



الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ
GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT



Ta Nea

Issue 26
July 2021

Dive In

Dive in for summer's at its peak and July is bringing the heat!

What are we longing for in those hot summer days? Serenity above all! A nice stroll by the sea or amidst the mountain trails wouldn't hurt though.

So many places are waiting to be explored. But we find ourselves lacking in motivation, in positivity and even the possibility to accomplish some of our daily tasks. When life turns so unbearably dark and negative, one should hold on to his faith even stronger for it is our only salvation.

Taming one's mind from negative aspirations is also crucial. Lebanon is facing one of the most harsh and difficult crisis ever, be it a political, economic, social, medical, all sectors are sadly affected. Many are forced to flee hoping to find a safer and more promising future. For those who are left behind, may they find the strength, courage and energy to fight back.

In this issue, we will allow our mind to wander to new places in search of some positivity. From haunted caves, to old palaces, tune in for our July news.

Till then, stay safe and enjoy reading!





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The “Haunted” Davelis Cave

No this is not Ali Baba’s cavern with the hidden treasures but the haunted Davelis Cave who took on its name after a bandit, Christos Natsios, aka Davelis, hid in the tunnels of the cave with his men back in 1800.

His band used this cave as a hideout, and legend has it that there was a maze of tunnels which could take him all the way to the mansion of his lover- reputedly a French Duchess, Placentia, living in the village of Pendeli. Alas, this is only a legend!

Inside the cave is a rare double Byzantine church built directly into to the rock. One half is dedicated to St. Spyridon and the other to St. Nicolas. This church was used by the twelfth-century Christian hermits associated with the Gnostics. Gnosticism is the belief that human beings contain a piece of God (the highest good or a divine spark) within themselves, which has fallen from the immaterial world into the bodies of humans. A bit deeper into the cave, an even older god was worshiped- Pan. In ancient Greek religion and mythology, Pan is the god of the wild, shepherds and flocks, nature of mountain wilds, rustic music and impromptus, and companion of the nymphs. He has the hindquarters, legs, and horns of a goat, in the same manner as a faun or satyr.

The cave marks the opening to a series of tunnels that run through the mountain and lead to a pool of water. It is these natural formations that are linked to the god Pan as many artifacts excavated from the cave depict Pan and his



nymphs. These objects can now be seen in the Archaeological Museum of Athens.

But what really happens in Davelis Cave? Paranormal activity suspected to have begun at around the 1800 and stories tell that electronics stop working, water flows the wrong way, some explorers have disappeared, an otherworldly energy floating as well as feeling dizzy and disoriented and so on. Is this urban legend true or not and is there an explanation to this bizarre underground phenomenon? The only way to find out, is to go out there and explore yourself, if you’d dare! The electromagnetic phenomenon can be explained as the Pentelic marble itself possesses certain scientific properties that lead it to give electric charge under high-pressure conditions.



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Dimitrios Papanikolaou, emeritus professor at the Department of Dynamic, Tectonic and Applied Geology at the University of Athens, who has been studying Penteli since 1973, chalks any obsession with paranormal phenomena inside Davelis Cave to “idiosyncratic forces at work”.; On 6 October 1977, Greek magazine Tahidromos published an article saying that the Greek military had begun strictly confidential operations inside Davelis Cave. The place was classified as military and sealed off to the public. There were rumours that nuclear experiments were being run. In 1990, as the Greek Government reinitiated the works in the cave, there was a stir-up by the press about allegedly nuclear experiments and as results all the works at the cave were stopped.



He additionally added “But what we don’t understand, we ascribe to myth.”

Located on Mount Pendeli at 720m high north of Pendeli Monastery, the Davelis Cave is the hideout of thieves, monks and goat-footed gods. Should you visit the haunted cave you will need to arrange transportation as there is no public means of getting past neo-Pendeli village.





