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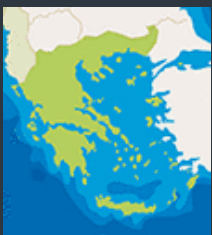
Sustainable & Cultural Tourism **P.1**Center of Local Culture of Lesvos **P.1**Itineraries: The secrets of Lesvos **P.2**About ONMEST2 **P.3***Town Hall of Mytilene*

Visit the Gods

Greek gods were depicted as human beings and this anthropomorphism enabled the development of Greek philosophy and artistic expression.

Discover Greece

Visitors to Greece have the opportunity to trace the "fingerprints" of Greek history from Paleolithic Era to the Roman Period in the hundreds of archaeological sites, as well as in the archaeological museums and collections that are scattered throughout the country. They have the opportunity also to discover lesser known destinations.



Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable tourism is defined as "tourism that respects both local people and the traveller, cultural heritage and the environment". It seeks to provide people with an exciting and educational holiday that is also of benefit to the people of the host country.

Cultural Tourism

Cultural tourism (or culture tourism) is the subset of tourism concerned with a country or region's culture, specifically the lifestyle of the people in those geographical areas, the history of those people, their art, architecture, religion(s), and other elements that shape their way of life. Cultural tourism can play a crucial role in regional development.

Center of Local Culture of Lesvos

The Center of Local Culture (CLC) of Lesvos is located in the Municipality of Mytilene.

Mytilene, the capital of Lesvos, is a planned city that was built around its picturesque southern harbour. Adapted to contemporary maritime demands from the 19th century to present day. This city is the island's central port, serving all aspects of commercial and passenger transport.

The island of Lesvos in north Aegean has managed to keep package and mass forms of tourism at bay. While it is hardly lacking in visitors, it still remains largely untouched, offering hidden treasures to those who wish to find them.

Address: El. Venizelou 13 - 17, 811 00 Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece

Tel: 00 30 2251 0 27777, 28811

E-mail: dimos@mytilene.gr

Website: www.mytilene.gr

Centers of Local Culture (CLC)

CLC is a site, a village, a cluster of villages, which has a historical, cultural, architectural or environmental value.

These locations can be developed to become a living “out-door” museum allowing local and international tourists to interact with local culture and community.

The CLCs are mainly located in less famous destinations and developed for the purpose of reviving the surrounding territories and communities.

The CLC are financially self-standing bodies which are managed by a committee of representatives from the target groups, SMEs, public and private institutions, and local communities.



The island of **Lesvos** has retained the unique quality of its culture even in places invaded by tourism.

The **Fortress of Mytilene** is maintained in good condition and is one of the largest castles in the Mediterranean covering an area of 20 hectares. The first castle on the site may have been erected during the time of Justinian I (527–565).



Thermi took its name from the thermal springs that have been bubbling out of the ground here for centuries.

The Turks called it Sarlitza.

TYPE OF ITINERARY: Local

culture, life, heritage

DURATION: 5 days

PERIOD: Summer

NIGHT STAY: 4 stars hotel

TYPE OF TRIP: Travelling tour
transported

In collaboration with
Mitilene Tours

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tel : (30) 22510 54261

info@mitilenetours.gr

The **Theofilos museum** displays the paintings of the famous local folk artist Theofilos.

It is nestled in a verdant olive grove in the Mytilene suburb of Vareia.

The secrets of Lesvos

Lesvos is the ideal place to visit for people who want to experience the real Greece.

Molyvos, on the island's northern coast, has more of a tourist profile, especially from May to October. And **Plomari**, **Kalloni**, **Vatera**, **Petra**, **Skala Skamnia**, **Sigri**, and **Eressos** are very interesting destinations especially in the summer months.



Discover not only the well known but also the hidden treasures of Lesvos, starting from its capital, Mytilene.

