

Where the cliffs break on the R bend, climb up the R of the stream bed onto the road. After a few minutes cross L and continue up the valley. Recross the stream bed and walk up the G4 hairpins which were the original road. In places the road has collapsed and the new route climbs steeply on a G1 goat path to cut off the fallen sections. Crossing an area of mud-slip on this section could be tricky in wet weather. The route here is well-shaded in most places by overhanging trees. After a prominent rock wall the route, now G3, re-crosses to the L of the stream. It returns to the R and climbs on hairpins up the R valley side, emerging onto a level hilltop.

2hr 20mins

Just past the hilltop is the old road, now a clear G4 track, rising gently, widening and passing beneath shade trees. The new main road is visible high up, crossing the head of the valley; building it destroyed this old road. Past the trees, turn R/up on a G2 path which rises in zigzags to the top of the R ridge and crosses a field to the SW corner of the school at Gurses. There is a well with a bucket near the school gate, and the new road runs in front to the school.

1hr 10mins

Cross the main road, turn R and walk about 1km to a L turn onto the old road. Walk 200m to a R bend and turn L across overgrown terraces towards a greenhouse. Turn L on a G6 road running past greenhouses and at the end turn R then immediately L on a G4 then R onto G2 path in a shrubby area. Aim for a pylon, cross under the pylon line and turn downhill keeping parallel with the wires. The path descends through bushes and rocks on rough terraces and meets a G6 surfaced road. Turn R and walk slightly uphill, past some shepherds' tents, bending R until you approach the road, which is raised on an embankment. Turn L onto a G5 rough track and descend parallel with the road but well below it, until the track rises to road level. Continue on the old road then on bulldozed track again. This leads downhill and passes a well to a sloping grassy area studded with boulders and clumps of scrub.

1hr

Turn L/NE and walk between rock pillars downhill to the end of the grass. Circle a muddy pit and continue for 30m, then bear R onto a G2 path descending down a stream bed. 200m on, continue R/E; the path levels and winds between boulders to meet the old road on a bend; the new road is only 50m R. Bear L and walk 100m down the road to a junction by houses.

30mins

Turn L onto a G6 track which descends through houses ENE across open land towards forest. Soon, keep R on G3 path and start to descend more steeply, following a gully on the L. Approaching the valley of the Demre Çay, the path swings R/SE and contours around the head of a second gully, with a steep drop on the L. Now very wide and distinct, it descends E, is joined by other paths from the R and continues to a dip in the skyline and SE around the hillside.

40mins

Perched before you are the remains of the keep of a castle, a curtain wall and a smaller lookout tower. They are on a spur of rock jutting out above the city of Myra and there are rock tombs cut into the walls below these ruins. The castle is built of rectangular blocks on the outside, irregular within and part of it has been rebuilt to a new alignment. The G4 path descends from the seaward side of the smaller watchtower, in wide, built-up hairpins, sometimes over bedrock with steps cut in it. It descends to a pylon, then to an upper house, then turns L towards a well on the Demre Çay side of the spur. From here, it emerges through a stone wall next to an electricity pole onto a G5 track at the base of the hill. Turn R and follow the track 80m past a cistern to the asphalt road. The entrance to the Myra site is 200m to your R, and Demre straight ahead.

40mins



Çayağızı to Myra 69