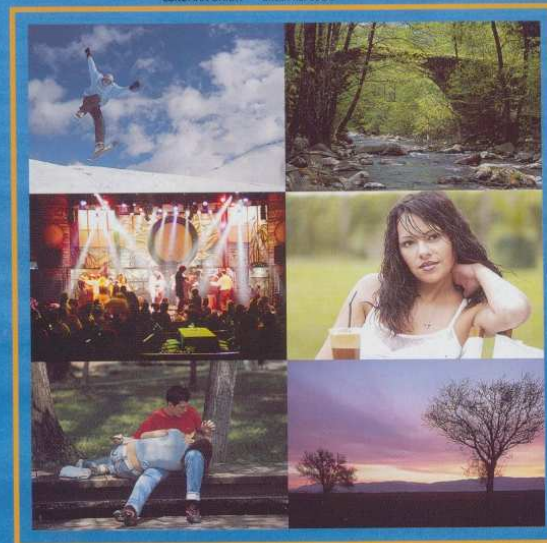


Drama

The kaleidoscopic magic of an unknown land

A FIVE-DAY EXPLORATORY ITINERARY

REGION OF EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE

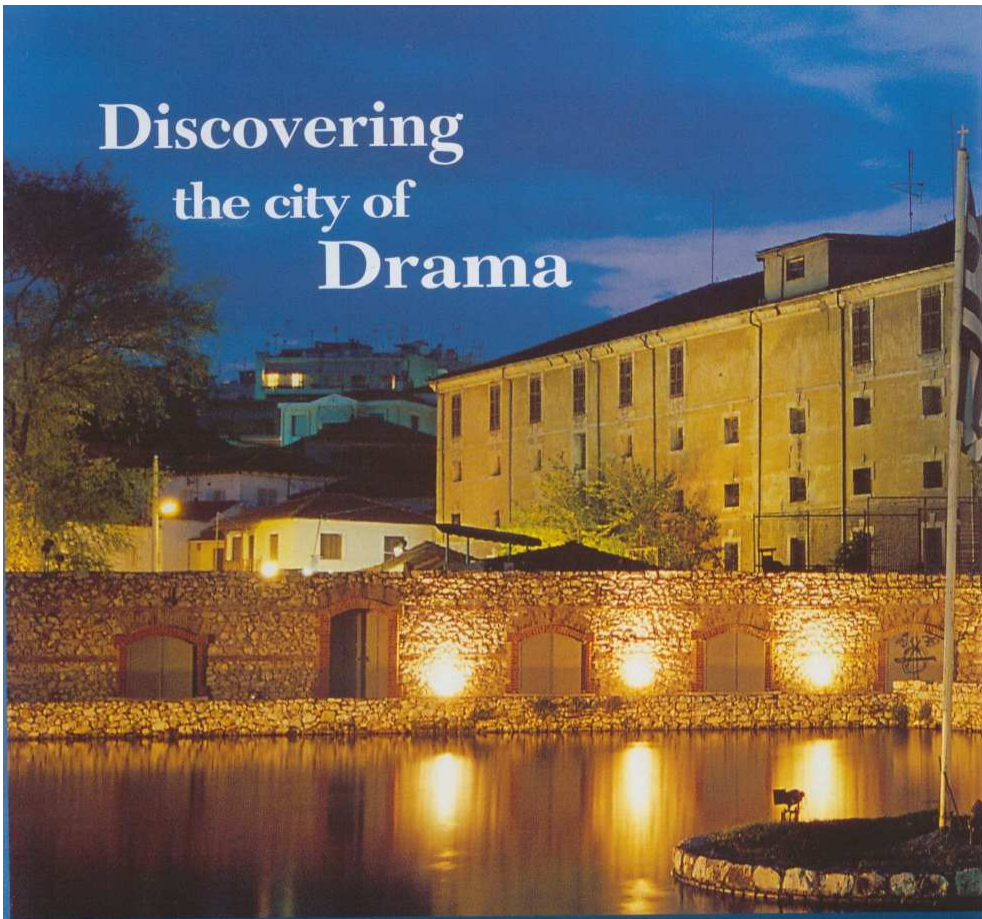


The changing shapes and colors in the landscape of Drama offer a kaleidoscopic spectacle of great beauty. The city of Drama is the capital of the homonymous prefecture which borders Bulgaria in the North. This relatively unexplored part of Eastern Macedonia is the economic, ecologic, historical and cultural link between the Aegean coast and the Balkan hinterland. By lying on the verge of different climatic zones it combines - within an area of just a few square kilometers - the mildness of the South and the roughness of the North. This is why the Prefecture of Drama can be regarded as a small yet extremely diverse natural park...



Under the supervision of the Tourism Office,
Prefecture of Drama

Discovering the city of Drama



Drama, just like Alexandria for Gavafy, is a place that compels you to discover it, to dip into its myth and feel its secret substance...



The Hagia Varvara water-springs.



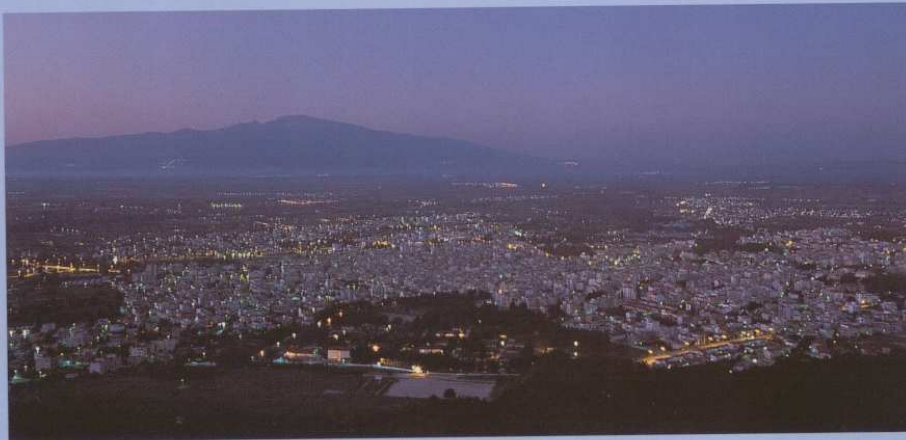
Archaeological Museum of Drama.



The city of Drama is the administrative, economic and cultural center to one of the less known but most interesting Greek prefectures. Founded, literally, upon the waters, Drama has the privilege of continuing a long tradition of human habitation that dates back to prehistory. There are several reasons why Drama - in recent years - has grown to be one of the most interesting destinations. Amongst others we could mention: the water-springs of Hagia Varvara



Drama: a city that is flooded by the music of its running waters.



that form a unique hydro-biotope in the heart of the town, the people of Drama who are open-hearted and hospitable, and the nightlife of the city.

