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2016



MYCENAEAN-MINOAN RALLY



* September 25 - October 12, 2016 *

The World's only International Rallies for small-engined cars, and Jaguars

NEWS: JUNE 2015

UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE & UNMISSABLE RALLIES

Mycenaean-Minoan Rally: Route and Regs Ready!

Liège-Brescia-Liège 2018: Microcars for the Diamond Jubilee!



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Great roads, great views, great food, great company, great hotels, great antiquities - Greece has so much to offer!



Three years in the planning, our exciting all-new **Mycenaean-Minoan Rally 2016** is finally coming together! A huge amount of work has already gone into this event, including exploring parts of Greece in 2013 and Crete in 2014. This year we will carry out a full recce of our planned route, exactly one year in advance, so we can be absolutely sure that what we have planned is not only feasible, but combines the right mix of challenge and relaxation to ensure that you come away with a real sense of achievement, but not needing another holiday to recover from it!

The Regulations and Entry Form are now available - if you haven't received a separate email with them attached, and you would like to, please tell us. If you're keen to come on the event, please send a £500 deposit as soon as possible to reserve a place, as if current levels of interest are maintained, we expect the event to be rapidly over-subscribed. We are reserving 25 rooms at present, including 3 for organisers, marshals and back-up crew, so 22 cars is the maximum - and in Monemvasia, that means block-booking the only two hotels available!

As you will see from the schedule on the right, we will stay two nights in most of our hotels, three in some - so if you fancy an extra half or full day off, there will be plenty of opportunities to do so. Time off will be built in even for the keenest competitors to visit many of the wondrous historic sights and delightful cities we pass along the way, and while the vast majority of lunches and dinners will be provided, when we visit places

Mycenaean-Minoan Rally Provisional Schedule

Sunday September 25: Igoumenitsa to Ioannina

Start at the ferry port, finish at delightful lakeside hotel

Monday September 26: Ioannina to Ioannina

Explore the mountains of the north, returning to the same hotel

Tuesday September 27: Ioannina to Thessaloniki

Heading east to Greece's co-capital, stunning hotel in historic centre

Wednesday September 28: Thessaloniki to Thessaloniki

Exploring north-east Greece towards the Turkish and Bulgarian borders

Thursday September 29: Thessaloniki to Thessaloniki

Options: explore the historic city or tackle a Circuit Lap Consistency Test

Friday September 30: Thessaloniki to Karpenisi

Down to central Greece, taking in the unmissable Delphi ruins

Saturday October 1: Karpenisi to Kefhalonia

Going west, we take a floating bridge to the island of Leukada, then a ferry to Kefhalonia

Sunday October 2: Kefhalonia to Kefhalonia

Exploring the delightful island of Kefhalonia from our beachfront hotel

Monday October 3: Kefhalonia to Monemvasia

Ferry to Zakynthos, a great Special Test then ferry to the Peloponnese

Tuesday October 4: Monemvasia to Monemvasia

Visit to Mycenae, plus enjoy our unique hotels in a mediaeval castle village on the Med

Wednesday October 5: Monemvasia to **Overnight Ferry to Crete**

Taking in a big circuit test before the ferry: 30% off thanks to Superfast Ferries

Thursday October 6: **Ferry** to Chania

The delightful island of Crete: early to our fabulous harbourside hotel to explore the town

Friday October 7: Chania to Chania

Western Crete has so much wonderful scenery to drive, plus a kart circuit Special Test

Saturday October 8: Chania to Heraklion

Heading east across the island, including a visit to the superb historic palace of Phaestos

Sunday October 9: Heraklion to Heraklion

Cradle of the Minoan civilisation, Knossos is unmissable; explore the city and museums

Monday October 10: Heraklion to Heraklion

East to a unique beachside pine forest and Stelvio-beating climb, up 800m from the sea

