

ENJOY A GREEK EASTER HOLIDAY at LAGOU RAXI COUNTRY HOTEL South Pelion



13-17 APRIL 2017

TRADITIONAL EASTER IN GREECE

Easter preparations and customs remain some of the most traditional in modern Greek life. Preparations for Easter come to a climax toward the end of Holy Week.

Holy (or Great) Thursday Easter preparations begin on Holy Thursday when the traditional Easter bread, tsoureki, is baked, and eggs are dyed red. In times gone by, superstitions grew into customs that included placing the first-dyed red egg at the home's iconostasis (place where icons are displayed) to ward off evil, and marking the heads and backs of small lambs with the red dye to protect them.

Holy (or Great) Friday The holiest day of Holy Week is Holy Friday. Many devout do not cook on Holy Friday, but if they do, traditional foods are simply cooked without oil, sometimes seasoned with tahini. Traditionally, women and children take flowers to the church to decorate the Epitaphios (the symbolic bier of Christ). In the evening the bier, decorated lavishly with flowers and bearing the image of Christ, is carried in a procession through the narrow streets. Local people follow, carrying brown coloured long candles.

Holy (or Great) Saturday On Holy Saturday, the Eternal Flame is brought to Greece by military jet and is distributed to waiting Priests who carry it to their local churches. The event is always televised. Special white candles made for Easter are called "labatha" and are often given as gifts to children from their parents or Godparents. Churches fill to overflowing and shortly before midnight, all lights are extinguished. When the clock passes midnight, the flame is passed from the priest to pilgrims filling the square with flickering candlelight. As is the custom, as soon as "Christos Anesti" is called out, church bells ring joyously non-stop, ships in ports all over Greece sound their horns, floodlights are lit on large buildings, and great and small displays of fireworks and firecrackers are set off. Once home, everyone gathers around the table for a traditional meal to break the fast, which includes the mayritsa soup, tsoureki (sweet bread), and the red eggs which young and old ones crack against that held by the other.

Easter Sunday The customary main attraction of the day is the roast lamb or goat. Greek wines, ouzo, and other drinks flow freely, and preparations for the meal turn into festive celebrations even before the eating begins. These high-spirited gatherings often last long into the night and often include traditional dancing.

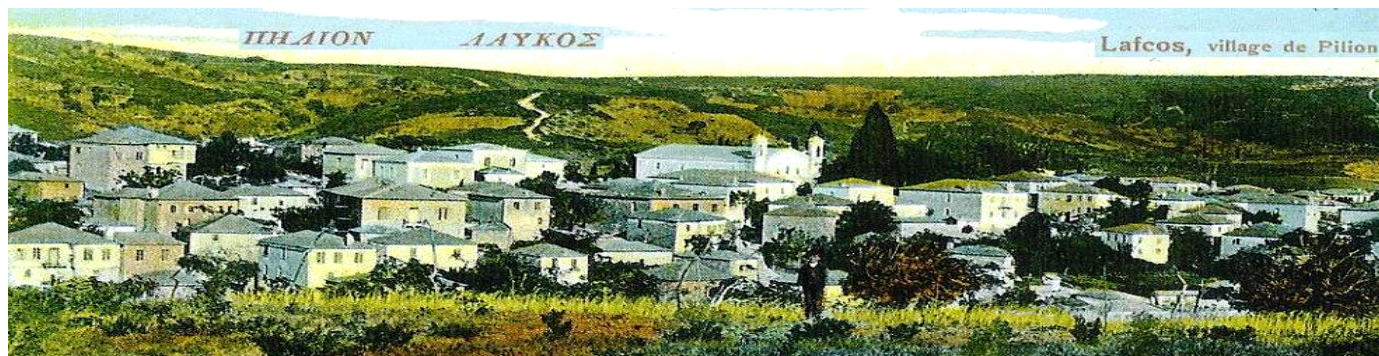
Easter Monday Another national holiday, Monday is a day to take things slowly, and enjoy a Lagou Raxi brunch!

