

Thessaloniki

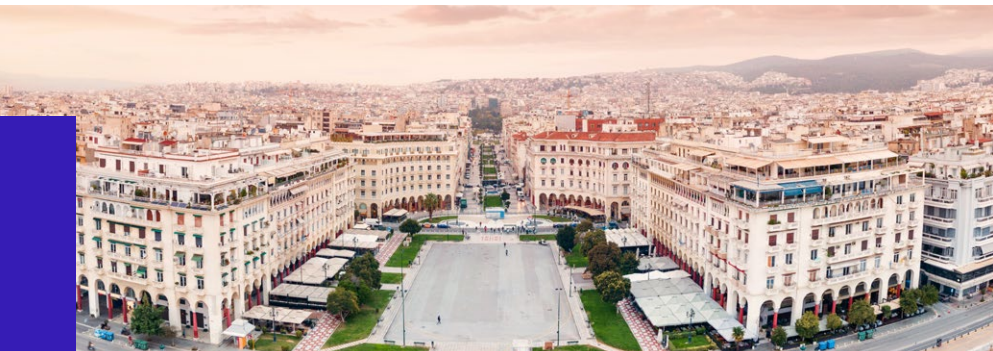


2025

City guide



CityMinds



About Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, Greece's northern port on the Thermaikos Gulf, offers a unique blend of history and natural beauty. The city emerges as a comprehensive cultural destination, where the richness of its history is distinguished by the ancient monuments spread across every corner.

Thessaloniki is the city that takes the visitor on a journey from prehistoric times to the era of Alexander the Great, to the glory of the Roman period, to the brilliance of the Byzantine Empire, and to the period of Ottoman rule. Its heritage is a complex mosaic of images, architecture, and culture spanning 23 centuries, something the visitor perceives from their first explorations in the city center, where they will encounter the Roman Forum, Byzantine walls and churches, the synagogue and Jewish Museum, the neoclassical Aristotelous Square straight across from Mount Olympus and the modern, sustainable architecture of the city hall.

Thessaloniki hosts an impressive variety of museums, cultural organizations, archaeological sites and monuments. Is also, by far the liveliest city in Northern Greece. While walking in the city center, one will experience the magic of a very lively area, with incredibly beautiful cafes, taverns, and traditional markets where the aromas of spices, sweets, and food will enchant every visitor. Most of the bars are situated at the old seafront (Nikis Avenue) and in the close area. You can also find a lot of nightclubs, bars and restaurants in Ladadika, the neighborhood with the old warehouses next to the port.

Short videos about Thessaloniki: [Thessaloniki: A Meetings Destination/ Youtube](#); [Visit Greece | Invisible Thessaloniki – YouTube](#)

Page Of Contents

About Thessaloniki	1
How to arrive in Thessaloniki	3
Moving around in Thessaloniki	3
Areas to explore	5
Where to go for a drink	6
Gastronomy	7
Local products to gift	8
Where to eat	9
Service charge & gratuities	10
Halkidiki Beach Bars to consider	10
Must-see attractions & events in Thessaloniki	11

How to arrive in Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki offers excellent regional and international travel connectivity. The city is served by Makedonia International Airport (SKG) skg-airport.gr/en, which provides both domestic and international flights, with connections to major European cities and beyond.

1. **Bus:** Bus line 01X (or 01N for night) connects the airport to the city centre, running frequently and economically (2€).
2. **Taxi:** A ride to the city centre takes about 20-30 minutes and costs around 25€-30€, depending on traffic and time of day.
3. **Car Rentals:** Various car rental agencies are available at the airport.

Moving around in Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is a highly walkable city, making it easy to explore on foot. For longer distances, the city offers an extensive network of bus lines, oasth.gr/en/, that connect various neighbourhoods and key locations efficiently. Adding to its convenience, the city has recently inaugurated the Thessaloniki Metro, unique worldwide, as it showcases archaeological findings, spanning from the foundation of Thessaloniki in 316 BC to the early 20th century. Metro passengers become visitors to an impressive open archaeological site, culminating in the Venizelou station, offering a spectacular view of the city's 2.300-year history whilst providing residents and visitors with a modern and reliable option for getting around the city quickly. Whether walking, taking the bus, or hopping on the metro, Thessaloniki is not only convenient to navigate but also enjoyable.



Weather

In early July, Thessaloniki experiences full summer weather with daytime temperatures ranging from 30°C to 35°C and warm evenings around 22°C to 25°C. Days are predominantly sunny with clear skies and minimal chance of rain, making it ideal for outdoor activities and seaside escapes.