Tuesday October 11: Heraklion to **Overnight Ferry to Athens**

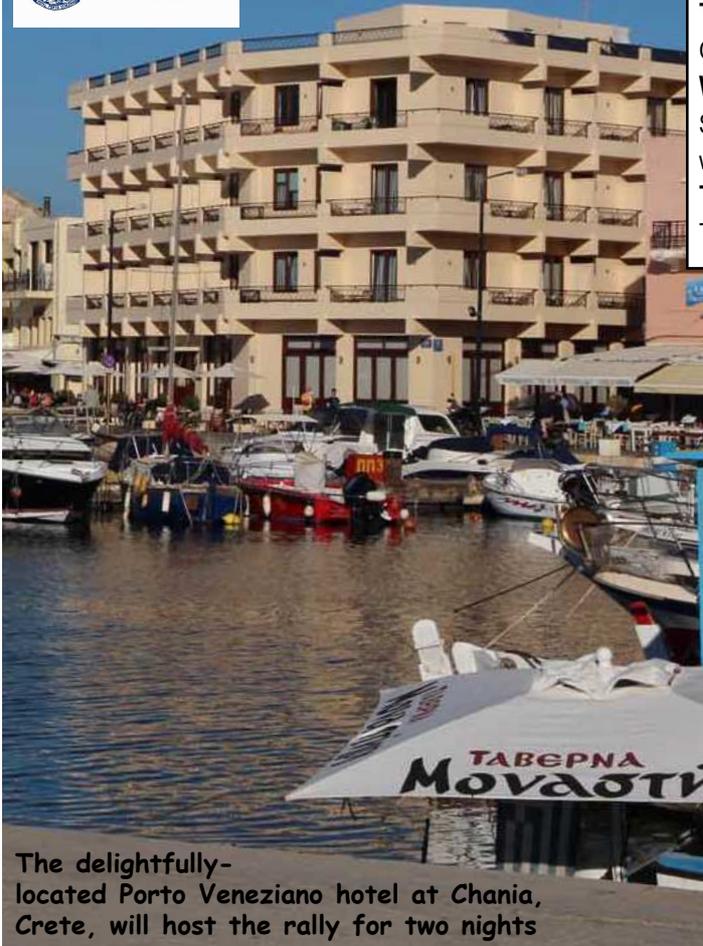
Our last day on Crete will take in more terrific roads and scenery, or shop if you prefer

Wednesday October 12: **Ferry** to Athens - day off + Prizегiving

Spectacular climax to the event in one of Athens' finest hotels, and the Prizегiving Dinner with superb views of the Parthenon

Thursday October 13: Athens to.....

The choice is yours, either head back to Igoumenitsa for the ferry or stay on in Athens



The delightfully-located Porto Veneziano hotel at Chania, Crete, will host the rally for two nights

where we know you'd like to explore the great range of restaurants available, we will leave you free to do just that.

As on past events, you will be provided with detailed maps to plot and follow the route - this time it is likely to be a map book from Greek publisher Orama, as our great supporters of the past, Michelin and Freytag & Berndt, do not have good maps of Greece, only of Crete.