The small but expertly organized Archaeological Museum of Drama enables the visitor to follow the course of the local area's history from its remote beginnings (50,000 BC) to the liberation of the city (1913). Other important monuments are:



the Hellenistic Tomb (Troias I Street); the imposing remains of the medieval walls and the Holy Church of St. Sophia (both dating back to the 10th century AD); and the later (palaeologian) chapel of the Great Taxiarchs. Other monuments that are worth visiting are the old cathedral and the «Ekdedefteria (or Schools) of the Greek Orthodox Community of Drama» both related to the metropolitan bishop Chrysostomos Kalafatis, who in 1922 became a National and Christian martyr as prelate of Smyrna. Amongst other buildings of special architectural value, one can distinguish the «Tzimos' Mansion» or «Taxiarchia», the «Pampoukas' mansion» («Archontikó») and the «Anastasiadis' mansion» («Marble house»).

A lovely recreation site (especially during the summer season) is the park of Hagia Varvara with its excellent cafes and restaurants. One may also be attracted by



the newly created sculpture park in the garden of the Prefecture building. There, he can admire the works of Greek and for-



eign sculptors, who participated in the sculptural meetings of two successive «Cultural Mays».

Useful information

Hotels in Drama

«Couros»	(tel.: 25210-57200)
«Xenia»	(tel.: 25210-33195)
«Tasco»	(tel.: 25210-23885)
«Emporico»	(tel.: 25210-37925)
«Marianna»	(tel.: 25210-31520)
«Hesperia»	(tel.: 25210-34114)

Hotels in the area

«Achillion» [Kalampaki]	(tel.: 25210-51134)
«Alexandros» [Doxato]	(tel.: 25210-55550)
«Epaulis» [Milopotamos]	(tel.: 25210-81348)
«Petrini Gonias» [Livadero]	(tel.: 25210-91388)
«Hotel Jennifer» [Taxiarches]	(tel.: 25210-30005)
«Dendrakia» [Dendrakia]	(tel.: 25210-24134)

Kilometer distances:

Athens - Drama 650 km
Thessalonica - Drama 150 km

Archaeological Museum of Drama: (tel.: 25210-31365)

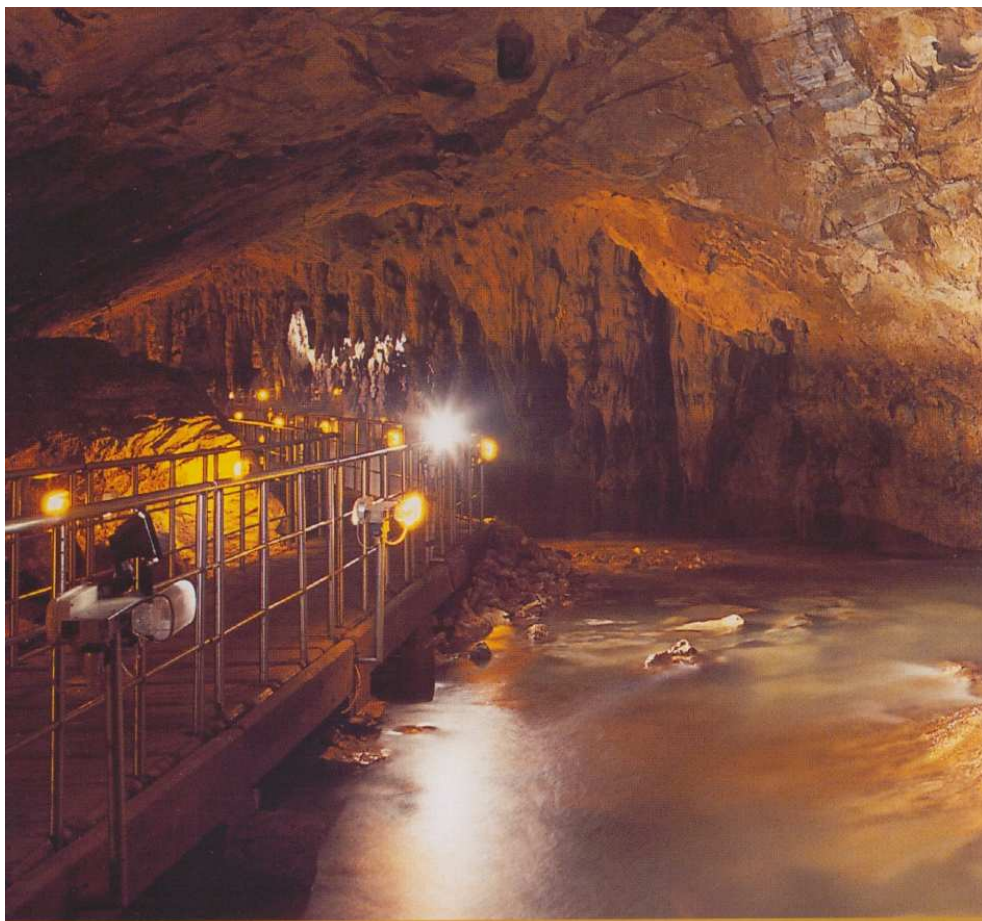
Open daily apart from Mondays from 08.00 to 15.00

Ecclesiastic Museum of Drama: (tel.: 25210-32362)

Visible after communication with the Office of the Metropolis of Drama

Useful telephone numbers

Bus Service of Drama in Athens: 210-5130220
Bus Service of Drama in Thessalonica: 2310-595420
Bus Service of Drama in Drama: 25210-32421
Train Service in Athens: 210-5297777 & 210-5297312
Train Service in Thessalonica: 2310-598126
Train Service in Drama: 25210-32444
Kavala Airport (Chryssoupolis): 25910-53273

