





5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NETWORK OF CITIES WITH LAKES FILIPPIADA 21-22 APRIL 2018





#### Honored guests,

We are delighted and honored to welcome you to the Municipality of Ziros, within the context of the work of the 4th General Assembly of the Network of Cities with lakes and rivers. An event of great importance for our area and for the lake network.

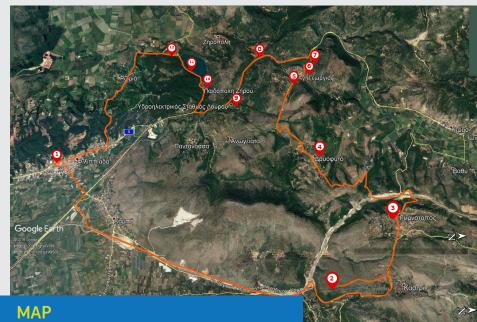
The distinctive natural beauty and the local legends of Ziros Lake are particularly highlighted by the rebirth of nature, brought on by Spring.. This is the lake that has given its name to our Kallikratian Municipality and which expresses and embraces the vision, for development based on modern entrepreneurship by the municipal authority and of the entire local community.

As a municipal authority, we seek to make the most of the potential and dynamics of Lake Ziros, as well as the sections of the rivers Louros and Acheron, that run through our Municipality. We have taken a number of initiatives in this direction and despite the obstacles that we face, we continue to take steps forward.

We will soon be building a swimming area with platforms on Lake Ziros. We are also planning other interventions, on a smaller scale. Our aim is for Ziros Lake with its natural beauty, to become known and to be an attraction for visitors and tourists. Already a stone path has been built for safety reasons in the lakes forest. It is also used by nature lovers and walkers.

We sincerely thank you for honoring us with your presence and your participation and we wish you a pleasant stay in the Municipality of Ziros and the city of Filippiada. Mayor of Ziros

Nicholas Kalantzis



#### MAP AN IMAGE OF THE TOUR

- 1. Hotel Iliana
- 2. Ancient Orraon (guided tour)
- 3. Settlement of Gymnotopos
- 4. Settlement of Dryophyto
- 5. Watermill of Agios Georgios St. George
- 6. Platain Forest
- 7. Roman Aqueduct
- 8. Kokkinopilos ( Red Hills )
- 9. Louros hydroelectric station
- 10. Visit to the Center for Environmental Education -Pedopolis Ziros
- 11. Lake Ziros
- 12. "Lake Ziros" restaurant



### **ZIROS LAKE**

There are many and unique places that tourists can find appealing in the Municipality of Ziros. These places of interest emerged when the Kallikratis government reform plan was implemented in 2011 which merged the former Municipalities of Filippiada, Thesprotikos, Anogio and the Community of Kraneas. At a distance of 4.5 km from Filippiada, a beautiful lake, surrounded by an idyllic natural landscape, awaits the visitor for a pleasant and carefree exploration, as well as environmental education for children. Next to the lake there is the Pedapolis, a place that used to be an orphanage, from which the highly active Environmental Education Center of Filippiada now operates.

Lake Ziros, from which the Kalikratian Municipality of Ziros is named, is located to the east of the prefecture of Preveza. Its name comes from the Slavic word "ozero" which means a lake. Very close to the east flows the River Louros, which scientists say communicates underground with the lake. Lake Ziros has an altitude of 56 meters and has an ellipsoid shape that looks like a giant eye.

According to scientists, it was created by the tectonic activity that characterizes the area. One theory also states that the lake was a primitive cave, whose roof collapsed about 10,000 years ago. Its shoreline runs 3 km, the extent of about 420 acres, while its depth, which is deeper in relation to its size, reaches 53 meters with an average depth of 20 meters.



#### THE LOCAL LEGEND OF HOW THE LAKE WAS FORMED

The creation of the lake by the tectonic processes is also reflected in a local legend , which is similar to that of the Biblical Sodom and Gomorrah. According to the legend, in the area there was a state called Zeropoli, in which two sisters lived. One was an jealous rich woman while the other was virtuous and poor. They had quarreled because the poorer sisters children were plump and healthy even though they were being fed with the scraps of the richer sister, while her children were very weak and sickly.

The rich sisters jealousy eventually resulted in her throwing out her poorer sister. An angel appeared that night to the poor sister and told her to leave with her children to foreign lands without looking back. As they were leaving, a great earthquake took place, the poor sister turned to look back and was turned into stone along with her children and her donkey. Since then some believe that their figures are depicted on the rocks of the lake.

Round the perimeter of the lake there is a path that is suitable for hiking, there is also a cafe- restaurant where the visitor can enjoy traditional cuisine and coffee overlooking the lake and its beautiful lakeside forest. Other events that take place are with canoes, kayaks and rowing, as well as the Zero Festival every August, which is a great success.

The Municipality of Ziros has conducted a study for the construction of a swimming area with floating platforms for bathers.





#### KOKKINOPILOS

A little further north of Lake Ziros is the famous Kokkinopilos. It is a group of hills made out of red clay which is of great geological and archaeological interest. According to geological research by independent researchers and by IGME Preveza, these complex structure of hills are a prehistoric karst cavity which was filled with red clay made up of transient lakes (wet and dry periods) with internal drainage.

Paleolithic and Bronze Age findings have been discovered in the area. Running underground are the conduits of the Roman aqueduct of Nikopolis.

It is a site of great interest, and recently a music video clip of Melina Aslanidou was shot, with footage from Lake Ziros. In 2017, a racing contest was organized with great success, called the Trail ZERO lake run 15km. The race was run from Kokkinopilos to Lake Ziros.



# AGIOS GEORGIOS SAINT GEORGE

Natural Springs- Roman Aqueduct -Dragons' Hole - Plantain Forest

St. George is about 10 km north of Filippiada, adjacent to the old national road of Preveza - Ioannina. There, on the slopes of Xirovouniou, gushes one of the largest springs of the Louros River, from which the cities of Arta, Preveza and Lefkada are supplied with water.

Opposite the village a large hole has formed in the rocks. There, local legend has it that St. George fought with a dragon and hit him with his sword which cut off part of the rock and this allowed him to move to the next village, Papadates.

Here visitor can see the Roman Aqueduct, an impressive engineering feat that was constructed to secure the water supply to the roman city of Nicopolis -"Victory City" (1st century BC-1st century AD). This superstructures carried water in its conduits (50 km long) from the springs of St. George to the reservoirs of Nimfeos Nikopolis. Today there is also a water mill. On the banks of the Louros River in the plantain forest there is a marvelous recreation park for visitors with benches between the ancient trees. Here one can enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the landscape. Also worth a visit is the bell tower of the church of Agios Georgios- St. George.





## **ORRAON CASTLE**

The Orraon Castle is found in the village of Gorgomylos on the hill of Kastri (345 m above sea level ), an impressive sight for any visitor. It is preserved in a relatively good condition, a reminder of the ancient settlement of Orraon which was built near the Ancient city of Amvrakia.

Ancient Orra is an impressive ancient Acropolis built by the Molosses. All the Molossian settlements from the highlands of Ioannina to the plain of Arta and the Ambracian Gulf, including the valleys of Louros and Arachthos, were not only for protection (outposts, forts) but also as intermediate stations for the traffic and control of wares. The acropolis is fortified with a strong double wall, which is reinforced by square towers. Within the walls, private homes and residences of officials which are in guite good condition, are distinguished. According to historical references Orraon was founded and its walls were built during the reign of the king of the Molosses, Alketas (385-370 BC).



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