

## STOUPA IN PELOPONNES THE 7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> OF AUGUST 2010

We had planned to go to Helsinki this week, but when we checked the weather forecast, it turned out to be heavy downpour in Helsinki all the days when we had planned to be there. We canceled and found instead a cheap charter trip to Stoupa on the Mani peninsula far south on Peloponnese in Greece.



The Mani peninsula is protected as a historical area. The inhabitants, the manioti, is believed to descend from Laconian refugees in early Roman times, and they were practically almost independent local kings who fought with each other and against the Byzantines, the «Latin» princes of Achaia in the Middle Ages and the Turks. Piracy was the most important trade. In 1821 a riot by the Manioti contributed to start the Greek freedom war. The district is very isolated and has maintained much of its «medieval» character.

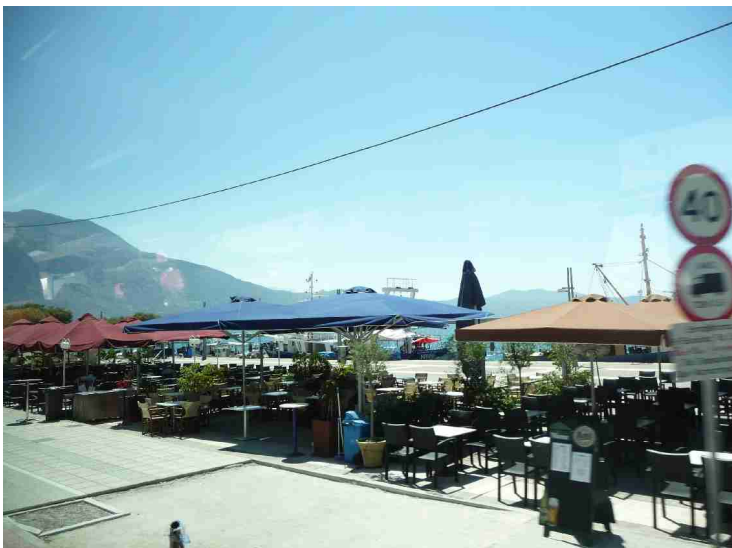
There are some refreshing sources of fresh water in the sea outside the town beach in Stoupa. The village is also known for being the birth place of the known novel character, Zorba. Here he danced on the beaches in the sunset.



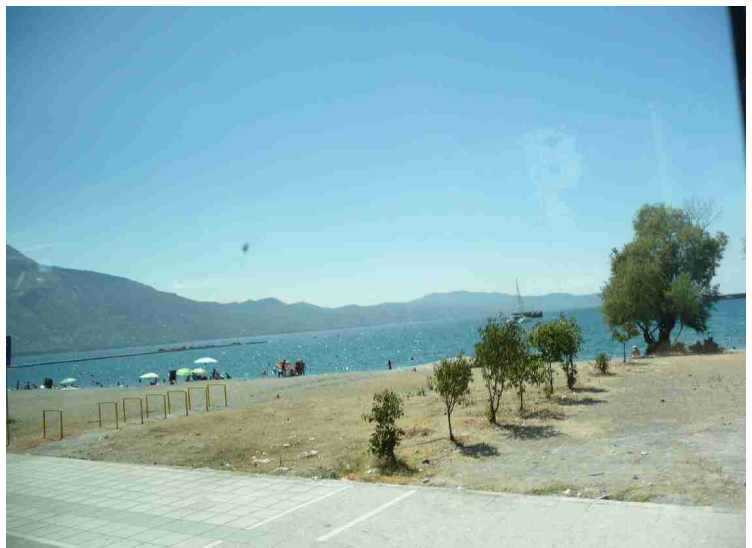
This is at the airport in Kalamata just before entering the bus that is going to take us to Stoupa.



The guide is handing out information about the destination.



Here we are driving past the beach promenade in Kalamata.



It is a long beach.



There is a mountain range called Taigetus going south on the Mani peninsula. This is a part of the mountains. The highest peak is 2025m.



Here we are looking south towards Kardamili.