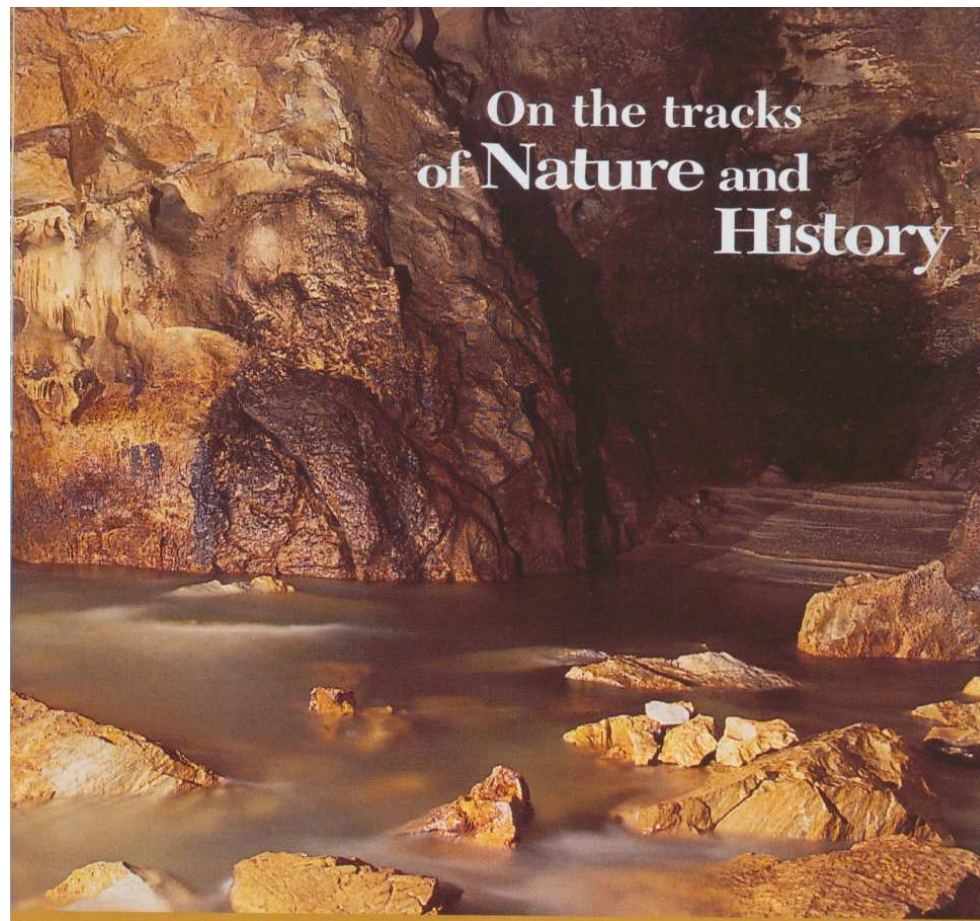


The "Angitis Springs Cave": an authentic masterpiece of natural architecture.



The town of Lower Nevrokopi is the starting point for a "pilgrimage" to the region's rich historical and natural heritage.

On the tracks of **Nature** and **History**



A visit to the truly amazing cave of River Angitis Springs, 23 kilometres northwest of Drama, is a unique and surprising experience. Angitis is first mentioned by the ancient historian Herodotus and the cave is alternatively referred to as «Cave of Ma(h)aras». It is a cave with a splendid stalactite and stalagmite decoration. In fact, this cave is the longest in Greece active carstic tube* through which the waters of the Kato Nevrokopi basin are drained after a 12 kilometre long... long dive under Falakron, locally referred to as «mountain of the flowers» and broadly known as a ski resort. Today, visitors can walk only 500 metres deep into the cave, while its bigger chambers are not (yet) open to public.



The Falakro Ski Center offers, besides other facilities, 24 km of natural pistes, representing all difficulty levels, and the four-, two- and 7 one-person lifts, carrying the skiers from the 1720 m (base) to the 2232 m (top).

Not far from the cave of Angitis, at a spot called «Mikri Tumpa», 2.5 kilometres from the Municipal District of Kali Vrissi (Municipality of Prosotsani), famous itself for its «dionysiac» festivals, one can see the ancient «Temple of Dionysus» surrounded by vineyards. This rural sanctuary was the centre of local worship from about the end of the 4th century BC to some much later date, when it was destroyed by fire. To the west the horizon of the temple's area is blocked by the bulk of Mt. Menoikion, which is a mountain with alpine meadows, picturesque villages, chestnut forests and herds of wild horses.

The fort Lisse is a monument of modern Greek history, just a few kilometres away from the road which connects Drama with Kato Nevrokopi. It was one of the strongholds

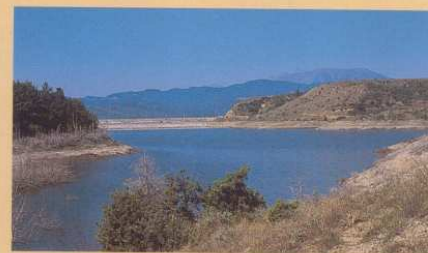
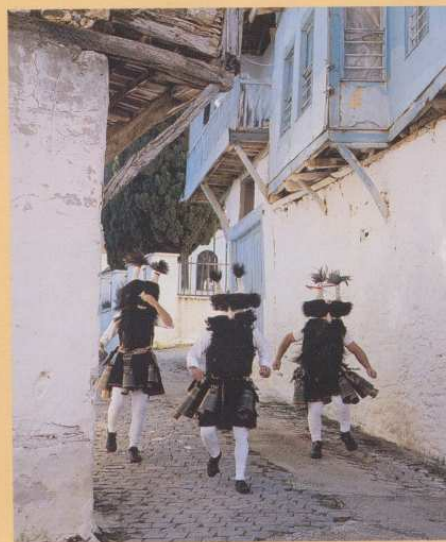


The sanctuary of Dionysus, not very far from the village of Kali Vrissi.

belonging to the once defensive «Metaxas line» across the Greek-Bulgarian border. This important monument, apart from its labyrinth of underground galleries, offers an exhibition of Second World War material, as well as an audio-visual representation of the ultimate battle fought there by the Greek Army against the Nazi invaders in April 1941.

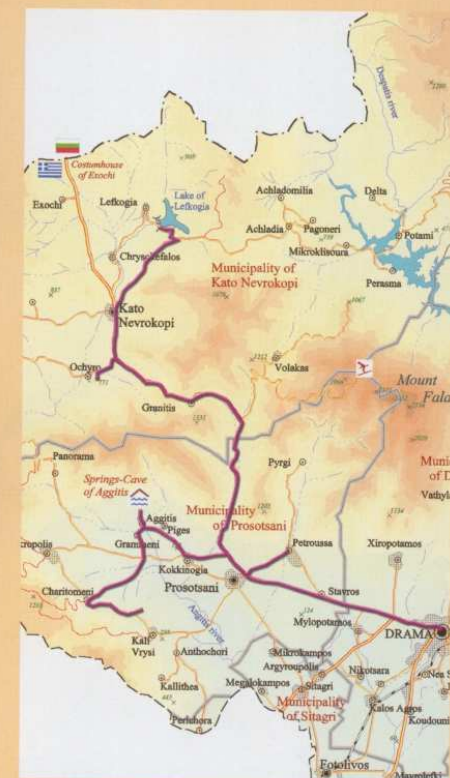
Along the same road, past Kato Nevrokopi, one can visit the beautiful artificial lake of Lefkogia. This lake, scheduled to serve as a water reservoir for irrigation purposes is gradually becoming an independent hydro-biotope and a recreation park.

