

Meteora

There are few landscapes that excite the travelers as much as a visit to the enchanting Meteora.

The gigantic rocks with the breathtaking volume and height, as they sharply arise in the edge of a big flatland, interrupt the smooth landscape like they were unreal, form part of an impressive geological phenomenon that you can't miss the chance to observe closely. Moreover, the human intervention in this eerie scenery is astonishing: Monasteries built in the highest point of the rocks, seem to hover between earth and sky, between human and divine element. In 1989, Meteora was added in the list of the World Heritage of UNESCO.

PLACES WE VISIT

- Two out of six Holy Monasteries of Meteora
- Kalampaka

THE EXCURSION TAKES PLACE

- Every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

STARTING POINTS AND DEPARTURE TIME

- Starting point: WHITE TOWER(Entrance) 08:00
- Stop 1: MAKEDONIA PALACE HOTEL 08:05
- Stop 2: ARISTOTELOUS square & EGNATIA (Venizelos Statue) 08:15
- Stop 3: CAPSIS Hotel 08:20
- Stop 4: THE MET Hotel 08:25

AVERAGE EXCURSION DURATION

- 11 hours (6 hours on the road)

EXCURSION DESCRIPTION

We depart to Meteora with the bus of Ammon Express

at 08:00 from the White Tower,

at 08:05 from the hotel Makedonia Palace,

at 08:15 from Aristotelous Square & Egnatia Street (at the statue of Venizelos),

at 08:20 from hotel Capsis and

at 08:25 from The Met Hotel

The distance is 230km and lasts approximately 3 hours. During our way, there is a 30' stop for rest and coffee.

We reach Meteora around 12:30 and we visit two of the six in operation Holy Monasteries depending on the operating schedule of each Monastery.

- the women's monastery of Agios Stefanos with the impressive wood-carved iconostasis and the magnificent view of the city of Kalampaka, the river Lithaios and the plain,
- the monastery of the Holy Trinity at the steepest rock of Meteora, through stairs cut through the stone,
- the women's monastery of Rousanou with the extraordinary wall paintings of the small church, and the verdant path leading to it,
- the Varlaam monastery with the valuable surviving frescoes of the painter of icons Frangos Katelanos and, among others, the thirteen-ton wooden barrel,
- the monastery of the Transfiguration (Metamorphosis) of Christ, which is the largest monastery of Meteora, or
- the monastery of Saint Nicholas Anapafsas, with the frescoes of the famous painter of icons Theophanes the Cretan, which has a balcony that is a stone's throw away from the huge rocks.

For your convenience, the bus stops in front of the entrance of the Holy Monasteries.

We make a stop to admire the panoramic view of the Holy Monasteries from up high.

Next, we enjoy Greek traditional lunch in the city of Kalampaka against the view of the astonishing Meteora.

We depart to Thessaloniki at around 15:30 where in our way back we make a last stop for coffee and rest. We are back at about 18:00 making the same stops as when we started.

THE PRICE OF THE EXCURSION (FROM 39,99€) INCLUDES:

- Transport to and from Meteora and Kalambaka
- English speaking excursion attendant
- Basic travel insurance (during transport)

NOT INCLUDED

- The visiting ticket to each monastery, which costs 3 euros per monastery for all visitors except those of Greek nationality and is paid directly at the entrance.
- The tour of the Meteora monasteries.
- The cost of the lunch at the restaurant

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Our trip attendant shall wear a clothing with the AMMON Express marking so that he will be recognisable easily.
- You should be at the departure points 5' before the time indicated in the schedule. The bus cannot remain at designated stops, except for boarding.
- The monasteries have strict dress rules prohibiting entry to male visitors wearing shorts and women visitors with sleeveless sweatshirts.
- The approach to the monasteries is achieved through stairs and requires comfortable footwear.
- Please be consistent with the exact appointment times specified by the Ammon Express escort, so that the excursion to Meteora will remain unforgettable to all participants.
- We wish you a nice excursion and a lot of fun!

- Share pictures and comments about your experience in the excursion.

