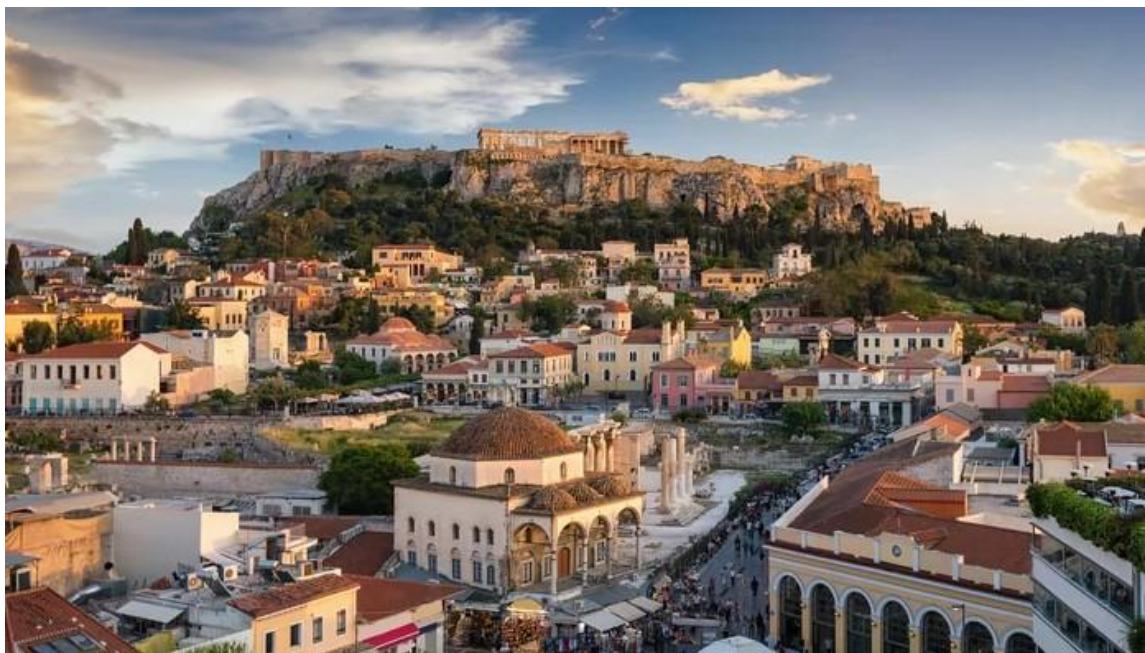


LADINO GROUP



TRIP TO GREECE

SEPTEMBER 13th-26th, 2021

2 Marathonomachon Str., 164 52 Athens
Tel.: 210 37 16 300 ■ Fax: 210 32 49 700 ■ E-mail: info@gstravel.gr
www.gstravel.gr

ACCOMMODATION

ATHENS

DIVANI PALACE ACROPOLIS 5*

www.divaniacropolishotel.com



Featuring breathtaking views of the Acropolis from its rooftop terrace, Divani Palace Acropolis offers elegant rooms. It is walking distance from the new Acropolis museum and Herodion theater. All with private furnished balconies, Divani Palace rooms are decorated in natural colors and feature classic furnishings. They are equipped with a TV with satellite and cable channels, air conditioning and safety box. Most offer spectacular views to the Acropolis and Philopappou Hill.

A unique feature of the Divani Palace Acropolis hotel is the ancient ruins of Themistocles wall, discovered in the foundations during construction and tastefully incorporated in the hotel's architectural design. The rooftop restaurant Acropolis Secret is open during the summer season and serves Greek and international dishes. Aspasia, the main restaurant, offers Mediterranean cuisine and American breakfast in a stylish setting.



VOLOS

PARK HOTEL VOLOS 4*

www.amhotels.gr



Enjoying lovely views over Pagasitikos Gulf, Park Hotel is located in the heart of the city of Volos, next to the municipal park. It offers a rooftop bar and elegant rooms with free Wi-Fi. All well-appointed rooms and suite are air-conditioned and include satellite TV and mini-bar. The rooftop bar enjoys an impressive view that overlooks the mountain of Pelion, the Pagasitikos Gulf and the city of Volos. American and Greek breakfast is served daily.

THESSALONIKI

EGNATIA PALACE HOTEL 4*

www.egnatiapalace.gr



Egnatia Palace Hotel & Spa is located in a centre of Thessaloniki city, next to Aristotelous Square and right by Thessaloniki Bay. With views of the ancient market of Thessaloniki, Egnatia Palace Hotel & Spa offers accommodation with modern conveniences and great facilities. There are a variety of comfortable and spacious rooms that have facilities such as air conditioning, a satellite TV, a hairdryer, and a minibar. In their rooms, guests will also find free internet access in all indoor and outdoor hotel areas, the latest travel finds and speed dial to hotel services.

Guests can relax with a sauna or visit the hotel's wellness fitness centre that includes sweating bath, sauna, and heated sofas. The helpful staff provides 24-hour front desk assistance and can arrange car rentals. The hotel has a hall and a roof garden that is ideal for hosting conferences, meetings and special events.

LARISSA

DIVANI PALACE LARISSA 5*

www.divanilarissahotel.com



Located in the heart of the commercial centre of Larissa, the historic Divani Palace Larissa offers 5-star accommodation featuring a spa centre, a gourmet restaurant and a bar. Rooms and suites at Divani Palace are tastefully furnished and open out to private balconies. They come with a TV, minibar and air conditioning. Free toiletries and a hairdryer can be found in the bathroom.

