

CORFU

65 long and short walks • 4 car tours

GPS



This is a sample from the
PDF edition of

Landscapes of
CORFU

a countryside guide
Ninth edition



Noel Rochford
revised by Sunflower Books

This shorter sampler includes some of the introductory text, the introductions to each of the main sections (Picknicking, Car Touring and Walking) with an example of each. There is a total of 136 pages, plus a pull-out island map in the full book.



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Fold-out touring map *inside back cover*



Getting about

The two most popular and affordable ways of getting about on Corfu are by bus and rented transport. Even though the bus network is fairly extensive, it's not always convenient for walks and picnics. During peak season the buses are jam-packed and so sometimes do not call at intermediate bus stops, as they cannot take on any more passengers. And they often run late. For these reasons, *renting a vehicle is a good option*. Both circular walks and linear routes which can be done by using a car or bike in tandem with the buses are indicated in the Contents by the symbol . Often it is a short or alternative version of a walk which lends itself to this approach.

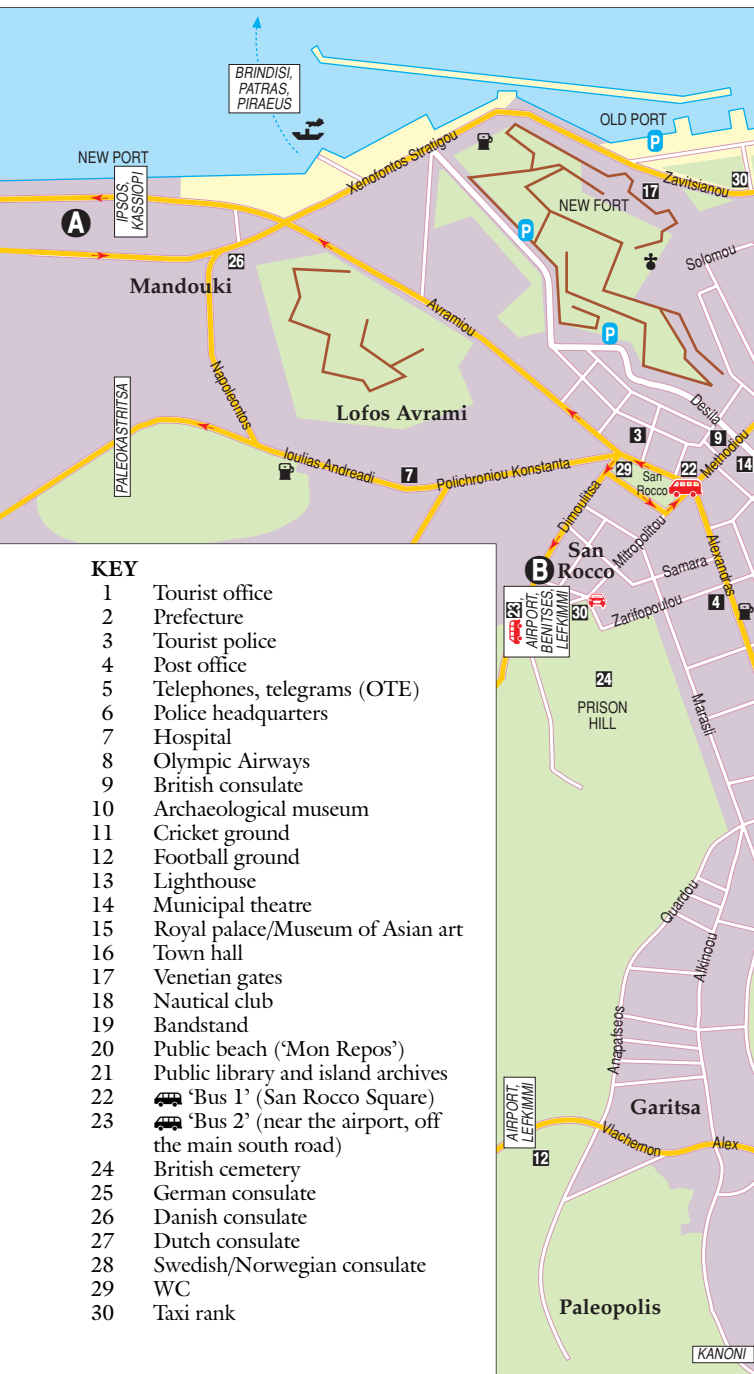
Car hire on the island is fairly expensive in high season, but less costly if you book and pay in advance, either with your tour operator or one of the lower-priced international car hire firms with agents on the island. **Scooter and bike rental**, however, is very economical all year round and two of the most popular ways of getting about.