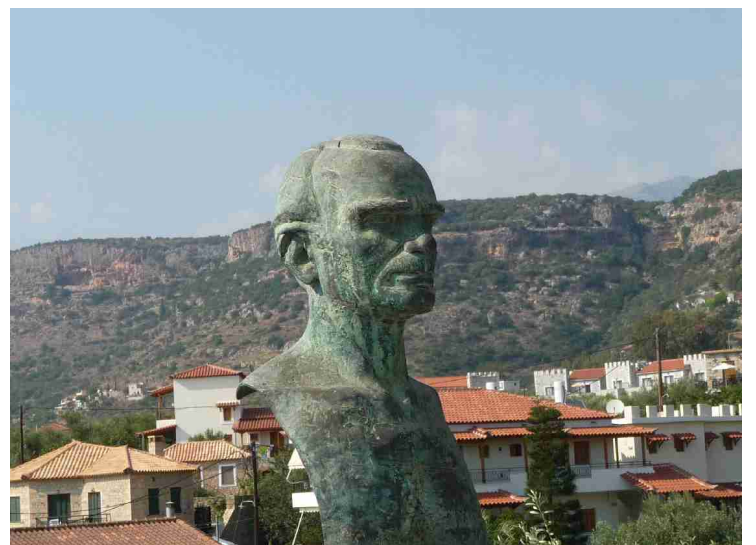
Here we have passed Kardamili and are looking back.



This is a tiny little beach further along the road.



The bus stopped at this supermarket and we had to walk from here to the hotel. The luggage was brought.



This is a statue on the way to the hotel.



The route is in here.



Halfway.



Approaching.



Arrived.



The hotel looked like this in the front. It is called Theano.

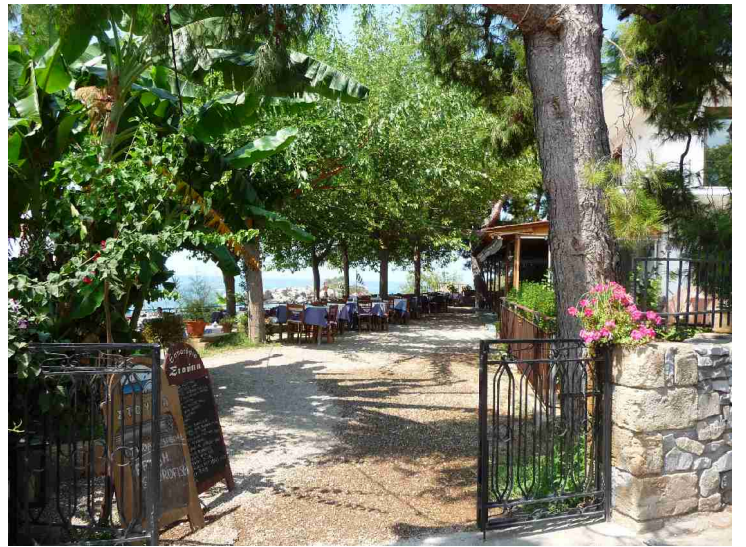




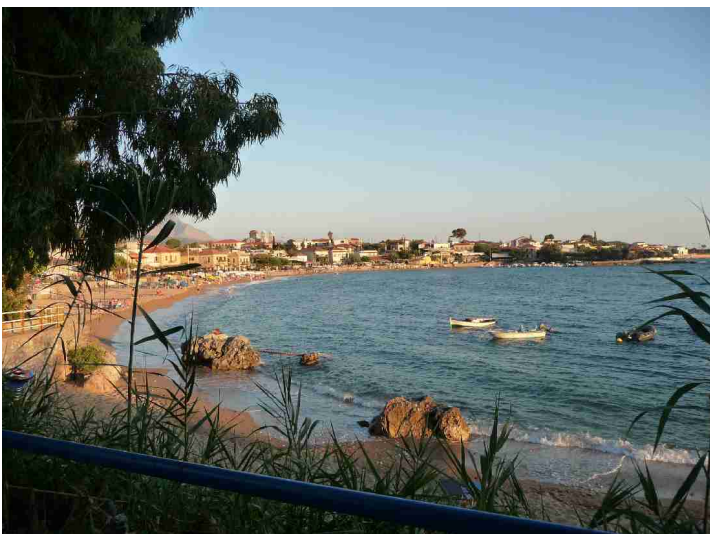
The view from the terrace. The Taigetus mountains in the background.



