

Religious tourism

**Encouraging inclusive growth
in the era of pandemics**

May 6th 2022 | Minoa Palace Resort, Chania, Greece

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Economist Impact Events for Greece,
Cyprus, Malta and south-east Europe

08:30	Registration
09:00	Welcome and opening remarks:
	<p>Bruce Clark, author, journalist and lecturer, online religion editor of <i>The Economist</i> Dimitris Fragakis, secretary-general, Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO)</p>
09:10	<p>Official opening: His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch (video message)</p> <p>Opening remarks: Most Rev. Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Dodoni, president of the Synodal Office of Pilgrimage Tours, The Church of Greece (Representative of His Beatitude Hieronimos II, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece and Primate of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece)</p> <p>* Most Rev. Evgenios II, Archbishop of Crete</p> <p>Niki Kerameus, minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Greece (via connection) Vassilis Kikilias, minister of Tourism, Greece (via connection)</p>
09:40	<p>HOW CAN SPIRITUAL TOURISM SUPPORT REGIONAL GROWTH?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering local communities • Aspects of co-operation between church and local communities for a more resilient growth model <p>Stavros Arnaoutakis, regional governor of Crete Dimitris Papastergiou, president, Union of Mayors of Greece (KEDE), Mayor of Trikala (via connection)</p>
09:55	Questions and discussion
10:10	<p>SEEKING THE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE: THE NEED TO HIGHLIGHT AND PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM MONUMENTS IN TIMES OF GLOBAL CRISIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global trends in religious and pilgrimage tourism • How can religious tourism contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs? • Focusing on Greece <p>Most Rev. Kyrillos, Metropolitan of Ierapitnis and Sitias * His Eminence the Metropolitan of Kisamou & Selinou Amfilochios * His Eminence the Metropolitan of Kydonias & Apokoronou, Damaskinos Sofia Zacharaki, deputy minister of tourism, Greece (via connection)</p>
10:30	Questions and discussion

10:50 **FOSTERING RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN GREECE:
PROVIDING INCENTIVES – PART 1**

- Expanding horizons: religious tourism as a unique cultural experience
- Cyclades, Meteora, Mount Athos, Patmos

* Most Rev. **Dorotheos**, Metropolitan of Syros, Tenos, Andros, Kea and Milos
* **Maria Michailidou**, director, Ephorate of Antiquities of Dodecanese
* **Andreas Andreadis**, CEO, Sani/Ikos Group of Companies
Polyxeni Moira, professor, dept. of Tourism Management, University of West Attica
Theodoros Metaxas, associate professor, dept. of Economics, University of Thessaly

11:20 Questions and discussion

11:40 Break

12:10 **FOSTERING RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN GREECE:
PROVIDING INCENTIVES – PART 2**

- The role of tour operators
- Hospitality and accommodation
- Technology and innovation at the service of religious tourism

Dimitris Vasiliadis, director, GNTO Israel
* **Grigoris Tasios**, president, Hellenic Hoteliers Federation
* **Kiriakos Papadakis**, secretary, Chania Hoteliers Association
Christos-Nikolaos Anagnostopoulos, director of Intelligent Systems lab, dept. of Cultural Technology and Communication, University of the Aegean
George Desyllas, founder & CEO, FlexCar

Opening remarks and moderator: **George Tziallas**, regional director, World Travel & Tourism Council

12:40 Questions and discussion

13:00 **THE CONTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM
TO INTER-CULTURAL DIALOGUE**

- Promoting common values
- Socially responsible tourism and human rights
- How can religious tourism help address global challenges?
- The importance of pilgrimage tourism in Europe and the Middle East

His Excellency **Petros Stefanou**, Catholic Archbishop of Syros

Most Rev. **Gabriel Negrin**, the Rabbi of Athens

* **Essam Bin Ibrahim Al-Mal**, ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Greece

Vassiliki Stathokosta, associate professor, Theological School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

13:25 Questions and discussion

13:45	THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilgrimage tourism in Europe• Making pilgrimage more ecological <p>Archimandrite Apostolos Kavaliotis, director, Interconnection and International Relations Office of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens with the European Union Husna Ahmad, CEO, Global One 2015, secretary general, World Muslim Leadership Forum Evangelos Kyriakidis, director, Heritage management organization (acceptance in principle) Martin Palmer, secretary general, Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) Victoria Finlay, communications director, Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC)</p>
14:15	Questions and discussion
14:35	PROMOTING A MORE CONSCIOUS WAY OF LIFE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spirituality as a path to sustainability• How can religious tourism contribute to green policies?• Pilgrimage sites – protecting wild life and natural reserves• Monasteries' culinary tradition: the other “slow food” <p>Silvia Aulet, associated professor, University of Girona Konstantinos Zormpas, general director, Orthodox Academy of Crete Elizabeth Theokritoff, research associate and lecturer, Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge (via connection)</p>
14:55	Questions and discussion
15:15	Luncheon
17:00	End of conference

* Awaiting confirmation

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Speakers mentioned herein have confirmed their participation, apart from those that appear with an asterisk (*).

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