THE HISTORY

A perennial cluster of huge sandstone rocks rises in northwestern Thessaly. At the end of the Thessaly plain, between Chasia mountain and the mountain range of Pindos, Meteora are a splendid landscape of natural beauty and an ideal destination for those seeking the uniqueness of the works of nature and man. They are located at the foot of the town of Kalambaka.

Over millions of years the rocks took their current form with the constant erosion of wind and rain, and because of other geological changes. Current studies show that the Meteora were formed about 60 million years ago. Strangely, the Greek mythology that gave a wide interpretation to many physical phenomena and imagined a beautiful woman living in every tree and bathing in the river waters, did not address the creation of the landscape of Meteora. Neither the ancient Greeks nor any stranger historian had tried to solve the riddle of the formation of the imposing rocks up to the first millennium AD. Since then a dynamic center of Byzantine monastic life begins its creation.

The name “Meteora” faithfully describes the landscape as the monasteries that are built on the rocks seem to hover in limbo, between earth and sky. Meteora were named after Saint Athanasios Meteorites, hermit who built the monastery of the Transfiguration (the “Great Meteor”) on the highest rocks, which was first staged in 1344 AD

The first hermits began to inhabit Meteora in late 900 AD. According to tradition, the first of them was the monk Barnabas, who founded the Hermitage of the Holy Spirit. In early 1000 AD the establishment of the cloister of the Transfiguration of the Cretan monk Andronicus followed, while a century later a small ascetic state was well established in the area of Meteora. The first worship center was the church of the Virgin Mary that constituted the “Kiriako” or “Protaton” which still exists and is located south of Doupiani rock.

The first monasteries were built with great skill during the 14th century and up to the 15th century Meteora had great monastic heyday and the number of monasteries reached up to 24. Then, during the decline and fall of the Byzantine Empire monastic life Meteora decreased, however, from the late 15th century and especially the 16th century, the monastic community of Meteora passed again to a heyday period. New monasteries and buildings were established, which were adorned with unique art paintings. The Meteora temples are crafted with frescoes by monks, priests and the great painters of the time, such as Theophanis and Fragkos Katelanos.

During the Ottoman rule, the monasteries were, due to the particular morphology of the area, a safe place for the monks who preserved monuments of culture and post-Byzantine art. The decline began in the 17th century, having as a result the abandonment of the monasteries one by one. Currently 6 out of 24 are in operation and the rest are uninhabited and desolated. Many of the monasteries also did not escape the looting by the army of the revolutionary Ali Pasha in early 1800.

For centuries, the ascent to the monasteries was with scaffolding rested on beams wedged into the rocks, with net baskets and later with ladders. Today, pilgrims and visitors can climb to the monasteries in safety and comfort, using the stairs carved in the rocks from the 1920s.

A favorite place for climbers, Meteora now accommodate sport enthusiasts from all over Greece and abroad, who find there hundred meters of cliff where they can practice their favorite sport.

The six monasteries that can be visited today are the Transfiguration, the Holy Trinity, St. Nicholas Anapafsas, Barlaam (male) and monasteries Roussanou and St. Stephen (female). Meteora there are preserved treasures, relics and many miniature works as the masterpiece carved iconostasis of the katholikon of the Monastery of St. Stephen. In 1989 Meteora were included in the list World Heritage of UNESCO.

Vergina – Pella

Excursion back in history to the Macedonian Kingdom of Alexander the Great and Philip II.

The archaeological treasures of the glorious Macedonian Kingdom of Alexander the Great and his father, Philip II, as detailed by Herodotus, invite you to a unique trip to meet them closely, bringing up in light a piece of the lost prestige of the Ancient Macedonian capital of Aigai.

The excursion travels you back to three fundamental periods of the Greek History: the Ancient Greek, the Byzantine and the Modern one. Ancient spirit, tradition and devoutness are revealed against the backdrop of the natural beauty and the view of the Macedonian plain that travels the eye till the end of the horizon. A road trip to the land of ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

Don't miss this experience!

