



## Local Walks

### Walk to Arillas (off road)

( via Elpitha Bistro 1.44km approx 30 minutes each way )

( via Golden Beach Hotel 2.75km approx 1 hour each way )

Arillas is a quiet holiday village facing the Ionian sea, which, makes it an ideal choice for a relaxing beach holiday. Should you fancy baring all then the far end of the beach is dedicated to nuddies!

We will visit Arillas by taking you along the two of the most scenic off road routes. The first is the quicker route of the two and starts with a very steep walk up to the top of the cliff and is perfect if you just want to get to the beach quickly.

The second is a slow scenic route, which follows a cliff top path with fantastic views across to San Stefanos to your left and with distant views of Petrokaravi Island and Afionas to your right.

Both walks meet up at the "STOP" sign placed at the top of the cliff and then follow the same decent into Arillas. You will notice as you walk, there are various paths that you can use to join or leave these routes if you wish and no doubt you will find your own preferred walk after a couple of days.

Both start at the Barras Apartments, which are situated at the San Stefanos end of the main street.

From the main street turn right at the T junction just past the Barras Appts, passing the Asteria, two stars on your right and the Little Prince taverna on your left continue walking towards the beach. You will soon reach San Stefanos travel and the Margarittas supermarket.

## Route 1

If you're following the quick route then once you get to San Stefano Travel you are looking for the first sharp left hand turn, which almost takes you into a U turn and is signposted to the Elpitha Bistro.

Turn left up this path keeping the beach behind you. This road takes you up a very steep tarmac road, passing some local villas and gardens on the way. Continue walking past the white apartments until you reach the "STOP" sign at the top of the cliff (see both routes below for your next instruction).

## Route 2

If you're following the longer of the two routes then continue on the flat road as it bears round to the left passing San Stefano Travel, but keeping the beach to your right and continue to walk along the road, passing the Nafsika Hotel and the Taverna O Manthos.

Just before the Golden Beach Taverna, you need to walk up a small slope towards a public telephone and continue to walk up the hill along side the taverna keeping the public telephone behind you.

About half way up the hill, at a concrete post! a lane to your right leads you via a steep gravel path to the top of the cliff, passing a lonely house on your right hand side, you will soon see a small chapel at the very top of the hill. This path is steep and mainly consists of loose sand and gravel, and should only be attempted in strong shoes "no flip flops"!

Follow the path along the top of the cliff and you will be treated to some breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside and sandy beach of San Stefanos to your left and towards Arillas to your right.

A slight de-tour to visit the small chapel at the peak is recommended.

Follow the path along the cliff top after a few minutes, looking for a "STOP" sign at the top of the cliff, a small path will appear to your left. This path leads down to the town and joins the main road at the corner behind the Tourist information office (route one).

## Both Routes

Continue along the uphill path, keeping the sea to your right and San Stefanos to your left until it starts to descend towards a group of houses. This is a great place to stop for a rest and enjoy the view towards Arillas.

Follow the path to your right This path winds its way down the hill towards your destination Arillas. The path has been slowly eroding into the sea over the last few years, and can be slippery and difficult on your feet especially if its wet!

If this is a concern then turn left from the resting point between two villas and follow the road to your right hand side. The road goes slowly downhill past some lovely local properties until you reach a junction. Cross over the road and continue on to the next T junction. Turn right at this junction, towards a local supermarket and follow the road downhill. The road meanders down hill passing a bakery and many local shops.

At the next junction there is a restaurant called the Armouada it is usually covered in flowers and looks an amazing site in the summer. Turn right at this junction an just follow the road down to the sea. This brings you out at the Marina Hotel by the jetty.

## Local Walks

### Walk to Arillas (by road)

(2km approx 45 minutes each way)

Arillas is a quiet holiday village facing the Ionian Sea, and makes an ideal choice for a relaxing beach holiday.

If you don't fancy walking off road then why not follow the main road into Arillas?

The starting point for this walk is at the end of the main street just past the Barras Appts. Turn left at the T junction and follow the sign to Arillas, walk past the tennis court, supermarket and holiday apartments on your left.

You will soon reach a steep up-hill S bend follow the road round to the left, and continue to walk along the road up a slight hill until you reach the T junction.

Turn right at this junction, towards a local supermarket and follow the road downhill. The road meanders down hill passing a bakery and many local shops.

At the next junction there is a restaurant called the Armouada it is usually covered in flowers and looks an amazing site in the summer.

Turn right at this junction and just follow the road down to the sea. You will pass many local shops and bars and soon reach the Marina Hotel, which is opposite the jetty.

