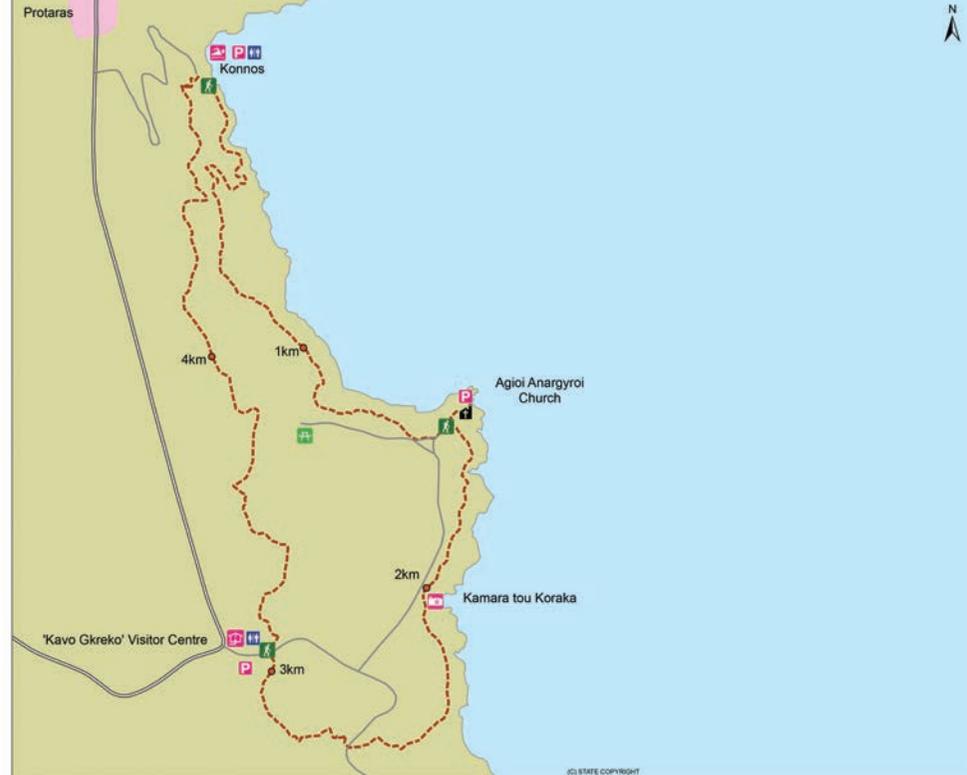


Route	4.8 km - circular
Duration	Approximately 2 hours
Degree of difficulty	easy moderate difficult
Maximum - Minimum altitude	60m - 5m
General description	Smooth path
Starting point	<p>a) Konnos beach, GPS Coordinates (UTM-WGS84) 597628N/3871654E</p> <p>b) Agioi Anargyroi church, GPS Coordinates (UTM-WGS84) 598201N/3870838E</p> <p>c) Visitor Centre, GPS Coordinates (UTM-WGS84) 597722N/3870330E</p>
Most suitable period	Spring
Cautionary notes	None
Drinking water on route	No

General information

The Konnoi - Agioi Anargyroi nature trail is found in the National Forest Park (NFP) of Kavο Gkreko (Cape Greco). The NFP of Kavο Gkreko is located in the southeastern part of Cyprus and is one of the most important natural areas of the island with a great ecological, aesthetic and recreational value. For this reason, it was declared a "National Forest Park" in 1993 and later on, it was included in the "Natura 2000" protected areas network of the European Union, both as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and as a Site of Community Importance (SCI), for the protection and conservation of the terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. The most important protection objects of the area are the 11 habitats of Annex I and two species of Annex II of the Habitats Directive (92/42/EEC), as well as the 22 bird species of Annex I of Birds Directive (2009/147/EEC).

Kavο Gkreko is one of the major migratory routes for birds in Europe and has been characterised by Birdlife International as one of the major bird regions in the world. It is the first land that the migratory birds find as they return from Africa to Europe in the spring. More than 3,000 migratory raptors pass every year from Kavο Gkreko,



with the major species being the red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) and Pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*) which are classified as species of global conservation concern. A total of 110 different bird species have been recorded, most of which are protected by national law and international and European conventions.