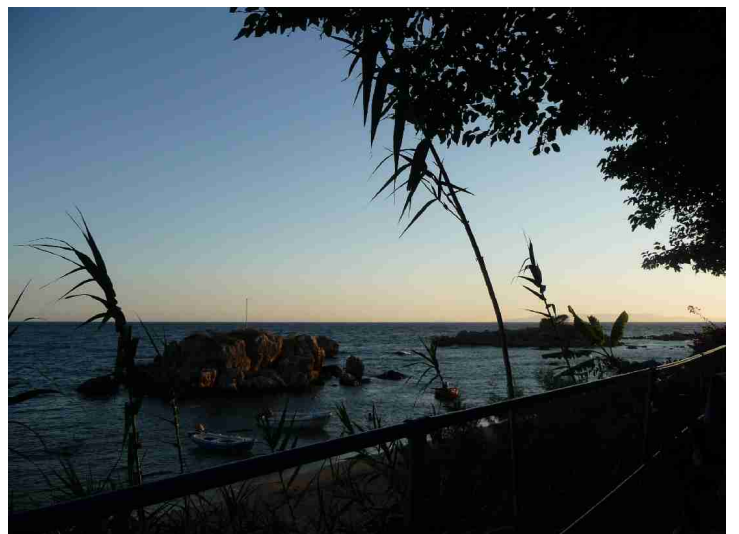
Outside the terrace a pigeon lay on its nest.



Here we had dinner the first evening.



Stoupa and the town beach.



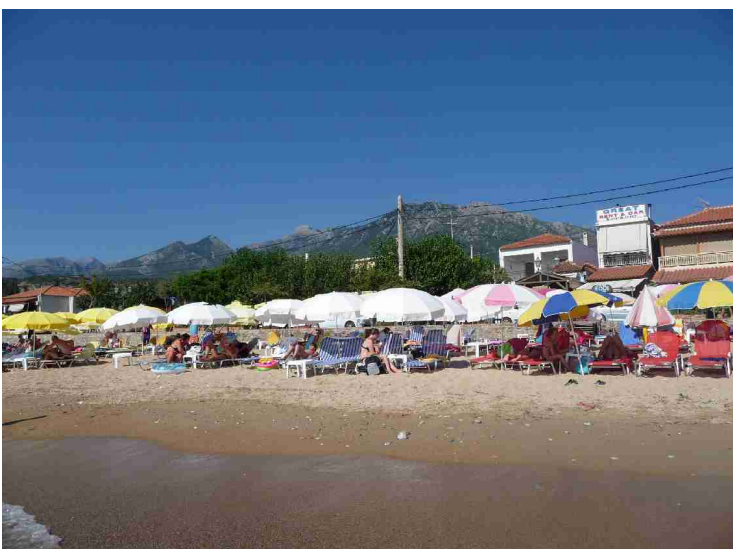
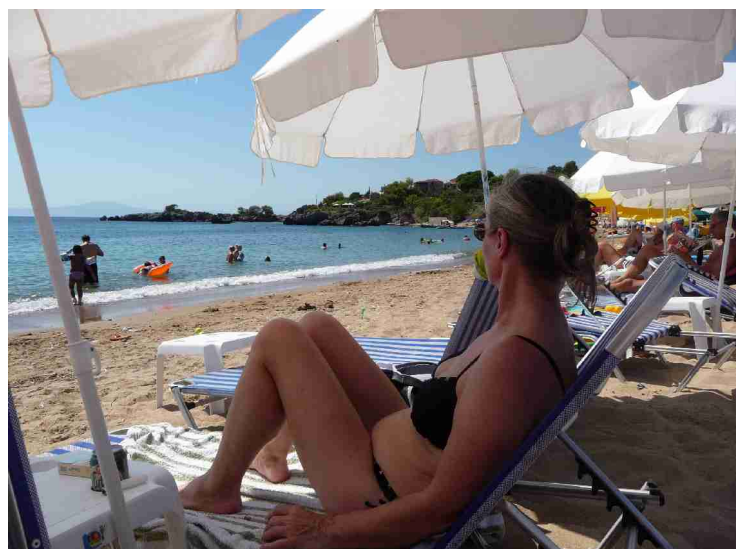
It became dark while sitting there.



This also a view from our terrace. We have zoomed in on some natural caves up in the mountain side.



We went to the beach many times. This is on the town beach in Stoupa.





