

Nisos Naxos 2012

dance, music, culture, history & memories of Naxos and the Cyclads
a unique seminar, workshop & festival in the very-heart of tradition
from July,19th to August, 1st, 2012

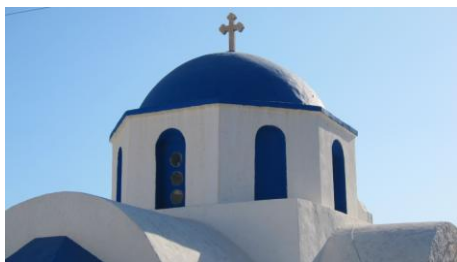
**12 exceptional days in a paradise on earth:
a unique course/seminar/festival, in Greece,
summer 2012: dance, music, tradition, celebration...**

Imagine, dream, come on a journey...

Imagine a Greek island set in an eternal archipelago, with its roots, its history, its memories and its timeless nature based in antiquity and mythology.

Imagine at the same time, an island that is festive, full of joy, bursting with life and extraordinarily hospitable.

Imagine a Greek island that is neither too large to remain on a human scale, nor too small to offer you richness, variety and the pleasure of making new discoveries.



Imagine an unspoilt island, which has preserved all of its tradition: music, dance, festivals, and the magic of every moment...

Imagine an island consisting of a succession of white walled villages, unchanged for centuries.

An island that is fertile and verdant, with more than 400 Byzantine churches, with windmills, Roman and ancient remains, towers and castles from the Venetian era, olive oil presses and donkey tracks winding over the hills...

Imagine extraordinarily beautiful music, with the sound of the violin and the lauto surging like the waves of the Aegean Sea, warming your heart with the strength of a meltem wind.

Imagine splendid scenery, that will take your breath away: lush valleys of olive trees and vines, brown cliffs fringed with hidden creeks, small fishing ports teased by the sea breezes, sun-baked hills where the air is filled with the fragrant perfumes of Mediterranean plants and shady terraces lulled by gentle evening music..

Imagine a population of shepherds, peasant farmers, wine growers, herbalists and bee-keepers, who share their

simple and wonderful daily life with you.

Imagine 12 days and 13 nights in summer, in this magical paradise on earth, this well kept secret, this garden untouched by time, set between sky, land and sea.

Imagine dance lessons in the villages, led by teachers from the island and in the company of the villagers, there with you, happy to welcome you and share their island with you.

Imagine breaks from these lessons where the islanders share their wine, their raki and homemade cheese with you, or the sun-gorged fruit from their orchards.

Imagine visiting a different village every day with a local guide, chancing upon forgotten crafts, a weaver's studio, an old ironsmith or a herbalist who shares the scents of the hillsides with you, a bakery with a wood fired oven, or a wonderful little church smelling of incense.

Imagine an hotel 20 meters away from the sea: your hotel, with only the sound of the waves and the infinite blue of the Aegean, restoring your spirit, every morning and evening.

Imagine a lively, jovial and colourful dinner, in a different inn or tavern every evening, with superb home cooking, and an evening party with the musicians from the village, and dancing, dancing, dancing...

Imagine these magical, wonderful 12 days and 13 nights: more than a course, more than a seminar, more than a festival and much more than just a holiday: sharing an unforgettable and extraordinary experience with the islanders, the villagers, all the Greeks of the island...

For this island exists, and Kazantzakis, the greatest Greek writer of all time (Alexis Zorba, Letter to El Greco, etc) said and wrote about this island where he lived that it was a **paradise on earth, THE Paradise on Earth.**



This island where Zeus (Jupiter) grew up, before going to live on Mount Olympus.

This island where Dionysus (Bacchus) lived, the god of love, celebration and the headiness of life, love and wine...

This island, blest by the Gods, is waiting to welcome you with outstretched arms, hands and heart... with the glass of friendship: *Naxos. Ya sou Naxo!*



Come and join us !

Come and sample this paradise, from 19th July to 1st August: the Nisiotis cultural association offers a unique course-festival, with the active participation of our Naxos friends, who will also be your friends: during a drink, a dance, a meal, a stroll, the summer and perhaps for the rest of your life.

For the island of your dreams, the island where every day brings new treasures, really exists: all you have to do is come and experience it, live it and share it with its inhabitants who are so close and so welcoming.