PLACES WE VISIT

- The Museum and Archaeological site of Pella
- The Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai (Vergina Museum)

THE EXCURSION TAKES PLACE

- Every Tuesday & Saturday until 30th of March |
Every Wednesday and Saturday from 1st of April

STARTING POINTS AND DEPARTURE

- Starting point: White Tower(Entance) 08:00
- Stop 1: Makedonia Palace Hotel 08:05
- Stop 2: Aristotle's Square & Egnatia Street (Venizelos Statue) 08:15
- Stop 3: Capsis Hotel 08:20
- Stop 4: The Met Hotel 08:25

EXCURSION DURATION

- 8 hours (3 hours on the road)

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCURSION

We depart to Pella with the bus of Ammon Express at 08:00 from the White Tower,

at 08:05 from the hotel Makedonia Palace,

at 08:15 from Aristotle's Square & Egnatia Street (at the statue of Venizelos),

at 08:20 from Capsis Hotel and

at 08:25 from The Met Hotel

The distance is about 50 km and lasts about 45'.

We reach Pella, where we visit the new, modern museum, as well as the Archaeological site with the unique mosaics.

Next, we arrive in Vergina and we visit the Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai, which is situated in the borders of the village.

Full tour guide is included to the Museums and the Archaeological sites.

Later, we enjoy our lunch at a restaurant with Greek traditional homemade dishes.

We depart to Thessaloniki at about 15:30 where we return after approximately one hour (16:30) doing the same stops from where we started.

THE PRICE OF THE EXCURSION (FROM 39,99€) INCLUDES

- Transportation to and from the Museum of Vergina and Pella.
- Tour guide at the Archaeological site and Museum of Pella and the Museum of Vergina.
- English-speaking tour guide.
- Basic travel insurance (during transportation).
- Assistance with the ticket insurance process for anyone who wishes to avoid the queue in the ticket office.

NOT INCLUDED

- The entrance fee to the Museum of Vergina (General entrance fee: 12€) and to the Museum and the archaeological site of Pella (General entrance fee: 8€)
- The cost of the lunch at the restaurant

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Our trip attendant shall wear clothing with the AMMON Express marking so that he will be recognisable easily.
- You should be at the departure points exactly at the time indicated in the schedule. The bus cannot remain at designated stops, except for boarding.
- Free entry to the Museum of Vergina is available to the students of Universities, Technological Educational Institutes or equivalent institutes of EU countries by showing their student ID, and to young people up to the age of 19 by showing their ID card
- Reduced entry to the Museum of Vergina (€ 6) is available to all citizens of the EU aged over 65, by showing their ID card or passport, as well as students from countries outside the EU.
- Free entry to the Museum of Pella is available to the students of Universities, Technological Educational Institutes or equivalent institutes of EU countries by showing their student ID, and to young people up to the age of 18 by showing their ID card.
- Reduced entry to the Museum of Pella (4€) is available to all citizens of the EU aged over 65, by showing their ID card or passport, as well as to students from countries outside the EU.
- Please be punctual in the given meeting times specified by the tour guide of AMMON EXPRESS so that all the participants will enjoy the excursion.

- We wish you a pleasant excursion and have fun!
- Share pictures and comments from your experiences in the excursion.

THE HISTORY

VERGINA

Aigai was the name of the ancient kingdom of Macedonia. The city was founded by Perdiccas I, the first king of the Macedonians, in the 7th century BC and expanded substantially in the early 5th century BC, when Alexander I was the King of the Macedonian kingdom. At the end of the century, during the reign of Archelaus I, Aigai hosted famous artists and intellectuals of the time, who were inspired and embellished the city with their works. Among them, the painter Zeuxis decorated with beautiful frescoes the royal palace and the tragedian Euripides who composed at Aigai his last tragedies: the “Archelaus” and “Bacchae”.

Philip II, king of the Macedonians, and Aigai during the next century reached the peak of their heyday. The glorious king and father of Alexander the Great called in the palace courtyard intellectuals from all over Greece, and proceeded with the construction of brilliant new buildings that significantly upgraded the aesthetics of the city. Although Pella was proclaimed as the new capital of the Macedonians since the time of King Archelaus I and the great religious festival in honor of Zeus was moved to Dion, Aigai remained the burial place of kings and the place where sacred ceremonies and big celebrations of the Macedonian kingdom took place.

