

Erasmus+ Project:

"Roadmap to Building a Caring and Respectful School Community"

Petra, Lesvos, Hellas

24/2 - 3/3/2019

Panayiota Thiveou

Monday 25 March

Good morning in Molivos! Get ready for breakfast! You can either prepare your own breakfast with things you can buy at the local market (bakery, mini markets) or have it at cafés (you can check prices for both).

(Bakery: sandwiches, pastries - cheese pie, spinach pie, sausage pie, local sweets, cookies e.t.c.
Mini markets and cafes: milk, cereals, juices, fruit, salami/mortathella, feta cheese, local yellow cheese e.t.c. You can ask for as many slices/grams as you need).

Note! Don't forget to put on your jackets and warm clothes as it is cold and windy in some places we are visiting. And, of course, wear comfortable flat shoes for walking uphill on cobbled streets. Thank you!

PETRA

Briefly: Visit to Petra (where the school is), Virgin Mary's church on the volcanic rock, Vareltzidaina's House (old mansion, now a museum), Orthodox Christian Church of St. Nicolas (the oldest on the island) at the central square of the small town.

All entrances in museums and archaeological sites are free

We are discovering Petra, one of the most picturesque towns on Lesvos, with well-preserved mansions of the 19th - 20th centuries and the wonderful 3 km sandy beach. Opposite the beach there are three small uninhabited islands which are a protected wild bird area (ecological observatory).

According to Homer's Iliad, Lesvos was under the Trojan influence. It is said that Achilles invaded and looted the rich island. His troops stayed in the fertile area around Petra. Near the tiny village of Petri on the mountain there is the legendary "Achilleiopegada" ("Achilles well"). It is claimed that this place was an ancient port where the great hero anchored his ships.

Petra is the birthplace of important literary men such as N. Kazazis, K. Michaelides, Th. Stavrou e.t.c., important painters such as Or. Kannelis and T. and N. Eleftheriades, as well as artists like the famous young director N. Arcel ("A Royal Affair", 2012 historical drama film, e.t.c.).

- Vareltzidaina's House (Museum)

We are visiting Vareltzidaina's House (Museum) near the market street. It is one of the few surviving examples of a traditional mansion on Lesbos. This 18th century house has an architectural form common in Macedonia (North Greece), with a beautiful interior decoration including wall-paintings with scenes of people's life, flowers e.t.c., furniture and richly decorated wooden ceilings.

- Church of Agios Nikolaos

Then we are visiting the atmospheric 16th century Church of Agios Nikolaos (St. Nicholas). This tiny 16th century church has been declared a national monument due to its unique wall-paintings. It is located in a square with neoclassic buildings and huge plane trees.

- Olive Oil Press

Right on the seafront, this big stone building used to be an Olive Oil Press. At the entrance you can see two old machines. There are 11,000,000 olive trees on Lesbos! Now tis building is the cultural centre of the town.

- The Church of our Lady of the Sweet Kiss (Panayia Glykofilousa)

A few metres up in the cobbled street, we will see the huge volcanic rock after which the town was named (Petra means "rock" in Greek). On the top of the rock, the early 18th century church of Virgin Mary is built. 114 steps carved into the rock lead up to the beautiful church. From there, the view of the surrounding olive groves, the blue Aegean Sea, the roofs of the houses and the coast of Asia Minor is breathtaking. A great festival for Panayia is held annually on August 15th.

Tuesday 26th March

METHYMNA (MOLIVOS)

Briefly: The Byzantine Castle - The School of Fine Arts - The Public Historic Library of Methymna "Argyris Eftaliotis" - the Ottoman Fountains - the Old Public Bath (Museum) - the Basilica Churches (on our way) - the ancient harbour

All entrances in museums and archaeological sites are free

Some of the above museums and sites open during the tourist season, but we will do our best so that our Erasmus+ group will get access to them! Remember to wear comfortable shoes and warm clothes.

