

# CENTRAL MACEDONIA

the trip of your life

CAN  
YOU MISS  
THIS?



REGION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA



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CAN  
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[#can\\_you\\_miss\\_this](#)

THESSALONIKI • SERRES • IMATHIA • PELLA • PIERIA • HALKIDIKI • KILKIS

European emergency  
number: 112



## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

### HALKIDIKI

#### HOSPITALS - HEALTH CENTERS

General Hospital of Polygyros

23413 51400

Health Center of N. Moudania

23733 50000

Health Center of Kassandria

23743 50000

Health Center of N. Kallikratia

23990 21132

Health Center of Agios Nikolaos

23753 50000

Health Center of Paleochori

23723 50000

Health Center of Mount Athos

23770 23217

#### TRANSPORT

KTEL Bus Station of Polygyros

23710 22309

KTEL Bus Station N. Moudania

23730 21172

KTEL Bus Station of Kallikratia

23990 21048

KTEL Bus Station of Amaia

23720 22278

KTEL Bus Station of Kassandria

23740 22214

KTEL Bus Station of Thessaloniki

2310 316555

Taxi Station of Polygyros

23740 91777

Taxi Station of N. Moudania

23730 21371

Taxi Station of Kassandria

23740 91200

Taxi Station of Sithonia

23750 31429

Taxi Station of Amaia

23720 22212

Port Authority of N. Moudania

23730 21228

Port Authority of Ierissos

23770 22666

Port Authority of N. Marmaras

23750 71933

Port Authority of Ouranoupolis

23770 71248

Port Authority of Ormos Panayias

23750 31000

Port Authority of Dafni

23770 23682

Line of Mount Athos -

Ouranoupoli

23770 71149

#### MUSEUMS

Archaeological Museum

of Polygyros

23710 22148

Folkloric Museum of Arnea

6944 321933

Folkloric Museum of Afytos

23740 91239

Folkloric Museum of Nikiti

23750 81410

Anthropological Museum

of Petralona

23730 71671

Cave of Petralona

23730 71677

### KILKIS

#### HOSPITALS - HEALTH CENTERS

General Hospital of Kilkis

23413 51400

General Hospital of Goumenissa

23433 50307

Health Center of Polykastro

23430 22051

Health Center of Drosato

23410 97202

#### TRANSPORT

KTEL Station of N. Kilkis

23410 28960

KTEL Station of Axioupoli

23430 31313

KTEL Station of Polykastro

2343 022315

KTEL Station of Goumenissa

23430 41214

KTEL Station of Kilkis

23410 22311

KTEL Station of Thessaloniki

2310 595433

Taxi Station

23410 29800

#### MUSEUMS

Archaeological Museum

of Kilkis

23410 22477

Folkloric Museum of Goumenissa

23430 41362, 23430 41525

Natural History Museum of

Axioupolis

23430 31656

World War I Museum - Battle

of Skra

23430 25100, 23430 31656,

6973 828701

Cave of Ag. Georgiou Kilkis

23410 20054

### PELLA

#### HOSPITALS - HEALTH CENTERS

General Hospital of Edessa

23813 50100

General Hospital of Giannitsa

23823 50200

Health Center of Krya Vrissi

23823 51100

Health Center of Aridea

23843 50000

Health Center of Amnissa

23813 51000

Health Center of Skydra

23823 51000

#### TRANSPORT

KTEL Bus Station of Skydra

23810 89222

KTEL Bus Station of Giannitsa

23820 22317

KTEL Bus Station - Aridaia

23840 21249

KTEL of Pella Station

23810 23511

Railway of Edessa

23810 23510

Taxi Station of Edessa

23810 23392, 22904

#### MUSEUMS

Archaeological Museum of Pella

23820 31160

Archaeological Place of Loggos

of Edessa

23810 25261

#### ACTIVITIES

Ski Center of Mountain

Voras - Kaimaktsalan

23810 32000-3

Thermal Baths of Loutraki

23840 91300

### PIERIA

#### HOSPITALS - HEALTH CENTERS

Hospital of Katerini

23513 50200

Health Center of Aeginio

23533 50000

Health Center of Litochoro

23523 50000

#### TRANSPORT

Railway Station of Katerini

23510 23709

KTEL Bus Station of Katerini

23510 23313, 23510 29317

KTEL Bus Station of Litochoro

23520 81271

Urban KTEL of Katerini

23510 37600, 23510 46800

Taxi Station of Katerini

23510 21222, 23510 31222

Port Authority/ C' Section

of Skala, Katerini

23510 61209

Port Authority/ D' Section

of Platamonas

23520 41366

#### MUSEUMS

Archaeological Museum of Dion

23510 53206

#### ACTIVITIES

Elatochori Ski Center

23510 82993, 23510 82994

EOS Katerinis

6977 587345

EOS Litochorou

23520 82444

EOS Vrontous

6972 224665, 6973 804843

Shelter Spilios Agapitos

23520 81800, 6973 210687

Shelter Petrosoulogka

2310 310649, 6948 821513,

6977 246350

Shelter Christos Kakkalos

23521 00009, 6937 361689

Shelter Stavros or

Dimitrios Boundolas

23520 84100, 6939 225857

Shelter in the area of Vrontou Beds

6971 586436, 6942 665896

Shelter of Koromilia Dion

6942 243349, 6981 448978

Shelter of Pronia

6932 484868, 23521 00008

Shelter Giosos Apostolidis

23510 82840, 2310 224710,

6948 043655

Olympus National Park

Management Agency

23520 83000

### IMATHIA

#### HOSPITALS - HEALTH CENTERS

General Hospital of Veria

23313 51100

General Hospital of Naoussa

23323 50100

#### TRANSPORT

Railway Station of Veria

23310 24444

KTEL Bus Station

of Thessaloniki

2310 595432

KTEL Bus Station of Veria

23310 22342

KTEL Bus Station of Naoussa

23320 22223

KTEL Bus Station of Alexandria

23330 23312

Taxi Station of Veria

23310 62555

Taxi Station of Naoussa

23320 25400

Taxi Station of Alexandria

23330 22100

#### MUSEUMS

Museum of the Aegean Basilicas

of Vergina

23310 92347

Archaeological Museum of Veria

23310 24972

Nymfaio - Aristotle School

(Isvoria/Naoussa)

23320 41121

Historical & Folkloric Museum

of Naoussa

23320 21713

#### ACTIVITIES

Ski Center Tria - Pente Pigadia

23320 44981

National Ski Center of Seli

23310 49226, 23310 26237

### SERRES

#### HOSPITALS - HEALTH CENTERS

General Hospital of Serres

23210 94500

#### TRANSPORT

Railway Station of Serres

23210 81225, 59700

KTEL Bus Station of Serres

23210 22822, 14505, 27565

Taxi Station of Serres

23210 59100

#### MUSEUMS

Archaeological Museum

of Amphipolis

23220 32474

Roupef Fortress

23210 95100, 23230 22350

#### ACTIVITIES

Cave Alistrati

23240 82045

Thermal Baths of Sidirokastro

23230 22422

Thermal Baths of Agkistro

23230 41296, 23230 41420

Ski Center Lailia

23210 58783, 6941 598880

Serres Motorway Station

23210 52592

Mountain Shelter EOS Nigrita

23210 62400

EOS of Serres

23210 53790

Information Center of Lake Kerkini

23270 28004

Information Center Lailias

6943 937662, 6944 316612

### THESSALONIKI

#### HOSPITALS

General Hospital AHEPA

2313 303110, 2313 303111

General Hospital Ippokrateio

2313 312000

General Hospital Papageorgiou

2313 323000

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## Seven regional units, thousand reasons to come back over and over again

**Because it's worth visiting the region at every opportunity, in every season of the year.**

Cities, villages, old traditional settlements, magnificent mythical mountains, golden sand beaches with crystal clear waters, beautiful forests, gorges, lakes and rivers compose the amazing scenery of Central Macedonia. Every corner throughout the region has something unique and authentic to generously offer to the visitor. Everyone, no matter the character, interests or personality, can find here something to surprise them, something to touch their heart and soul. Images, smells, hearings, touches, tastes and emotions, every sense is aroused, annihilated and born all over again. Under the light of the sun and the moon, unforgettable one-of-a-kind experiences are awaiting every single traveler.

Experience the devout concentration at the Holy Mountain, the Sumela Monastery and many more memorial churches and incredible historical monasteries. Visit Imathia, Pella, Halkidiki and learn from up close the history of the land that gave birth and nurtured the greatest philosopher of all times, Aristotle, the greatest general Alexander the Great and many Macedonian kings. Feel the joy of a walk into the woods, around lakes or waterfalls, wander in caves, watch animals, birds and plants you have never seen before. Serres, Kilkis, Pieria and Thessaloniki will amaze you with the plethora of ecotourism activities offered. Enjoy the natural beauties and keep alive in your memory all the images you are about to witness. Take the challenge to boost your adrenaline with climbing, kayaking, rafting, mountain biking and paragliding over the highest peaks of mountains and into the most fast-flowing rivers passing through amazing natural landscapes. Let your body and soul be revitalized into the hot springs of Pella, Halkidiki, Serres, Kilkis and Thessaloniki. Dive into the clear, turquoise waters of Halkidiki and sunbathe on the vast shores of Pieria. Taste unique local products that are grown in the rich land of Central Macedonia, and are collected, prepared and transmuted into the amazing recipes of the Macedonian cuisine. Superdelicious flavors paired with the famous wines of exceptional varieties from the Macedonian vineyards. Imathia, Thessaloniki, Kilkis, Pella, Pieria, Serres and Halkidiki are the seven regional units of Central Macedonia and each one of them has its own unique identity and character. Each one has its own way to charm you and the reasons why you should come back here over and over again.



REGION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA



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# Imathia

The land of ancient Macedonians

Imathia is a sandy area and used to be the heart of the kingdom of Ancient Macedonia. Human life is traced in this region since the prehistoric years, while Nea Nikomideia has one of the oldest Neolithic settlements in whole Europe. It borders on the Pierian Mountains and the imposing Vermio Mountain. The main rivers flowing across the regional unit are Loudias and Aliakmonas.

With two ski centers on the slopes of Vermio, Seli and 3-5 Pigadia, Imathia is among the top winter destinations. The excellent piste

infrastructure and the mechanical equipment, the learning schools, the rental stores and, of course, and the altitude and the ideal climate conditions prevailing offer the ski lovers amazing moments full of adrenaline. For those opting for relaxation, they can enjoy the view of the snow while warming up with a hot drink in the chalet, while in the wider areas there are hotels and restaurants for every demand. Imathia, in every single village and town, is full of religious monuments. Churches and monasteries of the byzantine and post-byzantine years, as well as Sumela Monastery, the symbol of the Pontic Hellenism, are places everyone should visit.

The fertile land in the vast plains produces fruits and vegetables known all over the world, like the peaches of Naousa, cherries, apples, pears, local meat, especially the excellent beef, and cheese products, with batzos cheese and Vermio smoked cheese stealing the show. Imathia cuisine has influences from the Aromanians, the Pontus and the Minor East, and the traveler should definitely taste all kinds of pies, fasoulodavas (traditional bean soup), koukouloto with lamb (lamb chunks roasted in the oven), pisia (pies with filling) and many more mouth-watering local dishes. The meal cannot be completed without a sweet

dessert, the famous revani (semolina cake in syrup) from Veria, pudding from Naousa and a variety of spoon sweets. If you are a wine lover, do not miss the chance to discover the wine roads of Macedonia with guided tours in wineries.

## info



### Municipalities:

Alexandria, Veria, Naousa

**Capital:** Veria

**Area:** 1,701 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 140,611

Veria is 89.7 km away from the Macedonia airport in Thessaloniki. Daily bus routes from Thessaloniki and Athens. Daily railway connection from Thessaloniki to Veria and from Athens to Platy.

## Must do!

**01** Get close to history in **Aiges** [also **Aigai**], the place where the son of Philip II, **Alexander the Great**, was announced **king**. Join a guided tour in the **Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai in Vergina**.

**02** Follow the traces of **Paul the Apostle** to the places where in 50-51 A.D. he preached the Christian faith twice.

**03** Visit the **School of Aristotle**, where Alexander the Great was taught by the great philosopher.

**04** Walk in the **alleys** of the **Jewish Quarter of Barbouta** and the **Christian Kyriotissa, the traditional neighborhoods of Veria** that stand out for their rare architecture.

**05** Go **skiing** in the ski centers of **Seli and 3-5 Pigadia**.

**06** Go on a **pilgrimage** to the **Sumela Monastery**, the symbol of the Pontic Hellenism.

**07** Wander in the **earthly aquatic paradise** of Imathia. Stroll through the wonderful forest by the river, in the grove of **Agios Nikolaos**, in **Naousa**.

**08** Go **hiking and climbing on the mountain** by following the European trail E4, in **Vermio**.

**09** Taste the traditional **revani** from **Veria**, the **pudding** from **Naousa**, the local cheese varieties, as well as the **wines of the local vineyards**.

**10** Find out about the **cultural tradition** and the **huge history** of the area by visiting the **archaeological sites and museums**.



# Thessaloniki

Live the myth, experience the history

Established in 316 B.C. by the Macedonian king Kassandros, Thessaloniki took its name after Kassandros' spouse and sister of Alexander the Great. The second largest city of Greece has always been the crossroads of cultures, an important port with a pivotal geographical location, a city with a history that goes back deep into the centuries, composed by immigrants, locals, a mixture of peoples that left their mark in the architecture, the cuisine and the urban atmosphere.

## info



### Municipalities:

Ampelokipi,  
Thessaloniki,  
Kalamaria, Kordelio,  
Neapoli, Pavlos  
Melas, Pylaia-  
Chortiatis, Volvi,  
Delta, Thermaikos,  
Thermi, Lagadas,  
Chalkidona,  
Oraiokastrou

### Capital:

Thessaloniki  
**Area:** 3,682.74 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Population:** 1,110,312

Daily bus routes,  
railway connection  
and flights from  
and to every city  
and town.

Here the visitor feels strangely familiar from the very first moment. Take a walk at the seafront, where the sea and the sky hug each other tightly and the sunset caresses your soul, and you will need no more reasons to come back here time and time again. Thessaloniki is ideal for vacation all year round and always gives you something to take with you until the next time you come back. It is an experience always unique, always different.

