

General

The "Moni-Fylagra" nature trail was designed and constructed by the Department of Forests in 2003-2004, in close collaboration with the Pelendri Village Community Council and was funded by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation. The contribution of the 'Friends and Expatriates of Pelendri Village' was significant.

The Trail

It is a linear trail 3 km long and it can be walked in one (1) hour (2 hours to return). One point of the trail runs along the main Trimiklini-Pelendri road, just before the bakery. If one selects this as a starting point, there is a short section at the beginning which runs uphill, while the rest is downhill. The opposite is true if one selects the other end as a starting point, the one situated near the main road of Kato Amiantos-Fylagra, in the Fylagra built up area. There are information signs regarding the two starting points on the main Kato Amiantos-Saitas road and Trimiklini-Pelendri road.

The main part of the trail is on private land, about 2 km, and the remaining 1 km towards Fylagra passes through the Moni state forest which is part of the Troodos National Forest Park. The altitude on the Pelendri side is 930m, rising up to 1000m and its lowest point is 750m in the Fylagra region.

This trail is very old and is used by the people of Pelendri to walk to their fields, mainly to the "Tzierami" and "Fylagra" location which used to be old Venetian estates.



The surrounding environment

Vegetation around the main part of the trail is uniform and comprises natural pine forests with Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) and Rock Rose (*Cistus creticus* & *Cistus salviifolius*) as an understorey.



Calabrian pine stand

At some locations, in particular on the road to Fylagra, the maquis vegetation includes the endemic Golden Oak (*Quercus alnifolia*), while characteristic species are the Kermes Oak (*Quercus coccifera*), Terebinth (*Pistacia terebinthus*), Storax (*Styrax officinalis*), Mastic Tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*) on the Pelendri side, as well as Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus andrachne*), Olive trees (*Olea europaea*), Sage (*Salvia fruticosa*), Mediterranean Hawthorn (*Crataegus azarolus*), Milkvetch (*Astragalus lusitanicus*), Cyprus Odontites (*Odontites cypria*), and also the endemic Grey Germander (*Teucrium divaricatum*), Thorny Broom (*Calycotome villosa*) and many other plants. Towards the end of the trail, along the Fylagra



Styrax officinalis

river (which is a Kourris river branch and flows throughout the year), riparian forests are dominant with main species the Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*), the Oriental Alter (*Alnus orientalis*), Oleander (*Nerium oleander*), Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) and

other hydrophilous species.

It is worth noting that private land along the trail was wholly agricultural land in the old times (see old dry stone walls and old vines). This land was deserted and it was gradually colonized by natural forest vegetation similar to that of the state forest. The average annual rainfall in the area is approximately 800mm.

Points of Interest

This walk provides the visitor with the opportunity to come close to nature and diverse forest micro-environments, to enjoy tranquility and to exercise by walking.

It also offers an excellent view from the side of the village of Pelendri towards the villages of Ayios Ioannis and Ayios Theodoros Agrou, towards the Lemesos gulf and from the Fylagra side to the southern slopes of the Troodos Forest, especially the area of Mesa Potamos.



Panoramic view of the Peledri village

Walkers can also visit the local winery situated 250m west of the trail by following the existing old trail.

Along this route there are numbered points bearing mainly the names of the plants and more information is provided below for those who wish to learn more about the flora of the forest.

Numbered points along the trail

1. **Cyprus Scabiosa, *Scabiosa cypriaca*:** Endemic shrub with limited distribution. It is found in garigue areas and in openings of *Pinus nigra* forest at altitude 300 – 1200m.
2. **Grey Germander, *Teucrium divaricatum* subsp. *canescens*:** Endemic subshrub, locally common in garigue areas and sparse pine forests at altitude 0 – 1400m.
3. **Mastic Tree, *Pistacia lentiscus*:** Mediterranean shrub, common in maqui coastal forests and rarely to inlands. (alt. 0 – 800m).