At the restaurant, guests can enjoy international and local flavours in a refined setting. The stylish bar is ideal for enjoying a drink or a cocktail. Room service is also available 24 hours a day. Relax and unwind at Larissa Spa Centre featuring an indoor pool, a steam room and a sauna. Beauty treatments and massage sessions can also be arranged, while a fully equipped gym is also featured.

ITINERARY

SEP 13 / MONDAY

Arrival at Athens airport.

Meet and greet - transfer to the hotel.

Alternatively, in case we have different arrivals, meet and greet at the hotel, evening time.

Dinner at the hotel – Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included

Overnight.

SEP 14 / THUESDAY

After breakfast, meet with our guide and we will do full day Athens city tour.

(city Panoramic / Acropolis / Acropolis museum / lunch on their own / walk and shop in Plaka)

Free evening for rest.

Meet with our guide and transfer to the restaurant.

Dinner – Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included

Return to the hotel

Overnight.

SEP 15 / WEDNESDAY

After breakfast check out.

Departure for the city of Volos.

Arrival at the hotel.

Check in.

Meet with our guide and we will do walking tour of Volos, including visit of the Jewish synagogue the cemetery and the Hellenic Lykio (www.lev.com.gr) to watch traditional knitting (flokati knitting)

Lunch on your own.

Return to the hotel

Early Dinner at the hotel – Yom Kippur Evening (traditional deserts will be served baklava/kataifi/ravani etc.) – per person, 2 glasses of wine or 1 beer included.

Overnight.

SEP 16 / THURSDAY

Yom Kippur day at your disposal.

Spend the day in Volos.

(walk around the shops the market the beachfront)

Lunch on your own.

Return to the hotel

Snacks buffet style at the hotel (paximadia/wine/soup) - Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included

Free time

Meet with our guide and walk to the restaurant.

Yom Kippur Night Dinner. – per person, 2 glasses of wine or 1 beer included.

Return to the hotel

Overnight.

SEP 17 / FRIDAY

After breakfast, meet with our guide and we will do full day Pillion tour.

The bus will take us to Lechonia village just outside Volos.

We will take the steam train to Milies Village in Pillion.

We will walk around the narrow stone streets, we will visit the local shops

Lunch on your own.

Then we will continue with the bus down to one of Pillion beautiful beaches for a swim.

Return to the hotel
Dinner at the hotel - per person, 2 glasses of wine or 1 beer included.
Overnight.

SEP 18 / SATURDAY

After breakfast check out.
Departure for the village of Makrinitza.
At 11.00 we will visit KARAISKOS FARM (www.karaiskosfarm.gr) for cooking lessons/lunch/wine tasting/herb and vegetable tour (approximately 3 hours).
Then we will visit MYRRO herbs in Portaria village (www.myrro.gr). They will explain to us what every herb does and we will shop.
Some free time to walk around the village.
Approximately at 16.00, Departure for the city of Thessaloniki.
Arrival at the hotel.
Check in.
Dinner on their own.
Overnight.

SEP 19 / SUNDAY

After breakfast, meet with our guide and we will do full day Thessaloniki tour including visit to the Jewish synagogues and the Jewish community of Thessaloniki.
(Monastiriotes Synagogue, Chabad of Thessaloniki, Yad Lezikaron)
Lunch on their own.
Return to the hotel
Free time for rest.
Meet with our guide and transfer to the restaurant.
Dinner at Ladadika area - Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included
Return back to the hotel.
Overnight.

SEP 20 / MONDAY

After breakfast, meet with our guide and we will do:
Full day tour to Vergina.
Lunch on their own.
Return back to the hotel.
Dinner at the hotel - Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included
Overnight.

SEP 21 / TUESDAY

After breakfast check out.
Departure for the city of Larissa.
Arrival at the hotel.
Check in.
Lunch on their own.
Free time for rest.
Meet and greet with our guide and we will walk down town for relaxation and some shopping.
Dinner to a local restaurant - Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included.
Return to the hotel
Overnight.

SEP 22 / WEDNESDAY

After breakfast, meet with our guide and we will do full day Larissa tour including visit to the Etz Hayyim synagogue, the Jewish public school, the cemetery, the 6 streets neighborhood and Frourio.

Lunch on your own.

Return to the hotel

Free time for rest.

Meet with our guide and we will walk down town to the restaurant.

Dinner - Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included.

Return to the hotel

Overnight.

SEP 23 / THURSDAY

After breakfast check out.

Departure for Meteora and visit the monasteries.

Lunch on your own.

Departure for the city of Athens.

Arrival at the hotel.

Check in.

Dinner at the hotel - Included iced water in jars – No other drinks are included

Overnight.

SEP 24 / FRIDAY

After breakfast, meet with our guide and we will visit the Beit Shalom synagogue the Jewish museum and the National Gallery.

Lunch on your own.

Free time in Athens down town for the rest of the day.

Dinner on your own.

Return to the hotel

Overnight.

SEP 25 / SATURDAY

After breakfast meet with our guide and we will do:

(2 options)

Transfer to Piraeus port for our daily cruise to the 3 islands (Aegina – Poros – Hydra), including lunch and drinks on board.

In Aegina island we will also do the tour of the island.

Or

We will do HD tour to cape Sounio.

Return to the hotel

Lunch on your own.

Meet with our guide and transfer to the restaurant.

Fare well Dinner - per person, 2 glasses of wine or 1 beer included.

Overnight.

SEP 26 / SUNDAY

Good by day.

After breakfast check out.

Meet with our guide and transfer to Athens Airport.

Or

If you have different departure times, we can arrange individually transportation to the airport by taxi.

End of the trip.

