

THE TATOI NATIONAL FOREST



Few words about Tatoi



The Tatoi Forest, owned today by the Greek state, is linked to historical events and people who for many years played a leading role in the history of our country. Three governments, headed by Eleftherios Venizelos, Dimitrios Rallis and Georgios Papandreou, have been sworn-in in Tatoi.

Tatoi became the property of former King George I in 1872 to be used as the summer residence of the royal family. In 1898, after successive land purchases and an King of Parliament granting the King the former national estate of Mpafi, the private estate of Tatoi reached its maximum total surface: 4.742,7 hectares.

In March 2003 Tatoi became the property of the State, after compensation of the former royal family, and in September of that year it was declared a landmark.

The Tatoi Public Forest spans 4.200 hectares of forest land at the foot of Mount Parnitha in Northeast Attica, approximately 21 km from the center of Athens. It is eas-

ily accessible via the National Road Athens – Lamia, at the Varympopi Exit.

The Tatoi Forest is part of the Parnitha National Park but is a separate entity because of its history and ownership specificities.

The historical monuments and sites located within it are defined in a joint decision by the Hellenic Ministries of Agriculture and Culture, while the responsibility for their maintenance, management and operation belongs to the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. All individual buildings on the estate were designated as national monuments and its central part as a historic place that includes an archaeological site.





Cupressus sempervirens



Platanus orientalis



Cercis siliquastrum



Populus alba



Quercus ilex



What plants you will encounter:

For the first time in Greece trees were planted in Tatoi on a large scale by the former King George I in collaboration with the Danish forester Louis Mynter. Thus Tatoi became a well-organized estate with a park, gardens, woods and fields where various crops were grown and grazing land. Tatoi suffered two major wildfires in 1916 and 1945 with devastating effects on the flora. Today the 4.200 hect-

ares of forest are dominated by Aleppo (Pinus Halepensis). In this area there is also evergreen - broadleaf shrub (mastic tree, holly, bearberry, broom, etc.) individual and scattered trees of oak, judas tree, fir trees, cypress, willow, poplar, and rare native plants such as cyclamen, crocus, bellflower etc.



Crocus

What animals you will encounter:

Among the most representative species of mammals in the area is the red deer. There are also significant number of smaller mammals and birds such as, owl, yellowbird, robin, nightingale, hoopoe.



red deer



Upupa epops



Platanos Tatoi

see the building of the Group of Forest Friends and then the recreation area Machounia. Continuing on the road for about 3 km we end up in the recreation area of Katsimidi.

Tatoi, in addition to being a great destination for walks and recreation, is ideal for mountain biking. The circular path of Kithara in Tatoi is very popular among mountain cycling fans.

What you can do:

In Tatoi there are three forest recreation sites serving hundreds of weekend visitors.

Initially, the visitor sees the recreation area in Platanos Tatoi, located to the left of the road before the entrance of the Palace.

Passing Platanos and heading for Katsimidi, we



Katsimidi



Moto cross racing and off road 4x4 driving are prohibited by the National Park Regulations of Operation and violators are prosecuted.



What historical buildings you will encounter:



The buildings in Tatoi belong to 5 development stages according to the architectural style and period of construction.

The first phase (1873-1874)

It includes buildings of Greek-Swiss style, such as the old palace by Ziller, the St. Elijah Chapel, the Sturm house and the original building of the stables



The second phase (1878-1892)

It includes buildings with romantic style with wooden decorative items, sharp roof tips and elaborate stone structures such as the Lyders House, the “Ypaspistirio”(the House of Royal Aide-de-Camp) , the Hotel, the “Voutyrokomeio”, the Officers’ House. Of very interesting neo-Gothic style is the main Palace building designed by Sava Bouki, after a Russian farmhouse in Peterhof in St. Petersburg..

The third phase (1913-1916)

It includes buildings that were built in the period before the war and have a character more frugal and functional: the Staff Building, the Telecommunications Building, the Forester Station and the Estate Caregiver House.

The fourth phase (1936-1940)

It is the period between the wars during which the new Directorate, materials storage and the new kitchens were built.