Coach excursions allow you to see all the major sights in comfort, but they provide no opportunity for contact with countryside life. **Taxis** are another alternative, and sharing with others will help cut costs. Always agree on a price before setting out, and don't be afraid to do a little good-natured bargaining.

Those who prefer to use public transport should note that outside the main tourist resorts, the **local bus** network* (see timetables pages 128-134) serves the local populace, not the visitor. This means that buses leave Corfu Town for far-flung villages very early in the morning and return mid-afternoon. Some of the walks described end along these country bus routes. To catch the day's only return bus means galloping through some walks — not everyone's idea of a pleasant hike. The problem is exaggerated as the season tails off, when late afternoon buses from some resorts are discontinued. One way to overcome this problem is to stay overnight where your walk ends, which is not difficult outside July/August, since there are rooms for rent all over the island. Otherwise, you will have to arrange for friends or a taxi to collect you.

*See notes about buses and stations in the timetables on page 128; stations are shown on the town plan overleaf. *Do, please, recheck bus return times with the bus conductor/driver with whom you make the outward journey!*

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Picnicking

Corfu abounds in scenic little corners, many of which make ideal picnic spots. Ideal because they're far from the madding crowd, and unspoilt. They give you a feel for the countryside, yet you don't have to hike for miles. All my picnic suggestions are within easy reach, and most can be extended into short walks, should your curiosity get the better of you. There are no public picnic sites on the island, and none of my suggestions offers anything more than a lovely setting or a superb view. There are landscapes to suit all tastes — secluded coves, mountaintops, lagoons, olive groves, grassy fields, and abandoned monasteries.

While you can picnic anywhere along a walking route, at the top of each walk I've suggested one or more picnic spots I particularly like, and I've highlighted them on the *walking* maps with the symbol **P**. Many of the picnic spots are illustrated, too — to inspire you!

Most of my picnic suggestions are easily accessible from the car tours as well, and in the car touring introduction I



suggest that you refer to these large-scale maps from time to time. A few picnics, due to their isolation, require a short walk from the nearest parking place; if so, you will find all the information about how to get there in the notes for the relevant walk. Please remember that if more than a few minutes' walking is required, you will need to wear sensible shoes and to take a sunhat (some picnic spots are in full sun). Beach towels come in handy on sand or prickly terrain — maybe with something waterproof underneath early in the season when the ground might still be damp.

Of course you needn't be a picnicker to enjoy my suggestions; they make perfect 'leg stretchers' — a good way to break up a tour and visit places the casual tourist never sees. But if you *are* going to have a picnic, make it one to remember! Here's a short recipe for a healthy picnic: fresh fruit from the market, *angouria* (cucumbers), *domades* (tomatoes), a slab of *feta*, *mortadella* (a garlicky sausage), some *taramasalata* and *tzatziki* from the supermarket, some fleshy maroon olives (if you're into olives). Then pick up a loaf or two of fresh village bread en route. If you have a sweet tooth, add *baklava* (a pastry filled with nuts and oozing honey) or *rizogala* (cold rice pudding). Don't forget the wine!



You have various choices for a picnic from Afionas. The nearest spot is just four minutes away: take the wide alley (shown on page 83) opposite the front door of the church. Up amidst the white-washed houses, take the second alley on the left, followed by a right and then another left (all are signed to a restaurant). This path follows the spine of the ridge to seats looking out to Cape Ag Stefanos and Gravia Island. I call this the 'donkey parking lot': there are sometimes a few donkeys here, munching straw — it makes a terrific photo. Continue on the path down towards Porto/Double Bay, then ascend the hillock over to the right to waypoint (3) — and enjoy this splendid view over the twin coves of Port Timone. You'll have this same view if you do Walk 14a and fork right at waypoint (2) on the short path up to waypoint (3).



Touring

Most tourists rent some form of transport for part, if not all, of their visit. **Car hire** is inexpensive out of the main season (April to October). It is preferable to stay with the well-known hire companies, through whom you can arrange and pay for hire before you leave, including all taxes, CDW, and unlimited mileage. There are also very reasonable fly-drive offers.

