Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun 2026

Where the heart of the Earth beats

October 3 & 4, 2026 | Nisyros

Can you imagine a running race inside one of Greece's most extraordinary volcanic landscapes? A route passing through a caldera, craters, volcanic formations, and traditional villages? A once-in-a-lifetime experience on an island that is, in its entirety, a natural geological laboratory?

On October 3 and 4, 2026, the **Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun** brings trail running to the heart of the **Nisyros UNESCO Global Geopark**, an event connecting sports with the natural environment, geology, and history of Nisyros.

The **Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun** features four different distances: 26.5 km with +1,162 m elevation gain, 10 km with +387 m, 5 km with +160 m, as well as the 1.3 km "Nisyraki" race for younger runners. The long distance also serves as a qualifying race for the Olympus Marathon 2027 and the Winter Enipeas 2026.

The event is organized with the support of the Municipal Public Benefit Enterprise of Nisyros **(DI.K.E.N.)**, the entity associated with the management and promotion of the Volcano and Geopark of Nisyros, as well as the Volcanological Museum in Nikia. DI.K.E.N. is also responsible for developing actions aimed at protecting and promoting the island's natural heritage, as well as organizing sports activities and events.

In this context, entry for all races is **free of charge**, as part of DI.K.E.N.'s initiative to invite the running community to discover the unique routes offered by the Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun.

Running Inside a UNESCO Global Geopark

Nisyros represents one of the most distinctive volcanic landscapes in the Aegean. Its inclusion in the network of UNESCO Global Geoparks highlights the international geological value of the island and its surrounding environment.

The geopark is not limited to the volcano area. It encompasses a total of interconnected geological, natural, cultural, and historical elements that together tell the story of the island's evolution.

The caldera, hydrothermal craters, volcanic domes, and diverse rock formations act as an outdoor "open book" of Nisyros' geological history.

Among them lies the "Stefanos" crater, one of the island's most recognizable landmarks. The area features intense geothermal activity, with steam and gases serving as a reminder that the volcano remains an active geological system. DI.K.E.N. itself describes the Nisyros caldera as a landscape of exceptional geological and natural interest, which is also protected under the Natura 2000 network.

For participants, all this is not just a backdrop to a race; it is part of the course they will run.

The Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun was designed to bring runners into direct contact with the island's unique terrain, following routes that connect Mandraki, Nikia, and Emporios while passing key landmarks of the volcanic landscape.

A Bit of History…

Nisyros has shaped its identity through the constant coexistence of man and nature. Human presence on the island dates back to prehistoric times, while ancient Nisyros experienced significant development, establishing its own city and economic activity.

Palaiokastro, one of the island's most important archaeological monuments, is a prime example of its ancient history. Built from massive volcanic stone blocks, it is one of the best-preserved ancient fortification works in Greece.

The history of Nisyros continues through the centuries as the island passed through different political and cultural eras. Their traces remain evident in the villages, architecture, castles, monasteries, and local traditions.

The unique morphology of Nisyros has also influenced the settlement patterns. Nikia, built right on the rim of the caldera, offers a striking example of the relationship between human presence and volcanic topography.

Therefore, the race experience extends beyond the athletic challenge. Participants cross an island where the volcanic terrain, settlements, monuments, and trails form a single, unified landscape.

Nisyros as a Trail Running Destination

The island can be reached via Kos or Rhodes by air, followed by a ferry connection to Nisyros. There are also ferry links to Piraeus and other Dodecanese islands, allowing runners to combine the race with an extended stay in the region.

The Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun aims to strengthen this bond between Nisyros and trail running, creating an event that inspires more people to experience the island through its natural environment.

Event Organization

The **Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun 2026** is organized by **Rock Solid**, an entity experienced in creating and executing mountain and island-based races.

Rock Solid's experience from events like Rock Solid Kastellorizo (now in its fifth year) forms the foundation for the athletic and technical organization of the Nisyros Volcanic GeoRun, tailoring the routes and logistics to the unique character of Nisyros.

The goal is to combine technical event management with respect for the natural environment while showcasing the island's geological and cultural heritage.

Event Information & Social Media:

https://rocksolid.gr/volcanic-georun-races

Facebook: rocksolidgr

Instagram: rocksolid.gr

YouTube: @rocksolid

Find more information about the
Nisyros Geopark at nisyrosgeopark.gr

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NISYROS VOLCANIC GEORUN
Held within the Nisyros UNESCO Global Geopark

powered by
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