

**VII. INTERNATIONAL
FOLK DANCE & MUSIC FESTIVAL
"PIERIA FEST 2017."**

**1.-6.june 2017.
12.-17.september 2017.
Nei Pori**



**Local municipality of Nei Pori, Greece
MyFolkFest, Belgrade, Serbia**



Nei Pori (Greek: Νέοι Πόροι) is a coastal village, on the southernmost coast of Pieria, near the traditional village of *Paleoi Poroï* and the vast and scenic wetlands in the northern part of Pinios.

<http://youtu.be/I1c6RW8nVnY>

How to get there? From Thessaloniki way to Katerini-Leptokaria-Nei Pori.



It is a newbuilt touristic place, only 2km from Platamon, below the mountain Olympus. Sandy beach is very long with crystal clear sea. Nei Pori is known for its wide streets, big parks, town squares with many cafes, restaurants, tavernas, shops...



TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

- ☀ **Organizers of the VII.International Folk Dance&Music Festival "PIERIA FEST 2017."** are local municipality of Pieria region, Greece and MyFolkFest.
- ☀ **Festival is competitive and is open for all groups, no age limit. Winners will be awarded by special cups and medals.**
- ☀ **Propositions of the festival competition will be sent to groups later. Competition part of the festival is not obligatory, only for groups that apply. All other groups take part in the review night.**
- ☀ **There will be few winning categories: best performance-dancing, best orchestra-music, best choir-singing, best costumes, audience award.**
- ☀ **Each group will get diploma for the participation to the festival, as well as DVD from the festival after the festival is finished.**
- ☀ **Every group will get official brochure of the festival with the presentation of the participating groups, in English.**
- ☀ **Groups will have one or two performances - in Pieria region (Nei Poroi, Platamonas). Also a short defile walking (parade). Each group has to prepare 10-12 min. of quality program. Performances are on the open air stages, wooden and concrete, 10mx9m.**
- ☀ **It is not necessary to have live music / using playback-CD is allowed.**
- ☀ **The group has to bring its national flag and board with the group name for the parade.**
- ☀ **Accommodation of participating groups is organized in the 3 star family hotels in Nei Poroi, near the beach, in apartments and studios with 3 and 4 beds in rooms, with bathroom, on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner).**
- ☀ **If the weather is nice for swimming, every group has to take care about their members safety.**
- ☀ **Every group must have one English speaking person for official contact during the festival.**
- ☀ **Number of participating groups is limited, so the places will be given to the groups who send their pre-payment first - 25€ per person (this amount is not refundable if the group cancels their participation).**
- ☀ **Each group has 1 free place for 25 persons who pay.**
- ☀ **The groups have to organize their travel to and from Nei Pori.**

☀ For the groups that are coming with their own bus there is a free parking place in the hotel area.

☀ For the groups that are coming by plane we can provide airport transfers (on group request we will send the offer). The nearest airport is Thessaloniki and the bus price depends on the number of people in the group, approx. 25-30eur per person, return ticket.

☀ The groups are recommended to have insurance policy for all their members.

☀ If group needs visa, it is responsibility of the group to arrange it! Organizers can only give invitation letter to groups and can not interfere to visa issuing process and make extra contacts to embassies.

☀ Application form, together with 2-3 group photos and short biography, should be sent to

Contact person: Mrs.Dragana Mirkovic,
e-mail. myfolkfest@gmail.com, tel.+381 63 340 770

☀ Pre-payment (25eur per person) should be done immediately after sending the application. After pre-payment is received group will receive official invitation.

☀ Payment details will be sent to you after receiving your application form. Please take care that this amount of 25eur per person is not refundable if the group cancel its participation.



PARTICIPATION FEE

☀ **115 eur per person**

five (5) days

half board (breakfast and dinner)

- accommodation in family hotels (vilas) 50m-150m from the beach
- villas have 3 and 4 (rarely 5) beds studios and apartments, with bathroom, TV, refrigerator, WiFi, kitchen...
- each group (depending on the number of people) will get 1 or 2 double rooms without additional payment (for group leaders and drivers)

- for extra double rooms (if the group needs) there is additional fee of 10eur per person for the whole period

- for single rooms there is additional fee of 40eur per person for the whole period



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

The organizer keeps right to change the festival program. Final program will be given to groups not later than 30 days prior the festival beginning.