Take care when renting; check the car and take time to study the **rental conditions/insurance coverage**. It is imperative to ensure that ‘collision damage waiver’ is included in the insurance, to cover damage to your hire car if repair costs cannot be recovered from a third party. Tyre and windscreen damage (including punctures) are the responsibility of the hirer, so check carefully before you drive off, including the spare. Always carry the agency’s phone number with you, and take some water, food, and warm clothing in case of breakdown.

Motorbikes and mopeds are very good value. *But beware when renting:* many are not serviced regularly, and breakdowns are frequent. Note also that during the high season youngsters pour onto Corfu. All rent mopeds and motor-

The beautiful setting of the Paleokastritsa Monastery, the jewel of Liapades Bay, is best seen from this viewpoint just west of Lakones (Car tour 3). As you drive through Lakones you’ll encounter traffic lights: roads in many of the villages are only wide enough for one car. Be patient: unless you are travelling one of the very few trunk roads, progress will be very slow.

The unhealthy economic climate means that some roads may be in poor condition when you use this book — heavily patched. Bear in mind, too, that even when a road is shown as surfaced on our maps (and others), it may be very narrow and not built up at the edge — and it may suddenly lose its surface for several hundred metres. Expect the unexpected!



bikes, many for the first time. The accident rate is appallingly high. Drive slowly and attentively.

The touring notes are brief: they include little history or information about the towns — all this will be in your standard guide book (or freely available from the tourist offices). Instead, I've concentrated on the 'logistics' of touring: times and distances, road conditions, and seeing parts of the island that many tourists miss. Most of all, I emphasise possibilities for **walking** and **picnicking**. While some of my suggestions may not be suitable during a long car tour, you may see a landscape that you would like to explore at leisure another day.

The fold-out touring map is ideal for planning and compact while motoring. It contains all the information you will need outside Corfu Town. But note that most of the island has been mapped out at 1:50,000 for the walks: you may wish to refer to some of these detailed large-scale walking maps from time to time while touring.

The tours have been written up with Corfu Town (plan pages 8-9) as departure/return point: most of the major resorts are within easy reach of the capital. **Tours 1 and 3 should be given preference if time is limited.** The touring notes *include* time for visits. **Symbols** in the text correspond to those on the touring map; see the key.

All motorists should read the Country code on page 39 and go quietly in the countryside. *Kalo taxidi!*



Car tour 1: CORFU'S RIVIERA AND PANTOKRATOR

Corfu • Nissaki • Kassioپی • Ano Perithia • Acharavi • Episkepsis • Mt Pantokrator • Spartilas • Corfu

124km/77mi; 5-6 hours; Exit A from Corfu Town (plan pages 8-9)

Walks en route: 1-9, 11 (Alternative 3), 23

Picnic suggestions: All the walks listed above feature picnic spots shown by the symbol **P** on the relevant walking maps.

Opening hours

Ag Merkourios Chapel

(Ag Markos): make arrangements at the archaeological museum in Corfu Town

Danilia Folklore Village (near Gouvia): from 10.00-19.00 daily

This drive is the most rewarding on the island. Circling the sprawling rocky mass of Pantokrator, you pass Corfu's Riviera — an unrivalled stretch of coastline etched with idyllic coves. Olive groves, splashed with cypress trees, forest the cascading hills. Ascending to Pantokrator, the landscape becomes harsher. You climb into scrubby hills laced with rocky outcrops. A plateau, strewn with mounds of rock, leads you to the tiny mountain peak, from where you can see every corner of the island and over to the tantalising mountains of Albania. Heading home under a mellow sun, you coil your way down to Ipsos Bay and a picture-postcard seascape.

Setting out from Corfu Town (Exit A), stay on the seafront, passing the old and new ports. When you reach the main north road at a T-junction, keep right (☞). The first 16km of this tour follows Corfu's tourist strip — a haphazardly-built-up stretch of unexciting coastline. But the bold presence of Pantokrator and the pretty offshore islands of Lazaretto and Vidos are some compensation — as is the dual carriageway!