From here you have a choice of restaurants and bars or just find a sun lounger and relax on the beach.

If you turn left at this junction you will find your way to the Brouklis a traditional Corfiot Taverna we have reviewed in our "[Eating Out](#)" menu.

For more information about Arillas and the surrounding area then visit [www.arillas.com](http://www.arillas.com) via our "[Useful Links](#)" menu.



## Local Walks

### Walk to AG Georgios

( 5km approx 1hr 30 minutes each way )

A G Georgios is an attractive secluded horseshoe bay, that is surrounded by a backdrop of cypress tree clad mountains, absolutely amazing scenery.

The sandy beach stretches for over 2km along the curve of the bay. The beach is more like sharp grit rather than the fine sand you find at Arillas but it does have the advantage that it washes off easily! Take care when getting in and out of the sea, as the beach shelves quickly into the sea water.

Agios Georgios is a good windsurfing centre and there are pedelos as well as jet ski and water ski facilities to hire.

This is a long hard walk from San Stefanos which should only be attempted if you are used to walking and or reasonably fit. A strong pair of shoes are essential certainly no flip flops. Remember to take plenty of water with you as once you pass Arillas the shops are few and far between.

Firstly you will need to walk or drive to Arillas, the next bay along the coast from San Stefanos.

The walk starts at the Marina Hotel by the jetty, follow the road which runs alongside the beach. Keeping the sea to your right, follow the road towards the Tavernas and holiday apartments, passing the Mirage, Sea Breeze, Spiros and Poppy bars until you reach the Thomson Hotel Bardis Sun.

Follow the road round to the left, the road you are looking for is on the right hand side opposite the Vila Feakes Appts, don't go past the sign for Mon-Amour Taverna!

Turn right onto a tarmac road leading into the olive groves and be prepared for a long walk up into the hills, the path twists and turns on its slow ascent up into the hills, at times it seems never ending, but don't worry it will be worth it in the end. The path continues to wind up into the hills turning back on itself when it gets very steep.

There are a number of vantage points on the way, at which you may wish to stop for a drink and enjoy the view. Especially when you reach the top of the hill, looking back towards San Stefanos

you can just about the small chapel at the top of the hill and the narrow path winding its way down to Arillas.

Continue to follow the path until you reach the road, turn right remembering where you left the path for the return journey. Keep on this road, passing the graveyard to your right until you reach a junction with a sign leading down to the beach at A G Georgios.

When we first arrived at this point we still didn't really know where we were heading. We asked a couple of people who were walking up the hill, 'how far is it down to the beach?' 'about 10 minutes' they replied. After walking this far, we can't give up now!

It seems a lot longer than 10 minutes walking down this very steep winding road, still not really knowing what we would find or where we were going. At last we could see the beach, a superb view, Yes it was worth it! Gasping for a drink we went into the first bar we came to "The Golden Moon" with a terrace overlooking the bay.

I don't know whether it was the view, or the thought of the very long walk home, but we certainly didn't want to leave.

Since our first walk, we have visited AG Georgios many times and would certainly recommend the Blue Heaven and Dixtia tavernas for a lunch time snack or a drink.

Take care on your return, as soon after you rejoin the path in the olive groves it splits into three, make sure you follow the middle path!

If you are feeling adventurous when you get back to the top of the hill instead of turning right and walking back to Arillas, why not turn left and walk to Afionas and the headland.



## Local Walks

### Walk through the olive groves

( 4.75km approx 1hr 30 minutes )

This walk through the olive groves was the first ever walk that we tried in Corfu, A nice easy stroll out, not too tiring with the added bonus that its downhill all the way home!

An easy start point is the Barras apartments in the centre of San Stefanos turning left out of the main street and walking along the main road towards Arillas. You will pass Town pizza on your left and Nova Car Rental to the right.

There is a small road just past a tennis court. Turn left, down this road passing the greenhouses to your left, and keep walking towards the Rose Garden holiday apartments in the distance. Continue to follow this road past the very basic yet quaint looking local properties.

The road turns to the right and then left. A modern looking factory to your right (the local laundry) confirms that you are on the right road. follow this road up into the hills, there are a couple of other tracks off of this road that are well worth exploring when you feel a little more adventurous, one of which will take you to Arillas.

There is a tomb on the right hand side of the road, inside is a candle that is always alight. You will see a number of these little tombs erected to remember lost relatives as you explore Corfu. Out of respect we have always declined to photograph.

The road we want climbs up into the hills round an S bend passing a local artificial football pitch to your left. At the top of the hill the road reaches a junction, for San Stefanos (turn left) and Avliotes (turn right) from this point you have a choice of three routes back to San Stefanos.