Alexander the Great started from Aigai his campaign in 334 BC to conquest almost all of the known world at the time. The multigold Aigai were also chosen by the great commander as burial place of his murdered father, Philip II, two years earlier, in 336 BC, in a grand funeral ceremony in his honor. Aigai continued to flourish for two more centuries, and continued to be inhabited until after their conquest by the Romans in 168 BC, until it finally falling into the oblivion of time.

The name Vergina was given to the area two millennia later, in 1923, in honor of the legendary Queen Vergina, the last Greek woman governor of the region and offspring of the family of Paleologus before Veria was finally conquered by the Ottomans in 1433. The modern town of Vergina was inhabited by locals and refugees from Asia Minor and Bulgaria, very close to the foundations of the ancient Macedonian kingdom. Under the feet of the new residents, unbeknownst to all, the tomb of one of the greatest kings of Macedonia and of the entire ancient world was hidden among other findings, waiting to come back to light after twenty three centuries.

The historic moment for the world cultural community came in 1977 and 1978 when, during the excavation directed by archeology Professor Manolis Andronikos, first the tomb of Philip II and then the tomb of grandson and his son Alexander the Great, Alexander IV were discovered undisturbed, untouched by any human greedy hands. Both the father and the son of Alexander the Great had a tragic end: Philip was stabbed and Alexander IV was poisoned by usurpers of the throne. Their tombs were left as a legacy in modern times, a sample of the splendor of the era in which they lived both Macedonian kings, rescuing and highlighting the erstwhile glory of the kingdom of ancient Macedonia.

The “Star of Vergina” – the sixteen radii sun and symbol of the Macedonian dynasty – is positioned on the urn containing the cremated remains of Philip II. This is the most exciting finding of the excavations, which continues to this day, and brought to the surface many offerings of gold. Along with the smallest urn the twelve radii star, and the wreaths of oak leaves and fruits. The museum in its current form presents a clever “trick”: the burial buildings are boxed for their protection while

they are pointed out, and the hill – the “Great Tumulus” – has been filled with soil so that it looks as it was before the excavations.

The “tomb of Persephone” and a fourth grave that is believed to have belonged to King Antigonus Gonatas, with impressive Doric entrance, are the rest of the tombs in the hill that can be visited, except of Philip II and Alexander IV, which were however looted. The “tomb of Persephone” is decorated with a magnificent fresco on the abduction of Persephone, the goddess Demeter’s daughter, by Hades, the evil god of the Underworld.

UNESCO declared the museum and the archaeological site of Vergina as World Heritage Sites in 1996 including them on the list.

PELLA

The ancient city of Pella “stole” the glory of the city Aigai at the end of the 5th century BC, when the Macedonian King Archelaos I had proclaimed it the new capital of his kingdom. In ancient times, Pella was seaside and was called the “Greatest of Macedonian cities” by the great historian of antiquity Xenophon. In the years of King Philip II, the city continued to flourish, reaching its peak in the years of Alexander the Great, who made the brilliant capital of his kingdom known through his conquests throughout the world known at that time.

Pella remained the capital of the Macedonian kingdom until it was destroyed by the Romans, and then the capital was looted and its treasures were transferred to Rome. In the modern museum of Pella, which was inaugurated in 2009, there are on display many objects from the private and public life of the people of ancient Pella, from their religious buildings and their burial sites, as well as exquisite floor mosaics.

The two most impressive of them, the mosaic of deer hunting and the mosaic with the kidnapping of Eleni by Theseus – the largest till today known mosaic depiction in Greece – are located in the archaeological site, at the spot where they were found, and are open to the public during the summer.

Kerkini Lake

Kerkini is one of the oldest Migratory Station of birds. Ideal destination for nature lovers in a full day excursion close to rare species of birds and animals!

