

Ottoman Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is a young and modern city where life never stops. A city where it is nice to walk in the busy shopping streets or to enjoy the waterfront and its open horizons that end at the foot of Mount Olympus. Visiting Thessaloniki is discovering a long history of more than two thousand years and making a trip to the Eastern Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire and the Ottoman empire, but also understanding the contemporary Balkans and Greece. Discovering Thessaloniki is discovering a unique culture of its own, the result of all the centuries it has been through, and all the people who have inhabited in.

01 First day White Tower, Ataturk Museum, Galerius Complex, ...

We will visit the White Tower, Ottoman fortification built in the 15th century, symbol of the city, where you will be told the history of Thessaloniki while visiting the Tower. We will go up to the top of the city, of amazing 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, we will enjoy a panoramic view of the city, the harbor and the Thermaïc Gulf.

We will visit the Atatürk Museum. The house is the birthplace of the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who was born here in 1881.[2] It is a three-floor house with a courtyard on 24 Apostolou Pavlou Street, next to the Turkish Consulate. Before the capture of Thessaloniki by the Greek Army in 1912, it was known as "Koca Kasım Paşa district, Islahhane street" It was built before 1870 and in 1935 the Thessaloniki City Council gave it to the Turkish State, which decided to convert it into a museum dedicated to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

We will see the Rotonda, one of the oldest buildings of the city, part of the palace complex of the Roman Emperor Galerius (III and IV century AD). . Built in Roman times, it was a church in the Christian era and a mosque during the Ottoman era. We will see the Triumph Arch of Galerius (305 AD) built to celebrate the victory of Emperor Galerius over the Persians.

We 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. We will visit the crypt of the church and discover the remains of an early Christian church.

We will admire Aladza Imaret , which was Founded in 1484 by Isaac Pasha, who was Grand Vizier for Mehmed II and commander of Thessaloniki during Bayezid II. We will discover the ancient agora DATED to the founding of the city (III century BC). It was the social, religious and commercial center until the fourth century of our era.

A few steps away from Aristotelous street we will walk through the colourful markets of Modianou or Kapani, that will awaken all our senses.

02 Second day Governments House, Hamza Bey Mosque, Bezesteni, ...

We propose a walk at the city's central axis during the Ottoman times of the city. We will start from the governments house. The imposing building was built in 1891 by the Italian architect Vitaliano Poselli, in a peculiar rhythm. Originally, the building had

three floors and housed the seat of the Turkish Prefect (vali) of Thessaloniki and public service of the Ottoman state.

In 1907 the Government House hosted the Turkish Law School, and in it stayed the sultan Mehmet Resat in 1911 when he visited Thessaloniki.

The Hamza Bey Mosque, built in 1467-1468 by the daughter of a military commander Hamza Bey. Bezesteni (Fabric market) was a very important institution of Ottoman cities. The bezestenis were built during the Ottoman Empire, and were of such importance that Ottoman cities were divided into two categories, those that had Bezestenia and those that had not. There they were sold valuables, stored documents and assets, the quality of goods was checked, and fixed exchange rates of currencies were set.

We will end our tour in Liberty Square where the movement of the neo Turks was started.

03 Third day Stroll at your leisure in the city's streets

It is difficult to get lost in Thessaloniki. On one side there is the sea and on the other the mountains. Stroll at your leisure in the city streets, it will be quickly familiar. Do not hesitate to enter many churches of the city. Most of them date back several centuries and conceal treasures of the Orthodox and Byzantine art.

Take time to visit the museums of the city, with their permanent collection exhibitions. Thessaloniki museums are exceptional not only by the richness of their content but also by their design.

Depending on your interests and desires we will be happy to give you complete information on the content of not only museums but also temporary exhibitions.

04 Fourth day Free time, or optional daily excursion

The region of Thessaloniki has an infinite number of places and sites to visit. A stone's throw away from the city, you can choose one of our day trips and discover other sites and another page of history.

05 Fifth day Departure

Enjoy the last moments of your stay as you stroll along the waterfront, as you walk through the commercial heart of the city, or enjoy your coffee at Aristotelous Square. Transfer to the Makedonia airport of Thessaloniki.