- 1.day** - around 14h, arrival of groups, check in to hotels
- free time / swimming, walking, sports...
DINNER
TECHNICAL MEETING – welcome cocktail for group leaders
- 2.day** **BREAKFAST**
free time
DINNER
19.30h PARADE
20h I.FESTIVAL EVENING
opening ceremony – review night
- 3.day** **BREAKFAST**
free day - whole day excursion to METEORA monasteries (140km one way/3h bus drive)
DINNER
- 4.day** **BREAKFAST**
free time
DINNER
19.30h PARADE – short defile walking
20h II.FESTIVAL EVENING
performances of the groups – competition night
closing and award ceremony
- 5.day** **BREAKFAST**
whole day excursion excursion to Thessaloniki (City center or Waterland) or to OLIMP mountain (45km one way/1,5h bus drive)
DINNER
21h COCKTAIL PARTY for group leaders
gift exchange between groups and organizers
- 6.day** **BREAKFAST**
departure of the groups, after breakfast
latest till 11h check out from hotels
(suggestion to depart at 9h in the morning and make whole day excursion to Thessaloniki on the way back home)

EXCURSIONS

Excursions are not included in the price - festival fee.

- excursion to METEORA / 15eur per person + entrance to the monasteries
Guide, bus transportation

8h Start from Nei Pori

12h-16h Visit to the METEORA monasteries

If there is enough time, stop in Larisa town for a short visit (1-2h)

20h come back to Nei Pori

(our suggestion is TO BRING LUNCH/snacks and sandwiches WITH YOU, no shops or restaurants nearby when we are in the monastery area

Or to take packed lunches from restaurant instead of dinner and to eat dinner in Larisa town, so we can stay there longer time)

- excursion to OLIMP mountain/ 10eur per person (no extra tickets)
Guide, bus transportation

9.30h Start from Nei Pori

Around 1,5h Bus drive to OLIMP mountain

Stop for a photo at the few basic viewpoints

Stop for a rest and coffe break at restaurant in PRIONIA (remains of ancient village) on altitude 1100m (45 min.)

Visit to the MONASTERY Agios DIONYSIOS at Olimp mountain (30 min.)

Stop in Litochoro village for a break (2h)

Stop in Leptokarya / go to the beach, swimming, walking... (2-3h)

20h Come back to Nei Pori

- excursion to Thessaloniki/ 10eur per person (plus tickets)
Guide, bus transportation

9.30h Start from Nei Pori

Around 1h Bus drive to Thessaloniki

Short panoramic drive through city

Free time in the center (whole day)

Or

visit visit to Waterland (entrance 10eur for kids, 15eur for adults) -

<http://www.waterland.gr/en>

21h Come back to Nei Pori

IMPORTANT NOTE.

- minimum number of people for organized excursions is 40

- if you use your own bus you are not obliged to follow suggested

schedule – in that case you don't have a guide and pay all costs for your bus (petrol and parking) and for entrance tickets (where needed)

The Metéora

(Greek: Μετέωρα, pronounced [mɛˈtɛoɾa], lit. "middle of the sky", "suspended in the air" or "in the heavens above" — etymologically related to "Meteorite") is one of the largest and most important complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Greece, second only to Mount Athos.^[1] The six monasteries are built on natural sandstone rock pillars, at the northwestern edge of the Plain of Thessaly near the Pineios river and Pindus Mountains, in central Greece. The nearest town is Kalambaka. The Metéora is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List under criteria^[2] I, II, IV, V and VII.^[3]

All of these monasteries are located at Metéora in Greece, and most are perched on high cliffs and accessible by staircases cut into the rock formations. They were created to serve monks and nuns following the teachings of the Greek Orthodox Church. Much of the architecture of these buildings is Athonite^[13] in origin. Of the six intact monasteries, the Holy Monastery of St. Stephen and Monastery Roussanou are inhabited by nuns.