People & life

Thessaloniki is a popular destination. You will certainly enjoy a pleasant and interesting stay in the city. People are friendly and happy to help with any question. The atmosphere is unique during the day in the commercial and historic city center, as well as during the evening, in the wide variety of bars, restaurants and theatres for entertainment. Nights in Thessaloniki are an unforgettable experience. In fact, National Geographic included Thessaloniki in the list of the top 10 cities with the best nightlife worldwide.

Shopping

The city center is one of the most popular shopping areas in Thessaloniki. Shopping malls and department stores are available both in the city center as well as in other city districts. Some of the best-known shopping malls can be found in Thessaloniki Airport Area and are easily accessible by ring road (public transportation and taxis). The major commercial market of Thessaloniki (shops, boutiques, etc.), shopping malls and big department stores operate as follows:

- Monday–Friday: 09.00 - 21.00
- Saturday: 09.00 - 18.00

Areas to explore

Ladadika



One of Thessaloniki's most popular neighborhoods and the definition of urban cool. Located west of the city center, near the port, Ladadika was a commercial district known for selling wholesale oil products. Then came a renovation transforming warehouses into tavernas, bistros, pubs, wine bars and even nightclubs.

Valaoritou Street



The fun continues until late at night at Valaoritou. You will find a whole range of bars, each with a distinct musical style and decoration, and beautiful buildings, samples of eclecticism to remind us that it once was the city's Frankish quarter.

Mitropoleos Street



One of Thessaloniki's main shopping streets, along with the surrounding area, has evolved into a prime entertainment spot with a special atmosphere where you'll find neoclassical buildings converted into elegant bars, cafes and shops and an array of restaurants.

Ano Poli & the Castles



For a different view of Thessaloniki, head to the narrow streets and byzantine walls of the Upper Town, known as "Castles - Kastrá". There you can find delicacies in the traditional cafes and tavernas of the Tsinari neighborhood with the view of the city and Thermaic Gulf.

Where to go for a drink



City center

- Achilleion All Day Bar Restaurant: Bar-restaurant: [Leoforos Nikis 37, Thessaloniki](#)
- CHILAI: Wine Bar: [Agiou Mina 4, Thessaloniki](#)
- Cin Cin: Cocktail Bar, Vegan food: [Iktinou Street 22, Thessaloniki](#)
- Kafodeio Elliniko: Live Music: [Eleftheriou Venizelou Street 45, Thessaloniki](#)
- Olympion: Café, Bar, Restaurant: [Plateia Aristotelous 10, Thessaloniki](#)
- Pelosof: Cocktail Bar: [Tsimiski 22, Thessaloniki](#)
- The Dubliner: Irish Pub: [Katouni 16, Thessaloniki](#)
- Thermaikos bar: Bar: [Leoforos Nikis 21, Thessaloniki](#)
- Avenue Modern Cuisine: Restaurant: [Leoforos Megalou Alexandrou 6, Thessaloniki](#)
- Ciel Bar: Cafe Bar: [Leoforos Megalou Alexandrou 12, Nea Paralia](#)
- Dentro Sto Bar: Bar: [Leoforos Vasileos Georgiou 25, Thessaloniki](#)

Bars with a View

- Alegro Bar Restaurant: Bar, Restaurant: [w25 Martiou & Coastal Road, Thessaloniki Concert Hall](#)
- Orizontes Roof Garden: Bar, Restaurant: [Aristotelous 9, Electra Palace Hotel](#)
- SKYLINE Cafe - Bar: Café, Bar: [Egnatia 154, Thessaloniki](#)

Gastronomy



Thessaloniki is renowned for its lively nightlife and is the first city of Greece designated by UNESCO as a City of Gastronomy with famous restaurants and many local specialties.

