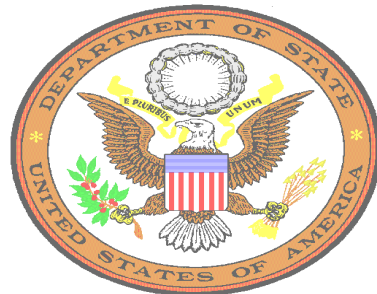


# Welcome to Thessaloniki



**From the American Consulate General  
43 Tamisaki**

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Updated, 02/2007

# GREECE



**Greece**, officially known as the **Hellenic Republic**, occupies the southernmost part of the Balkan Peninsula and numerous islands in the Aegean and Ionian Seas. Its total land area is 131,957 square kilometers, about the size of Alabama. The country has a highly indented coast, giving it a total coastline of 15,000 km. The Greek mainland shares land borders with Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Bulgaria and Turkey.

Greece is a mountainous country relatively poor in natural resources. Its highest mountain is Mount Olympus (2,917m), which lies south of Thessaloniki. Less than one-third of the land is arable. The most important plains are in Thessaly and the regions of Macedonia.

The population of Greece is 10,500,000 and the annual rate of population growth is 1%. Around 63% of the population is urban, most of which is concentrated in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Patras. Some 97% of the people are members of the Greek Orthodox Church, which is governed by a **Synod** of metropolitan bishops, presided over by the Archbishop of Athens. The remainder

includes Muslims, Roman Catholics, Jews, and Protestants.

The Hellenic Republic is a Parliamentary Democracy with a 300 Member House, the **Vouli** or Parliament, headed by the Prime Minister. Greece has been a member of the European Union since 1981 and a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member since 1951.

The vast majority of the population speak **Modern Greek**, a language little changed since the Classical Period. Several very small **linguistic minorities** speak other languages including Romany, Vlach, or Turkish.

**AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL  
THESSALONIKI, GREECE**

**SECURITY SITUATION IN THESSALONIKI**

BACKGROUND

Civil disorder is rare, although strikes and demonstrations are a regular occurrence. During 2002, Greek authorities made important progress toward alleviating domestic terrorism by arresting and charging 18 alleged members of the terrorist group "November 17." Other left-wing and anarchist groups continue to pose a threat to American commercial interests in Greece, however, through use of small explosive devices. An example of this was seen in the 2007 attack on Embassy Athens, however nobody was hurt and the police have been very helpful. Travelers should always review their security practices and be alert to their surroundings. Americans are encouraged to check the Consular Affairs home page for updated travel and security information (<http://travel.state.gov/>).

PERSONAL SAFETY

Crime against tourists (purse-snatchings, pick pocketing) appears to be on the rise at popular tourist sites and on crowded public transportation, particularly in Athens. Reports of date or acquaintance rape have also increased, with most of the offenses occurring on the islands. The usual safety precautions practiced in any urban or tourist area ought to be practiced during a visit to Greece.

The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

There are no "off-limits" zones. There is, however, a growing drug trade, both "soft" and "hard", centered in a few easily avoided areas, particularly around the railroad station. Drug offenses are regarded very seriously by local law enforcement officials and are almost always considered felonies. Health authorities report that the incidence of AIDS, while small, is on the increase.

We urge visitors to take the normal common-sense precautions they would take in any large city: travel in groups, do not flash large sums of money, do not drink excessively, avoid demonstrations, be circumspect, and take care not to make statements perceived to ridicule or belittle the country and its national symbols. Speaking loudly in English on the street may attract attention from passers-by, not all of it out of simple curiosity. Where alcohol is concerned, be aware that Greeks normally do not drink much, except with food, and are not tolerant of public drunkenness. When visiting Thessaloniki's many nightclubs, groups of men sometimes find themselves turned away at the door. This should not be interpreted as anti-Americanism, but as an effort by the club to maintain the balance of men and women inside.

Greek policemen wear blue uniforms. Special police responsible for public order in the center of Thessaloniki patrol the city in pairs, wearing black berets.

Labor strikes in the transportation sector (national airline, city bus lines, and taxis) occur frequently. Most are announced in advance and are of short duration. Reconfirmation of domestic and international flight reservations is highly recommended.

The Government of Greece does not permit the photographing of military installations. In 2001, several British and other nationals who photographed military aircraft as a hobby were arrested while taking photographs of aircraft taking off and landing at a military base. Although they were eventually acquitted, the Embassy strongly recommends against participating in such activities.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:** People traveling in Greece who do not speak Greek may call 112 if they require emergency services. This is a 24-hour toll-free number. Callers will be able to receive information in English and French (as well as Greek) to request ambulance services, the fire department, the police and the coast guard.

### **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

*Since January 1, 2002 in the area of Thessaloniki, (2310) must be dialed before every phone number.*

American Consulate General	2310-242-905/6/7
Port Police	2310-531-503/4
Aliens Police	2310-510-829, 2310-550-371
Security Police	2310-388424
Traffic Police	2310-566-210
Emergency Police	100
Police Precinct (ConGen District)	2310-253-340

### **USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

To call U.S. from Thessaloniki:	001-area code-phone number
AT&T	008001311
MCI	008001211
SPRINT	008001411

PHONE CARDS are available at all kiosks, and can be used for domestic and international calls.

# THESSALONIKI WALKING TOUR

## ROUTE A

Much of the area you are about to cover was rebuilt after a disastrous fire of 1917. Thus many of the historic sites that were here, the center of the harbor area during successive Macedonian, Roman and Byzantine days, no longer exist. However, you can still get the feel of this 2300-year-old city as you explore the path suggested below.

- As you exit the elevator from the **American Consulate General** building, turn left out of the complex and turn right onto Tsimiski Street. Take a left at the first intersection (**Aristotelous Street**) and walk a couple of blocks to meet **Aristotelous Square**.



Nowadays, people from all over come to enjoy an elaborate ice cream dish at one of the many cafes here.

- Turn right onto **Mitropoleos Street**, go two blocks along the waterfront, to **Komnion Street**.



Turn right and continue back to **Tsimiski Street**. Along the way you will notice several older buildings of rather Italian design, survivors of a previous era. After you cross Tsimiski, turn left and continue until you hit E. Venizelou. Cross the street and turn right here, halfway down the block turn left onto Agio Mina. Continue on Agio Mina and you will run into the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki. This building is one of the few Jewish buildings left after the fire of 1917. After Ferdinand and Isabella demanded their departure in 1492, thousands of Jews came to Thessaloniki. This large community existed until 1941, when Greece fell under German occupation and 96% of the city's Jews were killed. Once out of the museum return to E. Venizelou, cross it and turn left.

