

THE GENIUS LOCI OF CORFÙ. A FORTIFIED MEDITERRANEAN PORT-CITY.

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In this Presentation I would like to speak about the characteristic cultural qualities of the Corfù Old Town with emphasis on the comprehensive Corfù Old Town Heritage and the active preservation of this particular urban heritage.

The remarkable cultural argument that has already been stressed in my “2006 Evaluation ICOMOS Mission” is **the quality of multicultural urban history of Corfù** related to the other Greek towns, all submitted to Ottoman/Turkish Empire. I identified the continuous absorbing of elements in Corfù historical centre from the East and West Mediterraneo as the fundamental reason to enter in the W.H.L.

The “2007 Nomination” of the Old Town of Corfù on the World Heritage List on the basis of the Criterion IV put in evidence its preserved specific identity along the centuries recognized by the World Heritage committee. This identity is reflected not only in its system of fortifications and in its neo-classical building stock, but in its distinctive sea-front situation.



Infact the Town has **two Harbours** and an especially complex natural-geological site protected from two impressive Citadel-Fortresses whose aim is to preserve the North sea-front and the harbours (Mandraki port and old port). As such it can be placed along side other major Mediterranean fortified port-cities.