Here is the presentation of the 12 day course/festival:

<http://youtu.be/9gmEgYZqM1k>

And here is a presentation of the island of Naxos:

http://youtu.be/laCCbX_7dz4

A whole community is getting ready to organise and host this event, and to welcome you: dancers, teachers, musicians, inn keepers, hotel keepers, etc.

There is our friend Antonis, deputy mayor of Naxos and the Little Cyclades.

And Katerina, president of the cultural association of the villages of the island.

And then there is Apostolis, who has carried out unparalleled research into the music and dance of the 30 Cyclades islands.

Not forgetting, Christos, Dimitris, Gabrilis, Giorgos, Kostas, Manolis, Marina, Mihalis, Panayota, Stamatis, Stephanos, Vangelis, Zoï, and many others.

Our programm, your programm every day:

- A hearty buffet breakfast, with local produce. Greek yoghurt, honey from the nearby hills, spice cake straight out of the oven, feta cheese, fruit from the garden, herbal teas made from plants grown on the island, etc
- Dance lessons in the morning, with breaks to catch your breath
- Free time from 1pm to 4 pm for bathing, resting, walking, eating barbecued fish in the port, etc: a moment

just for you, when you can take it easy.

- After that there is a guided tour of a village, a different one every day, and a dance lesson in the village.

- Every evening there is a group dinner based on the rich gastronomic traditions of the island: stuffed vegetables, golden gratins, grilled goat or lamb, herb infused ragouts and kebabs cooked over a wood fire...

- And then a party, with dance and music.

Come and be transported by the magic of an island with one of the strongest music and dance traditions of all of the Greek islands.

There are few islands in Greece able to offer a course which is so rich and hospitable.

This course/festival is organised with the Naxiotes, and offers you a total immersion in the Naxian tradition, for that is the only way to really get to know, understand and love an island, a region and its culture.

A magical holiday, which will give you an intense experience and understanding of another Greece, an authentic and magical Greece which will touch your heart. A Greece that is invisible and inaccessible to a day tripper or a simple tourist. For passing through or staying in a place does not allow you in any way to experience what we offer: the passerby misses all these wonderful things, whereas you will experience them intensely and deeply: you just need to open your heart to Naxos, and Naxos will do the rest... then you yourself will become partially Greek, partially Naxiote. And above all you will be completely immersed in dance.



Dance: the beauty and magic of the present moment, the only thing that matters...

Come and learn the syrtos from Naxos, come and learn the ballos, come and learn to dance the vlaha, the bitzilaiadistikos, the kotsakia and many other dances just as beautiful: more than 30 dances from Naxos and the Cyclades!

Traditional Greek dance is in fact the living and multiple expression of an entire people.

An expression that is both ancient and modern.

The expression of a culture, an identity, a history and a handed down tradition.

When a Greek dances, he expresses himself: he tells in turn of his joy and his pain, his love, his hope, his melancholy and his faith. He also tells of his life, his history and his attachments. He expresses much, and in dancing he shares it with his family, his friends and his loved ones.

So dance is an intense, profound and rich language which says much about a man or a woman, a family, a village or

an island...

The movements of the body express the secrets of the heart and the soul.

The music and the rhythm are the catalysts for this expression.

And it's because dance confers on the dancer a part in history and allows them to reconnect with their roots, their community and their identity, that the young people of Greece, searching for something to hold onto in a country in crisis, are once again becoming passionate about traditional dance which gives them new hope and a sense of self.

So dance, is not, above all, just a blind sequence of steps, nor is it merely a mechanical movement of the feet and legs. Even less is it simple "gymnastics" to music written down in a book. Nor is it a fixed folk tradition, which can be summed up in a few photos, pieces of music or videos, presented in a cursory manner in a room in a hotel.

Dance, above all, is significant, meaningful and expressive, a language in itself.

Dance is something you feel inside, an expression of sentiments and emotions, expressed by a body in motion.

This is why, in order to "learn" and understand Greek dance in Greece, you must go to where it is danced, and be in simple, direct and total contact with the Greeks, in their region, at the heart of things, totally immersed.... On their territory and with them, spending lots of time in the villages, with parties and evening celebrations... to observe, listen and feel... It's the only way to absorb a culture and to gradually make it your own: watching the steps and style of a grandfather, grasping his interaction with the musicians, etc. Gradually, you will be able to join in the game, commune, share, participate and enjoy. In order to learn, understand and really live the dances of Naxos and the Cyclades, you have to come to Naxos, in the Cyclades.