Methymna, or Molivos, as the town was called during the Middle Ages, is a traditional settlement of protected status. Archaeological finds show that this town has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. It was an important city-state in antiquity with glorious history and birthplace of ancient philosophers, musicians (Arion), astronomers, historians, scientists e.t.c. But it is also the birthplace and place of inspiration for great modern writers and poets such as Argyris Eftaliotis, Stratis Myrivilis, Ilias Venezis, painters, e.t.c. It has been the leading town for tourist

organisation on Lesbos since late 50's. Its cosmopolitan style tourism attracts a lot of intellectuals, scientists and artists.

- **The Byzantine Castle**

It is one of the most impressive and well-preserved castles in Greece built by the Byzantines and renovated by the Gattelusi from Genoa. The Gattelusi came peacefully to the island when the Byzantine Emperor Ioannis Palaiologos gave Lesbos as a dowry to her sister Maria Palaiologina, wife of Francesco Gattelusi.

The castle was built on the archaic walls of the ancient city. Handsome Achilles during the Trojan war conquered the castle. He came from Troy which is right across the narrow straits between Molyvos and Turkey (8 miles away), the very same coast where refugees and immigrants start their journey today!

The view from the castle is spectacular and the sunset unique. A lot of cultural events (festivals of classical music and guitar, dances, concerts e.t.c.) are being held in the castle in the summer.

- **The School of Fine Arts**

We are visiting the Annex of the Polytechnic School of Athens in Methymna (former Komninakis Krallis' mansion). It is a two-storey impressive mansion, typical example of the local architecture of the 19th century with elaborate frescoes on the walls and ceilings that date back to 1833. It represents the social and economic life of the wealthy and notable people of Molyvos. Students and professors from Schools of Art from Greece and abroad can stay here free and work throughout the year.

- **The Public Historic Library of Methymna "Argyris Eftaliotis"**

We are walking down the market street, which has been voted on the Net as one of the world's most magical streets shaded by flowers and trees (the wisteria is in bloom in early April), to visit The Public Historic Library of Methymna "Argyris Eftaliotis". The Library was established in 1859 - during the Ottoman Occupation - in order to educate, awake spiritually and strengthen the Methymnians to fight for their freedom and national independence. Today, its collection includes about 14,000 items. About 1,000 of them are old and rare books which date back to 1670 and they are printed in renowned printing-houses of Europe and the Orient.

The Library also hosts an old collection of archives, newspapers, magazines and documents which record the historical, political, economic and social conditions, not only of Methymna and Hellas, but of Europe as well. It is the tenth Historical Library in Greece, due to its long life and valuable collection.

Activities at the Historic Library

✓ **Presentation of the Historic Library (Power Point), Panayiota Thiveou**, Former President of the Board of the Library

✓ **Student workshop: Surfing the Library's digitised archives** (<http://dspace.cplm.gr>),
Maria Gregora - Director of the Library.

✓ **The view from the Library's windows - A "view" into the history and literary tradition of North Lesvos**

From the windows of the upper floor of the Library enjoy the view of the sparkling blue bay and the ancient city-states on the opposite coast - birthplaces of great women and men of the ancient world whose spirit influenced the modern civilisation of the western world:

- ❖ **Arion from Methymna** (7th century B.C.), first musician (guitar) in the world, he perfected the dithyramb (ancient Greek tragedy).
- ❖ **Terpander from Antissa** (approx. 710 B.C.), creator of choral poetry and great musician. He invented the Lesbian System of Music (notes) and perfected the kithara (guitar/harp) by making it a seven-stringed instrument, as until that time it had only four strings.
- ❖ **Sappho from Eressos** (approx. 630 - 570 B.C.), first lyric poetess in the world, founder of a school for girls from Lesvos and the opposite coast of Minor Asia, who were taught music, poetry and etiquette (good manners).
- ❖ **Theophrastus from Eressos** (approx. 373 - 287 B.C.), student of Aristotle, father of botany, ecology and mineralogy

- **The Cultural and Conference Centre of Methymna**

We are visiting The Cultural and Conference Centre of Methymna, next to the Library. This impressive building used to be the Great Mosque during the Ottoman Period (1462-1912).

- **The Ottoman fountains**

You can see a lot of these stone or marble fountains of the Ottoman period scattered around the town. They were built, probably, for religious reasons as well as to provide drinking water. Some of them are particularly beautiful with carvings of birds, trees and flowers as well as inscriptions in Arabic.