English and Spanish speaking guide to follow the group throughout their journey.

Prices according to the above itinerary and based on a minimum 45 to 50 persons and the hotels bellow:

DIVANI PALACE ACROPOLIS 5*

PARK HOTEL VOLOS 3* plus

EGNATIA PALACE THESSALONIKI 4*

DIVANI HOTEL LARISA 5*

€ 1.968,00 per person in double or twin room, if the 25th Sep we will do the Sounio excursion.

€ 2.473,00 per person in a single room, if the 25th Sep we will do the Sounio excursion.

or

€ 1.996,00 per person in double or twin room, if the 25th Sep we will do the daily cruise to the 3 islands.

€ 2.473,00 per person in a single room, if the 25th Sep we will do the daily cruise to the 3 islands.

Prices according to the above itinerary and based on a minimum 40 persons and the hotels bellow:

DIVANI PALACE ACROPOLIS 5*

PARK HOTEL VOLOS 3* plus

EGNATIA PALACE THESSALONIKI 4*

DIVANI HOTEL LARISA 5*

€ 2.020,00 per person in double or twin room, if the 25th Sep we will do the Sounio excursion.

€ 2.524,00 per person in a single room, if the 25th Sep we will do the Sounio excursion.

or

€ 2.046,00 per person in double or twin room, if the 25th Sep we will do the daily cruise to the 3 islands.

€ 2.523,00 per person in a single room, if the 25th Sep we will do the daily cruise to the 3 islands.

PLACES TO VISIT

Acropolis of Athens



The greatest and finest sanctuary of ancient Athens, dedicated primarily to its patron, the goddess Athena, dominates the centre of the modern city from the rocky crag known as the Acropolis. The monuments of the Acropolis stand in harmony with their natural setting. These unique masterpieces of ancient architecture combine different orders and styles of Classical art in a most innovative manner and have influenced art and culture for many centuries. The Acropolis of the fifth century BC is the most accurate reflection of the splendour, power and wealth of Athens at its greatest peak, the golden age of Perikles.

Acropolis Museum



The Acropolis Museum was founded to exhibit all the significant finds from the Sacred Rock and its foothills. It was designed by architect Bernard Tschumi with Michael Photiadis and inaugurated in the summer of 2009. The Museum hosts its collections across three levels, as well as in the archaeological excavation that lies at its foundations.

Located on the ground floor, the "Gallery of the Slopes of the Acropolis" houses finds from the sanctuaries that were established on the slopes of the Acropolis, as well as objects that Athenians used in everyday life from all historic periods.

The nine-meter high, naturally lit "Archaic Gallery", in the east and south sections of the first floor, hosts the magnificent sculptures that graced the first temples on the Acropolis. It also displays the votive offerings dedicated by the worshippers, such as the beautiful archaic Korai (depictions of young women), the Hippeis (horse riders), statues of the Goddess Athena, sculptures of male figures, marble reliefs, and smaller bronze and clay offerings.

The Museum's exhibition culminates on the third floor, in the glass-encased "Parthenon Gallery". The relief sculptures of the Parthenon frieze depicting the Panathenaic procession are exhibited in continuous sequence along the perimeter of the external surface of the rectangular concrete core of the Gallery. The metopes, the marble slabs with relief representations from Greek mythology, are exhibited in between the stainless steel columns of the Gallery, which are the same in number as the columns of the Parthenon. The colossal figures of the two pediments have been placed on pedestals on the east and west sides of the Gallery. The east pediment depicts the birth of the Goddess Athena, emerging from the head of her father Zeus, and the west pediment depicts the battle between Athena and Poseidon over the land of Attica.

Having seen the Parthenon Gallery, the visitor can then return to the first floor to complete the tour with the series of works that were created after the construction of the Parthenon, namely the Propylaia, the temple of Athena Nike and the Erechtheion. The north wing of the first floor displays striking Classical sculptures and their Roman copies, as well as votive and decree reliefs dating to the 5th and 4th centuries BC, relief bases of sculptures and portraits, and finally, select works dating from the end of antiquity and the early Byzantine period.

The Museum's exhibition program is also enriched with the extensive finds from the ancient Athenian city, which were uncovered during the archaeological excavation that took place prior, to the construction of the Museum. The excavation is visible from different points on the ground and upper floors of the Museum, through a series of well positioned large glass openings. Visitors will soon be able to walk among the remains of this ancient Athenian neighborhood.

Plaka – Anafiotika



At the shadow of the Acropolis is Plaka, the most picturesque and oldest district of Athens, which was continuously inhabited from antiquity to the present day. The neighborhood of gods, as it was called, resembles a journey to old Athens with antiquities, historical buildings and Byzantine churches. Unique in every respect is the Cycladic neighborhood of Anafiotika, which was built by craftsmen and workers from the island of Anafi when they arrived in Athens after the liberation. The tiny whitewashed houses among the rocks, the gardens with the flowers, the narrow alleys and the mazy planning is similar only to the one found in Cycladic islands.

Volos



Volos is one of the largest and most attractive cities in Greece as well as one of the country's most prominent ports. The modern-day city, built near the site of ancient Iolcos, dominates the region of Magnesia from its position at the foot of Mount Pelion overlooking the Pagasetic Gulf. This is one of the most beautiful areas in Thessaly, in the centre of Greece (Volos is situated 320km N of Athens and 219km S of Thessaloniki) combining the allure of the sea with the mystical charm of the Centaurs' mountain.

