



Thassos




Welcome

Wherever someone will travel to, Thassos is the island they will never forget, because this magical island fills everyone with a sense of joy and happiness from the very moment they arrive.

It has been called «Emerald Island», «Green Diamond of the Aegean» and many other names that are probably excessive to people who have not visited the island yet. But when someone arrives here, they find themselves at a loss for words to describe the experience of their vacation.

Thassos. Another word for "vacations".



For many centuries, this Lady of the Northern Aegean never ceased to offer pleasure and wonderful moments. It is the seashores made of pale blue to dark green. It is the forests with their blessed coolness. It is the hospitality of its inhabitants that worship their land and honour their visitors. It is in plenty of other things as well that will make your visit here the first of many. Because no one can ever have enough of Thassos, as many times as they visit.

The happiness, calmness, relaxation and fun make Thassos a source for good and carefree moments.

History

In the beginning of 7th century BC, Thassos first appears as a colony of Parians. The father of history, Herodotus, argues that Phoenicians had already settled here many years before. Based on Herodotus, Thassos owes its name to Phoenician King Aginor's son Thassos. According to mythology he arrived on the island looking for his sister Europe, who was abducted by Zeus.



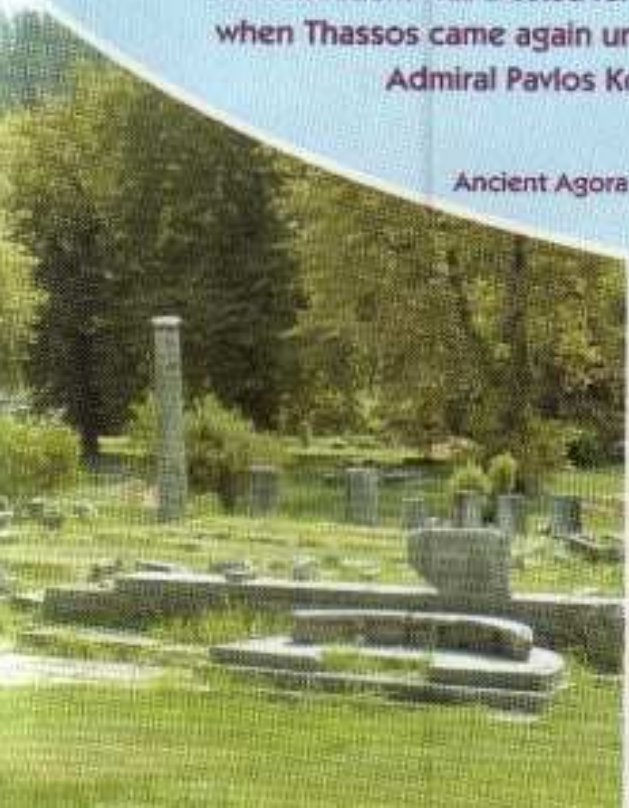
Kalogeriko

After 5th century BC the Hellenic Thassian State flourished and earned the title of «Athens of North». Aiming to exploit the rich gold deposits of Mount Paggeio, **the Thassians founded Krinides in 360 BC**, at the slopes of the gold bearing mount. Twenty years later however, Thassos was occupied by Philip 2nd and annexed to Macedonian State. The Romans who came after Macedonians in 197 BC, arrived in Thassos and were accepted as liberators since the Roman legions did not destroy but contributed to commercial activities restart and gave new privileges to its inhabitants.

Heading to Philippi, Apostle Paul passed offshore the island in 52 AC, and possibly landed on the island in order to plant the first seeds of Christianity.

A long period of time followed during which Thassos became the apple of discord for many conquerors. Two years after the fall of Constantinople it finally ended in hands of the Ottomans. **In 1813 the Vizier of Egypt Mohamed Ali** became the owner of Thassos, a fact that marked the beginning of another enlightening period for the island. During the years of his occupation, a place full of freedom was created for the island residents, which was reversed once more **in 1902 when Thassos came again under the domination of Turks and was finally liberated by Admiral Pavlos Kountouriotis. The island was integrated to Hellas in 1912.**

Ancient Agora





Limenas

Life is here

Since ancient years Limenas has been the most important town of the island. Being the capital of the island, with the Town Hall and central administrative services, but also the biggest market, Limenas has been transformed to a modern town keeping its tradition very well protected.

Limenas began to take its modern shape from the middle of 10th AC century due to inhabitants of other villages, but mainly those of Panagia, while refugees from Minor Asia who settled here in 1922 contributed to its essential development and progress.