Archaeological, byzantine, Muslim and neoclassical, historical and religious sights and monuments, an amazing forest embracing the city, the large, protective Thermaic Gulf, the old stall markets and bazaars that operate up to this day, the unrivalled cuisine of the city, the international festivals held every year are only some of the city features.

Go up to Ano Poli, the terrace of the city, just to take a good look of the incredible view. Sit on the wooden pier of the port to hark the city sounds. Taste the food. Stroll through Seich Sou [also Kedrinou Lofos] to smell the fresh air. Get closer to history at the White Tower and so

many other monuments of world importance. Here, all your senses are aroused. The city gives you so many stimuli that it changes your outlook on life. Welcome to Thessaloniki!



## Must do!

**01** Join a **tour** in the **White Tower** and watch the multimedia exhibition on the history of the city.

**02** Meet up at **Kamara** [also the Arch of Galerius] and wander in the wider area before you enter **Rotunda**.

**03** Go on a tour and a **pilgrimage** to the church of **Agios Dimitrios** and its crypt, **Agia Sofia**, **Acheiropoietos**, **Panagia Chalkeon**, **Agios Nikolaos** **Orfanos** and **Vlatadon Monastery**.

**04** Walk in **Ano Poli**, with the cobbled streets, the low-ceilinged refugee houses, the fortress structures and the walls. See the **view** from the Trigono tower, enter the **Yedi Kule**, the mosque **Alatza Imare** and the mausoleum of **Musa Baba**.

**05** **Explore** on foot or by bicycle the paths of **Chortiatis** and the forest of Chilia Dendra [Thousand Trees], **Seich Sou**. Find the point Pefkofyto or Karatepe and enjoy the view.

**06** Go for a walk in the **ancient Agora** [also **Roman Forum**] and a little bit further you will reach the old markets of **Modiano**, **Kapani** and **Bezesteni**.

**07** Enjoy mezedes, meat dishes, **local recipes** at a small tavern you will find at every corner and fresh fish at the seafront of Krini, Peraia and Michaniona.

**08** Visit the city **museums**: Archaeological, Folklore, Byzantine, Jewish, War Museum, Museum of the Macedonian Struggle, Film, Photography, Technology, Olympic and Children's Museum.

**09** Search for **cultural events, exhibitions, shows, theatrical performances, concerts** and **international festivals**.

**10** Go for **swimming** at the near **beaches** or in the **thermal baths** of Thermi and Lagadas and take part in **nature-love activities** in Chortiatis or in the lakes Volvi and Agios Vasileios, in the Macedonian Tempi and in the Axios Delta National Park.





# Kilkis

## Discovering nature and gastronomy

With Kilkis town, Axioupoli, Goumenissa and Polykastro being the most famous of its towns, the Regional Unit of Kilkis is also consisted of further smaller beautiful villages that are truly worth discovering. This unit is the northernmost part of Greece, and according to the archaeological finds and the references made by Homer, Thucydides and Herodotus, this area has been inhabited since the prehistoric era. Mount Paiko, Kroussia Mountain and Belles mountain range constitute its natural borders. The valleys stretching among the mountains are flown by two rivers and two lakes: Axios and Gallikos river, Doiran Lake and Pikrolimni.

The rich history of Kilkis and the significance of the place during World War I resulted in weaving the multicultural character of the place. It is a mixture of peoples and cultures, where customs and traditions have kept alive through time and they are being revived by the inhabitants up to this day. Hence, a rich agenda of cultural events has been long established, where folklore and tradition take "flesh and blood" throughout the year. Grab the chance to combine your stay with a local fest or celebration.

The fertile soil of Kilkis produces tobacco, cotton, cereals, grains and wine. Every wine lover should have a try of the fine wines of Goumenissa, such as the homonymous PDO well-known "Goumenissa" wine which is a combination of xinomavro with the local red variety of negoska. All wineries of Kilkis are within a close distance and open to the public around the year. Your wine trails will be perfectly complete with the local tasting

and the exquisite dairy products. The traditional cuisine with a variety of cultural influences and the use of pure and local products will offer you such memories of taste you will always remember. Before you leave, do not miss the chance to buy some of the wines and various tastes from the local cooperatives.

Remember during your stay in Kilkis, whatever the season of the year, go outside and enjoy the views of the beautiful nature, wander, explore, observe the rich ecosystem, take part in sports and ecotourism activities. It is totally worth it.

### info



**Municipalities:**  
Kilkis, Paionia  
**Capital:** Kilkis  
**Area:** 2,505 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Population:** 80,419

Kilkis is 70.4 km away from the Macedonia airport in Thessaloniki. Daily bus routes and railway connection with Thessaloniki and Athens.

## Must do!

**01** Spend a whole day by the **Doiran Lake**, enjoy **activities** for all ages and taste **delicious carp**.

**02** Visit **Pikrolimni** and the fully organized **clay-therapy center** and enjoy a bath in the thermal sulfuric waters.

**03** Visit the two-storey **cave of Kilkis**, with the **stalactites** and **stalagmites**, the fossils and bones of animals.

**04** Go **fishing** in the artificial **Metalliou Lake** and hiking in the amazing **forest trails** in **Mega Rema**.

**05** Visit the **Skra waterfalls** and see up close the **emerald waters** of the homonymous lake surrounded by lush vegetation, steep cliffs and labyrinthine paths with small waterfalls.

**06** Go for a **walk** in the **Balkan Botanic Garden of Kroussia** to stimulate all your five senses with the 1,200 species of plants.

**07** Go **mountain biking** or **climbing** on the slopes of **Paiko** and **stroll** through the **largest chestnut forest of the country**, among beech trees, cherry trees and towering oaks.

**08** Visit one of the **Allied Military Cemeteries** in Doirani, Polykastro and Kristoni and **pay homage** to those who fell in the deadly battles of Skra and Doirani during World War I.

**09** **Take a break for a coffee** under the **centuries-old plane trees** at the central square of **Goumenissa** and **join a tour** in at least one **winery** of the area under the sounds of the brass instruments.

**10** Wander on the hill of the old **Gynekokastro (Women's Castle)**, the strategic point where Andronikos III Palaeologos built the **byzantine castle**, as well as in **ancient Evropos**, hometown of general Seleukos, and **Palatiano**, the urban center of ancient Kristonia.



# Pella

## The birthplace of Macedonian kings

Pella took its name after the historical capital of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon. It is surrounded by the mighty mountains of Voras [also Kaimakchalan], Vermio, Paiko, Tzena and Pinovo, where the evergreen valleys of Aridaia and Giannitsa nestle. The aquatic potential of the Regional Unit is very important, with the lakes Vegoritida, Agra and the rivers Loudias and Aliakmonas having the leading part.

Landscapes of natural beauty, areas protected under "Natura 2000" and special protection zones safeguarded under the legislation and composing the unique ecosystem and priceless natural habitat of Pella, render the regional unit into a destination every traveler has to visit.

Here you can enjoy a bath in the mineral springs of the Pozar thermal baths in Loutraki, Municipality of Almopia, and relax in the properly designed hosting facilities, where the water emerges at a temperature of 36 °C. You can enter caves, admire monuments of nature and gorges, see up close the game reserves, visit the geopark of the waterfalls and feel the aura of the largest waterfalls in the Balkans and, of course, visit the archaeological site of Longos, in Edessa, as well as the archaeological site and museum of Pella. The place is famous for the local products. Taste some of them, like peaches, kiwis, hot peppers ["tsouskes"], fresh crisp Edessa cherries and honey. In the small groceries and the women's cooperatives,

you will discover real gems, like the one-of-a-kind spoon sweets, homemade pasta, tsipouro and batzos cheese. It is worth trying the local dishes, such as "koukouloto" [pork or lamb chunks roasted in the oven], "tsobleki" [lamb with vegetables in the casserole] and sweet flutes [filo rolls with cheese and honey] made in Edessa.

### info



**Municipalities:** Edessa, Almopia, Giannitsa, Skydra  
**Capital:** Edessa  
**Area:** 2,506 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Population:** 13,680

Edessa is 111 km away from the Macedonia airport in Thessaloniki. Daily bus routes and railway connection with Thessaloniki and Athens.

## Must do!

**01** Visit the 70-meter **waterfalls of Edessa**, the small **cave** with the stalactites and stalagmites and the open-air **water museum**.

**02** Go **rowing** & stay at the **International Nautical Center Loudias**.

**03** Observe the natural habitat, join a variety of activities and go hiking in the **Agras wetland**, or **boating and fishing** in the gorgeous **lake Vegoritida**.

**04** Visit the "**Mausoleum of Gazi Evrenos**" in Giannitsa, a significant Ottoman monument, as well as the **mosque of Poet Ilahi** dating back to the 15th century.

**05** Relax in the therapeutic springs of the **Pozar Thermal Baths** in Aridaia or in the **baths of Loutrochori** in Skydra.

**06** Visit the **old settlement of Agios Athanasios**, built of wood and stone, and taste the local dishes at the small **picturesque taverns** of the village.

**07** Test your skills at skiing and other winter sports at the famous ski center of **Kaimakchalan / Voras Mountains** at an altitude of 2,524 meters.

**08** It is worth seeing the ruins of the Macedonian kingdom of Pella, the **Macedonian tombs** and the exhibits at the **Archaeological museum**, as well as the **archaeological site** of Longos, Edessa.

**09** Rise up your adrenaline with **gliding, sailplane flying** and **paragliding** at the **air athletic center of Macedonia - Thrace**.

**10** Stroll through the alleys of the **old Christian settlement Varosi** and visit the **Folklore museum**.





# Pieria

## Endless blue in the shade of Olympus

Pieria is geographically defined by Mount Olympus, the Pierian Mountains, the Thermaic Gulf and the Aegean Sea. It is the most beautiful crossroads of Greece where, under the watchful and imposing presence of magnificent Olympus, all the way up to blue waters of the Aegean with the golden sandy arrow-shaped beaches, the land of the gods, Pieria, lies calm. The earthly shades of the mountains, with the blue of the sea and the blue sky, compose the most beautiful picture that every visitor will always keep in his memory.

Pierian land is a place that captures the visitor with the warmth, the magic of the landscape and the integrity of the nature. Here, you can re-boost your strength, away from the intensity of everyday life, and experience the holiday of your dreams throughout the year.

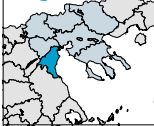
A blessed place where travelers can indulge in sporting activities such as canoeing, cycling, paragliding, rock climbing, hiking and climbing Olympus, following hiking trails of unique beauty. All the activities as well as staying in one of the shelters on the mountain of the Gods is a true life experience.

Pieria is a wonderful tourist resort for those seeking a cosmopolitan holiday with intense nightlife, but also for those who want to relax with their families. Plaka Litochorou, Leptokarya, Neoi Poroi, Platamonas, Makrygialos, Korinos and Skotina are only some of the famous beaches with warm and crystal clear waters.

The ancient cities, the legendary Platamonas castle with its breathtaking views, the sights, the monasteries and the wetlands offering

ecotourism activities, seduce locals and visitors every time as if it was the first time. And every time is a whole new experience.

### info



#### Municipalities:

Katerini, Dion-Olympus,

Pydna-Kolindros

**Capital:** Katerini

**Area:** 1,516 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 126,698

Katerini is 85.7 km away from the Macedonia airport in Thessaloniki. Daily bus routes and railway connection from Thessaloniki and Athens.

## Must do!

**01** Climb the highest mountain of Greece, **magnificent and divine Olympus**.

**02** Admire the **magical view** of the **Aegean Sea** from **Platamonas castle**. It is worth attending a concert or a cultural event there during your stay.

**03** See up close the excavation finds exhibited in **ancient Dion, place of worship of Olympian Zeus**.

**04** Visit the **old church of Agios Panteleimonas** for a walk, a lunch / dinner or a stay, and see the **incredible view of the Pierian coastline** from a height of 700 meters.

**05** Go **skiing** at the ski center of **Elatochori, stay at a stone-built guesthouse** and **eat game meat** dishes you will never forget.

**06** Walk in the **Enipeas gorge** and along the **natural pools** created by its waters. In summer you can actually swim there.

**07** Go for **swimming** in the **warm, crystal clear and blue waters** on one of the golden sandy beaches of Pieria.

**08** Watch the 170 bird species in the **wetland of Nea Agathoupoli** and **Aliakmonas Delta** at the north of **Alykes Kytrous**.

**09** Explore the **ruins of the fortress architecture** and the impressive Tetrapyrgio (Four Towers) which are the only remains of **ancient byzantine Pydna**.

**10** Go on a **pilgrimage** to the old **monastery of Agios Dionysios** that dates back to the **16th century** and is built in the natural valley of two streams at an altitude of 900 meters.



# Serres

## Beauty is in the nature

The main distinctive features of the regional unit of Serres are the mountain ranges that make for beautiful sheltering surroundings and river Strymonas flowing across it. The vast and fertile plain nestling among Mount Belles, Menoikio, Orvilos and Pangaio produces, among others, hard wheat, rice, cotton, sugar beet, tobacco and corn. Lake Kerkini is home for water buffaloes who live and breed there and whose meat and products are particularly nutritious, not to mention delicious.

The lush vegetation, the geographical location, the aquatic potential and the diversity of the biotopes make up the natural beauty of Serres. The wetland of Lake Kerkini, which is protected by the Ramsar Treaty and is part of the European Network "Natura 2000", is like having been taken out of a fairyland. Extensive lowlands with many plants and trees, rich flora and fauna, buffaloes in a small distance away from people, cormorants flying around their nests, boats offered for amazing rides among reeds and trees on the lake, bicycles for rides over the dam, guesthouses, cafés and taverns where you can taste excellent local dishes with fish or buffalo products.

The cave of Alistrati is one of most beautiful and largest caves in Greece, with stalactites and stalagmites that began to develop 2,000,000 years ago. Next to the cave entrance is the 15-km-long Angitis Canyon that you should definitely include in your touring schedule.

The Archaeological and Folklore museums, as well as the museum of Natural History help the visitor get closer to the mythology and popular beliefs of the place and get connected to his roots.

