

The high ecological value of the Akamas Peninsula along with the high variety of flora species and wildlife, the special geomorphological formations, the spectacular landscapes and the vast wealth of historic and cultural heritage create the need of providing more nature trails in the Akamas Peninsula.

New trails in the peninsula provide opportunities to enjoy and study the unknown and unspoiled landscapes of natural environment with considerably diverse flora and fauna, picturesque coastlines and cultural and historical elements. The Smigies nature trail includes two circular routes with length 7,5 km for the long route and 2,5 Km for the short route. They can be walked in three (3) and one (1) hours respectively. Both routes start and end at the Smigies picnic-site which is located approximately in the center of the peninsula, five (5) Km from the village of Neo Chorio.

The first common part of the two routes, one (1) Km long approximately, starts from the picnic-site "Smigies" and passes through the slopes of "Piana ridge" where the Akamas fire look-out station is located. Passing near the fire look-out station the common route follows the road of the Piana ridge which leads to the "Arnaouti" Cape. Leaving the junction which leads to the Akamas fire look-out station at 200 m approximately, the two routes are separated.

The long route, leaving the road on the Piana ridge, to the right, reaches the spectacular locality of "Kefalovrysia" where it meets the Nature Trail "Adonis". At this junction, the visitor can change route and trail, in order to reach the "Baths of Aphrodite", otherwise the visitor can continue eastwards and pass through the old mine of "Magnisia" and reach the locality "Pampela" where the long route meets with the short route.

The short route, leaving the road on the Piana ridge, also to the right, passes through the beautiful locality of "Skotini" and ends very shortly at the locality "Pampela". The short route decreases the total length of the trail and the walking time into one third approximately.



Smigies picnic site

## DESCRIPTION OF THE NUMBERED POINTS OF THE TRAIL

### A. FIRST COMMON PART OF LONG AND SHORT ROUTES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TRAIL (Smigies Picnic-site – Skotini area)

- 1 ***Cistus creticus* var. *creticus*** – Rock-rose:

Mediterranean shrub (alt. 0 - 1700m) with pink flowers. It is usually a shrub of understory vegetation of wild pine (*Pinus brutia*).



*Cistus creticus* var. *creticus* - Rock-rose

- 2 ***Cistus salviifolius*** – Sage-leaved cistus:

A very common shrub in Cyprus with white flowers (alt. 0 -1500m).



*Cistus salviifolius* - sage-leaved cistus

- 3 ***Cistus parviflorus*** - Rock-rose:

Common shrub of maquis forests in Cyprus (alt. 0 - 800m).

- 4 ***Asperula cyprica*** - Asperula:

Endemic low shrub. Common shrub of maquis forest and frygana.

- 5 ***Juniperus phoenicea*** – Phoenician Juniper:

Mediterranean shrub, one of the four indigenous juniper species of the island (alt. 0 - 500m).



*Juniperus phoenicea* - phoenician juniper

- 6 **View point:** Panoramic view to the southwestern shores of the peninsula.

- 7 ***Calycotome villosa*** – Thorny Broom:

Common shrub in the broader Troodos range (alt. 0 - 1000m)

- 8 ***Pinus brutia*** – Wild Pine:

Wild pines with characteristic form due to the influence of sea-winds.

- 9 **Serpentine rock:** Characteristic rock of forest ecosystems

### B. THE LONG ROUTE (Skotini area – Kefalovrysia – Pampela)

- 10 **Lava Rocks** completely eroded without vegetation.

- 11 ***Thymus integer*** - Thyme:

Endemic low shrub located at the zone of 100 - 1700m, in Pinus forests, maquis vegetation and frygana.



*Thymus integer* - thyme

- 12 ***Fumana arabica* var. *arabica*** – Fumana:

Common shrub common in areas with phrygana (alt. 0 - 800m).

- 13 ***Juniperus phoenicea*** – Phoenician Juniper: See point 5.