Day trip to Lake Kerkini, one of the 10 most valuable wetland habitats in Greece and one of the best destinations in Europe for nature observation of about 300 species of birds and rare animals. Among many species, admire the beautiful Flamingos and the magnificent Buffalos that walk nearby you! All these are combined with the wonderful view of Mount Beles and the majestic valley of Serres. It is an Ideal excursion for nature lovers, where you can enjoy a boat ride through the lake. Don’t miss this experience!

PLACES WE VISIT

- Kerkini Lake
- Lithotopos Dam
- Vironia village

THE EXCURSION TAKES PLACE

- Every Tuesday & Friday until 30th of March |
Every Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 1st of April

STARTING POINTS AND DEPARTURE TIME

- Starting point: WHITE TOWER(Entrance) 08:00
- Stop 1: MAKEDONIA PALACE HOTEL 08:05
- Stop 2: ARISTOTELOUS square & EGNATIA (Venizelos Statue) 08:15
- Stop 3: CAPSIS Hotel 08:20
- Stop 4: THE MET Hotel 08:25

AVERAGE EXCURSION DURATION

- 8 hours (3 hours on the road)

EXCURSION DESCRIPTION

We depart to Kerkini Lake with the bus of Ammon Express

at 08:00 from the White Tower,

at 08:05 from the hotel Makedonia Palace,

at 08:15 from Aristotelous Square & Egnatia Street (at the statue of Venizelos),

at 08:20 from hotel Capsis and

at 08:25 from The Met Hotel

The distance is 98km and lasts about 1 hour and a half.

We reach the Dam of Kerkini Lake (Lithotopos area) and enjoy one hour of boat ride and bird watching through the lake. Every season of the year hosts different species of birds so the boat ride hides a different surprise each time. The beautiful Flamingos though, live there all year round. The area for horse riding is situated next to the dam and you can enjoy a horse ride as long as the weather permits it.

Next, we have a hot cup of coffee and afterwards we make a stop to the farm, just some kilometres away, with the impressive buffalos that walk nearby you, observing and learning their history and habits.

Later on, we move a bit further to Vironia village and enjoy our lunch in a traditional Greek tavern, which at the end of the 2nd Balkan War (summer of 1993), used to be a Greek Military Command Center, where the King Constantine and the prime-minister Eleftherios Venizelos signed a peace covenant, making history and doubling the size of Greece.

We depart to Thessaloniki at about 14:00 taking the perimeter road of the west side of the lake. Leaving behind the enchanting scenery you will have watched not only a part, but the whole Lake Kerkini in total!

THE PRICE OF THE EXCURSION (FROM 39,99€) INCLUDES:

- Transportation to and from the Lake of Kerkini and the village of Vironia
- The ticket for the one hour boat ride.
- English-speaking trip attendant
- Basic travel insurance (during transportation)

NOT INCLUDED

- The cost of the lunch and coffee at the restaurants.
- The cost of the horse riding (5€ per person/20')

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Our trip attendant shall wear clothing with the AMMON Express marking so that he will be recognizable easily
- You should be at the departure points 5' earlier from the time indicated in the schedule. The bus cannot remain at designated stops, except for boarding.
- It is recommended to have comfortable footwear for the easy access to each point.
- Please be consistent with the exact appointment times specified by the Ammon Express escort, so that the excursion to Kerkini will remain unforgettable to all participants.
- We wish you a nice excursion and a lot of fun!
- Share pictures and comments about your experience in the excursion.

THE HISTORY

Lake Kerkini is now one of, if not the, premier birding site in Greece, and, as it is situated along the migratory flyway for migratory birds en route to the Aegean Sea, the Balkan region, the Black Sea, the Hungarian steppes and beyond it experiences an interesting migration.

In the flat and semi-mountainous area, important hydrobiospheres are developing which are of great international significance and acceptance. The most essential hydrobiosphere is the one in Kerkini lake. It is a miracle of nature which came about by man's technical intervention on the natural characteristics of Strymon river. The water extent, which varies from time to time from 54 Km² to 72 Km², works out to be useful in two ways: as a technical work of great agricultural utility and as a hydrobiosphere for thousands of water fowls.

