

FESTIVAL “IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF KAZANTZAKIS AND ZORBAS

Land, People and Freedom in Kazantzakis’ Mani”

Part of STOUPA: THE KAZANTZAKIS–ZORBAS PROJECT

25–27 September 2026 | Stoupa, West Mani | FREE ADMISSION

PROGRAMME & PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

The parallel activities create an open field of cultural experience that brings the place to life throughout the festival. Each visitor can follow their own path, gradually discovering people, stories, memories and creative activities. Together with the main programme, they form a unified experience in which art, history, literature, participation and the everyday life of Stoupa meet and enter into dialogue.

These activities remain active throughout the festival, creating a parallel field of exploration, discovery and participation alongside the main programme.

WITHIN PLACE

Art Exhibition in Public Space

Dedicated to the memory of Peter Kraaijmes

An art exhibition unfolding across selected, publicly accessible venues along the Stoupa waterfront, in collaboration with the local business community, engaging in a dialogue with the place where the literary world of *Zorba the Greek* was born.

ARTIST — VENUE

Andrea Kim Roach → Aggeliki’s Tavern, Stoupa Beach

Christina Paeschke → STOUPA Restaurant, Stoupa Beach

Frederic Dieter Stein → To Steki, Stoupa Beach

Heidrun MalComes (malcoART) → Patriko Pub-Café, Stoupa Beach

Peter Sternäng → Almyriki, Kalogria Beach

Titia Ohlhaver → Kalogria Restaurant, Kalogria Beach

Vasiliki Kateri → Enigma Cafe – Cocktail Bar, Stoupa Beach

Antonia Mantzouka → Aktaion Café, Stoupa Beach

With the digital participation of the international artists’ collective **Artists in Motion (AiM)**:

Alessandra Bisi, Dorrety Brookhuis, Heidrun MalComes, Gerd Lepic, Lee O’Connor, Wim Scheere

Coordination of the Artists in Motion participation: **Gerd Lepic**

Interactive Postal Installation: “A Letter to Nikos and George”

Write a short letter to Nikos Kazantzakis or Giorgos Zorbas and leave it in one of the festival's specially designed letterboxes. A participatory activity, in Greek and English, that transforms writing into an act of memory, dialogue and personal expression.

Residents and visitors, as they stroll along the Stoupa–Kalogria waterfront, discover the specially designed letterboxes at selected locations and leave their own message for Nikos and Giorgos.

FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

10:30–12:30 Photography Workshop

“In the Footsteps of Kazantzakis and Zorbas: Stoupa Today”

In collaboration with the **3rd Kardamili Art Doc Festival**.

An introduction to photography as a language, a means of narration and storytelling. The workshop explores the photographer's preparation, relationship with the subject and intention behind the photographic act. A photography walk is followed by an on-site discussion of the photographs taken.

Participation is free.

Workshop facilitator: **Alexandros Philippidis**, photographer.

Stoupa Beach: STOUPA Restaurant

18:30–19:00 Official Opening of the Festival

Starting point: Kazantzakis–Zorbas Mural, at the southern end of Stoupa Beach

Finish: northern end of Stoupa Beach, near the bust of Professor Nikos Mparmpetseas, below STOUPA Restaurant

Moving Musical Experience with Stops

With the kind participation of the **Kimvala Samba Drumming Group**

Led by **Dawn Harney**

Stoupa Beach

19:00 “OPA” – A Collective Act

A brief but powerful moment of collective activation, where the music of Zorba becomes a shared rhythm and the place comes alive through participation. Residents and visitors are invited to join spontaneously, transforming the moment into a shared experience of freedom.

And the Celebration Continues...

After “OPA”, the celebration continues with live music, dance, songs, improvisation and participatory activities, inviting everyone to become part of the experience.

With the kind participation and coordination of the **Lefkippos Dance Association**.

The invitation remains open to anyone who wishes to share in the music, dance and joy of participation.

