

Ταξίδια μου στην Ελλάδα

Μία αξέχαστη εμπειρία από τον Dávid Köhnyű

Γαλαξίδι



Port



Flour Wars

Το πρώτο ταξίδι μας ήταν στο Γαλαξίδι. Εκεί υπάρχει μία τρελή παράδοση όταν όλοι πετάνε πολύχρωμο αλεύρι. Modern Galaxidi is built on the site of ancient Haleion. The Carnival Season in Greece ends with the celebration of Clean Monday which coincides with the beginning of the Greek Orthodox Lent. On that particular day the custom of Αλευρομουτζούρωμα, literally Flour Smudging, or else Flour Wars, takes place in Galaxidi. The origins of the custom are unclear, however it appears in its current form since the mid-19th century. Around noon, locals and visitors of all ages dressed up in old clothes rendezvous at a predefined location where colored flour is distributed in large quantities. Then they march to the harbor which is usually split into a war zone and a neutral zone for the observers and the fight begins. The participants throw each other (and to unsuspected bystanders) colored flour until essentially they run out of supplies.

Όλυμπία



Museum



Phillipeion

Πήγαμε στην Όλυμπία και ήμασταν στο μουσείο και στον αρχαιολογικό χώρο. The Olympic Games were held here every four years throughout Classical antiquity, from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. Enclosed within the temenos (sacred enclosure) are the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Zeus, the Pelopion, and the area of the altar, where the sacrifices were made. Olympia was also known for the gigantic ivory and gold statue of Zeus that used to stand there, sculpted by Pheidias, which was named one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World by Antipater of Sidon. The Olympic flame of the modern-day Olympic Games is lit by reflection of sunlight in a parabolic mirror in front of the Temple of Hera and then transported by a torch to the place where the games are held. When the modern Olympics came to Athens in 2004, the men's and women's shot put competition was held at the restored Olympia stadium.

