



AGROS VILLAGE **VILLAGE CENTRE**



Natural Environment

Nature Trails

Agros and the broader area of Pitsilia is a real gem with historical and cultural sites with specially designed trails for those who love nature and are in search of something different. Nature lovers are given the opportunity to walk, explore nature, as well as flora and fauna. Visitors with special interests are given the chance of trekking, hiking, and exploring the historical and cultural sites of the traditional architectural design and the lifestyle of residents of Cyprus countryside.

Agros is included in the Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark. At the same time, Agros is only 10 minutes away from Madari mountain top where 4 very popular nature trails start: "Ta teisia tis Madaris", "Mouti tis choras", "Doksasi o Theos", and "Seladi tou Karamanli".

Nature trail Agros-Madari (Linear)

This trail offers panoramic views.

Starting point: At Agros detour road at a point over the dam. 800 metres below the point of the road which leads to the mountain top "Adelfoi" and the fire observatory of Madari, the route crosses with Chandria, Polystypos and Agros villages.

End point: Madari

Estimated duration: 3 hours

Degree of difficulty: Category 3: A trail of high degree of difficulty due to the route which includes difficult geographical features, such as extremely uneven and/or slippery and/or steep ground. It is not suitable for children.

Route length: 3 km

Nature trail Lagoudera-Agros (Linear)

This trail takes you through vineyards and fields with fruit-bearing trees, such as apple trees, cherry trees, and pear trees. The first part starts near Lagoudera village, goes across the river and crosses it. From the ridge Madari-Papoutsas the view is panoramic. From the top you can go towards Madari across the road or by using the trails that begin from the mountain top "Adelfoi". The starting point of Lagoudera is near the route "Lagoudera-Stavros tou Agtamati".

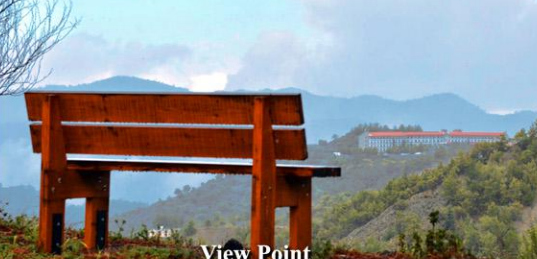
Starting point: Rural road between Lagoudera and central road of Chandria - Polystypos, 700 metres away from Lagoudera village.

End point: Agros at the detour road at the point over the dam

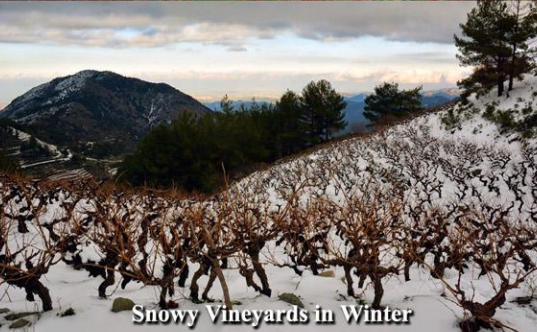
Estimated duration: 2 hours and 30 minutes

Degree of difficulty: Category 3: A trail of high degree of difficulty due to the route which includes difficult geographical features, such as extreme altitude variations (uphill and/or downhill slopes). It is a route in an extremely uneven and/or slippery and/or steep ground. It is not suitable for children.

Route length: 6 km



View Point



Snowy Vineyards in Winter



View of the Village (Center)



Event in the Courtyard of Panagia Eleousa Church



The Customs of the Harvest

Nature trail Agros - Kato Mylos (Round)

The route takes you through vineyards, fields with fruit-bearing trees, such as apple trees, cherry trees, pear trees, as well as rosebushes, from which the popular Agros rosewater is produced. It continues through the forest with outstanding view of the surrounding area. The last part of the route traverses a farm road, which takes you back to Agros.

Starting point: Near "Rodon Hotel"

End point: Agros

Estimated Duration: 2 hours

Degree of difficulty: Category 2: A trail of medium degree of difficulty that includes some special geographical features, such as extreme altitude variations (uphill and/or downhill slopes). It is a route in a narrow and/or steep ground.

Route length: 6 km

Culture

Tradition & Customs

When referring to culture, we refer to what Agros residents have created from the primal years with the aim to improve the quality of their life and their relation with other people.

