

Be inspired by our news

# HIGHLIGHTS & MORE DELIGHTFUL NEWS

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1 | SEPTEMBER 2019

Acrocorinth Castle, Corinthia, Peloponnese



## 1 HIGHLIGHTS OF A RESOUNDINGLY SUCCESSFUL TOUR

### Mythical Peloponnese - Fortresses and Legendary Sanctuaries, May 2019

Greece has been a strategic crossroads since time immemorial and the legacy of its rich history is visible in the castles and archaeological sites which adorn every corner of this magnificent country.

Specialist tour operator Eternal Greece Ltd designed and successfully ran an inspiring and illuminating ten-day guided tour of the southern and eastern Peloponnese for 36 members of the UK-based Fortress Study Group and Castle Study Group (CSG). The participants were from the UK, the USA and Canada. The tour started on 18 May 2019 and looked mainly at Venetian fortifications but also included Byzantine, Ottoman and Frankish sites. The itinerary included a number of celebrated sites of Classical Hellenic antiquity, in the splendid Spring countryside of Greece.

The group was welcomed at an event hosted by the regional government of the Peloponnese and by the municipal authorities of Nafplio. During the same event, the FSG presented a plaque to the regional government honouring Palamidi fortress of Nafplio as the best-maintained and preserved fortification in the Peloponnese.

The sites visited during the tour comprised the castles/fortresses of Acrocorinth, Monemvasia, Mystras, Methoni, Koroni, Kyparissia, Androussa, Palamidi, Bourtzi (Nafplio) and Larissa of Argos, as well as the archaeological sites of Olympia, Mycenae, Tiryns, Messene, Nemea and the pyramid of Hellinikon. The overnight stays were at Marathopolis, Kalamata, Monemvasia and Nafplio.

## 2 ANNOUNCING THE NEW TOUR - Contact us!

### Mythical Peloponnese - Fortresses and Legendary Sanctuaries, 28 March 2020 - 6 April 2020

As a result of the 2019 tour's resounding success the same tour will be offered again, launching on 28 March and ending on 6 April 2020. If you are attracted by the multilayered history of Greece as it is densely presented within the vibrant area of the Peloponnese in springtime, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email: +44 7710807452, eric@eternalgreece.com

## 3 NEW TOUR IN WESTERN GREECE - Interested? Let us know!

### Castles and Fortresses of NW Peloponnese, Lepanto, the Ionian coast and Corfu, in Spring 2020

In addition, we are in the process of designing a new tour in Greece for Spring 2020. The programme will cover castles and fortresses of NW Peloponnese, Lepanto, the Ionian coast, Ioannina and Corfu. Again, some archaeological sites, such as Nikopolis, the Acheron Necromancy and Kassope, will be included.



**About us:** Eternal Greece Ltd is a small, specialist tour operating company focussing on archaeological, historical, mythological and cultural aspects of Greece. It runs tours, both private and group, round the year. The company has consistently been receiving top reviews, including a five out of five ('Excellent') rating on TripAdvisor.



**About Eric:** Born in Greece to a British father and Greek mum, Eric is the hands-on director and lead tour designer of Eternal Greece Ltd. Even though of scientific background (Chemistry and Geosciences), Eric is very much involved in field work in Greece and has also authored archaeological articles published in related magazines. He joins our major tours as group leader, where he contributes his logistical and organisational experience as well as providing information, including some controversial ideas which usually lead to interesting discussions over dinner and wine!



### Contact us:

- > [eric@eternalgreece.com](mailto:eric@eternalgreece.com)
- > +44 7710807452
- > [www.eternalgreece.com](http://www.eternalgreece.com)



Methoni Castle, Messinia, Peloponnese



Larissa Castle, Argos, Peloponnese



Parga, the view from the castle



## 4 OUR CLIENTS' TESTIMONIALS



### WE FOUND THE TOUR TO BE FIRST-CLASS IN EVERY RESPECT

Mainland Greece was new to us both and the landscape of the Peloponnese was a revelation. The arrangements all worked smoothly from beginning to end. We liked the choice of hotels - including the extra nights in Athens - and the range of sites visited. All the better for taking us beyond our usual preoccupation with artillery forts and putting them in their overall historical context. It was also fun to 'share' sites with members of the Castle Study Group. With every good wish for the future.'

Ken and Lee



'Dear Eric, it was a pleasure meeting you and Ken and of course Romylos and Argyris. In the rather hurried disembarkation from the bus on Monday I did not have the opportunity to thank you properly for organising such an excellent tour. The sites were well chosen and I think we all understood that on some occasions long coach journeys were unavoidable but worth it. This was my first visit to Greece and I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it. I hope we have the opportunity to meet again.'

Bill C.

'Dear Eric, Hope I am not disturbing you from your well-deserved slumbers, but just to thank you so much for organising an excellent programme for the FSG and looking after everyone so well. I hope our paths meet again some time.'

Richard A.

'It was a great trip and you were an excellent tour director.'

Richard and Mary Ann H.

'Dear Eric, Thank you so much for all the work you put in to organise such a wonderful trip. The time has flown and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I hope to come across Eternal Greece again.'

Pamela M.

