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GREECE
Escape & Fall in Love with Thessaloniki
4 - Day Itinerary

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Thessaloniki is easy to fall in love with – it has beauty, chaos, history and culture, a remarkable cuisine and wonderful, vast sea views.

This is Greece's second city, which, like the rest of the country, has suffered the hit of the economic crisis, but the streets remain full of life and vibrancy.

The different neighborhoods are little worlds unto themselves, and when you climb up to the Byzantine walls and take in the whole of Thessaloniki at sunset, you see what a sprawling, organic city it is. Old and new cohabit wonderfully: the Arch of Galerius, an intricate 4th-century monument, overlooks the busy shopping drag of Egnatia, while Thessaloniki's most famous sight, the White Tower, anchors a waterfront packed with cocktail bars. The New Waterfront has breathed life and opened up space for long walks and cycling.

By night, the city reverberates with music and nightlife.

Shopping is one thing that you will definitely enjoy during your stay in Thessaloniki. The city offers plenty of options so that no taste or wallet are left unsatisfied.

Walk in Thessaloniki!

Your walk will most likely be accompanied by live music, since many local and some foreign less known bands perform on Tsimiski Avenue throughout the year. Streets are full of life, local Greeks drinking their coffee or dining in one of the numerous restaurants. Bars and nightclubs remain open till late at night even on weekdays, so, if you feel like it, take a break and mingle with them in one of the stylish cafes. Thessaloniki has its own stunning vantage point, known as the Eptapyrgio Castle. This stunning fortress perched on the hilltops overlooking the city offers all encompassing views that include the Gulf. Whether you visit it by day or at night (a common habit of young people), it is an attraction you shouldn't miss. This amazing city has its own natural park. Nature lovers are not forgotten. Just 10 kilometers away, the Axios-Loudias-Aliakmonas National Park – considered to be one of the most important wetland systems in Greece and greater Europe – offers refuge for those looking to commune with nature.

Choose a day trip from Thessaloniki & experience wonderful Greece's mainland:

<u>Vergina & Pella: Day trip to the Greek Kingdom of Macedonia:</u>

During the day, explore the 2 ancient capitals of the Ancient kingdom of Macedonia: the archaeological sites of Pella and Vergina. Discover the beautiful mosaics and the royal tombs. The Archaeological site of Pella is located a 50-minute drive from Thessaloniki. Pella was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Macedonia and Alexander the Great's birthplace.

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From Thessaloniki: Full-Day bus trip to Meteora:

Discover the impressive Meteora Monasteries, built on top of huge rocks. Meteora is a site which has this totally unique combination of a geological marvel – these giant sandstone cliffs – and an ancient monastic community.

Chalkidiki Blue Lagoon cruise with lunch:

During your boat trip, you will see the islands of Drenia, Ammouliani and Diaporos, in Chalkidiki Peninsula. You will of course have some time to take a dip!

3 peninsulas located Southeast of Thessaloniki.

- Kassandra peninsula
- Sithonia peninsula
- Mount Athos peninsula

The first two peninsulas are famous for their beautiful beaches with turquoise waters. There are public as well as private beaches where you can rent deck chairs and umbrellas. There are also Spas, casinos and golf courts. It's the perfect place if you want to enjoy a chic and trendy atmosphere.

Day trip to Ouranoupolis with Mount Athos cruise:

From Thessaloniki, you will take the bus to Ouranoupolis, then do a boat trip around Mount Athos. During your cruise, you will admire the Monasteries and end your day relaxing at one of Chalkidiki's beaches. Mount Athos Peninsula is the farthest from Thessaloniki. There are more than 2,000 monks living here, in the Monastic State of Agion Oros. The access is highly regulated: only men have the right to enter, and you must ask at least 6 months in advance for a special permit to go there.