



REGION OF EASTERN MACEDONIA - THRACE



TOURIST guide

Drama Kavala Xanthi
Greece

PREFECTURAL AUTHORITY OF DRAMA - KAVALA - XANTHI

superb landscapes

verdant mountains

crystal clear seas

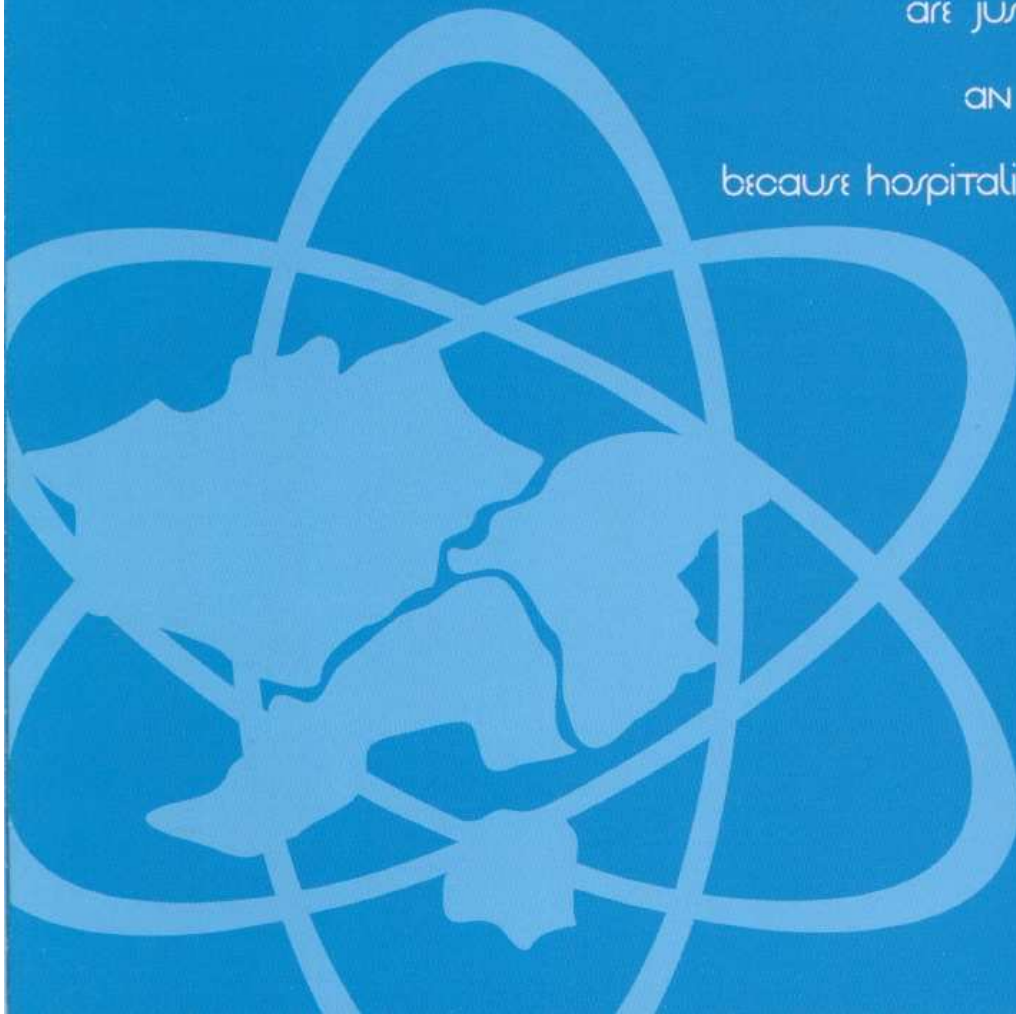
unique ecosystems

delicious food, friendly people

are just waiting to offer you

an unforgettable experience

because hospitality... was born in greece.



*...Enbraved by Philip and Alexander the Great,
...educated by Democritos, Protagoras and Lefkipos,
...glorified by notable Olympic Champions, as Theagenis from Thasos island,
...blessed by St Paul, the Apostle of the nations, ...sanctified by Chrysostom of Smyrna...*

*This place of unique beauty is waiting to offer you
a pleasant stay and a piece of its soul.*



Konstantinos Tatsis





a cultural tour of drama



The city of Drama (pop. 50,000), capital of its Prefecture, lies at the foot of Falakro Oros (*Bald Mountain*).