- Continue on E Venizelou and turn right on Vas. Irakaliou. On the right side of the street, you will soon notice the **Yahoodi Hamam**, double Turkish baths, or what remains of it. Now occupied by merchants, it received this name because it was in the Jewish district. There at the far corner is the flower market called "**Louloudadika**". There's no need to describe the colorful place, as it does that very well on its own. Turn left on Komnion, cross the street and turn right. Half way up the block is the **Central Market (Agora Modiano)**, a large building with aisles of stalls selling everything from fresh fish and meats, to wines, vegetables and local delicacies. There is no bargaining here, but you may find a tasty treat at some of the city's lowest set prices.
- If you can find your way through to the opposite end of the market building, you will exit on **Ermou Street**. Turn left and go to the corner (Komnion again) and continue another block to **Venizelou Street**. This is one of the old roads that ran down from the upper city to the harbor gates. Go right, up Venizelou. You will notice on your left about half way up the block an old market building, **Bezesteni**. The Turkish word Bezesteni or Bezesten is derived from the Persian word Bezzazistan which means "clothing materials market." These markets sold



silk and other expensive materials and this is the main reason why they were always guarded. The Thessaloniki Bezesten was built around the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century in a rectangular design covered by six lead domes.

At the first corner, turn right. You will now enter a maze of outdoor shops selling everything from woven baskets to T-shirts. You might try to bargain here, except for foodstuffs which are fixed price.

- As you wander, you will no doubt get lost. Just ask for **Egnatia** (Egg-nah-TEE-ah) as quizzically as you can. You will eventually be pointed (or led) to the famed road the Romans built to continue the Appian Way across Europe to Constantinople. Cross Egnatia wherever you find a pedestrian light. You will be very close (if anything it will be to your right) to a cross-in-square church called **Panagia Chalkeon** (Pan-ah-YEE-a Hal-KAY-on), or Our Lady 'of the Coppersmiths'. Built in 1028 it was adorned with frescoes which no longer exist. The frescoes the visitor can now see are from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This is the southwest corner of the ancient agora district. When you walk past the church on **Chalkeon Street**, you will see the many copper and bronze shops for which the church and street are named. Continue for a few long blocks, and when you come to a dead end, turn right on **Filippou Street** and then left a half block over. You will see on your right the archeological site of the **Roman Forum** where famous Romans such as Marc Anthony and the Emperor Galerius trod.



- Still further up (turning uphill on **Makedonikis Amynis Street**) you will come to **Agiou Demetriou Street**. Cross the street and you will be just a little ways from the city's foremost house of worship, **St. Demetrios**, dedicated to Thessaloniki's patron saint, who is credited with delivering the populace from an invasion by barbarians. The first shrine was built in 313 AD over the ruins of a roman bath. The basilica church itself was built a century later. It burned down sometime between 626-634, but a larger church was almost immediately rebuilt. In 1491 the Turks turned it into a mosque. In 1912, following the city's liberation from Turkish rule, it became once again a Christian church, but it burned again during the big fire of August 6, 1917. It was refurbished and began functioning again in 1948. Under the church's sanctuary and transept there is the **Crypt**, the place where St. Demetrios, was imprisoned, tortured and buried. The church is open to the public daily from 08:00 to 20:00. Entry is free.



This is an interesting area to find older cafes and restaurants not usually frequented by foreign tourists. Either go back toward the agora, or east down Agiou Dimitriou Street, where there are a number of cafes. Since most Greeks will treat you warmly, feel free to go inside to rest your by-now weary feet. When you are sufficiently rested, you may want to take a cab back to your hotel. If so, the best spot to flag a taxi is on Agiou Dimitriou Street. Hail the driver by raising your hand. Before entering, tell him the name of the hotel. He will tell you if he's going in that direction. (Ask "OK?" if you're uncertain. It is universally understood.)

- To return to the Consulate, take **Mitropolitou Genadiou** down the east side of St. Dimitrios and the Roman agora to Egnatia Street. Turn right onto Egnatia and on your right hand side

you will see **Bey Hamam**, the first Ottoman bath house in Thessaloniki, built in 1444. It is open to the public from 08:00 to 14:30, Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

Upon exiting the Bey Hamam, turn left back onto Egnatia Street. Two blocks later you will find yourself next to **Makedonomachon Square**. Turn right where you see McDonald's to cross Egnatia on **Agias Sofias Street**.



After one block, the street will open up to **Agia Sofia Square**, which was one of the most important centers of religious and social life for the Greeks in Thessaloniki. You will notice a few architectural novelties surrounding the square, one of which is the most notably striking "red house" built in 1926. The **Agia Sofia**, or **Church of the Holy Wisdom**, is on your left. This is one of the first monuments to reflect the change from Roman to Byzantine influence, and is also the first in Thessaloniki to be constructed with a dome. Built sometime during the eighth century, the church served

as the city cathedral until the sixteenth century, when it was converted to a mosque. In 1912 the church was returned to its original function for Christian worship. It is worth going in to see the superb mosaics dated to the 8th-12th century, and the wall paintings of the 11th century.

As you exit the church, turn left, following Agias Sofias Street towards the waterfront for one more long block until you meet Tsimiski Street once again. On the southwest corner is the old **Astoria Hotel** where in 1948, the American CBS journalist, George Polk, was staying at the time of his disappearance and murder, which remains unsolved.

Turn right on Tsimiski and after a block and a half, you will find yourself once again at the "Plateia" Center where the Consulate is housed.

If you want to venture on to Route B, do not turn on Tsimiski (since it is one way in the wrong direction), but stay on Agias Sofias and use the same cab hailing procedure mentioned above, only say **Lefkos Pyrgos** (LEF-kos PEER-gos), the famed White Tower, where you can pick up the tour from the following sheet.



# THESSALONIKI WALKING TOUR

## ROUTE B

As you exit the **American Consulate General** building, turn left out of the complex and right onto **Tsimiski**. Turn left at the first intersection (**Aristotelous Street**) and walk down to the waterfront. Turn left again in the direction of the **White Tower**. Along the way you will pass many cafes and some 1930s art deco buildings.

- Before you reach the White Tower itself, you will walk past the site (now completely obliterated) of the **Roman Port area**. This is just as the strand widens. You can imagine old galleons loading olives, grapes, nuts and wine after bringing in replacement legions for the Emperor's army. The **White Tower** is a restored mid-16<sup>th</sup> century Turkish structure (Beyaz Koule - Lion of the Fortresses) said to be built by Suleyman the Magnificent. It served as a fortress and later as a jail for death penalty prisoners. Today, however, it is the city's symbol and a very interesting museum with a collection of sculptures, frescoes, and other interesting artifacts from 300 to 1400 AD which portray the amazing history and culture of the city. (Hours: Monday closed, Tuesday-Sunday 08:30-15:00). Admission is free.