The urban center of Serres is full of life.

Restaurants, cafés and bars are crowded all day and all night long in every season of the year. Try the authentic sand-brewed Greek coffee ("in chovoli") along with a traditional spoon sweet and ask the waiter for the local dessert, the famous "akanes" (loukoumi with fresh goat milk).

### info



#### Municipalities:

Amfipoli, Visaltia, Emmanouil Pappa, Irakleia, Nea Zichni, Serres, Sintiki

**Capital:** Serres

**Area:** 3,968 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 176,430

Serres are 101 km away from the Macedonia airport in Thessaloniki. Daily bus routes and railway connection from Thessaloniki and Athens.

## Must do!

**01** Do nature-love, ecotourism and sports **activities** by **Lake Kerkini**.

**02** Discover the stalactites and stalagmites in the impressive **cave of Alistrati**.

**03** Make a **tour** by train, **go rafting** and **canoeing** in the **canyon** of river **Aggitis**.

**04** Join a **guided tour** at the archaeological sites of **Amfipoli** under the awe of the ecumenical monument of **Kasta Tomb**, whose excavations are still in progress.

**05** Go **skiing** in the **ski center** of **Lailias**, or rise up your adrenaline with **rock climbing**, **hiking** on the trail **E6**, **mountain biking** and other activities in the **homonymous Forest**.

**06** Visit the **Fort Roupel**, the largest fortress complex built during World War II.

**07** Enjoy a **thermal bath** in one of the three hot springs with healing properties, in **Sidirokastro**, **Nigrita** or **Agkistro**.

**08** Spend a whole day in **Sidirokastro** to see the **river bridges**, the **wind park**, the natural **waterfalls** at Zesta Nera [warm waters] park, the rock-hewn church of **Agios Dimitrios**.

**09** Try **motor sport** in the largest racetrack of the Balkans, ideal for Formula races up to level 3, in the **racetrack circuit** of **Serres**.

**10** Visit **museums, byzantine and ottoman monuments** that are definitely worth it. Combine your visit with **fun** and **good food** in the **city of Serres**.





# Halkidiki

## The place of your dreams

It is undoubtedly a heaven on earth. Halkidiki [or Chalkidiki] peninsula that refers to Poseidon's trident consists of three legs: the first one of Kassandra, the second one of Sithonia and the third one of Athos. In addition to the countless beaches and small secluded creeks, there are also large mountain sections that make it ideal for both winter and summer getaways.

The Mountain Holomontas [also Cholomon, Cholomondas] extends from Polygyros to Arnaia. On the mountain that reaches an altitude of 1,165 meters, there are numerous aromatic plants, herbs and various types of mushrooms. The green landscape full of beeches and countless fir trees offers its impressive paths for

incredible routes, as well as any other sports activity. At the end of the hike you will get your reward with a delicious dish at the village of Taxiarchis. Another suggestion on the slopes of Holomontas is to visit the grove of Agia Paraskevi in Arnaia; a mystic place full of oak trees suitable for hiking in the fresh air. Almost all of Sithonia is occupied by Mount Itamos, which is rich in pine trees. Take advantage of its hidden paths to admire the view from up above.

A round tour on the first and second leg is a fantastic opportunity to experience Halkidiki to the limit. Sandy beaches and dives in the clear blue waters of the Thermaic Gulf, vast beaches with crystal clear waters in the Toroneos Bay or deep blue waters in the Siggitikos gulf between the second and third leg, beaches with beach bars or completely unexplored, large hotel units, accommodations in the natural environment, rooms to let and organized camping sites are found in every place and you are free to choose the one that suits you best.

Save the date of some of the festivals that are held each year and are top cultural events around the world. Visit archaeological sites and old traditional settlements, do water sports or mountain activities, observe the wildlife of the wetlands and take a thermal bath in Agia Paraskevi. Taste amazing seafood dishes by the sea or delicious meat dishes in the mountain villages, try wine and tsipouro from local vineyards, buy local honey and oil and experience

the lively nightlife.

Men should not miss the opportunity to visit Agion Oros [Mount Athos], or else the orchard of Virgin Mary, as it is said, which is a site of world cultural heritage. There, the green pines, the deep blue of the sea and the blue sky ooze tranquility and calmness, and the visitor can only get the feeling of completeness and spiritual peace. Women have the opportunity to visit the Zygou Monastery, outside Mount Athos, and make the round tour of Mount Athos to see the monasteries from a distance.

## Must do!

**01** Swim in the emerald waters of Halkidiki. Every beach is like being in heaven.

**02** Visit Mount Athos for at least one day. Go on a pilgrimage to some of the 20 monasteries or take the cruise and admire the monasteries of the monastic state.

**03** Visit the cave of Petralona and see stalactites and stalagmites, the skull of the 700,000-year-old man and the fossils of extinct animals.

**04** Admire the Hippodamian Plan at the archaeological site of ancient Olynthos and the extraordinary mosaics.

**05** Visit the wineries of Halkidiki and taste wines made of ancient Greek and modern Greek grape varieties.

**06** Examine from up close the experimental instruments of that time, in the grove of Aristotle in Stagira, and visit the ancient city of Stagira in Olympiada.

**07** Take the ferry boat from Trypiti to the leafy small island of Ammouliani with the turquoise waters and the picturesque coves.

**08** Attend one of the famous Festivals of Sani, Kassandra in Siviri, Thalassa in Nea Moudania, Polygyros and many other theme actions and festivals organized every summer.

**09** Discover remains of ancient cities, quaint mountain villages, traditional stone settlements and points with views of all three peninsulas.

**10** Have a thermal bath in the sulfuric hot waters of the springs of Agia Paraskevi.



**info**

**Municipalities:** Aristotelis (Ierissos), Kassandra, Nea Propontida (Nea Moudania), Polygyros, Sithonia  
**Capital:** Polygyros  
**Area:** 2,918 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Population:** 105,908

Nikiti is 85 km and Kassandreia is 77 km away from the Macedonia airport in Thessaloniki. Daily bus routes from and to Thessaloniki.







#Spa\_Tourism

## Peaceful mind. Strong body.

Do you seek relief from diseases that distress you?

Do you need to feel relaxation, physical and spiritual rejuvenation?

Visit one of the hot springs located in the regional units of Central Macedonia and indulge yourself in the beneficial properties of thermal waters.



### PELLA

#### Pozar Thermal Baths

Take the opportunity to enjoy a bath in the area known for its healing waters since the ancient years. The Pozar Thermal Baths are 13 kilometers from Aridea and 33 kilometers from Edessa. They are open all year round and there are many hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, taverns and caf -bars in the entire spa area. Cold and warm scientifically tested waters run parallel to Loutraki. The water that flows from the spring goes up to 37.2 C, while the cold spring reaches 15 C. The healing properties of the water are perfect for respiratory, gynecological and skin diseases, while for liver and kidney disorders, drinking therapy is also recommended. You can do your balneotherapy, either in a group pool or in an individual bathtub, or simply leave yourself in the experienced hands of the

staff who will relax you with a massage. The facilities include swimming pools, hamams (Turkish baths), artificial waterfalls, spa, jacuzzi and changing rooms. A real rejuvenation experience is also the swimming in the natural outdoor waterfalls where the water is also thermal.

### SERRES

#### Sidirokastro Thermal Baths

At a distance of 23 kilometers from the center of Serres and 7 kilometers outside Sidirokastro, in a verdant location with panoramic views, you can have a bath in the thermal hydrotherapeutic spring. The warm thermal waters of the spring will soothe your body, while at the same time they will alleviate musculoskeletal pains. The thermal waters supply two hammam pools, three hydromassage and air massage pools, as well as 14 modern



Pozar Thermal Baths, Pella





#Spa\_Tourism  
**Peaceful mind.  
 Strong body.**

**In the thermal springs of Agkistro, the old stone facilities housing the byzantine steam bath and the water temperature at 40°C make for a special atmosphere.**

individual bathtubs with hydromassage and temperature control, operating throughout the year. On-site guests can enjoy relaxing or therapeutic massage services, clay therapy, aromatherapy, chocolate therapy and various other rejuvenating body and facial treatments. There is also a fully equipped practice room and a café-bar in the premises.

## **Nigrita Thermal Baths**

The famous thermal springs of Thermes are 5 kilometers away from Nigrita and 22 kilometers from the city center of Serres. The area is also widely known for the mineral water produced and bottled there. In the baths there is also a drinkable water spring, in which carbonic acid is steam-heated, bottled in the plant and released in the market. The thermal water gushes from the spring at a temperature of 36 to 56°C and is highly recommended for chronic rheumatic diseases and gastrointestinal disorders. Guests can have their bath in one of the 7 simple bathtubs or in the hydromassage or air massage pool. The baths operate every year from 1 July to 31 October.

## **Thermal Springs and Steam Bath of Agkistro**

The steam bath of Agkistro is the oldest hamam (Turkish bath) of Greece and dates back to the Byzantium era, in 950 A.D. It lies

a few kilometers before the Greek-Bulgarian borders at Promachonas and is open throughout the year and round the clock. The old stone facilities hosting the byzantine bath make for a special atmosphere. Plenty of warm water at a temperature of 40°C flows through the springs, offering the visitor a unique pleasant experience. The spring water, which has a small content of sulfur, is recommended for arthropathies, dermatoses, inflammations and is ideal for drinking therapy. The cost is € 5 per bath per person and within the same premises you can find a hotel to stay right after the hot bath. You can also enjoy a massage or even body or facial treatment that will give you a unique experience of deep revitalization.

## **KILKIS Curative Mud Baths of Pikrolimni**

Almost 25 kilometers from Kilkis there is an organized clay and hydrotherapy center. Pikrolimni's thermal bath complex houses a clay-therapy center with group pools for men and women, hydromassage bathtubs with hot water, saunas, a gym and individual clay application areas. In the summer, outdoor clay therapy is available on the shore of the lake, which is part of the Network "Natura 2000". The special feature of Pikrolimni is the black mud, the natural salty and thermal clay found at the bottom of the lake. The clay is ideal for arthropathies, dermatoses and gynecological diseases. There is a practice room and a physiotherapy room, as well as hotel, restaurant, bar and recreation areas. Here, you can feel the revitalization of your body and soul in a cinematic scenery. Take the chance and live the experience!

## **HALKIDIKI Agia Paraskevi Thermal Baths**

After World War II the inhabitants of Agia Paraskevi, on the peninsula of Kassandra,







#Spa\_Tourism  
**Peaceful mind.  
 Strong body.**

The water temperature at the spa baths of Nea Apollonia ranges 47 to 57°C and the hot spring is classified as an alkaline sulfur spring.

Halkidiki, blew up the rocks, from which hydrosulphur water sprang at a temperature of 39°C, thus creating the hot thermal spring. Today, there is a state-of-the-art hydrotherapy spa that offers guests relaxation in a natural setting consisting of rocks, pines, the blue sky and the wide sea. In the spa premises you will find an indoor and outdoor Olympic-size swimming pool with thermal sea water, individual

bathtubs, sprinklers, sauna, steam bath and jacuzzi (hot tub). You can also indulge yourself with physiotherapies and relaxing massage. There is always a medical staff and lifeguards available. The water ranges from 34.5 to 36°C, is hypertonic, mineral and sulfur. It is indicated for urological, skin and gynecological diseases. The entrance to the hydrotherapy center costs € 6 and it is usually recommended that the stay in the swimming pool be no longer than half an hour. The thermal baths are 120 km away from Thessaloniki and 77 km from Polygyros.

## THESSALONIKI Thermal Springs of Lagadas

This spa was built by Justinian, a military doctor of Byzantium, in the 9th century AD. The thermal baths are located 19 kilometers from Thessaloniki, within a splendid area of 100 acres with endless greenery, basketball courts, a playground offered for relaxation, picnic and endless play. Here guests can

have their bath in group or individual bathtubs, join the hydromassage pool (whirlpool) or enjoy a sand bath. The spring water is fluoride, thiosulphate, bicarbonate and reaches 57.5°C. Its healing properties have a therapeutic effect in cases of rheumatic diseases, gynecological, skin diseases and kidney disorders. You can also treat yourself to a massage or to a body or facial treatment. The facilities are open throughout the year, seven days a week. In the spa premises you will also find a hotel, a restaurant, a children's playground and basketball courts.

## Apollonia Spa

The spa baths of Nea Apollonia, located near the national road of Thessaloniki-Kavala, 50 km from the center of Thessaloniki and next to Lake Volvi, represent the only one existing lakeside spa. The temperature of water ranges from 47 to 57°C and the spa is recommended for

migraines, dermatological, gynecological, urological diseases and allergic asthma. Recently renovated facilities include a hamam, a steam bath, private pools with hydromassage, pools for up to 6 people, a sauna, an indoor swimming pool for 30 persons and 54 individual bathtubs. By appointment you can have a relaxing or therapeutic massage with physiotherapists that will give you moments of rejuvenation, spiritual and physical healing.



Agia Paraskevi Thermal Baths, Halkidiki



Mud Baths of Pikrolimni, Kilkis

#Religious\_Tourism

## In the traces of religion

The Greek Orthodox tradition is enormous and is reflected in churches and monasteries that are important monuments of the religion and history of the region. Discover the richness of the Orthodox Faith and feel the peace in the contact with God.

REGION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA

### SERRES

#### Holy Monastery of Eikosifoinissa

After Kormista, on the road from Serres to Kavala, you will reach the female Monastery of Eikosifoinissa. The miracle of the icon of the Virgin Mary, which shone and emitted "foinikoun" light, that is the reddish light like the Phoenician porphyry, is what gave the name to the Monastery. The beautiful location of the Monastery, at an altitude of 753 meters, and the acheiropoietis [not-painted-by-hands] icon of the Virgin Mary, attract crowds and pilgrims.

#### Monastery of Timios Prodromos

Within a reach of 12 kilometers from the city center of Serres and in a deep ravine of the mountain Menoikio, there lies the Monastery of Timios Prodromos [St. John the Baptist]. Built in 1270 A.D. by the priest-monk Ioannikios from Serres and his orphan nephew Ioakeim, the Monastery went through repeated disasters and survived. Today it is a museum of Byzantine art worth visiting, as it houses a plethora of relics, including the impressive wood-carved iconostasis from 1804 and the

Byzantine frescoes made by the Macedonian hagiographer Manuel Panselinos.

