

Louise Katris News correspondent on the Island of Kastellorizo

Kastellorizo –March 29 2006 - Total eclipse of the Sun.

A total eclipse of the Sun is an inspiring event. Everyone should ensure that they experience at least one in their lifetime and one of the countries and islands which the Sun eclipse will be visible in terms of its climate and observational facilities is our very own Kastellorizo and the east coast of our neighbour Turkey.

On the map below you will find the path of the 2006 Total Solar Eclipse, which should give you some idea of why Kastellorizo has been chosen as a viewing place for Astronomers, University students of Astrophysics and Photographers. The sun eclipse will be visible by millions of people over a path up to 190 km wide.

Wednesday, 29th March 2006, the shadow of the Moon will sweep a band starting from Brazil, through Atlantic Ocean, Gold Coast of Africa, Saharan Desert, Mediterranean Sea, Turkey, Black Sea, Georgia, Russian Federation, northern shores of Caspian Sea, Kazakhstan; ending in Mongolia. After Africa, the eclipse path crosses the Mediterranean Sea and enters the Asian continent through Turkey. The path width is 171 km, and the duration on the centreline is 3 minutes 48 seconds. After this it will leave Turkey from the north east coast then it crosses the Black Sea, cuts a corner of Georgia, and then enters Russia, running across the north end of the Caspian Sea.



Kastellorizo is situated in the bottom left corner where the black spots are underneath Kas and close to the central line

Forum to be held on Kastellorizo in 2006 as Greece, Turkey seek closer tourism cooperation – Article in Athens News.

Greece and Turkey are examining ways to further boost cooperation in the tourism sector, this year's forum was the first to be held at a ministerial level in Samos, with Greek Tourism Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos and his Turkish Minister Atilla Koc.

The Greek minister proposed that the next forum in 2006 to be held on the isle of **Kastellorizo** and adjacent Kas, a proposal accepted by the Turkish side. Addressing the event, the Greek minister stressed that cooperation was aimed to facilitate policies for the creation of an area of stability, safety, friendship, understanding and cooperation in the region. "Travellers do not choose destinations with friction, problems and crises. They want to meet our culture, our beautiful natural environment, to travel freely. And that's what our tourist cooperation aims to," Avramopoulos said.

The Greek minister emphasized that Greece does not consider Turkey as a competitor in tourism and added that tourism policies could converge up to some extent. In response the Turkish minister agreed that their combined forces would be of common interest to all, and welcomed the idea of boosting tourism between the two countries.

Artemis Shining – or the Eclipse of Kastellorizo

On 29 March 2006, astronomers and eminent scientists from around the world, joined thousands of lunar enthusiasts and locals to gaze at the skies over Kastellorizo. Megisti was the only point in Europe to experience the total solar eclipse. An estimated 3,000 visitors watched as Artemis passed before Helios and day turned into night.

The island, a centre for the worship of Apollo in classical times, seemed to reel with echoes of ancient beliefs. Rumours of strange happenings dominated waterfront talk. Earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, whirling dervishes all seemed probable in the gathering darkness. The school was closed early and teachers demanded that parents collect their children, as the devil was foretold to appear. Pregnant women were warned to cover bulging bellies with layer upon layer of blankets while being force fed garlic water to ward off evil spirits. Pappa Yiorgi prescribed the use of strong spirit as a preventative measure and he proceeded to pace up and down the limani. It was a festival atmosphere.

Folklore had foretold that only an outward display of virtue would ensure the safety of the island and its inhabitants. Eclipse glasses were donned early as the radiance of gold crosses and evil eye pendants interfered with astronomical instruments.

The frenzy of the massed tourist Euro served to distract some from the immanency of the danger. For Euro 45/kg you could eat local fish (fresh from Rhodes). Extra tables were squeezed onto the waterfront and in particular, some restaurateurs were preparing as if for the last supper.

Others were hastily stamping souvenir post cards at the bargain price of Euro10 each. T-shirts were for sale for those who had made the pilgrimage. Eclipse glasses became the great fashion statement. Plain white ones could be had for Euro 5. Whilst original (Turkish) design could not be secured for love nor money.