The Petroussa-Pirgi gorge is a small narrow, steep-sided valley, which twists and turns for about 10 kilometres as far uphill as the foothills of Mount Falakron, forming an easy



trekking route of great natural beauty. Today, however, when we speak of the «Petroussa Gorge», we mainly refer to the homonymous open stone-built theatre and the facilities developed on the banks of the gorge, just along Petroussa, where interesting musical and theatrical performances take place annually, during the summer season.

* Carstic tube: passage created by water flowing through limestone rocks



Kilometer distances:

Drama - Cave of the Angitis Springs	23 km
Drama - Kali Vrissi	24 km
Drama - Petroussa	15 km
Drama - Ski Resort of Falakron	46 km
Drama - Fort Lisse	38 km
Drama - Kato Nevrokopi	42 km
Drama - Lefkogia Lake	52 km

Hotels in the area

«Neottos» [Kali Vrissi]	(tel.: 25220-51000)
«Marilia» [Volakas]	(tel.: 25230-23350)
«Monopati E6» [Volakas]	(tel.: 25230-23916)
Resort centre «Petalo» [Volakas]	(tel.: 6948 248104)
«To aloni tu kir-Thanasi» [Volakas]	(tel.: 25230-23714)
«Milos» [Volakas]	(tel.: 25230-23990)
«Granitis» [Granitis]	(tel.: 25230-23955)
«Grand Chalet» [Granitis]	(tel.: 25230-22832)
«Orvilos» [Kato Nevrokopi]	(tel.: 25230-22515)
Akritas [Kato Nevrokopi]	(tel.: 25230-22319)

Xenonas Potamon [Potami]	(tel.: 25230-23524)
«To kinigetiko Steki» [Mikromilia]	(tel.: 25230-23435)
Ski Resort's Salé [Falakron]	(tel.: 25220-41822)

Useful information

Cave of the Angitis Springs (tel.: 25220-60460)

Summer time-program:

Open daily from	10.30 to 19.00
Sundays and holidays from	10.00 to 19.30

Winter time-program:

Open daily from	10.30 to 17.00
Sundays and holidays from	10.00 to 17.30

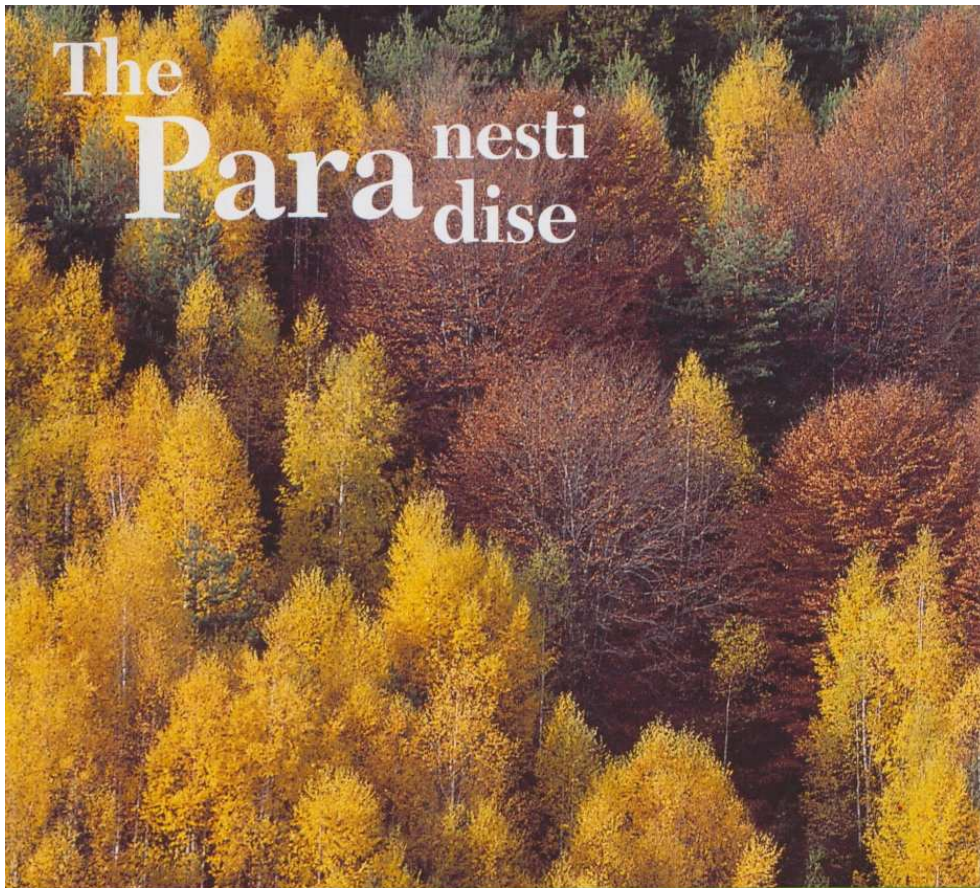
Archaeological site of Dionysus' Temple

Visitable only on request (tel.: 25220-22207 & 69744568337)

Fort Lisse

Visitable only on request

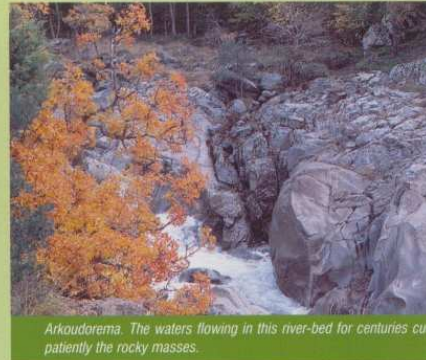
(tel.: 25230-21031, 25230-22510)