Archaeological Museum, (tel. 25210 31.365)

Open daily (except Monday), 08.30 - 15.00

One room is dedicated to the prehistoric and historic periods, one to the Early Christian, Byzantine, post-Byzantine and modern periods (up to 1913), while the covered atrium contains architectural, funerary and votive inscriptions, monuments and sculptures from the historic and Byzantine ages.

Ecclesiastical Museum, (tel. 25210 32.362)

Visits by arrangement with the Office of the Metropolitan of Drama.

Ecclesiastical treasures of inestimable value, including 13th century icons and relics brought by refugees from Asia Minor.

Agia Varvara Park

6 hectares of tranquillity, with ancient trees, little pools, waterfalls, traditional watermills, tobacco barns, snack bars, tavernas, open-air theatre and municipal art gallery.





archaeological sites

Sanctuary of Dionysus, Kali Vrysi (tel. 25220 51.189)

Visits by arrangement with the President of the Commune

Macedonian Tomb, Drama (tel. 25210 31.365)

Visits by arrangement with the Archaeological Museum of Drama

Byzantine Church of Agia Sophia, Drama (tel. 25210 34.986), *Open: 08.00 - 10.00*

MONASTERIES

Ikosifinissa Monastery

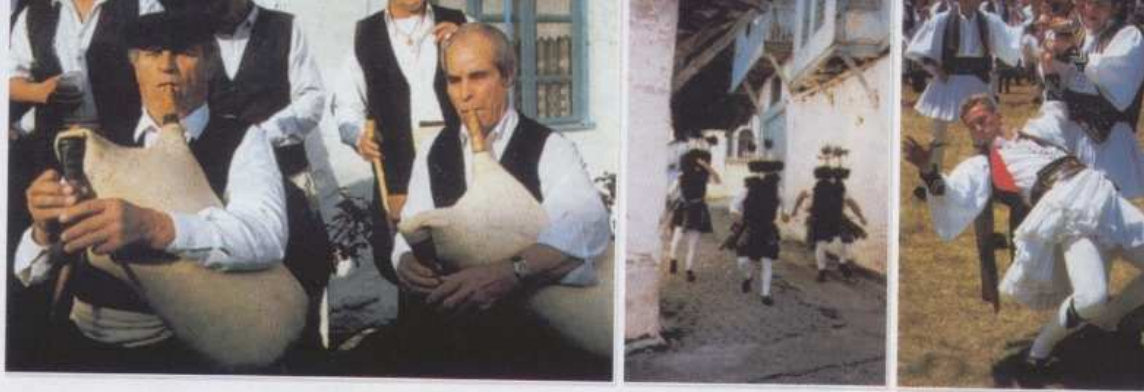
Situated at an altitude of 753 m on a well-protected slope of Mount Pangaios, this monastery was built in the 5th century by St Germanos, a hermit from the Holy Land. It was the seat of considerable intellectual and nationalistic activity throughout the period of Ottoman rule and also during the Macedonian Struggle in the early years of the 20th century. The monastery, which has a superb carved wooden screen supporting the icon of the Virgin known as the "Acheiropoietos" (not made with hands), a carved wooden patriarchal throne and 19th century wall paintings, welcomes throngs of visitors every day.

Analipseos Monastery, Drama

Metamorfoseos Monastery, Paranesti

The Prefecture has a total of 33 post-Byzantine churches that are well worth visiting





CULTURAL EVENTS

January 6 - 8

Local Twelfth Night events/masquerades in Monastiraki, Xeropotamo, Petroussa, Pyrgi, Volaka, Kali Vrysi

January 18

"Kourbani", in Kalambaki

"Clean Monday"