This wonderful biosphere is recouped by the International Convention of Ramsar and presents numerous admirable elements. Thousands of birds, both rare and protected, riverside forests, water-lilies in a large area, fish variety and fantastic panoramic view from the mountains of Belasica and Kroussia give it a characteristic tone. Actually the lake hosts 227 kinds of birds, especially non-migrants. 76 of them are recorded in the National Red Catalogue, while at least 31 of them are protected by EEC's Directive concerning wild life. What makes an exceptional presence is the buffalo's herd in the area, plus the one of the jackelo in the area of Kerkini lake. In the surrounding area of Kerkini lake there are at least 10 amphibian species (frogs, salamanders, tritons), five snail species, 19 reptile species (lizards, snakes, turtles) and a great variety of insects which play an important part in the food chain and contribute towards the biological resources of the lake.

A winter view of some tree at Kerkini lake The lake was created where Kerkini lake was by making embankments on the eastern and western sides and a dam was constructed near the village of Lithotopos, which started functioning in 1932. The main water provider of the lake is Struma River.

Additionally, there is Kerkinitis river from Krousia that flows into the lake. After the construction of the dam, the form of the initial hydrobiosphere changed completely. The human intervention usually retracts or takes negative action against the natural processes, Kerkini lake is a rare example, where the gentle human handling had the exact opposite result.

As time went by, the lake's capacity was reduced because of the substances that were washed up by Strymon river. So the rising of the embankments and the construction of a new dam was necessary, which was started operating in 1982.

Pozar – Edessa

The natural SPA of Greece. Destination for an idyllic excursion which combines a full relaxation program.

Enjoy a full relaxation program with the therapeutic characteristic of the healing hot springs of Pozar in the fascinating external natural pools, just where the nature established an absolute scenic landscape against the view of Mount Voras, northwest of Aridaia. Healing water spewed out in a constant temperature of 37° C that sets a feeling of body well-ness. The water of the healing springs is also known for the drinking therapy, to be able to drink the water for body healing. The characteristics of the water can heal the following diseases: Rheumatoid arthritis, malfunctions in the Circulatory and Respiratory system, Kidney diseases (such as kidney stones), Skin conditions (eczema etc.). All these can be found in the altitude of 400meters against a fascinating landscape by your side.

And if you don't get enough from this natural beauty and relaxation, the city of Edessa will get you off the ground with the biggest waterfalls in Balkans! The water falls from 70meters high, producing fascinating vapor clouds! Don't miss it!

PLACES WE VISIT

- Pozar Thermal Baths
- Orma Village
- Edessa

THE EXCURSION TAKES PLACE

- Every Monday, Thursday & Saturday until 30th of March |
Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 1st of April.

STARTING POINTS AND DEPARTURE TIME

- Starting point: WHITE TOWER(Entrance) 08:00
- Stop 1: MAKEDONIA PALACE HOTEL 08:05
- Stop 2: ARISTOTELOUS square & EGNATIA (Venizelos Statue) 08:15
- Stop 3: CAPSIS Hotel 08:20
- Stop 4: THE MET Hotel 08:25

AVERAGE EXCURSION DURATION

8 hours (3 hours on the road)

EXCURSION DESCRIPTION

We depart to Pozar Thermal Baths with the bus of Ammon Express

at 08:00 from the White Tower,

at 08:05 from the hotel Makedonia Palace,

at 08:15 from Aristotelous Square & Egnatia Street (at the statue of Venizelos),

at 08:20 from hotel Capsis and

at 08:25 from The Met Hotel

The distance is 110km and lasts about 1 hour and a half.

We reach the enchanting Pozar Thermal Springs where we have free time to enjoy the quality of the healing water and the natural pools of the springs where you will be able to enjoy at the same time your coffee at an absolutely organized area.

Later on, we will enjoy our lunch at a picturesque village next to Pozar, tasting Greek traditional flavours, where you will have the chance to buy traditional products from local salespeople (such as honey, jams etc.) from the local market which is situated at the central square of the village.

Next, we visit the city of Edessa, having free time to enjoy the powerful waterfalls that end up just right in front of your feet and capture the moments by taking pictures of the enchanting scenery.