Overview of the beach.



In the end of the beach there is a harbor for small boats.



One day we went for a long walk through the town and the surroundings. There is grown a lot of olives in the area. The district is famous for the good quality of the olives and the olive oil. The olive growers in Italy are buying olive oil from her to add to their own oil to improve the quality



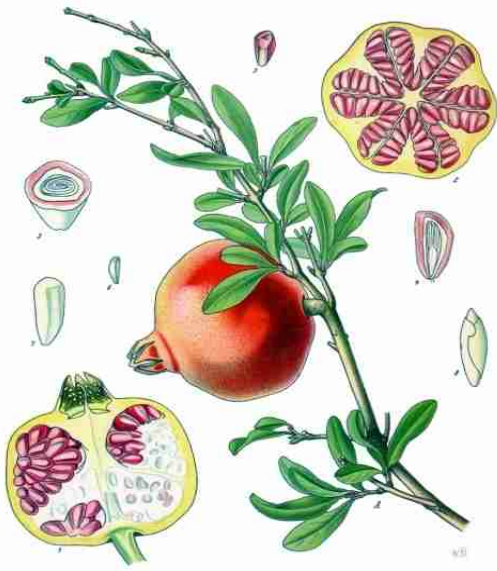
There were a lot of unripe olive. The harvesting season is from November to January.



Many places there was laid out plastic hoses with a course down to each tree. It is certainly needed extra water sometimes.



We also saw pomegranates.



The chart shows how the pomegranate looks like inside.



A parrot in a cage outside the supermarket in the town.  
When we talked to it, it said «bye-bye».



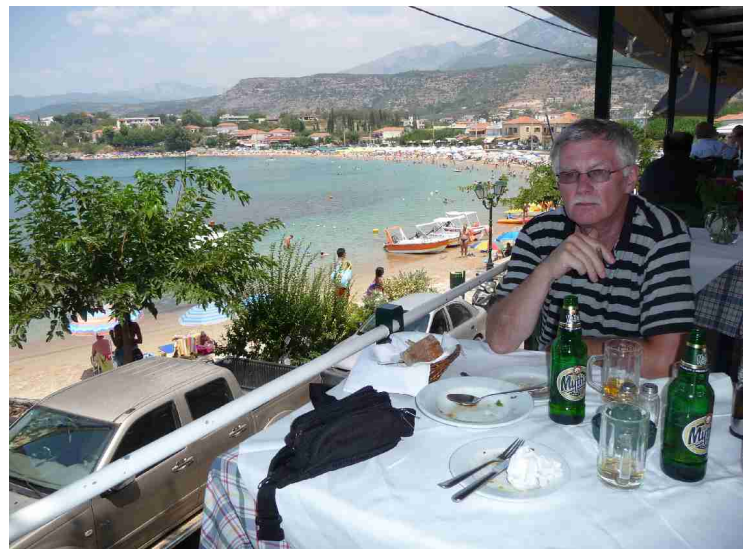
Nice flowering.



The church, Agia Triada.



Right besides the old church is being build a new church,  
which is not ready yet.



After this round trip we needed some food an a cold  
Mythos.



The day after we went to another beach lying a bit north of the town.



The beach is named Kalogria. It is nice, but we thought it was so shallow that we went again. We liked the town beach better.



The beach was quite occupied.



On the way we walked past a field where they grew thyme.



The lizards liked the sun.

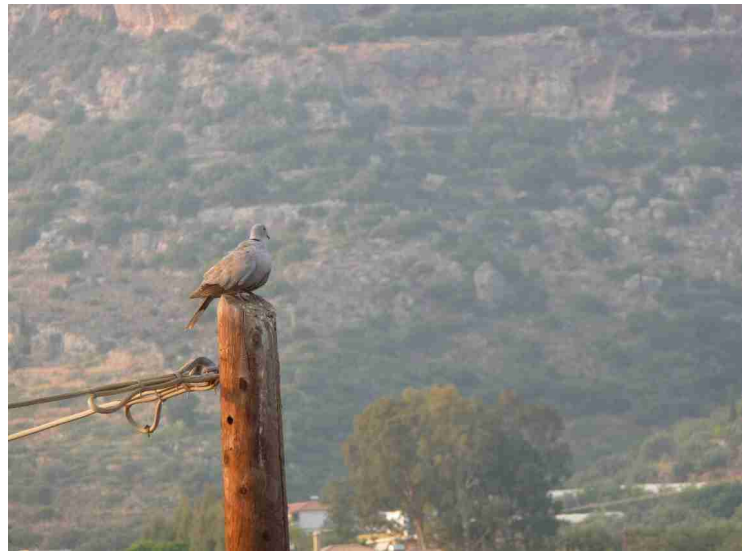


Right below our hotel there were going hens free outside.





