



# PRIVATE HERITAGE WEEK

24-27 MAY 2018

39 historic houses in 13 towns invite you to discover them!

AEgina

ATHENS

CHIOS

CORFU

KASTORIA

LESBOS

NAFPLION

PATMOS

SIFNOS

SKYROS

SPEtSES

SYROS

THESSALONIKI

Dear Visitor,

Welcome to "Private Heritage Week", an initiative organised by ELLINIKI ETAIRIA (Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage) and the European Historic Houses Association, in the context of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

For the first time in Greece, 39 important historic houses in 13 different municipalities of the country are opening to the public between 24th May and 27th May 2018. Their owners invite you to discover them on a pro bono basis!

We hope that during your visit you will appreciate that private historic houses constitute a significant aspect of the Greek cultural heritage, as they shape the urban and rural environment in which they have been built. More particularly, the houses which are found outside urban areas constitute a great example of how vernacular architecture was developed in harmony with the landscape around it.

The importance of historic houses is even greater in a country like Greece, where the more recent architectural heritage of a smaller scale is less appreciated in comparison to the imposing monuments of antiquity. This mentality in the past led to much destruction, and, in combination with an adverse economic environment, it leads today to the neglect and decay of historic properties. Their owners face significant challenges with regards to the safeguarding of these houses and their conservation.

We hope that you enjoy your stay in Greece and the hospitality of the owners participating in the "Private Heritage Week".

For more information regarding the properties participating in this event please refer:

- To the nearest touristic information centre
- To ELLINIKI ETAIRIA's website: [www.ellet.gr/private-heritage-week](http://www.ellet.gr/private-heritage-week)

Some historic houses will open in the following areas:

- Aegina • Athens • Chios • Corfu • Kastoria • Lesbos • Nafplion • Patmos
- Sifnos • Skyros • Spetses • Syros • Thessaloniki





## ELLINIKI ETAIRIA

Society for the Environment  
and Cultural Heritage

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage - a non-profit NGO - has since 1972 been active in the fight for the preservation of the natural environment and our cultural heritage. During the last 46 years ELLINIKI ETAIRIA has fought many important battles, among which the establishment of the Marine Park of Alonissos, the saving of Plaka (a struggle that continues to this day), the protection of the Delphic landscape, of the Southern Saronic Gulf, of Pylos, of the Prespa lakes, of the Tatoi estate, of part of the area of Marathon, of the hellenistic tower of Kea, of many byzantine churches and of historic settlements such as those of Hydra and other Aegean islands.

At the same time monuments outside the country's borders have also been saved from demolition, decay and abandonment, such as the campanile of San Giorgio dei Greci ("St. George of the Greeks") in Venice, the Church of St. Panteleimon or Kizil Kilise (Red Church) in Cappadocia, and the frescoes of the Medieval Refectory in the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine at Mount Sinai. ELLET is also active in environmental education, and - with its substantiated studies and proposals - in protecting the seas and the forests and in planning for sustainable tourism, carrying capacity and environmental tax reform. And all this thanks to the contributions and cooperation of sponsors, scientists, volunteers, members and friends.

More info: [www.en.ellet.gr](http://www.en.ellet.gr)



European Historic Houses Association is the voice, at the European level, of about 50,000 European historic houses to the institutions, the politicians, the media and the enterprises.

The main objectives of the association are the following:

- To promote European cooperation regarding the conservation of historic houses and gardens;
- To provide a platform for the exchange of information and support for national historic house associations;
- To promote interest in the historical, aesthetic, educational, environmental, economic and social aspects of historic houses and gardens;
- To promote the extension and improvement of current historic houses, parks, gardens and estates to enable society as a whole to enjoy their attractions, beauty and story.

More info: [www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu)

2018   
EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
#EuropeForCulture

Throughout 2018, we will celebrate our diverse cultural heritage across Europe - at EU, national, regional and local level. The aim of the European Year of Cultural Heritage is to encourage more people to discover and engage with Europe's cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space. Cultural heritage has a universal value for us as individuals, communities and societies. It is important to preserve and pass on to future generations.

More info: [www.europa.eu/cultural-heritage](http://www.europa.eu/cultural-heritage)