Its constant development has turned Limenas into an international tourist attraction. **Picturesque narrow streets**, challenging promenades that one cannot resist. **Beautiful small shops**, inviting you in with their fine pieces of work. **Fish-taverns and cosy hang outs** giving off the smell of ouzo keep the visitor up until day lighting for the first rendezvous with the marvellous sunrise.

The **nightlife**, a match for most socialite islands of Aegean, with the voices of youngsters and loud music, keep the night awake. **A strong cultural life, archaeological sites and amazing beaches** make Limenas a first class choice of vacations for thousands of people arriving here from all around the world.

Kalogeriko





Rachoni

A tour of the island

Rachoni – Skala Rachoni Agios Georgios

The first village you meet after Limenas heading westwards is Skala Rachoni. Traditional ouzeri and an endless sandy beach is the scenery of this coast. Heading to Ypsario you pass through the villages of Rachoni and Agios Georgios that are recommended for a break at their picturesque cafis. Rachoni has the oldest olive groves of the island. It's an opportunity for a visitor to obtain olive oil and honey.

Prinos – Skala Prinos

«From a pine-tree branch you can dive into the sea».

The pine-trees of this area, known also as «Dassylio» (Small Wood), are literally rising from sea. Skala Prinos along with Prinos are almost united nowadays due to the area's great development. Many visitors buy biological olive oil called "Kardiofyllo".

Prinos beach



Mikro (Small) and Megalo (Big) Kazaviti



Kazaviti

It is difficult to find mountain villages with such beauty. They are only five hundred meters away from each other and few kilometres from Prinos. Remarkable are their history and their offerings during the times of pirates who invaded the coasts of the island. The visitor will have the opportunity here to admire the stone-made mansions with their wooden balconies and painted ceilings that have survived many hardships.

A coffee at the square, the local goat kid, and delicacies of the villages' taverns is another strong motive for anyone to visit this very beautiful area.



Skala Sotiros



Kazaviti

Skala Sotiros - Sotiras

Its inhabitants resisted but finally decided to share the beauties of their place with the tourists. Skala is in constant development, and the most well informed ones climb up to Sotiras to meet with tradition and honour its flavours. The village is famous for its mild, dry climate, a remedy for those who suffer from humidity. People, who are familiar with Thassos secrets, buy their bread from a bakery in Skala. Its taste is unforgettable.



Skala Kalirachi

Kalirachi – Skala Kalirachi

In the serpentine small streets of this mountain village, the Thassian architecture is making its name better than ever. The Folklore Museum that hosts its treasures is housed in a very beautiful mansion. On the amazing beach of «Klisma» settled with round pebbles you can enjoy swimming, taste good “mezes” and fresh fish in the taverns all around it.

Maries – Skala Maries

For those who wish to find out how the Greek villages looked like before the era of organised tourism, Maries is a unique opportunity. The view towards the sunset leaves everyone utterly speechless. The freshest fish dominate Skala's picturesque small taverns. «Aspas» beach is a small bay with very clean waters and sugary sand; the visitors are few and special.

Maries

Skala Maries





Limenaria



Potos

Limenaria

From Trypiti bay up to Kalyvia Settlement, the biggest town of the island harbours many hotels, rooms to let, and an exciting nightlife. The offices of German Company «Speidel», known as «Palataki», are a sample of 20th century excellent architecture. On Metallia (Mines) beach the abandoned mines serve ones fantasy with unbelievable dedication offering the visitor an experience that would be difficult to relive.

Potos

Exquisite, lively, with many options for amusement, Potos doesn't let anyone be discontent. The sea sports and dancing, the beach bars music rhythms are characteristic of this marvellous beach, with it's picturesque small taverns standing next to waves, just add to the landscape.

One kilometre away is **Pefkari**, the very beautiful bay where the pine trees are literally growing inside the sea!

Pefkari



Theologos

It used to be the island's largest village until the middle of last century, and still counts a lot of inhabitants. Its financial development through the centuries resulted to residences of high aesthetic value. Since 1979 it has been characterised as a traditional settlement. Apart of its beauty, Theologos is also famous for its unique and delicious "goat kid" offered in the area's taverns. Those who come here, never lose the opportunity to try it.

In the wider area of Theologos it is worth a visit to the settlements of **Astris**, just a few kilometres from Potos, with **Giola** the sea lake of indescribable beauty and **Koinyra** with the countless lovers of their beach the **Paradise**, one of most famous beaches in Greece.

Potamia – Skala Potamias

Green! The ruling image, which impresses all as soon as they arrive in Potamia. Those who love mountain climbing can begin their conquest of Ypsario's highest peak here. Thousands of visitors come to **Skala Potamia** every summer to unite the mountain with the sea. The coastal road full of taverns, bars and cafis ends at the area's small harbour with the imposing **Tarsanas** (Boatyard), built in 19th century by the monks of Agion Oros (Athos).



