



Joint Committee of Former Scouts and Guides of Greece

A sea Odyssey



Μεσόγειος - Η Οδύσσεια μιας θάλασσας

Newsletter No. 1

July 2017

Dear friends,

It is said that time 'flies' when you are having a great time or, as we say in Greece, 'it runs like water'. I could not agree more, especially when I remember the wonderful moments we have enjoyed together in ISGF's gatherings. The journey that has begun, with all of us as passengers, has left only precious memories behind.

Now it is for us to lead the journey, anchoring in our beautiful country, Greece.

It will be our greatest pleasure to have you with us here, to spend some days of 'adventure', to roam about some of the beauties of our homeland and get to know its history, its culture, its everyday life, its people.

With our scouting and guiding spirit we will spend many happy moments together, get better acquainted and have the opportunity to exchange views and ideas on our favourite subject, Scouting and Guiding.

We are expecting you all for a wandering in our own Odyssey!

Aggeliki Gavala

Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee



With a view of the Acropolis on the roof garden of Titania hotel, where our Gathering will take place, Nasos, Dora, Kate, Olga, Katerina, Aggeliki, Nana, Nikos and Victoria, members of the organising committee.

Let's introduce ourselves!

Host of the Gathering is the **Joint Committee of Former Scouts and Guides of Greece** (ESPPOE), the organization that represents our country to the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF).

ESPPOE represents, since 1977, two organizations of adult members, namely **Central Committee of Former Scouts of Greece** that operates as a committee of the National Board of the **Scouts of Greece** (SEP) and the **Greek Guides Cooperation Division** that is directly affiliated with the **Greek Guiding Association** (SEO).

Each of these two organizations has its own organizational structure and program, but they often collaborate on a local or national level. Among these collaborations was the organization of the **1st Mediterranean Gathering** in Greece in 1980 and another two ISGF's gatherings in 1991 and 2000.

Once again we will take the rudder to successfully navigate you, to exciting routes and important destinations!

*Our Gathering will take place at **Titania hotel**.
Located right in the heart of the city, easily accessed
by public transports and within short distance to major
sightseeing and shopping areas!*

*On the top floor, the 'Olive Garden' restaurant with a
magnificent view of the Acropolis, Lycabetus hill and the
city, up to the Saronic Gulf.*

<http://www.titania.gr>



16th MED Gathering Athens 2018

Follow us on **facebook**,

like our page and **share** it with your
Scout and Guide friends and not only!

Mediterranean - The Odyssey of a Sea

This is the name we gave to the 16th Mediterranean Gathering. Wonder why?

Odyssey metaphorically means an adventurous journey where many obstacles, incessantly deviate you from your destination. This is exactly what happened to Odysseus, the hero of Homer's Odyssey while travelling back to his homeland Ithaca, finally taking him ten whole years.

Odysseus' journey, symbolic and timeless, is Man's incessant quest for a better life, for new experiences, and the effort to overcome any obstacle which keeps him from developing. This adventure - based on Homer's myth - is happening in the Mediterranean Sea, which is in our days going through her own Odyssey, because of the difficulties faced by the people sailing on her waters, in search for a better living, but also by the human destructive intervention on her ecosystem.

It is obvious then how, being in the homeland of Homer and Odysseus this myth would instantly be the inspiration for the motto of our Gathering.

At this Gathering, we, the ISGF members from the Mediterranean - and other countries too - will experience a different Odyssey, sharing for four days the same concerns, each of us with his own views and experiences. While bridging the barriers of language and religion between us, we will have the opportunity to enjoy new experiences and feelings that will bring us much closer. We will certainly succeed this, because Guides and Scouts know very well how to!

Katerina Tsekoura

Program Sub-committee

Our journey continues ...

... in the **Peloponnese**. It is the largest peninsula of Greece. Named after one of the mythical heroes, Pelops.

Land of myths and heroes. Birthplace of the Olympic Games.

One of the most important centers of ancient and contemporary Greek history.

An impressive cultural heritage site.

Scattered with historical and architectural monuments, Mycenaean palaces, Byzantine cities,

Medieval and Venetian castles.

Six of its archeological sites are included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Nature.

Selected local produce: olives, olive oil, wine, raisins, cheese, citrus fruits, walnuts, chestnuts, herbs...

The list is extensive, therefore impossible to include everything in a few lines!

Having Kalamata as our base we will wander in close-by and distant cities and sites, travel back in time, try new tastes and ... who knows? Perhaps Homer is somewhere around telling his stories!

24-27 October, after the end of the Mediterranean Gathering.

Sources: www.visitgreece.gr,
www.mythicalpeloponnese.gr