Excursion programme for accompanying members

The IWA Regional Symposium takes the pleasure to invite all the accompanying members of it to participate in a two-day scheduled tour in an attempt to exhibit the most important elements of the Cultural heritage of Patras.

Excursion Itinerary: Saturday 22 March, 2014

14:00 – Departure from the Conference Center- After lunch break
14:30 - Arrival at Achaia Clauss Winery
16:30- Coffee at Patras  lighthouse

Coffee or tea  are  important issues  for Greeks and Patras citizens. It is not just a drink but a whole way of entertainment and pleasure. Patras lighthouse or else called Faros in Greek remains a significant symbol of the city of Patras.
18:00- Stroll in the centre of the city of Patras- Free shopping also available.

**Excursion –Itinerary: Sunday 23 March, 2014-01-20 14**

O9:30- Departure from Conference Center

10:00- Arrival at the Saint Andrew Cathedral

11:00- Visit to Patras Fortress

13:00- Coffee at the Dasillio Traditional Tourist Café

The most popular destination for visitors since its establishment, is that of Achaia Clauss winery. The Achaia Clauss is the oldest and the most famous ambassador of Greece to the world of winemaking. It was founded in 1861 by Gustav’s passion to transform a winery into an estate, which reputation spread to more than 40 countries in the world. Its persistence in improving the quality and the undeniable expertise, ranks it among the most competitive wineries in the world.

Mavrodaphne, a rich liquer wine with a red ruby color captures the interest of all of the visitors as the complexity of flavors characterize this unique wine. Its discreet acidity accompanied with its velvety sweetness envelopes the palate and reveals a rich aromatic character, with an alluring finish.
Another tour destination would be that of Saint Andrew’s church which is situated in the South part of the city, and it is the most artistically significant church in the Balkans. The Cathedral of Saint Andrew is the protector saint of the city of Patras. It is situated in the east side of the city of Patras and it constitutes a pilgrimage for Christians from all over the world. According to tradition, Apostole Andrew, the first student of Jesus Christ, was crucified in this town, so a large church has been built on the exact spot of his crucifixion. In fact it is the largest church in Greece and the third largest Byzantine-style church in the Balkans. Its interior follows a marvelous Byzantine style with wall paintings and mosaics. This Cathedral is a sacred place for all Christians, where relics of the Apostole Saint Andrew are kept in a special shrine.
Patras Fortress was built around the mid- 6th century and until now it is used for cultural events, as the history of the fort is integrated with the cultural heritage of the city of Patras. The Patras Castle was built around the mid-6th century above the ruins of the ancient acropolis on a low outlying hill of the Panahaiko. The castle covers 22,725 m² and consists of a triangular outer wall, strengthened by towers and gates and further protected originally by a moat and an inner compound on the northeastern corner, also protected by a moat.

The building phases distinguishable today on the castle provide evidence for the cultural heritage of the city, integrated with the city's identity as it connects its past with the present and the future. Nowadays Patras Fortress is used for several cultural events.

(http://www.panoramio.com/photo)

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