Try these in Thessaloniki

- **Bougatsa:** a traditional pastry consisting of semolina custard, cheese, or minced meat filling between layers of filo pastry. Enjoy it for breakfast or as a snack at any time of day.
- **Galaktoboureko:** a traditional Greek dessert of semolina-based custard in filo pastry. It is served coated with syrup. Find it in all the major patisseries of Thessaloniki.
- **Koulouri:** Koulouri -Thessaloniki's famous bread ring- is a popular treat, made with sesame, mostly enjoyed for breakfast. Find it in all the local bakeries in the city center.
- **Gyros:** meat that is carved from pork or chicken slow cooked on a “spit”, a type of rotisserie that stands vertically. The tender, succulent meat is then served on warm pita bread, creating an authentically Greek sandwich.
- **Souvlaki:** Souvlaki consists of small, tender pieces of meat -commonly pork, chicken, or lamb- skewered and grilled to perfection over open flames. Souvlaki can be enjoyed straight off the skewer or wrapped in soft pita bread with toppings
- **Mezes:** a key part of Greek cuisine and culture. Mezedes are a variety of small dishes, like appetizers or tapas, served to complement drinks like ouzo, wine, or beer. They're meant for sharing and are a social, communal dining experience. In Thessaloniki, you'll find plenty of opportunities to enjoy this style of dining, especially in places called mezedopoleia – tsipouradika, traditional eateries specializing in mezedes.
- **Bonus:** Frappé coffee has roots in Thessaloniki when it was created by chance in the 1950s. Today, this coffee is perfect for beating the heat on a summer day while still enjoying your daily dose of caffeine.

Local products to gift

- **Panorama triangles:** A trademark dessert. Handmade cone from crunchy, syrupy leaf, filled with velvety, fragrant cream. A dessert that Thessalonians and visitors went up to the Panorama in the 60s and 70s to enjoy.
- **Tsoureki:** a braided sweet bread that is mostly associated with the Easter season. However, it is enjoyed throughout the country year-round, and you will be able to find one in every bakery in Thessaloniki.
- **Halkidiki honey:** Halkidiki is rightly characterized as the center of beekeeping in Greece, with 6,500 beekeepers and about 2,000 tons of excellent quality honey production per year.

Souvenirs

- **Archaeological Museum and Museum of Byzantine Civilizations Gift Shops:** The gift shops at the Archaeological Museum and the Museum of Byzantine Civilizations are must-visit spots, even if you don't plan to explore the museums themselves. These shops offer an impressive range of high-quality souvenirs that capture the rich history and cultural heritage of the region.
- **Leoforos Nikis, Kapani and Navarinou Square:** These are some of the best areas for finding souvenir shops and local products in the city. They offer a wide variety of stores where you can discover unique mementos, handcrafted items, and traditional goods that reflect the local culture.



Where to eat



Fine Dining

- Clochard: [Komninon 10, Mitropoleos Street, Thessaloniki](#)
Website: [clochard.gr](#)
- Grada nuevo: [Kalapothaki 14, Thessaloniki](#)
Website: [gradanuevo.gr](#)

Modern Greek Food

- Iliopetra: [Aeschylou 5, Thessaloniki](#)
- Mamalouka: [Ionos Dragoumi 3, Thessaloniki](#)
Website: [mamalouka.com](#)
- MAREA sea spirit: [Lori Margariti 13, Thessaloniki](#)
Website: [mareaseaspirit.en](#)

Traditional Eating – Mezedopoleio

- Giok Balik: [Ethnikis Aminis 34, Thessaloniki](#)
- Mezen: [Rogoti 3, Thessaloniki](#)
- Ouzeri lola: [Agapinou 10, Thessaloniki](#)
- Stou Mitsou: [Vlali Street, 11, Thessaloniki](#)

International Cuisine

- Empire Sushi Bar: [Oplopoiou 3, Thessaloniki](#)
- High School Pizza Bar: [Leoforos Nikis 9A, Thessaloniki](#)
- Signora Trattoria: [Pavlou Mela 38, Paleon Patron Germanou 19, Thessaloniki](#)
- SUSHIJA: [Mitropoleos 70, Thessaloniki](#)

Patisserie

- Konstandinidis Patisserie: [Pavlou Mela 7, Thessaloniki](#)
- Trigona Elenidis: [Dimitriou Gounari 13, Thessaloniki](#)
- Terkenlis: [Tsimiski 30, Thessaloniki](#)

Brunch

- Bougatsa Giannis: [Mitropoleos 106, Thessaloniki](#)
- Canteen All day Bar: [Dimitriou Gounari 7, Thessaloniki](#)
- The Garden Bar: [Agiou Mina 16, Thessaloniki](#)

Deli & Dining

- Ergon Agora: Restaurant, Cocktail Bar, Delicatessen: [Pavlou Mela 42 & Loeoforos Georgikis Sxolis 50, Pylea-Hortiatis](#)
- Mia Feta Bar: Delicatessen: [Pavlou Mela 14, Thessaloniki](#)

Service charge & gratuities

It's extremely rare to have a service charge added but do check before paying regardless. Sometimes restaurants in Greece will include a service fee (about 16%). A small tip is 50 cents to a euro. A better, more substantial tip is a 2-euro coin. Anything above that is considered a big tip.