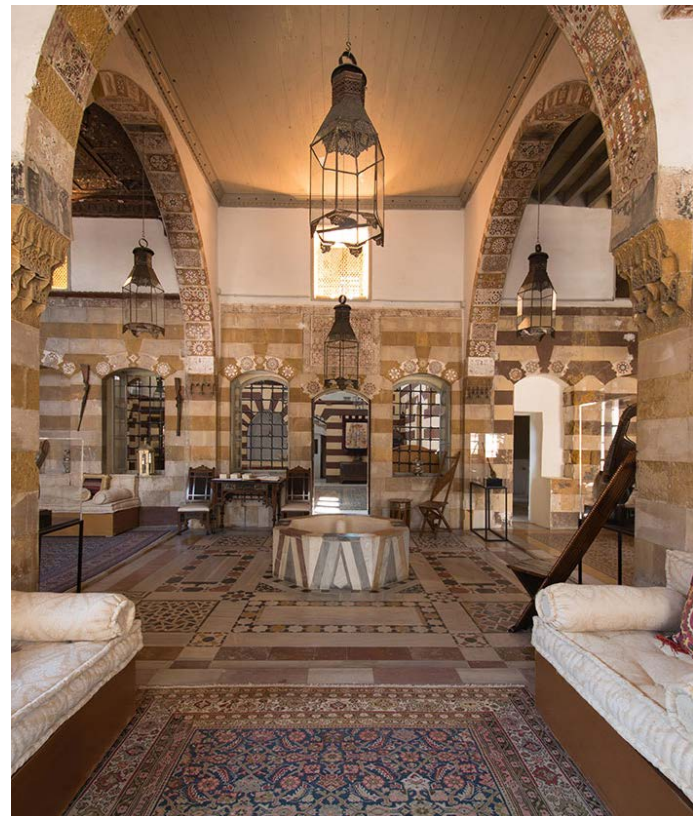
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Debbane Palace celebrates his 300 anniversary

Debbane Palace is an 18th century mansion in Saida, built by Ali Hammoud in 1721, 300 years ago. It is characterized by an Arab-Ottoman style and served as a private residence and reception area for Ali Agha Al- Hammoud's family until 1859 when the Hammoud family lost their political influence and health and the mansion was then bought by Asin Khlal Debbane, the wife of a rich silk trader Youssef Debbane. The Dar became then known as Qasr Debbane or Debbane Palace. Then came the Lebanese Civil War in 1976 during which the palace was damaged and ransacked. After the end of the war, the palace was restored and turned into a private museum. Prior to being purchased by Asin Khlal, the mansion was used at the time as a local Ottoman administrative building.



The palace was restored by the Debbané Foundation in 2000 at an approximate cost of \$ 2.5 million. Of the Palace's original 18th-century plan, only the reception area or selamlık and service areas remain, the haremlık being destroyed during the 19th century. To accommodate their growing family, the Debbanes added two levels to the palace in the Levantine neo-Classical style during renovations undertaken between 1917 and 1920. The open courtyard was vertically extended by the addition of a gallery covered by a four-sided red tile roof.