Kontokali (6.5km ☞☞☞☞☞☞☞) is the first of the tourist villages; fortunately, the dual carriageway bypasses all of these resorts. The road to the Danilia folklore village★ forks left at the large green Diellas Supermarket building (7km; starting point for Walk 23), just inside **Gouvia** (☞☞☞☞☞☞☞). Those interested in Corfu's history may like to see the remains of the Venetian naval

arsenal near the marina. At the **KASSIOPI/PALEOKASTRITSA JUNCTION** (9.5km ☞☞☞☞☞☞☞) turn right; soon you catch a glimpse of Gouvia's floating chapel of Papandis★. Bypassing the resort of **Dasia** (12.5km ☞☞☞☞☞☞☞), you soon reach the largest of the holiday villages, **Pyrgi/Ipsos** (15km ☞☞☞☞☞☞☞); it stretches out for a kilometre, beside a narrow pebble beach. Alternative walks 11-1 and 11-3 can end at Pyrgi, the northern end of the resort.*

*Just outside Pyrgi a road strikes left (off the first sharp bend) to Ag Markos (☞☞☞☞☞☞☞), a detour of 4km return. Icon and fresco enthusiasts will find two churches of interest here: Pantokrator, which boasts the best-preserved frescoes on the island (enquire at the local *cafeneion* to visit), and the nearby Byzantine chapel of Ag Merkourios★.



Venetian naval arsenal at Gouvia

Continuing towards Nissaki, there are exceptionally good views back over Corfu Town. The road descends to **Barbati** (19.5km 🏔️🏔️🚶), and you catch a quick glimpse of its pretty pebbly beach, set at the foot of olive groves.

Nissaki (23km 🏔️🏔️🚶🚗) is the starting point for Walks 4-6 and 8; it's a good base for exploring the mountains and coast. Two superb picnic spots are in the neighbourhood: Katavolos (Short walk 4, photo on page 53) and at the start of Walk 5, near the Nissaki Beach Hotel (photo on page 57).

Winding in and out of the folds in the mountainside, the obvious signs of tourism begin to dwindle, and small, handsome white villages speckle the ridgetops. Pull over at the **KOULOURA/KALAMI JUNCTION** (30km 🗺️) and survey the scene — perhaps with a picnic in mind? Below is **Kalami** (🏔️🚶), still exuding some of the charm so clearly conveyed in Lawrence Durrell's book, *Prospero's Cell*. **Kouloura** (🚶), on the northern side of the point, also deserves its

picture-postcard rating. A few palms are dotted amongst the cypresses, olives and eucalyptus trees around the shoreline. A small jetty with just a scattering of fishing boats enhances the setting, which is better appreciated from a viewpoint (🗺️) 400m further along the road. Across the channel lies Albania, crowned with majestic peaks.

Climbing again, the countryside opens out. Another enticing cove, splendidly naked of buildings, reveals itself far below the road. A collar of turquoise sea edges the shoreline. If you haven't been down to the sea yet, a detour (7km return) to **Ag Stefanos** (🏔️🏔️🚶) may be just what you're waiting for. The signposted turn-off lies under 3km beyond the Kouloura/Kalami junction at **Sinies**, where Walk 5 ends. Keep left immediately after you turn off. Admittedly, tourism has already nibbled into this pretty sheltered cove, but it still retains some rustic charm. Alternative walk 5 sets out from here to explore the **Erimitis**

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Nature Reserve — a good place to stretch your legs.

The main tour continues towards Kassiopi. You begin to marvel at the wealth of trees in the landscape. In spring the floral splendour of the Judas tree, with its pink and purple clusters of flowers hanging from leafless branches, steals the show. **Kassiopi** (37km 🏰🏰🏰🏰🏰🏰) is my favourite amongst the resorts. With its fishing-village flavour, it verges on recommendable. The remains of an Angevin fortress crown the scrub-covered headland behind the village. Many of the original walls and towers still stand impressively intact after some seven centuries. And it's worth stretching your legs by following a quiet road around the headland, visiting dazzling limestone ledges and tiny shingle coves. In autumn the ground is sprinkled with cyclamen, daisies and dandelions. Needless to say, there's excellent bathing here — head left on foot when you reach the port. In the Middle Ages, Kassiopi's church was the island's most venerated place of worship; it stands on the site of the Temple of Jupiter. Just around the corner from Kassiopi is the pretty seaside village of **Imerolia** (38km 🏰🏰). Walk 2 begins and ends here, surveying the scene shown opposite.

Your next turn-off comes up some 5km beyond Imerolia. Following signposting for 'LOUTSA' and 'PERITHEIA', turn left into **Ag Ilias** (🏰🏰). In the village, keep left and uphill. Looping up through terraced hillsides, you briefly pass through olive groves. The islands of Othoni (the largest) and Erikoussa (the closest) come into sight, followed by the Antiniotissa Lagoon,

nested in a bed of reeds on a tongue of flat land below. The mountains of Albania, a long line of peaks — which may be snow-capped until June —, trail off into the horizon. On reaching **Loutsas** (🏰🏰), the landscape becomes noticeably rockier. The village trickles down a ridge. Oaks and turpentine trees begin appearing.

