



Society of the Friends

Secrets and Oaths in Western Greece

Andritsaina
Kalavryta
Sergoula
Artotina
Koryschades
Krokyli
Messolonghi

How are the Olympic Ideal, the Ancient Confederacies, the Free Motherland and the Mountain Government interconnected? They are the contribution of Western Greece to our common heritage.

In our days a high-tech accomplishment visibly connects Peloponnese and Central Greece, a bridge that serves the present, looking forward to the future. Still there has always been a connecting bridge to carry people and beliefs, nourishing the desire for freedom. In Western Greece started the greatest armed struggle against the Ottoman yoke in 1821 and the greatest armed struggle in occupied Europe in 1942.

The historical-heritage trail "Andritsaina - Kalavryta - Koryschades - Krokyli - Mesolonghi" will take you back and forth in space and time: by lifting the veil of landscape secrets and by narrating the hidden stories.

TRAIL LOCATION	TELEPHONE Information	WEBSITE
AITOLIKI DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE S.A.	26340 29926/ 38110	www.aitoliki.gr
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF TRIHONIDA S.A.	26410 49637-8/ 39007	www.trihonida.gr
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF OLYMPIA S.A.	26250 24990/ 24289	www.anol.gr
ACHAIA S.A.	26920 24442-3/ 24583	www.achaiaa.gr
Transport		
Transregional Connections	14505	www.ktel.org
Rail Connections	1110	www.ose.gr
Road Connections : E55: Igoumenitsa - Kalamata, E65: Kozani - Kalamata, E75: Thesaloniki - Athina, E94: Athina - Corinthos, E65: Corinthos - Patra		
Health Services		
First Aid	166	
General Hospital of Messolonghi	26310 57100	
General Hospital of Karpenisi	22370 22226	
Health Center of Andritsaina	26260 22222	
Health Center of Nafpaktos	26340 23690	
General Hospital of Kalavryta	26920 22724	
Visitor Safety		
Police Department of Messolonghi	26310 55715/ 55727	
Police Department of Nafpaktos	26340 27258	
Police Department of Karpenisi	22370 89160/ 89180	
Police Department of Andritsaina	26260 54204	
Police Department of Kalavryta	26920 23333	

Experience the past, enjoy the present!



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A story with...past, present and future. See for yourself!

WHAT HAPPENED?

After the French Revolution in 1798 and the resolutions of the Conservative Order by the Great Powers in Vienna, in 1814-15, every revolutionary effort throughout Europe seems hopeless. However, reckless of the danger and the unfavourable conditions, Greeks start their War of Independence against the Ottoman yoke. After the loss of the Sacred Brigade in Romania, the Revolution rises from its ashes in Western Greece.

WHEN?

On the 25th of March 1821, the Revolution against the Ottoman yoke is declared.

WHERE?

It is said, that in Kalavryta, in the Monastery of Aghia Lavra, the Metropolitan of Patras Germanos, raised the banner of the Revolution. Military operations start in Western Greece and the Peloponnese.

WHY?

The French Revolution, the European and Greek Enlightenment have nourished the desire for freedom. The revival of the national conscience leads to an armed struggle as the only solution to political independence.

WHO?

Revolted Greeks, Greeks of the Diaspora and Philhellenes from foreign countries participate in the armed fight.

HOW?

The Greeks of the Diaspora found a secret organization, called "The Society of the Friends". Its members organize the Revolution. Gradually, all Greeks who envisage a free country take part in the nine-year War of Independence. Philhellenism, a social phenomenon developed in Europe and America, provides the Greek Revolution with moral and financial support. Many Philhellenes offer their fortunes and many others sacrifice their lives at several battlefields. During this War, Philhellenism expresses the protest of different nations against the suppressing political systems of that era as well as the admiration for the Greeks fighting for freedom.

AND FINALLY...

After nine years of a devastating war, a Civil War and the murder of the First Governor, the Modern Greek State is an acknowledged fact. It is feckless and small, but has boarders and exists in people's hearts.

The historical periods 1821-32 and 1940-45 are major steps signifying the building of Greece as a modern state. Live the part of the Friends, the Fighters, the Philhellenes, and the Resistance to enter present times. Discover the visible and invisible changes of the landscape. Follow the trail to our heritage, the European Heritage.



Photographic material by courtesy of Mr. K. Balafas.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The flames of the 2nd World War are licking Europe. In Greece begins armed resistance against the triple Occupation (Italian - German - Bulgarian). In Western Greece starts the struggle of the Greek National Army (ELAS). The latter develops into the biggest Volunteer Army in Europe.

WHEN?

On Sunday, the 7th of June 1942, the armed fight begins officially in Western Greece.

WHERE?

In Domnista, Aris Velouchiotis, Commander-in-Chief of ELAS, declares the Revolution against the Foreign Occupation and its local collaborators. The armed struggle starts from the wild sierras of Roumeli, a region with tradition in partisan warfare.

WHY?

Because the Greek nation wishes to get rid of the enemy, to escape from the deplorable conditions of living during the Occupation and bring the political instability to a halt.

WHO?

As in 1821, in the struggle participate people from all social classes and ideologies. Peasants and priests, outlaws and policemen, National Army officers and teachers, all Greeks who envisage a free motherland.

HOW?

Greece fights back. The secret war in the cities, supplements the armed Resistance in mountainous areas. Gradually, organized partisan groups grow in numbers, giving hope to the local populations by successfully confronting the enemy forces.

AND FINALLY...

The enemy collapses, but political disagreements lead the country to a Civil War. The latter signifies a period of violent encounters. Greece is creating its post-war identity.