- With the White Tower behind you, cross the boulevard at the light; then cross right. You will be in front of the curved **Society of Macedonian Studies** building. Here not only concerts and plays are staged, but regular first-run movies are shown (many in English). As you face the curved façade, the street on your left goes all the way up to the city highlands. However, go to the right, traversing the front of the building. Turn left at the corner. You will be on **Germanou Street** now. Flanking Germanou Street is a park. Down the street on your left side about 50 yards, you will come to an English signpost for the **Art Gallery of the Macedonian Studies Society**.



The entrance is on your left. When you exit, turn left, continuing down Germanou.

- At the end of this rather long stretch is the **YMCA building**, built with donated American funds in the early 1930's. Inside are a public swimming pool (heated, hair cap required, swimming lanes only) and a host of youth activity rooms. On a clear day, from the corner to your left you can see the remains of the ancient seven towers fortification, **Eptapyrgio**, high on the hill. Cross the intersection on your right, then left again until you finally come upon the famed **Archaeological Museum** from which so many rare Macedonian treasures were taken for the travelling exhibit in 1978 "In Search of Alexander the Great." Most of them are safely back here; if time and schedule permit, you can see for yourself the splendors of the first Western empire. (Summer hours: Monday 12:30-19:00, Tuesday-Friday 08:00-19:00, Saturday and Sunday 08:30-19:00. Winter hours: Monday 10:30-17:00, Tuesday-Sunday 08:30-15:00). Admission is free.





Across the street you are also able to visit the **Byzantine museum**. The Byzantine museum, serves as a center for the preservation, research and study of the evidence of Byzantine civilization surviving in the Macedonian region and particularly in Thessaloniki. The museum includes collections of sculpture, frescoes, mosaics, icons, inscriptions from the Byzantine period. Admission is 4 Euros for adults, 2 Euros for students outside of the EU and free for anyone under 19 or students in the EU.

(Hours: Tues-Sun 8:30am-3:30pm, Monday 10:30am - 5:00 pm)

- Along the way to the museum you no doubt saw the modern tower at the entrance to the **International Trade Fair (HELEXPO)** grounds (phone number 2310-291-111). There is a café on the upper level of the tower, giving a good panorama of the urban center. Prices are a little high and the food only barely Greek, but a coffee or ouzo might be just right after your walk. Cross the traffic islands to your right and enter the Fair grounds under the sloping red wall announcing its presence. On the side facing downtown you will find an elevator (Ah-sen-sehr in Greek/French) that will take you to the café (4<sup>th</sup> floor).



- After you exit, cross the street to your right and head down Tsimiski. Turn right on **Gounari Street** and go up three blocks to see the remains of the **Palace of Galerius**, which was built around 300 AD. On your left side, you will see the **Octagon**, which was probably Galerius' throne-room. The **Palace**, just north of the Octagon, was a two-story structure with an open atrium in the middle. It was destroyed by an eighth century earthquake. Upon passing the Palace, turn right into the pedestrian area and you will find yourself facing the **Hippodrome**, which was the recreation center of Thessaloniki until 390 AD when 7000 cityfolk were slaughtered by order of Emperor Theodosius.

You will soon find yourself on **Svolou Street**, on which you should turn left. The first street



you approach will be Gounari again, and turn right to continue on toward **Egnatia Street**. Once you come to Egnatia, it will be hard to miss the **Arch of Galerius** and the **Rotunda**, named for its circular shape, behind it. The **Arch of Galerius**, popularly known as "**Kamara**", was built during 305 AD in commemoration of Galerius' victory over the Persians in 297 AD. It is a part of a fourfold gateway, which was situated at the point where the ceremonial way from the palace complex met the city's busiest thoroughfare.

Onto the surface of the arch reliefs were sculpted depicting scenes from the battle. The **Rotunda** was built in 306 AD as the mausoleum of the Roman Emperor Galerius. Later Rotunda became a Christian church, dedicated to St George and few alterations took place. It is important to state that its' mosaics are unique for the era. It is now open, but still under construction, and the striking mosaics are not within easy viewing.



With your back to the Rotunda, turn right on Egnatia, which was the Christian quarter during Ottoman rule. Thus, you will note the number of churches on this street, which date from anywhere during the Byzantine period to the Turkish period. On the left, you will see the **Transfiguration of Our Lord** from the mid-fourteenth century and then **Our Lady**

**“Panayouda”** (Swift to Mercy), built in 1818. Next, you will see two bright yellow buildings on either side. The one on the left is the oldest surviving school of the Greek community, and is still being used as a school today. The one on the right is an old physician’s mansion, donated to the city for use by international organizations. Farther down Egnatia are the churches of **St. Charalambus**, an urban dependency of a monastery on Mt. Athos, and **St. Athansius**, built in 1818.

Continue down Egnatia for a few blocks until you meet Aristotelous Street, a pedestrian thoroughfare with a variety of shops and cafes. Turn left on this street and about three blocks later you will find yourself back on Tsimiski. Turn left again and halfway down the block you will find the entrance to the Consulate building.

# THE HISTORY OF THESSALONIKI AND NORTHERN GREECE

## THE CITY

Thessaloniki is Greece's second largest city with a population of about a million inhabitants. It is located 300 miles north of Athens in the ancient province of Macedonia. In contrast to the dry Mediterranean climate of southern Greece, northern Greece has more rainfall, more river systems and more of the temperate-zone appearance. The climate generally is humid and mild, with average humidity around 60% and temperatures registering over 20° C. The number of sunny days is quite high throughout the year. The highest temperature is 42°C, occurring in July. Built around the shores of the Thermaikos Gulf and framed by its acropolis and Mount Hortiatis, Thessaloniki's natural setting is lovely.

By Greek standards the city is not old. It was founded in 316-317 BC by Kassandros, brother-in-law of Alexander the Great, most likely in the site of classical Therme at the head of the Thermaikos Gulf. Kassandros named the city in honor of his wife, Thessaloniki, who was the daughter of Philip of Macedonia and half-sister of Alexander the Great. Just two decades earlier King Philip had staged a decisive victory for his Thessalian allies at Chaeronia. The daughter born to Philip that year was named Thessaloniki ("Thessalian victory") to commemorate it. When Alexander's half-sister was wed to General Kassandros, the city, given to them as a home, was renamed after her.