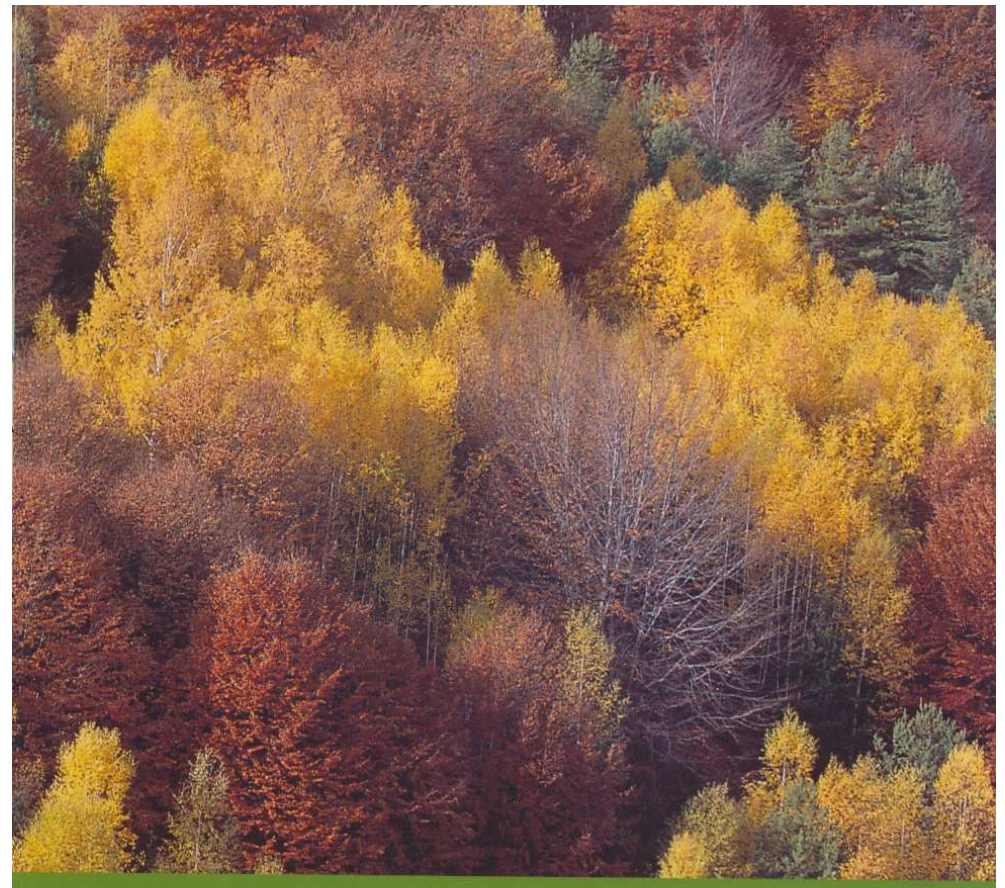
The Paranesti hinterland is a unique area, beautiful and imposing, colorful and undiscovered.



Vaulted stone bridge over the Farasinos river. There are many such small bridges in the area, perfectly harmonized with their natural environment.



Arkoudorema. The waters flowing in this river-bed for centuries cur patiently the rocky masses.

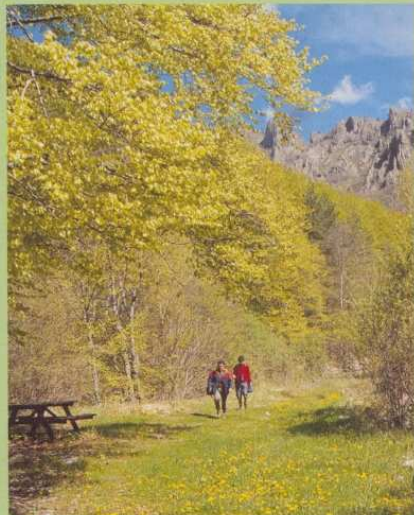
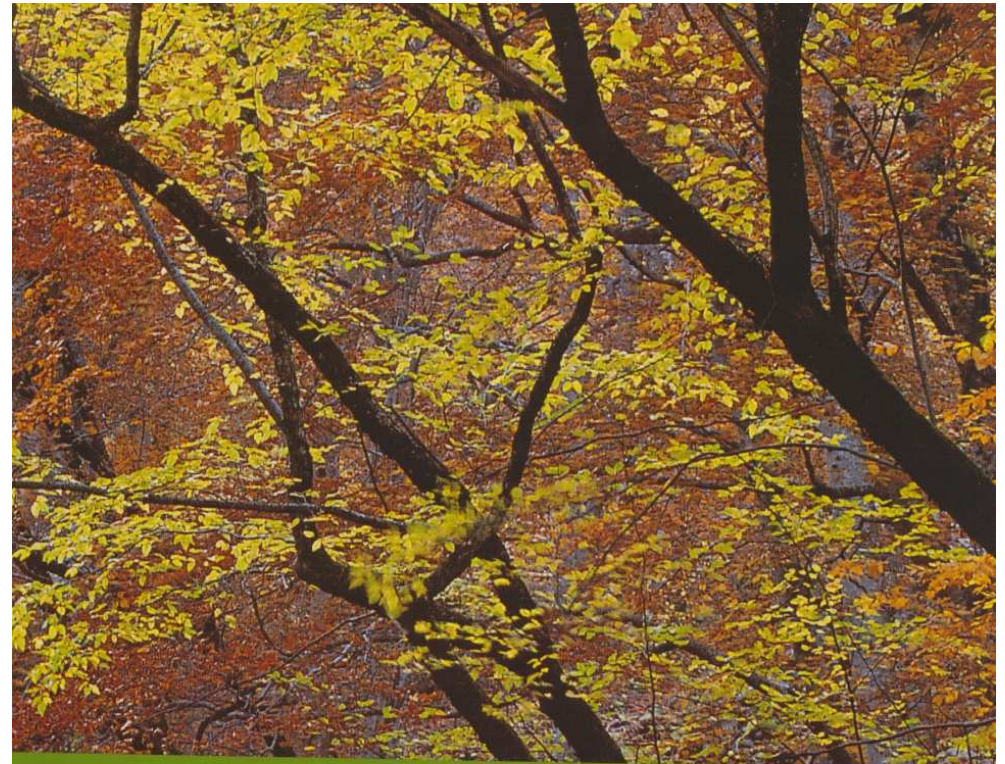


The town of Paranesti is the administrative center of an homonymous Municipality; it is a picturesque small town with a tiny railway station, a small but comfortable hotel, a Natural History Museum and a choice of handmade traditional products. The Municipality of Paranesti lies on the northeastern part of the Prefecture of Drama which borders Bulgaria. In the past, the southern passage to this area was guarded by a chain of ancient (and medieval) fortresses, the ruins of which are still to be seen on the tops of some hills.

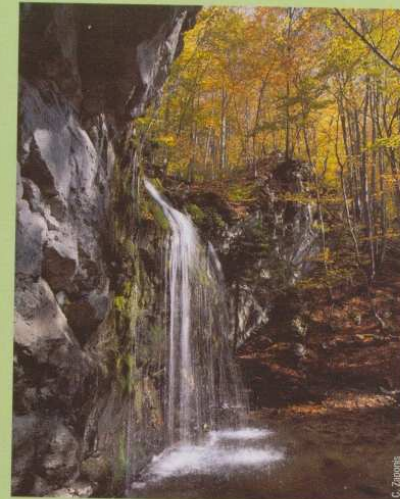
Any attempt to advance towards the highland of Paranesti is quite an experience at all seasons. Any road taken will lead you to some earthly paradise. Streams, rich in fish, flow noisily and violently in their precipitous beds rushing to meet river Nestos. In their descent, they form magnificent waterfalls at several points. Old arch bridges bring together past and present. Mountain meadows and dense, unspoilt forests, abandoned settlements, whose existence is attested by clusters of fruit trees. Last but not least, the fauna of the area which is



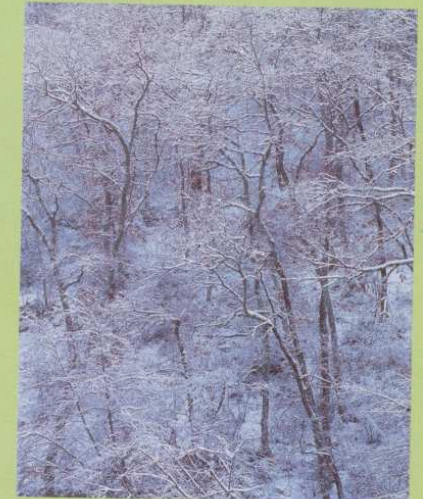
Variety, change, harmony and measure are the fundamental features of the very special environment of the Paranesli hinterland.