Αθήνα



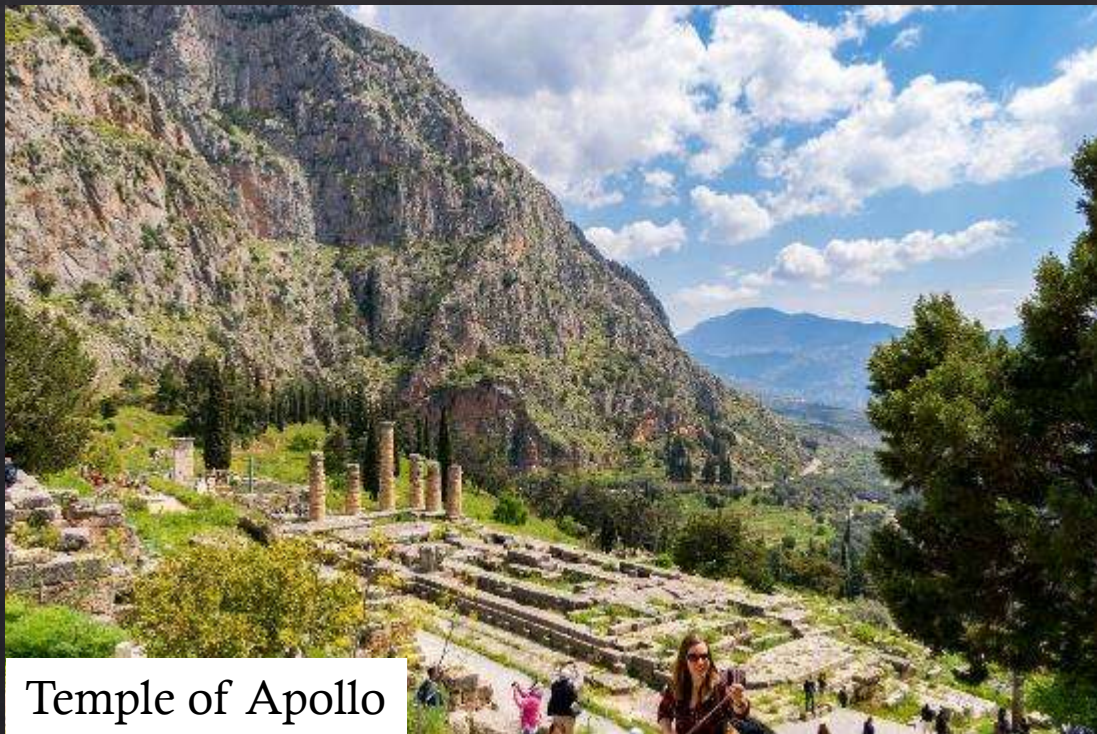
Parthenon



Panathenaic Stadium

Το πρώτο ταξίδι μας χωρίς ESN ήταν στην Αθήνα. Πήγαμε μία βόλτα στο κεντρό και είδαμε την Ακρόπολη, το Παναθηναϊκό Στάδιο και τον Εθνικό Κήπο. Athens is the capital and largest city of Greece and is one of the world's oldest cities. Athena and Poseidon had many disagreements and battles between themselves, and one of these was a race to be the Patron God of the city. In an attempt to compel the people, Poseidon created a salt water spring by striking the ground with his trident, symbolizing naval power. However, when Athena created the olive tree, symbolizing peace and prosperity, and the Athenians accepted the olive tree and named the city after Athena. Athens was chosen as the capital of the newly independent Greek state in 1834, largely because of historical and sentimental reasons. At the time it was a town of modest size built around the foot of the Acropolis. Athens was the host city of the first modern-day Olympic Games in 1896, and 108 years later it welcomed home the 2004 Summer Olympics.

Δελφοί



Temple of Apollo



Treasury of Athens

Delphi is famous as the ancient sanctuary that grew rich as the seat of Pythia, the oracle consulted about important decisions throughout the ancient classical world. Moreover, the Greeks considered Delphi the navel (or centre) of the world, as represented by the stone monument known as the Omphalos of Delphi. It occupies an impressive site on the south-western slope of Mount Parnassus, overlooking the coastal plain to the south and the valley of Phocis. In myths Zeus determined the site of Delphi when he sought to find the centre of his "Grandmother Earth" (Gaia). He sent two eagles flying from the eastern and western extremities, and the path of the eagles crossed over Delphi where the omphalos, or navel of Gaia was found. The name Delphoi comes from the same root as δελφύς, "womb" and may indicate archaic veneration of Gaia at the site.

Όλυμπος



Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. The highest peak Mytikas, meaning "nose", rises to 2,917 metres. In Ancient Greek religion and mythology, Olympus was the home of the Twelve Olympian gods of the ancient Greek world. It is the setting of many stories in Greek religions and myth. The Twelve Olympian gods lived in the gorges, where there were also their palaces.

Θεσσαλονίκη



Roman Forum



White Tower



Alexander the Great

Thessaloniki is the second-largest city in Greece and the capital of Greek Macedonia and is considered to be Greece's cultural capital. It was conquered by the Ottomans in 1430, and passed from the Ottoman Empire to modern Greece on 8 November 1912. The name of the city came from the name of a princess, Thessalonike of Macedon, half sister of Alexander the Great, so named because of her birth on the day of the Macedonian victory at the Battle of Crocus Field (353/352 BCE). The Arch of Galerius, known colloquially as the Kamara was built to commemorate the emperor's campaigns against the Persians. The city hosts many Byzantine churches and Ottoman mosques.

