

“Loumata ton Aeton” nature trail



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Ministry of Agriculture,
Rural Development and Environment
Department of Forests

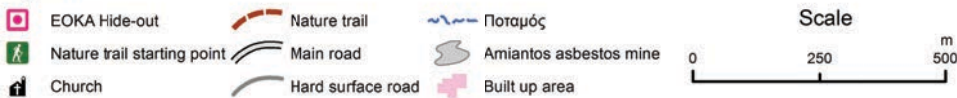
Route	2.5 km – linear		
Duration	1 hour		
Degree of difficulty	easy	moderate	difficult
Maximum - Minimum altitude	1110m – 1010m		
General description	smooth path		
Starting point	Amiantos – SEK Camping Site road GPS coordinates (UTM-WGS84) 493784N/3863663E		
Most suitable period	April - November		
Cautionary notes	river crossings, water level rises during winter months, risk of slipping		
Drinking water on route	no		

General

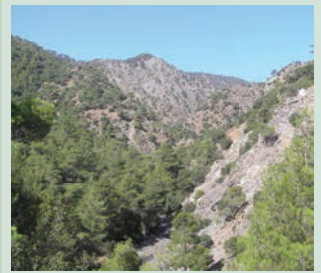
The “Loumata ton Aeton” nature trail is located within the Troodos National Forest Park which can be classified as the most important natural area of Cyprus while it is included in the major regions of the world for biodiversity conservation (IUCN Biodiversity hot spots). Troodos is the island's highest mountain range reaching 1951m at its highest peak, namely Chionistra or Olympus, while the lowest is at the altitudinal zone of 700m. The most of Troodos NFP is covered with dense natural forests, with the Calabrian pine (*Pinus brutia*) and Golden oak (*Quercus alnifolia*) to dominate up to an altitude of 1500 metres, whereas the Black pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *pallasiana*) and Troodos Juniper (*Juniperus foeditissima*) prevail at higher altitudes. The Troodos NFP hosts more than 750 plant species (44% of the native flora), of which 72 are endemic to Cyprus (50% of endemics), including 12 species considered as local endemics. The Troodos NFP hosts 11 habitats listed in Annex I of the European Habitats Directive, and 10 as Annex II-listed species. In addition, more than 100 wild bird species have been recorded, of which 11 are included in Annex I of the European Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. The geology of the area is also unique. The 90 million years old ophiolitic complex of the Troodos mountain range is part of the seabed of the ancient Tethys Sea, which uplifted 15 million years ago as a result of the collision of the African and Eurasian tectonic plate that marked the creation of the island. All the above, in combination with its climate and the landscape, make the Troodos NFP an attraction pole for thousands of visitors, nature lovers, hikers, skiers, birdwatchers, botanists, geologists, etc. The Troodos NFP is a state forest managed by the Department of Forests towards the following objectives: its protection, biodiversity conservation and forest recreation.



Legend



Scale



Pinus brutia-Calabrian Pine



Arabis purpurea-Rockcress



Oenanthe cyprica-Cyprus wheatear



Fringilla coelebs-Chaffinch

Trail profile



Starting Point

The trail's starting point is located on the **Amiantos – SEK Camping Site** road. On the way from **Karvounas** to **Saitas** the route passes through the village of Amiantos. After the bridge, turn right for the SEK camping site. On this road, you will find the starting point and the characteristic information kiosk. You can also find signage for the trail on the **Karvounas – Amiantos** main road and on the secondary road through the village. You may reach the spot by car and park at the starting point or you may use rural buses to and from the cities of Limassol (route 64) and Lefkosia (route BD39). Relevant bus route details for Limassol and Lefkosia buses are available at the EMEL and OSEL websites <http://www.limassolbuses.com/rural-routes>, <http://www.osel.com.cy> respectively.

Description

The route traverses a beautiful hillside of dense forest, ending in **Loumata ton Aeton River**, which has significant water flow even in the summer. From there the trail follows a course along the riverbank and ends up at a village road, near the **Amiantos community park**. The largest part of the trail was an older route that the **Amiantos asbestos mine** workers used to use. The route is linear, but could become circular if you follow the road through the village, toward the SEK camping site. The trail is part of Troodos National Forest Park, which is a Natura 2000 site.



Loumata ton Aeton trail

Along the route, you will find information points with the names of plants and rock formations. At the beginning of the trail the vegetation is comprised of a natural forest of Calabrian pine with a low layer of rockroses. There is also an important presence of terebinth, storax, strawberry tree and the endemic golden oak. Near the riverbank, you will be able to see laurel, myrtle, barberry, oleander, honeysuckle, the common smilax and sage. The beginning of the trail offers impressive views toward the **Kyperounta** area and toward the inactive **Amiantos asbestos mine**, where you can see the reforestation works that are underway for the site's environmental restoration. About halfway through the trail, you can visit the hideout of the 1955 – 1959 liberation struggle fighters, located very near the route.

The trail follows a relatively smooth path, but caution is required where it crosses the river, especially in spring, as the water level can rise. During the winter period and in early spring, the section of the trail along the river can become impassable.

Services

The village of **Amiantos** has community parks, a playground with a kiosk, restaurants and other services. Troodos NFP offers a rich network of forest recreation services consisting primarily of 10 picnic areas, 3 campsites, 15 nature trails, an **environmental information centre**, (near the square), the **A.G. Leventis Botanical Garden of Troodos** and the **Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre** within the asbestos mine. You may find further information on forest recreation infrastructure on the Department of Forests website <http://www.moa.gov.cy/forest>.

What you should be aware of!

The Troodos National Forest Park is a priceless asset of natural heritage, which we have inherited from our ancestors to pass it on to our children and future generations.

- ▶ The fire hazard in the area is extremely high. The lighting of fire is strictly prohibited. Avoid smoking when walking the trails.
- ▶ Respect the tranquillity of the area. The forest is home to hundreds of animals and a place for relaxation for other visitors.
- ▶ Cutting plants, trimming rocks and harassing wildlife degrade forest ecosystems and is prohibited by the Forest Law.
- ▶ Check the weather forecast for the area and prepare properly. The Troodos area is characterised by severe weather phenomena such as strong winds, storms and lightning. Avoid walking under such extreme conditions.
- ▶ In case of danger, the use of wireless communication can be lifesaving. Inform someone for the time you enter the path and the expected exit time.
- ▶ Do not leave the trail. Walking out of the trail and especially on the rocks, can expose you to great danger from falling rocks, slipping or falling. Always wear appropriate nonslip footwear.
- ▶ Do not pollute the environment and properly dispose of any litter.
- ▶ **In case you see smoke or fire, contact immediately with the Department of Forests by calling 1407 (24 hours, free of charge).**
- ▶ For any information, complaints, suggestions and further assistance contact the Saitas Forest Station (tel. 25433648), or the Troodos Forest Division (tel. 22608512 and email: troodosdiv@fd.moa.gov.cy).



Smilax aspera-Prickly ivy



Genista fasselata var. *crudelis*-
Dwarf gorse



P.I.O. 165/2017–10.000

Published by the Press and Information Office

Printed by the Government Printing Office