



A B H

APHRODITE
BEACH HOTEL



Aphrodite Nature Trail

From Pyrgos tis Rigaenas to the Baths of Aphrodite Along the coast

- A25. OLIVE TREE** *Olea europaea ssp. oleaster*. Does this species look familiar to you? It is the wild form of the known cultivated variety *Olea europaea* met earlier (no.2 on the common part of the trail).
- A26.** You should be familiar with this species too! In any case check No.1 (common part of the trail) again.
- A27. THORNY BROOM** *Calycotome villosa*. It is a typical member of the maquis, and garigue family, which grows from sea level to about 1,200m. In early spring, in areas where it is abundant, it makes a pretty show with its aromatic yellow flowers.
- A28. THORNY GORSE** *Genista sphacelata var. sphacelata*. This is a common constituent of the maquis where it forms impenetrable thickets.
- A29.** This is a Lentisk again.
- A30. STRAWBERRY TREE** *Arbutus andrachne*. This beautiful small tree or shrub is quite common and found in areas up to 1300m. It is, however, one of the dominant species and characteristic of the “high maquis”. Its reddish fruit, reminiscent of strawberries, is edible but not very palatable. The Latin word, “unedo” (from the similar species *Arbutus unedo*) means “eat one” (picture 7).



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- A31.** A species you met earlier. Check no. 19 (common part of the trail) for details.
- A32. ROCK ROSE** *Cistus parviflorus*. In spite of its name this species is often found abundantly flowering in Cyprus and with more than ten flowers in a cyme. This pretty shrub, which is found in large numbers in the Pentadactylos range, occurs only on limestone soils and has never been found in the igneous central mountains.
- A33. ROCK ROSE** *Cistus salviifolius*. This shrub is common all over the island up to 1,700m. Its leaves, contrary to other species of the genus *Cistus*, are hardly aromatic.
- A34. ROCK ROSE** *Cistus monspeliensis x parviflorus*. A hybrid resulting from cross-breeding between two different species, that is between *Cistus monspeliensis* and *Cistus parviflorus*.
- A35. VIEW POINT**
- A36. THORNY BURNET** *Sarcopoterium spinosum*. This pioneer species is the commonest of all shrubs in the maquis and garigue in all parts of the island, from sea level up to an altitude of 1,250m.
Its ripe fruits are widely used in folk medicine. An infusion made from crushed ripe fruits is used as a tonic.
- A37. VIEW POINT**
- A38.** This is the third time you've seen this species so identification should be easy.



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A39. The downhill area has been recently cleared by fire, the worst enemy of the forest. You should note that the climatic conditions of Cyprus favour forest fires and thus protection is a difficult task.

Nature has its own means to fight disturbances and restore the balance. In the case of fire, pioneer species such as Thorny Burnet, Rock Rose, and Sage colonise the burnt areas thus preparing the way for other more demanding species. What you see now is an intermediate stage; significant changes, however, occur continuously and will lead to the ultimate stage of the “climax” community.

A40. Sage

A41. Thorny Gorse again.

A42. PHOENICIAN JUNIPER *Juniperus phoenicea*. This is the most common species in the Akamas region. It grows up to an altitude of 700m. It is one of the dominant species and is characteristic of the high maquis.

The durability of its wood has made it suitable for housebuilding for thousands of years. Juniper, in addition to its medicinal uses, is well known for its flavouring and aromatic properties; it is the principal flavouring and aromatic substance in gin.

A43. This is Gromwell again.

A44. VIEW POINT



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A45. LENTISK HYBRID *Pistacia x sapportae* This pretty shrub is a hybrid between Lentisk *Pistacia lentiscus* and Terebinth *Pistacia terebinthus*. It is very rare and although it is believed to exist in other places, has never been found anywhere else than this spot.

A46. Calabrian Pine again.

A47. Does this species look familiar to you? If not, check No. A30.

A48. VIEW POINT.

A49. VIEW POINT.