SANTORINI WATER WALK
TRAILS 5 & 7 OF OFFICIAL SANTORINI WALKING TOURS

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Introduction and Purpose

Implementation

TRAIL 5 - Proposed Sites
STOP 1: Cistern at Episkopi
STOP 2: Cistern at Kindergarten in Mesa Gonia
STOP 3: Art Space, Exo Gonia
STOP 4: A Bite To Eat in Pyrgos; bathroom break in Pyrgos W.C.
STOP 5: Kindergarten Cistern near Bakery, Pyrgos
STOP 6: Megalochori

TRAIL 7 - Proposed Sites
STOP 1: Windmills
STOP 2: Plaka Baths

Appendix
Introduction

In the early Summer of 2016, an interdisciplinary group of Cornell University students and staff flew to Santorini, Greece to study the island’s massive system of underground cisterns. Historically, the cisterns were used to collect and hold rainwater for cooking, drinking, bathing, and domestic purposes. Due to the introduction of numerous desalinization plants on the island, many of these cisterns have fallen into disrepair and are no longer in use. The Cornell group worked with the Santorini Water Board and Global Water Partnership to inspect several of the cisterns and propose ideas for future use. While some will be used to hold desalinated water in the future, we saw an opportunity to highlight these structures as a piece of history depicting Santorini’s relationship with water for locals and tourists alike.

Purpose of Water Walk

The purpose of a “Water Walk” through Santorini is to acquaint locals and tourists with water resources of the region. Clean drinking water is a resource that is often taken for granted in many places across the globe because of its apparent availability. Through the Water Walks discussed in this document, participants will gain an understanding of freshwater availability on the island, water and its role in the history of Santorini, water management practices, and ideally, walk away with an interest in sustainable water management for the future of Santorini.
Implementation

The document below describes two proposed Water Walks which include a number of sites observed during our short time on Santorini in May and June of 2016 which fall on the island’s walking tour paths 5 & 7. We believe that the rehabilitation of these sites for a Water Walk meets the goals proposed. We acknowledge, however, that Santorini is home to a number of sites that would be equally interesting and accessible for alternative Water Walks, and encourage future groups to look into the possibility of alternative Water Walks, as well as alternative stops along the routes we have proposed.

Along with proposing and renovating specific sites that meet the goals proposed above, additional signage will be needed for each site to describe the site’s relevance to water resources in Santorini. Signage between sites to lead Water Walk participants to the next site is crucial. If possible, a blue line stretching from site to site would be ideal. Along with directional and contextual signage, appropriate maps will need to be created and distributed. While a simple paper map is a good start, those implementing these walks should consider an interactive map for smartphones that can tell walkers their location along the trails, as well as provide information for each site. This app could include a recorded guide to walk users through the tour, as well as a space for crowd-sourced photos and user sharing.

An example of current signage guiding local hiking trails. A similar set of visuals is proposed for the Water Walk - potentially simply added to the current signage.