Alexander the Great

Thessaloniki later came under the domination of Rome and in 146 AD was one of the Empire's provincial capitals, dominating the area from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. During this era the famous Via Egnatia was constructed as a through-road between Rome, on the Adriatic Coast, and Constantinople, capital of the later Byzantine Empire. This is one of the greatest commercial roads ever in existence and is still one of Thessaloniki's major arteries, paralleling the sea.

Thessaloniki achieved its greatest prominence during the late Roman and Byzantine empires when it became the first city of the Greek "province," far surpassing Athens in commercial and administrative importance. Saracens, Normans, and Venetians at various times later controlled the city. Venice bought the city in 1423 AD, but it was seized by the Ottoman Empire in 1430 and progressively suffered a decline in importance under the 482-year Turkish occupation (1430-1912 AD). Turkish rule ended on October 26, 1912, an event commemorated annually on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The central part of the city is new, having been rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1917, on new plans drawn by the famous French architect Hebrard. During WWII, the Germans occupied Thessaloniki for nearly four years until their withdrawal in October 1944. Since the war and particularly in the last twenty years, there has been a rapid expansion of the city, which brought its population from 380,648 in 1961 to 871,580 in 1981. Currently, Thessaloniki is the second most populous prefecture with numbers reaching 1,048,151. The character of the city changed at the same time from a prosperous provincial city to a booming modern metropolis with all the urban problems that plague most large cities in the world. Thessaloniki currently, is a modern-looking



Aerial view of Thessaloniki

town spreading up the hillside with a thriving intellectual, commercial and industrial life. It is considered to be one of the most important trade and communication centers, situated in the heart of Balkans.

### **THE ECONOMY**

Thessaloniki is second only to the Athens/Piraeus area as an industrial center, and Northern Greece is economically one of the most important areas in Greece. Major industrial sectors include petrochemical products, textiles, wood and paper products, steel, and assorted manufactured goods. As throughout the city's history, transportation services and shipping remain significant sources of revenue for Thessaloniki. Thessaloniki can claim the largest export port in the country, realising 50% of Greek exports. The city dreams of regaining its Byzantine role as a pan-Balkan commercial center.

Tobacco and deciduous fruits such as peaches, apples and pears are the most important agricultural products in the region. Both are significant foreign exchange earners, with tobacco going to world-wide markets and fruits, either fresh or preserved, to European markets. Philip Morris and other American tobacco companies maintain buying offices in Northern Greece to handle their tobacco purchases.

Another interesting and important industry is fur processing and garment manufacturing. It is centered in the mountain town of Kastoria about 100 miles west of Thessaloniki, and its success is based on the ability and willingness of the local people to sew together bits of fur scrap into pieces large enough for garments. Since the US is an important source of fur scrap as well as a market for the finished products, Kastoria has close ties with America and many of the furriers living there are American citizens.

Northern Greece is also the source of substantial invisible earning from the large number of foreign tourists and through remittances sent by the many workers from Macedonia and Thrace who are employed in West Germany and elsewhere.

### **THE MINISTRY OF MACEDONIA-THRACE**

Established in 1929, the Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace is one of two ministries (the other being the Ministry of the Aegean), that have geographic rather than functional responsibilities. The Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace (phone number: 2310-379-000) incorporates offices from each of the other ministries, but its principal duties are to coordinate economic development in Northern Greece by serving as a bridge between local and regional administrations and the central government in Athens. The Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace also has an International Affairs Directorate, an office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is charged as liaison between the Consular Missions in Northern Greece, and a Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





# HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL THESSALONIKI, GREECE

The Consulate was originally established as a Consular Agency in the early part of the 1870's. Mr. Pericles Hadji Lazzaro, a prominent Thessalonian, was appointed as the first Honorary American Consular Agent. In 1876, the name of Mr. Hadji Lazzaro appears in connection with the case of the Honorary Consuls of France and Germany who were killed by Turkish mobs in Thessaloniki because they were allegedly involved in hiding a Christian girl who was to be islamized. The record contains no more precise information as to the role that the Honorary American Consular Agent played in this incident. Mr. Hadji Lazzaro held his honorary position until 1906 at which time he was succeeded by a U.S. Naval Officer named Mr. Russell.

On June 10, 1908, the Consular Agency became a Consulate and Mr. Evan E. Young was appointed the first American Consul. He was the first in a series of career officers assigned to Thessaloniki. On July 1, 1908, Mr. Cleon Hadjilazarou, son of the former Consular Agent, was appointed as the first Vice and Deputy Consul. Among the records for that period are receipts covering costs for the quarter April-June 1909, including official telegrams (US \$24.01), official carriage hire (US \$15.84), and scrubbing the office floors (US \$1.32). Two items dated April 28, 1909, which would hardly make a dent in today's representation budget, are the illumination of the Consulate in honor of the new Sultan (\$4.75) and candles for the Consulate, 15 gold piasters (\$0.66)

On September 20, 1915, the Consulate moved from Rue Nouvelle Mosque to 67 King George Avenue. These premises, comprised of a two-story building, were leased for two years.

During the period up to and during the First World War, the Consulate played only a small role in the area. The staff consisted of a Consul, a Consular Assistant, a clerk, a typist and a messenger. The work done at the Consulate was limited since no visas were required for travel to the United States and there were few Americans living here or traveling to this area. The activities of the Consulate were restricted to representation, the certifying of consular invoices, and some commercial work.

Among the few Americans living here during these early years were Dr. Henry House of the American Farm School and his family, and the limited personnel of an American Mission School which operated a small building at 5 Frangon Street, near Vardariou Square. In addition, some tobacco businessmen occasionally visited the area. Perhaps because of visa requirements, which were established in 1924, the Consulate became larger and better staffed in the 1920s.

One interesting note shows that in 1932 the Consulate was forced to change premises because the building in which it was located was damaged in the earthquake of that year. The new location was at 9 Stratigou Kalari Street.

Consul James H. Keeley served as Principal Officer at the Consulate from 1936 to August 1939. His two sons, who both speak Greek, are Edmund Keeley, Professor at Princeton University, and Robert V. Keeley, the former Political Officer and former Ambassador in the Embassy at Athens.

By order of the German Reich, the Consulate closed on July 11, 1941, and American employees left Thessaloniki on July 12. The keys to the Consulate were left with the Consulate's clerk, John A. Vafiades, who was forced to surrender them to the German Consulate in Thessaloniki after the U.S. declared war on Germany.