The cock is looking after his hens.



Back at the hotel the pigeon is sitting on the pole.



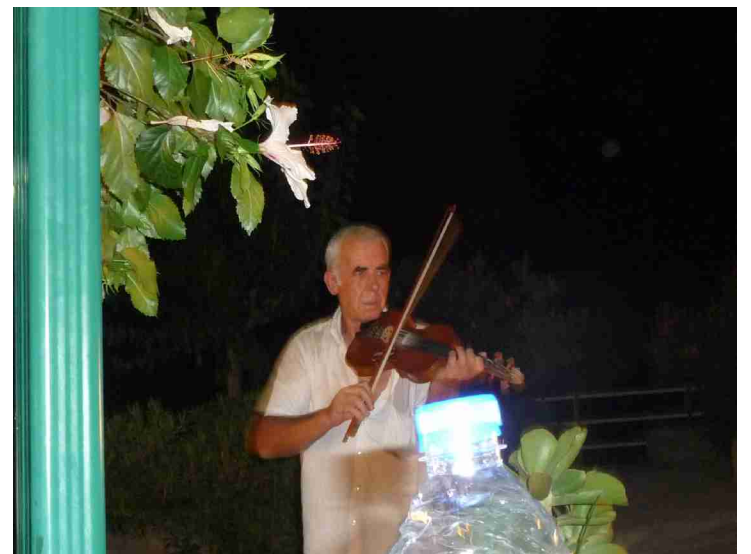
View from the terrace. The nearest houses are typical of this area, built of local stone.



More typical houses.



Out eating in the evening. There was very good food at all the restaurants. Typical cost for 2 dinner, ½ liter wine and 2 ouzo was 20 euro or 160 kroner.



While sitting there this violinist came past together with his grandchild, who went among the restaurant guests gathering money.



One day we walked the coastal road to the neighbor town, Agios Nicholaos. It was sizzling hot, 30 degrees in the shade an certainly more than 40 degrees in the sun. Here we are looking back in direction Stoupa.



It was concrete coating most of the way. Here we catch a glimpse of Agios Nicholaos.



There can be lots of different rock formations by lava stone.



It is certainly blowing on this coast.



Almost in Agios Nicholaos looking back towards Stoupa.



The harbor in Agios Nicholaos. The fishermen here are still active, so it is a genuine fishing village.



The harbor seen from the opposite direction.



We had to take a break with an ice cold Mythos.



The mole at the entrance of the little harbor.



We checked if it was possible to get a taxi back to Stoupa, but it was busy with a trip to Kalamata, so we decided to take the bus. While waiting, we had lunch at this restaurant.



The restaurant had barely opened for lunch, so there were not many guests yet.



Here came a cat past our table.



Kjell had to pat him, of course.



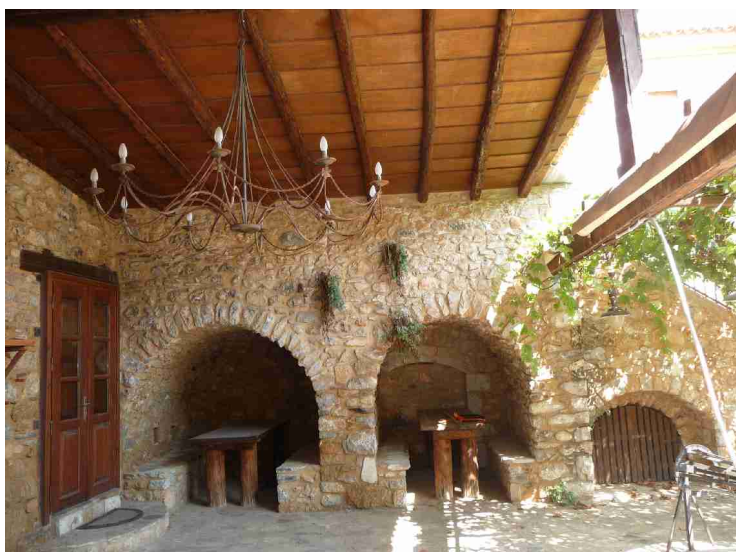
Here he is begging for food.