ONMEST2 Partners (P)

- Lead Partner (LP): Municipality of Ispica, **Italy**
- P1: ERFC, **Greece**
- P2: Foundation University Enterprise of the Region of Murcia, FUERM, **Spain**
- P3: Jordan Valley Center for Comprehensive Development, JVCCD, **Jordan**
- P4: Baldati.org, **Lebanon**
- P5: Rozana Association for Development of Architectural Heritage, **Palestine**
- P6: National Union for the Tunisian woman UNFT, **Tunisia**
- P7: Association for the Development of Heritage-DELARPA, **Tunisia**
- P8: Ass Cult SUD, **Italy**

Associates

- As1- Trekking, **Italy**
- As2- PLEF, **Italy**
- As3- Aregai, **Italy**
- As4- Padil, **Tunisia**
- As5- Home Food, **Italy**

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Open Network for Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism2

About ONMEST2

The project bridges 7 countries of the Mediterranean Basin, with the vision of promoting the model of sustainable tourism, identifying the particular stakeholders that could support or benefit from a common strategy towards sustainable tourism and create Local Centers of Cultures and tourist packages with sustainable characteristics for the interested communities. The above scope is embraced by dissemination activities, sensitization and awareness tools towards the diffusion of the idea of sustainable tourism within students and communities, tourism professionals and public authorities.

Objectives

1. Creation of competitive tourist packages on local, national and international markets, oriented to responsible tourism.
2. Improvement of the quality of client services by SMEs based on the principles of sustainable economy, e.g., eco-labeling.
3. Increase of knowledge capacity, e.g. training in growth methodologies, approach of communities etc., for professionals, trainers, tourist services providers and young people.
4. Sensitization of the environment (SMEs, destinations, target groups) for the model of sustainable tourism.
5. Research of new funding schemes for sustainable tourist packages (sponsorship, fund raising etc.).
6. Identification of possible Centers of Local Culture.
7. Creation of heterogeneous core teams interested in sustainable tourism

Greece as a World Heritage site

Because of its geographical position, Greece was a crossroad of civilisations that had left their traces everywhere: the architecture of the museums and settlements, miniature art, daily life, nutritional customs and in all forms of popular art in the various regions of the country. The visitor can come into contact with this multihued and impressive mosaic through trips into historical, cultural, artistic and folkloric traditions.

According the UNESCO's official website:

"The monuments included on the World Heritage List are selected and approved on the basis of their value as the best examples of human creative genius. They exhibit an important interchange of human values and bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or has disappeared. They are directly linked to important stages in human history and for this reason they have outstanding universal significance and are a part of mankind's common heritage".

“Tourism is a driving industry of the Mediterranean countries and a powerful developmental tool for its communities”

Upcoming

- **New CLCs in Greece**

New CLCs in Rhodes, Crete, Didymoticho and Amfissa ...

- **Geo-routes presentation**

Geo Routes Cultural Heritage Journeys Institute is a nonprofit & nongovernmental organization. The experiential cultural and environmental journeys held under the auspices of the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO...

- **Itineraries from Greece and other countries**

Description of itineraries: Discover lesser known touristic places, natural and historic sites, areas with sporting opportunities ...

- **Other activities and products of the project**

Printed kits for sensitization of the target groups, training, e-learning ...

Contact us

If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact us to the following e-mail address:

papagiannopoulos@erfc.gr

Contact person:

Ioannis Papagiannopoulos

Until now 5 CLCs have established in Greece: Lesvos, Rhodes, Didymoticho, Agia Galini in Crete and Amfissa.

If you want to be the next CLC, contact us as soon as possible.

WelcoMed in GR Issue 01 Sept.-Nov. 2014



E.R.F.C. - European Regional Framework Co-operation

Ε.Π.Π.Σ. - Ευρωπαϊκό Περιφερειακό Πλαίσιο Συνεργασίας

HEAD OFFICE: 33, Platonos Street, 25100 Aegion, Greece

Tel: +30 26910 60427 - e-mail: erfc@otenet.gr - URL: www.erfc.gr