

Thessaloniki by day... some points of interest...

Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki holds an uninterrupted history of 2,300 years. Named after the sister of Alexander the Great, the city was founded as the major port of the Macedonian kingdom. It was the historic meeting point of five different cultures: the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Jewish, which despite some turbulent encounters merged and flourished peacefully, creating a truly cosmopolitan city in South East Europe, with a population today of more than one million people.

MUSEUMS

Archaeology Museum : 6, M. Andronikou street, tel. 2310 830.538. An exciting tour of the history of ancient Macedonia through important findings dating back to the end of 6th century B.C. The museum was inaugurated in October 1962. Also, displaying sculpture of the archaic, classical and Roman periods. Daily open 08:30-15.00

Museum of Byzantine Culture, 2 Stratou Avenue, Tel.: +30 2313 306 400, Monday: 13:30-20:00 ,Tuesday-Sunday: 08:00-20:00 one of the most important museums of Europe, with valuable Byzantine exhibits dating back from the Early Byzantine period to the Turkish occupation. The museum often hosts modern art works and cultural events.

<http://www.mbp.gr>

Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Egnatia 154 (on the grounds of Thees. International fair), tel.: 2310 240002, 2310 281212, The museum houses, among other things, paintings, sculptures, engravings, photos and films made by Greek or foreign artists. Tuesday-Saturday: 10:00-14:00 & 18:00-21:00, Sunday: 11:00-15:00, Monday closed.

www.mmca.org.gr

State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Kolokotroni 25, Stavroupoli district, tel. 2310 589140-1, Works made by Greek and foreign artists are exposed in the old building of the Monastery. Tuesday-Sunday: 11:00-19:00, Monday closed.

www.greekstatemuseum.com

White Tower Museum : tel.2310 267.832. Nikis Avenue, along the waterfront, Tuesday-Sunday: 08:30-15:00, Monday closed. An exhibition of the history and art of Byzantine Thessaloniki covering the period between 300 and 1430 AD. There is a small cafe with a great view at the top.

Folk Art and Ethnological museum : 68, Vas. Olgas, tel. 2310 830.591 displaying costumes and objects of the last 250 years of Greek national life and culture. One of the best in Greece.

Museum of the Macedonian Struggle : 23, Proxenou Koromila Str. tel. 2310 229.778. Housed in the neoclassical building of the 19th century, it hosts an exhibition of heirlooms associated with the Macedonian struggle and photos dating back to the period from 1900 to 1912. Tuesday to Friday - 09:00 to 14:00, Saturday - 10:00 to 12:00

Gallery of Fine Arts: 1, Nic. Germanou Str. inside the building of the National Theatre, tel. 2310 238.601. Important works of Greek and foreign painters.

Municipal Art Gallery of Thessaloniki: 162, Vas. Olgas, tel. 2310 425.531. Housed in Mordoch mansion, it exposes Greek painters' works, placing the emphasis on artists from Thessaloniki. Tuesday-Friday:09:00-14:00, Wednesday:18:00-20:00 & Saturday-Sunday: 11:00-14:30.

Technical Museum of Thessaloniki: Industrial Area, 2nd Street, Building no 47, tel. 2310 799.773.

Thessaloniki Museum of Photography, Harbor, Warehouse A, <http://thmphoto.gr> tel.: 2310 566 716, exhibiting a great deal of photos and negatives. Tuesday to Friday - 11:00 to 19:00, Saturday and Sunday - 11:00 to 21:00

Museum of Cinematography in Thessaloniki, Harbor, Warehouse A, tel.: 2310-508,398): It exposes rare machines, negatives, photos and films from cinemas dating back to the pre-war period.

Teloglion Foundation of Art: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Agiou Demetriou 159A tel.:2310 247111, 2310 991610 The Foundation houses an exhibition of art works, as well as all the works possessed by Nestor and Aliki Teloglou, which they donated to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. <http://www.tf.auth.gr>

Olympic Museum, Agiou Dimitriou St. (300m to the east of Teloglion Foundation of Art).

Crypt Museum at Aghios Demetrios, Agiou Dimitriou St. tel.: 2310-270.591 In the museum you will see Paleochristian sculptures dating back to 5th -7th centuries as well as Byzantine sculptures (11th-14th centuries) which have been found in the church.