C. Zupanc



C. Zupanc



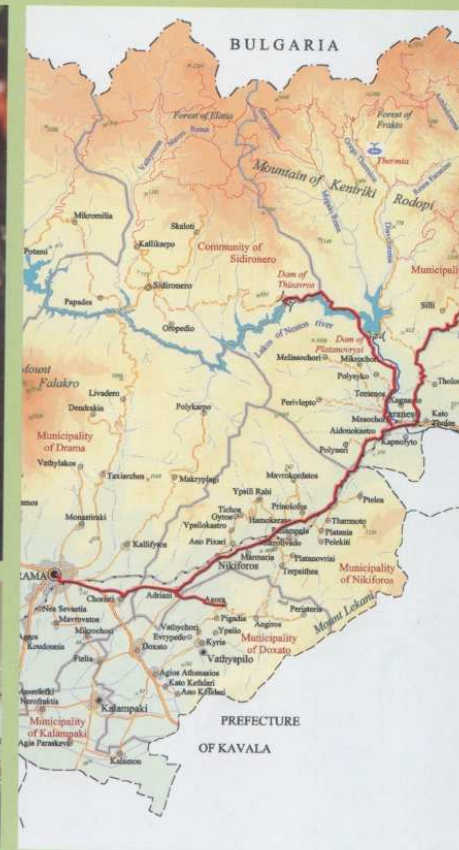
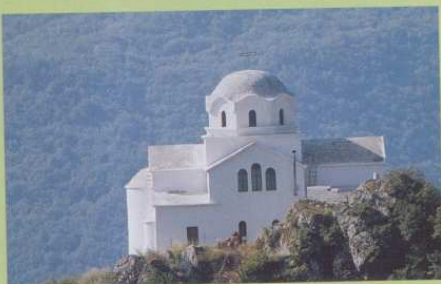


impressively rich. Perhaps the only thing you can say about this area is that words are not enough to describe it!

It is also worth visiting the latest technical achievements: The hydroelectric dam and power plant of Thissavros may have fired in the past a heated debate about its environmental impacts but its water reservoirs (the artificial lakes of Nestos) are most impressive. This soil dam is one of the biggest in Europe and it is open to public. A thrilling experience might also be a kayak adventure on Nestos river from Paranesti to the bridge of Paschalia!

A holy place to visit is the newly consecrated Monastery of Our Savior's Transfiguration at Prassinada, a village on the verge between the asphalt roadway network and that of the forest dirt roads.

Drama has traditionally been a wine-making place, a fact that is connected with the worship of the wine-god Dionysus in antiquity. Nowadays, local viniculture has experienced a boost, after introducing new grape varieties. The «Local Wines of Drama», the fine product of perfectly equipped wineries, are already internationally recognised. The biggest wineries in Drama reserve pleasant surprises for their visitors...



Kilometer distances:

Drama - Adriani	11 km
Drama - Agora	14 km
Drama - Paranesti	39 km
Paranesti - Thissavros Hydroelectric Dam	24 km
Paranesti - Prassinada	19 km
Paranesti - Virgin Forest of Frakto	60 km
Paranesti - Dipotama (Waterfalls area)	18-32 km

Hotels

«Philoxenia» [Paranesti]	(tel.: 25240-22001)
«Nessos» [Paranesti]	(tel.: 25240-21021)

Useful information

Natural History Museum of Paranesti (tel.: 25240-21010)
Open daily apart from Monday from 08.00 to 14.30

Thissavros Hydroelectric Dam (tel.: 25210-91242)
Open daily, seven days a week, from 08.30 to 15.00

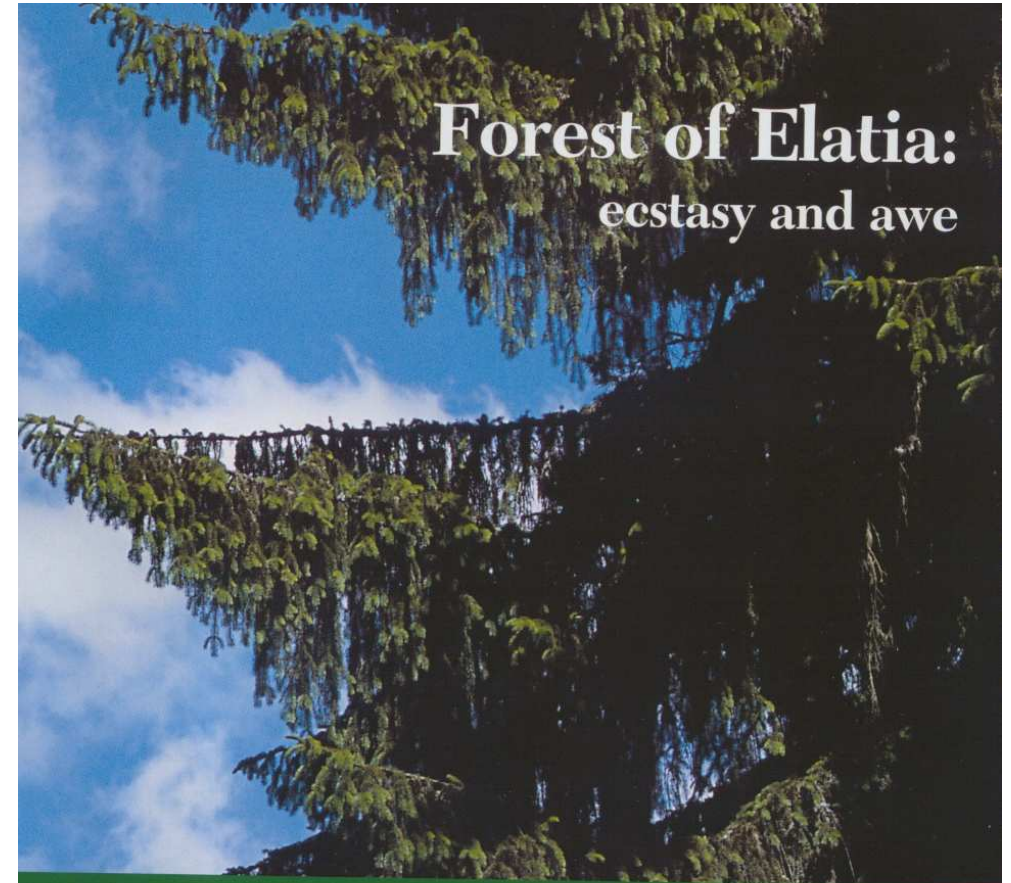
Domain Kosta Lazaridi (tel.: 25210-82348)
Open daily from Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 15.00

Lazaridis OBGE S.A. Agora (tel.: 25210-82049)
Open daily from Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 16.00

Domain Manolessakis Adriani (tel.: 25210-82010)
Open daily from Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 15.00



Elatia Forest: a cradle of Hellenism but, also, a colourful garden of rare heady flower fragrances.



