



St Valentine's Tour

Club Representative **Alex Holis** reports on a sunny, St Valentine-inspired tour in Greece

During the winter season, classic Jaguars are in need of mechanical overhaul, or maybe body and trim 'beauty treatments'. For the 'ready' ones, it is wise to drive them at least once per month, even in this cold season, to keep them fit and discover possible issues to be fixed before the spring's longer tours. This is the reason some of our Jaguar friends had to come to our meeting driving another classic, or a modern car, in order to enjoy the company of good friends, beautiful locations and tasty food.

The romantic mood of St Valentine was our inspiration for finding the best places for our February tour in the outskirts of Athens. The sun was indeed our best partner throughout the day, and it was a pleasure to hear our roaring and purring engines on the road. Our Jaguars seemed very happy to run, instead of remaining in the garage plugged to a battery charger and listening to the boring noise of a dehumidifier!

Driving on the Papagou Hill, we reached the Byzantine Monastery of St John Theologos, built in the 13th century; a green oasis of peace with an incredible view over Athens. We arrived after the end of the mass in order to



have enough space to park our steel warriors in line, so that they could enjoy the 'selfies' of the visitors to the monastery. The courtyard, filled with plants and flowers, was a feast for our eyes and the interior of the church was covered with beautiful and mysterious

• Top and above: road book and essential accessories for a Valentine's-inspired tour



● Above and left: an impressive convoy making its way to the spectacular Byzantine monastery of St John Theologos



frescoes with an unusual black background.

Relaxed and listening to the chirping of the birds and the wind blowing through the cypress trees, we returned to our cars before heading for our next destination: the Papagou Tennis Club. This is a really inspiring place for tennis training: pure air and an amazing view both of the Acropolis and the Lycabettus Hill in Athens, the town where Stefanos Tsitsipas was born, later becoming the youngest player ranking among the world top 10, according to the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals). At the clubhouse we had a warm welcome and a pleasant coffee break/pit stop before the last leg of our tour – the beautiful beach of Marathon.

It is not unusual in Greece to have lunch on the seafront in winter. If there is no wind, the sun is warm enough for people to stay out sleeveless and get their daily vitamin D intake – good for the bones. At the Faros Fish Tavern, Yannis and Fotini kept a special parking spot for our Jaguars, so that we could enjoy the gorgeous lunch they prepared for us carefree, with 10 different sea specialties matched with a chilled white wine. Another successful meeting was over, but we are already planning the next one, where the ‘password’ will be PINK. Be ready for our next report. 



- From top: well-timed arrival at the monastery allowed the cars to park together; spectacular interior frescoes; impressive view from the Papagou tennis club



• From top: E-type leads XK in the spring sunshine; arriving at the final destination – the beach at Marathon