We depart to Thessaloniki at about 15:30 where we return after approximately one hour and a half (17:00) doing the same stops from where we started.

THE PRICE OF THE EXCURSION (FROM 39,99€) INCLUDES:

- Transportation to and from Pozar and Edessa
- English-speaking trip attendant
- Basic travel insurance (during transportation)

NOT INCLUDED

- The entrance fee to the natural pools of the thermal springs (2€ per person) and 3€ per person for the big pool
- The towel rental in case that you don't have one with you (1,5€ per towel)
- The cost of the lunch at the restaurant

Veria – Wine Tasting

Veria, the land of culture and religion.

We travel among Christian, Byzantine and Contemporary culture discovering monuments lying in front of us with basic pillar the various culture relations between the city of Veria and the great cities of the Byzantine Period, accompanying our excursion with the ancient philosophy of viticulture, enjoying the variety of local wines in a fine winery.

PLACES WE VISIT

- Veria (Apostle Paul's Tribune, Post-Byzantine Church of Veria, Jewish Quarter and Quarter of Kyriotissa)
- Prime Winery

THE EXCURSION TAKES PLACE

- Every Monday and Friday until 31th of March |
Every Monday from 1st of April

STARTING POINTS AND DEPARTURE TIME

- Starting point: WHITE TOWER(Entrance) 08:00
- Stop 1: MAKEDONIA PALACE HOTEL 08:05
- Stop 2: ARISTOTELOUS square & EGNATIA (Venizelos Statue) 08:15
- Stop 3: CAPSIS Hotel 08:20
- Stop 4: THE MET Hotel 08:25

AVERAGE EXCURSION DURATION

- 6 hours (2 hours on the road)

EXCURSION DESCRIPTION

We depart to Veria with the bus of Ammon Express

at 08:00 from the White Tower,

at 08:05 from the hotel Makedonia Palace,

at 08:15 from Aristotelous Square & Egnatia Street (at the statue of Venizelos),

at 08:20 from hotel Capsis and

at 08:25 from The Met Hotel

The distance is 72 km and lasts about 1 hour.

We reach Veria around 09:30 and visit the Apostle Paul's Tribune, the Jewish Quarter which is located next to the river, the Post-Byzantine Church of Veria and the traditional neighborhood of Kyriotissa.

We enjoy our coffee and traditional homemade snacks in the city of Veria and next, we set off on the wine route in a fine winery, learning the art of wine from the wine growers who provide us with a full tour through the vineyards, the wine produce and maturation and ageing process area.

We depart to Thessaloniki at about 15:30 where we return after approximately one hour (16:30) doing the same stops from where we started.

THE PRICE OF THE EXCURSION (FROM 39,99€) INCLUDES:

- Transportation to and from Veria and the Winery.
- The tour and the Wine Tasting at the Winery.
- Variety of local cheese during the Wine Tasting.
- English-speaking trip attendant
- Basic travel insurance (during transportation)

NOT INCLUDED

- The cost of coffee/snack or lunch in the cafeteria/restaurant
- The entrance fee to the Jewish Synagogue

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Our trip attendant shall wear clothing with the AMMON Express marking so that he will be recognisable easily
- You should be at the departure points 5' earlier from the time indicated in the schedule. The bus cannot remain at designated stops, except for boarding.
- Please be punctual in the given meeting times specified by the trip attendant of AMMON Express so that all the participants will enjoy the excursion of Veria plus Wine Tasting.
- We wish you a nice excursion and a lot of fun!
- Share pictures and comments about your experience in the excursion.

Naousa – Wine Tasting

When the philosophy of thought of the philosopher Aristotle meets the philosophy of wine, the result is enchanting in a land of natural beauty that you shall never forget.

The excursion travels you to a land of universal interest, the ancient School of Aristotle, 2 kilometers away from the city of Naousa, the place where the greatest philosopher imparted the greatness of the classical Greek thought to the son of Philip II, King of Macedonia, Alexander the Great. The meeting with the wine philosophy is realized throughout a green route where at the end of it, the Wine Tasting leaves you with a sweet taste of Greek history and culture.