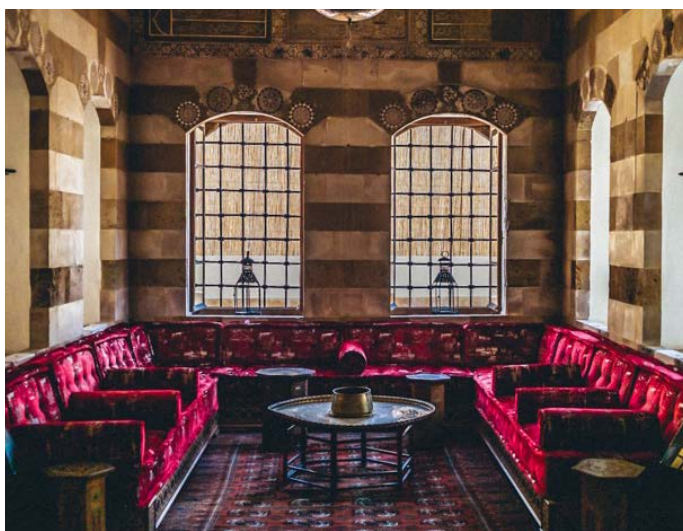


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The Qasr was listed as a historical monument by Lebanon's Ministry of Culture in 1968. And today, the palace witnesses social and cultural events and musical seminars. Archaeological researches have been undertaken there for years and civilizations dating back 5,000 years have been found. The Debbane Palace receives close to 2,000 visitors a month and there are further plans to develop and expand the museum.





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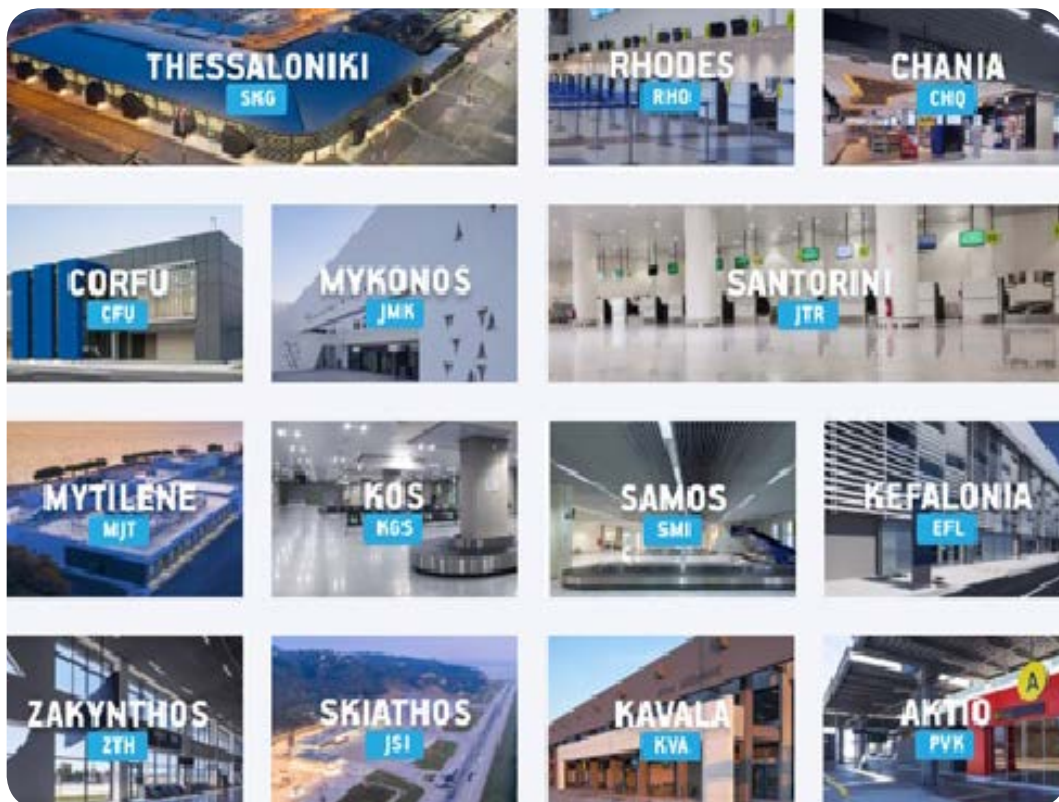
In the News

The company Fraport Greece created in 2015, realized a comprehensive plan for the modernization and development of these airports.

It completed the construction program for 14 Greek Regional airports redeveloped, safe and future oriented airports that provide new services, greater comfort and more amenities to Greek and International travellers from around the world.

Mykonos' airport for instance has been completely renovated and is ready to welcome visitors to the Greek cosmopolitan island once again. The renovation costed 25 million Euros and the design was inspired by the Aegean "pigeon houses" bringing forth the Myconian lifestyle and traditions.