Carnival in Horisti

April 6

Anniversary of the Battle of Lissi, at Ohyro

May 2

Horse races at Doxato

May 21

"Anastenaria" Fire-walking at Mavrolefki

End of June

"Eleftheria", in Drama

July 20

"Antamoma" Gathering of Sarakatsans in the forest village of Elatia

July 25 - 27

"Akritia", in Kato Nevrokopi

August 1 - 5

"Nestos", in Paranesti

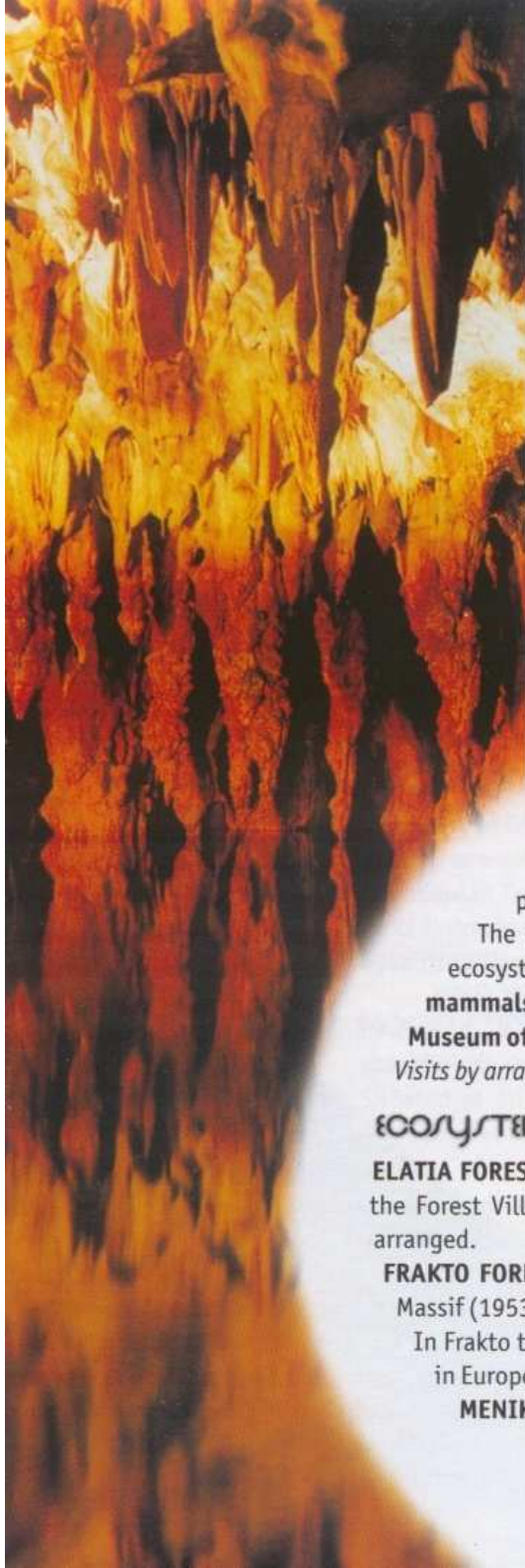
Mid September

Festival of short films, Drama

Mid Autumn

Potato Festival, Kato Nevrokopi





flora – fauna

Rich and varied flora, with more than 1000 species, many of them rare and many found only in the Prefecture of Drama. Representative species include the fir, red spruce, pine, cedar, poplar, birch, black alder, beech, holm oak, etc.

The northern part of the Prefecture is covered by one of Greece's most important mountain ecosystems, that of Central Rhodope. It shelters more than **150 species of birds and 32 species of mammals**, including red and roe deer, chamois, bears, golden eagles and vipers.

Museum of Natural History, Paranesti Environmental Education Centre (tel. 25240 22.333)

Visits by arrangement with the Paranesti Town Hall

ECOSYSTEMS

ELATIA FOREST, (tel. 25210 57.840) along the border between Greece and Bulgaria, 72 km from Drama, is the Forest Village of Elatia, with Greece's only forests of red spruce and birch. Accommodation may be arranged.

FRAKTO FOREST, in the NE corner of the Prefecture, beneath the highest peak in the Central Rhodope Massif (1953 m), with forests of red spruce, beech, Scots pine, oak, etc.

In Frakto there is also a **VIRGIN FOREST**, the only one in the country and the most important of its kind in Europe. Total area 1100 hectares. It has been listed as a natural monument.