#### Monastery of Panagia Vyssianis

In verdant surroundings and at the bottom of a ravine, 10 km north of Serres and 2 km from the settlement of Metochi, you will reach the female Monastery of Panagia Vyssianis. The monastery was founded in 1972 on the initiative of local believers and took its name after the nearby village of Vyssiani. Here is the miraculous icon of Virgin Mary. The fact that on the eve of the celebration of Virgin Mary [Panagia] in 1996 it began to pour the year-long dried holy water is attributed to a miracle.

#### Metochi of Timios Prodromos

The metochi of Timios Prodromos [St. John the Baptist] was built in 1981 over the community of Akritochori, at the foot of Mount Kerkini (Belles), in the architectural standards of the churches of Agion Oros [Holy Mountain]. The monastery is only 24 kilometers from Serres and 50 kilometers from Sidirokastro and offers an international hiking trail E4/6 and offers a panoramic view over the Lake Kerkini.



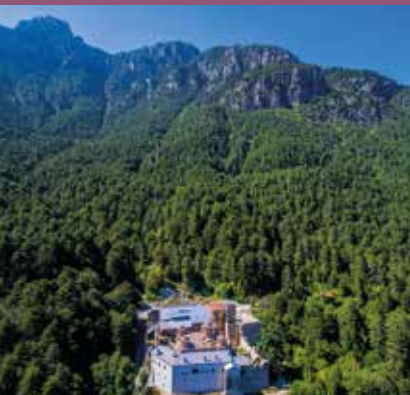
Female Monastery of Eikosifoinissa, Serres





## #Religious\_Tourism In the traces of religion

Luke the Evangelist drew the figure of Panagia [Virgin Mary] on wood and this icon has been housed in the Sumela Monastery since 1951.



Monastery of Agios Dionysios of Olympus



Agia Triada, Pieria

## PIERIA

### Monastery of Agios Dionysios of Olympus

It is located on Mount Olympus, at an altitude of 900 meters, between two streams, and only 18 kilometers from Litchoro. It was founded by Agios Dionysios [St. Dionysius] of Olympus in the 16th century. In 1821 it was torpedoed and plundered by the Turkish army, and in 1943 it was blown up by the Nazis. In the monastery's sacristy, which was inaugurated in 1999 by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the remains of Agios Dionysios, part of the Holy Cross, icons of the 15th- 19th century and ecclesiastical heirlooms of great historical and artistic value are kept. The Monastery has a spiritual and charitable activity, with all-day confessions and spiritual teachings, as well as debates, conferences and all-night vigils. The Monastery celebrates Agios Dionysios of Olympus on 23 January, and every 14 September it hosts the celebration of Stavros [Holy Cross].

### Ieros Naos Kimiseos tis Theotokou [Holy church of the Dormition of Theotokos]

This church is an example of the byzantine order of architecture and dates back to the 11th century. It is the oldest surviving byzantine monument in Pieria and is located in the village of Kontariotissa, on the top of a hill. In the dome of the church there is a rare iconographic program with Christ Pantocrator and the Dormition of the Mother of God.

### Agia Triada [Holy Trinity]

The church was built in the 14th century, 4 kilometers from Vrontou, at an altitude of 500 meters and is located at the outlet of a large stream. The view from the chapel is magnificent as it faces the steep peaks of Mount Olympus.

### Agia Kori [Holy Daughter]

At a distance of 4 kilometers from Vrountou, the traveler will come across the chapel of Agia Kori, after descending 175 steps into one

of the most impressive ravines of Olympus. Religious rites and ceremonies are held there throughout the year.

### Holy Monastery of Panagia [Virgin Mary] in Makryrrachi

This female monastery was established in the 12th century and was a stauropegic-patriarchal monastery. During the Turkish rule it was a spiritual center of the wider region and actively participated in the uprising of the Nation. On the eve of 15 August there is a festive service held with crowds of people.

### Church of Agia Paraskevi

This church is an important historical monument for the inhabitants of Pieria. It dates back almost five centuries ago and it was the first church built by the Greeks that dwelled in Ano Milia, among whom the family of klephts and armatoles Lazaioi, in the mid-16th century, at the time of the Ottoman Empire. According to tradition, Cosmas of Aetolia used to teach in the yard of this very church.

### Church of Agios Athanasios in Ano Skotina

This is a historical, single-aisle church, with rich

hagiographic material and excellent frescoes of the 17th century.

## IMATHIA

### Sumela Monastery

Luke the Evangelist drew the figure of Panagia on wood and this icon was transferred from Pontus to Greece in 1930, where it was hosted in the Byzantine museum of Athens. At the request of the Pontic Greeks, the Sumela Monastery was built in 1951 to house the icon in tranquil and rocky surroundings, in the area of Kastania. Thousands of travelers visit the Sumela Monastery to worship and attend the festive events held there every year on 15 August.

### Byzantine churches of Veria

Because of the multitude of its churches and its religious character, Veria is referred to as "the Little Jerusalem". There are 48 of the 72 Byzantine churches survived in the center of the city, many of which, due to the repairs, have not retained their original form, but they have not lost the charm of the centuries they enclose either. The 39 churches have beautiful frescoes dating back to the 11th-



Sumela Monastery, Imathia





## #Religious\_Tourism In the traces of religion

The 20 monasteries, sketes, cells, huts and retreats make Agion Oros [Mount Athos] the largest museum of art, ethnology and ecclesiastical history.

18th centuries. The large number of churches is due to the fact that many of them were originally private temples and belonged to families of officials who were connected with the imperial family and resided in Veria.

### The Old Cathedral of Veria

The Old Cathedral of Veria is one of the largest post-byzantine temples of the Balkans, built in 1070 - 1080 by the city's bishop Nikitas. It is a masterful architectural three-aisled basilica with impressive wall decoration and some of the most important works of Byzantine painting of the 12th, 13th and 14th century. Upon completion of the restoration work by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia in 2016, the monument is open to the public, offering the visitor a unique lively journey to the Byzantine history of the city.

### Naos Anastaseos tou Christou [Church of the Resurrection of Christ]

The original temple was single-aisle, wooden-roofed, with a semi-hexagonal apse in the sanctuary. According to the inscription, the church was built by Xenos Psalidas and was completed after his death by his wife Euphrosyne. The occupation of the Monastery of Savior Jesus Christ was granted in 1314 with a chrysobull of Andronikos II to the monk Ignatios Kalothetos. The church is internally

divided into three zones. The lower ones represent full-body saints, in the middle and narrower zones there are busts of evangelists, prophets and saints, and in the upper zone scenes of the Twelve Great Feast are depicted, except for the Pentecost.

### The Church of Ypapanti (Candlemas) or Panagouda of Veria

This is a church of the 15th century with important frescoes of that era. The main temple and the frescoes of the north aisle date from 1706.

### Church of Agios Savvas of Kiriottissa (Panagia Kiriottissa) of Veria

One of the most remarkable samples of byzantine ecclesiastical architecture, this church stands out for the rich ceramoplactic decoration on the apse of the sanctuary. It is a Palaeologean temple of the 14th century and maintains the frescoes of that time. It was restored in 1671 and again at the beginning of the 19th century.

### In the footsteps of Paul the Apostle

Following the footsteps of Paul the Apostle, make a stop in Thessaloniki, at the Vlatadon Monastery where the Apostle of the Nations preached to the Thessalonians. Visit Veria at the spot where the Apostle spoke about the Christian faith twice and today it is a world monument of religious and cultural heritage. From Veria, he fled to Methoni, Pieria, from where he took the boat to Athens. Apostle Paul's own accounts testify that he also taught Christianity in Apollonia, on a rock opposite the Turkish bath, on his way from Amfipoli to Thessaloniki.

### Holy Monastery of Panagia Dovra

The monastery, which is commemorated

in the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, was founded in the 12th century and operated continuously until 1822.

During the Revolution it was one of the most important national and religious centers of the region. With the destruction that followed in 1822, the monastery was burnt and the present-day catholicism was built in 1844. The monastery was rebuilt in 1995 as a male coenobitic monastery. Since 2005 the brotherhood of the monastery has been linked with the newly revealed Saint of the Russian land, Saint Luke the surgeon and miracle-worker, Archbishop of Simferopol. The monastery treasures a piece of the holy relic of the Saint.

## HALKIDIKI

### Agion Oros [Holy Mountain or Mount Athos]

Every man deserves to live the experience of Agion Oros. On the third peninsula of Halkidiki that reaches a height of 2,033 meters, 20 monasteries, sketes, cells, huts and retreats spread out in the scenery. All monasteries are coenobitic meaning that all the monks attend divine service, share the roof and the food and pray during the same hours.

The fortress layout and the architecture of the buildings, the wooden and marble



Holy Monastery of Panagia Dovra, Imathia



In the footsteps of Paul the Apostle, Veria



## #Religious\_Tourism In the traces of religion

The visitors of Thessaloniki can worship the relics of Agios Dimitrios [Saint Demetrius] every year on 26 October.



Church of Agia Sofia, Thessaloniki



Crypt, Church of Agios Dimitrios, Thessaloniki

iconostases, the imposing bell towers, the domes with the hagiographies and the icons represent the richness of the monasteries and make Agion Oros the largest museum of art, ethnology and ecclesiastical history. Since 1988, it has designated as site of world cultural heritage. The blue of the Aegean Sea stretches below the steep cliffs and the view is stunning. The uneven hills, the verdant forests and the tranquility that prevails due to the lack of cosmic noise make Agion Oros a real refuge. Ferry boats, high-speed boats and smaller boats leave several times a day from Ouranoupoli to Agion Oros.

### Zygou Monastery in Ouranoupoli

Zygou Monastery is located in the wider area of Ouranoupoli, about 40 meters before the border of Mount Athos. It is dedicated to Profitis Ilias [Prophet Elijah] and was built around 991 A.D. It is the only example of a large monastery on Mount Athos that we can actually study its structure. It has been restored to a large extent and is open to visitors.

### Churches of Halkidiki

Halkidiki is full of parish churches and chapels in every village. Don't miss the chance to pay a visit. Only some of them are the Monastery of Panagia Filanthropini and the Monastery of Agios Arsenios from Cappadocia in Ormylia, the Monastery of Agios Prodroimos in Metamorfoosi, the Monastery of Agios Cosmas of Aetolia in Arnaia, the metochi of Zoodochos Pigi [Life-giving Spring] that is located between Lerissos and Stratoni and belongs to the Hilandar Monastery of Mount Athos, the Monastery of Evangelismou [Annunciation of the Virgin Mary] in Olympiada and the Monastery of Agia Anastasia the Pharmakolytria [i.e. "Deliverer from Potions"] at the borders of the prefecture of Halkidiki and the prefecture of Thessaloniki, near Vasilika.

### THESSALONIKI Church of Agios Dimitrios

One of the most important early Christian churches of Thessaloniki is dedicated to Agios

Dimitrios [Saint Demetrius], the patron saint of the city. It is a building that dates from the 7th century and has been declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. Visitors can worship the relics of Agios Dimitrios and every year on 26 October they can attend the litany and take part in the procession of the relics and the icon of the Saint in the streets of the city.

### Church of Agia Sofia

Built at the end of the 7th century and imitating the structure of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople (present-day Istanbul, Turkey), the church has kept intact through time a huge mosaic depicting the Ascension in the interior of the central dome. It is one of the most beautiful Byzantine churches in Thessaloniki and a monument of world cultural heritage.

### Church of Agios Nikolaos Orfanos

The church of Agios Nikolaos Orfanos [Saint Nicholas Orphanos] is a real byzantine gem. It was built during the first half of the 14th century as a catholicon of a Byzantine monastery in a lovely verdant garden. The frescoes are some of the most complete examples of Palaeologean painting in Thessaloniki.

- Panagia Chalkeon, Acheiropoietos, Agios

Panteleimonas at Kamara, Ypapanti, Agios Minas, Agios Athanasios, Agia Theodora and Vlatadon Monastery are some of the Orthodox churches and monasteries that all visitors should visit at least once.

### PELLA Monastery of Agios Hilarion of Moglenon

The female monastery of Agios Hilarion, Bishop of Moglenon, is located one kilometer from the village of Promachoi, Aridaia. In the years of the Ottoman rule, the monastery housed a secret school. The Turks almost destroyed it and for many years it was closed. After maintenance works, the Monastery has opened again.

### Archangel Michael Monastery

Archangel Michael Monastery lies approximately 40 kilometers from Loutraki. From the documents that have been found, the monastery was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Its imposing structure, the frescoes and its national and religious offer over



Monastery of Iviron, Mount Athos



## #Religious\_Tourism In the traces of religion

The monastery of Agia Triada [Holy Trinity] is a three-aisled three-apse basilica. The elevated middle aisle carries three polygonal domes, a number that symbolizes the Holy Trinity.



Archangel Michael Monastery, Pella

the years make it one of the most important pilgrimage sites of Northern Greece.

### Agia Triada Monastery

The monastery of Agia Triada [Holy Trinity] was built in 1865 and dominates the plain of Edessa, next to the archaeological site. Part of the building material used was taken from the walls of the ancient city and from Roman inscribed altars. The monastery was built in the ruins of an older church, but it was destroyed in the early years of the Turkish rule. It was then erected at the expense of the city's residents (trade/ craft unions and

individuals) and subsequently acquired a large fortune from donations. In 1942 its property ran out and until now it operates as a convent. The temple is a three-aisled three-apse basilica. The elevated middle aisle carries three polygonal domes, a number that symbolizes the Holy Trinity. The iconostasis of the 19th century and the built-in tombstones of the Roman times are remarkable.

### KILKIS

#### Church of Agios Rafail, Nikolaos und Irini [Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene]

The Church of Agios Rafail is situated on a verdant slope of Mount Paiko, at an altitude of 600 meters, overlooking the valley of Axios, in the village of Griva, 7 kilometers from Goumenissa. It is a male monastery, established in 1992. It celebrates on Tuesday of the Bright Week (Easter Monday afternoon and Easter Tuesday). It treasures holy relics of Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene, St. Mary Magdalene of Myriophorus and a small piece of the Holy Cross.