Furthermore, the final construction works were completed at Makedonia, the largest airport in Fraport Greece's portfolio. This €100 million development has created a new terminal complex to rival Europe's larger airports. As per the company's CEO Alexander Zinell "These airports will serve as a catalyst for re-starting the vital Greek tourist industry."





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2021, the bicentennial of the Greek revolution

As part of the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Greek revolution of 1821, we dedicate a new section. Each month we will present a story and a famous person who actively contributed to creating the actual Greece

While it is commonly thought that the Greek War of Independence started on March 25, 1821, it actually began on March 17, 1821 in Mani.

On March 17, 1821, war was declared on the Turks by the Maniots at Areopoli with an army of 2000 under the command of Petros Mavromichalis along with Kolokotronis and Papaflessa. Mani was the target of many attempts to enslave it by the Ottoman Empire, but luckily Mani was impenetrable. The area continued to experience independence thanks to its alliance with Venice. Maniots claim to be direct descendants of the ancient Spartans. For centuries, the Maniots fended off the Turks, while the rest of Greece



was absorbed into the Ottoman Empire. Still today, the Maniot flag bears the words "Victory or Death," as opposed to "Freedom or Death," which is used in the rest of the country.

In the early months of 1821, with the absence of the Turkish governor Mora valesi Hursid Pasha and many of his troops, the situation was favourable for the Greeks to rise against Ottoman occupation.

Many Maniots had joined Filiki Eteria to support the revolution and the Maniots participation was starting to take form. Following the orders of Filiki Eteria, Papaflessas along with great chieftains such as Theodoris Kolokotronis and Christos Papageorgiou known as Anagnostaras, came to Mani and travelled around the villages to recruit fighters. Preparations were carried out in



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the utmost secrecy. And on March 17, war was declared, a week before the rest of Greece would join in the revolution.

It is said through written stories that, on the eve of the Revolution, the high priests and dignitaries of Achaia requested from Petrobey that Mani should be the first region to begin the insurrection. Petrobey subsequently invited all the Maniate chieftans to a meeting in Tsimova (today called Ereopolis), the capital of the Mavromichaleon, on 17th March 1821. There they “agreed to raise their weapons against the Turks”, as witnessed by Ioannis Kolokotronis and Theodoros Kolokotronis undertook to convey this decision to the Chieftans in Messinia, Arkadia and Achaia. Local traditions has preserved this event as a legend, in accordance with which all the chief-

tans assembled in the square of the city, in front of the Church of Taxiarchon, and they raised the first revolutionary flag in Kotroni. The makeshift flag was a piece of white material with a sky blue cross in the middle. The words “Νίκη ἢ Θάνατος” (Niki or Thanatos =“Victory or Death”) (and not “Freedom” as Mani was considered to be free) were inscribed in the upper part, and in the lower part were the words «τὰν ἢ ἐπὶ τὰς» (tan or epi tas = “with this or upon this”). The flag was blessed by the priests and all the leaders, together with Petrobey, swore that they will fight united for the liberation of the nation. The new proclamation of the revolution spread from Mani to the remaining parts of the Peloponnese.





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In the News

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Konstantinos Vlassis along with the Director of the Diplomatic Cabinet of the Minister Mr. Emmanuel Koubarakis executed a visit to Lebanon on July 22nd.

H.E. visited the premises of the community on the 23rd where several meetings were held with the various Greek associations in Lebanon.

Mr. Vlassis was delighted to get acquainted with the Greek diaspora in Lebanon. He praised the community's effort in building a strong bond between the two countries and promised to help in any possible way. For him the most important asset and responsibility the diaspora has, is to teach the young generation the Greek language.

A reception was followed with a very limited number of guests.



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO GREEK CITIZENS

Kindly contact our Center by phone or email informing us about any change of address, phone number or social status helping us to keep our data list updated.