MENIKIO FOREST, with ancient chestnuts, forests of oak and fir, and extremely lush vegetation.

springs - rivers - lakes - caves

Agia Varvara Springs, Drama

Kefalari Springs, Doxato

Thermia hot springs, Paranesti

Nestos River, Thisavros Dam, Platanovrysi

Lake Lefkogia, Kato Nevrokopi

Source of the Angitis (Maara cave), Prosotsani (tel. 25220 60.460)

Open daily (except Monday): 10.00 - 18.00

Alistrati Cave, between the Prefectures of Drama & Serres (tel. 23240 82.085)

gorges

Pyrgi, Falakro Oros

Angiti, near the Alistrati Cave

waterfalls

Skotino Falls, Megalo Livadi, Paranesti

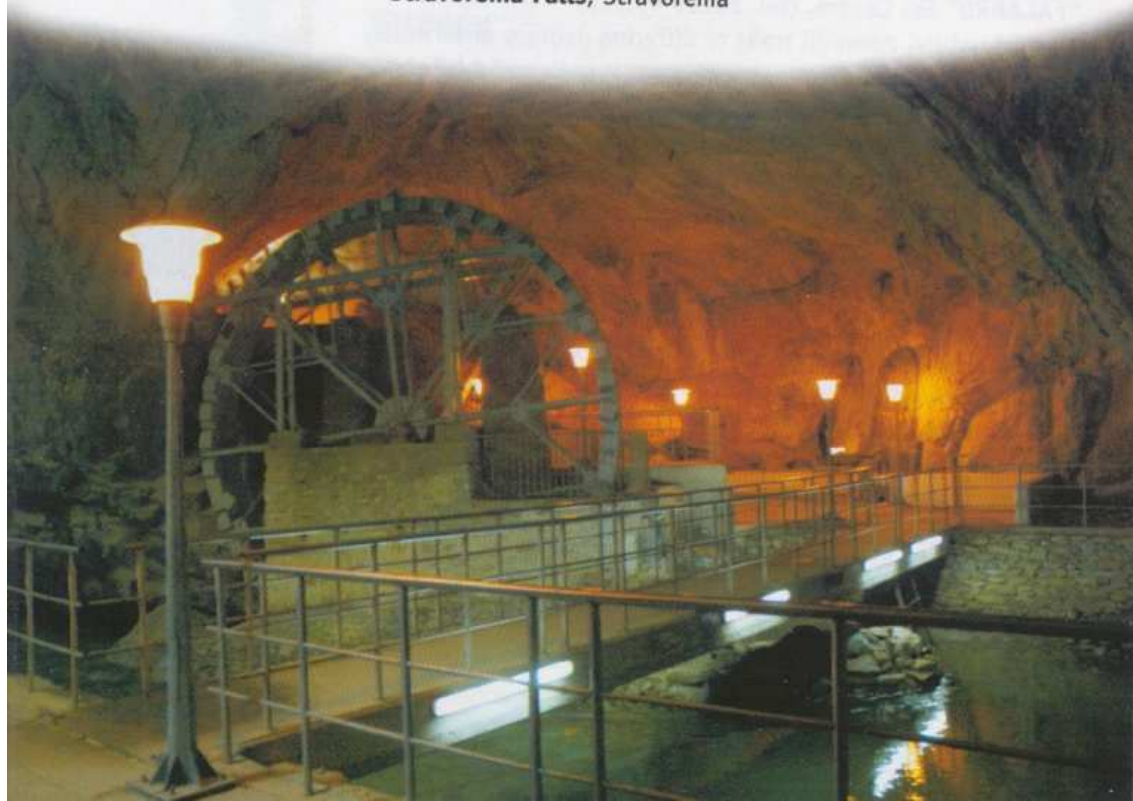
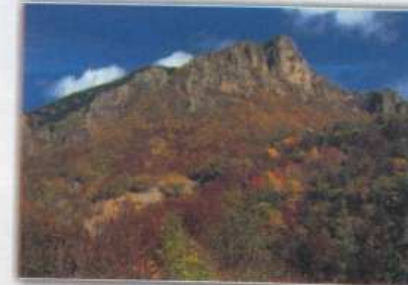
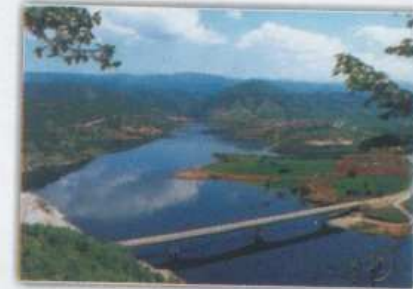
Lepida Falls, Lepida Forest, Paranesti