The area's mythical background captivates the visitor's imagination. Magnesia features in some of the most remarkable tales in Greek mythology. The progenitor of its peoples was Magnes, son of Zeus and Aeolus, yet Magnesia is believed to be the birthplace of a strange race, the Centaurs, beings which were part equine, part human and originated from the union of Nephele and Ixion. Asclepius and Achilles were, among others, pupils of the Centaur Chiron. The famous Argonaut expedition, one of the greatest epics in the Greek mythological cycle, set sail from the Pagasetic Gulf.

Volos is one of the most beautiful cities in Greece. The wealth of the region and its long history have left their mark on the city's architecture, which exudes confidence and grandeur. The numerous mansions, municipal halls, museums, early 20th-century industrial facilities, and splendid churches make touring Volos truly enjoyable.

The sea creates a wonderful seafront with picturesque little restaurants, the famous tsipouradika, named after tsipouro, the traditional spirit of the area, which is perfect when combined with seafood teasers. Follow the paved Argonauts Avenue on the seafront and go all the way to the port on its western side, just as the locals love doing when in the mood for a romantic stroll with a stunning view to the open sea. Beyond doubt, this is the most impressive corner of the city, embellished not only by fishing boats and yachts, but also by an exact imitation of ancient ship Argo, constructed by faithfully following reports and ancient texts. The modern Argo, a brilliant feat of shipbuilding, will fill history lovers with excitement.

Lechonia village (just outside Volos)



The village is called Ano Lechonia, while Kato Lechonia is the seaport. We do not know exactly when these villages were built; however, they are reported in history since the early 13th century. Of course, on the hill of Nevestiki, just outside Ano Lechonia, there are the ruins of Methoni ancient city's acropolis.

Pelion



Pelion Greece is a mountainous peninsula sitting in Thessaly, in the central part of the country. Thanks to its diverse natural landscape, Pelion is a wonderful destination for both summer and winter holidays!

The standouts of Pelion are hands down its intimate little villages. The most popular villages for winter holidays in Pelion are Makrinitisa, Portaria, Miles, Vizitsa, Tsagarada, and Chania, where a ski center lies. Their deep-green woodland backdrop and traditional houses will steal your breath! As for the best villages for summer holidays in Pelion, Agios Ioannis, Horefto, Platania, and Milina are top choices.

Apart from its picturesque villages, Pelion is also famous for its exotic beaches. The coastline of Pelion is littered with some of the finest beaches in Greece! Mylopotamos, Agios Ioannis, Horefto, and Fakistra are the best beaches in Pelion. A dip in their enticingly clear waters will excite you! If you manage to peel yourself away from the beautiful Pelion beaches, you should go sightseeing to discover the stone-made churches in the area. And, of course, don't miss to taste the local delicacies at the delightful traditional taverns of Pelion!

Pelion is a top holiday destination all year round!

Milies Village in Pillion



This is a traditional mountainous village at an altitude of 400m and 28km from Volos. The combination of natural beauty and tourist development result in Milies being a perfect place for vacations. There is also the obvious historical past of the village, with traditional Pelion

architecture. You will walk along the cobble-stoned paths and see the old houses, mansions and spring water fountains.

Milies is the hometown of Antimos Gorzis and Gregory Koustanta, who are two very important men in Greek history. They founded the school "Yihis Akos" in 1814. You can visit the church of Panmegiston Taxiarchon, built in 1741, in the village square. It was from here that the revolution against the Turks started in May 1821, under the leadership of Anthimos Gazis. You must visit the rail station. It is here that the steam train "Moutzouris-Smudgy" reaches its destination. The Italian engineer Giorgio de Kirico developed this project in 1895, and created one of the most beautiful and difficult rail lines, with the help of local workmen.

The original length of the rails was 29km from Volos. Today however, only 16km is still in use, and runs from Lehonía to Milies. From the train you will find a truly magical view, where you will see two, three and four arched bridges, which are surrounded by a stunning green background.

During the summer, many festivals take place, such as "Milies Night" in the middle of August and the "Pear Night" at the end of August. A large festival also takes place on the name day of Agia Paraskevi on July 25th to 27th, with traditional music and dance.

Makrinitza



Visitors will be amazed by its unique beauty and will never want to leave this dreamy place. The village of Makrinitza is a pure jewel hanging on the side of the amazingly green mountain. It is divided in two settlements, Koukourava and Moutsara, only 500m one from another.

Makrinitza is known as the noble village, because it was mostly inhabited by wealthy people. This is why most of the houses in Makrinitza are noble mansions, very richly decorated. The village is also known as the balcony of Pelion because of its amazing view due to its location (630m above the sea).

The houses have decorated tall walls and windows, work of the folk-artists of the region. All the climbing streets of Makrinitza are stone paved and lead to a beautiful large square, shadowed by tall plane trees. The square has a cafeteria, a lovely church dedicated to Agios Ioannis Prodromos and a carved marble fountain, built around 1809 and whose crystal clear waters are called Immortal Water.

The whole place offers tranquility, natural beauty and peace. In Makrinitza, visitors can visit many beautiful churches and basilicas as well as the Folklore Museum which has a wonderful collection of rare objects and mementos.

Karaiskos Farm in Portaria

www.karaiskosfarm.gr



It all starts in the kitchen garden. Fresh fruits and vegetables, inspired dishes, cooking lessons, family moments, a cosy room, outdoor activities and parties. With emphasis on true taste and respect on the enviroment. Welcome and be our guests...

Karaiskos farm is distinguished by its wonderful location surrounded by forests of chestnut, beech, oak, fruit trees, herbs, and cypress trees. From the garden you can enjoy the summer sunsets with magnificent views of the sea and the slopes of Pelion mount.

