



STIMMULI  
for social change

# THESSALONIKI

... the cultural crossroad of Eastern Europe & the Balkans

## *Stimmuli for social change*

### **WHAT YOU CAN FIND IN THIS ISSUE:**

HISTORY OF THE TOWN  
FUN FACTS  
HISTORICAL CLUSTERS  
CULTURAL/ARTS  
CLUSTER  
GASTRONOMICAL  
CLUSTERS  
WATERFRONT CLUSTER

WELCOMES YOU TO  
THESSALONIKI

As you explore the city and its beauty, keep in mind that Thessaloniki used to be and still is a multicultural city in Greece. Our town is not just a place on the map; it's a mosaic of people from different origins. When they come together, they create a colorful tapestry!

In this issue you can find historical/cultural/gastronomical and waterfront clusters of Thessaloniki

# ***HISTORY OF THESSALONIKI***


Thessaloniki (Θεσσαλονίκη in Greek), is the second largest city in Greece, with population over 1M in its metropolitan area. It is also known among Greeks, as the “co-capital”, a reference to its historical status as the “co-reigning” city of the Byzantine empire. It is estimated that it was founded by Cassander in 315 BC.



## ***FUN FACT***

Thessaloniki took its name from the half-sister of Alexander the Great, whose name means “Thessalian victory”, from “Thessalos” (the region), and “niki”, which means victory in Greek.

According to mythology Thessaloniki was a mermaid, who still resides in the gulf surrounding the city.

 ***You can read more about  
Thessaloniki [here](#)***

# ***HISTORICAL CLUSTERS***

Thessaloniki has been a center throughout all historical periods, and it can be characterized as a cosmopolitan and economically prosperous city. Below is a list of the most interesting places to visit, selected based on their historical impact on the city.

## ***HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN HISTORY***

- Archeological Museum of Thessaloniki
- Roman Forum
- Galerius Arc

## ***BYZANTINE & OTTOMAN HISTORY***

- Museum of Byzantine Culture
- The White Tower
- Eptapyrgio Tower





## ***THE CHURCHES***

- Church of Agios Dimitrios
- UNESCO's heritage church of Osios David
- Church of Agia Sofia



## ***THE MOSQUES***

- Alatza Imaret
- Rotonda



# ***JEWISH HISTORY***

The Jewish history of Thessaloniki, as of many other places around Europe, is long, dark and not well known. The Jewish community nowadays is shrunk. Historically though, it was consisted of the Romaniote Jews, who were almost native in Greek territory of the Roman Empire (from where they got their name) & the Eastern Sephardim Jews, being relocated in Thessaloniki, after the brutal order of expulsion of all Jews, delivered by Queen Elizabeth I & King Ferdinand of Castile



## ***INTERESTING FACTS***

The spoken and religious language of the Jewish community of Thessaloniki is "Ladino" or Judeo-Spanish, a mixture of Spanish, Aramaic, Greek & Turkish.

Ladino, once the trade language of the Adriatic Sea, the Balkans, and the Middle-East, and renowned for its rich literature, especially in Salonika, today is under serious threat of extinction.

## ***VISIT***

- The Jewish museum of Thessaloniki
- Jewish synagogue

## ***WATERFRONT CLUSTER***



## ***WHITE TOWER***

The White Tower, the monument Thessaloniki is known for. It was built in the 15th century by the Ottomans and was originally built to help defend the city's harbor, but was later used as a fort and as a prison as well. In the 19th century, it was named the "Tower or Blood" or "Red Tower" due to a massacre. After the 19th century it was whitewashed as a "cleansing". Today is a museum that you can visit, with an amazing view of Thessaloniki even Mount Olympus.

## ***NEW WATERFRONT & OLD PORT OF THESSALONIKI***

In the summer and spring seasons, it is highly recommended to take a boat trip from the New Waterfront, following the route from the Old Port to New Epivates.





## ***UPPER CITY / OLD TOWN CLUSTER***

Eptapyrgio (greek) also known as “Yedi Kule” in Turkish, meaning “Seven Towers”, was build as a fortress to resist the Turkish threat, during the Byzantine era, and later used as prison, mostly under the Ottoman rule.



The Thessaloniki **Acropolis** lies in the northeastern and highest point of the city, just beyond Vlatadon Monastery and inside the northern wall of the city, which is in a relatively good state of preservation. Two big gates, the “portares”, lead inside the Acropolis which was the second line of defence in case of siege of the city. Next to the east gate as it leads outside the Acropolis, at the corner of the northern and eastern walls, the **tower of Trigonio (or Pyrovolio)** dominates and offers magnificent views of the city.



