Press Release

Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun: Nisyros now has its very own race

The unique island of Nisyros entered race mode for the very first time, hosting the Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun, a new event combining trail running with the island's distinct volcanic landscape, drawing runners to the Aegean from across Greece.

The weekend of October 3-4 marked the first major mountain and nature-running gathering on Nisyros. Serving as a strong debut test, the event was organized by DI.K.E.N. in collaboration with Rock Solid and featured multiple distances, welcoming both experienced trail runners and newcomers eager to discover the island through its routes.

The program included 26 km, 10 km, and 5 km races, alongside the 1.3 km "Nisyraki" children's run. The top podium finishers per distance were:

- **26 km (Overall):** 1st Georgios Papaioannou (03:05'01"), 2nd Andreas Chaskis (03:14'39"), 3rd Thanasis Kamateros (03:36'58"). (No female finishers recorded).
- **10 km (Overall):** 1st Michalis Spanos (01:03'35"), 2nd Meletios Bairamis (01:08'17"), 3rd Alexandros Kaparakis (01:09'06"). **(Women):** 1st Kyriaki Torizi (01:28'57"), 2nd Maria Andrioti (01:28'58"), 3rd Rebecca Buricke (01:31'00").
- **5 km (Overall):** 1st Darius Meyer (00:20'47"), 2nd Christos Fousteris (00:25'07"), 3rd Konstantinos Tserkezis (00:28'05"). **(Women):** 1st Vasiliki Ploumi (00:39'29"), 2nd Anna Anyfanti (00:41'51"), 3rd Konstantina Kontou (00:43'11").

Regardless of time or placement, young runners enjoyed their own course as part of an event aiming to become an integral element of the island's identity.

As the Greek saying goes, *"every beginning is difficult"*, and this inaugural edition had its share of challenges. Adverse weather impacted turnout, particularly on Saturday, complicating ferry transport to Nisyros and requiring several participants to adjust their travel plans. Nevertheless, those who reached the island showed up at the starting line, carving out the GeoRun's very first racing footprint.

«The excellent cooperation with the implementation team of the first Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun gave us the opportunity to showcase our land and hospitality, welcoming runners from both Kos and Rhodes. Participating in the race myself, I thoroughly enjoyed this special experience. DIKEN, the managing body of the Nisyros Geopark, which joined the UNESCO Global Geoparks network in 2026, covered all event expenses, requiring no registration fee from participants. We hope this race becomes an established tradition and remains open to new sporting initiatives, allowing more people to experience Nisyros, its unique beauty, and its extraordinary geomorphology firsthand.»

A small act of hospitality highlighted the spirit of the event: the first female runner to arrive at the race secretariat received a gift basket filled with local Nisyrian products, symbolically connecting the event with the island's local produce and culinary heritage.

Most importantly, the Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun successfully took its first step. Runners had the chance to "traverse a volcanic landscape, move along geotrails, pass by geosites, learn about the island's volcanic past, and simultaneously experience the landscape through athletic activity."

«Run the volcanic landscape. Experience the geoheritage.»

Participants did not come merely to run. Setting foot on an island that forms part of a UNESCO Global Geopark, they navigated an extraordinary terrain and experienced Nisyros as only runners can—combining sports, nature, and cultural identity through distinct courses.

Reflecting on the event, Vassilis Kanakaris, Race Director of Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun 2026, shared:

«What remains is the Volcanic Crater acting as a mirror—a place where humans look inward and rediscover humanity. We saw a running race: children running with smiles, people unlocking new sides of themselves and pushing past limits, friends and strangers moving creatively and freely within and around themselves. We witnessed togetherness. Nature can exist for humanity, but it is far greater than humanity. In his documentary 'Into the Inferno', Werner Herzog says that fire does not care about our whims. To the craters Stefanos and Phlegethon, to Little and Big Polyvotis, I send a warm kiss. And to the people by my side, I borrow the words of the gentleman with the red scarf: “Ah Nisyros, I love you... And from deep within, I thank you…”»

The inaugural Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun proved there is a dedicated space for a race built on character and deep appreciation for the island. Navigating the natural hurdles of a premier event alongside weather variables, the GeoRun concluded successfully, establishing a solid foundation for future editions.

NISYROS VOLCANIC GEORUN
Held within the Nisyros UNESCO Global Geopark

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