Myrro Herbs in Portaria

www.myrro.gr



Herbal Shop with herbs from all over the world, flavor tea, therapeutical blends, spices, honey, mushrooms, organic natural cosmetics, superfoods, tea accessories and a knowledge about those. Waiting to meet you and offer you a cup of tea :)

Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the area. Built by the sea, the Thermaïkos Gulf, it is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of its stormy history and its cosmopolitan character, which give it a special beauty and charm.

Ever since the 4th c. BC when it was founded, Thessaloniki has kept its urban character and has remained a civic centre and the hub of that region. The city's centuries-old multicultural history has been associated with great empires, as it has known the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Rule. The town was also greatly influenced by many ethnic and religious groups (Jews, Latins, Armenians and others) as well as Greeks from Constantinople, Pontus [modern-day northeastern Turkey] and Asia Minor [a.k.a. Anatolia].

The numerous monuments, dating to many historical periods, coexist in a singular and charming way and manifest Thessaloniki's historical multicultural and cosmopolitan nature.

The Monasteriotes' Synagogue



The Synagogue of the Monasteriotes was founded with a donation by Ida Aroesti to the memory of her husband Isaac. Families from Monastir in Yugoslavia who had settled in Thessaloniki after the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and World War I (1914-1918), also contributed to the Synagogue's building and furnishing.

The foundations were laid in 1925 and construction lasted two years. The Synagogue was officially dedicated by the Chief Rabbi of Thessaloniki Chaim Raphael Habib on 27 Elul 5687 (1927). During the Nazi occupation the Monasteriotes' Synagogue was the center of the ghetto that was created in the inner city. When the entire Jewish population was deported to the death camps, the Synagogue was used by the Red Cross as a warehouse, thus avoiding destruction by the Nazis. Immediately after the liberation in November 1944, the few Jews that had been saved by Christian friends and those who had joined the National Resistance Forces found refuge in this Synagogue. When normal Community life was restored it became the central Synagogue of Thessaloniki.

In June 1978 the earthquake that shook the city caused extensive damage to the building and its services were suspended until the delicate task of its restoration was completed, with funds provided by the Greek Government that considered it as one of the historical monuments of Thessaloniki. Today it is in operation for the religious needs of the Thessaloniki Jews.

Yad Lezikaron Synagogue



The Yad Lezikaron Synagogue is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. It was built on the site of 'Bourla', a small bethel also known as Caal de la Plaza (Market Synagogue) that had been operating since 1921 to serve the religious needs of the numerous Jews who worked in the nearby marketplace.

Chabad of Thessaloniki



We are dedicated to the revival of the Sephardic - Ladino heritage, and to developing infrastructure for Jewish communal life in the Balkans.

With headquarters in Thessaloniki, Greece, we provide opportunities for Jews of the region to strengthen ties with their Sephardic heritage. Chabad center offers hospitality for Sephardic Jews worldwide to reconnect and discover their ancestral roots, and for historians and scholars to deepen their knowledge.

Thessaloniki, called "La Madre de Israel", became the center of Sephardic life following the expulsion of Jews from Spain in the 15th century. Following over 400 years of flourishing culture, 95% of the population were deported to Auschwitz and were lost.

Thessaloniki is an important link in the legacy of Sephardic Jews, who have been dispersed and scattered around the globe. It is steeped in history from the time of the Holy Temple.

Vergina



From an ancient queen ... It is said that Vergina was named after an ancient queen that reigned in the ancient times, but this small village in northern Greece mantled the old capital of the ancient Macedonian kingdom, Aegae. Aegae was situated in the valley that formed the mountains Vermio and North Pieria and was traversed by Aliakmonas river. The first people who inhabited the area were Phrygians from Asia Minor in the 11th - 10th centuries B.C. The Phrygians, however, leaved the place during the 9th century and in the 7th century some Argean people were settled in the area after drawing Illyrian tribes away. The dynasty of Argeads named the region Aegae and set up the first capital of the Macedonian kingdom. In the late 6th century, king Archaelaos trasferred the capital to Pella but Aegae continued to maintain the glory of the old capital. During the time of Philip the 2nd , Aegae regained some of their previous prestige, but became the scene of his life's last act. In 336 B.C Philip the 2nd was killed in the theatre of Aegae by his guardian Pausanias, and his son, the young Alexander (the Great), was declared king of the Macedonian kingdom. After that, Philip the 2nd was buried in the gravesite of Aegae to an impressive funeral.

... to the dynasty of king Phillip the 2nd In 274 B.C. the king of Epirus, Pyrrhus, occupied western Macedonia and Aegae. His Gaul mercenaries robbed and destroyed the tombs in Aegae's necropolis. When, finally, Antigonos Gonatas reoccupied the city, he stared at the destroyed burial remnants and he decided to built a great tumulus that would cover the most important part of the graves and would deter further robberies. He managed to camouflage the whole gravesite of Aegae, including the royal burial monuments so well, that the old capital was forgotten through the centuries. No one could imagine that under the huge mounds laid the royal family of Alexander the Great. Vergina: a bounteous ancient burial site However, History seems to remember Aegae in 1861 when Leon Heuzey, a French sightseer of central Greece discovers the old Macedonian capital. Since then and until 1974, the archaeological endeavors unearthed the palace, the theatre and a large section of the necropolis. Under the biggest mound, the Great Tumulus, the archaeological team of Manolis Andronikos discovered the tomb of Philip the 2nd and two more impressive royal graves. The tomb of Philip the 2nd was the only undisturbed. It is considered as the most impressive burial monument in the Greek peninsula and its unique burial goods continue to amaze. The grave consisted of two chambers; the main chamber and a side one. In both chambers stood a marble sarcophagus that covered a golden larnax. The larnax of the main chamber belonged to Philip the 2nd. Inside, the archaeologists found the bones of the famous king carefully placed and a circlet made of golden oak leaves and nuts. The floor of the main chamber was scattered with silver and bronze burial goods and there stood Philip's magnificent armory, almost intact. In the side chamber, the larnax unveiled the bones of a woman, proabably Philip's last wife, Cleopatra, wrapped in a golden-red cloth that the archaeologists managed to restore. The larnax, also, contained her diadem; a masterpiece of jewellery. On the floor of the side chamber were, also, found several valuable objects that would accompany the deceased in her new life, as well as, a circlet made of golden myrtle leaves and flowers.