A simultaneous collective experience across Stoupa (Stoupa Beach & Kalogria Beach)

21:00–23:00 Film Screening

with English subtitles

The Life and Times of the Real George Zorbas (2019–2020)

Director: **Babis Tsokas**

Kalogria Beach: Kalogria Restaurant

SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

10:00–11:30 An Art Walk

“Listening to the Voices of the Place”

A walk from Stoupa to Kalogria allows art to unfold its own narratives. History and literature, memory, intangible cultural heritage and the natural landscape enter into dialogue with the world of Nikos Kazantzakis and George Zorbas.

Listening to the voices of the place with **Dr Georgia Kakourou-Chroni**, former curator of the National Gallery of Greece and member of the Board of the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis, Greek Section.

Starting point: “Almyriki” Tavern, Kalogria Beach

Kalogria–Stoupa Waterfront

11:45–13:00 First Official Presentation of the Stoupa Ideogram

A contemporary symbol connecting place, memory and human experience.

Conceived and created by Vasiliki Kateri

The presentation also features the first applications of the Stoupa Ideogram: the pendant featuring the **Stoupa Ideogram** and the certified natural soap **STOUPA | Activated Charcoal**, created in collaboration with **VIS OLIVAE**.

The Stoupa Ideogram is imprinted on the soap itself, while its original packaging reveals a true story connected with the presence of Nikos Kazantzakis and George Zorbas in Stoupa and, once opened, can be transformed into a bookmark.

First Official Book Presentation

“Nikos Kazantzakis and George Zorbas: Stoupa Remembers – AUTHENTIC TESTIMONIES”

Author: **Katerina Exarchouleas-Georgilea**

Published by: **NARTURA Cultural Association**

Speakers: **Dr Konstantinos Kosteas**, philologist and editor of the text, and **Dr Maklena Nika**, poet and Associate Professor of Philology at the University of Tirana.

A discussion with the audience follows.

The event will be held in Greek.

Stoupa Beach: STOUPA Restaurant

17:30–18:45 “The Relevance of Kazantzakis Today”

A discussion presented by **Mani Lit Fest**, hosted by **Jon Thompson**, with **Maklena Nika**, **Kelvin Corcoran** and **Pamela Garelick**.

Mani Lit Fest is an independent international literary festival held in Stoupa since 2018.

More information on this year’s edition: **manilitfest.com**

The event will be held in English.

Stoupa Beach: Patriko Café & Pastry Shop

19:00–19:30 Musical Encounter at Sunset

Featuring **Gogo Raptea**, **Pierros Kapitsinos**, **Johny Diskos**

A musical journey from distance to encounter, exploring departure and return, separation, memory, love and the timeless human search for meaning. Voices, sounds and music from different places and traditions enter into dialogue with the landscape and the sea of Stoupa at sunset, in an experience poised between the planned and the unpredictable.

Stoupa Beach

19:40–20:10 Mani Through the Senses I

Discover the Herbs of Mani

An interactive herb-identification activity guided by smell and touch.

Learn about the herbs of Mani, then put your senses to the test by identifying them through touch and smell. All participants receive the commemorative sticker **“Honorary Herbal Explorer.”**

Stoupa Beach — northern end, on the esplanade where the bust of Professor Nikos Mparmpetseas is located, below STOUPA Restaurant

SUNDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

10:00–10:30 Kazantzakis and Zorbas in Kalogria: Stories of the Place

With **Katerina Exarchouleas-Georgilea**

In front of the historic little white house where Nikos Kazantzakis hosted distinguished friends from the worlds of literature and the arts, at the northern end of Kalogria Beach, Katerina Exarchouleas-Georgilea, author of *“Nikos Kazantzakis and George Zorbas: Stoupa Remembers – AUTHENTIC TESTIMONIES”*, shares stories, memories and first-hand accounts connected with Kazantzakis and Zorbas, revealing traces of their presence that still remain in the place today.

Kalogria Beach

Meeting point: in front of the little white house, at the northern end of Kalogria Beach

10:40–11:10 “Sto Perigiali to Kryfo” (Arnisi)

With the kind participation of **Mani Community Choir**

Choir Director: **Di McNeish**

The *Mani Community Choir* is an open, intercultural choir that brings together people of different nationalities who have made Mani their permanent or seasonal home.

The choir invites residents and visitors to join in a community singing of the iconic song *“Sto Perigiali to Kryfo” (Arnisi)*, with lyrics by **George Seferis** and music by **Mikis Theodorakis**.