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Everything you need to know about the consulate:

All requests should be addressed by email in order to obtain an appointment.

Visa Applications: For visa applications please visit our website

www.mfa.gr/missionabroad/en/lebanon-en.

Additionally, due to the lockdown and the restrictions, Greece is not issuing visas at the moment. Exceptions can be made to specific cases and only by appointment.

Passport renewal or issuance: You will get an appointment by receiving an email.

Required documents are: 2 photo passport size (4x6), a Greek identity card or a birth certificate (that can be provided by us if you send us in advance any old Greek birth or family certificate).

For additional info kindly visit <http://www.passport.gov.gr/en/>

Legalization of documents: The Consular Office can legalize any Lebanese official document that has been stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is advised to ask for an appointment by email.

Power of Attorney: The Consular Office can exceptionally provide a power of attorney to Lebanese citizens that have already made an investment in Greece and want to apply for a residence permit.

Marriage, birth, death registration: Required documents: The Lebanese certificates of marriage, birth or death stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and translated in Greek (translations in English or French are accepted as well).

Any old Greek birth or family certificate to be sent in advance by email.

The Consular Office is currently upgrading the embassy's website in order to make it more friendly user and to provide all necessary information and downloadable documents.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO GREEK CITIZENS

This section has been specially created by the Greek Community of Beirut with the kind collaboration of the consulate of Greece in order to better serve Greek citizens who wish to have information on all administrative formalities before presenting their requests.

Consular Office can be reached by email at grcon.bei@mfa.gr



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Oldies But Goldies

Photographs can trigger memories and allow us to briefly relive the bitter sweet moments captured and marked forever as part of us. Going through old photographs can be such a healing process.

We'd love you to share with us your stories along with the most heartwarming historic photos you might have stored in those old albums.



1960- Jamboree- Parnassos



1960- Team Tripoli - Lebanon

Greek Scouts of Lebanon



1969- Greek scouts gathering



1973- Greek scouts- Papoulias Visit



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Let's Cook....



Tzatziki Sauce Ingredients

- Cucumber – we used half of an English cucumber, but 3-4 small Persian cucumbers will also work.
- Greek Yogurt – should be cold right out of the refrigerator and you can use full fat or fat-free.
- Garlic – add this to taste as it can get stronger as the flavors meld in the refrigerator. We love garlic so we use 4 cloves and you can either grate garlic or use a garlic press.
- Dill – we have used fresh chopped dill or frozen dill for making tzatziki.
- Lemon juice – fresh squeezed is best. Do not use lemon juice from concentrate. 1 1/2 Tbsp is the juice of 1/2 lemon.
- Salt and Pepper – add this to taste as a little goes a long way.

How to Make Tzatziki Sauce

1. Cucumber Prep – peel and finely dice the cucumbers. You can also grate on the large holes of a box grater but we prefer the texture of diced cucumber. Set cucumber over a bowl lined with a cheesecloth, or over a fine-mesh sieve. Sprinkle with 1/2 tsp salt, stir and set aside to soften and release juice.
2. Make the Sauce – in a large mixing bowl combine the remaining ingredients: yogurt, lemon juice, garlic, dill, olive oil, salt and pepper.
3. Strain Cucumbers – Use the cheesecloth to squeeze out as much juice as you can from your chopped cucumber. Discard the liquid and add cucumber to the bowl mixing bowl.
4. Stir and Refrigerate – stir all of the ingredients together then cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or overnight. It stores well for 3-5 days in the fridge.