Monastery

The Holy Monastery of Great Meteoron - This is the largest of the monasteries located at Metéora. It was erected in the mid-14th century and was the subject of restoration and embellishment projects in 1483 and 1552. The building serves as the main museum for tourists. The Katholikon (main church), consecrated in honour of the Transfiguration of Jesus was erected in the middle of 14th century and 1387/88 and decorated in 1483 and 1552.^[14]

The Holy Monastery of Varlaam – The Holy Monastery of Varlaam is the second largest monastery in the Metéora complex. It was built in 1541 and embellished in 1548. A church, dedicated to All Saints, is in the Athonite type (cross-in-square with dome and choirs), with spacious exonarthex (lite) is surrounded by a dome. It was built in 1541/42 and decorated in 1548, while the exonarthex was decorated in 1566. The old refectory is used as a museum while north of the church is the parekklesion of the Three Bishops, built in 1627 and decorated in 1637.^[15]

The Holy Monastery of Rousanou/St. Barbara^[16] was founded in the middle of 16th century and decorated in 1560.

The Holy Monastery of St. Nicholas Anapausas, built in the 16th century, is a small church. It was decorated by the Cretan painter Theophanis Strelitzas, in 1527.

Photograph



OLYMPUS / THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK

In 1938, Olympus, the highest Greek mountain, the residence of the twelve ancient gods, was the first area which **was declared as a National Park**. About 50 years ago a special regime was enforced to protect this unique part of our country. The aim was the preservation of the natural environment; of the flora, fauna and natural landscapes, as well as of its cultural and other values. Scientific research had to be supported and people had to become aware of the environmental conditions. Furthermore tourism had to be developed in the wider area.

Specific laws prohibit any kind of exploitation in the east side of the mountain, about 10,000 acres, which constitutes the core of the National Park. The wider area around it was designated as “peripheral zone of the National Park” so that its management and exploitation won’t affect negatively the protection of the core. Olympus is internationally known as for its important ecological characteristics and incomparable natural beauty as well as for its strong relationship with ancient Greek mythology. The importance of the National Park has been recognized not only in Greece and Europe but all over the world. In 1981 UNESCO declared “**Olympus a Biosphere Reserve**”. The European Community has included Olympus in the list of “The Most Important Bird areas of the European Community”.

MYTHOLOGY – HISTORY

The shape of Olympus, the polymorphous and changeable beauty of its nature, the fog covered peaks and low clouds bringing about frequent the under storms, filled people with awe and admiration from ancient times. There are recent archaeological finds that go back to the Iron Age. Prehistoric man chose to live at the foot of this glorious mountain. **Inspired by its mystery he created the legends that gave birth to the Twelve Greek Gods.**

The twelve gods live in ravines, “the mysterious folds of Olympus” according to Homer. They have their palaces there. Pantheon (today’s Mytikas) is their meeting place. Their tempestuous discussions are heard by the god of gods Zeus sitting on his imposing throne (today’s Stefani). From there he unlooses his thunders showing “his godly wrath”. In Iliad Olympus is described as magnificent, long, glorious and full of trees.



At the foot of the mountain, 5 kilometres from the sea, a sacred Macedonian city is dedicated to Zeus (Dias) and is called Dion. It is estimated that it flourished between the 5th century B.C. and the 5th century A.C. The excavations, that started in 1928 and are still going on, revealed archaeological finds of the Macedonian, Greek and Roman Era. They are exhibited in the museum of Dion. Piblia and Livithra are two more ancient cities near Olympus and are closely related to the legend of Orpheus and the Orphic Secret ceremonies.

The history of Olympus continued being turbulent even under the Turkish occupation. The mountain was used as a hiding place for the famous “armatol” fighting the “yoke of the tyrant”. During the German invasion in 1941, the Greek army along with Australian and New Zealand units fought important battles. Later on the Greek Resistance found a nestling place there.

The whole Olympus has been declared an archaeological and historical place in order to preserve its monumental and historical physiognomy.