

4th Biology of Vipers Conference

October 10 - 13, 2014 - Oasis Hotel - Glyfada, Athens - Greece



Greece is the perfect setting for a viper conference as the country has the highest diversity of vipers in all of Europe. Athens is easy to fly to from around the globe and October is an affordable month to visit with great weather. Beyond the historical aspects of Athens, the southern suburbs of the city have become a popular and attractive area for modern Athenians to live, be entertained and socialize. The suburb of Glyfada is the epicenter of activities in southern Athens and offers a great atmosphere to bring together those of us that research, value and admire vipers.

The venue site is a 4 star hotel located on the main coastal road (Posidonos) in Glyfada and a mere 200m from a beach. The main square is walking distance (1 km) from the Oasis Hotel and has a variety of restaurants ranging from fast food, moderately priced restaurants (Greek, Italian, Asian, Mexican, etc.) and fine dining of all sorts. There are, of course, a number of gyros/souvlaki spots which can provide a quick and cheap traditional meal (~ € 4). Glyfada is a dynamic area with many shopping stores, cinemas, banks, coffee shops, ice cream stores, pubs and much more. (See maps below).

Registration Fee:

Students (undergraduate/graduate)*	€60
Professionals (professors, curators, etc.)*	€110

**Includes conference fee, materials and program, coffee and refreshments during session breaks.*

Conference T-shirt (optional)	€15
Farewell dinner (optional)	€18
Field trip to Greek Meadow Viper population in the mountains (optional)	€47
Field Trip to Milos (optional)	TBA

Transportation:

From the center of Glyfada and also from outside the venue hotel, one can take the public bus or tram to the classical sites (ex. Acropolis) in about 30 - 45 minutes. The closest metro station is a short distance away in the suburb of Elliniko (~ € 5 taxi ride) which is the quickest way (~15 - 20 minutes) to access central Athens, where the majority of the classical sites and museums are located. To the south of

Glyfada there are five pay beaches within a 15 minute bus ride (the closest one just 5 minutes by tram) and several public access beaches in proximity to the venue site. The main port of Athens (Piraeus) is only about 25 - 30 minutes away, where ferries can be taken to dozens of the Greek islands, including Milos, the home to the endemic Milos Viper (*Macrovipera schweizeri*).

Transportation from the airport to venue:

Bus: X96 from airport - € 5 about 45 minutes (there is a bus stop right outside the Oasis Hotel)

Taxi: about € 35 in 30 minutes

* Private car transfer: € 20 per person (minimum 2 persons – maximum 3)

* Private 19 seater bus: € 120 per bus

* Can be arranged by the local tour operator Aristotle Travel who is in cooperation with the conference.

Special rates for conference accommodation at the Oasis Hotel*

€ 55 per single

€ 34 per person in twin

€ 29 per person in triple/quadruple

**Rates include daily breakfast*

Hotel amenities:

- Restaurant
- Bar & Snack bar
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Outdoor children's swimming pool
- Outdoor Jacuzzi
- Garden Sunbeach
- Pool bar and restaurant
- Business center
- ADSL Internet access
- ISDN lines
- Data port
- Secretarial services
- Parking
- Laundry & Dry Cleaning service
- 24 hours Reception Desk
- 24 hours Room Service
- Concierge
- Multilingual staff
- Wake up calls
- Doctors assistance (OR)
- Baby Sitting (OR)
- Tourist kiosk
- Rent a car desk
- Currency exchange
- Luggage storage
- Transportation

Other hotel suggestions in Glyfada with special conference rates (there are no hostels in Glyfada):

- **Hotel Emmantina** - 3 star superior. € 33 per person/night in a twin, with breakfast included (approximately 300m from Oasis hotel)
- **Hotel London** - 3 star. € 27 per person/night in a twin, with breakfast included (approximately 500m from Oasis hotel)

Hostels in Athens (~ 45 minutes using public transportation/20 minutes by taxi to the venue hotel):

Several hostels can be found online at www.tripadvisor.com, but most of them will be located downtown Athens. This means commuting to the venue would cost time and the fare for using a bus, metro (no more than € 3) or taxi (~ € 15 – 25).

- **Athens Backpackers:** € 34 per person per night
- **Hotel Zeus:** € 22 per person per night

Camping

- **Athens Camping:** <http://www.campingathens.com.gr/en/index.asp>
€ 8 per person/night without tent
€ 5 per tent
€ 10 for tent rental

Directions to venue from camping:

- **Bus:** A15 or B15 to the main train station, then take the metro line 2 to Syntagma, then tram to Glyfada (~1 ½ hrs at ~€ 2.5)
- **Taxi to Glyfada:** (~30 - 40 minutes at ~ € 25), **to the city center:** ~ € 10 - 12

Field trips:

1. Full day trip to a Greek Meadow Viper (*Vipera ursinii graeca*) population in the Mountains: € 47

Cost includes, bus and driver hire (including tip) and lunch at a local restaurant. A four-hour private bus drive starting at the Oasis Hotel, from sea-level to 1800m, passing through traditional villages and into the mountainous regions of Greece. Activities will include hiking, herping and photographing in alpine meadows of the Pindos Mountains. The local organizing committee will escort the group.

2. We will also plan a 3-day trip to the island of Milos to see the endemic Milos Viper. This is currently being planned and more information will be available soon.

Other optional tours arranged by a local tour operator Aristotle Travel:

- **One-day cruise to the Saronic Gulf islands of Hydra, Poros and Aegina:** € 68 per person (buffet included).
- **Athens guided classical tour to the Acropolis and its museum:** € 22 per person + € 12 entrance fee.
- **Guided tour to the Temple of Poseidon at cape Sounio:** € 25 per person + € 4 entrance fee.

Please direct any questions to the conference hosts, Stephen Roussos (sa.roussos@ttu.edu) or Maria Dimaki (mdim@gnhm.gr).

Map of Athens and the Conference Venue (Oasis Hotel)



Red line is the highway from the Airport to Glyfada (20 - 30 minutes by bus, taxi or car)

Map of Glyfada and Venue Hotel

