

Dear Friends!

Needless to say, what a great pleasure it is to have you with us at the 16th Mediterranean Gathering in Athens, in October 2018, to experience together a different Odyssey!

We would like to remind you that July 31st 2018 is the deadline for final payment of your participation fees. For those who have not yet done so, will you please deposit the remaining amount until said date.

Many of you are asking about the degree of difficulty and the required amount of walking in our various visits. We are sending you a detailed Gathering program and the post-gathering tour schedule as well as the alternative proposals arranged by the Organizing Committee. We hope that you will find them clear and helpful but rest assured that we shall be there at all times to make things easy and pleasant for you.

Have a good summer and we are looking forward to welcoming you in Athens this coming October.

With our Guiding and Scouting greetings

The Med Organizing Committee

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 20-27 October 2018

Saturday, October 20, 2018: Morning and afternoon, the Gathering activities will be held at the hotel. We shall not leave the hotel.

Sunday, October 21, 2018. Daytrip to Northeast Attica, by coach.

1st stop: *Marathon*, at the Starting Point of the Classic Marathon Run. Whoever wishes may participate in an activity; all others will walk a short distance to watch it.

2nd stop: visit to "***Konakia***" Training and Camping Center of the Greek Guiding Association. Easy access. Here the participants will participate in the workshops they have already selected from among the 10-12 prepared by the Program Team. For participants with mobility disabilities easy labs are available, not requiring motility and excessive mobility and they should have selected any one of these. For some parts of the program some walking will be required, not much though. Lunch will also be served at "***Konakia***".

3rd stop: ***Sounio***. Whoever wishes could go up the rock and visit the Temple of Poseidon. All others may see it from the lower level of the site but also enjoy the unique, enchanting sunset and take pictures.

Monday, October 22, 2018

In the morning we will be going by coach to the "***Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center***" on the southern coastal front of Attica. We will have the opportunity to participate in a program / event which will be organized there. Elevators are available for those who wish to visit the various parts of the building.

At the same time, a number of participants will have the opportunity to go to the nearby "**Delta Falirou**" **International Sea Scout Centre** for a rowing activity, organized by the Sea Scouts and Guides.

In the afternoon a plenary session will be held in the hotel venue, followed by a "South Europe Sub regional" meeting". The ones who will not attend the SESR meeting, may either stay in the hotel for rest or take a short or long walk in Athens; volunteers will be around to help with information or walk along with those who wish it.

Tuesday October 23, 2018

In the morning we will go to the **Acropolis Museum** by metro. Those unable to move by metro will be taken to the museum either by taxi or by a small coach (depending on the number of persons).

There is a guided tour of the Acropolis Museum, which lasts one-and-a-half to two hours. For people with mobility disabilities free wheelchairs are available. There are elevators at all levels of the Museum. On the top floor there is a restaurant and a cafeteria with a wonderful view of the Acropolis.

After the tour participants may have lunch at their discretion. Those who, after the tour, do not wish to walk in the picturesque area around the Acropolis or take their lunch in one of the numerous restaurants there (individual lunch at their discretion) could choose to enjoy delicious Greek specialties at the Museum restaurant (individual lunch).

Return to the hotel as in the morning. (metro - taxi – coach)

The afternoon and the evening will be spent at the hotel for the Closing Ceremony and the farewell dinner party with live music.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 - Departure for the Peloponnese

Visit to **Ancient Olympia**. The coach will transport those who wish, close to the Museum or to the archaeological site. There will be a guided tour. However each participant will decide how far to walk, according to his wishes and capability. As for lunch, each participant may choose any of the restaurants of the area, in close proximity to one other.

Arriving later in **Kalamata**, the group will settle and have dinner at the hotel. The evening is free. One may stay at the hotel or go for an evening walk to the city center (no transport offered. However there are busses and taxis).

Thursday, October 25, 2018

In the morning we will take a coach trip to the historic city of **Pylos**. It is interesting to visit **Niokastro** (new fortress), which is a bit difficult to access, and the rest will stay in the port of Pylos for coffee or a visit to the town.

From **Pylos** we go to **Gialova**, a small coastal town six kilometers from Pylos, for a swim and for lunch. Very easy access and a great opportunity for a beach stroll.

Return to **Kalamata** early in the afternoon. Visit to the Cathedral in the center of the city, to the Museum of Traditional Costumes and other historically interesting sites. Also here participation is free, according to individual choices.

In the evening a surprise event on the beach, very close to the hotel.

Friday October 26, 2018

A day trip to *Sparta*, through **Mount Taygetos**, driving through the “gorge of *Lagkadas*”. The site has officially been declared part of the Natura 2000 Habitat network.

Visit and guided tour of Mystras, a byzantine fortress city, built on a rocky hill. Arrangements will be made for the coach to stop at the point where the whole of Mystras can be seen by those who cannot or do not wish to go up for the tour. There is a small café at the entrance of the site for those who do not wish to go up for the tour or just wish to have a rest.

After **Mystras** we go to the city of **Sparta** for a walk and a meal at will. Very easy access for walks.

We will then visit the "Olive Museum ", which requires little walking because it is a small museum but unique in its kind.

Back to the hotel for dinner and a Greek traditional party.

Saturday, October 27, 2018

Departure to **Ancient Messini**.

Visit and guided tour of the archaeological site. This site is very large. Each participant will decide for himself which part to visit according to his interests and walking ability. In any case, the area is so impressive that even just looking at its overall view is a unique experience.

Then visit to the city of **Tripoli** for a walk around or for a meal at a very easily accessible traditional tavern.

Back to Athens around 19: 30.