'We found the tour to be first-class in every respect. Mainland Greece was new to us both and the landscape of the Peloponnese was a revelation. The arrangements all worked smoothly from beginning to end. We liked the choice of hotels - including the extra nights in Athens - and the range of sites visited. All the better for taking us beyond our usual preoccupation with artillery forts and putting them in their overall historical context. It was also fun to 'share' sites with members of the Castle Study Group. With every good wish for the future.'

Ken and Lee

'Thank you for a splendid tour. It was more "archeological" than our usual tours, but the sites themselves and the mythology that went with them made for a great few days. I hope that FSG and yourself can organize another tour of Greece in the near future. In fact I look forward to the possibility.'

Martyn G.

### 'A WONDERFUL TRIP

We traveled through the Peloponnese with the Fortress Study Group on a 10 day tour organized by Eternal Greece Ltd. We visited a mix of sites from classical and pre-history, through Venetian and Ottoman times. This mix gave us a picture of the breadth of Greek history instead of just a single slice of time which we much appreciated. We had an excellent archaeologist guide and an excellent driver.

Eric Cauchi, the proprietor of Eternal Greece, travelled with us as the tour director and trouble-shooter in chief. His own passion for archaeology and for his country added to the trip experience. The hotels he booked for us were excellent, all very clean and comfortable, with friendly staff and most on the sea with beautiful views. The restaurants he selected for our meals served delicious traditional Greek food family style, far superior to what one might expect for a group meal.

Having never been to Greece before, we came into Athens 4 days early. We had many pre-trip questions which Eric always answered very promptly. He assisted us with several aspects of our planning before we set foot in Greece. He booked an Athens hotel in an excellent location for us and arranged airport transports which worked perfectly. When we decided to do a day-trip to Delphi and asked if he could recommend some companies for us to contact, he responded with the name and cost of a group tour company with pros/cons and the offer of arranging a private driver and guide for us with pros/cons. He also offered to, and subsequently did, email the rest of the group participants to see if anyone might be interested in sharing the private tour to

bring down the costs. The driver and guide Eric arranged were very professional, tailored the day to our interests, and made the day a wonderful memory for us.

When, as part of our planning, we decided that we might like to use our free time on the last evening of the Peloponnese tour to see an additional site some distance away from our hotel on our own, we emailed Eric to enquire as to whether time-wise this might be feasible and if we would have trouble finding a taxi to take us and wait. Eric advised that renting a car would be better. We expressed concern about finding a car rental place that would be open till 9:00 p.m. on a Sunday evening. Eric responded within hours with contact information for a rental location around the corner from our hotel that would be open till 9 p.m.

Eric's level of service was superb. We would travel again on a trip arranged by Eternal Greece and we definitely recommend Eternal Greece.'

Summerclouds053117



### ETERNALLY GRATEFUL

Eternal Greece organised a tour of the Peloponnese for the Fortress Study Group and a number of people with similar interests. We numbered 38 people and travelled around in an air-conditioned Pullman coach in some comfort.

Eternal Greece had an exceptionally knowledgeable archaeologist providing some commentaries and guiding on some sites. Eric, the owner, provided more commentaries; even better, he provided some publicity and helped organise a Government / Local Government presentation when the group was in Nafplion. It was, in more ways than one, a 'tour de force' and one which I hope will remain in the memories of the participants for years to come. I cannot praise Eternal Greece enough for their attention to detail, logistical preparations and the very great care exercised over all the participants. I strongly recommend that anyone wanting to explore this part of the world should consider using the services of Eternal Greece.'

Paul B

### PELOPONNESE FORTRESS TOUR FOR THE FORTRESS STUDY GROUP

'A well-organised bespoke tour that went very smoothly. Our Tour Leader Eric was very professional in his approach to what was a demanding tour for both the organiser and the participants; due to the requirements of the FSG, with a significant number of hours spent in a coach (with an amazing driver Argyris). Eric had obviously spent considerable effort choosing hotels and restaurants; which was no mean feat given the size of the party and their various requirements. He coped admirably with an emergency when one of the members required hospital treatment in the small hours, transported her there and waited while she was treated. Very little sleep for Eric that night. In all, Eternal Greece did a professional and very competent job, assisted by his son Ken and including hiring a knowledgeable guide Romylos, who helped enhance our background knowledge of all we visited. We would have no hesitation recommending Eternal Greece to all.'

Charles and Anne

'Dear Eric, Hope I am not disturbing you from your well-deserved slumbers, but just to thank you so much for organising an excellent programme for the FSG and looking after everyone so well. I hope our paths meet again some time.'

Richard A.

'Just a quick note to say a big Thank You to you all for your various parts in making the trip so good.'

Keith P.

### Contact us:

- > [eric@eternalgreece.com](mailto:eric@eternalgreece.com)
- > +44 7710807452
- > [www.eternalgreece.com](http://www.eternalgreece.com)

## 5 DID YOU KNOW...

Greece, birthplace of the Olympics and mythical home of the gods, is known for its spectacular temples, its exquisite Classical statues, and its jewel-like islands with sandy beaches. But pyramids? That's Egypt, surely.

Think again.

The Pyramids of the Peloponnese are remnants of bygone ages, steeped in mystery - and a source of lively debate among scholars as to their dating and function. Read more about these fascinating ruins here:

### > The pyramid of Hellinikon



### > The pyramid of Lygourio



### > Article by Eric in Current World Archaeology magazine

Thank you!

Eric C.B. Cauchi  
Director