

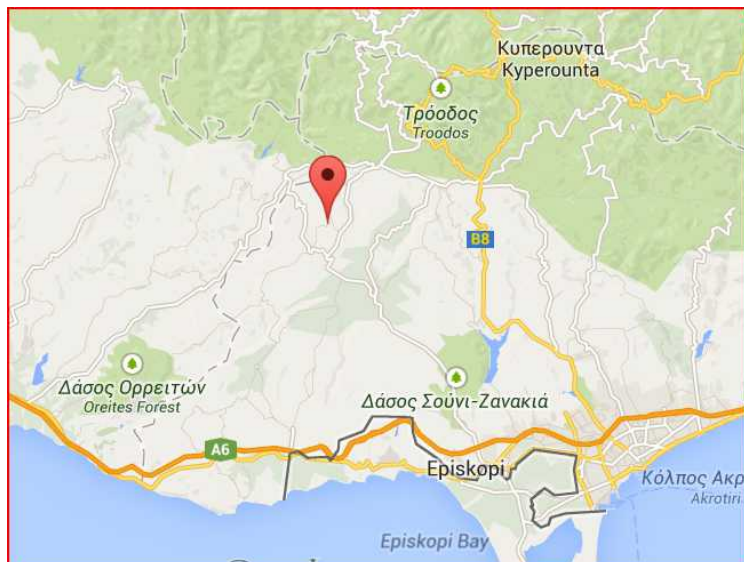
TRIP TO TROODOS 21.-22. FEBRUARY.



We drove this route.

According to Google Maps this round will take 4 h 44 min, but there is calculated with the normal speed limit of 80 km/h. The road is narrow and very winding many places so the possible speed is very much lower.

The first village we stopped in was [Vasa](#). It is known for vine growing, and we see vineyards as we approach the village. In 2001 there lived 120 people there.



Vasa lies here.

More vineyards.



We parked in the outskirts and walked towards the center.



They have spent a lot of time and work on building their walls.





Here we are approaching the church. The space outside seems to be the gathering place for locals.



This guy is waiting for customers. He relaxes.



Here some guys are sitting and drinking coffee with the priest.



The priest is leaving.



Aki has found a table and is waiting for serving.



Further on we drove right past [Linus Winery](#), located just before Omodos. We stopped for tastings, but it was not open this time of the year.



Here's the driveway.

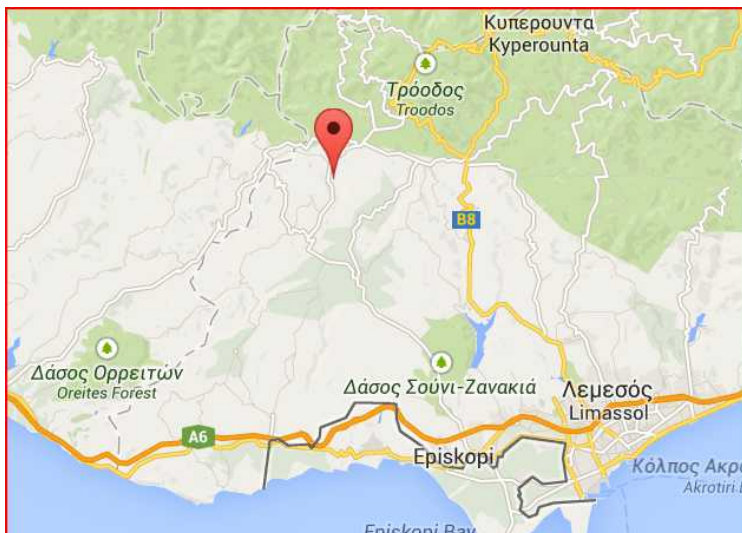


The view up the valley from Linus Winery. It is one of the oldest wineries in Cyprus.



Then we come to [Omodos](#). It is slightly larger than Vasa with 311 inhabitants in 2001.

[Link](#) to more information about Omodos.



Omodos lies here.



In the center there is a street with restaurants on both sides.



The vegetable dealer.



Photo from the street.



Here we are on our way to have a cup of coffee.



Here we are sitting.



At the end of this street is a square and [Timios Stavros Monastery](#). It was established some time before 327 AD, and the city is probably built around the monastery. There are many relics in the monastery, among them a holy cross, one piece of rope used to tie Jesus to the cross, the skull of the Apostle Philip, etc.