Pistacia lentiscus

4. **Gabbro:** A coarse-grained basic igneous rock consisting essentially of plagioclase and a smaller percentage of clinopyroxene and olivine.
5. **Cyprus Odontites, *Odontites cypria*:** Endemic perennial herb locally abundant at an altitude of 30 – 1600m.
6. **Calabrian Pine, *Pinus brutia*:** The most common tree in the Cyprus forests. It can be found in eastern Mediterranean countries. In Cyprus it occurs at altitude between 0 – 1200m and up to 1600m in warm areas.
7. **Milkvetch, *Astragalus lusitanicus* subsp. *orientalis*:** Perennial herb very common in the wider Troodos range (alt. 300 – 1500m).
8. **Storax, *Styrax officinalis*:** Deciduous shrub, indigenous to the eastern Mediterranean. It can be found scattered in maqui vegetation and sparse pine forests (alt. 0 – 1300m).
9. **Micromeria, *Micromeria chionistrae*:** Endemic subshrub very common in the whole of the island of Cyprus at altitude 600 - 1500m. Flowering from June to December.
10. **Sumach, *Rhus coriaria*:** Deciduous shrub, very common in the Troodos mountain range (alt. 500 – 1650m). In the old times it was widely used in tannery while its fruit is still used in our days as a spice.
11. **Rubia tenuifolia:** Climbing shrub, indigenous in the eastern Mediterranean, with wide spread all over Cyprus (alt. 0 – 1500m).
12. **Terebinth, *Pistacia terebinthus*:** Deciduous Mediterranean shrub, very common in many forests areas (alt. 0 – 1500m).
13. **Microgabbro:** Intrusive fine-grained rock which was created by the intrusion and solidification of the magma inside vertical or steep dipping expansion fissures of the earth's crust.
14. **Kermes Oak, *Quercus coccifera* subsp. *calliprinos*:** Evergreen shrub indigenous to Cyprus, found in maquis and pine forests at altitude 100 – 1300m.
15. **Golden Oak, *Quercus alnifolia*:** Evergreen shrub, endemic to Cyprus, very common in Troodos mountain range. (alt. 600-1700m). Designated as the national tree of Cyprus.
16. **Sage, *Salvia fruticosa*:** Aromatic shrub, indigenous to the eastern Mediterranean, very common in Cyprus at altitude between 0-1300m.



Centaurea aegialophila

17. Strawberry Tree, *Arbutus andrachne*: Evergreen shrub found only in the eastern Mediterranean, the Balkans and up to Caucasian. Quite common in Cyprus at altitude between 600 – 1400m (in some areas even down to 100m).



Thymus capitatus (Wild Thyme)

18. *Quercus alnifolia x Quercus coccifera subsp. calliprinos*: Natural hybrid from a cross between Kermes Oak and Golden Oak, which is very uncommon.
19. Olive Tree, *Olea europaea*: Shrub, (wild) or tree, very common as a self grown shrub or as a cultivated tree (alt. 0-1000m).
20. Thorny Gorse, *Genista sphacellata*: Eastern Mediterranean shrub, very common in many forest areas (alt. 0-900m).
21. Common Smilax, *Smilax aspera*: Creeping shrub, common in many areas of Cyprus at altitude 0-1300m.
22. Mediterranean Hawthorn, *Crataegus azarolus*: Shrub or tree, common in many areas of Cyprus (alt. 0-1300m).
23. Diabase & Microgabbro: Intrusive fine-grained rock which was created by the intrusion and solidification of the magma inside vertical or steep dipping expansion fissures of the Earth's crust.
24. Oriental Plane, *Platanus orientalis*: Deciduous tree, native to Cyprus very common in rivers, riverbeds or near springs (alt. 0-1600m).
25. Oriental Alder, *Alnus orientalis*: Deciduous tree, native to the Eastern Mediterranean, quite common near the main rivers together with the plane (alt. 10-1600m). Its forests are considered a priority habitat in Europe and they are protected.
26. Oleander, *Nerium oleander*: Evergreen shrub, very common along streams and rivers in the 0-900m zone.
27. Giant Reed, *Arundo donax*: Common perennial herb in moist areas and streams (alt. 0-600m).
28. Everlasting, *Helichrysum italicum*: Subshrub, very common in the wider Troodos mountain range (alt. 300-1500).
29. *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce var. cyprius*: Endemic shrub, found close to limestone and igneous rocks (alt. 150-1500m). Flowering from May to July.

The fauna of the area

The trail runs along an area which is undoubtedly rich in biodiversity. The exquisite species of flora, the morphology of

the ground and also the high altitude are characteristics which favour a rich and important for the island fauna, which enhances the whole ecosystem of the region. The most characteristic species of fauna found in the wider region are:

Mammals

Hare, *Lepus europaeus cyprinus*
Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes indutus*
Long eared Hedgehog, *Hemiechinus auritus dorotheae*



Vulpes vulpes indutus

Birds

Long-legged Buzzard, *Buteo rufinus*
Bonelli's Eagle, *Hieraetus fasciatus*
Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*
Raven, *Corvus corax*
Chukar, *Alectoris chukar*
Wood pigeon, *Columba palumbus*
Blackbird, *Turdus merula*
Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos*
Cyprus Wheatear, *Oenanthe cypriaca*
Cyprus warbler, *Sylvia melanothorax*
Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*



Turdus merula

Reptiles

Blunt-nosed Viper, *Macrovipera lebetina*
Montpellier Snake, *Malpolon monspessulanus*
Large Whipsnake, *Dolichophis jugularis*
Agama Lizard, *Laudakia stellio cypriaca*
Chameleon, *Chamaeleo chamaeleon recticrista*



Erithacus rubecula

Code of behaviour for visitors

We wish you an enjoyable walk and at the same time we would like you to keep in mind the following

- Lighting of fire in, or near the forest is strictly prohibited by law.
- Avoid smoking or eating during your walk.
- Do not cut plants or write on tree trunks.
- Keep on the trail.
- The use of bicycles, motorbikes or any other motor vehicle is not allowed.