These marvellous findings are some of the amazing discoveries in Aegae. The hard work of Manolis Andronikos and his experienced team uncovered the glory and the history of a city that played a crucial role in the rise of the kingdom that upset all the ancient world.

Larissa



In the region of Thessaly, a capital city lies surrounded by lush valleys, and some of the most imposing mountains in Greece. Larissa, with a population of approximately 130,000 residents, is a city where ancient history and long tradition in agriculture meet the modern way of living.

To the north and east, Kamvounia mountains, Titaros, Olympus (with the highest mountain peak in Greece reaching 2,917m.), Ossa (or Kissavos) and Mavrovouni form a natural enclave. Here the micro-climatic conditions create an ideal wild life habitat. The soil of the area is also exceptionally fertile: cotton, grains, watermelon, melon, tobacco, vegetables, wine and tsipouro are only some of this land's agricultural products. Larissa is also the centre of the economic activity in Thessaly with an ongoing development in industry, as well as the service sector.

Etz Hayyim in Larissa



The Jewish Community of Larissa preserved for the religious needs of its members 7 synagogues, which had been founded in various periods and existed until a few years before the last war. Today only one Synagogue exists, called "Etz Hayyim" (Tree of Life) located on Kentavron street. It was built on 1860 and has been destroyed and reconstructed many times. During the nazi occupation, the Germans used it as a stable. However, it was reconstructed and continues preserving the original, traditional and imposing form.

The synagogue is the main pillar of community life, serving as a place of worship, but also as a place of assembly. That is why it has always been a primary goal of the leadership and members of the community to maintain it in an excellent condition. Many and great Rabbis and religious officials served the Community throughout its long history. Today the Synagogue of Larissa Synagogue operates with Rabbi Mr. Elias Sabetai.

Services are held every Friday evening (Kabbalat Shabbat), with the active participation of the school's pupils, every Saturday morning and naturally in all Jewish Holidays. The big events of the Community are organized there, such as the Holocaust Remembrance National Day. The Synagogue also hosts the ceremonies of the Community members, such as marriages, circumcisions, Bar/Bat Mitzvas and memorial services.

In recent years, the Synagogue of Larissa has been a popular destination for pupils, students and groups of Jewish tourists from all over the world as well as a familiar subject for the writing of theses and research works.

Meteora



The site where the monasteries of Meteora were built, is said to serve perfectly their purpose. The monasteries stand on some huge natural sandstone pillars that were moulded into their bizarre shape by the winds and the time. Up there, the monasteries seem to hover between earth and heaven, an illusion that makes monks and visitors feel close to the celestial world. These cone shaped pillars prove the artistic nature of Nature. According to the 19th century geologist Alexander Philipson, they were created after huge amounts of material piled up in this area where a huge prehistoric river was flowing towards a vast lake which covered today's Thessaly. When the waters drained into the Aegean Sea and the valley of Thessaly was revealed, these rocks emerged and the millennia along with the extreme weather conditions formed them into their today's shape. The first evidence of ascetic life in Meteora dates back in the 10th century, when some hermit monks chose the caves and the hollows in the pillars' walls to lead an ascetic and reclusive lifestyle. In 1160 A.D. the "Scete of Stagoi Dhoupianis" was found, which is considered to be the first attempt of an organized monastic community. However, it needed more than two centuries for the first monastery to be built. In 1356, Athanasios Meteoritis, a monk from Aghion Oros, came to Meteora and built on the top of the largest cliff the "Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus" or "Great Meteoron". From then on, these huge rocks were named after this exact monastery and took the name "Meteora", which in Greek means: an object that levitates.

Meteora Monasteries



Many years ago the only way of accessing the monasteries of Meteora was by climbing. Back then this meant that you have to strive for isolation and pursuit of God. Nowadays this is considered to be an alternative activity and the best way to enjoy the uniqueness of the landscape. Furthermore, most visitors take the steps that have been carved in the rocks. It is also breathtaking to walk along the paths hidden behind the massive rocks, which are considered to be created by clysmian substances, rocks and other materials that were carried by a big river which used to be in this area. Constant wind and rain erosion, as well as other geological changes that happened in the course of time, gave to the rocks their present shape.

Megalou Meteorou: It is located on the highest and longest in extend rock. It was established in 1340 by Aghios Athanassios Meteoritis (1302-1380). It is worth to see the tower (1520), today's Folklore Museum with old appliances and tools, the ossuary, the church of Metamorphoseos tou Sotiros or Transfiguration of Jesus (the sanctum was built in 1388 and the main church with the narthex in 1545), the Holy Altar (built in 1557 and at present Museum of Church Heirloom) and the kitchen (cook-room of 1557, nowadays Folklore Museum with old copper, clay and wooden kitchen implements).