At the time the Consulate was closed, the permanent Greek employees were Messrs. David Tiano, Emmanuel Karraso, John Vafiades and Mrs. Styliani Chakaloff. The first two were of Jewish extraction. When the U.S. declared war on Germany in December 1941, Messrs. Tiano, Karasso and Vafiades were arrested by German occupation forces and sent to a concentration camp in Thessaloniki. Mr. Tiano was executed, but Mr. Karasso and Mr. Vafiades were released after spending several months in prison. Mr. Karasso survived the war years by hiding with a Greek family in Athens. All three employees who survived the war were reemployed by the U.S. Government in Greece following the end of the German occupation. The conference room at the current Consulate is named in memory of David Tiano.

In November 1944, after German forces had withdrawn from Greece, Mr. William M. Gwynn, American Consul, was assigned to Thessaloniki and reopened the Consulate on December 14, 1944. He leased the ground and first floors of the building in which the Consulate was located until 1999, at 59 Nikis Avenue.

These were busy years in Greece and important years for the relationship between the United States and Greece. The Consulate played an important role in assisting many groups which came to Greece on official business. Both the American Farm School and Anatolia college had been used as headquarters of the German occupation forces and the Consulate assisted the returning officials in their work of restoration and reorganization. Both institutions had been used as headquarters of the German occupation forces. Some official groups which came to Northern Greece during the immediate postwar years include the Allied Mission for Observing the Greek Elections in 1946, the United Nations Special Commission on the Balkans in 1947, and the American Mission for Aid to Greece in 1948. During these years, the American presence in the area was further expanded with the addition of the American Center in December 1947, which first operated on Consulate premises (first officer Marvin Sorkin) and then moved to its own premises at 9 Kallari Street, and the Voice of America Relay Station in Perea on March 15, 1950.

In 1948, Consulate personnel were involved in events surrounding the death of U.S. press correspondent George Polk. The trial, which was held here, attracted tremendous worldwide press interest. In the same year, the AMAG, American Mission for Aid to Greece, team came to Thessaloniki and initially installed itself on the Consulate premises. Also in 1948, the U.S. Government bought the building it had been leasing to house the Consulate. In 1950 the lot behind the Consulate, which later became the motor pool, was purchased. In 1952 the Consulate was elevated to the rank of Consulate General and remains so today.

In April 1999, the Consulate General moved to a purpose-built, 8500 sq. foot office suite on the seventh floor of 43 Tsimiski, a new mixed-use office building in the city's center.

Today, the Consulate General oversees the activities of several U.S. Government agencies located in the consular district, including The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the US military. Other major US presences include the American Farm School, Anatolia College, Pinewood School, and American companies and banks. As in previous years its most important history is written by its day-to-day dealing with Greeks and Americans in its consular district.

Up to September 1988, the Consulate provided all consular services, i.e. immigrant and non-immigrant visa, passport and American services. Due to a drawdown, there was a reduction in force and all visa and passport services were transferred to the American Embassy in Athens, while the Consulate continued to provide welfare/whereabouts and notarial services. In 1993 the Consulate resumed accepting passport applications for processing in Athens. After the move to the new building in 1999, the Consulate began once again issuing passports in Thessaloniki.

<p><b><u>PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE US CONSULATE GENERAL, THESSALONIKI</u></b></p>
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Consular Agent Pericles HADJI LAZZARO	1870 – 1906
Consul RUSSEL	1906 – 1908
Consul Evan E. YOUNG	Nov. 1, 1908 – Jan. 29, 1910
Consul George HORTON	Jan. 30, 1910 – Aug. 5, 1911
Consul John E. KEHL	Dec. 12, 1911 – late 1915
Consul Leland B. MORRIS	late 1915 – 1921
Consul FERNALD	1927
Consul Charles J. PISAR	1927 – May 1932
Consul Paul BOWERMAN	June 1932 – 1933 (8 months)
Consul Harry L. TROUTMAN	1933 – 1936
Consul HANSON	1936 – (a few months only)
Consul James H. KEELEY	1936 – Aug. 1939
Consul John D. JOHNSON	fall 1939 – July 11, 1941
Consulate closed by order of German Reich on July 11, 1941 --	
Consul William M. GWYNN	Dec. 14, 1944 – Jan. 30, 1947
Consul Raleigh A. GIBSON	Jan. 31, 1947 – Oct. 5, 1949
Consul Glenn A. ABBEY	Feb. 5, 1950 – Sept. 20, 1951
Consul General John B. HOLT	Sept. 21, 1951 – Jul. 19, 1954
In 1952 the Consulate was elevated to the rank of Consulate General --	
Consul General Murat W. WILLIAMS	July 30, 1954 – June 1, 1955
Consul General Philip W. IRELAND	Sept. 13, 1955 – Oct. 21, 1958
Consul General Robert S. FOLSOM	Oct. 21, 1958 – Aug. 19, 1964
Consul General William L. HAMILTON	Oct. 21, 1964 – March 6, 1970
Consul General A. David FRITZLAN	Mar. 15, 1970 – June 22, 1971
Consul General Edward T. BRENNAN	July 29, 1971 – Oct. 31, 1975
Consul General John D. NEGROPONTE	Oct. 28, 1975 – June 30, 1977
Consul General Dan A. ZACHARY	July 13, 1977 – Sept. 15, 1981
Consul General Michael D. STERNBERG	Sept. 3, 1981 – June 21, 1985
Consul General A. Donald BRAMANTE	Aug. 22, 1985 – Aug. 15 1989
Consul General Larry C. THOMPSON	Aug. 11, 1989 – June 8, 1991
Consul General James E. BLANFORD	July 3, 1991 – May 4, 1994
Consul General Miriam K. HUGHES	July 17, 1994 – July 14, 1997
Consul General Paul D. STEPHENSON	July 22, 1997 – June 13, 2000
Consul General John M. KOENIG	June 27, 2000 – June 30, 2003
Consul General Alec L. MALLY	July 2003 – March 2004
Consul General Demitra M. PAPPAS	April 2004- June 2006
Consul General Hoyt B. YEE	August 2006-

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE GREEK SCHEDULE



Northern Greeks adhere to a daily schedule that does not always fit well with an American workday. Offices open between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., but many close permanently for the day in mid-afternoon. Lunch rarely occurs before 1:30 in the afternoon – later on the weekends – and tends to last several hours. Dinner in private homes and at restaurants seldom begins before 9:00 p.m., and can start as late as 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. on weekend evenings. Nightclubs and similar centers generally do not begin to fill with people before midnight, and often remain active until dawn, even during the week. The city's large university population (about 60,000) ensures that such establishments are always busy.