PLACES WE VISIT

- School of Aristotle
- Naousa
- Prime Winery

THE EXCURSION TAKES PLACE

- Every Wednesday until 31th of March |
Every Thursday from 1st of April

STARTING POINTS AND DEPARTURE TIME

- Starting point: WHITE TOWER(Entrance) 08:00
- Stop 1: MAKEDONIA PALACE HOTEL 08:05
- Stop 2: ARISTOTELOUS square & EGNATIA (Venizelos Statue) 08:15
- Stop 3: CAPSIS Hotel 08:20
- Stop 4: THE MET Hotel 08:25

AVERAGE EXCURSION DURATION

- 7 hours (3 hours on the road)

EXCURSION DESCRIPTION

We depart to the School of Aristotle with the bus of Ammon Express

at 08:00 from the White Tower,

at 08:05 from the hotel Makedonia Palace,

at 08:15 from Aristotelous Square & Egnatia Street (at the statue of Venizelos),

at 08:20 from hotel Capsis and

at 08:25 from The Met Hotel

The distance is 89 kilometers and lasts about 1 hour.

We reach the School of Aristotle around 10:00, admiring the revival of the classical Greek thought in the place where it really took place. The land where the Teacher used to walk around the towpaths with his students, paths full of intense vegetation, with natural springs gushing up water and shaping smooth cool brooks.

Next we enjoy our coffee and snack in the beautiful city of Naousa having the nature around us and the landscape that leaves everyone touched.

Our last destination is the tour at a fine winery where the ancient art of grape-growing remains until nowadays producing unique flavors for the palate, where you will have the chance to discover after the wine tasting and the conversation with the wine producers.

We depart to Thessaloniki at about 14:00 where we are back after 1 hour and a half making the same stops from where we started.

THE PRICE OF THE EXCURSION (FROM 39,99€) INCLUDES:

- Transportation to and from the School of Aristotle, Naousa and the Winery.
- The tour and the Wine Tasting at the Winery.
- Variety of local cheese during the Wine Tasting.
- English-speaking trip attendant
- Basic travel insurance (during transportation)

NOT INCLUDED

- The cost of coffee/snack or lunch in the cafeteria/restaurant

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Our trip attendant shall wear clothing with the AMMON Express marking so that he will be recognizable easily
- You should be at the departure points 5' earlier from the time indicated in the schedule. The bus cannot remain at designated stops, except for boarding.
- Please be punctual in the given meeting times specified by the trip attendant of AMMON Express so that all the participants will enjoy the excursion of Naousa plus Wine Tasting.
- We wish you a nice excursion and a lot of fun!
- Share pictures and comments about your experience in the excursion.

THE HISTORY

A place of universal interest, the ruins of Aristotle's School, is found only 2 kilometers away from the contemporary Naoussa, at the district of Isvoria. Here is the place with the racing water and the deeply-shaded caves, mentioned by the ancient writers, where the greatest philosopher of the antiquity taught the greatness of classical Greek thought and the ideals of the Platonic philosophy to the King's of Macedonia, Phillip II, son, Alexander and the other nobles of the Macedonian court. The encounter of these two Great personalities of the ancient world at the Nymphaeum of Mieza would definitely affect the future of mankind, and of all Western Civilization.

The area of the Nymphaeum, that is the sanctuary dedicated to the Nymphs, is a very impressive natural landscape, where the ancient remnants – a wall part of a two-floored arcade with Ionic columns forming a Π- combined with the three natural caves which are found there, constitute the main grounds of the School. The vertical surface of the rock, where the openings for supporting the roof's girders are discernable, comprised the back-end of the shady stoa, (built at 350 B.C. and later), where Aristotle taught «the doctrines of morals and politics» (Plutarch VII, 668) to the youths of the Macedonian Nobility. The landscape, where the Great Teacher rambled with his students on the fully vegetated riverbank trails, among calm and cool streams of water, gushed from the springs around, is completed by an even greater cave, a little further off, with two carved entrances, obviously for devotional use.

Source: <http://www.sxoliaristotelous.gr>