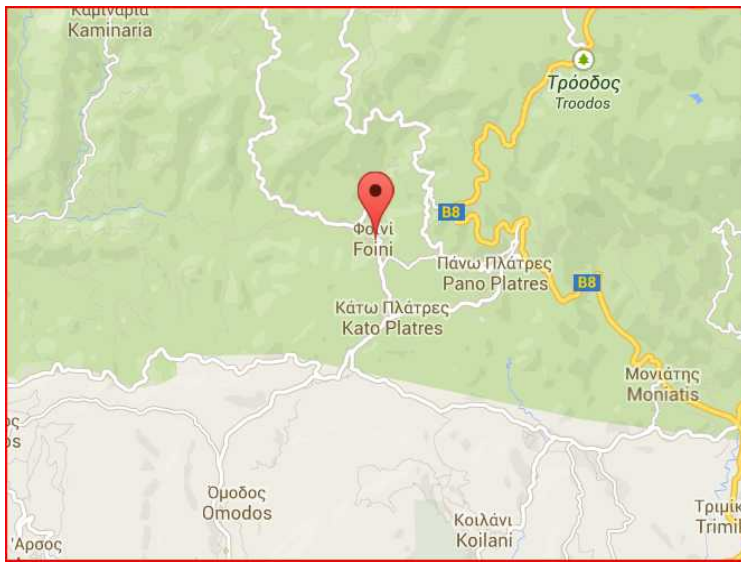
Outside the monastery stands this memorial of [Dositheos](#). He was abbot of the monastery and killed 10 July 1921 by the Turks during the War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire.



The bust of Dositheos.



Here we have taken a small detour to [Foini](#). Foini or Phini is most famous for the pottery business. There lived 445 people here in 2002.



Foini lies here. We can also see Pano Platres, where we stayed for the night.



View from the road down to [Foini](#).



This is in the center of [Pano Platres](#). We entered this restaurant for a snack. The restaurant is called [The Village Restaurant](#).



I am studying the menu, which is posted outside the entrance.



We all ordered [Dolmades](#), vine leaves stuffed with rice and minced meat. Here's cutlery and bread arrived at the table.



It came with potato chips. Potato chips comes with almost all the food if you do not ask for anything else.



After we had eaten, we drove up to the hotel, called [Edelweiss](#). We had booked through Booking.com. The images are taken from the pages of Booking.com. Platres is best known as a resort for wealthy people who have built large holiday homes to escape the heat further down.



This is the view from our balcony.



First there was wine and crosswords on the balcony.



Then we looked at the biathlon relay for women inside with Bente and Bjørn.



Aki would absolutely rest on top of me.



We had ordered local river trout for dinner. Here we are ready.



For starters, it was [minestrone soup](#).
[Recipe](#).

In the soup we were served, there was far from so many ingredients as in the recipe above.



The hotel host asks if the soup was good, and it certainly was. I seem at least not dissatisfied.



The host asked what we wanted to drink with the fish. We wanted white wine, and here he recommends the house wine.



Here is the white wine bottle.



It is a local winery, which produces the wine and bottle it in bottles with the hotel label on.



Then the trout came on the table. It was also very good. It came with gravy, boiled vegetables and salad as well.



Good dinner.



Chocolate cake with cream as dessert.



In the bar hangs emblems from a variety of football clubs, most English. We had coffee and cognac in the lounge as a finish.



The next day in the breakfast room, i.e. the same hall where we ate dinner the night before. It's just me who is seated yet. Bente and Bjørn are out walking the dog and Anne Berit is taking pictures as usual.



Here we all are. It was a rich breakfast too.



Outside the hotel, ready to drive on.



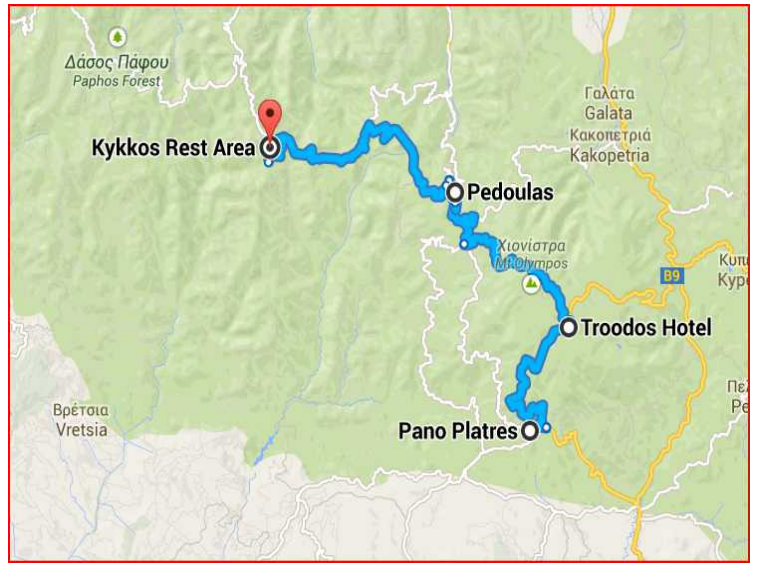
This is [Troodos Hotel](#).
The hotel is located in an area just below Mount Olympus. Here are ski lifts, ski slopes and hiking trails.



Here the road goes past the hotel.



At [Prodromos](#) there are a couple of restaurants and a large roundabout with roads in all directions. Prodromos is the highest (1380m) village in Cyprus.



This is the route from Pano Platres to Kykkos.



