

## 22 KRITOU TERRA AND TERRA

**Distance:** 4km/2.5mi, 1h30min

**Grade:** easy descent and reascent of about 150m/500ft

**Equipment:** stout shoes, sunhat, water, picnic

**How to get there and return:**  to/from Kritou Terra (a detour on Car tour 1, page 23). Park near the taverna.

**Alternative walk: Drouseia circuit** (3.5km/2.2mi; 50min; easy, with an ascent/descent of just 40m/130ft). This short but appealing circuit makes an ideal leg-stretcher. Park behind the Droushia Heights Hotel. Walk up into the village, passing Finikas Taverna. Turn right between two coffee houses and go down to the open-air theatre. Go straight ahead on Odos Karis (signed in Greek) and turn left on a track at a green arrow (10min). You get fantastic views of the Troodos Mountains and the north coast and pass an interesting rock outcrop (20min; Picnic 22). Proceed through vineyards, to another track (28min). Your way is to the left, but first take a short detour to the tiny modern church along to the right; then return and, soon on tarmac, regain Drouseia (50min).

This is a lovely, short and very interesting stroll — easy to get to from Pafos, via Kathikas, or from the Lachi-Polis area via the E709. It starts in the village of Kritou Terra from the restored village springs near the taverna.

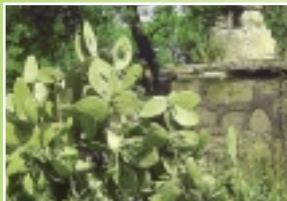
**Start out** by walking from the TAVERNA into **Kritou Terra** (*don't* go along the Terra road). You pass a turning right which leads to the church shown opposite (just before a coffee shop on the right with an external iron staircase). On the left is the old village FLOUR MILL, with a vine on its terraced roof. Beyond here is a low wall, over which you will see a series of holes in the rock beside a water channel. This was formerly the communal laundry.

The way drops a little, and you'll pass a small chapel on a rocky outcrop off to the right. Some 100m/yds further on, there is a metal grating in the road: turn left just beyond it, on an indistinct path (near a wooden gate). The path may be overgrown in places, and you should watch out for stones underfoot, especially after rain.

After crossing a streambed, the path widens out, and you now have an easy walk to **Terra (45min)** — among a myriad of wild flowers in springtime. Terra has a semi-



*Top: the Byzantine church of Ayia Ekaterina lies not far from Drouseia and the Terras. Since this medieval ruin is more complete than many on Cyprus and contains some faded wall paintings, it is well worth a short (5km) detour during Car tour 1. To reach it, take the crudely signposted road from Kritou Terra (see map — not the Terra road). The church can also be reached within 2km from the Paphos–Polis road at a marked turn-off 1km south of Skoulli. Above and left: around Terra*



derelict look... indeed many of its houses are unoccupied, but there has been a settlement here since Roman times. Nowadays some of the Turkish-owned houses abandoned during the 1974 occupation of the north are being restored by Greek tenants through a government conservation scheme.

Coming through Terra village, you will see the old MOSQUE with cypress trees 'guarding' it. Linger a while in Terra, and maybe talk with a resident or two. It's a lovely peaceful place. Then bear left near the mosque and follow the road back to **Kritou Terra (1h30min)**. Visit the taverna near the entrance before you leave, and help keep a traditional Cypriot community thriving!