The distance to this junction is approx 2.75km.

### Route 1 from junction

Turn left and follow the road back to San Stefanos, this route will give you some great views through the olive groves down towards the sea and as you get closer to home great views across the town and bay towards the old harbor and church.

The road climbs up-hill past some traditional Greek properties on both sides of the road. As you climb the hill you can just about make out the sea in the distance through the olive trees to the right. Just follow the road and you will soon be at the top of the steep winding road back down to the village.

Just before you reach the top of the hill look out for the Voula Apartments to your left. From the back of these apartments there is a great view across the valley towards Arillas. You can just about make out the path on the top of the cliff as it makes its way towards Arillas.

Continue along the road passing the Romanza Hotel to your right and the Tereza Pool Bar on your left. You will soon reach the Sunset Taverna an ideal place to stop for a drink or lunch at the end of the main street which, takes you back to the Barras Apartments where you first started out.

## **Route 2 from junction**

The second way home from the road junction takes you through a cool path through the olive trees. You need to take care however as this route is largely an unmade road and a good pair of shoes is a must. Immediately to the left of the junction you will notice a steep path climbing up into the olive groves, at first it looks as if you are doubling back on yourself don't worry.

A very peaceful walk under the shade of the olive trees to keep you cool, as long as you don't stray from this main path the route back to San Stefanos is very straightforward.

The last part is down a very steep slope towards the town, having to walk from side to side to avoid the deep ruts, the road finally approaches the village centre at the tourist office virtually opposite the Aspa supermarket.

## **Route 3 from junction (courtesy of Roy and Susan)**

The third way home from the road junction takes you through a cool path through the olive trees and down to the beach in San Stefanos. This route is largely an unmade road although, the track is wide and easy to follow.

Turn left and follow the road back towards San Stefanos as per route one however, after about 250 metres just before the top of the hill you will see an apartment block on your right. There are (2 small lions on the gate posts). Take the minor road on the right that runs alongside the apartments. You will then pass a small church with a large Oleander bush/tree outside, There are a couple of seats outside, so this is a good place to rest and take in the views.

The road soon turns into a track, continue round the bend until you arrive at a junction of tracks. There are 3 tracks, take the left hand track and follow this down through the Olive Groves. Towards the end the path gets a little steep as it leads onto the beach. When you arrive at the beach turn left and walk along the beach back towards San Stefanos.



## Local Walks

### Walk to Afionas

( 5km approx 1hr 30 minutes each way )

Afionas provides a fantastic view of the bay of Agios Georgios, together with magnificent views of the Diapontian Islands and Gravia island "ship island" looking back towards Arillas. On the headland there are faint remains of defensive walls, which date from about 500 BC. Excavations in 1912 uncovered traces of a Neolithic settlement dating to c 3000 BC.

This is a long hard walk from San Stefanos which should only be attempted if you are used to walking and or reasonably fit. A strong pair of shoes are essential certainly no flip flops. Remember to take plenty of water with you as once you pass Arillas the shops are few and far between.

This walk was discovered on one of our many walks to AG Georgios just by taking a different turning one day.

Firstly you will need to walk or drive to Arillas, the next bay along the coast from San Stefanos. See other walks.

The walk starts at the Marina Hotel by the jetty, follow the road which runs alongside the beach. Keeping the sea to your right, follow the road towards the Tavernas and holiday apartments, passing the Mirage, Sea Breeze, Spiros and Poppy bars until you reach the Thomson Hotel Bardis Sun. Follow the road round to the left, the road you are looking for is on the right hand side opposite the Vila Feakes Appts, don't go past the sign for Mon-Amour Taverna!

Turn right onto a tarmac road leading into the olive groves and be prepared for a long walk up into the hills, the path twists and turns on its slow ascent up into the hills, at times it seems never ending, but don't worry it will be worth it in the end.

The path continues to wind up into the hills turning back on itself when it gets very steep. There are a number of vantage points on the way, at which you may wish to stop for a drink and enjoy the view.

Especially when you reach the top of the hill, look back towards San Stefanos, you can just about make out the small chapel at the top of the hill and the path winding down to Arillas.

Continue to follow the path until you reach the road, turn right remembering where you left the path for the return journey. Keep on this road, passing the graveyard to your right until you reach a junction with a sign leading down to the beach at A G Georgios.

Walk past this junction and carry on up the hill, passing a number of restaurants, bars and a bakery "Panarama", "Three Brothers" each with an excellent view of Arillas or the Ionian Sea.