#### Holy Monastery of Panagia in Goumenissa

The miraculous icon of Panagia Goumenissa is located in the Holy Monastery of Panagia in Goumenissa, which today operates as a men's monastery. The icon is celebrated four times a year: on 2 February with vigil, on the first Sunday of March with litany, on the third day of Easter with litany and from 15 to 17 August.

#### Coenobitic Monastery of Osios Nikodimos

On one of the most beautiful slopes of Mount Paiko, at an altitude of 700 meters, outside the village of Pentalofo, the monastery of Agios Nikodimos [Saint Nicodemus] of Mount Athos stands out in

the forest. It represents a metochi of the Monastery of Simonos Petra of Mount Athos, which was founded in 1981. The central temple is two-storey and its upper level is dedicated to Agios Nikodimos, while the ground floor is for Agios Rafail, Nikolaos und Irini. In the few years of its "life" it has become one of the most impressive monasteries of Macedonia with a rich spiritual work. Today, the Monastery is home to 23 monks. The icon painting workshop of the Monastery is famous for the fine and high-quality production of handmade icons. The ecclesiastical services, the rites and the ceremonies are all performed according to the Mount Athos rituals and standards. It celebrates on 14 July.

#### Monastery of Agios Georgios

The Monastery of Agios Georgios [Saint George], founded in 1856, lies on the hill of the city of Kilkis. The Monastery operated until the end of the 19th century, when it was destroyed by Uniate monks, leaving only its catholicon behind. In 1976 the Monastery was established for the second time. Today, the brotherhood counts 12 registered hieromonks. The church is a distinctive

example of the architecture of temples of the 19th century: stone-built, in the order of a three-aisle basilica, with a high stone-built bell tower and inside the church a fine-art wood-carved iconostasis with characteristic icons of excellent artwork. The Monastery holds a fest on 23 April and on 3, 4 and 21 November.

#### Church of Agios Georgios in Goumenissa

It is the largest church in the metropolitan district of Goumenissa and one of the most impressive in Central Macedonia. It was built on the initiative, expenses and personal work of the town's inhabitants in the period 1864 - 1869. An imposing basilica that reminds the Patriarchal Church of Agios Georgios of Constantinople (present-day Istanbul, Turkey), Agios Minas of Thessaloniki and Agios Antonios of Veria. It is located in the center of the city and together with the historical school which it is located in the same site, was the heart of the Hellenism of Goumenissa and its countryside in difficult historical times. In 2016 the restoration, founding and maintenance of the church was completed and, since 1991, it has been the Metropolitan Church of the Municipality of Paionia.



Coenobitic Monastery of Osios Nikodimos, Kilkis



## #Eco\_Tourism

# Where humanity and nature become one!

In Central Macedonia you can find peace in calm and quiet natural scenery, but also magnificent landscapes of wild and virgin nature. Whatever place you may choose, the certain is that the nature will fascinate you. The alterations of the environment, the landscapes of unparalleled beauty and the gorgeous ecosystems of unique ecological interest give the visitors numerous options for nature-love activities.



## KILKIS

### Doiran Lake

At the border between Greece and FYROM, you can enjoy the untouched landscape of Doiran Lake. 19 species of fish live and breed in the waters of the lake, while equally rich is the avifauna of the area. To the perimeter of the lake shores there are verdant protected forests and beautiful villages. In the wider area there are playgrounds, sports pitches, refreshment stalls and picturesque fish taverns with exquisite appetizers and renowned local dishes such as carp and perch. The lake is listed in the Network "Natura 2000".

### Skra Waterfalls & the "Emerald Lake"

North of the prefecture of Kilkis, on the northeast slopes of Paiko, you will reach the Skra waterfalls. A small wonder of nature unfolds in front of your eyes, as among the lush vegetation of ivies, hazel trees and vines, crystal clear waters flow from a height, creating small and larger waterfalls. The blue waters combined to the calcareous and fossilized micro-organisms on the ground create the "Emerald Lake", a small natural lake with emerald waters.



Skra Waterfalls & the Emerald Lake, Kilkis

### Artificial Metalliou Lake [also lake of mine]

15 kilometers from Axioupoli, at the site of Mega Rema on Mount Paiko, you can find the wonderful artificial Metalliou Lake with a depth of 35 meters. The wild and authentic beauty of nature is the most beautiful setting to indulge in naturalistic activities such as fishing, cycling, trekking, picnic and free play in the fresh air.

### Cave of Agios Georgios

In Kilkis you will come across the two-storey cave of Agios Georgios which is rich in stalactites, stalagmites and compositions of coral material. It attracts crowds of people for its natural beauties as well as for the tranquil atmosphere. It has a constant temperature of 18-20°C which is ideal for curing respiratory diseases.

### Chilia Dendra [Thousand Trees]

The Mouria forest, located 4 km north of Doirani settlement, is a natural setting of rare beauty that has been declared a Preserved Natural Monument and is listed in the Network "Natura 2000". "Chilia Dendra" location is offered for leisure and recreation under the 400-year-old oak trees.



#Eco\_Tourism

**Where humanity  
and nature  
become one!**

In the Cave of Petralona, the oldest human relic (between Homo Erectus and Homo Sapiens) has been found and is estimated to be 700,000 years old.

## Balkan Botanic Garden of Kroussia

The Balkan botanic garden of Kroussia is 70 km from Thessaloniki, located in the deciduous oak forest of Mavrovouni, in the mountain range of Kroussia, at an altitude of 600 meters. The garden spreads on 310 acres, 150 of which are covered with natural oak trees, where self-grown populations are preserved, while in the remaining 160 acres ex situ species of the Greek flora are preserved, including rare and endemic species. In its premises there is a multifunctional reception area with periodic and permanent exhibitions, small guesthouses, artificial waterfalls, ponds and



Aliakmonas River, Imathia

streams, kiosks, small artificial lakes, walking paths, wooden tables and chairs and an observatory.

## HALKIDIKI

### Petralona Cave

In the Cave of Petralona [also, Cave of the Red Stones], which was discovered in 1959, the oldest human relic has been found that belongs to an early transition stage between Homo Erectus and Homo Sapiens and is estimated to be 700,000 years old. Moreover, fossils of extinct animals have been also found in the cave, such as lions, bears, panthers, rhinos, bison, deer, rodents, bats and various birds. The decor is rich in impressive stalagmites and stalactites, as well as in asymmetric geological formations. Next to the cave there is the Petralona Anthropological Museum, which houses many of the archaeological findings of the cave. It is located 50 km from Thessaloniki and 37 km from Polygyros.

### Mavrobara Lake

Mavrobara, a small lake with a huge ecological interest, is located 3 kilometers



Petralona Cave, Halkidiki

west of Polychrono, Halkidiki. Here, two species of rare freshwater turtles find shelter in its calm waters.

## PELLA

### Agra-Nisi-Vrytta Wetlands

A few kilometers outside Edessa, you will find the artificial lake and the Agra wetland. The hydro-biotic tree vegetation and the reeds growing there are the ideal conditions for the nesting and breeding of the fauna living in the area. Frogs, otters, coypus, freshwater turtles, water snakes, freshwater crayfish, wild ducks, swans and pelicans are some of the species that one can meet. Next to the lake there is a tourist kiosk with local cuisine and excellent trout. Indulge in organized rafting and bird-watching.

### River Almopeos [or Moglenitsas]

Grab this wonderful opportunity to observe the rich flora and fauna of the river. River Almopeos springs from Kaimakchalan and Tzena and crosses Edessa. Since 2000 it has been listed in Network "Natura 2000". You can also do canoeing, kayaking, rafting



Lake Vegoritida, Pella

and hiking on the banks of the river that create a dreamy atmosphere.

## Edessa Waterfalls

Edesseos (or Vodas) River flowing through the city creates a total of 7 waterfalls. The largest one called Karanos is 70 meters high and the sound of the waters falling from that height is impressive. You can also walk behind the big waterfall, as well as throughout the water park under the centuries-old plane trees.

## Lake Vegoritida

Listed in the Natura network, Lake Vegoritida is one of the largest and deepest in Greece. It is ideal for hiking on the banks and having a lunch at one of the restaurants while enjoying the fantastic views. The cycling tour of the lake is also a perfect idea.

## IMATHIA

### Aliakmonas

### [or Haliacmon] River

Aliakmonas River is a source of life for all of Imathia. It has 33 fish species and





#Eco\_Tourism

**Where humanity  
and nature  
become one!**

At the National Park of Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas, 295 bird species, 40 mammalian species, many reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and rich flora live, grow and reproduce.



Lake Kerkini, Serres

215 bird species, of which about 1/3 nests in the area. Among them, the Dalmatian pelican and the slender-billed curlew are considered two of the world's rarest birds. Many birds rest on the river before continuing their migratory journey.

## SERRES

### Lake Kerkini

Lake Kerkini is located 45 km west of the city of Serres. It is one of the 10 Greek wetlands of international importance. Over 300 species of birds, 30 species of fish, rich birdlife and mammals live and breed in this great wetland. An impressive sight is the buffaloes living in the riparian forest and visitors can actually see them cool themselves in the lake. In the wider area you can enjoy boating, hiking and sports next to the lake and, of course, you can watch the butterflies, the birds and the flocks of buffalo.

### Alistrati cave

When in Serres, you should definitely visit the cave of Alistrati and take the most beautiful cave walk ever. A predefined route, designed with absolute precision and safety, will lead you from the majestic entrance of the cave to the main hall, almost 30 meters deep. This masterpiece of natural architecture stretches over 3 km of trails and the spectacle is unique.

### Aggitis canyon

Exiting the cave of Alistrati, you will find yourself in the gorge of Aggitis, 15 kilometers long and up to 100 meters deep, which ends spectacularly in the Angista five-arch stone bridge. In the shadow of stunning rocks and towering trees, accept the challenge for some rafting action in the river.

## PIERIA

### Observatory of Nea Agathoupoli

Visit the Observatory of New Agathoupoli and watch on telescopes and binoculars thousands of ducks, herons, pelicans and birds of prey looking for food in the wetland and enjoy the view of Aliakmonas delta. It is a beautiful coastal wetland with halophilous plants, tamarisk and extensive reeds, that hosts an important birdlife. The wetland of Nea Agathoupoli is an ideal destination for a getaway to nature. You can walk on the path of the wetland or cycle on the bicycle path that joins the observatory with Methoni. Every year, on the first Sunday of October, the EuroBirdwatch takes place with guided tours, bird watching and many environmental games for children.

### Alykes Kitrous

The lagoon of Alykes Kitrous [salty wetlands] is located in the homonymous village of Pieria and constitutes one of the most important wetlands of Northern

Greece. Storks, flamingos, greater flamingos and herons find shelter in the lagoon of Alykes which covers an area of about 15,000 acres. The whole site belongs to the network "Natura 2000" and its various habitats range from shallow lagoon waters and salty water marshes to coastal scrublands and sand dunes. Next to the coast there is an organized salt production unit that is the second largest in the country. Visit Aiginio, from spring to late summer, to see most stork couples in Greece.

## THESSALONIKI

### National Park of Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas

The National Park stretches over a vast area of 338 square kilometers where Kalohori Lagoon, Gallikos River, Delta of Axios River, Loudias and Aliakmonas and the wetlands of Nea Agathoupoli and Alykes Kitrous meet. Throughout this protected area, 295 bird species, 40 mammalian species, many reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and rich



National Park of Axios-Loudias-Aliakmonas

flora live, grow and reproduce. The spectacle is amazing. Enjoy the natural environment in all its splendor.

### Epanomi and Aggelochori Lagoons

Epanomi and Aggelochori lagoons, listed in the network "Natura 2000", host 178 rare and protected birds and more than 2,500 plant species. It is a blessed place of great beauty that gives life to a great deal of flora and fauna. Visitors, after observing the wetlands, can swim in the wonderful waters on whatever side they want.

### Lake Volvi & Agios Vasileios

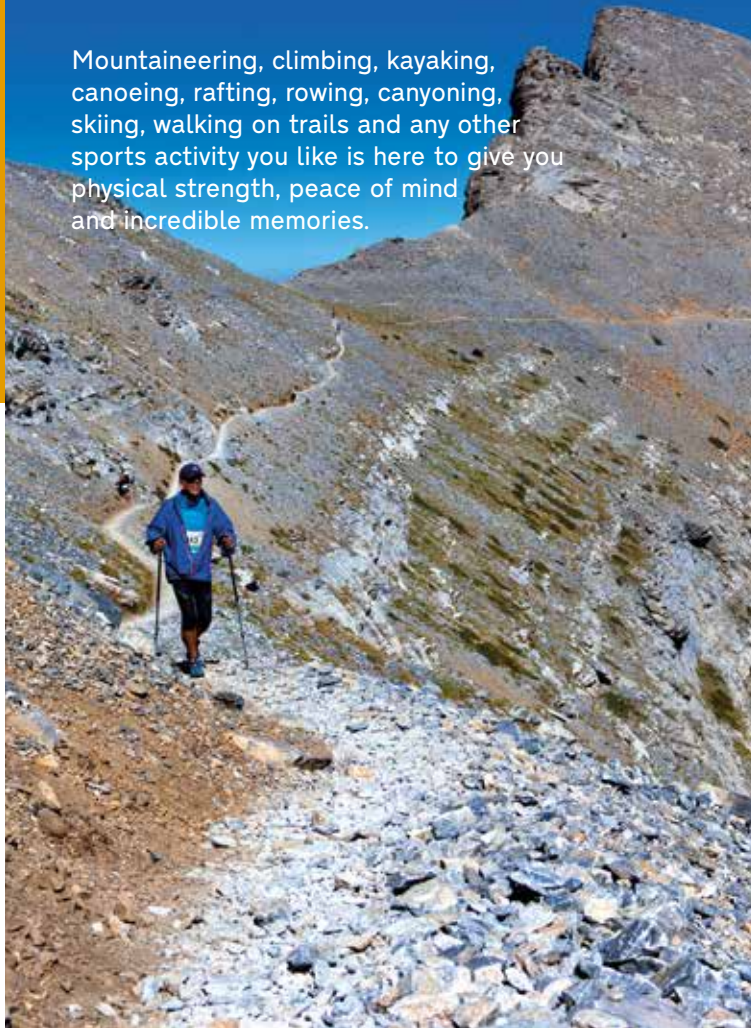
North and east of Thessaloniki are the two lakes with rare ecosystems growing on their banks. Storks, flamingos, herons and great egrets are just some of the species you will meet there.