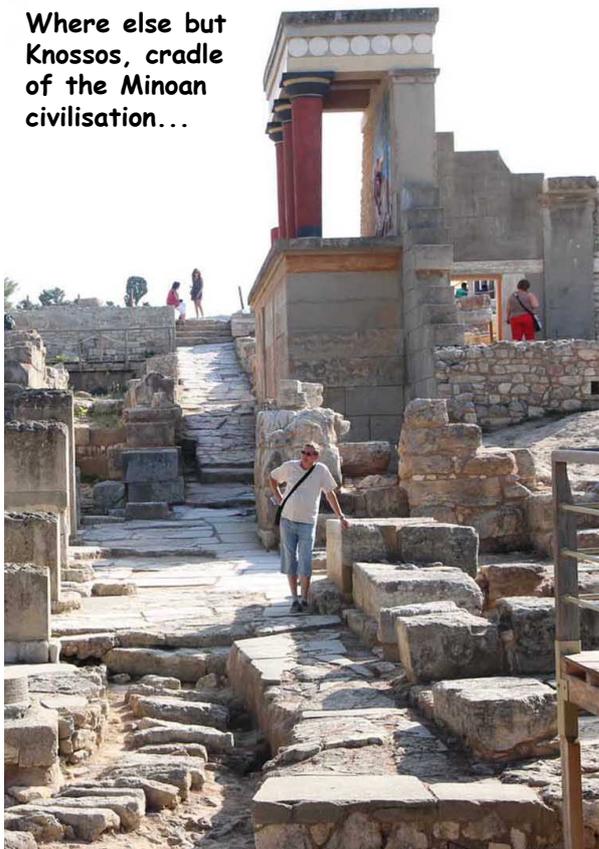
SNG Barratt will once again provide a substantial stock of spares across the range of models for our wonderful RAC Rescue crew, Simon and Mike, to carry: Simon's fully-equipped RAC Rescue van will follow the entire event. Superfast Ferries will give you a 30% discount on both the ferries to/from Crete and for all that need them, the ferries between Bari in southern Italy and Igoumenitsa, where the rally will start. We are negotiating with travel agents and will let you know shortly how to book these crossings, either through a UK travel agent or direct with Superfast Ferries. Based on 2015 fares, the Crete crossing is likely to cost €285-400 per car depending on the standard of accommodation you choose, and the Adriatic crossing €350-650.

As always, we will have a range of circuit special tests, of which two have already been confirmed - one at the superb 1100m Pistapark kart circuit of Chania, Crete, pictured in the last newsletter, and the other at the ALEZ track, on the island of Zakynthos, where we will be hosted by the very enthusiastic and hospitable Zakynthian Automotive Club. Spectacularly located in an old quarry, their circuit is twisty and fun. It's primarily used as a drift circuit, so anyone who fancies drifting their E-type or XK around the test might pick up bonus points - at least with the natives, who have promised to turn out en masse to greet us! We hope to confirm three more circuits by the time of our 2015 recce, including at least one large enough for a lap consistency test.



Spectacularly located ALEZ circuit on Zakynthos

Where else but Knossos, cradle of the Minoan civilisation...



If blasting round circuits isn't your thing, please don't be dismayed! The circuit tests are, time-wise, a very small part of the event and you are more than welcome to just come and watch, or use the time to fit in an extra visit or some rest and relaxation. The scoring of the event is based on penalties: obviously you will pick up some for missing a test, but if you're not concerned about winning, who cares - we have participants on every event who choose not to drive some or all of the competitive tests and that's absolutely fine with everyone - the event is about having a great time driving our beautiful cars in like-minded company in an unforgettable setting, whether you choose to compete or not is entirely secondary to that.

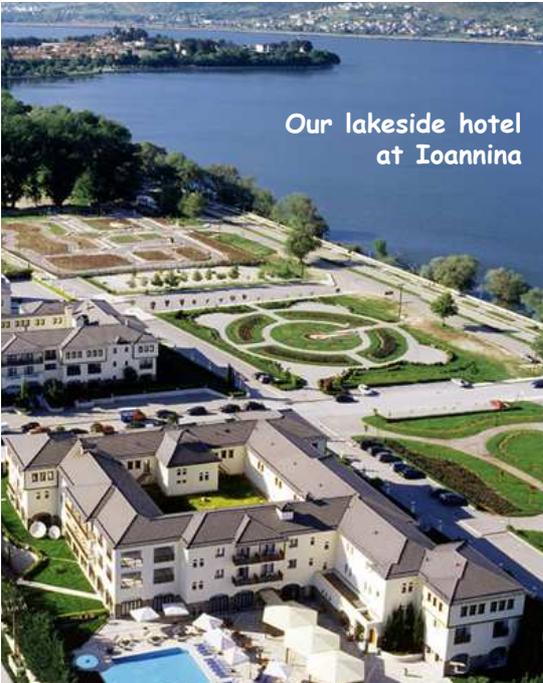
We really hope that XK and E-type owners will gather from all over Europe and beyond for this unmissable rally: we have already had enquiries from as far afield as New Zealand. We appreciate that this is a much longer event and for some it may be impossible to spare so much time - but if you possibly can, we are confident you will not regret it - and if you can't, why not think about who you might like to share your car with, doing half the event each? It would be easy to swap drivers/co-drivers mid-event, especially when we skirt Athens to take the ferry to Crete on October 5...