Agia Varvara Falls, Lepida Forest, Paranesti

Trahonio Falls (Livaditis), Paranesti

Frakto Falls, Fraktou Forest

Stravorema Falls, Stravorema



springs - rivers - lakes - caves

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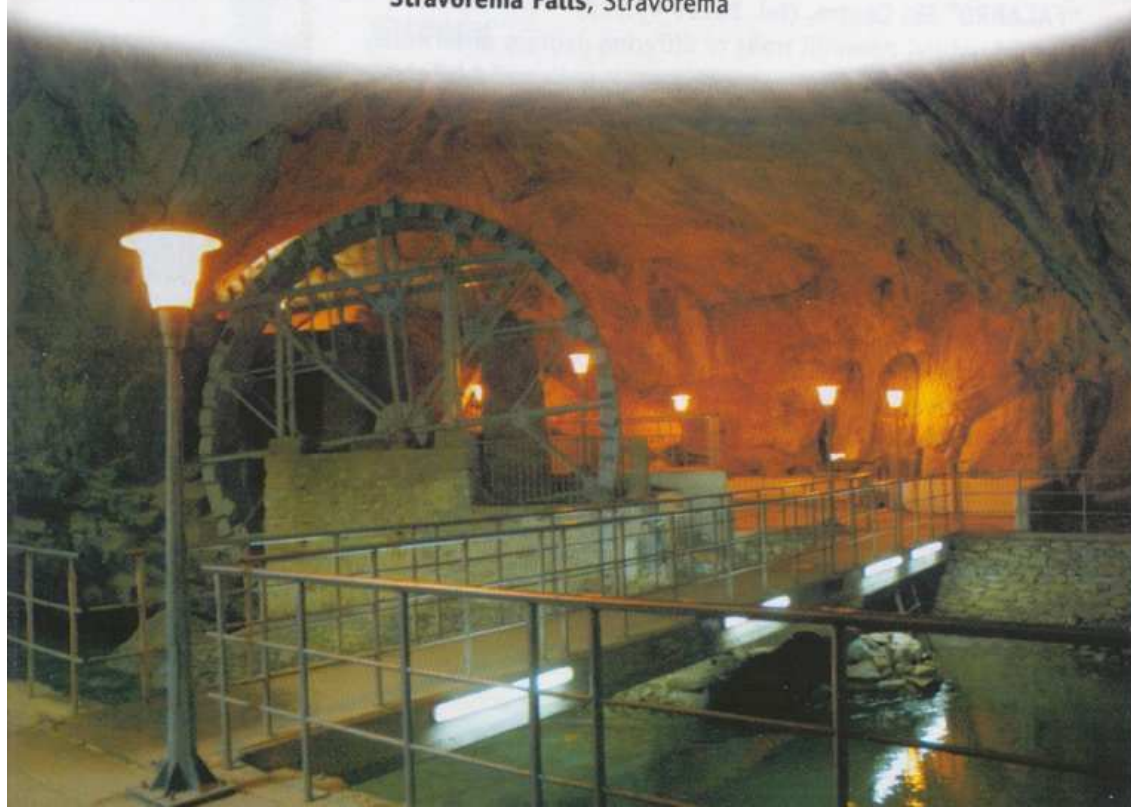
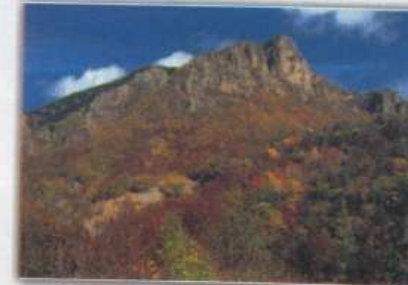
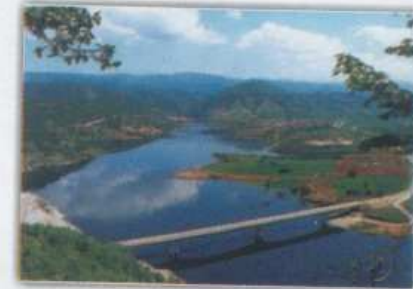
Lepida Falls, Lepida Forest, Paranești