OK then. He got some.



View from the restaurant.



On the way to the bus stop we walked past this old restaurant. It looked as it was not in use anymore.



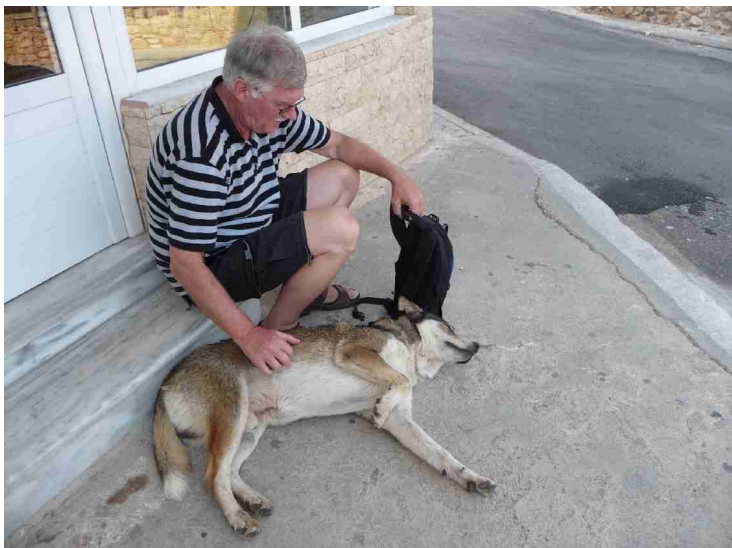
The bus stop is facing the harbor.



Here Kjell is sitting waiting for the bus.



Here we are visited by a dog.



The dog was a friend with Kjell right away.



Here they have moved to a bench.



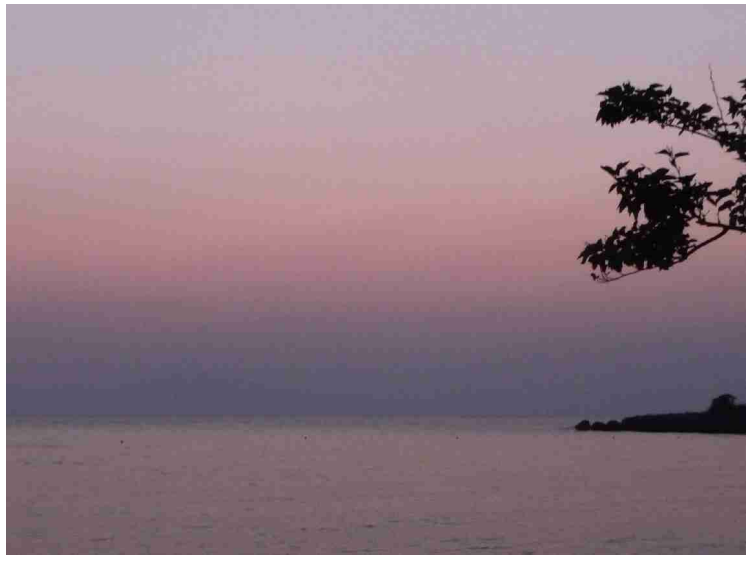
A view up the street.



The bus is coming.



After returning from Agios Nikolaos, we had dinner at this restaurant by the pedestrian street.



Here we could sit, looking at the sunset.



Here we are looking inside the restaurant.



The day after, we noticed that the pigeon's egg was hatched.



The baby pigeon is lying alone in the nest for a little while.



At one of the restaurants, both ducks and cats were together.



Someone is trying his fishing luck.



There is a sunset here too.



Now the ducks are coming.



After the inspection, they find out that everything is in order, so they walk away again.

Stoupa is a very pleasant small village with a lot of good restaurants and tavernas. We visited some of them and all of them had equally good food. It is in addition quite inexpensive here in comparison with most other places in Greece.

One thing that Kjell appreciated very much was that there were almost no mosquitoes.

In addition we liked very much the town beach.