As explained in the last newsletter, we spent over a year looking at all different ways to get the cars to and fro, getting quotes from shippers, from road transport companies, and checking out many motorail and ferry options, finally concluding that the ideal solution for British and other northern European entrants was motorail overnight from Dusseldorf (N Germany) to Alexandria before driving down Italy for the overnight ferry from Bari to Igoumenitsa in the NW of Greece. Well, Deutsche Bahn in

their wisdom have cancelled that motorail, so back to square one! And the answer is actually far simpler. Average driving time from Calais to Bari is 18 hours 11 minutes, which translates into two long days (600-650 miles each) or three short ones (400-425 miles each). It's all motorway, so boring but relatively easy. For those doing the high speed two-day run, a night in the stunning Castello di Pavone just off the E25 Chamonix-Milan motorway would be our recommendation; for those making a more relaxed run, there are far wider options. Let us know how you'd prefer to do it (each way) and we will put you in touch with others following a similar route pattern so you can get together. The RAC boys will be driving down and back too, of course, probably on the two-day schedule...

One of the greatest surprises - and delights - of our Cretan recce was not just the weather, the stunning scenery and the deserted roads, but the super-smooth road surfaces on most of them





Our lakeside hotel
at Ioannina



The majestic Electra Palace Hotel
in the centre of Thessaloniki...

For those who don't fancy the motorway thrash, we will soon have prices to get cars transported from the UK (and possibly other northern European countries) to Bari, where those of us who are driving down will hook up with the transporter and load the cars onto the ferry. You can then fly in to Ioannina Airport (the flights are under £100 from London via Athens and you can get a taxi to Igoumenitsa for €70-odd) and meet your car as it comes off the ferry. Alternatively, arrange with other crews who enjoy driving, to drive your car down for you. Let us know your preferences and we will do everything we can to ensure a smooth journey.

Our first night's hotel at Ioannina - where we would recommend Greek competitors and anyone flying in to meet their car off the ferry stay an extra night before the start - is the splendid Hotel du Lac, a Spa hotel right beside the Pamvotis lake. Despite its peaceful setting, the hotel is in the heart of this capital city of the Epirus region and is a short walk from its historic centre, where you can visit the castle that at the turn of the 18th century was the home of Turkish-Albanian despot Ali Pasha and his harem of 300 women...

From Ioannina we move to Thessaloniki, and the majestic Electra Palace Hotel: built in one of the most impressive city squares of Greece, facing the endless sea of the Thermaikos Gulf, its architecture at once imposing and noble, it is one of the city's architectural gems. Inside the hotel's Byzantine-inspired exterior, hides a neoclassical heart: wood panelling, marble inlay and wooden floors, plush carpets, cabriole and chesterfield sofas, ornate furniture, luxurious details, generous amenities and, of course, breathtaking views: on a clear day one can easily see as far as Mount Olympus across the gulf. Beneath the Electra Palace Thessaloniki's windows and balconies, lies the lively centre of a vibrant city: Aristotelous Square. In between city square and mighty mountain, the expansive horizon, the endless blue of the sea.

There really is the potential for a truly unforgettable rally in Greece and Crete - it's a big commitment but it will be well, well worthwhile. We do hope we can persuade you: do please send a deposit to reserve a place as soon as possible! In the next newsletter, news of more of our splendid hotels, circuits, routes, scenery and visits on this unique, all-new event for Jaguar XKs & E-types...