Inquiries

For more information on nature trails in Cyprus, you may visit the webpage of the Department of Forests www.moa.gov.cy/forest

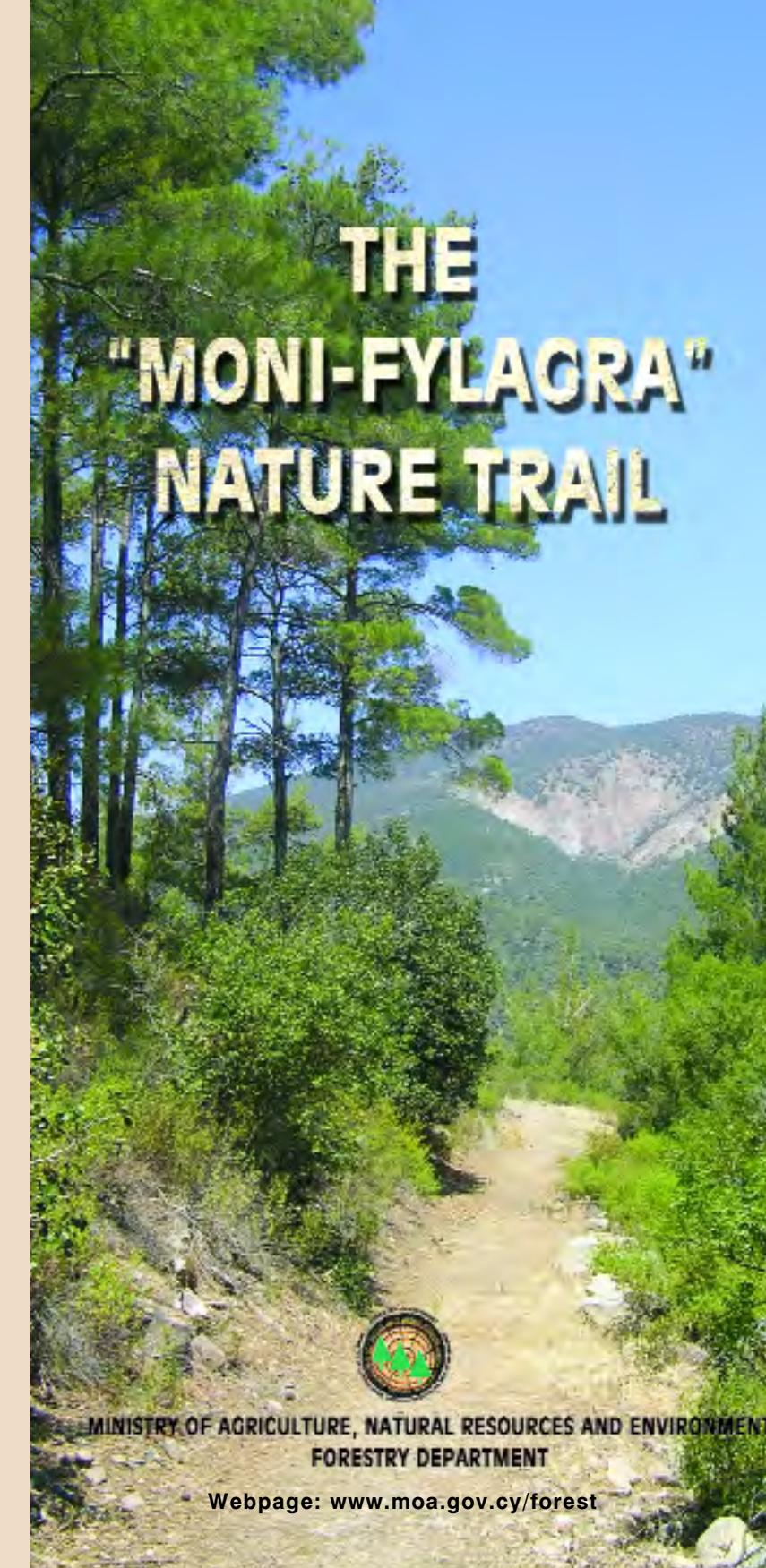
For any other information or recommendations you are welcome to contact us at the following phone numbers: 22805533, 22924219.



P.I.O. 409/2006 - 3.000

Published by the Press and Information Office

Printed: Theopress Ltd



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

Webpage: www.moa.gov.cy/forest