The road twists and turns as it continues to climb uphill. You will soon reach a steep "S" bend just before the final ascent, which is the last steep climb before you reach Afionas.

The road comes to an end at the church square, look for the chapel with the lovely bell tower to your left and a craft shop to your right.

From here you have two options: The first takes onward from the square to the headland and the second to the Dionysos Taverna.

### **Option one:**

Continue by going up a narrow slope to the right of the craft shop signposted "To Sunset" 200m.

This path takes you through a narrow paved street passing some traditional whitewashed properties that are always a mass of flowers in the summer. Old feta cheese and olive tins are used as a planters, filled with colourful flowers.

Follow this path onto the headland where you will find bench seats and a wonderful view back towards Arillas, ship island and San Stefanos.

### **Option two:**

A sign on the left hand wall of the craft shop guides you down a side street to the Dionysos Taverna.

This taverna has breathtaking views across the bay of AG Georgios and is certainly worth a visit, a great opportunity for photos and a good place to eat.

Before visiting the Dionysos Taverna follow the road round to the right, passing the entrance to the taverna car park, follow the path as it begins to narrow through the bushes. Continue on this path until you reach a wide stone path.

Follow this path onto the headland where you will find bench seats and a wonderful view back towards Arillas, ship island and San Stefanos.

For more information and photos of Afionas then visit [www.agiosgeorgios.co.uk](http://www.agiosgeorgios.co.uk) via our "[Useful Links](#)" menu.



## Local Walks

### Walk to Porto Timoni

This walk has been on our list of walks to attempt for a number of years, especially after seeing the photos of Porto Timoni on the Agios Georgios website.

We had always been put off by the very steep narrow overgrown path.

Since then we have walked to Porto Timoni returning back up the hill to re-trace our steps to the Dionysos Taverna.

This walk starts and finishes at the Dionysos Taverna and you can either use our walk to Afionas, come by car or sign up to a guided walk to get there.

From the craft shop in Afionas take the left hand track towards the Dionysos but before you reach the taverna look out for a path running parallel to the taverna passing the terraced seating area and the cypress trees.

Keeping the taverna to your right you will soon pick up the path. Apparently the path can become overgrown at certain times of the year so take care! We have completed this walk in June and July and whilst very hot the conditions were fine.

You must be strong and reasonably fit before attempting this walk as the path is steep, narrow and at times requires quite a large step down to the next level.

The path wanders down the headland and is barely visible from the beach. The view is great and if you look back up the hill you are descending you will appreciate why we paid for the guided walk and the promise of a speedboat to return us to Arillas.

You will soon see the bay of Porto Timoni on the right and Limni to your left. Many people visit by boat or pedelo from the beach.

Porto Timoni is the larger of the two bays and has a nice beach with clear water for you to swim or snorkel.

It took us about an hour to get from the taverna to the bay, we took our time, paused for water and to take photographs of what can only be described as wonderful scenery.

If you are feeling adventurous the walk continues up hill to the far left hand side of Porto Timoni towards the church of Agios Stylianos which is set in a rock cave.

Don't attempt this walk in the wet, ensure that you wear the appropriate footwear and take plenty of water with you! An enjoyable walk, but very hard work.



## Local Walks

### Walk to San Stefanos harbour

(1.75km approx 45 minutes each way)

The best time of day for this reasonably short walk is in the evening just as the sun is going down. San Stefanos has some quiet spectacular sunsets, it is a joy to watch a wealth of colour light up the sky and the surrounding landscape.

From the main street turn right at the T junction just past the Barras Appts, passing the Asteria on your right and the Little Prince taverna on your left and continue walking towards the beach.

The road bears round to the left as you pass San Stefano Travel, keep the beach to your right and continue to walk along the road, past the Nafsika hotel and the Taverna O Manthos.

You will soon see a small harbour on your right, this is a great place to pause, take a photo and just admire the view, across the beach and village.

Continue walking towards the 18th Century Chapel of Stefano, bear right up a slight hill the road now meanders towards the harbour with the final stage a fairly steep hill going down. Remember you will have to climb back up this hill on the way back! There are many opportunities to stop and take photos on the way.

The harbour houses a number of local fishing and pleasure boats and is the starting point for some of the local boat trips to Ericousa and Paleokastritsa. Therefore it is worthwhile getting your bearings early.

There are a variety of hotels and tavernas to choose from on the way back, some of which, we have reviewed in the "[Eating Out](#)" section. If the sun is still setting then the Manthos or Sundowner are great places to sit outside and watch the sun disappear from the horizon.