Geologically, the area includes a variety of rocks created through the process of sedimentation with an age up to 75 million years. Inside these steep rocks, many caves have been formed through the years via various geological processes and the influence of the sea. These caves give shelter to various organisms of the terrestrial and aquatic environment. The mild, dry and hot climate combined with the rocky area, create favorable conditions for the reptiles. Despite the small size of the area, at least 12 species or subspecies, including 5 snakes and 7 lizards, have been recorded in the NFP.



Starting point

The trail has three possible starting points: a) the **Konnos** beach, b) the Kavo Gkreko Visitor Centre (V.C.) and c) the Agioi Anargyroi church. Car park sites are available at each of these starting points. To get there, take the **Agia Napa – Protaras** road and make a right turn for **Kavo Gkreko**. Here you have the option of turning right towards Agioi Anargyroi church to choose between the Visitor Centre or the Agioi Anargyroi church starting points, or to continue towards **Protaras** and turn right towards **Konnos** beach.

Description

The first 2 km from the **Konnos** beach follow a route along the coast. Passing through rich shrubby vegetation comprised mainly of juniper trees, wild olives, carob trees and boxthorns, the trail leads to the Agioi Anargyroi church, which is built over a sea cave where it is believed that Agioi Anargyroi (the Anargyroi Saints) lived as ascetics. The trail then follows a southward direction, and passing through low shrubby vegetation, mainly consisting of prickly burnet, wild thyme and rock samphire, arrives at the '**Kamara tou Koraka**' natural bridge, an impressive geological formation. After the bridge, the trail follows a slight uphill incline towards the Visitor Centre passing by the ruins of an ancient temple dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite. Leaving the Visitor Centre behind, the trail follows a route parallel to the shoreline through tall shrubby vegetation and, towards the end, through a small pine tree coppice.

There are many points of excellent view all along the trail, but the most majestic view is of **Konnos** bay, where the immense blue of the sea juxtaposes with the green of the forest. Along the trail, you will also find signs with information about the area's large variety of plants, as well as a sign with the Cypria Aphrodite (**Κύπριδα Αφροδίτη**) logo where there once was a temple dedicated to Aphrodite. This particular logo is used on a cultural route that connects various archaeological sites, museums and other points on the island that are related to the goddess of love, Aphrodite.

Services

There is a café with sanitary facilities near the **Konnos** starting point and at the Visitor Centre. At about 100 m from Agioi Anargyroi church, there is a picnic site with drinking water and sanitary facilities. Additionally, to the north and to the southwest of the area, there are the tourist resorts of **Protaras** and **Ayia Napa** respectively, which both offer all conveniences, such as banks, kiosks, restaurants, hotels and supermarkets.

Hiking code of conduct

- ▶ Remain within the marked trail routes, so as to avoid stepping over small plants and saplings.
- ▶ Avoid smoking or eating when you are on the nature trails.
- ▶ Do not make unnecessary noise. Respect other visitors and enjoy the sounds of nature.
- ▶ Place your rubbish in the designated rubbish bins or, preferably, take it with you.
- ▶ Use the picnic sites of the Department of Forests that provide amenities to visitors.
- ▶ Avoid cutting tree or shrub branches, cutting or uprooting plants, or carving tree barks.
- ▶ It is forbidden to ride motorcycles or bicycles on the trails.
- ▶ During the summer months, you are advised to walk the trail in the morning or afternoon so as to avoid exposure to intensive sunlight and high temperatures.
- ▶ It is strictly forbidden to light fires anywhere in the forest, or even on streets and squares. At picnic sites, lighting fires is permitted **ONLY** at designated points.
- ▶ If you see fire or smoke, inform the Department of Forests by calling **1407** (24 hours, free of charge)
- ▶ Remember that we are all guests in the forest. Respect wildlife and enjoy nature responsibly.



Konnoi – Agioi Anargyroi Nature trail



Ministry of Agriculture,
Rural Development and Environment
Department of Forests



P.I.O. 124/2016 – 10.000
Published by the Press and Information Office
Printed by the Government Printing Office