

## Mount Olympus, Climb its highest peak

*The massif that dominates the Mount Olympus, the highest point of Greece with its 2917 m, rises steeply from a narrow coastal plain bordering the azure waters of the Aegean Sea, between Thessaly and Macedonia. Mount Olympus is actually a massif that consists of eight peaks: the Mitikas, the Stefani Skala, the Skoliô, the Agios Andonios, the Profitis Ilias, Tumba and Zonaria, which form a sort of U around the beautiful gorges of the Mavrôlongos. It is in this area that the Greek gods of antiquity had taken up residence. This is where Zeus and his cronies decided the fate of mortals between two feasts inspired by the song of the Muses. A divine place which remained out of sight of mortals until 1913, when the first known ascent took place. Mount Olympus is one of the richest areas of rare flora and fauna in Europe. It is a protected National Park which was included in the Natura 2000 network and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (World Network of Biosphere Reserves). The high concentration of rare plants and animals makes this region an ark of biodiversity and conservation of wildlife for the enjoyment of visitors. Many walks on the slopes of the mountain are accessible to all, but the climb to the summit requires a fit walker. It can be dangerous and is to be avoided in solitary and should not be climbed in the period from June to September.*

---

### 01 First day

Arrival at the airport of Makedonia Thessaloniki and departure for Litochoro at the foot of Mount Olympus. On the way, and if the time of arrival of the aircraft allows it (otherwise on the third day returning from Mount Olympus), we pay a visit to the archaeological site of Dion, place of worship of Olympian Zeus in ancient times. You should know that Dion was mainly developed from the V century BC, when the Macedonians made it an important religious center in the Greek world at the time. The city of Dion grew in the fourth century BC. and left us very interesting remains. We also visit the archaeological museum which gathers the objects found on the site. You can admire among other things, a hydraulic organ. Installation at the hotel.

### 02 Second day

Departure for Gkortsia, starting point of our ascent to 1100 meters. A rise of about six hours of which two-thirds in woodland and the end in mountainscenery, to the plateau of the Muses, where we spend the night in one of twos helters at 2700 meters altitude.

### 03 Third day

Morning departure to enjoy the sunrise. Ascent of the highest peak of Mount Olympus, Mytika to 2917 meters. You have conquered the abode of Gods. Descent to the shelter Spilios Agapitos to find the path that leads us to E4 Prionia through thick pine forests and beech. The river Enipea emerges here. We take the road to Thessaloniki. Installation at the hotel.

#### **04 Fourth day.**

City Tour. You will visit the White Tower, symbol of the city, where you will be told the story of Thessaloniki. You go up to the top of the city, of historic and architectural interest along the ramparts DATING back to the birth of the city in 315 BC. From the acropolis of the city, Eptapyrgion., you will enjoy a panoramic view of the city, the harbor and the Thermaic Gulf. You will then visit the church of Saint Dimitrios, patron saint of the city (IV century). This church, originally built on the site of the martyrdom, became during the VII th century a basilica with five naves of the Hellenistic type. Visit the crypt of the church and you will discover the remains of an early Christian church. You will discover the ancient agora dated to the founding of city (III century BC). It was the social, religious and commercial center until the fourth century of our era. A few steps away from the Aristotelous Square you walk through the colorful markets of Modianou or Kapani that will awaken all your senses. You will walk along the remains of the palace complex of the Roman Emperor Galerius (III and IV century AD) covering an area of 150,000 square meters. You will find the Arch of Triumph of Galerius (305 AD) built to celebrate the victory of Emperor Galerius over the Persians. The Rotonda, one of the oldest buildings of the city, was also part of the complex. Built in Roman times, it was a church in the Christian era and a mosque during the Ottoman era.

#### **05 Fifth day**

Enjoy the last moments of your stay as you stroll along the waterfront, as you walk through the commercial heart of the city, or take pleasure in a coffee at Aristotelous Square. Departure from Makedonia Airport Thessaloniki