Agia Varvara Falls, Lepida Forest, Paranești

Trahonio Falls (Livaditis), Paranești

Frakto Falls, Fraktou Forest

Stravorema Falls, Stravorema

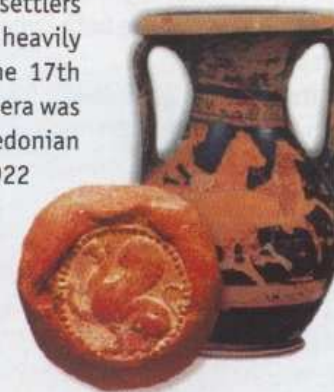




prefecture of xanthi

HISTORY

Finds from Neolithic settlements have been found in, among other places, **Lafrouda, Diomedeia, Melissa and Thermes**. During the Bronze Age, Troy, Lesbos and Lemnos all had an impact on the region. According to Homer, the Thracians were superior fighters with well-trained horses, and they also had well-developed gold and silver mines. From the 7th century BC, when the colony of **Abdera** was founded, until AD 330, when the Byzantine era began, the region enjoyed a second age of splendour and prosperity. A leading role was played here by Abdera and the other colonies, which facilitated the propagation of Greek culture and the Hellenization of the Thracians. By the end of the 14th century Moslem settlers were moving into the area, and the mountain regions were becoming heavily Islamicized. Tobacco cultivation ushered in a new era of prosperity in the 17th century, and Genisea and Xanthi became world famous for their tobaccos. This era was followed by a period of Bulgarian occupation, which ended in the Macedonian Struggle. In 1920 south-western Thrace was incorporated into Greece. After 1922 the population was swollen by the arrival of refugees from Pontus, Ionia and Eastern and Northern Thrace. The 1960s were marked by heavy emigration, but the creation of the Democritus University of Thrace in the 1970s and the presence of the 4th Greek Army have given the region a boost.





a cultural tour of xanthi

Xanthi, or Xantheia (pop. 52.000), the capital of its Prefecture, is built on a little stream called the **Kosynthos**.

Old Town: The old town of Xanthi is divided into 5 districts with largely Christian populations, while their Moslem neighbours live chiefly on the north and east sides of the city, in districts with their own mosques. In the Old Town, Plateia Antika leads to the imposing **Town Hall (late 19th c.)** in Palaiologou St., opposite which stands the **House of Culture** of the city's Cultural Society. Dominating **Plateia Mitropoleos** is the **Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist**. Handsome mansions with lavish exterior ornamentation, painted (interior) walls and vaulted entrances line several of the city's streets (**El. Venizelou, Ag. Vlasiou, M. Botsari, Ag. Georgiou, G. Vizyinou, Vyronos, Antika**).

Market: Every Saturday a lively market is held in Zoagora Square, a cornucopia of food, clothing and household items of all sorts.

Tobacco Sheds: Built by skilled masons from Epirus and Western Macedonia in the south end of the city up until 1912, these include both large complexes, such as the Ottoman Monopoly (REGIE), built after 1885, and smaller ones.

Folk Life Museum (tel. 25410 25.421): The Museum's collection includes traditional costumes, jewellery, handwork, furniture and utensils from various parts of Greece, as well as articles belonging to the Kouyoumtzoglou family.

Municipal Art Gallery: Housed in the Kalevra Mansion in the Old Town, a handsome building with carved wooden ceilings dating from the middle of the 19th century, the Gallery is dedicated to Christos Pavlidis, a contemporary local artist who has donated his works to the city.

Academy of Thracian Art and Tradition: A converted tobacco shed serves as a cultural centre and venue for art exhibitions.

Museum of Natural History (tel. 25410 21.212): Local flora and fauna, stuffed animals, rocks.



archaeological sites

Abdera: Part of the city wall, entrance and towers, houses from the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods, and traces of the theatre are still standing. Abdera was the home of Democritus, Protagoras, Leucippus and other great minds of the ancient world.

Archaeological Museum of Abdera (tel. 25410 51.003): Important finds from the area are exhibited here

Macedonian tomb, 2nd c. BC at Stavroupoli, near Komnina

Fortress of Kalyva, Stavroupoli

Carved into the rock, a **relief of the god Mithras** (late 2nd early 3rd c.), at Thermes

The city of **Topiros**, near the Nestos, in the village of Paradissos

Anastasioupoli, north of Lake Vistonida, a station on the Via Egnatia

Folk Life Museum of Stavroupoli (tel. 25420 22.260)

Folk Life Museum of Abdera (tel. 25420 51.207)



MONASTERIES

Vatopedi Monastery at Porto Lagos, with the church of St Nicholas

Panagia Kalamous Monastery, north of Xanthi, in the Kosynthos gorge

Panagia Archangeliotissa Monastery, above Samakov,

The Monastery has an Ecclesiastical Museum (tel. 25410 22.505)

