

BUDS, BLOSSOM and BULBS

Plants from the cobbled paths

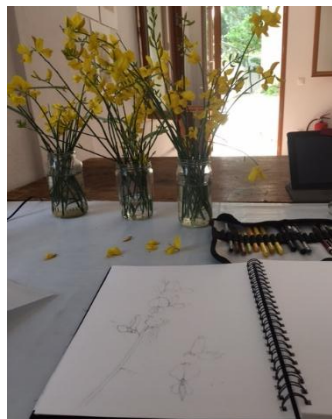
08 - 15 May 2026 Pelion Peninsula, Greece



Creating Spring pages for a Botanical Sketchbook - Studies in both pencil and watercolour with Maggie Niagassas

WHAT TO EXPECT

Raising your awareness of Mediterranean flora, concentrating on local native Greek plants and their communities. Greece has a total flora of over 6,500 native plants. The high diversity and endemism are due to its varied geography, with peninsulas, mountains, and numerous islands leading to evolutionary divergence. Studies in graphite pencil of specimens collected from the local cobbled footpaths, developing skills in draughtsmanship leading to graphite and colour studies using watercolour paint.





Tutor Maggie Niagassas Dip.AD,Dip.SBA,SBA Fellow
RHS SILVER 2016,RHS SILVER-GILT 2018,RHS SILVER-GILT 2023.

“Living in Greece for 35 years, the plant world with all its splendid diversity has always been an inspiration for me, especially the wonderful cosmos of Mediterranean flora.

I have exhibited several times with the SBA, (Society of Botanical artists), and have been awarded 3 RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) medals.

In July 2018 I was awarded the RHS Silver-gilt Medal for a series of watercolour studies of Mediterranean plants, found along the cobbled paths in Pelion Greece.

At presently I live in Volos, Greece, which is situated on the peninsula of Pelion. The region is renowned for its lush Mediterranean flora.”



PROGRAMME

After breakfast each day there will be two Sessions for painting in the airy studio, or walks/excursions to collect and admire the flora of this beautiful unspoilt area.

- 08 May Participants arrive - introduction to Botanical painting/illustration with talk, slides etc. *Welcome Dinner*
- 09 May Explanation of Mediterranean flora. First walk from hotel to olive groves for sketching. *Light lunch and dinner at hotel*
- 10 May Walk the kalderimi (cobble path) from Lafkos down to Milina on the coast, to collect specimens, taking notes. *Taverna lunch* and evening free to explore Lafkos village and square
- 11 May Start on composition, with pencil work. Introduction to colour. *Light lunch and dinner at hotel*
- 12 May Excursion, and also more observational studies in pencil. *Pic-nic lunch* and evening free
- 13 May Continuing composition *Light lunch and dinner at hotel*
- 14 May Finishing off and pop-up exhibition to share work and experiences
Light lunch and Farewell dinner at hotel
- 15 May Depart after breakfast

WHAT IS INCLUDED and HOW TO ACCESS PELION

- Six days of tuition and transport for related excursions. Coffee and Tea breaks included when participants are not outside the hotel
- Time for rest and relaxation on the beach, by the pool or in the village square
- A full cooked breakfast, five three-course dinners and lunches as shown
- Our library which includes the complete set of Mediterranean Garden Society journals
- Flights are NOT included; however, the nearest airports are Skiathos island and VOLOS. Access from Thessaloniki or Athens is an alternative option
- Lagou Raxi can advise on the easiest/most economical transfers from your chosen airport and will help participants to share if convenient

PRICES PER PERSON INCLUDING TUITION + ACCOMMODATION (HALF-BOARD) MATERIALS* AND EXCURSIONS

If you would like to bring family member(s) or friend(s), NOT participating in the courses, please contact us for the prices of different combinations including Double rooms and Suites. Information re. materials will be available at the time of booking.

Single room	Twin/double occupancy	Triple/double occupancy
1685€	1520€	1600€

Lafkos is one of the 24 officially 'listed' villages on the Pelion Peninsula, about 45 km from the city of



Volos. Medieval paths (Kalderimia) stretch around this car-free village and further afield to neighbouring villages and the sea. In under 10 minutes you can walk from the hotel through the village lanes to the square with its imposing church and plane trees. The smell of freshly baked bread in a wood-fired oven draws you to the bakery shop. The village has three small 'mini-markets', a craftsman jeweller, a gift shop, three museums and five tavernas. Visit www.lagouraxi.com for more info about the area.

Lagou Raxi (330m) celebrated 10 years in 2024. Built according to the local traditional architectural



styles it has a breath-taking view of the Pagasitic Gulf and is also close to the Aegean Sea. There is an easy footpath down to the sea, and a short walk into the village. The hotel cuisine is traditional Greek, and all the dishes are home-made and delicious! Vegetarian and Vegan options are available. The hotel has a good-sized swimming pool and an all-weather tennis court as well as the Library, Terrace, summer Pool Bar, and two 'Atelier' or workrooms. Bedrooms have air-conditioning and there is heating throughout when required.

Our 20 spacious and comfortable bedrooms are all named after local beaches

Other Courses include / see our website for 2026 dates

- Botanical Painting – Wildflowers, Garden Favourites, Autumn Tints and more
- Classic and Contemporary Mosaics Workshop in Marble and Smalti
- Mediterranean Garden Design and Planting
- Nature Journaling and Concertina Sketchbooks
- Calligraphy
- Natural dyeing and Eco-printing
- Icon Writing/Painting
- Plein Air Multi-media Painting Festival – Pelion Mansions/Shady Corners/Azure Seas

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MEDITERRANEAN CENTRE for Art, Gardens, Plants and Design

LAGOU RAXI A.E. Lafkos 37006 – South Pelion, Magnesia, Greece MHTE 0726K013A0448301

CONTACT US *To reserve a place (using a Request Form) or for more information*
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