Aghios Stefanos: Saint Antonios (first half of the 15th century) and Saint Filotheos (in the middle of 16th century) are both honoured as monastery founders. The small Aghios Stefanos church is a single-aisled basilica, built in 1350. Today's Aghios Charalampos church (1798) has athonic architecture and is decorated with amazing fretworks. Its imposing Holy Altar has been turned into a modern museum with the most impressive church heirlooms: Scripts, post Byzantine icons, canonicals and fabrics embroidered with gold, fretworks, fine silverware pieces etc.

Varlaam: According to history, it was first inhabited by monk Varlaam in the 14th century. The biggest part of the athonic type church that was built in 1542, is dedicated to Agious Pantes. The main body of the church has many murals painted by the Theban painter Fragko Katelano in 1542. At the end of 16th century and in the beginning of 17th century the most organized bibliographic laboratory of Meteora monasteries and a special gold thread embroidery workshop were functioning here.

Agia Triada: It is located on a typical imposing and steep rock of Meteora. By the script of the potentate Simeon Ouresi-Paleologou appears that Aghia Triada was an organized monastery since 1362. The church we see today was constructed around 1476 and it is a small crosslike double-columned church with a dome. Also very interesting is the Monastery Folklore Museum which has a wide selection of old clothing, appliances, tools and other folklore items.

Roussanou: It was built in 1529 on the ruins of older constructions. The church of Metamorphoseos tou Sotiros or Transfiguration of Jesus was built around 1530 and is of athonic type. Its wall paintings covering the main body of the church and the narthex belong to the Cretan Art School (according to the experts' opinion, it belongs to Gorgie, student of Theofanis the Cretan). In spite of the church being dedicated to Metamorfosi tou Sotiros, the believers celebrate the memory of Aghia Varvara (4th of December) with similar grandeur and devotion in a nearby chapel.

Aghios Nikolaos Panausas: The multilevel, graceful and imposing Holy Monastery of Aghios Nikolaos Panausas is located near Kastraki Village, among the ruined monasteries of Prodromou, Aghias Monis and Pantokratoros. The organized monastic way of living in this monastery was established during the first decades of the 14th century. The frescos are the oldest signed paintings created by Theofanis the Cretan and carry all the characteristic features of this great angiographer of the Cretan Art School.

Beit Shalom Synagogue in Athens



Beth Shalom Synagogue is the principal synagogue of Athens, Greece. It was built in 1935 of white Pentelic marble, the architecture is an austere Greek Revival style; the building was renovated in 1975. The synagogue is managed by Rabbi Gabriel Negrin, who was elected by the council of Athens' Jewish community following the death of the long time leader Jacob Arar in 2014.

The Jewish Museum of Greece



The Jewish Museum of Greece was founded in 1977 in order to collect, conserve, research and exhibit the material evidence of 2,300 years of Jewish life in Greece. Being a historical and

ethnographic museum, the focus of its attention lies in the presentation of a vivid picture of Jewish history and tradition throughout this period.

Its collection, which is constantly being augmented, consists of seven and a half thousand original artifacts, photographs, documents and archives, and includes diverse material pertaining to the domestic and religious life, as well as the historical course of the Greek Jews.

The new building of the Museum houses its rich collection and infrastructure for the organizational needs and the visitor services it provides in a total area of 800 sq.m. The entire floor space of the museum has been organized in areas for permanent exhibition of the Museum's collection with thematic modular exhibits, for periodic exhibitions, a contemporary art gallery, a video room. It also includes an area for educational programs, a research library, a photographic archive and laboratory, a conservation laboratory and a gift shop.

The permanent exhibition illustrates subject areas such as the synagogue and religious artifacts, the Jewish holidays, traditional costumes, the Holocaust, the cycle of life and the history of Greek Jews. Particular attention is paid to the Museum's educational role, especially with regard to intercultural education and programs for children and young people.

The Museum also organizes periodic exhibitions and events with subjects related to contemporary art, literature, poetry and music, in general every form of human expression, with a view to covering cultural and artistic matters. In addition to presenting a vivid picture of the past, the Museum aims to explore the timeless, multi-faceted nature of Greek Jewry. As a centre for exploration, familiarization and positive dialogue between memory and history, between individual and collective identity, it aspires to be an active cultural hive, strengthening the community spirit and the feeling of continuity.

National Gallery



The National Art Gallery is an art museum located on Vasilissis Sofias avenue in the Pangrati district, Athens, Greece. It is devoted to Greek and European art from the 14th century to the 20th century. It is directed by Marina Lambraki-Plaka. The newly renovated building reopened after an 8 year refurbishment, on 24 March 2021, a day before the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence. The institutional role of the National Gallery is to collect, safekeep, preserve, study and exhibit works of art towards the aesthetic training of the public, the on-going education through art and the recreation that it is able to provide, as well as the self-awareness of the Greek people through the history of art, which expresses the national history on a symbolic level.

Aegina



Located in the heart of the Saronic Gulf, near the islands of Poros and Agistri, Aegina is one of the most popular islands for quick getaways, thanks to its proximity to Athens! Many ferries from Athens to Aegina depart from Piraeus port and arrive at Aegina in less than an hour.

Agia Marina is the most popular seaside resort in Aegina, while more secluded places to visit are Souvala, Vagia, Marathon, and Perdika. The island's capital is Aegina Town, on the western side of the Aegina Greece, where also the main port of Aegina lies. In this colorful little town, you'll find a great selection of cafes, restaurants, traditional taverns, shops, especially along its bustling waterfront.

As for Aegina beaches, they may not be many, but they are enticingly beautiful! Most of the island's beaches are small, but organized with many facilities! The best Aegina beaches are Souvala beach, Agia Marina beach, and Marathon beach. Around most of these beaches, you'll also find a selection of Aegina hotels, seaside taverns and beach bars. But, if you're into more secluded beaches, there are many of them along the island's coastline!