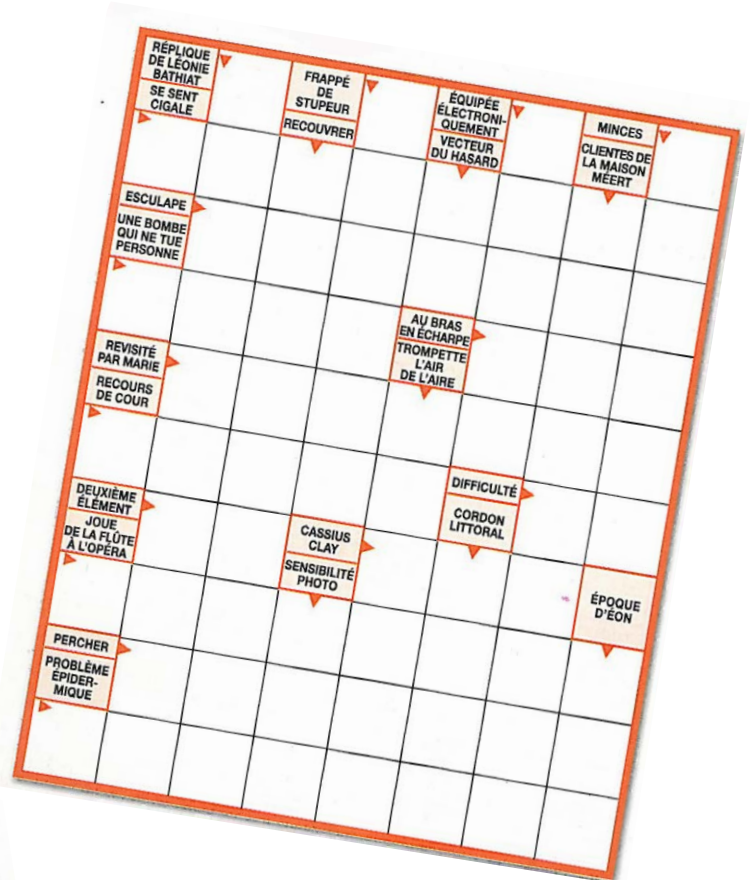
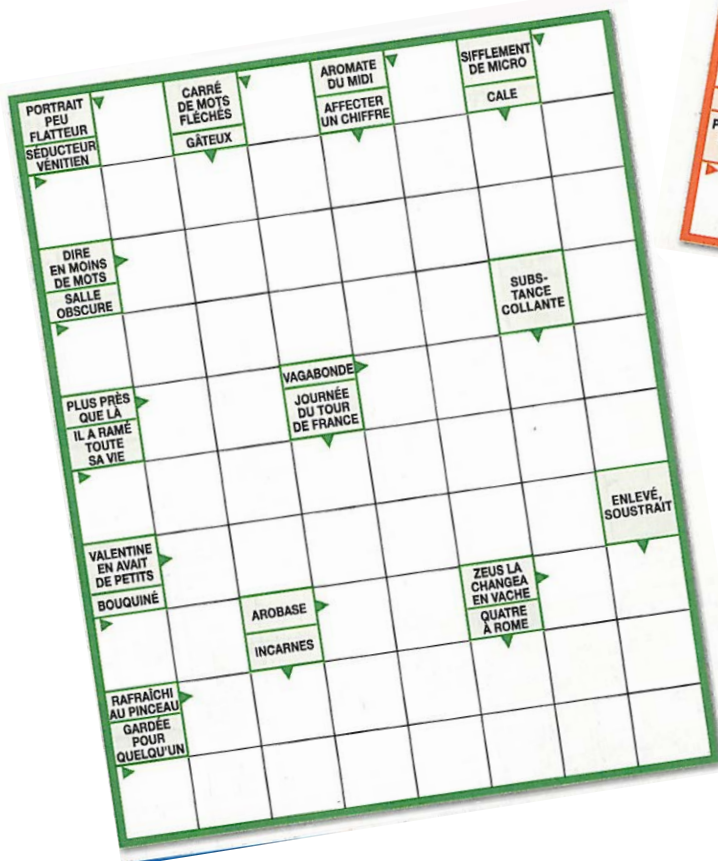


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And play!