Trying to learn elsewhere, with non-Naxiotes is nonsensical and absurd: would you go to Italy to learn Spanish? Or vice-versa? Of course not. And it's the same with dance which is also a language: the language of the body, the heart and the soul.



And, of course, you can't learn dance in a hotel either, detached from human and social reality. Learning dance, the dances of a region, is above all not a question of buying an "all in" commercial package, with 3, 6 or 9 teachers coming from Greece, in nonstop succession, (and

most often blasé and bored) for a so-called "intensive" course (really?): the opposite should be the case, travelling freely amongst the locals, in order to make real contact and establish genuine relationships; going where dance is alive, is expressed and is perpetuated. If not, you bypass dance, your contact is superficial and you remain on the outside. Traditional Greek dance and a closed system of learning are mutually incompatible. It's for you to choose between the local, ancient and authentic expression of the people, or the "sun seeker" style promoted by the tour operators. The two styles exist, but they cannot co-exist. Learning dance through a packaged dance "product", away from its authentic home, is an insult to dance and to dancers.

Nisos Naxos 2012: we offer you a convivial, musical and cultural course on Naxos, the living and vibrant heart of the Cyclades, the musical and choreographical centre of an archipelago that is unique in the world, made up of 30 eternal and timeless islands.

A lot more than just a dance course... it's a voyage into history, tradition, culture and the soul of the islands, the Cyclades and the Aegean Sea... with the Naxiotes!

A course held where the tradition has its heart and roots: 12 exceptional days, to the rhythm of the "nisiotika", the violin, the laouto, to the swaying and surging music of the Greek islands.



12 days in contact with an unspoilt, ancestral, forgotten and magical Greece, to share rare, joyous and heart-warming moments with a community of islanders. Meeting the inhabitants of Naxos, where the tradition was born and has its origins, where it is still alive, where it is shared and passed on, with enthusiasm, passion and authenticity.

The course is open to all, including dance beginners, of course. Non-dancing companions are also welcome.

Looking forward to meeting you on Naxos, for 12 extraordinary and unforgettable days.

So, see you soon !

The Nisiotis Cultural Association

www.vnisiwtis.gr

www.nisiotis.gr

www.nisiotis.fr

www.nisiotis.net

www.nisiotis.com

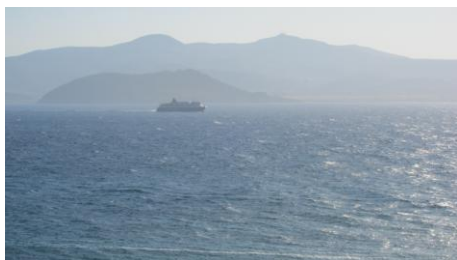
www.nisiotis.eu

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Information, contact : nisosnaxos@gmail.com

How you may come to Naxos :

First, you need to fly to Athens.
You may check flights with your local company, or with Greek air lines :

- Aegean (www.aegeanair.com)
- Olympic (www.olympicair.com)
- EasyJet (www.easyjet.com)



Once in Athens, you may either come by plane, or by boat :

- The daily plane is with Olympic (www.olympicair.com).
- The boats are with all the Ferry Companies that leave Athens, and stop in Naxos.

There are two harbours in Athens :

- the large, main one, Piraeus (code : TZE),
- and a smaller one, close to the airport, Rafina (code : RAF).

The port code for Naxos is : NAX.

Two companies have daily connections to Naxos :

- Blue Star Ferries (www.bluestarferries.com)
- Hellenic Sea Ways (www.hellenicseaways.gr)

You may also see all ships and boats on the Greek Travel Pages (www.gtp.gr).

You may book your seat with all boats on internet (we highly recommend it), and get your ticket on the harbour with your receipt, 30 minutes before the departure.



With a standard boat, the trip is 5-hour long.
With a fast boat, 3-hour.

From the Athens airport, you have a bus to Piraeus, and a bus to Rafina.



Please check timetable for the boats on the web, before going to the harbour.

Anything else, please let us know : we'll be glad to help !

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