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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Route | 3 km – linear |
| Walking time | 1.5 – 2 hours |
| Difficulty grade | easy moderate difficult |
| Maximum - Minimum altitude | 1600 m – 1200 m |
| General description | upward and downward gradients by a ravine |
| Starting point | 500 m from Troodos Square or at Psilo Dentro (Pano Platres) GPS Coordinates (UTM- WGS84) 488174N/3863601E 487948N /3861728E |
| Most suitable period | March - November |
| Cautionary notes | river crossings, high risk of slipping |
| Drinking water on route | no |

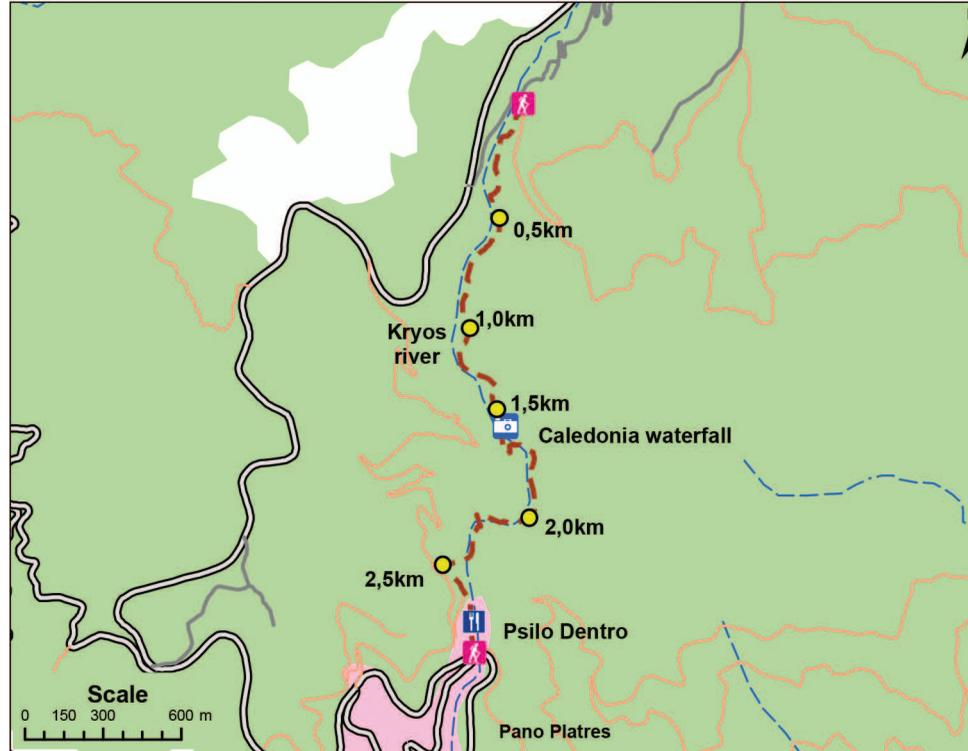
Starting point

After about 500 m on the descend from **Troodos Square** to **Platres** you will see a turn on your left with a sign for the **Caledonia Trail**. A narrow, asphalted road leads to the beginning of the trail where small parking areas are located (this is the highest point on the route). Alternatively, you can start at the lowest point, at the locality of **Psilo Dentro** above **Pano Platres**. In this case, you can park near Psilo Dentro restaurant and, following a slightly uphill road for 300 m, you will reach the trail's kiosk, from where you can start.

Description

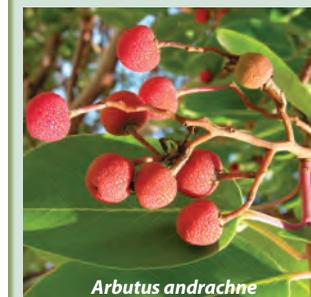
The route is constantly downhill or uphill depending on where you start. The greatest part of the trail passes through a dense forest and follows a route along the **Kryos Potamos** River, where water flows permanently. Passages have been constructed at many of the river crossings located along the trail, but at some points you will have to step on moist, slippery stones to cross, therefore attention is required. The trail has steps, areas where you can rest, indications with plant names and other useful information, as well as three kiosks where you can take cover in case of rain.

The entire route is located in Troodos National Forest Park, which is a Natura 2000 area. The vegetation is entirely natural, rich and very dense. Hygrophilous vegetation, comprised of planes, alders and ivy, dominates along the riverbed. Black pines cover

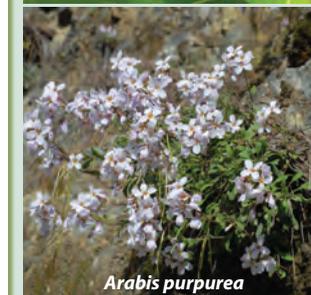


Reference

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Path | Starting point | Forest |
| Loose surface road | Point of Interest | Maqui |
| Hard surface road | Restaurant | Built up area |
| Main hard surface road | | River |



Arbutus andrachne



Arabis purpurea



Platanus orientalis



Oenanthe cyprica

the mountain slopes at higher altitudes, and are gradually replaced by the Calabrian pine at lower altitudes. Other common species found on the mountain slopes are the strawberry tree (*Arbutus andrachne*), barberry (*Berberis cretica*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and the endemic golden oak (*Quercus alnifolia*). There are many endemic plants along the route, including Cyprus rock-cress (*Arabis purpurea*), Troodos sage (*Salvia willeana*) and Aphrodite's spurge (*Euphorbia veneris*). Trout can be seen in the ponds that form along the trail. Keep in mind however that fishing is prohibited!

The most interesting sight on the trail is **Caledonia Falls**, located two thirds along the route (if you start at the high altitude point). The water falls dramatically from a height of 13 metres on hard gabbro rock. The only exit from the trail is through a dirt road, which is closed to traffic and is located at the waterfalls.

Services

Troodos Square has shops, restaurants, public toilets and hotels. Restaurants, taverns, shops, hotels, a gas station and a health centre can be found at **Pano Platres**.

The water in **Kryos Potamos**, one of the few rivers in Cyprus with permanent water presence, is used for, among other things, irrigating Troodos. It is in this cool and picturesque ravine that the **Caledonia Trail** is located.

The gurgling waters populated with trout, the dense canopy of trees, the chirping birds, the variety of vegetation and the splashing water at **Caledonia Falls** will charm you and keep your interest undiminished for the entire route.



Kryos Potamos



Salmo trutta



Euphorbia veneris



Streptopelia turtur



Platanus orientalis

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 during walking.
- ▶ Respect the peacefulness of the area. The forest is home to hundreds of animals and a choice for relaxation and calmness of thousands of 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 characterized by severe weather phenomena such as high 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 entering the path and the expected exit time.
- ▶ Not to 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 Platres Forest Station, tel. 25421422, or the Troodos Forest Division tel. 22608512 and email: troodosdiv@fd.moa.gov.cy

Caledonia Trail