Theologos



Panagia




Chrissi Akti

Panagia

Panagia (Virgin Mary), apart from Her Name, donated to the village everything one could ask for. Historic is its oak-tree that covers the square. Running waters come cold from the mountains.

Although the village's Skala (Berth) is called Avlakia, many people consider the marvellous Chryssi Ammoudia (Golden Sandy Beach) with its unique sunrise as its beach. You have to taste the area's delicacies - various meats with particular preference, the "goat kid" - as well as the homemade spoon-desserts.

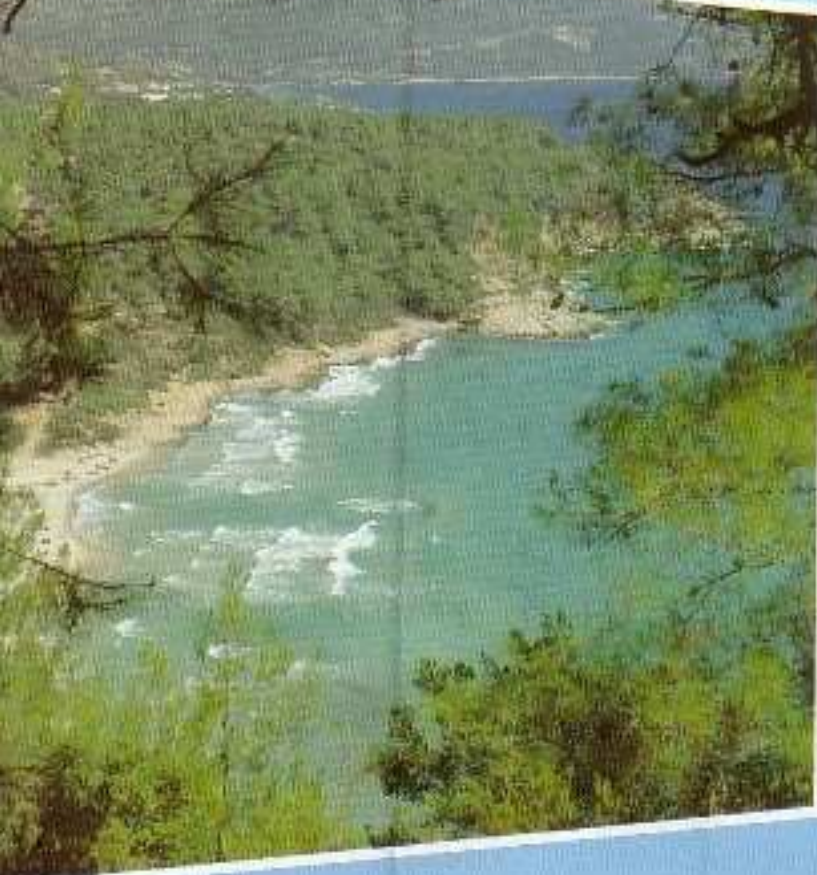


Koinyra

Beaches

Strong winds never blow on the beaches of Thassos, unlike all the other islands of the Aegean sea. They are safe since most of them are organised and do not hide surprises in their depths that progressively deepen. The access to all beaches of the island is very easy due to a good road network, and for most rugged ones there are paths leading to their bosom in safety. Whenever you wish to take a cool dip, you can do so at your nearest beach, since the sea waters are very clean all around the island.

Paradise





Chryssi Ammoudia



Glyfoneri



Makryammos

The most known ones are Makryammos, Pachys, Glyfada, Papalimani, Nysteri, Chryssi Ammoudia in Skala Panagias, Chryssi Akti in Skala Potamias, Koinyra, Paradise, Thimonia, Alyki, Psili Ammos, Astris, Akti Potos, Pefkari, Akti Limenaris, Trypiti, Skala Maries, Akti Kalirachi, Akti Sotiros and Akti Alsillo in Skala Prinos.

Smaller bays with hidden sandy beaches and absolute calmness are also offered for acquaintance and quiet moments of pleasure.