Μετέωρα

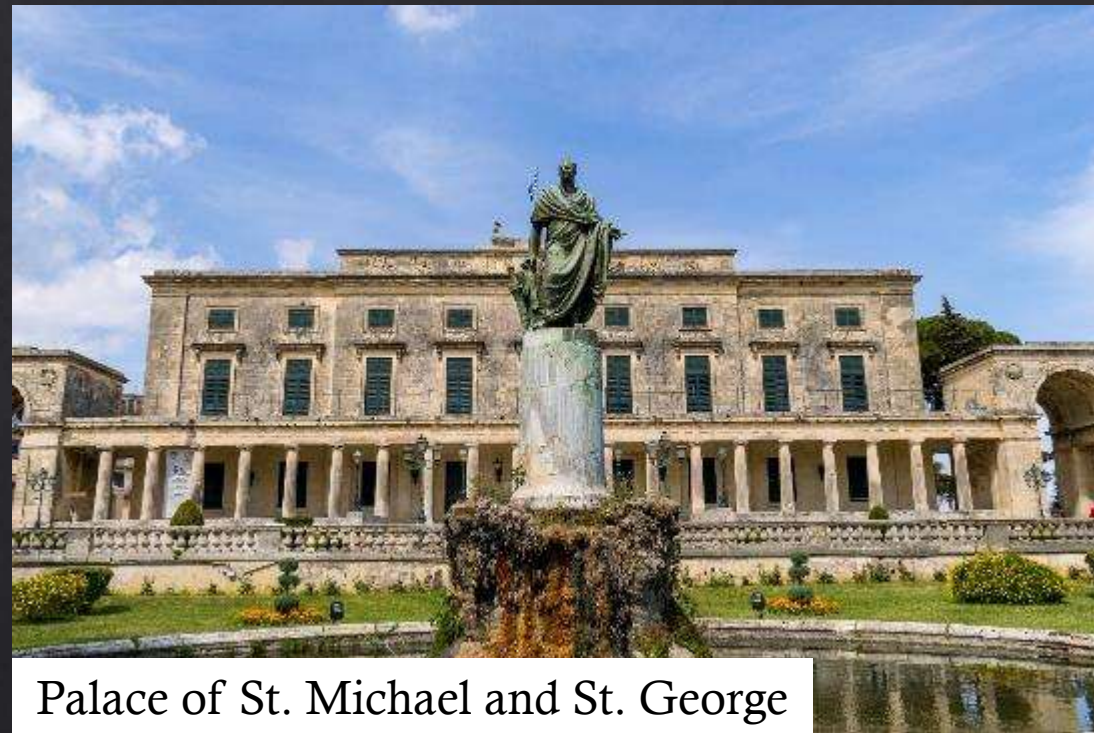


The Metéora - literally "middle of the sky", "suspended in the air" or "in the heavens above,, - is a formation of immense monolithic pillars and hills-like huge rounded boulders. The six monasteries are built on natural conglomerate pillars in central Greece. The conglomerate was formed of deposits of stone, sand and mud from streams flowing into a delta at the edge of a lake, over millions of years. About 60 million years ago during the Paleogene Period a series of earth movements pushed the seabed upwards, creating a high plateau and causing many vertical fault lines in the thick layer of sandstone. The huge rock pillars were then formed by weathering by water, wind and extremes of temperature on the vertical faults. As early as the 11th century, monks occupied the caverns of Meteora. However, monasteries were not built until the 14th century, when the monks sought somewhere to hide in the face of an increasing number of Turkish attacks on Greece. At this time, access to the top was via removable ladders or windlass. Nowadays, getting up is a lot simpler due to steps being carved into the rock during the 1920s.

Κέρκυρα



Channel of Love beach



Palace of St. Michael and St. George

The Greek name, Kerkyra or Korkyra, is related to two powerful water deities: Poseidon, god of the sea, and Asopos, an important Greek mainland river. According to myth, Poseidon fell in love with the beautiful nymph Korkyra, daughter of Asopos and river nymph Metope, and abducted her. Poseidon brought Korkyra to the hitherto unnamed island and, in marital bliss, offered her name to the place: Korkyra, which gradually evolved to Kerkyra (Doric). The name Corfù, an Italian version of the Byzantine Κορυφώ, meaning "city of the peaks,,. The old citadel (Παλαιό Φρούριο) is an old Venetian fortress built on an artificial islet with fortifications surrounding its entire perimeter, although some sections, particularly on the east side, are slowly being eroded and falling into the sea. During Easter, on Holy Saturday is the celebration of the "Early Resurrection,, is held; balconies in the old city are decked in bright red cloth, and Corfiotes throw down large clay pots full of water to smash on the street pavement. This is enacted in anticipation of the Resurrection of Jesus, which is to be celebrated that same night.