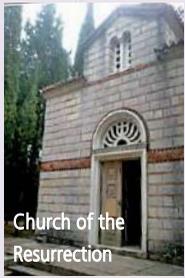
The fifth phase (1950 - 1960)

It is the last phase of building construction. Agricultural and livestock production is rising and so the cowshed, pigsty and dairy were built.

At the same time the Church of the Resurrection and the Mausoleum were built.

Of the remaining structures on the property, three stone arch bridges stand out, constructed in 1876 and 1877, two artificial lakes with that of Kithara being the better known of the two and the Estate guard outposts of Varympompi, Kryoneri and Menidi.

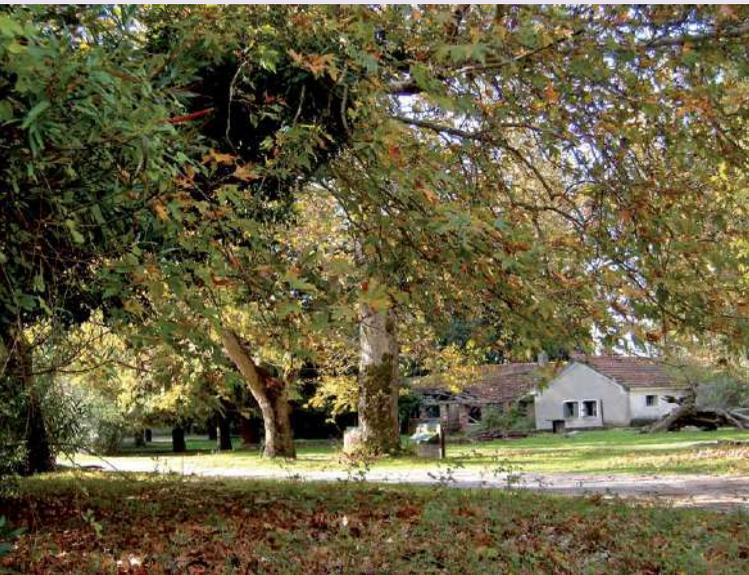
Many of these buildings were destroyed by fire in 1916. Among them was the first palace or the Constantine Palace by Ziller. Other important buildings destroyed by fire was the old directorate, the Lyders House, the old kitchens, the complex of the Imperial Stables and the Profitis Ilias (St. Elijah) Chapel.



Church of the Resurrection



gate



Ex Royal Family Graves

What to look for:

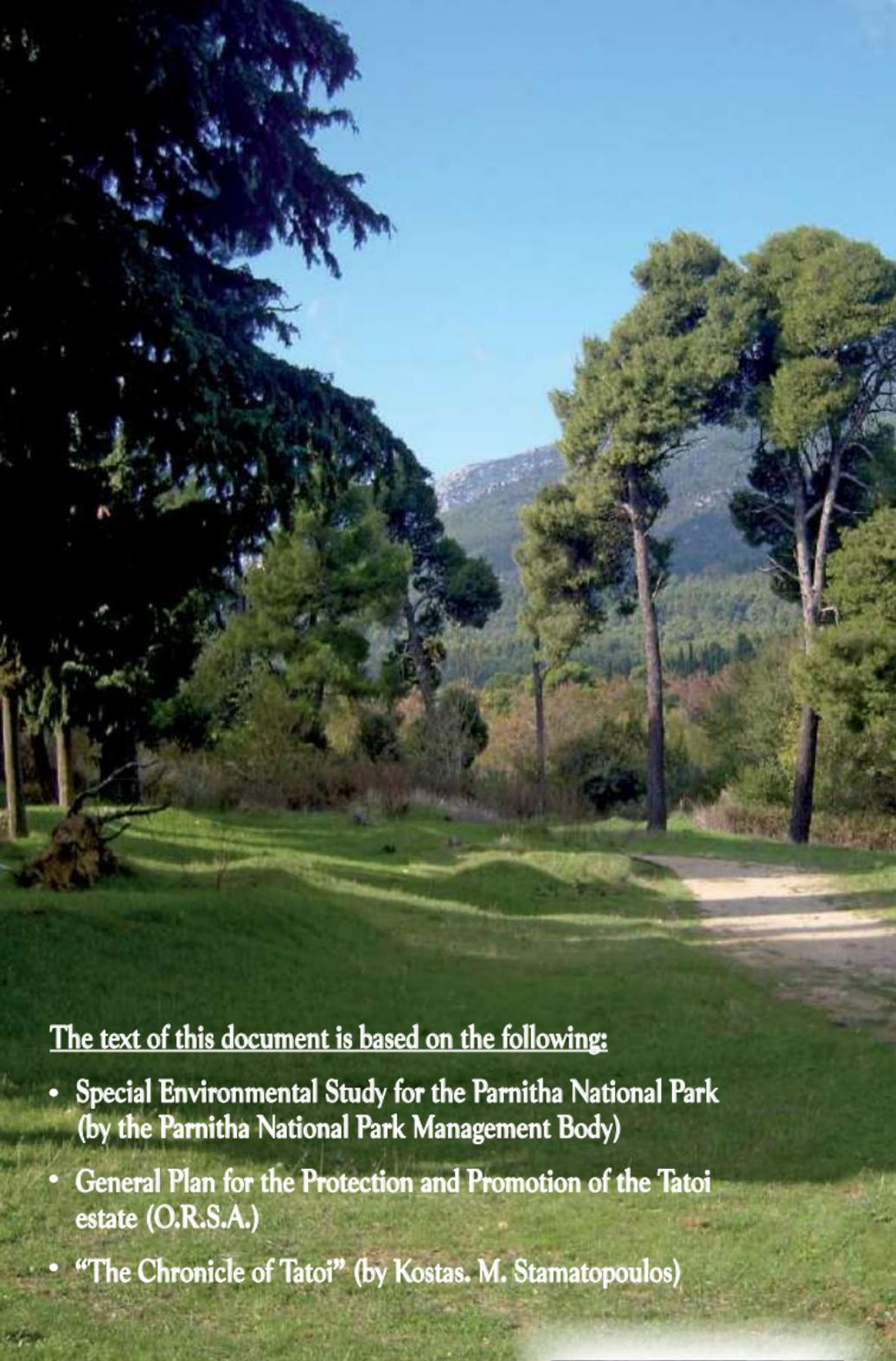
Tatoi on the weekends receives a large number of visitors and due to lack of parking spaces this results in over-crowded roads leading up to it. This problem is exacerbated by the lack of connection to the public transportation system

In the Tatoi Forest, just as in the rest of the Parnitha National Park, the following are strictly prohibited:

- ✓ *The lighting of fires throughout the year.*
- ✓ *The cutting of trees, branches and tree tops, the uprooting and collection of flowers or other plants and generally all forms of damage to vegetation.*
- ✓ *The collection and transfer of humus.*
- ✓ *The pollution of the area in general.*
- ✓ *Any kind of vehicle on forest roads with obstacles and forbidding signs.*
- ✓ *The use of the road network for all types of car and motorcycle tests and races as well as to develop excessive speed and loud noise in all the roads*
- ✓ *Hunting and the capture of any animal with any means throughout the entire year.*
- ✓ *Any type of weapon, even if in a case, axes, saws or other cutting tools.*
- ✓ *Grazing of all animals.*
- ✓ *The walking of dogs, even if tied, or other pets and their abandonment in the Park.*
- ✓ *To spend the night in tents or trailers.*
- ✓ *To place beehives.*
- ✓ *To write signs and advertise (on rocks, trees, fences etc.).*
- ✓ *Canteens or petty salesmen.*
- ✓ *To destroy signs, fences and generally constructions and materials that is public property.*



*The violators of these regulations are subject to the Hellenic laws:
86/1969, 996/1971 and 998/1979.*



The text of this document is based on the following:

- Special Environmental Study for the Parnitha National Park (by the Parnitha National Park Management Body)
- General Plan for the Protection and Promotion of the Tatoi estate (O.R.S.A.)
- “The Chronicle of Tatoi” (by Kostas. M. Stamatopoulos)



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