Metallia



Alyki



Metallia



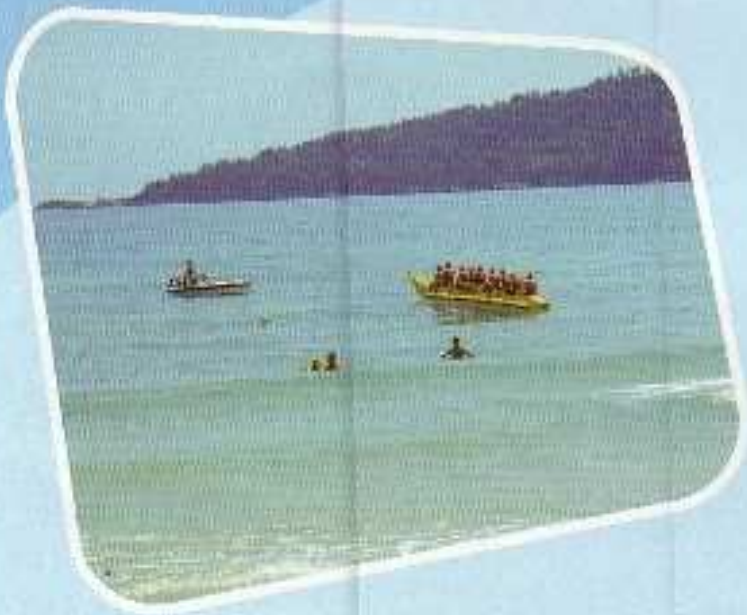
Sports & Other Activities

Swimming, rackets, deck-chair, ... the consumption of good food and clubbing are the most popular pastimes during vacations. Equally popular is also the «traditional» shopping of folk-art articles, such as the famous handmade textiles for house decoration, the traditional desserts, honey, olives and olive oil that has earned its reputation just like any product that respects itself. Since Thassos offers opportunities even for ... regular sports, shouldn't you take advantage of them?



Prinos Beach

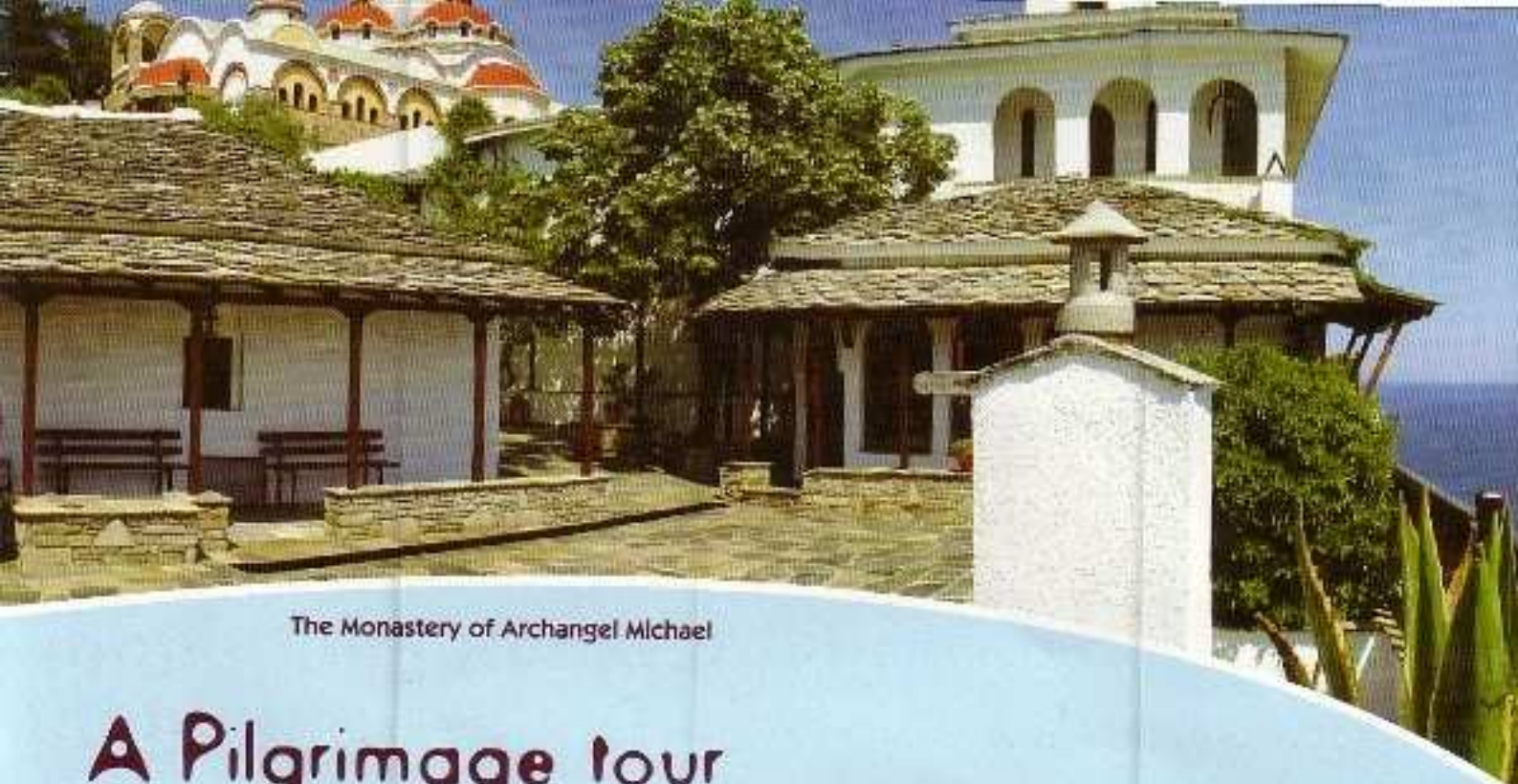
Boats and special equipment are awaiting enthusiasts of water-skiing on the well-organised beaches of the island. **The waves in Paradise beach offer you a unique chance for a different kind of wind surfing. Jet ski, banana and sea parachute, can be found in most organised beaches.** Apart of the sports performed on «sea foam», there are those that request depths. A depth full of fish and wonderful pictures that favour diving as well as fishing with **a rifle-harpoon.** The ambitious anglers may try their luck in fishing with a fishing rod or line wherever they like in Thassos, even from their vehicles!