Λευκάδα



Porto Katsiki



Nidri waterfalls

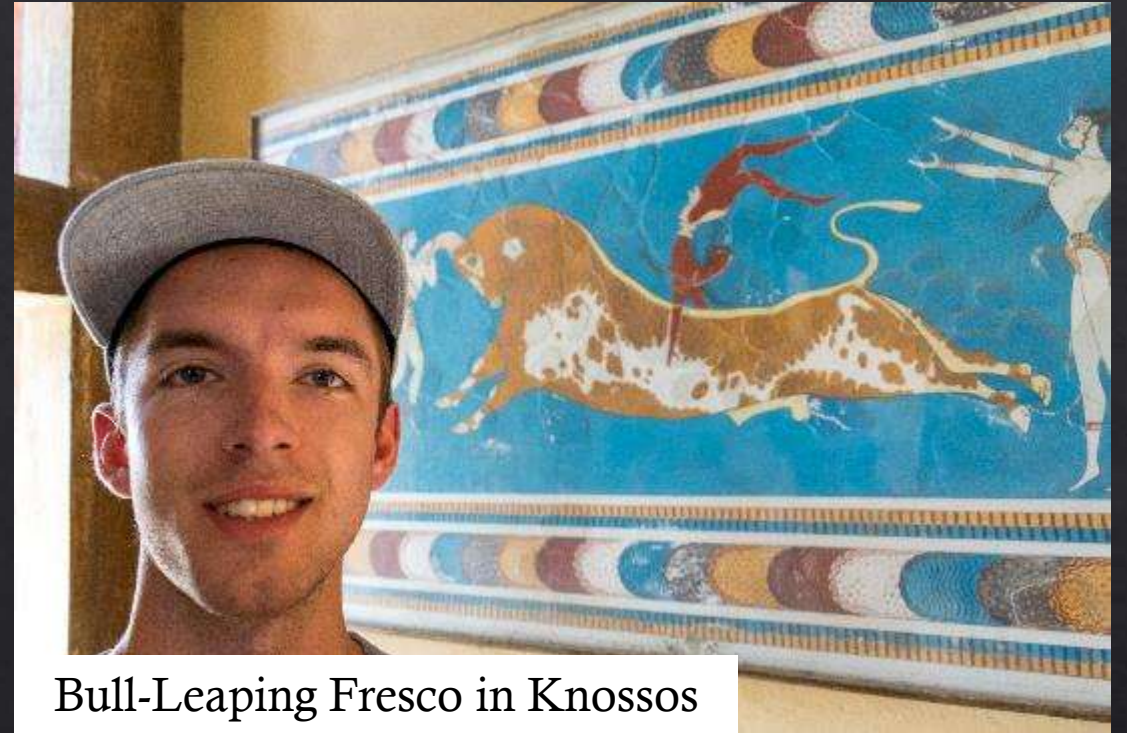
Στα τέλη Απριλίου πήγαμε στην Λευκάδα με το λεωφορείο. Εκεί υπάρχουν πολύ όμορφες παραλίες και άλλα ωραία πράγματα.

The Venetians briefly held Lefkada between 1500 and 1503, during the Ottoman-Venetian War, after which it was returned to Ottoman rule by peace treaty. Ottoman rule was interrupted by Venice in 1684, with the Ottomans surrendering it after a 16-day siege, and was thus again part of the Ionian Islands under Venetian rule. The famous beach of Porto Katsiki is located on Lefkada's west coast. Lefkada was attached to mainland Greece but the Corinthians dug a trench in the 7th century BC on its isthmus, today it is connected to the mainland by a long causeway and floating bridge. Lefkada has an abundant storage of underground water which is one of the principal reasons why a major part of the island is lush with greenery. The high mountains that abound in Lefkada are the sources for many waterfalls. One such gorgeous cascading waterfall is the Dimossari waterfall that can be found on the outskirts of Nydri.