Beyond Loutsas, the untamed countryside shown on pages 60-61 envelops you: craggy, grassy slopes are littered with oaks, wild pears and holly oaks. **Ano Perithia** (51.5km 🏰) hides deep in the folds of Mt Pantokrator. Nestling within the surrounding hills, this once-deserted village is one of the prettiest spots on the island — ideal for picnicking. It was abandoned in the 1960s. But as recently as 75 years ago, it boasted a population of 3000, and *six* churches! Nowadays it boasts six *tavernas*! Wealthy people are buying and restoring some of the old properties in traditional style, and the village has been declared a Heritage Site by the Greek government. Walks 6-9 pass through here.

Back down on the main north coast road, just over 250m further on turn off right to **Ag Spiridon** (61km 🏰🏰🏰), an intimate cove with a shallow limpid sea, and the **Antiniotissa Lagoon**, where I highly recommend you stretch your legs on Walk 1.

Continuing west, you head along a sea-flat, where almond groves compete with the olives. The short stretch of pastureland is quickly interrupted by signs of development. Gorgeous Walk 3 begins at the 'roundabout' in **Acharavi** (67km 🏰🏰🏰🏰). Just 200m past the roundabout, turn left towards 'AGIOS PANTELEIMON'.

Ignore the road off right 200m uphill. Cutting inland, you climb into the interior, hugging ridges and skirting valleys, always in the shadow of Pantokrator. Garden plots spill out across the floors of valleys. Dark blades of cypress trees cut through the olive-green countryside. The village of **Ag Pandelimon** (69.5km), visited

in Walk 3, passes almost unnoticed — perhaps because the church is above the road and quickly passed. At the junction some way outside the village, continue straight ahead for 'ΕΠΙΚΕΨΙ'. Entering **Episkepsis** (71.5km ✕), the road passes to the left of a noticeable Venetian manor and to the right of the church. Walk 8a visits this

Kassiopi, from the hillside below Bodholakos (Walk 2)





Yes, they are charming — but be warned: these roadside shrines are testament to a fatal road accident at the spot where they are placed.

charming village, full of colourful corners, one of them shown on page 65.

The route continues via **Sgourades** (76km), where comfortable old homes lean up against each other. Goats and sheep may cross the road. Under 1km outside Sgourades, fork left for Pantokrator (signposted for ‘PANTOKRATOR’ and ‘STRINILAS’). The ascent proper begins, and there are fine views across the northwest of the island. Twisting deeper into the bulwark of rock, you come upon a basin of greenery and a solar farm. Rounding a corner, **Strinilas** (82km ✕) appears, set in hillside boulders and foliage. An enormous elm shades the taverna diners in the square. The local wine here is medium-sweet and considered by many Corfiots to be the best on the island. Ask for a ‘*dopio*’, if you want to try it. Strinilas is also visited in Walk 8a.

Beyond Strinilas, you cross a ridge and lonely Petalia comes into view, set back in a bare stepped basin. Just over the ridge before Petalia, turn right uphill, following signposting for ‘PANTOKRATOR’. About 600m uphill, pull over for a fine view over Petalia and the northern escarpment (📷). Mounting the plateau, you curl around rocky, scrub-covered hillocks. The landscape becomes more stark. In spring the stones

and rocks are covered in flowers; just a short stroll away from the car you can find asphodels, saxifrage, marigolds, irises, fritillaries, veronicas, borage, and several varieties of wild orchids, tiny and ornate, often with the most amazing markings. Please don’t pick the flowers!



The panorama from the summit of **Mt Pantokrator** (88.5km 📍📷) is unsurpassed on the island. On really clear days, the toe of Italy in the north and the islands of Paxos and Antipaxos in the south can be seen — but during the hazy summer months only the whole of Corfu and the spellbinding sight of nearby Albania can be guaranteed! Ano Perithia stands out like a garden in this bleak landscape.

