



Concept of Operations

Artillery Club's Foreign Field Trip – Athens – 06 to 11 October 2019

Coordinator: Commandant Michael Flood (Retd)



Introduction

The Artillery Club's 2019 Foreign Field Trip will take place in Athens, with Sunday, 06 October and Friday, 11 October the travel days. By kind permission of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, the trip includes a visit to the Artillery School, located in Néa Péramos, Attikis, on Monday, 07 October.

The Field Trip is open to registered members of the Artillery Club and their respective spouses or partners. As with the successful trips in 2015 to Madrid and Segovia, in 2016 to Granada and Malaga, in 2017 to Lisbon, and in 2018 to Vienna, Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) is the Field Trip Coordinator.

This CONOPS is iterative in nature, and will evolve into Coordinating Instructions, in due course. Already, some members have indicated their intention to participate in the Field Trip.

Some participants will be arriving in Athens before Sunday, 06 October, and remaining in Vienna after Friday, 11 October for individual programmes.

Programme

At this stage of the planning process, a tentative programme of events has been prepared, which facilities scope for alternative activities, if so desired, see Annex A.

Participants are free to organise their own activities in Athens, such as visiting the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Temple of Hephaestus, the Arc of Hadrian, the Acropolis Museum, Syntagma Square (for the Changing of the Guards), Ermou Street for a shopping spree, the National Library, Plaka and Monastiraki Flea Market, art galleries and museums. Should Participants wish to enjoy the rejuvenating waters of the Greek seas, the closest beach is just 9 kilometers away from the recommended hotel.



Recommendations regarding the tentative programme will be welcomed by the Coordinator – Commandant Michael Flood (Retd).

Preparations

Participants are encouraged to timely organise their respective flights to and from Athens, and book their hotel accommodation in Athens. See Annex B for schedule of flights.

Participants are advised to check their passports, to have appropriate travel insurance, and to have in their possession a current European Health Insurance card.

Participants are also encouraged to bring appropriate dress, including Club Tie, for the visit to the Hellenic Artillery School.

Recommended Hotel

Hotel accommodation in Athens is at a premium. Whereas participants are free to select their own hotel, for obvious reasons, it is desirable that everyone uses the recommended 4 Star hotel, subject to available rooms. The recommended hotel is providing a special rate for the Field Trip.

The recommended hotel is: Polis Grand Hotel, Veranzerou 10, Athens 104 34.

Polis Grand Hotel is located in the heart of Athens, in close proximity to the main sights and attractions in the prominent historic center of the Greek capital. The metro is located about 150 meters from the hotel. The hotel comprises 100 rooms, with free wifi access, offering supreme quality services and great accommodation to all the guests. Greek hospitality at its best, with a modern twist and the highest level of dedication to bespoke services, makes every guest feel at home.

- Hotel Phone: 00 30 5243 156.
- Hotel Website: <https://www.polisgrandhotel.gr/>

The hotel is holding 15 rooms for the nights of Sunday 06 through Monday 14 October, thus facilitating those who may wish to avail of the hotel for an extended holiday in Athens.

Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) has secured a special rate for Bed and Breakfast in a superior room. The rate is €97 including VAT per room, per night, for a minimum of five nights. An additional government tax of €3 per room, per night, must be paid on arrival, (local tax is included in the special rate).

Special negotiated rates, payment terms & conditions have been agreed with the Trip Coordinator as follows:

- The special rate allows for bookings, booking modifications, or cancellation, without charges, up to Tuesday, 30 April 2019, 1800hrs local time.
- A credit card is required to guarantee, secure and payment of all reservations.
- The Hotel reserves the right to pre-authorise a credit card prior to the arrival date in order to check that sufficient funds are available.

The Hotel has kindly provided a personalised booking micro-site, which was activated on 22 March for those participants wishing to avail of the Hotel.



The link to the micro-site is: <https://polisgrand.reserve-online.net/?bkcode=IRISHARMY&checkin=2019-10-07&adult=2>)

Participants are responsible to make their required bookings availing of the booking facility on the assigned micro-site. As with normal procedures for hotel bookings, participants are encouraged to peruse the room specifications, and associated payment / cancellation conditions, by clicking on the link “**Superior Room Irish Army Officers**” on the dedicated booking page.

When the 15 rooms have been allocated, or at 1800hrs on 30 April, whichever is the earliest, the special package will expire. Thereafter, normal rates will apply for any available rooms bookable directly with the hotel.

Costs

All costs will accrue to Participants as they occur: Flights, Hotel, Internal Travel, Tours, Entrance Fees and Meals.

Coordination

Participants are requested to advise Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) by email mike5555@gmail.com of their travelling dates, flight times and hotel reservation number, copy to Club President ppakenham@eircom.net

After Action Review

Participants are encouraged to make observations on the Foreign Field Trip which will inform the Committee’s After Action Review.

Annex A. Tentative Programme as at 23 March.

Annex B. Schedule of Flights.

Annex C. Proforma: List of Participants.



Annex A

Tentative Programme

Artillery Club's Field Trip – Athens – 06 to 11 October 2018

[Timings are for Planning Purposes only]



Sunday 06 October

1300hrs: Check in Recommended Hotel: Polis Grand Hotel.

1930hrs: Coordination Brief in Hotel Lobby.

2000hrs: Group Dinner in the Hotel Restaurant.

Monday 07 October

0900hrs: Depart Hotel for the Hellenic Artillery School, Néa Péramos, including Lunch.

Tuesday 08 October

0900hrs: Depart Hotel for Island Boat Trip, including Lunch.

Wednesday 09 October

0900hrs: Depart Hotel for Athens War Museum, Vasilissis Avenue, Athens.

<http://www.warmuseum.gr/en/node/6>

1400hrs: Depart Hotel for Tour of Acropolis and Museum.

Thursday 10 October

0900hrs: Depart Hotel for Flisvos Marina <http://www.flisvosmarina.com>. Guided tour of the Battleship *G.AVEROF*, a floating Naval Museum, (<http://averof.mil.gr>).

2000hrs: Depart Hotel for Hail and Farewell Dinner, Name of Restaurant in due course.

Friday 11 October

Return to Ireland.



SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS
FOREIGN FIELD TRIP – ATHENS – OCTOBER 2019

DAY	DATE	CARRIER	FLIGHTS OUT	RETURN FLIGHTS	Tentative Activities
Wednesday	02 October	Ryan Air	0730hrs – 1335hrs		
Wednesday	02 October	Aegean Airlines	2355hrs – 0555hrs		
Thursday	03 October	No Direct Flights			
Friday	04 October	Ryan Air	0710hrs – 1325hrs		
Saturday	05 October	Aegean Airlines	2355hrs – 0555hrs		
Sunday	06 October	Ryan Air	0740hrs – 1355hrs		Travel Day
Monday	07 October	No Direct Flights			Artillery School
Tuesday	08 October	No Direct Flights			
Wednesday	09 October	Ryan Air		1400hrs – 1636hrs	
Wednesday	09 October	Aegean Airlines		2050hrs – 2305hrs	
Thursday	10 October	No Direct Flights			
Friday	11 October	Ryan Air		1355hrs – 1630hrs	Travel Day
Saturday	12 October	Aegean Airlines		2050hrs – 2305hrs	
Sunday	13 October	Ryan Air		1420hrs – 1655hrs	