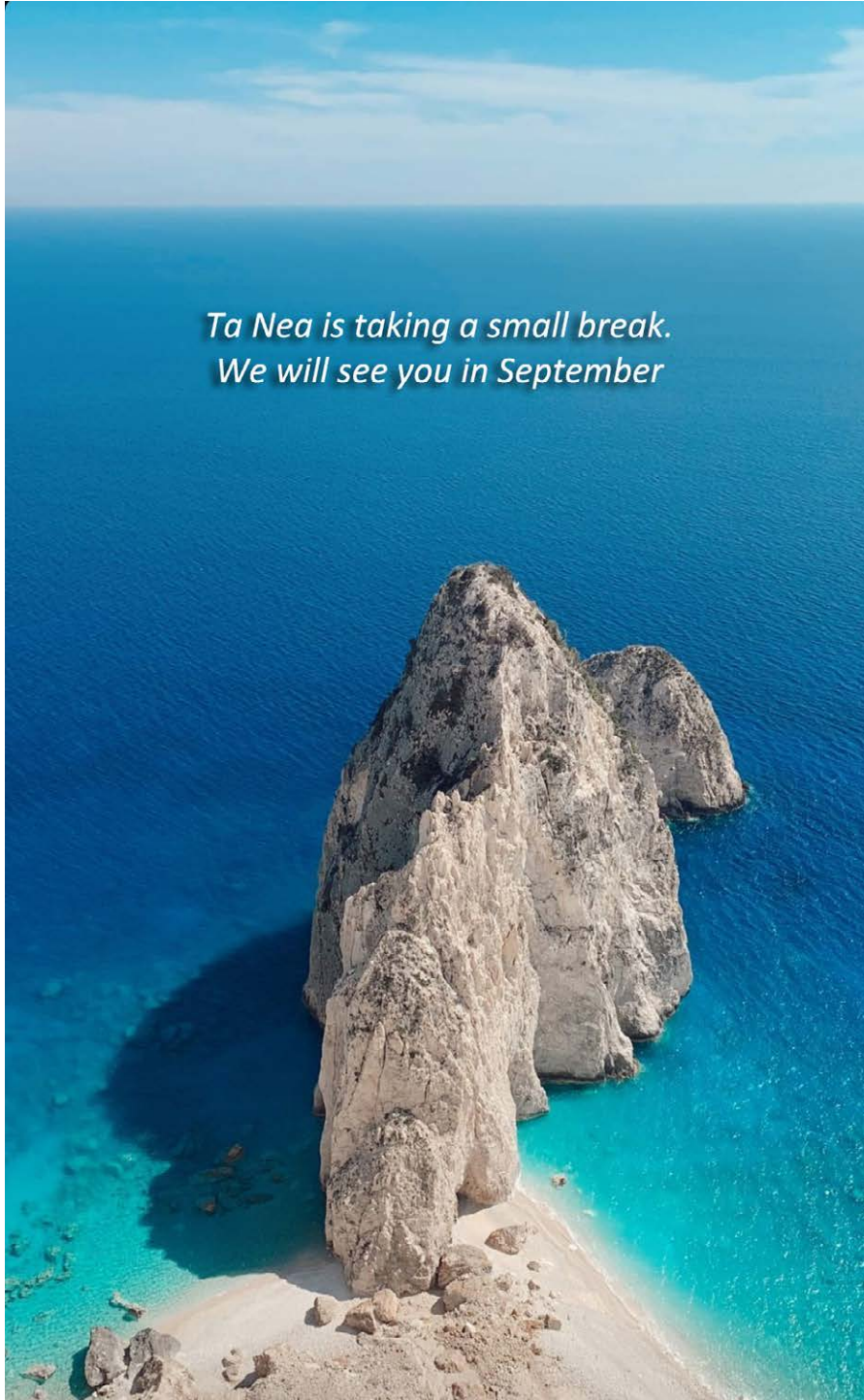




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*Ta Nea is taking a small break.
We will see you in September*