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### RESTAURANTS & TAVERNAS

##### *GREEK*

Agora	5 Kapodistriou & Dragoumi	2310-532-428
Chamodrakas	13 G. Gagili st.	2310-447-943
Kioupia	3-5 Morihovou Sq.	2310-553-239
Maiami (specializing in fish)	18 Thetidos St., Nea Krini	2310-447-996
Ouzeri "Aristotelous"	8 Aristotelous Square	2310-233-195
Ouzo Melathron	21 Karipi Stoa Ermion	2310-275-016
Ta Nissia	13 Prox. Koromila St.	2310-285-991
Ta louloudadika	20 Komnion	2310-225-624
Tiffany's (Grill)	3 Iktinou	2310-274-022
To steki tou Nikou	Poviliou & Filikis Etairias st.	2310-444-111
Zythos	5 Katouni, Ladadika	2310-540-284

A great number of traditional outdoor restaurants can also be found around **Athonos Square** near the Consulate and at **Navarino Square**.

##### *INTERNATIONAL*

Applebee's (American)	11 <sup>th</sup> km Airport Rd.	2310-472-203
	45 Nikis Avenue	2310-251-761
Beer Academy (American)	2 Miaouli & Mihalopoulou	2310-449-606
Bennigan's (American)	Behind Hondos Apollonia Politia	2310-474-384
La Pasteria (Italian)	43 Tsimiski, "Plateia" center	2310-238-300
Mare e Monti (Italian)	13 Venizelou, Panorama	2310-343-344
Ruby Tuesday (American)	3 Aghias Sophias St.	2310 250 417
TGI Friday's (American)	Mediterranean Cosmos Mall	2310 473 760
To Kourdisto Gourouni (German)	31 Agias Sofias St.	2310-274-672
Yasasu (Asian)	7 Byronos, Navarinou Sq.	2310-276-665

## *PIZZA & FAST FOOD*

(The following places offer take-out and home delivery service)

Goodys	39 Aghias Sophias	
Hot Pot	15 Komninon	2310-260-418
Mac Donalds	48 Aghias Sophias	
Pizza Hut	Nikis Ave. opposite White Tower	2310-256-800
Roma Pizza	91 Kimonos Svolou 9	2310-832-332
Verona Pizza	61 Th. Sofouli St.	2310-424-162
Yasasu (Asian)	7 Byronos, Navarinou Sq.	2310-276-665

## BAR-RESTAURANT

Mandagoras	98 Mitropoleos	2310-285-372
Mojo	4 Plateia Aristotelous	2310-234-027
Nodo	10 Marinou Antipa	2310-475-110
Olimpion	10 Plateia Aristotelous	2310-284-001
Omilos	12 Gr. Alexander, Nea Paralia	2310-888-200
Orient	Tsimiski & Komninon 18	2310-244-623
ParaPoli	15 Nikis Ave.	2310-253-097
Shark	2 Argonafton	2310-416-855/6
The Barrister	103 Tsimiski & 2 Vironos	2310-253-033

## CAFÉ-BAR

Animus	12 Nikolaou Plastira	2310-447-852
Diatiriteo	12 Iktinou	2310-283-181
Le Nouveau	2 Plateia Aristotelous	2310-224-557
Meli Melo	65 Gr. Alexander Posidonio	2310-853-252
Mojo	4 Plateia Aristotelous	2310-234-027
Morgan	17, Pavlou Mela	2310-280-140
Omilos	12 Gr. Alexander, Nea Paralia	2310-888-200
Taj Mahal	30 Pavlou Mela	2310-263-686

## INTERNET CAFÉ

Inner Sopt	Karakasi 73 & Papanastasiou
IQ Station	Agiou Dimitriou 59
The Web	Delfon 190 / Martiou

## NIGHTLIFE

[www.outoftowners.net](http://www.outoftowners.net) is a group of people from 'out of town' who regularly meet and visit together in Thessaloniki. The page includes upcoming events and announces their regular meetings.

## **WINTER**

In addition to the Ladadika area near downtown, which is a nice place to visit, a number of nightclubs and music bars are grouped at Mylos and Vilka. These areas are on the national road to Athens opposite the port, as well as on the port side of the road about a half-kilometer further towards Athens (The fee for taking a taxi from the center to those areas will be around €5 ).

Casa La Femme (Club)	61, 26 <sup>th</sup> Oktomvriou
Olimpion – Colonial (Club)	10 Plateia Aristotelous
Tapas Y Tapas (Latin)	4 Salaminos
Malt N Jazz (Rock & Jazz)	1 Proxenou Kromila

### Greek Live Music

Maskes	61, 26 <sup>th</sup> Oktovrio
Rodon Live	opposite Posidonio
Mamounia Live	21 Adreou Georgiou (Vilka)
Fix	47, 26 <sup>th</sup> Oktovriou

### **SUMMER**

Open-air summer clubs change names and ownership almost annually, but can usually be found in the same areas. Most nightclubs and music halls are located near “Makedonia” Airport (the fee for a taxi will be around €10). Moreover, Milos and Vilka area, which are open throughout the year group a number of summer nightclubs, bars and restaurants.

### **CINEMAS**

There are three major Cinema Centers, located at the three big shopping centers of the city.

Assos Odeon	43 Tsimiski “Plateia” Center	2310-290-290
Ster Century	Macedonia Center, Pilea	2310-469-300
Village Center	11 <sup>th</sup> km Airport Rd.	2310-473-333

Restaurants, bars, and bowling centers are hosted in each one of centers.

## **SHOPPING**

Most shops are small family operations. The city has three big shopping centers where one can find several different departments and a variety of anything he/she wants. The Plateia mall is situated in the area where the Consulate is and the other two, Macedonia and Village are much larger and are situated just outside Thessaloniki on the road to the airport. There are numerous shops selling antiques, and a weekly open air flea market “Laiki”, near the Rotunda (every Wednesday). Beautiful souvenirs can be bought inside the Archeological Museum. Moreover, Tsimiski and Mitropoleos streets, are the most popular areas for shopping clothes, jewelry and a variety of other products. Sporting goods are available but expensive. Prices for clothing, appliances, electronics, toys, cosmetics, toiletries and most other items are generally higher than in the U.S.