- 14 ***Pistacia terebinthus*** – Terebinth Tree:

Deciduous shrub or small tree, quite common in Cyprus (alt.0 - 1600m).

- 15 ***Cupressus sempervirens* var. *horizontalis*** - Mediterranean Cypress: A coniferous tree native of the eastern Mediterranean towards India. Natural stands are relatively rare in Cyprus. It is usually located on calcareous rocks.

- 16 ***Sarcopoterium spinosum*** - Prickly Burnet:

Shrub common in areas covered with garigue vegetation (alt. 0 - 1000m).



*Sarcopoterium spinosum* - prickly burnet

- 16A **Kefalovrysia:** Springs providing potable water to Neo Chorio. Rich forest ground.

- 17 ***Lithodora hispidula* subsp. *versicolor*** - Lithodora:

Indigenous shrub common in areas with garigue vegetation (alt. 0 - 1000m). It grows also naturally in Turkey and Syria.

- 18 **Mine of "Magnisia":** Abandoned mine from which magnesium was mined.

- 19 **Smelting furnace** of "Magnisia" mine.

- 20 ***Salvia fruticosa*** – Three-leaved Sage:

An eastern Mediterranean plant which in Cyprus is very common in a variety of habitats (alt. 0 - 1400m). Its dried leaves are locally used for tea.



*Salvia fruticosa* - three-leaved sage

- 21 ***Teucrium micropodiodes*** – Germander:

Indigenous species common in Akamas Peninsula and the broader Troodos range.

- 22 ***Cistus monspeliensis*** – Narrowed-leaved Cistus:

This shrub which is common in

Europe, in Cyprus is restricted to the western parts of Paphos and Akrotiri area. Cyprus is the easternmost boundary of its natural distribution.

- 23 ***Cistus monspeliensis* x *parviflorus*** :

A natural hybrid occurring in places where both parents grow (*C. monspeliensis* and *C. parviflorus*).

- 24 **View point:** Panoramic view of Chrysochou Bay.

- 25 ***Olea europea* subsp. *oleaster*** – Olive tree:

Evergreen tree widespread in the Mediterranean region. In Cyprus, it occurs mostly in maquis forests but also in pine forests (alt. 0 - 1000m). It is widely cultivated in countries with Mediterranean climate.

- 26 ***Ceratonia siliqua*** – Carob tree:

Evergreen tree indigenous of the eastern Mediterranean countries. In Cyprus it occurs in maquis and pine forests (alt. 0 - 700m). It is widely cultivated for its fruits, the locust.

- 27 ***Prasium majus*** – Great hedge-nettle:

It occurs within shrubs in maquis forests (alt. 0 - 500m) and blossoms from January - May. It is found in Mediterranean countries and the Atlantic islands.



*Prasium majus* - great hedge-nettle

- 28 ***Juniperus phoenicea*** – Phoenician Juniper: See point 5.

- 29 ***Rhamnus oleoides*** – Buckthorn:

Shrub usually found in maquis forests (alt. 0 - 900m). It blossoms March and April. Its fruits when ripe is red.

- 30 ***Phagnalon rupestre* subsp. *rupestre*** – Fleabane:

Low shrub common in the southeastern part of Cyprus (alt. 0 - 800m). It occurs in maquis forests and garigue.

- 31 ***Juniperus stands:*** Mixed thick stand with dominant shrub the Phoenician Juniper.

- 32 **Degraded maqui** forest with sclerophyllous, xerophyllous and evergreen shrubs.

- 33 **Regeneration** of Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) in abandoned agricultural land.

- 34 ***Pinus brutia*** – Calabrian Pine giving support to Prickly Ivy, climbing plant common in maquis forests.