## #Mountaineering\_Tourism

# For the adventure lovers

Mountaineering, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, rowing, canyoning, skiing, walking on trails and any other sports activity you like is here to give you physical strength, peace of mind and incredible memories.



### IMATHIA

#### Ski centers of Seli & 3-5 Pigadia

Both ski resorts are organized with excellent infrastructure and equipment for skiing and mountaineering. The services they provide are of high standards and thus ensure their excellent operation and the satisfaction of their visitors.

#### Vermio - Aliakmonas - Grove of Agios Nikolaos

Take the European hiking trail E4 that goes through Vermio and crosses 3-5 Pigadia, Seli, Sumela Monastery and other wonderful landscapes, as the Aliakmonas River flows between the Pierian Mountains and Vermio. Look for all the paths in the Imathia mountain range and do not miss the tour on the banks of Aliakmonas and the grove of Agios Nikolaos.

### PELLA

#### Mountainous Pella

It is the ideal setting for hiking, cycling,

mountaineering and other equally adrenaline-boosting sports activities. The mountain region of Pella has so many variations in its landscapes and geomorphology that makes it possible for both easy and extremely difficult routes, depending on your preferences and skills.

#### Ski center of Kaimakchalan - Voras

The famous ski resort is located on Mount Voras, at an altitude of 2,524 meters, and is famous for its state-of-the-art facilities, infrastructure and long snowfall duration, as it also operates as a training center. There are 11 tracks of every degree of difficulty as well as a snowboard track. On a special piste, one can drive snowmobiles, play with airboards and sledges. The excellent tourist infrastructure in the nearby village of Agios Athanasios makes Kaimakchalan (or Kaimaktsalan) one of the most attractive destinations in the country.

#### Air sports at the Air Athletic Center of Macedonia - Thrace

If you love adventure and want to rise up your adrenaline higher, you should go to the Air Athletic Center of Macedonia -



3-5 Pigadia, Imathia



## #Mountaineering\_Tourism For the adventure lovers

The ski centers of Macedonia are fully equipped, with state-of-the-art ski infrastructure and slopes for both advanced and beginners, as well as for climbing.

Thrace, 26 km from Edessa, and try flying a two-seated glider or do paragliding (also known as parapente). If you are not that adventurous, you can watch amazing aerial stunt demonstrations or enjoy a coffee at the bar.

### Rowing, canoeing, kayaking

At point "Miden" [Zero], on the road connecting Giannitsa and Alexandreia, the International Nautical Center of Loudias is open all year round. It is a straight line of 2.5 kilometers, where there is never wind and the level is always steady. Trainings, races as well as rowing, canoeing and kayaking lessons for all ages are held here.

### Mount Paiko

Many climbers visit Mount Paiko as it combines the unique beauty of the natural environment with hiking trails for each level. To reach the highest peak of the mountain, Gkola Tsouka, at an altitude of 1,657 meters, you will pass through dense forests, verdant plateaus, ravines and waterfalls. Every first Sunday of November the 20-kilometer Half-Marathon of Paiko, with salamander as its symbol, is organized with great success by the local Mountaineering Club. Moreover, the area on Kilkis side has two marked cycling paths of 26.5 and 85 km respectively.

### KILKIS

#### Cycling routes on mountains Kroussia and Belles

Two marked cycling routes of 24,6 and 49,5 km long cycling, of medium and high difficulty, are found at Pontokerasia (Kroussia Mountains) and Mouria (Doirani - Belles) respectively. The routes start from hotel units, cross rural roads and pass through forest paths, satisfying even the most demanding cyclists.

### SERRES

#### Lailias

25 kilometers from the center of Serres and with 33,000 acres of land, Lailias forest is suitable for hunting and camping, as well as for many winter sports, also for climbing, mountain biking and hiking on the E6 trail. In Olympia there is a shelter, and the chalet of the mountaineering club operates in the location of Katimeria. At the Lailias ski resort there are tracks for beginners, advanced and biathletes.



Mount Voras, Pella

### PIERIA

#### Activities on Mount Olympus

The imposing life-glowing and centuries-old mountain, just like the earth, the mountain of the gods, the legend of the people, makes the Creator proud for the incredible beauty and the unbelievable grandeur. Here, the concept of color takes another dimension. The colors, the waters, everything here is different and marvelous. Divinely nominated as the park of the world, the sacred mountain has a monumental appearance and is a complex of natural balance and harmony. The spectacle is unimaginable in majesty, volume and form. Its many and varied folds combine the unsurpassed natural beauty and the grandeur of the myth. The height of the mountain of the gods radiates nobility and obedience, religiosity and mysticism, brilliance and purity of the landscape. Climbing Olympus gives you strange feelings, mixed with awe and admiration, leaving behind the "appearance" and penetrating the "being" of things. People from all over the world visit Mount Olympus.



Enipeas Gorge, Olympus

Until someone arrives at Mytikas, the highest peak that reaches 2,918 meters of height, there are many interesting paths to walk. The easiest routes start from Litochoro, a modern town at the foot of the mountain and only 5 kilometers from the sea and the national road of Thessaloniki-Athens. This is the starting point of the Mountaineering Clubs and it is crucial to get all the important information on mountain climbing, as well as to comply with the instructions and advice of the mountaineers who have an experience in Mount Olympus. There are also other routes that start from Dion and Petra. After about five hours of hiking on the E4 mountaineering trail and crossing the Enipea Gorge, you will reach Prionia (1,100 m high). Here either you continue another 1,000 meters to find the Spilios Agapitos shelter or you take the route to the Muses Plateau where there is a mountain shelter at 2,600 meters of height. The shelters are the starting points for the routes to the highest peaks. There are alternative routes depending on the physical condition, skills and rhythm of each climber. In Kato Olympus it is worth visiting the artificial lake of Kati with the homonymous fountain, which is visible through the forest.





## #Mountaineering\_Tourism For the adventure lovers

Olympus is ideal for plenty of activities, such as canyoning, cycling, paragliding, horse riding, as well as swimming in the natural water cavities created by the streams that run through the mountain.



Chortiatis, Thessaloniki

Olympus is ideal for many other activities, as well, such as hiking, canoeing, cycling, paragliding, rock climbing, horse riding and swimming in the natural water cavities created by the streams that run through the mountain. Here, the International Olympus Marathon is held every June. Olympus is ideal if you seek for unique, authentic, life experiences.

### Pierian Mountains

Next to Mount Olympus, in the northwest direction, the mythical Pierian Mountains spread out forming a large green hug for the land of Pieria. The peculiar

beauty of the Pierian Mountains, the geomorphological mildness and the harmony of their lines impressed the ancient Greeks, who chose to place in this beautiful setting the mythical expressions of art and culture, the Mousai Pierides (Pierian Muses). In Pieria the magic of nature is combined with tradition. The human presence and activity, harmoniously mingled with the natural landscape, give the image of an ideal cohabitation. Many trekking and hiking trails end up on the peaks of the mountains. Fully embedded in the natural color, like nests and hives of life and tradition, settlements emerged in greenery, in a poetic atmosphere with panoramic views, and all these unique elements compose the Pierian Mountains. An arc of traditional settlements with particular architectural features spreads out on the Pierian Mountains and gives the visitor the opportunity to enjoy routes of natural beauty.

### Elatochori Ski Center

Elatochori Ski Center is located on the northeastern side of the Pierian Mountains at an altitude of 1,450 meters. It enjoys a privileged location with spectacular views of Olympus and Aliakmonas. It is only 8 kilometers from the picturesque village of Elatochori and 36 kilometers from Katerini. Its facilities include 10 slopes with varying altitudes and different degrees of difficulty. There is a track for snowboards and sledges, as well as a two-storey chalet, distinguished by its modern aesthetics that is in absolute harmony with the environment. There are also shops that sell and rent equipment and skiing wear and accessories, as well as a ski training school.

### Air sports from the chapel of Profitis Ilias at Palaios Panteleimonas

The area is accessible and the route is of particular beauty, as you go up

to the Mount Olympus that stands high and magnificent, while the view all the way to the destination is panoramic. Combined with the beautiful landscapes towards Platamonas Castle, the traditional settlements and the unique coasts of Pieria, which you can enjoy when flying high, make the mountain of the gods the meeting point of air sport lovers from all over the world.

### THESSALONIKI Chortiatis

Chortiatis is located at a distance of 25 km from the center of Thessaloniki. It is recommended for locals and visitors to take the mountaineering path through the green forest every once in a while. At the end of the path, you reach the shelter at the position "Tzek Bahtse", at an altitude of 1,000 meters. You can also ascend the path by car.

### HALKIDIKI Hiking trails

Halkidiki Tourism Organization is developing a network of hiking trails across the region, aiming to promote adventure and hiking tourism in new markets, develop awareness of environmental protection and at the same time stimulate the involvement of local society.

Halkidiki is a blessed place with lush green forests that go all the way to the beach and hosts many beautiful settings that are true heavens on earth for the mountain lovers. There are paths and marked trails for mountain biking and hiking, walks in the forest and along the coast around the peninsulas, as well as for off-road adventures in distant areas. If you wish to explore nature, Halkidiki is the perfect getaway destination.

• *In the mountainous and forest area of Holomontas as well as on mountain Ntragkountelis [or Ntragntelis] in the peninsula of Sithonia, you can indulge in rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, horse riding and off-road car driving.*

[www.halkidikiroutes.com](http://www.halkidikiroutes.com)



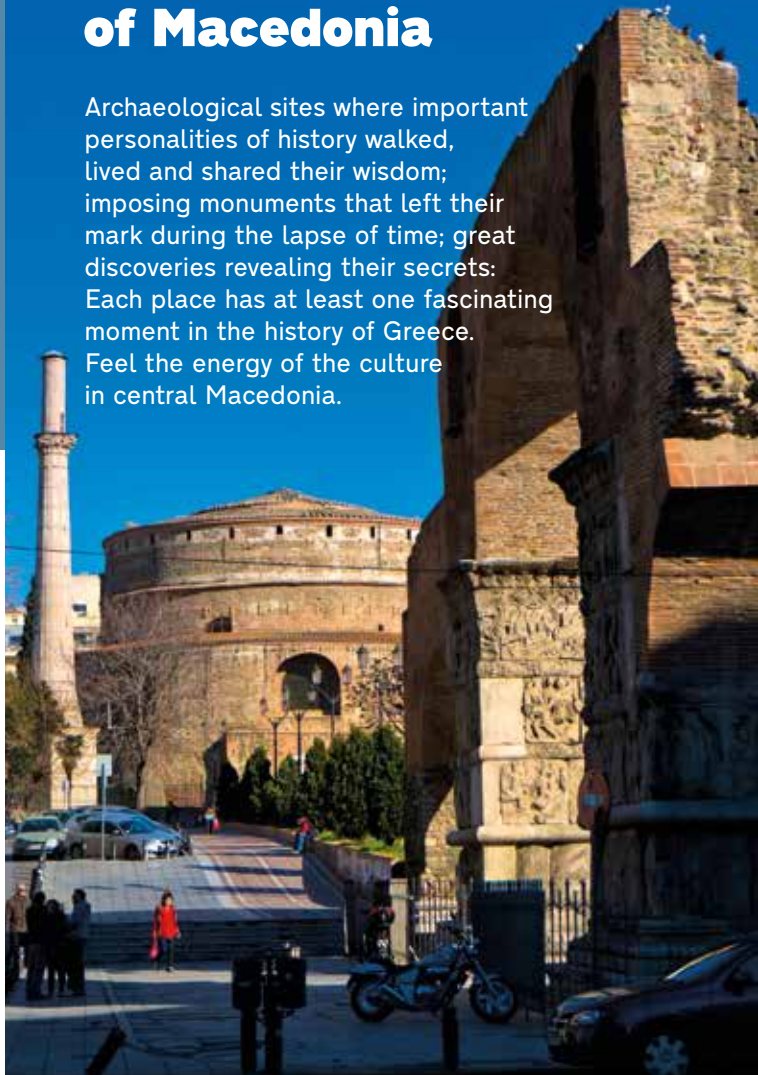
Elatochori Ski Center, Pieria



## #Historical\_Tourism

# The sacred land of Macedonia

Archaeological sites where important personalities of history walked, lived and shared their wisdom; imposing monuments that left their mark during the lapse of time; great discoveries revealing their secrets: Each place has at least one fascinating moment in the history of Greece. Feel the energy of the culture in central Macedonia.



## THESSALONIKI

### White Tower

The symbol of Thessaloniki, the White Tower, was built in the 15th century and operated as a prison of long-term convicts and later as a military commander base. Today, on its six floors there is a permanent exhibition that reflects the history of the city from its foundation in 316 B.C. to this day.

### Rotunda & Kamara

The imposing Rotunda was built by Caesar Galerius in the 4th century to be used as a mausoleum, and two centuries later, Emperor Theodosius turned it into a Christian temple. Kamara [or else the Arch of Galerius] is located almost next to Rotunda and portrays representations of Galerius' victories against the Persians.

### Ancient Roman Agora

The Ancient Agora or Roman Forum was the commercial, social, administrative and religious center of the city. It was built at the end of the 1st century B.C. and was decorated with arches, fountains, statues and various smaller buildings.

## Ano Poli

The largest part of the fortifications of Thessaloniki is preserved in the city quarter called Ano Poli [i.e. Upper City]. In your walk there, you can see various monuments, such as Eptapyrgio [i.e. Seven Towers] or else Yedi Koule that used to be a prison, the impressive Triangle Tower, the mausoleum of Musa Baba and the mosque of Alatza Imaret.

## Zeitenlik Cemeteries

The Allied Cemeteries of Zeitenlik are located on Lagadas Street, near Vardariou square. 20,500 soldiers who fought for the Entente alliance during World War I are buried there.