- **The Old Baths (Museum)**

The Old Baths building is another architectural monument of the last century (Ottoman period). In the museum visitors can see how they functioned (supply of hot water). Since the seventies the people of Molivos used them to have a bath.

People's occupation: Both in Molivos and Petra people cultivate their olive fields, vegetable gardens and raise animals. There are some fishermen, too. In the summer a lot of locals are occupied with tourism. There are also self employed people and public servants.

Activities at The School of Fine Arts

- ✓ Students listen to the stories depicted on the frescoes
- ✓ Photograph taking (no flash)
- ✓ Drawing/Painting (Students can copy parts of the frescoes, if there is time)
- ✓ Enjoy the beautiful view of Molivos' harbour from the windows

• The Municipal Art Gallery of Methymna

It is housed in a beautiful traditional two-storey building made of stone and wood. Its entrance is made of black and white sea pebbles which depict a vase with flowers. The gallery was set up in 1981. Some of the most famous artists in Greece - some of them had worked in Methymna at the end of 1950's during the period of the touristic and cultural development of the town - donated their paintings and sculptures. Today, the impressive collection of the gallery also includes works of modern artists, installations, constructions and conceptual projects.

Note: It normally opens later in the tourist season

Activities at The Municipal Art Gallery

Students can see:

- ✓ Old and modern Greek Art (painting and sculpture)
- ✓ The ancient marble pillar with the carved harpoon at the gallery's entrance, part of the door of an ancient temple in Methymna dedicated to Poseidon - the god of the sea.
- ✓ In the yard of the gallery, the bronze bust of the local writer Argyris Eftaliotis - a great patriot and fervent supporter of Demotic (Vernacular) Greek who spent most of his life in England and France.
- ✓ Photograph taking (no flash)
- ✓ Enjoying the view of the bay and the clear blue Aegean Sea

• The harbour

It is the ancient harbour where the war ships of Methymna anchored. Today, it is a picturesque fishing harbour with a lot of taverns and cafés just next to the fishing boats, with a great view of Molivos on the hill - an ideal place to relax and enjoy yourself!

Wednesday 20th March (the day may change due to the weather)

KALLONI, MYTILENE and PANAGIOUTHIA

Briefly: Sanctuary of Messa - Bay of Kalloni - Bay of Gera

After driving for about 20 km (25 minutes) through a pine forest and hills, we are reaching the town of Kalloni and the ancient city-state of Arisvi. After 1,5 km, we are driving along Aristotle's lagoon to admire migrant birds which have travelled all the way from Africa heading to Russia. The Bay of Kalloni is one of Greece's unique wetlands containing more than 130 species of birds, such as flamingos, herons, ducks e.t.c..

About 10 minutes later, we are arriving at one of the most beautiful archaeological sites on Lesbos: The Sanctuary of Messa. The Temple of Messa was built in the 4th Century BC and dedicated to the Gods Zeus, Dionysus and Hera. Later, in early Christian times a Byzantine church was built within the temple and the remnants can still be seen.

Women on ancient Lesbos, in contrast to those in Athens, enjoyed freedom, got educated (Sappho's school), spoke freely in public, participated in politics (e.g. poetess Sappho) e.t.c. In 700 B.C. at The Sanctuary of Messa Female Beauty Contests were activated with enthusiasm, choreographed by Sappho's school.

Thursday 18th May

Workshops at school

Lunch at school

Library of Junior High School of Petra,

"Is Greek 'Greek to you'? Find out you are bilingual!"

Lecture by Panagiota Thivaïou, linguist, teacher of English and Greek

Transportation to the hotel

Friday 1st March

Dancing lessons in Petra by P.E. teacher Yiannis Papoutsanis

Completion of **workshops** and **presentations**

Certificates and **closing meeting**

Transportation to the hotel

Farewell dinner - Carnival party

Saturday 2nd March

Departure of the partners

Have a nice and safe trip back home and see you again!

Yia sas ke kalo taxithi!

(Goodbye and have a nice trip!)