- 35 ***Thymus capitatus*** – Wild Thyme:

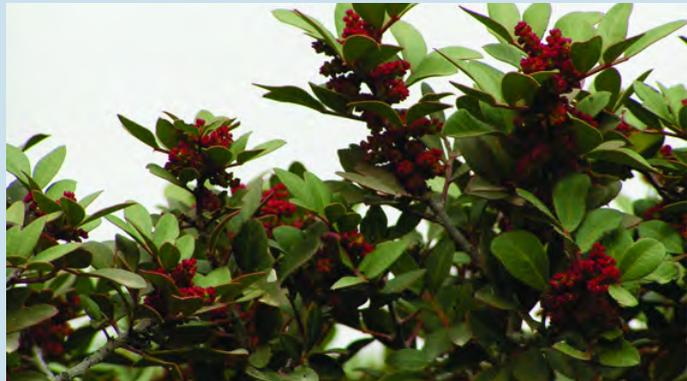
Aromatic shrub, indigenous in the Mediterranean countries. Very common in Cyprus in areas with low vegetation (alt. 0 - 1000m). It is an excellent honey plant.

- 36 *Onosma fruticosum* – Shrubby Golden-drop:  
Endemic shrub of Cyprus, common in many areas (alt. 0 - 1100m).
- 37 *Helichrysum conglobatum* – Sun-gold:  
Low subshrub of maquis forest and garigue usually on limestones formations.
- 38 Unevenaged stand of Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*). See point 8.
- 39 *Quercus coccifera* subsp. *calliprinos* – Kermes Oak:  
Evergreen shrub common in low and medium altitudes (100 - 1100m). This variety occurs naturally also in Turkey, Syria and Israel.

**C. COMMON PART OF THE TWO ROUTES AT THE END OF THE TRAIL.**

(Pampela – Smigies Picnic-Site)

- 40 *Arbutus andrachne* - Strawberry tree:  
Evergreen shrub occurring from Akamas Peninsula up to the altitude of 1400m on Troodos. Its fruits are an excellent food for birds.
- 41 *Genista sphacelata* - Thorny Gorse:  
Common shrub of Troodos range (alt. 0 - 1000m).
- 42 *Fumana arabica* var. *arabica* – Fumana: See point 12.
- 43 *Pistacia lentiscus* - Lentisc:  
Mediterranean evergreen shrub with strongly aromatic leaves and fruits, common in maqui forrests (alt. 0 - 600m).



*Pistacia lentiscus* - Lentisc

- 44 *Cupressus sempervirens* var. *horizontalis* - Mediterranean Cypress: See point 15.

**D. THE SHORT ROUTE  
(Skotini area – Pambela)**

- B10. *Lithodora hispidula* subsp. *versicolor* - Lithodora:  
See point 17.



*Lithodora hispidula* subsp. *versicolor* - lithodora

- B11 *Cistus monspeliensis* x *parviflorus*: See point 23.
- B12 *Onosma fruticosum* - Shrubby Golden-drop: See point 36.
- B13 *Cistus monspeliensis* - Narrowed-leaved Cistus: See point 22.
- B14 *Pistacia lentiscus* - Lentisc: See point 43.
- B15 *Salvia fruticosa* - Three-leaved Sage: See point 20.
- B16 **View point:** Panoramic view of the northeastern shores of Chrysochou Bay and Gialia village. Superb view of the Paphos Forest.
- B17 *Ballota integrifolia* - Ballota:  
Endemic shrub of Cyprus common locally in low altitudes (0 - 600m).
- B18 *Sarcopoterium spinosum* - Prickly Burnet: See point 16.
- B19 *Quercus coccifera* subsp. *calliprinos* – Kermes Oak: See point 39.
- B20 *Origanum majorana* var. *tenuifolium* - Cyprus Marjoran:  
Endemic of Cyprus (alt. 0 - 800m) but widely planted in many countries for its medical and aromatic properties and naturalized in some cases.
- B21 *Calycotome villosa* - Thorny Broom: See point 7.
- B22 *Thymus capitatus* - Wild Thyme: See point 35.
- B23 *Genista sphacelata* - Thorny Gorse: See point 41.



P.I.O. 172/2007 - 5.000  
Published by the Press and Information Office  
Printed: Imprinta Ltd

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**Smigies**  
Nature Trail