The Old Harbour

For those who prefer sports offshore, there are many tennis grounds in organised hotels and camping grounds. **Those who love forests and ecological walks can climb Ypsario**, a challenging mountain to conquer for mountain climbers and hikers alike, who can reach its peak through some very nice and emerald green paths.





The Monastery of Archangel Michael

A Pilgrimage tour

Just like in any other part of Greece, Orthodoxy is deeply rooted in Thassos. Ossios Daniel arrived in Thassos a few years after the times of Iconoclasm and retired to an island's cave until the Thassians discovered his holiness and dozens of them asked him to let them stay by him. It was then that the first coenobium was established on the island. He is registered in hagiology as **Ossios Daniel of Thassos** and our Church celebrates his memory on September 12th. In 1652 Thassos acquired its second Saint. **Saint Neomartyr Ioannis**, fourteen years old, found himself from Thassos to Constantinople. There and in spite of all offers made by the Great Vizier, he denied converting religion. The order for his execution was immediate.



Evreokastro

The Monastery of Archangel Michael

Nowadays there are plenty of historic shrines on the island. The **Monastery of Assumption** stands a little bit above the village of Maries. Athos on the opposite side, with its endless greenery works wonders on people's «clenched» soul. Miracles are not needed here. The vigil in the monastery fills the heart with God making the pursuit of evidences a completely unnecessary procedure. **The Monastery of Archangel Michael** is the biggest and also the most known Monastery of Thassos. Part of the Holy Nail that Christ was crucified with, is preserved here. The monastery is built on the edge of a cliff and the view towards the Aegean Sea gives pilgrims the sense of being suspended. One more pew of intellectual uplift stands in the **Monastery of Agios Panteleimonas**. You can reach it by Mikro Kazaviti, Sotiras or Maries villages. There is a homonymous Church dedicated to **Assumption** in Panagia village, fully connected with the life of village residents. The visitor is in awe when facing the old icons (14th - 17th century), the icon of Panagia Pantovlepousa (Virgin Mary and old coins of Panagia known as "bakires". **The red-and-white pennon of Richard the Lionhearted** since the era of Crusaders stands also inside the church.



You must visit

Ancient Thassos (Limenas)

Ancient Agora



Walking a few meters away from the ancient Harbour, in front of the Archaeological Museum stands the **Ancient Agora**, where excavations brought many monuments in light. One of the most important is the **Diodos ton Theon (the Thoroughfare of Gods)**, which was built in 470 BC and formed a great building complex. In 1836, the French traveller E. Miller brought its bas-reliefs to the Louvre Museum where they still stand. Another important monument is **Glaucus' Grave** who arrived in Thassos along with Parians in 7th century BC. We also mention the **cyclical altar of Theagenis**, the famous Thassian athlete who is said to have won 1.400 victories in the Panhellenic Games, the **Odeum and the paleochristian basilica** of Agora, 5th or 6th century AD. Following a small cobbled road we reach the **Ancient Theatre of Thassos**, which has been located there since the 5th century BC as Hippocrates informs us.

During the summer months the Ancient Theatre of Thassos hosts performances of ancient drama.

A bit north is the Acropolis. On its east wall a supernatural half-finished rams bearing Kouros (Adolescent) of 3,50 m height was found in 1920. The sightseeing of Thassos ancient town ends with a visit to **Archaeological Museum** where important pieces are housed.

