikas"



NATURE STUDY TRAIL
"ΠΙΚΡΟΒΡΥΣΙ OF MERIKA"



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In 2015, the Community Council created a Nature Study Trail which was co-funded by the European Union and the Republic of Cyprus within the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, Measure 2.6 – Sub-Measure 2.6.1: 100% Non-Productive investments, with the total cost rising to 31.500,00 euros.

The "Pikrovrysi of Merika" Trail was named after the historical natural spring which is located at the trail's starting point and "Merika" after the naming of the housing which used to be located in the area of the trail's terminating point during the Medieval years. The trail's course allows hikers to choose the direction they wish to follow, including moving circularly by crossing the Community. Should hikers select a circular route, they will cross the old core of the Community and admire, apart from the old church of Agios Georgios which was built in 1633 and which is adorned by hagiographies painted in 1655, ancient gallerias, mines, various geological formations and several other points of interest.



The trail is 4.7 km long and it takes one hour for somebody to cover this distance. It is an impressive trail which is located at a close distance from Nicosia. It starts from the Venetian bridges which were, in the past, nominated for inclusion in UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list and are located on the River Maroullena, whereas it terminates at the excursion site of the Community of Kalo Chorio Oreinis called "Merika".



Hikers can admire the riverbed of the River Maroullena with its impressive rocks which attract huge global geological interest and are studied by geoscientists worldwide. The ancient natural gorges and the natural caves created through the centuries cause awe and admiration to visitors. While walking uphill, the view towards the riverbed becomes panoramic. The rich natural vegetation is majestic as it changes constantly, thus keeping the hiker on alert throughout the duration of their walk.



Crossing the trail

Starting one's hike from the Venetian bridges, the trail follows a small downhill course. Then, one encounters significant rocks which present a particularly interesting geology with the outcrop of lower pillow lavas. In this area the lower pillow lavas consist of 10-metre thick hyaloclastite and pillow lavas, which are penetrated by almost vertical (70-80) seams with an approximate N – S direction. These seams constitute approximately 30 % of the outcrop and are sheared by newer sloping light brown seams. This area is stratigraphically low, near the level where the number of seams increases suddenly, that is within the lowest part of the volcanic sequence and close to the link with the Basal Group.



The trail continues along the River Maroullena. Hikers can enjoy the view of small lakes and the crystal clear water which flows daily throughout the year. In these small lakes lives the endemic water snake subspecies "Natrix-Natrix cypriana". This snake was considered extinct since the beginning of the 1960, but it was discovered again in 1999. In the River Maroullena the colour of the water snake is black and is found nowhere else in Cyprus. It is considered to be the rarest snake species in Cyprus and it is highly protected as it is classified as an endangered species.



Flora and Fauna

Along the Trail hikers will observe a plethora of significant endemic plants, as well as other wild species included in our country's flora. The green state forest of Askopelos with the impressive rock on its peak emerges dominantly in the middle of the route. A variety of bird species live, nest and reproduce in the area. Along the trail there are signs providing information with the names of the plants and species.

The trail passes by a stony water channel. The channel would be used as a main for the transfer of water from the water-dam of Kalo Chorio Oreinis towards the fields which needed to be irrigated.

The construction of the water-dam was completed during the years 1945-1946 and was considered to be the first and largest of its kind in capacity during the British occupation.

Just before its termination point, the trail adjoins the E4 European Path and both trails follow the same course until they terminate.

We are certain that your walk along the Trail of Pikrovrysi of Merika will be an unforgettable and at the same time exciting experience. It is an easy, pleasant route without varied altitude and therefore children or even elderly people can walk along it. One final advantage is that the trail is located at a very close distance from the capital city.

Additional Information

Located in Kalo Chorio Oreinis is a coffee shop which is open daily and which also serves food.

Source:

Kalo Chorio Oreinis Community Council

- **Avoid smoking or eating while walking along the Nature Trail.**
- **Do not make unnecessary noises. Respect the peace and quiet of the other hikers so that everybody can enjoy the sounds and joys nature has to offer.**
- **It is prohibited to remove or to cause rocks to slide.**
- **Respect the wildlife.**
- **Do not cut or uproot flowers or plants. It is our duty to help perpetuate the flora. Several flowers and plants are in danger of extinction.**
- **Dispose of your rubbish in the available rubbish bins.**
- **Lighting a fire is strictly prohibited throughout the trail. Lighting a fire at the excursion site is allowed ONLY in the designated barbecue area.**
- **The excursion site offers wooden tables, a barbecue, drinking water and lavatories.**
- **Should you see smoke or fire, call immediately at 1407.**
- **Mobile telephony signal is available throughout the route.**

The Community Council of Kalo Chorio Oreinis is responsible for the management of the Nature Study Trail. Regarding any recommendations and observations, you may contact the Community Council.

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