When you are saturated with views and you’ve visited the chapel shown on page 71, return to the **SGOURADES/SPARTILAS JUNCTION** below Strinilas (100km), where you first turned off for Pantokrator, and turn left. Heading south, you’re confronted with a splendid coastal view, taking in the bays of Ipsos, Dafnila, Gouvia, and finally Potamos Bay, stretching all the way to Corfu Town. In autumn the surrounding hillsides are soaked in pink heather. Walk 9 begins at **Spartilas** (101.5km 📍✕📷), and alternative versions of Walk 11 can end there. This village is magnificently sited on the upper inclines of Pantokrator. Nowhere else on Corfu commands such a view. From here you drop down to the Nissaki road via an almost endless series of S-bends. Turn right (108.5km 📍), back to **Corfu Town** (124km).





Walking

Few tourists realise the scope Corfu offers for walking, but this book has enough walks to keep insatiable rambblers occupied for a solid month. For beginners, Corfu is an ideal place to start: the scenic rewards and the friendly, quiet countryside experiences soon become addictive.

The 'Landscapes' series is built around walks and excursions that can be made *in day trips* from your home base, even if you choose not to hire a car. So all the walks in this book were originally conceived as day excursions *accessible by bus* from Corfu Town. These days many people hire cars and prefer circular walks. We have tried to cater for motorists in this Ninth edition, but do bear in mind that many old donkey trails — especially those crossing the Pantokrator Massif in the north — were built to take villagers from one place to another: they are all linear. Circular walks are indicated by a  symbol in the Contents. Look for the  symbol under 'Access' at the head of the relevant walk (where we also give you waypoints so that you can set your satnav to get you to the starting point). But even if a walk is more suitable for bus users, there's no reason why you should not tackle it from your car. You can walk from A to B and take a bus back to your car — or, to be on the safe side, drive to the end of the walk, leave your car there, and take a bus to the starting point.

Consider combining walks. We've indicated where routes overlap on the walking maps. But, for safety's sake, only link up walks by following paths described in these notes or by using roads or tracks; don't try to cross rough country (which might be dangerous) or private land (where you might not have the right of way).

There are walks in this book for everyone.

Beginners: Start on the walks graded  or , or look for the **P** symbols on the walking maps; these indicate picnic places that can be reached after a very short walk.

Experienced walkers: If you are accustomed to rough terrain and are feeling fit, you should be able to enjoy all these walks. Some require agility, and a couple will demand a head for heights as well. Take into account the season and weather conditions: don't attempt the more strenuous walks in high summer; protect yourself from the sun and carry ample water. **Hardy hikers** should head for the Pantokrator Hills — they'll test your stamina!

The Corfu Trail and Corfu Paths

Corfu's own long-distance footpath was opened in 2002, after several years of planning and hard work. It follows a meandering route of 200km from the island's southernmost tip at Cape Asprokavos (visited on Walk 29) to its northern termination at Ag Spiridon (Walk 1). The approximate route of the whole trail is shown on the touring map; the walking maps show where it coincides with routes in this book.

The route is waymarked with yellow aluminium signs attached to permanent features and augmented with yellow paint arrows, dots and flashes (paint marks are most common in the mountainous areas).

Readers wishing to explore the Corfu Trail should obtain a copy of the *Companion Guide to the Corfu Trail* by Hilary Whitton Papeiti (the route's creator), currently published only as a pdf download priced at €12; see the author's website for details: www.corfutrailguide.com. She has also written other walking guides for the island (available from the same website), but no publication date is given for any of them, and we found some changes on the ground while researching this edition.

Over half the walks in this Sunflower guide share routes used by the Corfu Trail, so you will almost certainly come across Trail signing and waymarks from time to time. But *don't* just follow these waymarks blindly without reading the text, or you may easily end up on the wrong path and walk further than you need!

More recently the 'Corfu Paths' — a project of the Corfu Hiking and Mountaineering Association (corfupaths.gr) —

have now become the 'official' day-walk trails. These are widely scattered throughout the island. They are marked by sturdy posts with directional arrows (one can be seen at waymark 5 on Walk 6) or by lime-green and white paint. While we mention them in the text where they coincide with our routes, we have not put them on our walking maps because we think it would be too confusing — and there will no doubt be more to come!



Olive groves are pleasant picnic spots. This photo was taken 20 minutes below Episkepsis on Walk 8a.























Organisation of the walks

The 65 long and short walks in this book are grouped in four general areas: around Mt Pantokrator and the northeast, the northwest, the centre of the island, and the south. You might begin by considering the large fold-out touring map inside the back cover. Here you can see at a glance the overall terrain, the road network, and the general location of all the walks. Quickly flipping through the book, you'll find that there's at least one photo for each walk.