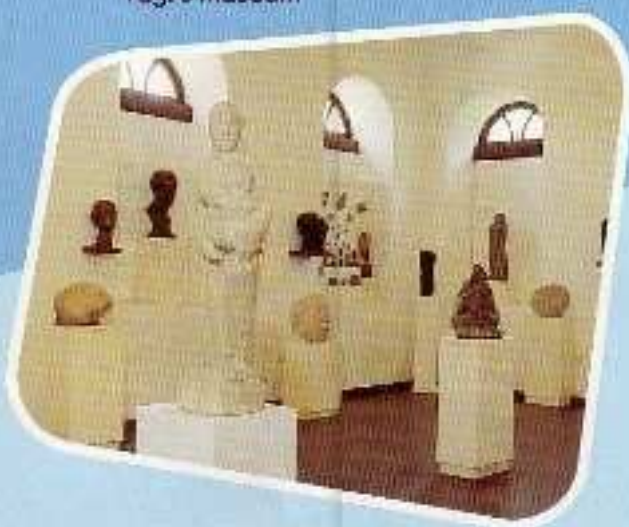
Limenas



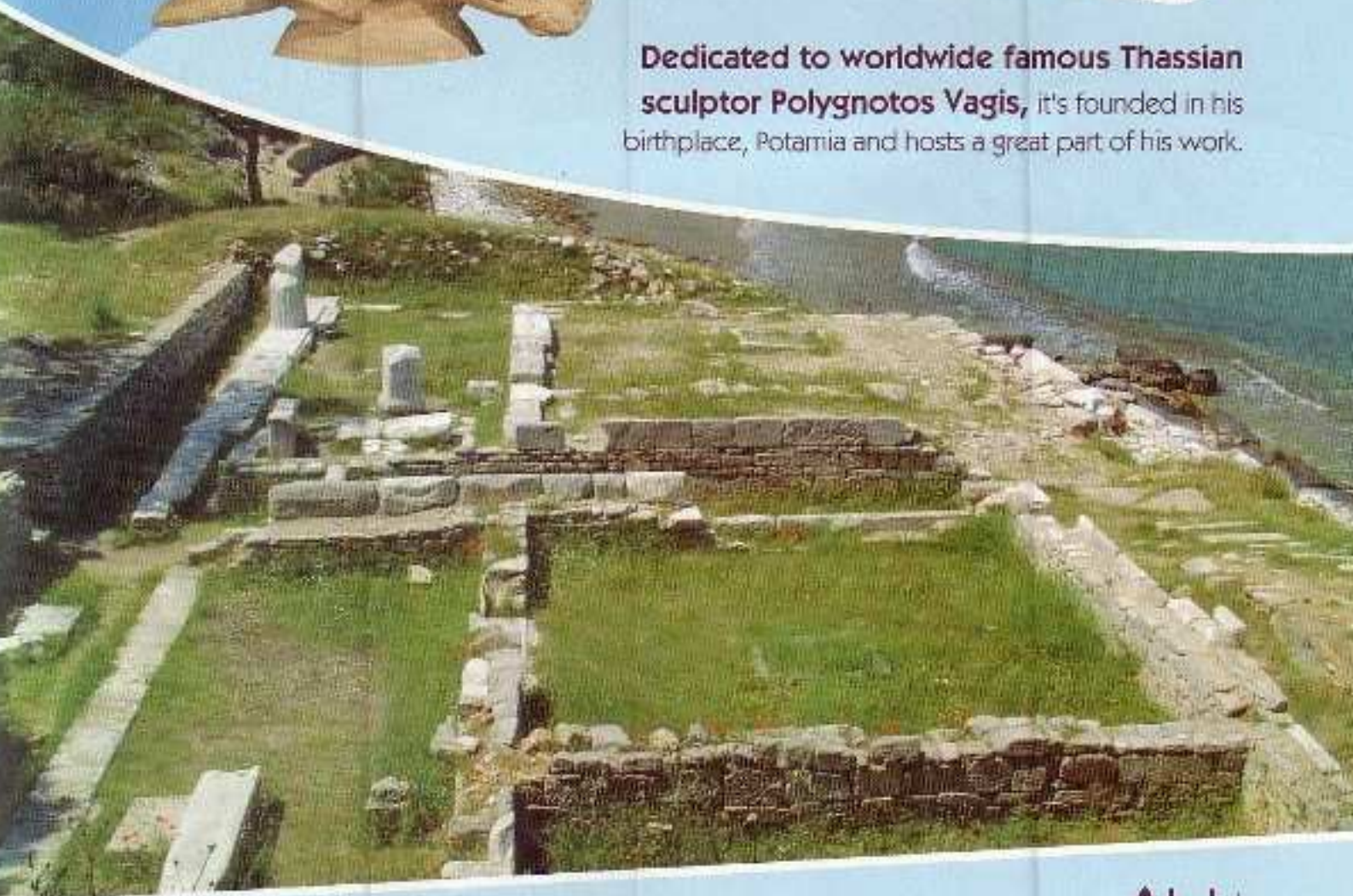
Vagi's Museum



Vagi's Museum



Dedicated to worldwide famous Thassian sculptor **Polygnotos Vagis**, it's founded in his birthplace, Potamia and hosts a great part of his work.