EASTER WEEK at LAGOU RAXI (price per room)		
BOOKINGS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BEFORE THE 31st JANUARY 2017		
<i>Inclusive of full breakfast, one meal per day (with a vegetarian dish option), a 2-hour orientation walking tour and OUTWARD/RETURN Volos transport for all guests</i>		
	3 nights	2 nights
<i>Arrival (IN)</i>	<i>13 Apr or 14 Apr 2017</i>	<i>12 Apr 2017</i>
<i>Departure (OUT)</i>	<i>16 Apr or 17 Apr 2017</i>	<i>14 Apr 2017</i>
Single room (1pax)	324.00 €	216.00 €
Twin or double room (2pax)	495.00 €	330.00 €
Triple room (3 pax)	597.00 €	398.00 €
Quadruple room (4 pax)	756.00 €	504.00 €

Prices are on a room basis for 3 or 2 nights for adult occupancy
Please contact the hotel to ask for children price reductions (mail@lagouraxi.com)
There will be 3 round trip transfers Volos - Hotel - Volos schedule as follows:
12 + 13 + 14 April : VOLOS - LAGOU RAXI HOTEL LAFKOS VILLAGE
14 + 16 + 17 April : LAGOU RAXI HOTEL LAFKOS VILLAGE - VOLOS



THE VILLAGE OF LAFKOS - SOUTH PELION



Lafkos (500 residents) is one of the 24 villages in the Pelion peninsula region, about 45 km from the city of Volos. Medieval paths (Kalderimia) stretch around this car-free village, leading to neighbouring villages and the sea (6km). It is well considered a hidden gem, one of the most charming yet unspoiled villages of mythical mount Pelion, offering sea views to die for! Three museums (Radio museum-Fampeion Art museum-Folk museum) are open all year. The village has three small 'mini-markets', five tavernas, a drugstore, a bakery, a craftsman jeweller, a gift shop, a gas station, and an ATM. In under 10 minutes you can walk from the hotel through the village lanes to the magnificent stone paved square with its imposing church and plane trees. There is a Health Center in Argalasti village (9 km away - 10 minutes drive)

The hotel restaurant **AZURE** will be open every day for lunch and dinner
in addition to special Easter meals as shown below (included in the package price offer)

Draft (2016) Easter Menus - all with a vegetarian main course choice (2017 Easter Menus to be announced)

Friday 14th April (13.00 to 17.00)	Saturday 15th April (after midnight)	Sunday 16th April (13.00 onwards)
<i>Kir Royale cocktail</i>	<i>Tsipouro or A glass of Red Wine</i>	<i>Tsipouro and lemon cocktail</i>
<i>Artichokes a la polita</i>	<i>Traditional "Mayeritsa" soup or Pumpkin and ginger soup</i>	<i>Traditional Greek salad</i>
<i>Fava balls with spring onions and taramosalata</i>	<i>Chicken rolls stuffed with cream cheese and bacon or Medaillons of pork "Tigania"</i>	<i>Russian salad with meatballs or Skopelitiki pitta (Cheese pie)</i>
<i>Kalamari stuffed with spinach and pine nuts</i>	<i>Mediterranean vegetable rolls with anthotiro cheese and olive oil-lemon dressing (v)</i>	<i>Lamb from the spit with potatoes baked with garlic, rosemary & oregano or Greek lasagna with artichokes, aubergines and lemons (v)</i>
<i>Apple pie with cinnamon and sultanas</i>	<i>Lemon mouse or Ice Cream</i>	<i>Ekmek kataifi or Baklava (with ice cream)</i>

LAGOU RAXI COUNTRY HOTEL *** (<http://www.lagouraxi.com>)

Lagou Raxi Country Hotel (330m alt) opened in 2014 and was built according to the local traditional architecture. It has a breathtaking view of the Pagasitic Gulf and it's also close to the Aegean sea. There is an easy footpath from the hotel down to Milina coastal village. The British/French owners are putting their own cultural and culinary accents to add to the Greek traditions, which results in a very attractive mix. The hotel has a good-sized swimming pool and an all-weather tennis court as well as the Library, Terrace, Azure Restaurant, yoga mats and a purpose-built 'Atelier' or workroom. For more info kindly visit our website.

To reserve your room or for information call +(30) 24230 65144
or write to mail@lagouraxi.com quoting MES-9 (conference acronym)

Kindly note that 10 rooms have been blocked for the MES-9 conference attendants, yet Easter period is a super high touristic season for Pelion area. Should you be interested, it is advisable to reserve your room by the 31st of January 2017 to be on the safe side!

Hotel's National Licence No. 0726K013A0448301