Forest of Elatia: ecstasy and awe



In the north-eastern part of the Prefecture of Drama lies the forest of Elatia or Karadere. Sixty meter-high Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) trees form this forest which is unique to Greece. The timber produced by this conifer trees is ideal for manufacturing pianos, but the real music of the Elatia forest is produced naturally as the wind blows through their chord-



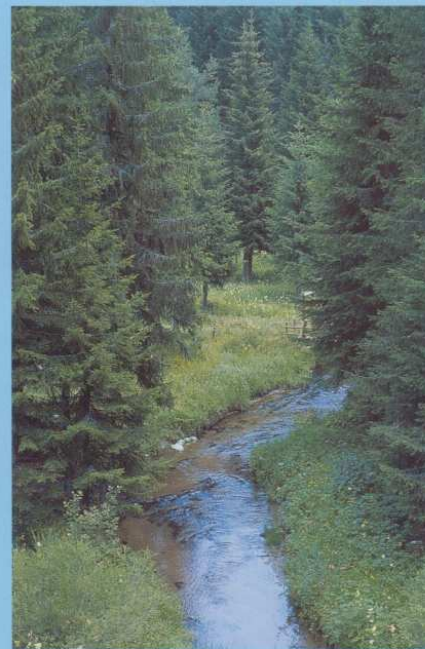


like trunks and thick foliage. Elatia lies literally on the verge between the Mediterranean and the middle-European climatic zones, and it is the southernmost area of expansion of this impressive species.

Rhodope: the mountain of the myths and the poets! Rhodope: the mountain of Orpheus and the Bacchic thiasí! Its entire beauty can be admired here, in the territory of Drama, where mountain peaks touch the sky... Elatia epitomizes the richness of the environment of Rhodope. Indeed, a true paradise! This is why

anyone visiting the forest of Elatia should be dominated by similar sentiments to those entering a worship place. For God's hand is truly felt here!

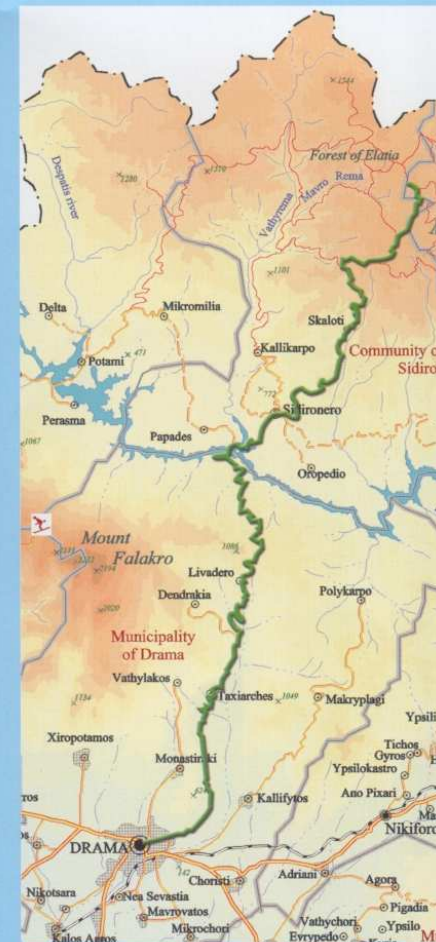
The Forest Service built a whole village at the site «Koutra», 72 kilometres from Drama, both for tourist accommodation purposes as well as for the accommodation of its staff. This village is a group of well-equipped, stone-built houses, available for public use all year round only after prior arrangement with



the Forest Service of Drama.

An additional attraction of Elatia is the unique to Greece Birch Forest (*Betula pendula*), which can be visited at the site «Magula». Those trees can be easily identified by their silver-white bark that peels like paper leaving dark spots on the straight unbent trunks.

And if you are lucky enough, you may encounter a grazing roe deer...



Kilometer distances:

Drama - Livadero	22 km
Drama - Nestos bridges	38 km
Drama - Sidironero	40 km
Drama - Forest Village of Elatia	72 km

Hotels

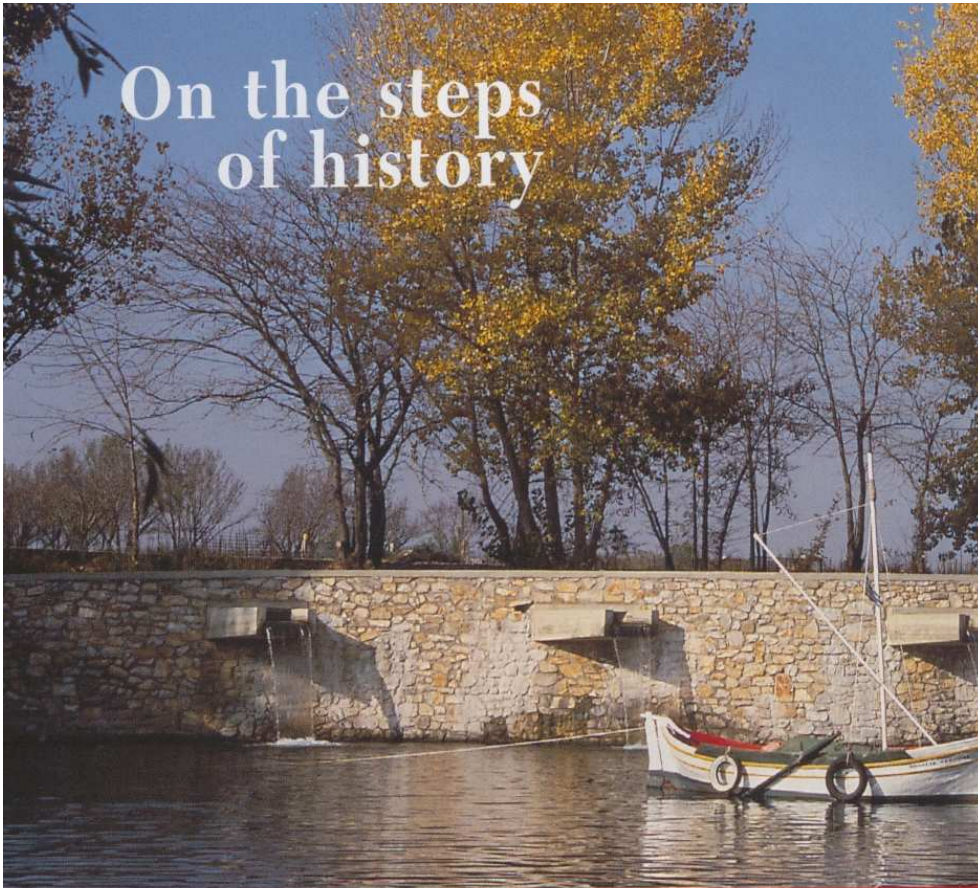
«Petrini Gonia» [Livadero]	(tel.: 25210-91388)
«Voreas» [Sidironero]	(tel.: 25210-91391)
«Dryades» [Sidironero]	(tel.: 25210-91395)
«Dendrakia» [Dendrakia]	(tel.: 25210-24134)