Alyki

Alyki

Apart from being one of the most beautiful landscapes of Thassos, Alyki is also a significant archaeological site where the visitor can admire many ancient and medieval monuments. Since the 6th century BC to 6th century AD, at the edge of Alyki peninsula there used to be marble quarries, signs of which are still visible nowadays.



Palataki

One of most characteristic sights of Limenaria, Palataki dominates upon a rocky ledge towards the sea. This two-floored building comprises a sample of an elaborate architecture and was built in 1903 by the German Company Speidel, which was exploiting the island's mines at that time.

Palataki

View from the Castle



Kastro (Castle)

The most ancient settlement of the island, built 800 m high up on one of Ypsario Mountain's peaks. It flourished during the times the Aegean was raided by pirates. Its abandonment came in the early days of 20th century when its inhabitants became workers at the mines of the German Company Speidel and established Limenaria.

Culture

The work of cultural societies on the island is very important.

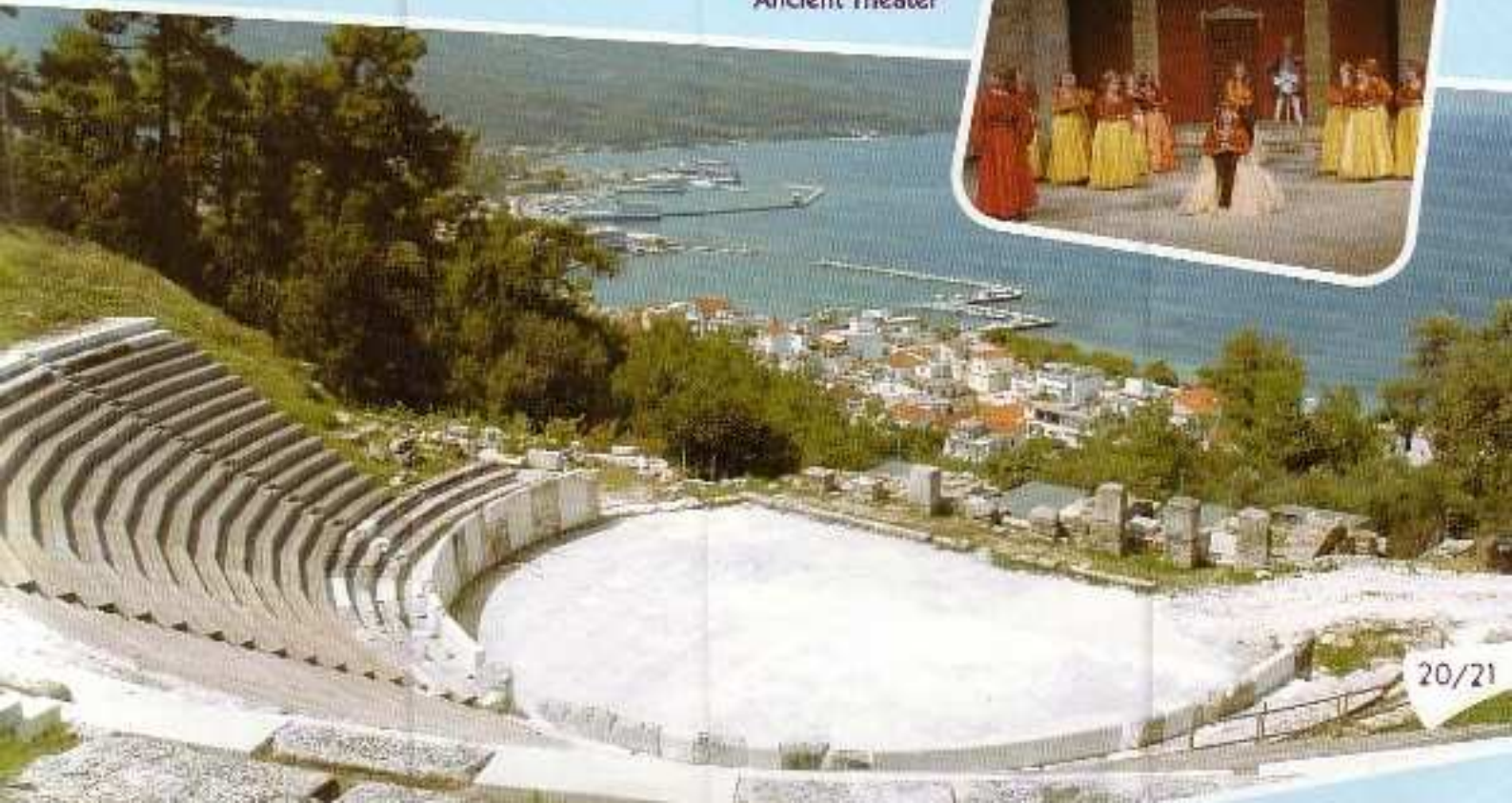
Being one of many members and active, did not only keep traditions alive, but also undertook for decades the arduous task of cultural manifestations organised all around the island with **Kavala Prefectural Local Government and local sponsor' solidarity** too.