Whether you choose to sing along or simply listen, everyone is warmly invited to share this special musical moment.

Kalogria Beach — on the rocks next to the little white house, at the northern end of Kalogria Beach, near “Pigi tou Printzipa” (the Prince’s Spring)

11:15–12:00 Readings, Differently

Moments of Literature by the Sea

An activity inspired by the poetry recitations of **Nikos Kazantzakis, Angelos Sikelianos** and **Marika Kotopouli** on a large rock in the area.

Residents and visitors can bring a favourite poem, or one of their own, and share it with the audience by reciting it on the rocks of Kalogria.

Kalogria Beach — on the rocks next to the little white house, near “Pigi tou Printzipa” (the Prince’s Spring)

12:15–19:00 Discover the Stoupa of Kazantzakis and Zorbas

After “**Readings, Differently**”, visitors can continue their exploration of the place through the festival’s artistic interventions, points of interest and thematic routes.

Follow the QR markers to explore the area, discover the places connected with Nikos Kazantzakis and George Zorbas, access archival material, photographs and audiovisual content, and create your own personal journey through Stoupa.

Documentary Screening

“Kazantzakis & Zorbas – Stoupa 1965”

Production: **Ilias Pergantis / Giannis and Maria Theodorakea Archive**

The documentary is available **on request** during this period:

Lefktron Hotel — at reception, with English subtitles

Aktaion Cafe Bar — Stoupa waterfront, in Greek, without English subtitles

Stoupa–Kalogria Waterfront

19:00–19:20 Mani Through the Senses II

Flavours of Mani: Outdoor Preparation of Lalaggia

With **Ioulia Petropoulea and Evangelia Gioldasea**

A participatory experience inviting residents and visitors to discover Mani through taste. The activity highlights traditional knowledge, practices and skills rooted in the everyday life and cultural heritage of Mani.

With the kind support of “**Ta 5 Aderfia**” Tavern.

Stoupa Beach — in front of “Ta 5 Aderfia” Tavern

19:30–20:30 Race for the Cure – ALMA ZOIS

Starting point: Bust of Nikos Kazantzakis

The bust of Nikos Kazantzakis is located on the road connecting Kalogria and Stoupa, on N. Kazantzaki Street, at the junction with G. Zorba Street, which leads down to Kalogria Beach.

The bust was created by the late sculptor **Christos Riganas**.

Finish: Kazantzakis–Zorbas Mural

The Kazantzakis–Zorbas Mural was created by artist **Kostas Louzis (Skitsofrenis)**.

As part of the Festival, **NARTURA Cultural Association** holds, for the fourth consecutive year, its own symbolic walk-and-run in support of **ALMA ZOIS Race for the Cure**, one week ahead of the nationwide event.

Following the presentation of awards to the first participants to reach the finish line, there will be a brief presentation of the Kazantzakis–Zorbas Mural, its creator, artist Kostas Louzis (Skitsofrenis), and the context in which the mural was created.

From Kalogria Beach to Stoupa Beach

20:30–21:00 Theatre and Dance Performance

Kaleidoscope – Centre for Culture, Studies and Arts of Epirus

An original theatre-and-dance performance inspired by the philosophy, vitality and spirit of Nikos Kazantzakis' work.

The performance combines theatrical narration, movement and musicality, capturing the pulse and vitality of Zorbas through a contemporary stage approach.

Participating members:

Alexandros Lakkas, Evgenia Georgali, Froso Fotiadou, Matthaios Magis, Anna Maria Boutniok, Grigoris Simeonidis

With the kind participation and contribution of a group of artists from **Kaleidoscope – Centre for Culture, Studies and Arts of Epirus**.

Stoupa Beach: Enigma Cafe – Cocktail Bar

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO RECORDING

During the festival, photographs and video recordings will be taken during the activities and at the locations where they take place.

WALK THROUGH THE PLACE — FOLLOW THE STORIES — FEEL THE FREEDOM

CO-ORGANISED WITH

Region of Peloponnese – Regional Unit of Messinia

UNDER THE AUSPICES AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF

Municipality of West Mani

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

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