



FESTIVAL

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF KAZANTZAKIS AND ZORBAS: Land, People and Freedom in Kazantzakis' Mani

Stoupa, 25–27 September 2026

ORGANIZERS' NOTE

Mani —West Mani— is the living ground of this Festival: a land that carries memory, resistance and freedom. The Festival “In the Footsteps of Kazantzakis and Zorbas” returns to the encounter between two men and explores what that encounter continues to generate.

Nikos Kazantzakis and George Zorbas met here as two different ways of standing before life. From the coexistence of their differences emerged a friendship that became creative tension, experience and, ultimately, literature.

They met in a place at once rugged and open, between the earth being dug and the sea stretching out before them. Within this landscape, their relationship became a mirror of the self and, at the same time, a possibility of transcending it: an encounter capable of moving a person beyond certainty towards something else.

Today, the Festival unfolds in the very places where this relationship was born and took shape. Artistic, narrative and participatory events enter into dialogue with one another and with the place itself. The place participates in them. The land, the sea, memory and the contemporary life of Stoupa all become part of the experience.

In the present, we seek conditions for encounter, creation, freedom and inner movement. A space where difference can become relationship, and relationship an act of creation.

This is also how we understand the Festival itself: as a contemporary form of activating and transmitting intangible cultural memory, keeping alive the relationship between the place and what happened here. A shared journey of people, place and art, beginning in memory and seeking to create something alive in the present.

On behalf of KALLIERGON syn,

Vasiliki Kateri