## SERRES

### Amfipoli [or Amphipolis]

Admire the ancient monuments of one of the most important archaeological sites of Greece, the impressive marble Lion, 5,37 meter high, which was the symbol of the city, as well as all the great archaeological



Ancient Roman Agora, Thessaloniki



## #Historical\_Tourism The sacred land of Macedonia

In Amfipoli [Amphipolis], one of the most important archaeological sites of Greece, admire the impressive marble Lion of 5.37 height that used to be the symbol of the town.

finds that revealed important Macedonian tombs. Visit the Archaeological Museum of Amfipoli to see coins, inscriptions and rare objects of the ancient city.

### Fort Roupel

On the way to Promachon you will meet the Fort Roupel, a fortress of monumental interest, the largest of the fortress complexes built during World War II, with impressive labyrinthine underground vaults of 4,251 meters. Due to its strategic location

and the heroism of the soldiers, it helped to stop the German troops during World War II and recalls in memory moments of glory and heroism of the Modern Greek history.

### Acropolis of Serres or "Koulas"

To the north of the city of Serres, on a hill known as "Koulas", there stands the Byzantine Acropolis of Serres. It was built in 1350 A.D. by the castle-guard of Serres, Orestis. The northwest tower ("The Tower of Orestis") and the southeast tower are well preserved. The sight of the city from that point is magical both in the daylight and at night.

### Zinzirli Mosque

An admirable Ottoman monument with perfect architecture inside and outside, recently preserved and renovated, Zinzirli Mosque is located in the city center of Serres and is open to the public, while also hosting selected artistic events.

### Bezesteni

Bezesteni was the closed sheltered market for valuable items in the city of Serres. It is located in the city center (Platia Eleftherias – Freedom Square) and it was built just before 1494 by Ibrahim Pasha. The monument, which has been restored, houses today the Archaeological Museum of Serres, where great archaeological finds are exhibited.

## PIERIA

### Ancient Dion

Within 6 km of the coast, the ancient Dion, with its god-bearing name, stands magnificent. The holy city of the Macedonians, the place of worship of Olympus Zeus in the years of King Archelaos, was brightened by the famous historical event "Olympia in Dion" with many days of athletic games and theatrical competitions. This is where Euripides presented the "Bacchae", and here Alexandros made great

sacrifices and fights before the journey to the East that announced him "Great". The ancient kings of Macedonia had chosen Dion for their summer residence. Today the visitor will admire the ancient theater and walk between the remains of the agora, the baths and the palaces. There is also the Archaeological Museum of Dion, where unique finds of the Macedonian period are showcased.

### Ancient Pydna

Just one kilometer from Makrygialos there lie the remains of the castle and the Byzantine bishopric of Kitros. These remains indicate that Byzantine Pydna was the most important city of medieval Pieria before it was renamed Kitros.

### Ancient Leibethra

At the foot of Mount Olympus lies the ancient city with the Acropolis of Leibethra [or Leivithra], the birthplace and also burial place of mystical Orpheus, the father of music.



Archaeological Site of Amfipoli, Serres



Ancient Dion, Pieria





#Historical\_Tourism

## The sacred land of Macedonia

Ancient Dion was the holycity of the Macedonians and the place of worship of Olympus Zeus. The ancient kings of Macedonia had chosen Dion for their summer residence.



Fort Roupel, Serres



Archaeological Museum of Dion, Pieria



Nautical Museum of Litochoro, Pieria

### Ancient Methoni

Engraved signs, trade symbols and inscriptions in the geometric and archaeological pottery of the 8th century have been found here. These are the only finds dating to that time that have been unearthed in Macedonia. Ancient Methoni was the strongest trade center in the Balkans to the south and had developed rich business activity and a trade, economic, literary and colonial network. It featured large commercial and industrial facilities and two harbors where the ships grounded. The Neolithic settlement of Makrygialos and the archaeological site of Louloudies are also found in the same region.

### Nautical Museum of Litochoro

This is a historic Nautical Museum in the heart of Litochoro that you should definitely visit. You will learn about the nautical history of the area through beautiful engravings and miniature ships, nautical tools and navigational instruments, banners of the time when shipping bloomed in Litochoro, and old photographs of the daily life of Litochoro sailors.

### PELLA Important monuments of Giannitsa

- The most important Ottoman monument is the mausoleum of Gazi Evrenos. He was the commander of the Ottoman Empire, and when he died at the age of 129, he was buried in the mausoleum.
- The Mosque of Sheikh Ilahi was built in his honor because he was a man of the spirit, a poet and a distinguished teacher. The minaret is preserved in a very good condition.
- The Clock Tower dates back to the 17th century, it is 25 meters tall and its inscription is testified to have been constructed by the descendant of Gazi Evrenos, Serif Ahmet.
- In 1490, the great-grandson of Gazi Evrenos built the Iskander Bey Mosque. The Mosque







## #Historical\_Tourism The sacred land of Macedonia

In ancient Pella, the birth place of Alexander the Great, and at the new Archaeological Museum, you will perceive aspects of the everyday life of the ancient Macedonian capital.



Archaeological Museum of Pella



Gynekokastro, Kilkis



Archaeological Site of Evrospos, Kilkis

impressed the whole world with its volume and majesty and its large minaret that was visible from afar.

### Old Railway Station of Skydra

The railway line connecting Skydra with Aridaia served the needs of the army during the war. This old building of the railway station is preserved and is an important heritage of Skydra.

### Archaeological site of Pella

It is the most important archaeological site of Macedonia, as ancient Pella is the birthplace of Alexander the Great and the place where his father, King Philip II, took great action. Wander through its premises and perceive aspects of the everyday life of the Macedonian capital. Moreover, the new Archaeological Museum of Pella exhibits a number of precious objects of the Macedonian art.

### KILKIS Allied cemeteries and War museums

The allied cemeteries, where those who fell during World War I are buried, remind of the sacrifice of Greeks and allies, as well as of the history events. They are scattered throughout the prefecture, especially in Kristoni, Polykastro and Doirani. In the latter, the British monument of battle dominates at the top of the Doiran Lake hill. Also in Kilkis and in Skra, War museums with relics, historical documents and photographs from the Macedonian front during the Balkan wars and World War I are open to the public.

### Gynekokastro [Women's Castle]

Important parts of the Byzantine castle are preserved in today's Gynekokastro. The Byzantine castle was built during the



Archaeological Site of Pella



Doiran Memorial, Kilkis



Ancient Olynthos, Halkidiki



## #Historical\_Tourism The sacred land of Macedonia

**Ancient Stagira, built on a hill by the sea, is the birth place of the great philosopher, Aristotle.**

13th century by the emperor Andronikos Palaiologos. The area was named Gynekokastro because the castle was so well fortified that even women could defend it.

### Evropos

Evropos is one of the most important archaeological sites of the area, with findings from the prehistoric age. It is mainly known because here was the famous archaic statue of Kouros, unique in the northern Hellenic world, Cycladic style (650 BC) in natural size. Evropos or else "Evropeon Polis" [i.e. City of the Europeans], according

to an archaeological inscription recently discovered, was also the homeland of Seleucus, general of Philip II.

### Palatiano

In the mountainous mass of Kroussia lies the settlement of Palatiano with the important finds and the homonymous archaeological site which is open to the public. It is one of the most important cities of ancient Kristonia (probably ancient Ioron), which enjoyed great prosperity during the Hellenistic and Roman times.

## HALKIDIKI

### Ancient Stagira

It is the birthplace of the great philosopher Aristotle. It is built on a hill by the sea. When Aristotle died in Chalkida in 322 B.C., his body was transferred to ancient Stagira where he was buried with great honors. The archaeological site is open to visitors. It is located 90 km from Thessaloniki, 70 km from Polygyros and 500 meters from Olympiada, Halkidiki.

### Aristotle's Park

It is located in the village of Stagira, Halkidiki. It is a theme park with views of Mount Athos and the bay of Ierissos. There you will see the instruments used to observe the natural phenomena. The theme park also includes a number of instruments and tools that when used properly can forecast natural phenomena. It is a great place to get involved with new activities and interactive games. It is 92 km from Thessaloniki and 50 km from Polygyros.

### Ancient Olynthos

It is one of the most important cities of Halkidiki, inhabited continuously from the Neolithic age. The 500 acres of the archaeological site include the two hills and an area at the foot of those hills where the outpost and the building that hosts a photographic exhibition are located. Follow the uphill path leading to the two hills. It is worth admiring the mosaics that date from the end of the 5th century B.C. and the beginning of the 4th century B.C. and are the oldest ones found in the Greek world. Ancient Olynthos is 70 km from Thessaloniki and 24 km from Polygyros.

## IMATHIA

### Archaeological Site of Aigai in Vergina

The Macedonians built their capital, Aigai, at the foot of the Pierian Mountains, thus defining Imathia as the geographical, administrative and political center of the state. Here, Alexander the Great was proclaimed king, and here he drafted his plans for his trip to Asia. Walk to the archaeological site and see all the finds and the tomb of King Philip II at the Museum of Macedonian Royal Tombs of Aigai in Vergina.

### Aristotle's School

About 2 kilometers from Naousa, in the location of Isvoria, is the place where the great philosopher Aristotle taught Alexander the Great and other wealthy Macedonians. Don't miss the chance the visit this place of global interest and feel the vibes of Aristotle's teachings.



Aristotle's Park, Halkidiki



Museum of Royal Tombs of Aigai in Vergina, Imathia



#Gastronomic\_Tourism

# Live the absolute gastronomic experience

Fertile land, excellent raw materials from the mountain, the earth, the sea, homemade and handmade products, long tradition and, of course, love for what you are doing. These are the ingredients for a successful recipe. This is authenticity. Central Macedonia, at every corner, offers generously and with the hospitality that characterizes its unique tastes and flavors. It is up to you to discover them.

**Tip:** It is worth adding to your travel schedule the gastronomy festivals and the roads of wine. You will be fascinated!

REGION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA



## THESSALONIKI

The mixing of peoples and cultures is reflected in Thessaloniki cuisine and recipes. Thessaloniki has definitely a multicultural taste. It has Byzantine, Jewish, Pontic and Oriental influences that create an unparalleled blend of flavors and aromas. The city is famous for its taverns, ouzeris, hotpot kitchens and modern restaurants that maintain the tradition. You will also find ethnic and gourmet restaurants operating either on their own or in hotels or museums. Even ready meals from souvlaki shops and restaurants, canteens or small sandwich shops are truly delicious. You can enjoy fresh seafood and fish in ouzeris and fish taverns in Peraia and Aretsou Beach. Cretan and fantastic appetizers can be found in Athonos Square, Ladadika, Navarinou Square and Chortiatis. For tsipouro with delicious appetizers or tasty kebabs, try the Modiano market in Kapani, Tsinari and Bit Bazaar, while picturesque taverns with modern and traditional menus can be found in Ano Poli and in each of the narrow streets of the center. No one leaves from Thessaloniki if they have not tasted the dreamy "bougatsa" [pastry with layers of phyllo and filling] with cream, cheese, minced meat or spinach. It is also worth visiting various cafés that serve brunch with buffets that you will remember

for a long time. The famous sweets of the city, such as Panorama's "Trigona" [cream filled phyllo cones], Constantinople syrupy sweets and stuffed tsoureki [sweet bread] are now the trademark of the city and many travelers take them as souvenirs so that they can taste these delicacies one more time after leaving. Wherever you eat, it is certain that you will always remember your tasteful wanderings in Thessaloniki.

## KILKIS

Almost everything here is homemade with local products, giving the sense of homey warmth to anyone who tastes them. The Kilkis recipes have a multicultural identity and taste. Each house has homemade delicacies such as pickles, pies, sauces, spoon sweets and jams. Raw materials are fully utilized, and hence, each region produces its own products. Look for pasta, pickles and cheese from Vathi, cherries from Filyria, blackberries from Kroussia, chestnuts from Paiko, honey from Gerakona and Amarantos, the wonderful wine made from fine varieties of Paionia, such as xinomavro and negoska in Goumenissa, sausages and milk from Neo Gynekokastro, PDO dairy products, such as manouri, feta, batzos cheese and kasseri, herbs and aromatic plants. Taste delicious meat







## #Gastronomic\_Tourism Live the absolute gastronomic experience

In the area of Lake Kerkini, you will taste dishes of incredible taste with buffalo meat starring in all its possible versions.



dishes from free-range animals and game meat recipes in Kotza Dere, Kastaneri, Megala Livadia in Paiko and Kroussia. Fresh fish cooked in many different ways can be found in Doirani. Try the sweet otia [Pontic homemade dough sweet], pourmas [Pontic sweet with syrup], havits [Kuymak with corn milk and cheese], miliahta, tsirihta [Pontic doughnuts] and giaglia [Pontic boat-shaped pies] to complete your meal, along with the unique aftertaste of the xinomavro wine.

### PELLA

The cuisine of Pella focuses on the use of the products and raw materials produced locally. It has retained features of locality, since the geophysical morphology of the place has kept it somewhat isolated. Well-known throughout the country are the cherries from Vodena, apples from Panagitsa and other fruits that make excellent spoon sweets, jams, compotes and liqueurs. The hot chili peppers "tsouskes" and the red pepper or chili flakes "bukovo" are equally famous. Pella has a large production of handmade pasta, trachana, korkoto [durum wheat], bulgur wheat, makarina [Pontic spaghetti recipe] and perek [Pontic pie], as well as dairy products like batzos (semi-hard cheese produced only in the region of the mountains of Voras, Tzena and Vermio), PDO feta cheese and kasseri. In any town or village of Pella you may visit, try sausage with leek or other herbs, tsobleki [meat with vegetables cooked in a clay pot], koukouloto [pork or lamb chunks roasted in the oven], pork with clams or chestnuts, pickles and pies. Accompany your meal with a local wine, tsipouro or matanitsa serbit [ayran]. Finally, remember to ask for the sweet cherry, the sweet rouпка [crispy cherries], laggites [pancakes], petimezi [molasses] from fig or grape and the cream-filled flutes.