Power supply

In Greece the power plugs and sockets are of type C which also works with plug E and plug F and F which also works with plug C and plug E. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

More Tourist Information Available Here:

- <https://www.visitgreece.gr/mainland/macedonia/thessaloniki/>
- <https://thessaloniki.travel/>
- <https://www.discovergreece.com/macedonia/thessaloniki>
- <https://thessaloniki.gr/visitor/?lang=en>

Halkidiki Beach Bars to consider

- **Sahara Resort:** [Sahara Resort, New Heraklia](#). Sahara Resort is located on one of the most beautiful beaches of Halkidiki, awarded with a blue flag. A sunny oasis 20 minutes away from the center of Thessaloniki where you can enjoy the crystal clear waters of Northern Greece
- **Cabana Beach Club:** [Paliouri](#). Located in Paliouri, this beach is one of Halkidiki's most dazzling beaches on the first leg of the peninsula, just an hour and a half's drive from Thessaloniki
- **Agora Beach – Greek Kouzina & Beach Bar:** [Kryopigi Halkidiki](#). Just an hour drive from Thessaloniki, experience the magic of Greek summer in this hidden gem called Kriopigi in Halkidiki.
- **Glarokavos BeachBar:** [Glarokavos Beach, Pefkohori](#). Glarokavos is one of the most attractive and popular partly organized beaches near Pefkochori village, with gentle sand, some fine gravel and shallow waters, just an hour and a half's drive from Thessaloniki.

Must-see attractions & events in Thessaloniki



White Tower

The White Tower stands as a symbol of the city of Thessaloniki, historically serving as part of the city fortifications dating back to the 16th century. The present form of the tower replaced a Byzantine fortification from the 12th century, later used as barracks for Janissaries and as a prison for convicts. Today, it operates as a museum and is one of the most recognizable symbols of the city. More Info: lpth.gr

Castle (Kastrá) & the walls of Thessaloniki

Looking north from the White Tower, you will follow the city fortification towards the castles. They were based on earlier Hellenistic fortresses, but they represent the Byzantine era of the city. The walls of the city have been officially designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

More Info: [visit-centralmacedonia.gr/castles-\(kastra\)](http://visit-centralmacedonia.gr/castles-(kastra))

The Arch of Galerius

The Arch of Galerius (known today as “Kamara”) is perhaps the most distinctive and interesting roman structure of Thessaloniki. It was built to honor the Roman Emperor Galerius who returned victorious to Thessaloniki (about 306 AD) after the wars against the Persians. It is one of the 15 Paleo-Christian and Byzantine Monuments of Thessaloniki that were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1988.

More Info: Arch of Galerius/odysseus.culture

Rotonda

Rotonda stands just next to the Arch of Galerius in the city center. This cylindrical structure was built in 306 AD by the Roman tetrarch Galerius, who intended it to be his grave. At first, it worked as a temple, but it remains unknown to which god this temple was dedicated. In the 4th century AD, the Byzantine emperor Constantine I converted it into an Orthodox church and many frescoes were painted inside, some of which survive today on the walls of Rotonda.

More Info: visit-centralmacedonia.gr/rotonda

Aristotelous Square & Roman Forum

The famous Aristotelous Square, a 20th century square designed by Ernest Hébrard in an eclectic style which combines elements from Byzantine and Western architecture and dedicated to Aristotle, philosopher and teacher of Alexander the great. This waterfront square is one of the most famous places in Greece and forms an important part of life in Thessaloniki with some of the city's most beautiful buildings and sights.

On the top of the Square, you will find the Roman Forum and Museum, one of the town's most significant ancient monuments. More Info: [Ancient Agora of Thessaloniki](http://AncientAgoraofThessaloniki)

Modiano Market

The recently renovated Modiano Market or Stoa Modiano is an enclosed market in Thessaloniki, Greece. It was built between 1922 and 1925, after the great fire, on the site of the old Talmud Tora synagogue. It is in the center of the city and forms the central point of the city's market which encompasses several blocks. More Info: agoramodiano


Saint Demetrius Church


In 313 AD, with the Edict of Milan on religious tolerance, the first temple was built as a prayer room on the site of the martyrdom of Saint Demetrius, where the present-day giant church of Saint Demetrius stands. In the basement of the church lies the martyrdom site of Saint Demetrius. Saint Demetrius is the patron saint of the city, and in 1988, the church was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. More Info: thessaloniki.travel/aghios-st-demetrius



Contact Info

 cityminds.eu

 cityminds@certh.gr

 Conference Centre of Centre for
Research & Technology Hellas
6th klm Charilaou-Thermis, 57001