Sightseeing is one of the must things to do in Aegina! The most popular ancient monument in Aegina is, hands down, the Temple of Athena Aphaia, a Doric temple sitting in the center of the island. Other important sites, apart from the Temple of Athena Aphaia, are the Temple of Apollo and the Temple of Ellanios Zeus.

Poros



Sitting in the heart of the Saronic Gulf, Poros is a little Aegean gem! And the best part is that a ferry ride from Athens to Poros lasts just an hour, making this island very easily accessible, thus an ideal destination for a quick weekend getaway!

Lush vegetation, beautiful little beaches, picturesque villages, and a vintage aura make Poros Greece a unique island to visit during your holidays in Greece. The first thing that will stand out to you as you approach Poros port by ferry, is its charming capital and the trademark of the

island, the Poros Clock Tower. Built on a hillside, Poros Town is one of the most picturesque capitals of the Aegean sea islands. Poros town is the center of the island's activity, as the array of traditional taverns and Poros restaurants located along its seafront promenade come alive when the sun goes down, attracting vacationers from all over the world!

Moving on to Poros beaches, their main asset is not their quantity, but quality! Nestled in tiny sandy coves and surrounded by lush vegetation, Poros beaches are easily accessible from Poros Town, either by car and bus or by little boats departing frequently from Poros port. Askeli, Love Bay and Neorio are the most popular organized Paros beaches, while you can also find more secluded beaches to enjoy your privacy along the island's coastline!

Poros Greece is ideal for relaxing holidays in Greece, while its proximity to islands such as Aegina, Agistri, and Spetses makes it the perfect base for island hopping in Greece!

Hydra



Located in the heart of the Argo Saronic Gulf, pretty close to Athens, Hydra is, hands down, one of the most quaint Greek islands.

The charming atmosphere of the island has seduced many international jet setters and has been a retreat for famous personalities, such as Leonard Cohen, Maria Callas, Aristotle Onassis and many more! Elegant stone mansions, narrow alleys, donkeys walking around, churches, little shops, and a picturesque waterfront set the scene of an island fairytale! Given that there are no cars in Hydra and people usually get around by foot, the island's roads are not clogged with traffic and fumes.

One of the best things to do in Hydra is to visit its museums. The Byzantine Museum, the Historical Archive Museum, the Post-Byzantine Art and History Museum and the National Historical Museum are some of the best museums to visit!

Moving away from the main town, you'll discover picturesque villages, such as Kaminia and Vlichos, where you will immerse yourself in the traditional side of Hydra. Don't miss to sit at the traditional taverns and taste fresh fish and local delicacies!

As for Hydra beaches, they are the ideal places to escape the summer heat! The best beaches in Hydra are Vlichos, Kaminia, Bisti and Agios Nikolaos, which you can reach by boats departing frequently from the main town!

Cape Sounio



Cape Sounion the significant strategic point of Athens 5C BC; Cape Sounion is a promontory located 69 km (43 mi, by road) SSE of Athens, at the southernmost tip of the Attica peninsula in Greece. Cape Sounion is noted as the site of ruins of an ancient Greek temple of Poseidon, the god of the sea in classical mythology. The remains are perched on the headland, surrounded on three sides by the sea. The ruins bear the deeply engraved name of English Romantic poet Lord Byron (1788–1824). The site is a popular day-excursion for tourists from Athens, with the sunset over the Aegean Sea, as viewed from the ruins, a sought-after spectacle.

According to legend, Cape Sounion is the spot where Aegeus, king of Athens, leapt to his death off the cliff, thus giving his name to the Aegean Sea. The story goes that Aegeus, anxiously looking out from Sounion, despaired when he saw a black sail on his son Theseus's ship, returning from Crete. This led him to believe that his son had been killed in his contest with the dreaded Minotaur, a monster that was half man and half bull. The Minotaur was confined by its owner, King Minos of Crete, in a specially designed labyrinth. Every year, the Athenians were forced to send 7 boys and 7 girls to Minos as a tribute. These youths were placed in the labyrinth to be devoured by the Minotaur. Theseus had volunteered to go with the third tribute and attempt to slay the beast. He had agreed with his father that if he survived the contest, he would hoist a white sail. In fact, Theseus had overcome and slain the Minotaur, but tragically had simply forgotten about the white sail.

The earliest literary reference to Sounion is in Homer's poem the *Odyssey*, probably composed in the 8th century BC. This recounts the mythical tribulations suffered by Greek hero Odysseus in a gruelling 10-year sea-voyage to return to his native island, Ithaca in the Ionian sea, from the sack of Troy. This ordeal was supposedly inflicted upon him by Poseidon, to whom the temple at Sounion was dedicated.

We are told that, as the various Greek commanders sailed back from Troy, the helmsman of King Menelaus of Sparta's ship died at his post while rounding "holy Sounion, the cape of Athens". Menelaus landed at Sounion to give his companion full funeral honours (i.e. cremation on a funeral pyre on the beach). The Greek ships were then caught by a storm off Cape Malea and scattered in all directions.

The temple of Poseidon was constructed in approx. 440 BC, over the ruins of a temple dating from the Archaic Period. It is perched above the sea at a height of almost 60 m. The design of the temple is a typical hexastyle i.e. it had a front portico with 6 columns. Only some columns of the Sounion temple stand today, but intact it would have closely resembled the contemporary and well-preserved Temple of Hephaestus beneath the Acropolis, which may have been designed by the same architect.