

Press Release – Yperia 2014 Culture & Tourism

A four day stay in Amorgos

The Cultural Association of Tholaria – Amorgos and Aegialis Hotel & Spa are pleased to announce that the 12th International Convention on Tourism & Culture, YPERIA 2014 took place successfully from Thursday 10th to Tuesday 15th of April.

Thirty eight participants from 10 different countries (Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Russia, United Kingdom and United States) came to Amorgos to discover the island and promote it through newspapers, documentaries, TV programs, film festivals and guides but also to initiate new projects based in Amorgos Island.

YPERIA 2014 aimed to introduce the participants Amorgos Island natural beauty and historic monuments but also to present different activities still active and perpetuated on the island. It is an opportunity to show the importance Amorgian people give to nature, live with it and try to preserve it.

In this optic, participants first visited the very well preserved and agricultural area of Kato Meria in the South of the Island where they were taken to the impressive blacksmith of Mr. Kovaïos, who works the metal as in the old times and could compare it with Mr & Mrs Prasinos' old blacksmith changed into a small museum. They were also invited to taste all kind of local products, such as goat cheese, wine, bread, goats and vegetables.

On the second day, participants visited the distillation laboratory of Mr. Vangelis Vassalos in Lagada village and to his shop "Iamata" so they could learn about the distillation mechanism and about the benefits and virtues of the Amorgian wild herbs. A visit to a traditional and well preserved olive and grape press of Mr. Dimitris Nomikos was organized.

As agriculture is still alive and important to Amorgian people, participants visited Nontas Biological Garden in Katapola as well as the agricultural settlement of Asfondilitis with the numerous dry stone walls and the rock carvings.

Yperia Convention also invited the folklore dancing group of children to make a demonstration in Tholaria, Mrs Pothiti Mendrinou to present her traditional needle work, Mr Markos Loudaros to exhibit his photographic work, Mr Manolis Loudaros to present his traditional pottery. Mrs Anna Synodinos welcomed the participants in her ceramic workshop.

Amorgos is also a rich island in term of culture with archaeological sites and also plenty of Byzantine churches. Through the whole stay participants visited the Hellenistic Tower of Agia Triada, the monastery of St.George Valsamitis, built on the ruins of an ancient water oracle, the church of Epanachoriani, the 1000 years old byzantine monastery of Panaghia Chozoviotissa, the archaeological museum in Chora, the church of Agios Georgios, and of course all the villages of the island.

Walks through the ancient paths where also organized from Lagada to Tholaria, from Chora to the Monastery, from Asfondilitis to Potamos with Mr Lonais Jaillais and were an opportunity to discover the aromatic herbs of Amorgos.



YPERIA 2014



Organized by

Cultural Association of Tholaria
Aegialis Hotel & Spa

Under the auspices of

HATTA
City Hall of Amorgos

Sponsored by

E.O.T • Ministry of Mercantile and Aegean • Apivita • Blue Star Ferries • Artist E-Magazine • Leivadaras Gerovasileiou • Plaisio • Amorgos Island Magazine • TravelMii

With the collaboration of

Cinematographic Club of Amorgos • Iamata Shop • Anna Ceramic • Nontas Biological Garden • Scaramangas Liquor Store

Restaurants:

T'Apanemo • Liostasi • Marouso • Santouraki • Choreftis • Panorama • Lakki • To limani tis Kyra Katinas •

Café-bars:

Giasemi • Pergalidi

Patisseries:

Tratarisma • Callisto • Nikolas Oikonomidis

The 5th International Short Tourism Film Festival of Amorgos was inaugurated at the Cinematographic Club of Amorgos in Vroutsi, by Mrs. Ewa Kotus, director of the Film Art & Tourism Festival "FilmAT" in Warsaw – Poland, who presented a diploma to the Club, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Victory of Europeans freedom, for the extraordinary openness in International collaboration.

There were four screenings in total with fifty-three movies from twenty three different countries. Three Prizes were awarded, based on public and jury voting, as well as three Special Jury Awards.

The three prizes winners received one Cycladic marble figurine made by the sculptor Mr.Nikos Karpouzis

- **The 1st Prize has been awarded to «Definitely Dubai»** from the United Arab Emirates, directed by Babak Amini, for the poetical management of the intangible cultural heritage, as well as its presentation of the vibrant city of Dubai.
- **The 2nd Prize has been awarded to "Into the cave of wonders"** from Spain, directed by Manuel Benito de Valle for its impressive visual quality and invitation to contemplate the beauty of inner nature.
- **The 3rd Prize has been awarded to "Crete: All the world on one island"** from Greece, directed by Theodoris Papadoulakis, for its smart and humorous way of promoting Crete.

The Special Jury awards have been given to:

"Serbia: one Journey, Million Impressions" from Serbia, Directed by Bosco Savkovic.

"Cieszyn Cieszyn" from Poland, by the city of Cieszyn.

"Altai Miracle. The good will surely happen!" from Russia, Directed by Nikolai Makarov. A performance from the Russian singers, Marina Vialkova, Alena Vialkova and Daria Belova, of the movie of Nikolai Makarov took place in Ambrosia Restaurant with traditional costumes, accordion and balalaika playing and dancing.

The speeches presented every evening during the Convention gave an impetus of what is being done in Greece through European support and pertains to the local efforts for sustainable development of the cultural wealth of the island.

Nature, traditions and cultural heritage could be the solution bringing economic, social and environmental benefits with an inexpensive investment in tourism.

The outcomes of the 12th YPERIA convention are once more a confirmation of the benefits brought to the island and to Greece, through all the important people participating. Through their participation and acquaintance with the culture and natural beauty of this island, they spread their knowledge and experience to the world, for the benefit of Amorgos and Greece.

Mrs Irene Giannakopoulou
President of the Cultural Association of Tholaria
Manager of Aegialis Hotel & Spa



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