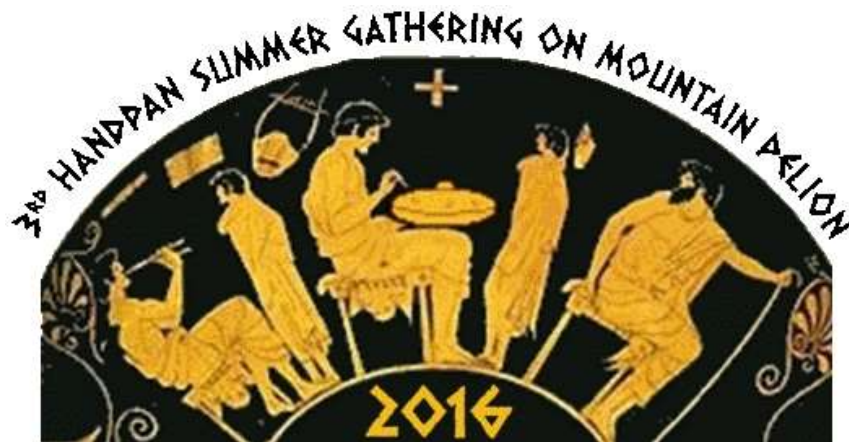




Dear friend and fellow handpan enthusiast,

A small team has been organising for three years now a gathering in Pelion, Greece. With this message this team would like to provide some more information on the event and invite you to participate, if you wish.

First of all, I would like to thank everybody expressed interest and as not everybody has access to the forum, the e-mail address greekpanning@yahoo.com was created and all announcements will be distributed from there in a form of a newsletter, too, to all who send an e-mail to that address. If you want to be a member of the mailing list, feel free to drop a line.

Now, some more info on the gathering. As mentioned upon the announcement, it is an attempt to get handpan enthusiasts together in a venue in Greece, organised by fellow enthusiasts that share the love for the instruments so the whole gathering has no participation fees, no extra obligations, no hidden costs; just come and enjoy handpans and Greece, a unique combination to treasure for life.

What we will do

Past two gatherings were in the form of “one big company” and we would like to stay like that so under this prism the organising of the event took place. So, the evening of Friday 26th of August will start with the introduction of everybody and continue with the live performance of handpans under the famous Platanous tree of Tsagarada, as guests of the “[Lost Unicorn](#)”. The event will be of an “open mic” form and a jamming session with anyone wishing to participate will follow until as long as we want.



Saturday morning will be free for anybody wishing to visit the nearby villages and beaches and a traditional



lunch will be held in a restaurant with local delicacies and drinks. For the evening session, a whole bar will be reserved for the gathering, right next to hotel “Kallisto”, more info on the hotel follow in the relative section.

Sunday will be departure day for many but handpan sessions and jamming will be organised. For the ones who are staying longer, the evening will be spent either in a nearby village of Kissos, panning at the yard of the local church of Agia Marina (built around 1650 AD) or at one of the

magical beaches of the area.

How to get there

The two main events will be held in the village Tsagarada, in Mount Pelion. Pelion is halfway between Athens and Thessaloniki, approx. 4h drive from either. There are daily flights to both cities from a lot of international airports, including discount airlines while during that period, charter flights will be available, too. Obviously, renting a car is a great option to get to Pelion but not one-way. There are trains and coaches (public transport) leaving regularly to Pelion from both Athens and Thessaloniki; intermediate destination from either departing point in the city of Volos.

Once entering mount Pelion, the scenery is rewarding, combining mountainous, winding roads with crystal clear waters of Aegean Sea.



The short video shot in the area is the best way to explain what is meant here. For those who do not know the area, it is strongly recommended to extend their stay either before or after the gathering, so they can get a chance to enjoy the wonders of nature in the area. We, the organising committee, will be more than happy to give extra help so please feel free to ask.

Where to stay / eat



Each one is free to choose from the numerous accommodation solutions in the area (some of them are listed below) but we managed to get a deal with “[Kallisto traditional houses](#)”, a newly built guesthouse, walking distance from the village centre. Next to the hotel though, there is a bar that is not regularly open on summer but will be booked for us for Saturday. The rate of a double/dual bedroom is 50€/night plus an extra 10€/night if any extra beds are required. Breakfast will be an additional 10€/couple. If we manage to get all 8 rooms of the hotel booked by the 10th of June, an additional 10% discount will be granted. So, if you wish to book early, please let us know ASAP. If though you wish to choose alternative accommodation, here is a list of available options in Tsagarada (more can be found online):

Establishment	Price per night	Additional to the web contact info
Elli's house	55€ for 2 bed room 65€ for 3 bed room	Fotini +30 6937030355
Hotel Amalthia	75€ for 2 bed room	Mary +30 6974320065
Odos Kentavron	60€ for 2 bed room	Areti or Vasilis +30 2426049900
Kleopatra	54€ for 2 bed room	+30 24260 49133

Whatever your choice, it is advised to book early as time of the gathering is considered to happen at the peak of the summer touristic period of the area.

As for food, the area has a great choice of restaurants and taverns, for all wallets. Locals are more than happy to let you know “what is good”. There is also the choice of local grocery stores and bakeries, for lighter bites.

Memorabilia

This will be the third gathering and each year is getting better and better. As last time we wished we had foreseen some memorabilia, this year we have organized tees to be available, on order. The number and sizes of the items will be limited to the ones pre-ordered, so if you wish to have one (or more), feel free to contact me before 10th of June. The price of each will be at cost (best price found until now is 6.50€/tee) and you do not have to send any money now, you can pay when you collect your item(s).



Just before closing this message, we would like to thank everybody who expressed interest, who is coming and who participated in the organization of this gathering and particularly, Maria & Panagiotis who acted as local agents in the area.

So, after all that, there is only one thing to say: Bring your handpan and any other instrument with you and come join us for jams under 1000-year-old plane trees or next to calm sea waves on the beach. Let's meet each other and collectively grow.