Museum of Ancient Greek, Byzantine, and Post Byzantine Musical Instruments. At Katouni 12, in the Ladadika neighbourhood. Tel.: 2310 555 263 More than 200 instruments dating from the Copper era until early 20th century are exposed in the three chambers of the restored building. Tuesday to Sunday - 09:00 to 15:00

Jewish Museum, Agiou Mina St 13. (Museo Djudio de Salonik) - Agiou Mina 13, Thessaloniki, Greece, GR tel:2310 250 406, Housed in a preserved building built in 1904, it presents the historical course of the Jews of Thessaloniki until their genocide by the Nazis during German occupation. Tuesday to Friday, Sunday - 11:00 to 14:00, Wednesday and Thursday - 17:00 to 20:00

Thessaloniki History Center (Ippodamiou square, tel.: 2310-264,668) was founded in 1983 by the Municipality of Thessaloniki. It exposes historical documents, plans and gravures of the city.

Design Museum (43 Mitropoleos Street, tel. 2310- 263.043). More than 3,500 items concerning the history of Design in the whole world and more than 6,000 books, lists, monographs and magazines are exposed here.

Macedonian Studies Society Art Gallery (1, Nik. Germanou street, tel.: 2310-238.601). Houses an exhibition of Modern Greek art, including works of contemporary and older Greek artists.

MONUMENTS - CHURCHES

Galerian Arch (Kamara) erected shortly before 305 A.D.

The Rotonda , nearby Kamara, a domed building of early 4th century A.D., served as a Pantheon or as a Mausoleum for emperor Galerius. Now the church of Saint George. Was a mosque during the Turkish occupation and the minaret still stands.

Church of Ossios David (late 5th century A.D.), the chapel of the **Latomos Convent** , an early Christian church that still stand in Thessaloniki's Turkish quarter known as Epimenidou or Kastrá.

The City Walls were erected during the time of Theodossios the Great to guard the city from Democracy Square of nowadays across Eptapyrgio up to the site later occupied by the White Tower, a work of the architect Sinan (first half of 16th century).

Agios Dimitrios , (Ag. Dimitriou str.) was completely rebuilt in 1948 according the original plans. The church has been destroyed twice before by fire.

The Crypt , the most easterly section of the Bath, is the place where St Demetrios was imprisoned, tortured and buried.

Agia Sofia (8th century) marks the transition from the domed basilica to the domed crusiform church is a copy of the original Agia Sophia in Constantinople..

Panagia Halkeon , a crusiform church, was built in 1028 A.D. according an inscription of that era.

Agia Ekaterini (13th century) is very well preserved externally, with traces of frescoes inside.

Agfi Apostoli (14th century) retains a rich decoration both externally and in the interior, dating at the time of the Byzantine Pateologos imperial dynasty.

Agios Nikolaos Orfanos (14th century), 20 Irodotou Str. tel. 213.627 richly decorated with frescoes in the 17th century it became the chapel of Vlatadon Monastery.

Profitis Ilias was built in 1360 upon the ruins of a Byzantine palace by the monk Makarios Houmnos.

The post-Byzantine era has also left in Thessaloniki an important number of churches.

Some more...

The northernmost **Byzantine walls** of the city and parts of the western walls are still standing, as is the city's symbol - the **White Tower**, one of the 16th c. AD fortified towers - which is the only surviving tower on the seafront. The rest of the walls are in the picturesque Upper Town which offers a spectacular view over the bay, especially in the late afternoon.

Take a walk along the enormous seafront **promenade** (about 12 km altogether).

See the the **Roman Forum** excavations.

Visit the upper town for its traditional old houses, small cobbled streets, Byzantine citadel, the Eptapyrgion fort

The traditional central food market, with hundreds of stalls selling meat, fish, fruit, vegetables (sometimes cheek-by-jowl, an unnerving experience for North Americans), cheap clothes and shoes, flowers, herbs and spices, between Aristotele Square and Venizelou street.
Aristotelous Square-the biggest of the city-and the promenade with its cafes and restaurants.

Thessaloniki by night can only be discovered by everyone him- and herself...

Thessaloniki bye-bye