Κρήτη



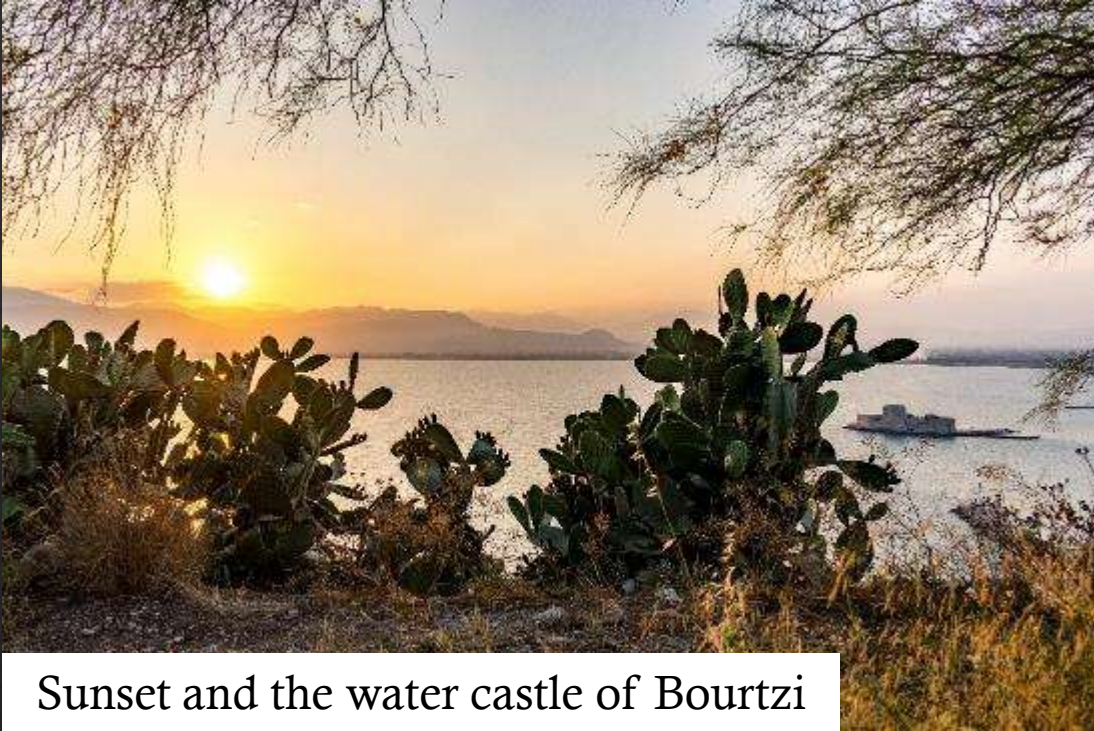
Flag parade in Heraklion



Bull-Leaping Fresco in Knossos

Πήγαμε στην Κρήτη με το ένα μεγάλο πλοίο. Στο Ηράκλειο κάναμε μία παρέλαση με τις σημαίες. Την δεύτερη μέρα πήγαμε στην Κνωσό και μετά στο Μάταλα. Την επόμενη μέρα ταξίδεψαμε στο Μάλο. Crete forms a significant part of the economy and cultural heritage of Greece, while retaining its own local cultural traits. It was once the centre of the Minoan civilization, which is currently regarded as the earliest recorded civilization in Europe. Crete is one of the few Greek islands that can support itself independently without a tourism industry because agriculture plays an important role in the island's economy. In Greek mythology, King Minos dwelt in a palace at Knossos. He had Daedalus construct a labyrinth, a very large maze in which to retain his son, the Minotaur. The myth of the Minotaur tells that Theseus, a prince from Athens, whose father is an ancient Greek king named Aegean (→ Aegean Sea), sailed to Crete, where he was forced to fight a terrible creature called the Minotaur. The Minotaur was a half man, half bull, and was kept in the Labyrinth. The king's daughter Ariadne fell in love with Theseus. Before he entered the Labyrinth to fight the Minotaur, Ariadne gave him a ball of thread which he unwound as he went into the Labyrinth so that he could find his way back by following it. Theseus killed the Minotaur, and then he and Ariadne fled from Crete, escaping her angry father.