### SERRES

A great and important feature of Serres cuisine is the use of buffalo meat in many recipes, the production of dairy buffalo products, as well as their use in the

production of pasta and pastries. In the restaurants of Lake Kerkini you will taste dishes of incredible taste with buffalo meat starring in all its possible versions. Equally delicious and famous are the Tzoumagia's sausages, the Kerkini kavourmas made from beef or buffalos, the cured meat products from Serres and the buffalo butter. The local cuisine, besides meat, has also specialities with lake fish such as grilled carp and trout on the grill or on the frying pan. The fertile land of Serres produces the famous beans, rice, tomatoes, Vrontou potatoes and the famous Nigrita spirulina known for its healing properties. Try tsipouro and ouzo that stands out for its unique aroma and rich flavor, as it is produced from seeds of aromatic plants such as anise, nutmeg and others. The way they serve ouzo will impress you as they mix it with orange juice or with pepper and tomato juice. Do not forget to try local meats served on greaseproof paper in many taverns of the city and, of course, bougatsa from Serres for a delicious breakfast before you start your tour. Before you leave, take with you the famous and delicious akanes, the traditional sweet of Serres, which looks similar to loukoumi, but it has a unique and very intense flavor as it contains sheep's and goat's butter and is filled with roasted almonds.

### PIERIA

Pieria gives the visitor many different pictures and scenes to recall: on one hand, magnificent Olympus and the imposing Pierian Mountains, and on the other hand, the endless beaches with the wonderful waters. The same alternations we find also in the cuisine of Pieria. In its mountainous areas you can enjoy delicious meat dishes, such as roasted ewe or goat, kontosouvli [spit roasted Bbq pork] and spare ribs, cheese products rich in flavor and pies. You can find both sweet and salty pies, with the most famous being the green pies, the meat pies with goat or he-goat and trachana, the pumpkin pie and the htypiti cheese pie. On the contrary, in the seaside areas, you will eat fresh fish such as striped seabream, sole, flathead grey mullet and bream. Try all the dishes whose main ingredient is mussels as the mussel cultivation of the region is the largest in the country. Fried mussels, mussels with rice, saganaki or steamed, as well as fried crabs or crabs with spaghetti are the ultimate appetizers that will fascinate you. The place has many vineyards and it is worth tasting their award-winning wines. If you find yourself





## #Gastronomic\_Tourism Live the absolute gastronomic experience

Halkidiki's olives, oil and honey are among the top products of the place but also with a reputation throughout the world.

in Pieria in August, buy tea from Olympus, sausages from Aiginio, honey, fresh chestnuts and hazelnuts, spoon sweets with fig, apple or wild watermelon and cornelian cherry liqueurs available all year round. Wherever you sit for lunch or dinner, the view will be unique and the hospitality of the locals will always be warm, authentic and sincere. Try some tsipouro from strawberry tree berries in the taverns of Eastern Olympus and feel the warmth of the place.

### IMATHIA

The local cuisine uses all the raw materials produced locally. Tomatoes from Rizomata, peppers from Agios Georgios, okra, aubergines, mushrooms are cooked together with meat and give an amazing tasty result. On the table there are always appetizers and mezedes, such as saganaki [pan-seared] cheese, bouyourdi with feta cheese and Veria cheese, saganaki with smoked cheese and yoghurt. Imathia is well-known throughout the country for its large production of fruits, such as apples, cherries, pears, grapes, apricots and the famous Naousa peaches, all of which can



make delicious spoon sweets and compotes. The special microclimate of Vermio favors the cultivation of the xinomavro grape that gives the famous red wine of this variety. Equally famous is the tsipouro and the ouzo of Naousa. In the picturesque taverns of Imathia, it is worth tasting game meat, ntavas [lamb stew] with onions, sarmas, meatballs with brine, mantza [stew with fried cheese] and meat cooked with vegetables or pasta. The meal will be completed only with the famous revani [semolina cake in syrup] from Veria, pudding from Naousa, saragli [rolled baklava], doughnuts or galaktoboureko [semolina custard pie in filo].

### HALKIDIKI

Halkidiki's olives, oil and honey are among the top products of the place but also with a reputation throughout the world. The olives are used in various recipes with pork, rabbit, duck and boar, giving their slightly sharp bitterness to the food. The rich livestock tradition gives unbelievable dairy products, such as Halkidiki feta cheese, goat cheese in brine or paneraki cheese

[from sheep milk] and yoghurt. Equally famous are the mussels and the fresh fish of Halkidiki. You can taste delicious and tasty pies, the most famous of which are the mushroom pie, katsiamaka [recipe with corn flour and honey], the rice pie and the sweet pumpkin pie. Spoon sweets, jams or honey as toppings on local yoghurt and tsompaniko rice pudding are sweet delicacies for every moment of the day. The wineries of Halkidiki produce excellent wines from Greek grape varieties (such as Limnio) as well as from modern grape varieties. The only thing that can be compared with a nice little tavern in the fresh air and the coolness in mountainous Halkidiki, where you can taste excellent dishes with spit meat or game meat, is a seaside tavern with seafood mezedes and fresh fish cooked on the grill. There are also award-winning restaurants where chefs cook mouth-watering dishes. Here, guests have so many choices that gastronomy alone is a holiday reason. Before you leave, remember to take with you honey from strawberry tree flowers (Arbutus unedo), pine honey or rare honey of sousoura (Erica manipuliflora).





#Sea\_Tourism

# Beaches beyond every expectation

Take the turquoise of the sea, the beige of the sand, the white of the stone, the blue of the sky, the green of the trees and the yellow of the sun and you will have the perfect summer pallet. In this exact setting, we invite you to create your own unforgettable experiences. The coastal cities of Central Macedonia promise you unique moments of peacefulness for those seeking relaxation, and much of adrenaline for the adventure lovers. Come and live the experience!







#Sea\_Tourism

## Beaches beyond every expectation

The sandy beach of Navagio [i.e. Shipwreck] in Thessaloniki took its name after a boat that sank there in 1970 and still remains today at the same spot.

### THESSALONIKI

#### Thermaic Gulf

Fanari, Potamos, Navagio

Only 30 km away from the center of Thessaloniki, you can take a short break and go for swimming in the waters of Epanomi. The "nose"-like cape formed by the land of Epanomi creates two different bays: one that opens to Thermaic Gulf and one that faces Halkidiki. Fanari and Potamos are the beaches that stretch along the "nose" with crystal clear and slightly cool waters. The striking is that on the one side it may have wind and waves and on the other side it is always windless. The beaches are accessible by jeep or after walking about 3 km through the wetland. To the left of the cape there is the sandy beach Navagio [i.e. Shipwreck] named after a boat that sank in 1970 and still remains today at the same spot; an impressive sight for all ages. Potamos [i.e. River] beach is awarded with a blue flag, as the river that flows into the beach cleans the water naturally.

#### Strymonian Gulf

Asprovalta, Vrasna, Stavros

The beach of Asprovalta is awarded with a blue flag and harmoniously combines sea and mountain. 78 km from Thessaloniki, in the middle of Strymonian Gulf, you can enjoy its crystal clear waters and the golden sandy beach. Along the coastal road there are

many taverns, bars, patisseries and shops, while on the beach there are scattered beach bars with changing rooms and showers, beach volley courts, playgrounds as well as many points with instructors where water sport lovers will find anything they like. Next to Asprovalta you reach the beach of Vrasna. An equally Blue Flag awarded beach, renowned for its turquoise and crystal clear waters. The beach stretches over kilometers and is all sandy, with small pebbles at some points. What characterizes the sea there is the gradual depth in the water, which makes it ideal for young children. Approaching Halkidiki and just 65 km from Thessaloniki, you arrive at Stavros [i.e. Cross], an organized tourist resort in a wonderful seaside destination. The natural beauty is made up of the greenery of the mountain and the blue of the sea. The location is enchanting and the landscape idyllic. After a swim in the crystal clear waters of Stavros, you can enjoy the food at the seaside taverns and then take a walk in the lively and cosmopolitan streets full with many little shops.

### PIERIA

#### Northern Pieria

Ai Giannis, Alyki Kytros, Makrygialos, Methoni, Pydna

Ai Giannis is a picturesque bay hidden in verdant hills next to the well-organized beach of Makrygialos with the hills surrounding the sandy beach. Peace and a lot of natural shade can be found in the natural bay of Methoni and Nea Agathoupoli, while the beach of Pydna will give you a spectacular sight, as while swimming, you have the amazing view of the ruins of Byzantine fortifications standing near the beach. A kilometer below is the natural harbor of Alykes Kytros, where you can swim next to the salt wetlands or have a mud bath in the natural mud pools of the area.

#### Central Pieria

Korinos, Paralia Katerinis, Olympiaki Akti

The coastline of Korinos with many kilometer-long beaches of shallow and blue-flag awarded waters stretches right next to



Navagio Beach, Thessaloniki



Asprovalta, Thessaloniki



Olympic Beach, Pieria



#Sea\_Tourism

## Beaches beyond every expectation

The shores of Olympus, an elongated coastline with comfortable and secure access, are surrounded by gorges and pine trees.

the ancient Macedonian tombs. Paralia [i.e. Beach] Katerinis and Olympiaki Akti [also Olympic Beach] are endless golden-sand beaches, featuring beach bars and water sports in the crystal clear waters. With Mount

Athos in the background, the bathers are fully relaxed and entertained in a gorgeous setting.

### Southern Pieria

**Variko, Gritsa, Plaka Litochorou, Leptokarya, Paralia Skotinas, Paralia Panteleimona, Platamonas, Neoi Poroi**

In this part of Pieria, the sapphire-colored Aegean waters are a powerful challenge. The sun rises over the sea, paints the shores gold and reflects through the amazing shades countless emotions to the visitor. With comfortable and secure access, you cross an elongated coastline surrounded by gorges and pine trees and along the way, you meet a number of excellent tourist facilities, hotels, camping sites and rooms to let with comforts and amenities that meet the most complex demands, as they exude impeccable

hospitality, warmth and friendliness. They are the beautiful beaches of Olympus with their emerald waters and the wide golden sand. An oasis of life and beauty, a place of rejuvenation, a place of your dreams, that fills you with plenty of energy for an active life. A sandy beach with pebbles and shallow waters, Variko is suitable for families with young children. Next in the coastline is the beach of Gritsa, a beautiful pebbly and sandy beach with crystal blue waters. Right afterwards you reach Plaka Litochorou, where the wide golden sand with rocks and pebbles is the hallmark. The emerald waters of Leptokarya, the golden sand at the beach of Skotina, the lush vegetation that characterizes Paralia Panteleimona [also Panteleimon Beach], the famous beach of Platamonas and Neoi Poroi are the wonderful seaside pieces that make up the intriguing puzzle of Pieria.

### HALKIDIKI

Starting from Thessaloniki towards Halkidiki, the first beaches you meet on your way are Nea Iraklia and Nea Kallikratia with white sand and crystal clear waters. Next follow Nea Plagia, Flogita and Dionysiou Beach, where everyone can find what they like: cosmopolitan crowded beaches with beach bars or secluded beaches for peace and relaxation. Passing through the canal of Nea Potidea you are at the district of Kassandra. Here, you should not pass by without going for a swim at Sani beach (also beyond the Sani hotel complex) where the waters are turquoise, shallow with fine sand. From the outskirts of the peninsula, you will find the beaches of Elani, a small cove with many pines, Siviri, Fourka, Possidi with the cape and its beautiful turquoise



Olympic Beach, Pieria



Glarokavos Beach, Halkidiki



Paliouri, Halkidiki



#Sea\_Tourism

## Beaches beyond every expectation

Do not miss the magical beauty of Halkidiki! It is the regional unit of Greece with the most blue-flag awarded beaches.

waters, Mola Kalyva, Nea Skioni, Loutra, Agia Paraskevi and you will reach the cape where Paliouri with its wonderful sandy beaches and its warm, emerald waters is located. As you drive up to the second leg on the southeast side of the peninsula, you arrive at Pefkohori with both shallow and deep waters and the incredible beach bars; then you reach Hanioti, Polychrono, Kriopigi, Kallithea, Afytos with the impressive rocky shores, the blue waters and the vast sandy beaches and finally, Nea Fokea. As you continue, Agios Mamas comes in the front, an endless beach with crystal clear waters, located between the first and second leg of Halkidiki.

As you move on and just before you enter the second leg called Sithonia, you come across Kalyves, Gerakini and Psakoudia with picturesque creeks, crystal clear waters and trees that almost touch the sea of Toroneos gulf.

Descending the second leg on the side facing Kassandra, you reach Metamorfoosi and Nikiti, two very cosmopolitan places with many pines and fine sand. Until Neos Marmaras, the beaches of Elia Beach, Kalogria Beach, Agios Ioannis, Lagomandra Beach are unique emerald waters with fine white sand. There follows Toroni with its fantastic creeks, and Porto Koufo with its steep rocks in its small port, and taking the turn for the other side of the leg that overlooks Mount Athos, all the coastline

from Kalamitsi up to Pyrgadikia is full of hidden coves, cosmopolitan beaches and long sandy beaches with imposing pines. In Sarti you can go surfing, while in Kavourotrypes you will discover its exotic character with the white sandy beaches, the turquoise waters and the white rocks. The beaches of Vourvourou, Livari, Xifara, Bara, Fava and Karydi are located opposite the islands of Diaporos, Kalamonisia and Prosonisi and create an idyllic backdrop of unbeatable beauty with clear sandy beaches with pines and turquoise waters.

In the direction of Mount Athos you will find the beach of Ouranoupoli with its huge coast, while the island of Ammouliani (inhabited) and Drenia islands with the emerald waters stand in the background. On the side of Strymonian Gulf there is the smaller bay of Ierissos, where the beaches of Kakoudia, Kastri, Vina, Xiropotamos, Develiki, Pirgos Chiliadous, Nea Roda and the hidden beach of Petalidi will impress you with the white sand and the shallow turquoise waters. Also on the same side of Strymonian Gulf you can reach beautiful beaches in the area of Olympiada near ancient Stagira.



Lagomandra, Halkidiki



Vourvourou, Halkidiki



Karagatsia Beach, Ammouliani, Halkidiki





**VERY  
MACEDONIA**  
REGION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA  
THESSALONIKI | SERRES | IMATHIA | PELLA  
PIERIA | HALKIDIKI | KILKIS

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**GEORGIA KALIORA**

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**MARIA TZIVANAKI**

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**ILIAS KONSTANTINIDIS**

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