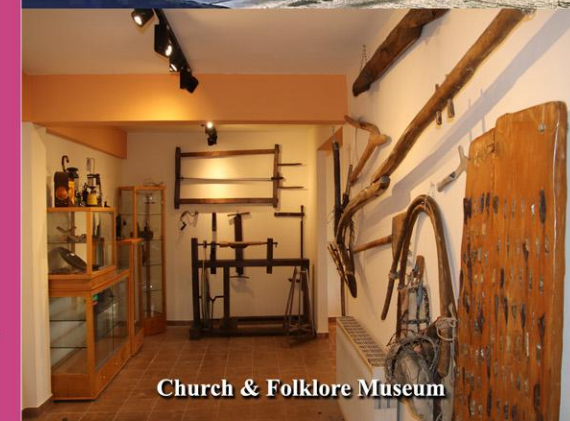
The residents of Agros, being isolated in the mountains of Pitsilia area, preserved unspoiled a lot of cultural features that we still have nowadays. First of all, the dialect of Pitsilia, the ancient customs that still exist up to today and reflect our folkway, such as our local cooking, toasts, litanies, traditional architecture for the building of houses, but also the dry-stones in order to withhold the soil for the cultivation.

The great religiousness of the locals due to the existence of the Monastery of "Megalos Agros" left until today many celebrations, spirituals and songs, unique local customs, rich variety of fasting meals, special toasts and responses during symposiums etc. Due to the climate and the low temperatures, all the locals created their own products rich in calories (smoked meat, nuts, traditional sweets) which are still produced in the present day and are well-known not only in Cyprus but also abroad. In order to deal with their daily needs, locals created useful constructions to simplify their life and their work, because technology was nearly non-existent. That is why, there were craftsmen working with clay, wood, leather, fabric, iron, bronze and any other useful material.

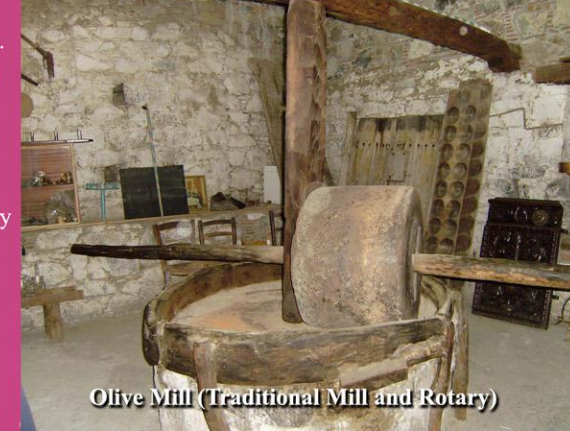
Like all Cypriots, "Pitsilioi" - which is how the locals are called - were singing when they were happy, in pain, or in love using the traditional style of two-verse songs or songs with more verses. For centuries now these keep being a form of entertainment for people here in the mountains. Despite the rugged and mountainous landscape, Agros has never lacked in actively engaging the residents in activities that were always related with various cultural features, like drama, dancing, athletics and environmental issues. This involvement educated and empowered the



Rose Festival



Church & Folklore Museum



Olive Mill (Traditional Mill and Rotary)



Museum of "Mega Agros" Monastery

residents, and as a result contributed to the development and prosperity of the community.

Museums

Church & Folklore Museum

In a museum, which was recently created close to "Timios Prodromos" church, many old ecclesiastic objects are exhibited which were used by priests and churchwardens. At the same time, in the museum, visitors can see a lot of folkore objects, domestic utensils, farming tools and tools for wine production, lamps and other objects. This place was designed with the aim to transfer all this knowledge and experiences, the history and the intangible cultural inheritance of Troodos region from the older to the younger generations.

Olive Mill (Traditional Mill and Rotary)

In 1930, the Olive Mill of "Pera Gitionia", a neighbourhood in Agros, was transferred from the basement of the girls' school to the traditional dwelling where it is now next to "Timios Prodromos" church. This manual system with which the olive oil producers tapped their olive oil is still in a good condition. There can also be found the rotary, the grinder, the mill stones (zemblia) which along with some other tools and objects constitute a small museum of Folk Art. This dwelling is built with stone, wood, and its roof is made of tiles. The whole project was under the supervision of the Department of Antiquities.

Until 1949 next to "Kaouras fountain", there was a similar olive mill for those who lived in the neighbourhood of "Panayia". But it was destroyed to create the electricity generator of Vrasidas Erenarchos (a former mayor of the village) and it was transferred somewhere between "Panayia Eleousa" church and the Primary School, where there are still some remaining mill stones.

Museum of "Mega Agros" Monastery

In 1894, the historic monastery of "Mega Agros" was destroyed. According to history, the monastery was built by monks who came from Kizikos of Asia Minor during the Iconoclasm period. Its place took the existing church of "Panagia Eleousa". Based on the existing descriptions of the Monastery, a chapel was rebuilt, serving as a museum, in which the winged altarpiece of the 12th century icons, old books and any other items are saved from the destroyed Monastery. The Department of Antiquities found architectural remains in the church yard, but also some samples of wall paintings of the monastery as it was fully painted. They also found many hook-plated roofing tiles that were used on the wooden roofs of the churches in Troodos area.