Ναύπλιο



Sunset and the water castle of Bourtzi



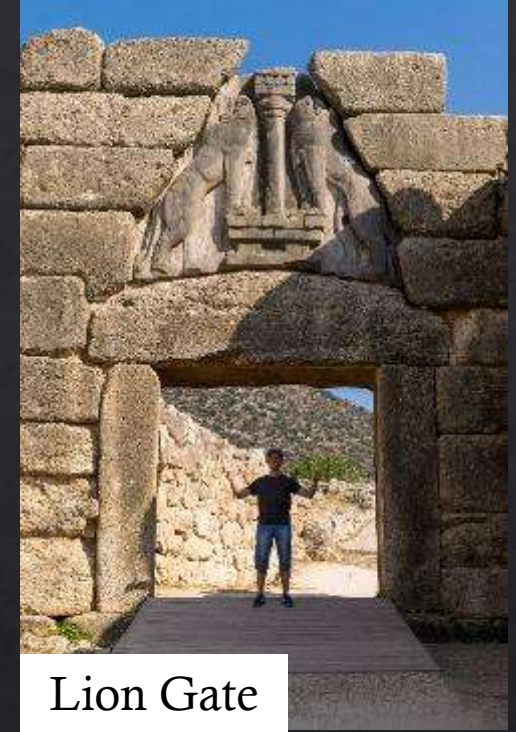
Nafplio by night

The town was the capital of the First Hellenic Republic and of the Kingdom of Greece, from the start of the Greek Revolution in 1821 until 1834. The water castle of Bourtzi (Μπούρτζι) is located in the middle of the harbour of Nafplio. The Venetians completed its fortification in 1473 to protect the city from pirates and invaders from the sea. The Greeks regained it from the Turks on June 18, 1822. Palamidi (Παλαμήδι) is a fortress to the east, nestled on the crest of a 216-metre high hill. It was built by the Venetians during their second occupation of the area (1686–1715). The fortress was a very large and ambitious project, but was finished within a relatively short period from 1711 until 1714. In 1715 it was captured by the Turks and remained under their control until 1822, when it was captured by the Greeks. The eight bastions of the fortress were originally named after the Venetian provveditori. However, when it fell to the Ottoman Empire, the bastions were given Turkish names. Lastly, when the Greeks overthrew the Turks the bastions were renamed after ancient Greek leaders and heroes (Epaminondas, Miltiades, Leonidas, Phocion, Achilles, Themistocles. Locals in the town of Nafplion will say there are 999 steps to the top of the castle.

Επίδαυρος και Μυκήναι



Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus



Lion Gate

Reputed to be founded by or named for the Argolid Epidaurus, and to be the birthplace of Apollo's son Asclepius the healer, Epidaurus was known for its sanctuary. The asclepeion at Epidaurus was the most celebrated healing center of the Classical world, the place where ill people went in the hope of being cured. To find out the right cure for their ailments, they spent a night in the enkoimeteria, a big sleeping hall. In their dreams, the god himself would advise them what they had to do to regain their health. The Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus is considered to be the most perfect ancient Greek theatre with regard to acoustics and aesthetics. Mycenae was one of the major centres of Greek civilization in the second millennium BC, a military stronghold which dominated much of southern Greece. At its peak in 1350 BC, the citadel and lower town had a population of 30,000 and an area of 32 hectares.

Κεφαλονιά



Melissani Lake



Amazing view of the beaches

Kephalonia has been suggested as the Homeric Ithaca, the home of Odysseus, rather than the smaller island bearing this name today. The island's population reached 70,000 in 1896, but declined gradually in the 20th century. The great 1953 Ionian earthquake forced many people to leave the island. Many people who left the island moved to Patras or Athens. Most of the indigenous people of Kephalonia have surnames ending in "-atos", such as the Georgatos families, and almost every settlement on the island has a name ending in "-ata,,. In Greek mythology, Melissani was the Cave of the Nymphs. It forms a kind of "cenote" as described in the Yucatán peninsula (Mexico). The vertical shaft gives access to the water table. This groundwater is brackish, mixing between fresh water recharge inland and sea water intruded in depth in the island. In my opinion this was the most beautiful island.