Most stores in Thessaloniki are open:

Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday:	8:30 to 14:00
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:	8:30 to 13:30 and 17:00 to 20:30

### **NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES**

- The Athens News is the only English language paper published in Greece.
- The International Herald Tribune also appears on newsstands, with an insert of the Greek paper Kathimerini in English.
- English language books and magazines may be purchased at:
  - Barbounakis 4-6 Aristotelous St. 2310-271-853
  - Bustart Grigoriou Palama 21
  - Prometheus 75 Ermou St. 2310-263-786

## **MONEY**

### **CURRENCY**



Since Greece is a member of the European Union starting January 1, 2002 the local currency has changed from Drachmas to the Euro. The Euro can be used in any of the 27 member-states of the European Union.

### **BANKS**

A local bank account is not needed in Greece for officers assigned to the Consulate. Checks are rarely if ever accepted. ATMs connected to U.S. bank networks (Cirrus, Plus) dispense local currency around the clock and are easily located on the main streets.

Bank of Greece	6 Tsimiski	2310-236-137
National Bank of Greece	Plateia Dimokratias	2103-341-000
Citibank	21 Tsimiski	2310-266-021
	54 Tsimiski	2310-241-888
	103 Vassilissis Olgas	2310-865-220



## **RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

The national church in Greece is Greek Orthodox.

### **ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN CHURCHES (CATHEDRALS)**

Thessaloniki Metropolis	5 Vogatsikou St.	2310-227-677
Metropolis of Neapolis & Stavroupolis	Strat. Strembenioti	2310-611-128
Metropolis of Nea Krini & Kalamaria	Mitrop. Chrisanthou	2310-426-812

### **CHURCHES OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS**

Adventist Church	42 Lahana St.	2310-831-303
Armenian Church	4 Dialetti St.	2310-275-352
Jewish Synagogue	24 Vas. Heracliou St.	2310-223-231
Christian Missionary Church	11 Ioustinianou St.	2310-263-689
First Missionary Pentecostal Church	4 Agapis St.	2310-239-837
Christ Pentacostal Church	5 Karbola St.	2310-266-847
Greek Evangelist Church	46 Al. Fleming St.	2310-816-510
Greek Evangelist Church	6 K. Paleologou St.	2310-273-380
Catholic Church	19 Frangon St.	2310-539-550
Latter Day Saints	78 G. Papandreou	2310-908-636



## **GETTING AROUND**

### **TAXI**

Taxis in the city are numerous if a bit feisty. Drivers routinely pick up other passengers en route, and often refuse to take customers to destinations deemed inconvenient. Radio taxis can be ordered at a slight additional cost, but are sometimes unavailable at peak hours.

Macedonia	2310-550-500	Thessaloniki	2310-551-525
Mercedes	2310-525-000	White Tower	2310-214-900
Omega	2310-546-522	Megas Alexandros	2310-866-866

### **BUSES**

#### *Inner-City*

Tickets are a flat fare of €.50 within the city. You have to validate the ticket as soon as you enter the bus. In the case you buy a ticket from the machine inside the bus you have to pay €.60 and you do not validate it. After midnight the fee doubles.

General info for all busses

185

[www.oasth.gr](http://www.oasth.gr)

#### *Throughout Greece*

Buses can be taken from Thessaloniki to various locations throughout Greece. The KTEL bus station near the airport provides transportation to Halkidiki, or bus station Macedonia, at the other end of the city can take you to other locations.

KTEL Macedonia

2432-022-432

### **AIR**

“Macedonia” Airport connects Thessaloniki with most European capitals and many other European cities by direct flights.

Macedonia Airport 2310-425-011

#### *Airlines*

Olympic Airways Office	3 Navarhou Koundouriotou	2310-408-411
Aegean Cronus Airlines		2310-280-050
Aeroflot		2103-317-420
Alitalia		2310-471-372
American Airlines		www.aa.com
Austrian Airlines		2310-474-101 2310-474-125
Cyprus Airways		www.cyprusairways.com
Jat		info@jat.com
Swiss International Airlines		2310-471-481
Tarom		customer.service@tarom.ro

### **TRAIN**

Railway Station Monastiriou Street 2310-517-517/518  
Timetables Recording 1440

### **RENT A CAR**

While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Greece is provided for general reference only and may not be accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Safety of Public Transportation: Good  
Urban Road Condition/Maintenance: Good  
Rural Road Condition/Maintenance: Fair  
Availability of Roadside Assistance: Poor

Visitors to Greece must be prepared to drive defensively. Heavy traffic and poor highways pose hazards, especially at night. Extreme care is warranted in operating a motorbike. The majority of U.S. citizen traffic casualties in Greece have involved motorbikes. Drivers must carry a valid U.S. license as well as an international driver's permit. The U.S. Department of State has authorized two organizations to issue international driving permits to those who hold valid U.S. driver's licenses: AAA and the American Automobile Touring Alliance. Vehicles may be rented without the permit, but the driver will be penalized for failure to have one in the event of an accident. Fines are high. Small motorbike rental firms frequently do not insure their vehicles; the customer is responsible for damages. Review your coverage before renting.

ATLAS	2310-325-845
AVIS	2310-227-126
HERTZ	2310-476-270
KOSMOS	2310-456-630
VATEK EUROCAR	2310-473-508

For additional information, maps and more details please visit the official site of national tourist organization of Greece <http://www.gnto.gr>.

### **HOSPITALS/CLINICS**

Diavalkaniko kentro	2310-400-000
Agious Loukas	2310-390-582
Papageorgiou	2310-693-229

### **HOTELS**

#### **A Class Hotels**

Capitol	16 Monastiriou Street	2310-516-321
Electra Palace	Aristotelous Square	2310-232-221
Macedonian Palace	Megalou Alexandrou Ave.	2310-861-400
Mediterranean Palace	3 Salaminos Street	2310-552-554
Nefeli	Panorama	2310-342-002
Hyatt	Airport	2310-401-234
Le Pallas	12 Tsimiski Street	2310-257-400

#### **B&C Class Hotels**

ABC	37 Angelaki Street	2310-265-421
Amalia	33 Hermou Street	2310-268-321
Astoria	7 Salaminos Street	2310-554-902
Capsis	28 Monastiriou Street	2310-521-321
Metropolitan	91 Vas. Olgas Street	2310-824-221
Philippion	Eptapyrgion	2310-230-321
Rotunda	97 Monastiriou Street	2310-517-121
Athina Palace	Thermi Area	2310-805-680

## **EVENTS / FESTIVALS**

### **HELEXPO – Thessaloniki Trade International Fair**

HELEXPO, is the largest organizer of international exhibitions, conferences, and cultural events in Greece. The fair, held annually in September, with 3,400 exhibitors from Greece and 45 other countries, attracts over 1,000,000 visitors. The Prime Minister, accompanied by the economic cabinet, traditionally delivers the “State of the Economy” address at the opening of the fair. Other trade shows throughout the year on specialized fields, like furniture, clothing, tourism, and information technology.