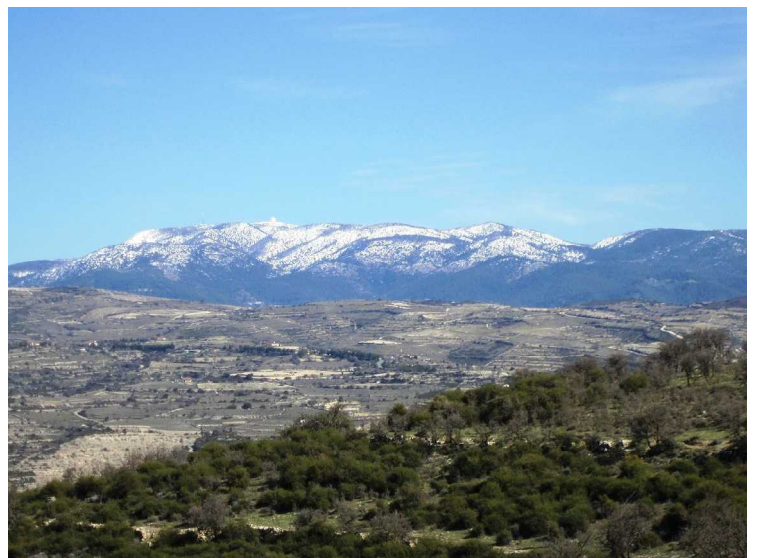
Here we see down to [Pedoulas](#), a small village in the north part of the Troodos, and a popular vacation spot in the summer.



On Fidkias peak right at Pedoulas is erected a small church and a 25m high cross, [The holy cross](#), in honor of those killed in the Balkan wars of 1912-13.



Here we look back at the big cross.



A little farther on, we look back at [Mt. Olympos](#), which is the highest mountain in Cyprus, 1952m.



Here we come to the monastery in [Kykkos](#). It is the largest and richest monastery in Cyprus. It was founded in the late 1000s. There is nothing left of the oldest monastery. It has burned many times. Another [link](#).



A millstone is one of the decorations outside the monastery.



The millstone.



The entrance.



Here we are inside looking out.



The space inside the monastery.



From the cloister we can look up at the clock tower.

There is a monastery museum here too.

Below are some photos of the decorations.





The belfry up the slope.

A 10m high statue of [Archbishop Makarios III](#).



The [tomb](#) is located further up, but we did not go up there. Another [link](#).



View all the way to the top.



This building stands at the very top of Throni Hill.



The view from the monument.



This is a [cedar tree](#), which there is a lot of up in the Troodos Mountains, especially in the Cedar Valley, see map overleaf. These are a species that is unique to Cyprus.



Another specialty of the Troodos Mountains, the prevalence of the [Mouflon](#), an European wild sheep, which is thought to be one of the two ancestors for all modern [domestic sheep](#) breeds.



The route from Kykkos to Pano Panagia. The map also displays the road that runs through the Cedar Valley.



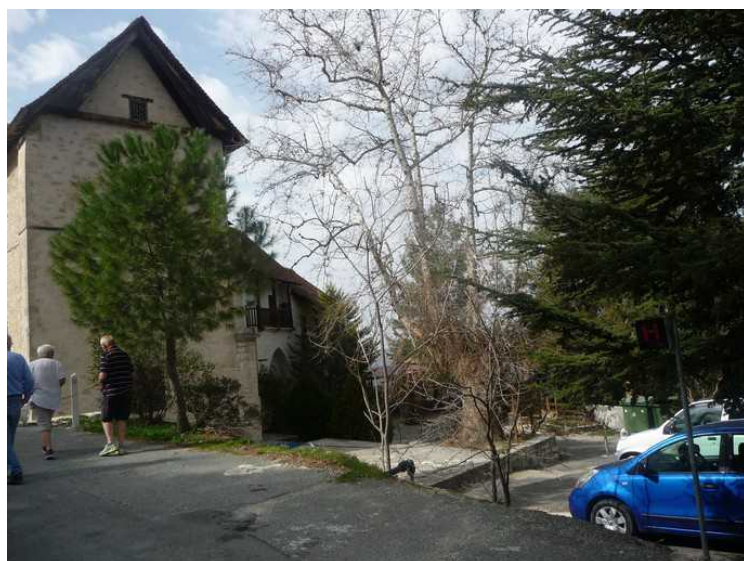
Almond trees in bloom.



Now we come to Pano Panagia.



Just beyond Panagia lies [Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery](#). It was founded in 1152 by a monk, Ignatius. Another [link](#).



From the parking lot we see the monastery.



From the main road that runs right outside the monastery walls.



Fine seed capsules on a bush.



View to Pano Panagia.



The entrance to the cloister.



Inside the cloister.



The cloister again.



Clock Tower.



View in direction of [Pano Panagia](#). The village takes its name from the many churches in the district around.



We stopped at a small restaurant on the main street to have a snack, three Dolmades and an omelet.



Archbishop Makarios was born in this city and here I am on the search after the house where he was born. I find it here.



Here it is.



It was closed when we were there so we just looked around at the outside.



The façade facing the street.



On the back there is a take-away restaurant being restored.

Almond tree flowers.

