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Day trip “Valley of the Mills“

(Level of difficulty: Easy)

Circular walk Petra – Petri – Valley of the Mills - Petra

Total Distance of the hike: 10 km,
Duration including stops: 6-7 hours

The trip: We start our hike in Petra, in the north of the island. A small asphalt road leads us up to the little village of Petri, which is a lovely mountain village with narrow streets and old traditional stone houses. We rest a bit from the ascent - maybe have a refreshment - and enjoy the beautiful view over the plain and down to the bay of Petra.

After the break we continue to the Valley of the Mills. In a washed out creek bed we find volcanic basalt columns and stair-like ruins. These are witnesses of a long gone era when, there were 12 water mills in total. In the lower parts of the valley we find a cluster of three mills. It is probable they were built for a settlement during the medieval or early Ottoman period. Countless butterflies accompany us on our way. The scent of the Mediterranean herbs is breathtaking. Along the stream bed, we now follow an ancient cobbled path and walk back to Petra.

Here we enjoy a light lunch in one of our favourite tavernas at the bottom of the rock. The striking rock and the church of the Glykfylosa Panagia (Our Lady of the Sweet Kiss) perched on top, is the town's landmark, which also gave the village its name (Greek petra = stone). Climbing up the old steps to the church is highly recommended: not only the church itself and its surroundings are worth seeing, but you also have fantastic views over the village, the sea and the coastline. After our lunch we have the opportunity to visit the beautifully restored mansion “Spiti Vareltzidaina”. A stroll through the beautiful old streets down to the Platia for a coffee or ouzo with sea view completes our day.

Minimum of 2 people required, start time, meeting point or pick-up from your accommodation upon arrangement.

If you want to see the church in Petra you need to wear appropriate clothes - long trousers or skirt and no bare shoulders or midriffs! (wear a sleeved top, or you could bring a cotton scarf to cover up)