- Agrotica (February): Agricultural machinery, equipment and supplies
- Infacoma (February): Construction equipment, heating and air conditioning
- Furnidec (March): Furniture
- Furnima (March): Supplies and equipment for furniture manufacture
- Hygeia (March): Medical, hospital, pharmaceutical equipment
- Marmin (April): Marble, minerals, machinery, and equipment
- Graphis (May): Stationery, books, school supplies
- Infosystem Hi Tech (October): Communications systems, high-technology products
- Kosmima (October): Jewelry, clocks, stones, machinery
- Hotelia (November): Equipment and catering for hotels, restaurants, and bakeries
- Philoxenia (November): Tourism

### **BALKAN BUSINESS, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL SEMINARS**

Conferences and seminars are held throughout the year with participation of Southeast Europe and EU nations. Some events, co-organized by the Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace and the American Consulate General, with international participation of politicians, academics, scholars, business leaders include: “Stability and Asymmetrical Threats in Southeast Europe” (May 2002) and “Euro-Atlantica: A Community of Values” (December 2002.)

### **DEMETRIA FESTIVAL**

A series of cultural events, including concerts, performances, art exhibits, and conferences, organized by the city of Thessaloniki each October-November in Thessaloniki.

### **PHOTOBIENALLE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL**

A month-long annual international festival of photography, formerly know as photosynkria, organized by the Thessaloniki Museum of Photography.

### **THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF THESSALONIKI**

The major film festival in Greece, the Festival is organized each November by the Greek Ministry of Culture.

### **GREECE AND THE BALKANS BUSINESS SEMINAR**

Held each May, since 1994 it is sponsored by the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece, and the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Focus is on promoting Balkan trade and development. The Prime Minister and most of the economic cabinet typically attend, along with cabinet-level officials from Balkan countries.

## **MAJOR MUSEUMS, CULTURAL CENTERS, AND ART ORGANIZATIONS**

Thessaloniki is host to an impressive array of museums and cultural organizations. The list includes:

▪ Archeological Museum	Opposite YMCA	2310-830-538
• Byzantine Museum	2 Stratou Ave.	2310-868-570/4
• Folklore/Ethnological Museum	68 Vas. Olgas	2310-830-591
• White Tower Museum	at the White Tower	2310-267-832
• Museum of the Macedonian Struggle	23 Proxenu Koromila St.	2310-229-778
• Science Center and Technology Museum	Sindos Ave 2, bldg 47	2310-483-000
• Cultural Center of N. Greece	108 V. Olgas	2310-834-404
• Municipal Art Gallery	162 Vas. Olgas	2310 425-531
• Vafopoulio Cultural Center	3 G. Nikolaide St.	2310-424-132
• Photography Museum	Port WareHouse A	2310-508-398
• Cinema Museum	Port WareHouse A	2310-508-398
• Telloglio Cultural Center	159A Agiou Demetriou	2310-247-111
• Jewish History Museum	13, Agiou Mina Street	2310 250406-7
• State Orchestra of Northern Greece	21 Ippodromiou St.	2310-260-620
• State Museum of Contemporary Art	21 Kolokotroni St.	2310-589-140
• Municipal Orchestra	17 Kountouriotou St.	2310-538-440
• Thessaloniki Concert Hall	Maria Kallas St.	2310-895-800
• Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art	HELEXPO Grounds	2310-240-002

## **PLACES TO VISIT**

Thessaloniki is conveniently located, with easy access to several areas of interest, such as the ancient ruins of Pella, Vergina and Dion. Here are a few, though Northern Greece has much more to offer than we can fit into this packet.

**Kavala:** This gorgeous seaside city was founded sometime around the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. It boasts several important sites. One of these sites is Kavala Castle, a Byzantine structure where Mehmet Ali, the founder of modern Egypt, was supposedly born. Perhaps the most impressive site in the area is that of Phillipi, ruins of an ancient city named for King Phillip, where the apostle Paul came brought Christianity. Kavala also has ferries to the island of Thassos, home to several beautiful beaches and archeological sites.



**Mount Olympus:** The home of the Gods is located an hour and a half's drive from the city of Thessaloniki. If it is summer you can hike up the mountain, or if mountain climbing isn't on your itinerary there are several other hikes based at the village Lithoro, just below Olympus. You can see other beautiful areas and surrounding villages. Also in this area is the ancient city of Dion, take a moment to explore these ruins.

**Halkidiki:** Written as either Halkidiki or Chalkidiki this area is famous for its amazing beaches. Sometimes called the three legs or the three fingers, this shape provides the peninsula with a large amount of coastline. The famous Mount Athos is also

located in this region, though only males are allowed to visit the monasteries. A permit must be purchased and stays are limited, so plan in advance if you are going to visit Mount Athos. Many other interesting sites are located in Halkidiki, the Tower called Phosphorion, old villages and a pine forest.

**Meteora:** Though a bit of a distance from Thessaloniki this site is definitely worth the trip. Ancient monasteries stand on top of very steep rock cliffs, creating an unforgettable scene. The amazing views and incredible architecture are not the only things Meteora has to offer, many of the monasteries are still working and open to the public for viewing. For a small fee you can tour the monasteries, many of which have small museums inside, women will be asked to put on the provided skirts at entrance.



## **STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY <http://www.auth.gr>**

Greece's largest university, with an enrollment of over 60,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Aristotle University is the largest in the Balkans and it boasts one of the most powerful computing centers and communications networks in the European Union. All disciplines are offered. (Phone number: 2310-996-090)

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA <http://www.uom.gr>**

The University specializes in economics and social sciences. Enrollment is approximately 8,500 undergraduate students. (phone number: 2310-891-101)

### **HIGHER SCHOOL OF JUDICIAL STUDIES**

Affiliated with the Ministry of Justice

### **SCHOOL OF ADVANCED MILITARY STUDIES/WAR COLLEGE**

The U.S. government sends one Army officer each year for graduate study at the War College.

### **U.S. & FOREIGN CULTURAL INSTITUTES**

1. American College of Thessaloniki (<http://www.act.edu> )
2. American Farm School (<http://www.afs.edu.gr>)
3. Goethe Institute (<http://www.goethe.de/om/the/deibib.htm> )
4. French Cultural Institute (<http://www.ist.gr> )
5. Italian Cultural Institute ([users.otenet.gr/~italcult](http://users.otenet.gr/~italcult))
6. The British Council (<http://www.britishcouncil.gr> )