Five boat loads of guests arrived to swell the number of visitors who were already on the island. A NASA expert was heard to praise the clarity of the Kastellorizo sky. By the end of the day, it was accepted into local wisdom that Kastellorizo was going to become the new home of the EU Space Agency. The Greek government sent an enormous research ship to test the affect of the Eclipse on Chlorophyll levels in harbour plant life. Many of us, never knew that plant life survived beneath the Kastellorizo limani.

The island bristled with the barrels of telescopes pointing upwards. Everywhere from the castle to the Megisti Hotel was crowded with lenses and squinting experts. The array of Greek political and military luminaries rivalled the array of telescopes.

We looked down upon the town as the sky began to darken. Suddenly the locals could be seen streaming from town and heading for high ground. A better view or hedging their bets? The temperature dropped, the birds and cats were silent as finally the moon passed in front of the sun. At exactly 10.52 GMT we experienced the full solar eclipse and could stare with the naked eye at the sight of the sun's penumbra surrounding the moon. An unforgettable experience in an unforgettable location – what more can I say?

Congratulation to the Mayor, Mr Panayiri and his Council for the organisation of the event, which was executed without a hitch. Congratulations to all the locals for not allowing Artemis and Hellios to eclipse their legendary welcome. Every person and every news report praised the island's hospitality and beauty as much as they did the eclipse.

For those who missed this most amazing of natural phenomenon, there's always 2088...

Michele Kiosoglous
Kastellorizo
29 March 2006



LAND FOR SALE – Limani side Kastellorizo

- Waterfront block of land for sale on Kastellorizo - near the Megisti hotel; No one can build in front and block views;
- Land size = 80 square metres
- Asking price = 310,000.00 Euros;
- Vendor has all genuine documentation and necessary proof of ownership paper work;
- Photos included.

For all enquires please contact: Michele Kiosoglous
+30 6 947 508 378 or via email:
mkiosoglous@grlaw.org

Kastellorizo's new Soccer Ground

A donation of 25,000 euro from a business man who attended the September 2005 Nautilus and Shipping Conference held on Kastellorizo and a grant of 15,000 euro from the Government will go towards two new soccer grounds in Mandraki, this is a great thing for the physical education of the school children as well as the local soccer team O.E.M Megisti.

Speaking of which a friendly match was organized in October 2005 between Megisti and Turkey, the game was played in Kas and the final result was 4-0 to the home team, maybe next year !

Visitors to Kastellorizo August- October 2005

Steven Dimer (Melbourne)

John and Mathew Christopoulos (Melbourne)

Maria Katris - Melbourne

Jim P Paltos and Jane (Melbourne)

Connie and Paul Gregory from Melbourne, with their sons Thomas and Jason, and girlfriend Jenny Barritt, who came from England to be with them, their nephew Justin Gregory (Perth) and Nicholas Antonas (Melbourne).

Andrew Foundas (Perth)

Arthur Auguste and friend Jenny Gorman and her daughter Kelly (Perth)

Fay and Van Cooney and their son Rick (Sydney)

Births

On Friday 21 October 2005 Elia and Anna Dimer had a son – Archie James Dimer. First grandson for Christine and George Dimer and great-grandfather for Steve Paltos. All the family are overjoyed and baby Archie is doing very well. To celebrate his arrival grandmother Christine provided yenitoria and katoumarya at the Senior Citizens monthly gathering in November.

On 17 September 2005, Louise Katris our newspaper correspondent from Kastellorizo gave birth in Rhodes to a little girl – Varvara (Vara) Karayannis. Her mother Maria didn't make the birth in time as she was in flying time somewhere between Dubai and Athens. Congratulations to both Louise and Yiorgo on the arrival of the first child.

Congratulations

Peter Thomas Kritikides received his degree of Bachelor of Laws (with Honours), on the 21st of April, 2005 from Monash University. He is undertaking his Articles with a city law firm.

Peter is the son of Irene (Paltos) and grandson of Peggy and the late Peter Paltos.

To Simeon Bisas, who was selected and performed in the role of Champmathieu in Les Miserables. The production was presented by the Scotch College Drama Department in association with Presbyterian Ladies College. It was performed over three nights (with great

success) from 1-3 September 2005 in the Geoffrey McComas Theatre at the new James Forbes Academy at Scotch College in Hawthorn. Simeon is the son of Jim and Pauline Bisas and the eldest grandson of Jack and Marika Bisas.

Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to Jacob Fronitsas for his Australia Day honours for the work he has done for the nursing home.

80th Birthday Celebration

Letters coming in of congratulations are from:

President and Committee Kastellorizian Association of Victoria. Many thanks for a delightful evening on Saturday 8th October 2005
We had a great night, roll on 2205.

Colin and Val Fermanis

Christening

Varvara (Vara) Karayannis was christened at Taxiahon Church in Mentone on Saturday 21 January 2006. Godfathers were Vangeli Papoutsis from Kastellorizo and George Katris. Varvara is the first grand-daughter of Maria Katris and fourth great-grandchild of Con & Chrissie Adgemis. Interstate guest that came were - from Sydney – Eva & Jim Savvas, Sylvia & Peter Paras, George & Anna Cooney, Colin & Anna Pavlidis, Chris, John & Peter Andronikas, Rose Adgemis, Christine Walker, Rodd & Despina Bolland, John & Analie Adgemis. From Perth – Manuel & Anne Foundas. From Canberra – Sandra, Georgina & Jessica Georges and from Greece - Despina Kritikou. Louise & Yiorgo would like to thank all their relatives and friends in Melbourne who also attended.



Marriages

On Saturday 26 November 2005 Steve Stavros second son of Glygeria and Panagiotis (dec'd) married Loretta Dobson.

On Sunday 18 December 2005 George Katris (son of Maria Katris and grandson of Con and Chrissie Adgemis) married Jodie Fox (youngest daughter of John and Jenny Fox of Toorak). The wedding ceremony was held in Brookville Park where the sun shined favourably upon a beautiful ceremony which incorporated both Greek and Jewish traditions. The reception was held at Lincoln of Toorak with the night being filled with great food, music and entertaining speeches. The couple then honeymooned in Western Australia with their main destinations being the Margaret River and Ningaloo Reef.



The wedding of Michelle Zorbas and Christophe Delaire was held at Gardens House, Botanical Gardens, on February 19th. Michelle is the elder daughter of Marie and Nicholas Zorbas. Christophe's parents came from France for the occasion. A French wedding ceremony will be held at Saint Priest en Jarez, France, in June.



World Masters Games

Congratulations to George Cotis (Papacotis) of Sydney, on his success at the recent Masters games on the Gold Coast. George won 3 silver medals in the men's over 70 long jump, triple jump and 60 metre sprint. George is the sister of Christina Pavlou.

Sponsorship

The association should think of sponsoring a child or two from underprivileged countries for just \$39 per month x 1, from Plan Aust or World Vision. You can access information on 13-32-40 or on line, www.worldvision.com.au. Remember **all the taxes** we are paying from the lease, income, could be going to a worthy cause at no extra cost to the association, as all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Sylvia Coates (member) of KAV.

Accessing the website

We have had numerous people from all parts of the world accessing our website. Here are some of the emails we have received:

From: Krämer Robert

<Robert.Kraemer@dwd.de>

To: "'info@kastellorizo.com.au'"

<info@kastellorizo.com.au>

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A happy new year and so much love and peace in 2006 from germany for all friends of Kastellorizo

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From: Michalis Zouloufos

<zoulouf@yahoo.com>

To: info@kastellorizo.com.au

Subject: Congratulations!

My name is Michael Zouloufos, Reserve Ltnt Captain (Artillery) of the Greek Army, and the purpose of my e-mail is to congratulate you on the contents of your excellent site. I served in Kastellorizo from 1/7/2004 to 18/2/2005. I did a tour in Ro that lasted for 45 days, 1/10/04-16/11/04. During my tour in Ro, I was awarded two awards for excellent service from the Chief of the Greek Army. I had the most amazing time in the island of Kastellorizo. I lived at the property of kiria Anastasia (nee Karavelatzi) kai kirio Kosta for two months, and then for 5 months at kiria Kristallo Veniti's and her husband's kiriou Komninou Moustaka. From the island I have the fondest memories. I met a lot of Kazzies and I have dear friends from the Kazzie community. Nowadays, I have my own engineering consultancy in Siros, another island of the Aegean Sea, and I operate in all the islands. I would like to offer my services -FREE OF CHARGE- to any of your future schemes regarding the island. It is the least I can do for a place where I felt like home. Should you be interested in my offer, or have any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.