The view from “Vlatadon” monastery



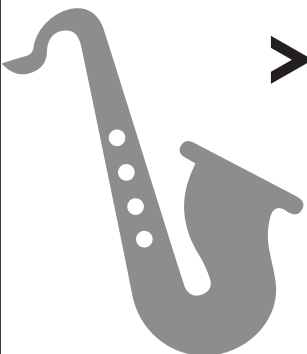
## ***CULTURAL/ARTS CLUSTER***

### ***MUSEUMS***

- MOMus Museum - Metropolitan Organisation of Museums of Visual Arts of Thessaloniki
- Museum of illusions
- Cinema Museum & Cinematheque
- Foundation for the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle
- Thessaloniki Museum of Photography

### ***SPECIAL EVENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS***

- The city's annual cultural event "Dimitria 2023"
- Reworks - International Music Festival
- Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art
- Thessaloniki International Film Festival
- Anopolis World Music Festival
- International Book Fair





## ***GASTRONOMIC CLUSTER***

### ***LADADIKA NEIGHBORHOOD***

Ladadika is the name of a historic district and a landmark area of the city of Thessaloniki.



### ***AGORA MODIANO***

Agora Modiano is the Central Food Market of Thessaloniki. Agora Modiano is a reference point for the city's gastronomy.

### ***RESTAURANTS***

"Toixo Toixo" traditional cuisine [Stergiou Polidorou 1, 54634]

"Rediviva Cucina Povera" cooperative bio restaurant [Alexandras Papadopoulou str. 70, 54633]

"Nea Folia" [Aristomenous str.4]

"Stasi" cooperative restaurant [Andokinou str.4, 54634]

"Mourga" [Athanasiou Christopoulou 12]

"Vary Peponi" [Apellou 4 Navarinou Square]

"Psaras" (for fish) [ Mitropolitou Gennadiou 7 Athonos Square]

### ***VEGAN & VEGETARIAN, HALAL OPTIONS***

"ROOTS" [Balanou str. 4]

"HAYAT Mikrí Póli" [Palaión Patrón Germanou 23]

## ***DAY TRIPS NEAR THESSALONIKI***

### ***FALL /WINTER DESTINATIONS***

- Palaios Panteleimonas
- Pozar
- Numfaio & Arktouros

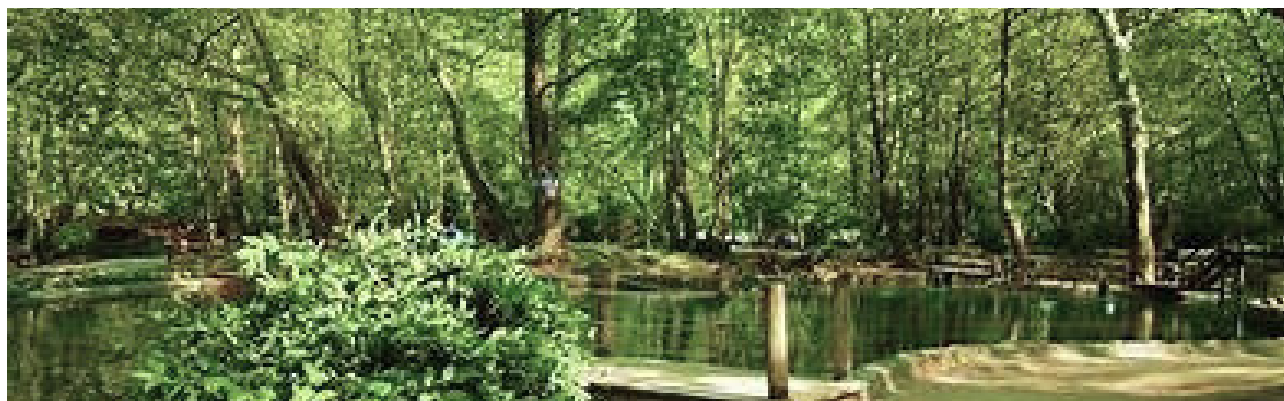


### ***HIKING TRIPS***

- Mount Olympus
- Forest Pieriko
- Chortiatis forest

### ***SPRING/ SUMMER DESTINATIONS***

- Recreation Area of Agios Nikolaos, Naousa
- Halkidiki [Afitos, Nea Moudania, Kallikrateia, Old Nikiti]
- Arnaia of Halikidiki
- Kerkini Lake National Park





The background image shows a narrow street in Thessaloniki, Greece, lined with multi-story buildings. In the distance, the White Tower of Thessaloniki is visible, topped with the Greek flag. The scene is captured in a slightly desaturated, vintage style.

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**ENJOY YOUR TIME IN  
THESSALONIKI!**