Welcome to Agros

Agros constitutes one of the most beautiful and favourite destinations in Cyprus for everyone who loves nature and tradition as they will ensure a delightful time.

In a short distance from Nicosia and Limassol and in the middle of Troodos Geopark you will find Agros, a place with an especially beautiful natural environment and very hospitable residents. Built in an amphitheatric way in the mountains in an altitude of 1100 metres, the "head village" of Pitsilia area as it is called due to the fact that it is right in the middle, maintains its traditional character and has a very interesting natural environment as well as rich historical and cultural sites.

Visitors are also given many options for accommodation and entertainment, as well as many options for traditional coffee shops and restaurants where they can enjoy traditional tastes and products along with warm hospitality.

One name, one history
Agros village was named after the Monastery of "Megalos Agros" which was built where the church of "Panagia Eleousa" (Holy Mary) is built now. According to tradition, during the Iconoclasm period, 40 monks from Kizikos of Asia Minor abandoned the Monastery of "Megalos Agros" there and came in Cyprus bringing with them the holy icon of Holy Mary. They ended up here in Agros where they lived in a cave for some time and then built a new Monastery that named it after their previous one, that is "Monastery of Megalos Agros". In 1692 AD, a fatal disease appeared in Cyprus afflicting 2/3 of the island's inhabitants. The inhabitants of the region who were saved by the illness abandoned their settlements and moved near the monastery. This way, a new village was created that was named Agros. Finally, in 1894 the monastery was destroyed, but the village remained and it still goes on having this great historic heritage.

Agros today
Due to the many services that are provided, Agros can be called as a small town on the mountains. More specifically, you can find the following services: Citizen's centre, Post Office, Health Centre, Police Station, Firehouse, Information Youth Centre, District Office of Agriculture, Information point, Kindergarten, Nursery and Primary schools, Gymnasium and Lyceum which also includes a Hotel and Restaurant school, Nursing home, Banks, Supermarkets, Butcheries, Confectionery, Sports Centre, Theatre, Bookmaker's shop, Hardware shops, Petrol station and Car repair garages.

Rose Festival
This is a festival which gives you the chance for an excursion to Agros, which is naturally the most fragrant village of Cyprus as it offers generously the aroma and the beauty of roses to the residents and visitors. Roses are now a byword with the village of Agros. That is why the village established the annual Rose Festival that has the aim of spreading the tradition of picking and processing of roses. In this fest of the wild rose (Rosa Damascena), you can live a unique experience of picking and processing roses, but also learn about the process of production and the ways of using roses from ancient times up to today. What is more, during this big fest a lot take place, such as conferences, exhibitions, tour guiding, competitions, traditional rose-water distillation, music programmes etc.

Rose Festival (May)
The rose is considered an integral part of Judean-Christian and Muslim tradition as a sign of purity, dedication and love. Fans of roses can enjoy a visit to Agros in May, when roses bloom, at the annual Rose Festival that lasts for a week. The fest includes many activities, exhibitions, and expositions based on the beauty of nature and the local traditions. The activities include picking roses in the fields surrounded by all their aromas, the happy colours and the sounds of nature, watching the process of rosewater production in order to learn about the beneficial results the use of rose products has taking part in the festive events that will give visitors the chance to be informed about the long-living cultural symbolism of roses and their products, enjoying live performances and shows given by the local drama club and the dance club. In the festival, local producers and the Women association offer Cypriot treats made with local recipes. The cultivation of Rosa Damascena and the production of rose products such as perfumes, brandy, liqueur and local recipes for pastry products constitute the topic for seminars and tours as well. The youth club and cultural associations organise traditional poem recitations and theatre performances having roses and Agros village as their theme, while there are dances taking place in the sounds of traditional music.

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Agros is a village built on the Troodos Mountains, in the region of Pitsilia, in southwest Cyprus, which has built amphitheatrically among high mountains at an altitude of 1100 metres with a population of approximately 1,000. Agros is one of the most interesting villages of Cyprus and the Pitsilia area.

Agros

MAP

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local Products

Businesses / Small industries

A lot of traditional products are produced in Agros, like fruit, traditional smoked meat, traditional sweets, jams, etc.

You can find:
Traditional zivania "Petralona" (99609716), which can be ideally combined with these traditional smoked meat products: louza, positi, pastoumas, tsamara, sausages and himeri Pitsilias (a product under geographical indication protection) from Kafilias; Traditional Smoked Meat Products (25521426), Traditional Smoked Meat Products Deskalou (25522505), and Traditional Smoked Meat Products P. Stavrou (99612146). All of their products are made based on traditional, time-honoured recipes of their families.

It is also worth searching for the big variety of herbs and fragrant plants that are produced in Agros from Mrs Yiannoula Savva under the name "Agro-votana (99860737)".