Nowadays a considerable amount of cultural manifestations are organised by Thassos Municipality and carried out on a daily basis. **Concerts and theatrical performances are carried out in Limenas ancient theatre, the ancient sanctuary of Dioscouri in Alyki, the Ancient Agora of Limenas, the Metallia (Mines) of Limenaria, Kazaviti, Panagia and Potamia.** Concerts of traditional and modern music are organised in all villages and on camping grounds of the island. Many cultural manifestations are performed in the framework of «**Kazavitiana**», take place in Mikro-Kazaviti and «spread out» throughout July and August. You will definitely live a unique experience visiting Thassos during the Carnival period. The famous carnival of the island, taking place in Panagia, is a real tribute to Dionysus. The organisation of this historic carnival belongs to the Cultural Society of «Bacchus» and the challenge along with the indiscretions and red wine that abundantly runs, are its basic features. **Thassos' Carnival is also celebrated with floats in Potamia, theatrical performances full of live local colours in Kalirachi and the King Carnival burning in Rachoni.**



Thassos' Carnival

Ancient Theater





Tradition

Panagia

All year round, festivities are carried out during the celebration of the Saints and in their Grace churches and country churches were built. Their basic features are the cooking and treating of visitors with the traditional «courbani», which is prepared with boiled meat and crumbled wheat. However, where the festivity of festivities is taking place and «courbani» is prepared in incredible quantities due to thousands of visitors, is **Panagia** on the 15th of August. You must not forget that the name of the village before the church was «Anastasimo» and was renamed to «Panagia» soon after the church was built.

One of most beloved folklore events of the island is the representation of a **Thassian Wedding in Theologos**. A large pomp starts from «bride's» house going all around the village back streets. The feasting and dancing reach their peak at the village's stadium where the participants enjoy the traditional foods and desserts.



Thassian Wedding



Judas's Burning

Another custom of the island is called «**Gia vrex Aprili m**» (Rain my April) and it takes place in Limenaria the second day of Easter. It is an essential festivity where the residents pray to God to send them rain to water their vineyards and have good wine produce. A similar custom is "Anavrochiaris" relating to the summer drought occurs **every year on July 31 in the village of Potamia**. The night of Easter **Judas's Burning** takes place in Panagia. The Thassians, people of great respect for their tradition and history, succeeded in protecting their festivities and did not let them be reformed into simple tourist attractions removing or adding elements that would make them more attractive. This gives visitors the opportunity to come in touch with pure tradition and apart from amusement, they gain knowledge.

«Gia vrex Aprili m»



How to reach Thassos

From Chrissoupoli's Airport to Keramoti Harbour and then with shuttle ferry services, that take you to the island.

From Kavala's Harbour with shuttle ferryboat services to Prinos and flying dolphins to Limenas and Prinos.

MUNICIPALITY OF THASSOS (0030 25930)

Town Hall	23118, 23085
Tourist Police	23111
Health Centre	71100 - 1
Port Authorities	
- Thassos	22106
- Prinos	71390
Ferry Boats	
- ANETH	22312, 22694
- NEK	22426
Flying Dolphins	23382
Archaeological Museum	22180
Vagi's Museum	61400
Bus Station	22162
Police Station	22500
Airport	25910 53271 - 2

PREFECTURE of KAVALA

Tel.: 2510 291115, Fax: 2510 291610, E-mail: tourism@pref-kavala.gr

Photographs: A. Krasokeras, T. Papadopoulos, M. Pavlidis, S. Hatzistamatiou

Texts: M. Moutafi

Separations: Theodoros Morfidis CHROMOSYNTHESI

Design: Aggeliki Michail

www.kavala.gr



REGION OF
EASTERN MACEDONIA
& THRACE



HELLENIC
REPUBLIC



EUROPEAN
UNION