Ζάκυνθος



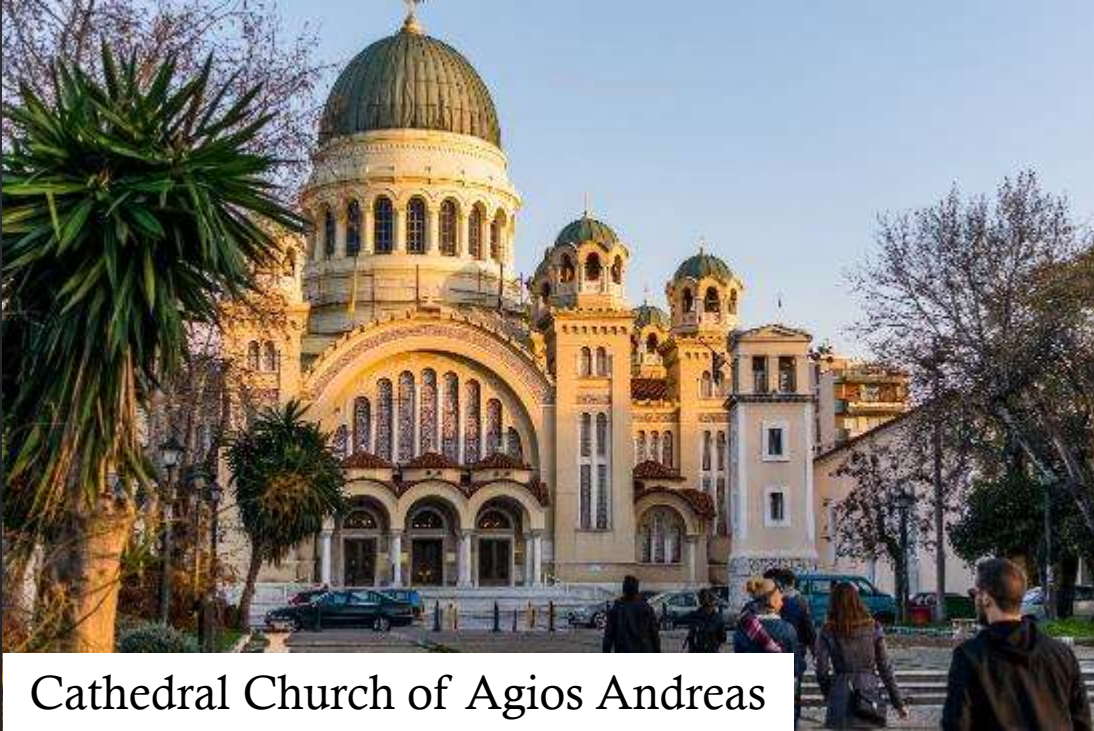
Navagio beach with shipwreck



Navagio beach from above

Zakynthos is a Greek island in the Ionian Sea. It is the third largest of the Ionian Islands. The island's nickname is „The flower of the East” („Il fiore di Levante” in Italian), given by the Venetians. The most famous landmark of the island is the Navagio beach. It is a cove on the northwest shore, isolated by high cliffs and accessible only by boat. The beach and sea floor are made of white pebbles, and surrounded by turquoise waters. It is named after a shipwreck (MV Panagiotis), which sunk on the shore around 1980.

Πάτρα



Cathedral Church of Agios Andreas



Carnival

Patras is Greece's third-largest city. Dubbed as Greece's Gate to the West, Patras is a commercial hub, while its busy port is a nodal point for trade and communication with Italy and the rest of Western Europe. The Rio–Antirrio Bridge, which links the town of Rio on the Peloponnese peninsula to Antirrio on mainland Greece by road, is one of the world's longest (2,880 m) multi-span cable-stayed bridges and longest of the fully suspended type. It crosses the Gulf of Corinth near Patras. The Patras Carnival is the largest event of its kind in Greece and one of the biggest in Europe, with a heritage reaching back 160 years. The events begin in January and last until Clean Monday. Patras was chosen by the European Commission to be the European Capital of Culture for the year 2006.

Σας ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας!

Sources:

- ◇ www.wikipedia.com
- ◇ www.greeka.com