Useful information

Forest Service of Drama tel.: 25210-57841, 25210-57827
Forest Village of Elatia tel.: 25210-91338, 25210-91339



On the steps of history



The Doxato Municipality Water Springs. A perfectly organized recreation resort, 13 km away from Drama.



The historical town of Doxato was awarded the Gold Medal of the Third Order by the Athens Academy in 1985 for the part it played in the struggle of Macedonian Hellenism. The town of Doxato still retains its traditional nobleness and its unique profile. With many impressive buildings, only ten kilometers southeast of Drama, it has sufficient accommodation facilities to offer and a reputation for fun and high spirits!

Three kilometres away from Doxato, at the foots of the hill Kuslari, one can come across the water springs of Kefalari (Bunarbashi) or, to be more precise, the «Municipal Water-springs of Doxato». This lushly vegetated place is a hydro-biotope which, through well-scheduled technical interventions, has recently transformed to a recreation park with catering, fishing and cy-



The horse races of Doxato, organized annually on May 2, show the traditional love of the Doxato inhabitants for horses.



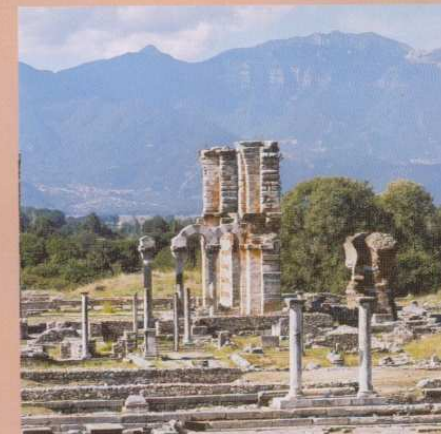
cling facilities.

The waters of the Doxato springs create a stream that flows towards the Baptistery of St. Lydia and the ruins of Philippi. It was allegedly in the waters of this stream that the first woman in Europe was baptized a Christian by St. Paul. She was a purple-seller from Thyatira; her name was Lydia.

Philippi: the most important archaeological site in Eastern Macedonia! The initially small Thasian settlement that subsequently became a Macedonian urban center and, later on, an eminent Roman colony and a Byzantine metropolis. The site still keeps lots of secrets from archaeologists, despite the fact that the area is well studied; the first excava-

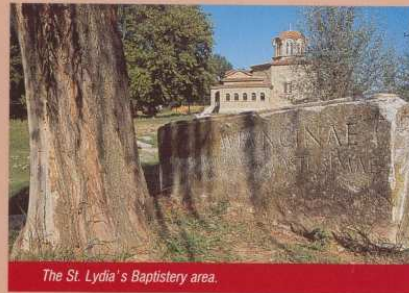


The "Park of Predatory Birds" in the area of Agora at Kyria belongs to Kostas Eleftheriadis, the one and only wild bird breeder and one of the few such bird trainers in Greece. More than seventy predatory birds are kept in the Park offering visitors the opportunity to take a closer (than usually) look at them.

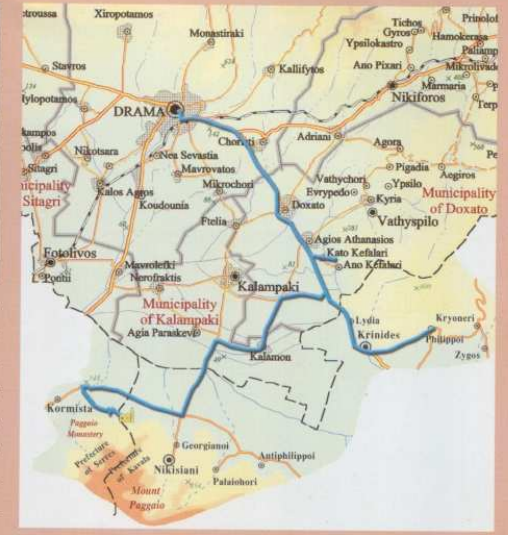


tions took place as early as 1914. Today, visitors can admire the walls and the acropolis, the theatre (where musical and theatrical performances of the contemporary annual «Philippi-Thassos» Festival are held), the Roman forum, the ruins of three Christian basilicas, the exhibits of the Museum and many other interesting monuments.

From the metropolis of European Christianity we climb to the Holy Monastery of Panagia Achiropiitis on Mt. Pangeon, the so-called Monastery of Kosinitsa or Ikosifinissa. Built amidst a truly divine environment at an altitude of 753 meters, this Monastery has been since its first consecration (early 6th century), but more rigorously, since its second foundation (late 15th century) a stronghold of Greek-orthodoxy and Hellenism. It has been destroyed and looted repeatedly by Turks and Bulgarians. Nowadays, it is one of the most popular pilgrimages in Eastern Macedonia.



The St. Lydia's Baptistery area.



Kilometer distances:

- Drama - Municipal Water-springs of Doxato 13 km
- Drama - Archaeological site of Philippi 21 km
- Drama - Pangeon Monastery 35 km
- Archaeological site of Philippi - Kalamonas - Kormista - Pangaion Monastery 35 km

Hotels

- «Achillion» [Kalampaki] (tel.: 25210-51134)
- «Alexandros» [Doxato] (tel.: 25210-55550)

Useful information

Municipal Water-springs of Doxato, Cafe Restaurant (tel.: 25210-68180)

Park of Predatory Birds [Agora at Kyria] (tel.: 25210-71444, 6934686917)

Archaeological site of Philippi (tel.: 2510-516251)
Open daily, seven days a week, from 08.00 to 19.00

Holy Monastery of Icosifinissa (tel.: 25920-61566)
Open daily, seven days a week, from 08.00 to 20.00