Having selected one or two potential excursions from the map and the photos, look over the planning information at the beginning of each walk. Here you'll find walking times, grade, equipment, and how to get there/return. If the grade and equipment specifications are beyond your scope, don't despair! *There's almost always a short or alternative version of a walk* and, in most cases, these are less demanding of agility and equipment. If it still looks too strenuous for you, remember to look at the **P** symbols on the walking maps: these picnic suggestions allow you to savour a walk's special landscape with minimum effort.

The text of each walk begins with an introduction to the overall landscape and then describes the route in detail. The **large-scale maps** (all 1:50,000 and all with north at the top) have been drawn to show current routes and key waypoints. **Times** are given for reaching certain landmarks. To work out how your walking pace compares with ours, start out with a couple of the easier walks. This is particularly important if you are relying on public transport at the end of a hike. You'll soon see how your pace compares with ours. Since we always do our research out of season when it's cooler (and cheaper!), it would be a good idea when planning to *add up to 50% to our walking times*, to allow for dawdling ... *and the heat!*

Many of the **symbols** used on the walking maps are self-explanatory, but below is a key:

 main road	 Corfu Trail	 start.waypoint
 secondary road	 church, monastery. chapel	 garden.turbine
 motorable track	 cemetery.shrine	 pylon.aerial
 jeep track	 factory.quarry	 picnic spot (see page 10)
 footpath	 bus stop.parking	 best views
 route of main walk and direction	 spring, tank etc	 page reference: map continuation
 alternative route	 castle, palace	 watermill.cave
 other walk		

Walk 12: TWO WALKS FROM CAPE DRASTIS

See also photos on pages 1, 22

Walk a: Peroulades circuit for motorists

Distance/time: 10km/6.2mi;
2h45min

Grade: ● easy-moderate: some stretches are stony, steep and slippery when wet; ups/downs of 300m/1000ft overall; little shade; blue waymarking with number 6

Equipment: boots or stout shoes with good ankle support, sunhat, suncream, sunglasses, swimwear, picnic, water

Picnic: at the cove

Access: 🚗 or 🚌 to/from Peroulades; park in the village square (39° 47.292'N, 19° 40.380'E)

Short walk a: Cape Drastis.

2.8km/1.8mi; 1h10min. ● Easy, with ascents of about 150m/500ft overall; equipment/access as main walk.

Follow Walk a to the cape and back.

Walk b: Peroulades to Magoulades for bus users

Distance/time: 13.7km/8.5mi;
3h55min

Grade: ● easy-moderate; overall climbs totalling about 200m/650ft, with one fairly steep ascent of about 100m/330ft, lasting 10 minutes. The track to Cape Drastis may be unpleasantly trafficked in summer.

Equipment: walking boots or shoes with good grip, sunhat, sunglasses, suncream, long-sleeved shirt, long trousers, fleece, rain-gear, swimwear, picnic, water

Picnic suggestion: anywhere at the cape

Access: 🚌 to Peroulades; journey time 1h20min. Return on 🚌 from Magoulades; journey time 1h10min

Short walk: see Short walk a

The magnificent bluffs of Cape Drastis will take your breath away. Minuscule off-shore islands, finely etched with circles, look fresh off a potters' wheel. A tiny cove, set deep in the cliff-hanging cape, is a peaceful bathing spot outside high season. (The sandy village beach at the foot of the high cliffs shown on the cover is just as impressive, but usually more crowded.) From the cape Walk a follows the coast as far as the Canal d'Amour, while Walk b heads into the quiet inland hills, under the shade of the ubiquitous olive tree, to the walled-in silence of two monasteries.

Both versions of the walk begin at the PARKING AREA/BUS STOP (●) just below the village square in **Peroulades**. Walk some 30m/yds further into the village along the main road. Then turn right up a concrete lane signposted 'CAPE DRASTIS' (amongst others). Head up to the CHURCH and SCHOOL (in the same grounds), then keep straight uphill, climbing a lane past the left-hand side of the school. In high season you will encounter traffic here. Once over the brow of the hill, the lane peters out into a

track and forks; a small car park is to the right. Albania, stretching across the horizon in front of you, is a continuous line of mountains. There is a viewpoint on the left here, but be very *careful*: without warning, you'll find yourself on the edge of a precipice, where dazzling, pearl-white cliffs slice their way around the point.