In any case, don't miss to taste even one of the 90+ jam and traditional sweets flavours from Niki Agathoholeous, who owns Niki's Traditional Sweets (25521400). We recommend trying the well-known traditional rose sweet that was identified as a product under geographical indication protection. You will truly be amazed with its taste and aroma! Besides, Agros is known for its fragrant roses that are cultivated in the area from approximately 100 members of the Cooperative Corporation of Rose producers of Agros (25521224), who have taken on the trade and distillation of the popular rosewater since 1961. In addition, under the name "Agrose" you can find products like rose syrup, tea, coconut candies, delights, as well as cosmetics. Another trademark of the village is the Rose Factory Chris N. Tsolakis (25521893), where you can find products like rose liqueur, rose aperitif, rose wine, essential oil, perfumed candles, rosewater, tea, soaps, vinegar, jam, face creams and more. Everything is of course in the pink colour of the famous Rosa Damascena!

Agros residents are also occupied with agriculture and produce high quality fruit and vegetables that you can find in the Regional Company of fruit and other local supermarkets.

Churches & Chapels

The village consists of 3 parishes and their respective churches are "Panayia Eleousa", "Timios Prodromos", and "Apostolos Varnavas". Apart from these main churches, there are 3 chapels around the village: "Agioi Gerasimoi", "Agia Kiriaki", and "Apostolos Loukas".

The church of "Panayia Eleousa" is the biggest and the most imposing of the village. It was built in 1909 after the demolition of the Monastery of "Megalos Agros" that was in that place. It has got a cruciform shape with a dome, built with local stones that is visible on the outside. Inside there are contemporary wall iconography paintings on the dome and the chancel. The wooden sculpted altarpiece is considered a distinct wealth for the church, as it is framed up with fine icons painted by Solonas Fragkoukides. The church celebrates on the 21st of November (The presentation of Mary), when there is a big celebration with many believers coming to bow down to the holy icon.

The church of "Timios Prodromos" was built in 1860 and it is located in "Pera Ytionia" neighbourhood. It is a one-aisled royal temple with a tiled roof and a 100 feet length and 25 feet width. It stands out as the only church of this style with this length in Cyprus. It celebrates on the 29th of August when the holy icon of Timios Prodromos is carried around as a litany.

The chapel of Agioi Gerasimoi was built in the beginning of this century and more specifically during 2004-2008. It is located on the north of Apeitio High School. It is a small church of one-aisled royal style.

The chapel of Agia Kiriaki is 5 km on the northeast side of the village in the road between Agros and Nicosia. It is a small church of one-aisled royal style that celebrates on the 7th of July. Next to it there is a monument dedicated to the Cypriot Fighter Woman, an offer of respectful remembrance and honour to the woman fighter of Pitsilia for a period of 1955.

The main church of "Apostolos Varnavas" and the small church of "Apostolos Loukas" are in "Pera Ytionia" neighbourhood and belong to the Julian church calendar.

Historical monuments

There are a lot of historical monuments in the village. In the village square, there is the bust of Nearchos Clerides, who was a folklorist and a teacher of the village. Outside Apeitio High School you can also see the bust of Kiriakos Apeitios, the benefactor of the school, and the monument of Petros Eliades, a hero of EOKA liberating war 1955-59. You can also see the monument of the Woman Fighter of Pitsilia, as well as hide-outs of the EOKA war. In addition, you can visit the point of reference and honour for Agros village that was chosen as an iconic village for the Mediterranean Diet.

Follow the signs for the Points of interest

Parks-Squares-View points
In the center of the village dominates the renewed Kaouras Square with the famous Kaouras Fountain and the Bridge of 1934. In the square there is a new and with all the safety specifications playground for our little friends. At the same time you can admire the ridges and the wonderful colors of the rose garden from the view point that exists in the sidewalk area. In addition you can walk along the path that leads through the suspension bridge to a wonderful recreation area. At the same time the community has 2 more parks, Agros Loukas and Anastasia.

Walking to Rodon Hotel you can enjoy the panoramic view of the village from the view point located at the highest point of the sidewalk.

1. Kaouras square
2. Panayia Eleousa Church
3. Chapel - Museum of the monastery of Megalos Agros
4. Timios Prodromos Church
5. Folklore Art Museum - Olive mill
6. Apeitio Gymnasium of Agros
7. Primary School of Agros
8. Point of reference for the Mediterranean Diet
9. Anastasia Park
10. Ayios Loukas Park
11. Glafkos Clerides Sports Centre
12. Traditional Smoked meat factories
13. Rosewater factories
14. Traditional sweets factory
15. Hide-outs
16. View points

*For more information and maps for Troodos area and Cyprus you can visit the Information center 'Info Point' which is in the village centre.