Now take the left-hand fork and keep straight on: the VIEW *par excellence* (●) over this beauty spot, shown on page 1, unfolds three minutes later. You look out

over an arc of islets just off-shore.

Continue past this view, and then fork left on another track to the tiny COVE on the eastern side of **Cape Drastis** (2; 30min), an excellent swimming spot — not too deep, and it's easy to scramble out of the water. The backdrop is an impressive white wall rising straight up out of a crystal-blue sea. In high season there are likely to be people here renting umbrellas and sunbeds and selling cold drinks. (From here the *Short walk* and *Walk b* retrace steps to *Peroulades*.)

Walk a retraces steps from the cove for only 200m; then, instead of following the hairpin bend to the right, we go straight ahead on another track. It curves left initially, then bends right. Some 600m after joining this track, be sure to turn *sharp* left uphill (3; blue waymark). Rising at first, the track then descends towards the coast. Beyond some AERIALS (and more fabulous views), *keep to this coastal track* when the blue-waymarked route heads inland 100m past the aerials. After about 1km (now on a farm track), you come to a T-junction on the edge of Sidari. Turn right for 130m, to a road. Follow this to the left past restaurants galore; then, as the main road swings right, keep straight on to the **Canal d'Amour** (4; 1h35min; see page 21).

Returning to the road through Sidari, go straight ahead. Pass the lane that you took from the coast and after another 650m (just past a travel agency and the next, three-storey house on the right), turn right on a cart track (a blue '6' waymark with an arrow is on a pole opposite). After 100m, turn left, pass a house on the right, and continue westwards for 1.5km to a T-junction with your outward



route, not far west of the aerials. Retrace your steps to the junction where you originally turned sharp left (3) and now go straight ahead, rejoining your track from *Peroulades* not far south of the 'viewpoint *par excellence*'. Retrace your steps to your car at **Peroulades** (0; 2h45min).

Walk b now returns past the school and then turns right below it, along the village road. Four minutes along, take the wide lane branching off to the right, in front of the Logas Beach Studios. After 200m you come to a parking area on the cliff top. Just below you (but still out of sight) stretches the spectacular beach shown on page 22 and below. Only a collar of sand separates the sea from the base of the high cliffs. A steep walkway plonks you down onto **Logas Beach** (3) in two minutes.

Return from the beach to the turn-off and head right towards Avliotes, following a winding country road between fields. At the junction, a good five minutes along, fork right (to continue more or less straight ahead). Some 25 minutes from the beach, meet



the main road and head uphill to the right, through **Avliotes** (**1h40min**). A good five minutes sees you at the far end of this village where, at a junction, you head left towards Ag Stefanos.

About eight minutes later, ignore the wide AVLIOTES BYPASS ROAD to the left and take the *second* left turn, an unsigned concreted road (**4**). The road climbs towards Garnades. After a steep uphill section, in **Garnades**, ignore the turning to the right (to a chapel), and continue ahead. When the tarred road ends, at a house, continue on a track striking uphill to the right. Shortly, Cape Arilla and Gravia Island appear through an open 'V' in the hills to your right. Keep straight ahead along the track, ignoring crossing tracks

after 450m and then a track off right. Soon you have views to the left to Avliotes, a blend of pinkish buildings stepping the crest of a ridge on the far side of the valley. It looks more attractive when seen from afar.

Half an hour up from the road junction where you turned left for Garnades you reach a FIVE-WAY JUNCTION of tracks (**5**). Pick up the notes now for Walk 13 from the 30MIN-POINT to visit the two monasteries (**6** and **7**) and descend to the small CHURCH (**8**) at the upper end of **Magoulades**.

From here take the downhill road opposite this church to descend through the village. Less than 20 minutes downhill come to the BUS SHELTER (**9**; **3h55min**) for buses to Corfu Town.



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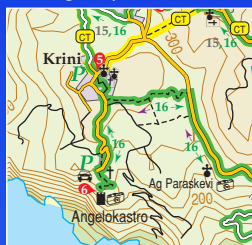
— SUNDAY TIMES

Corfu Ninth edition

area covered by this book



walking map



touring map



For centuries travellers have sung the praises of Corfu's peacock-hued bays and hillsides drenched in olive trees. This guide takes **walkers** and **motorists** to all the island's beauty spots — from the stark slopes of Pantokrator to grassy plains flecked with flowers, and from exquisite sandy horseshoe beaches to pebbly coves and ponds alive with terrapin.

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