Pammegiston Taxiarchon Monastery, northwest of Xanthi, in the forest

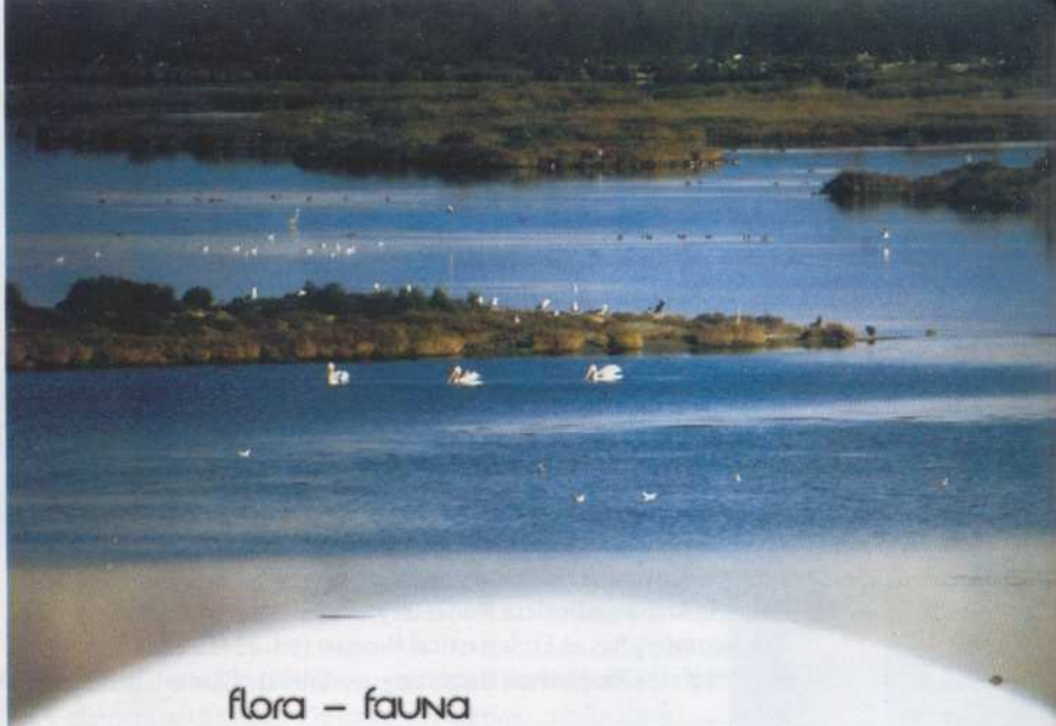
spas

Potamia, Nea Kessani (tel. 25410 96.349): near Lake Vistonida and shortly before Porto Lagos, the spa has modern facilities, guesthouses, infirmary, restaurant.

Thermes (tel. 25440 23.231): the mountain spa of Thermes has 3 guesthouses and a hydrotherapy unit.

Xanthi is famous for its sweets. Savour local specialties in the city's picturesque cook shops, ouzo bars, tavernas and modern restaurants, or relax over coffee in a traditional or modern cafes.





flora – fauna

This is a region of exceptionally interesting vegetation, in addition to the forests of beech, oak, chestnut and red spruce that cover some 1150 km². The region is home to brown bears, alpine wildcats, red and roe deer, wolves, and many species of birds including partridge, woodpeckers, golden eagles and vultures.

MOUNTAINOUS XANTHI

The northern part of the prefecture is covered by the Rhodope massif, which is divided in two somewhere in the middle by the valley of the Echinus. To the west lies the **Drimos or Haidou** Forest, with many native plants and forests of beech, oak, scots pine and red spruce. Around Koula you will find the rare five-needed pine. To the east are the villages of the mountainous Echinus district.

ERYMANTHOS FOREST VILLAGE

The **Erymanthos Forest Village** (alt. 1350 m) in the municipality of Stavroupoli, 65 km from Xanthi, is a recreation and environmental education centre with accommodation for 40 people. Near it, an easy and very beautiful trail leads to the famous Livaditi falls. (tel. 25420 22.226, 22.693)

beaches

The southern part of the Prefecture has miles of beautiful beaches for swimming and water sports, e.g. at **Erasmios, Mangana, Myrodato, Abdera, Mandra, Lagos, Kessani**.

THE STRAITS OF THE NESTOS

The Nestos rises in the Rila mountains of Bulgaria and flows into the Aegean opposite Thasos. Its 140 km within Greece are a source of life for the entire region.

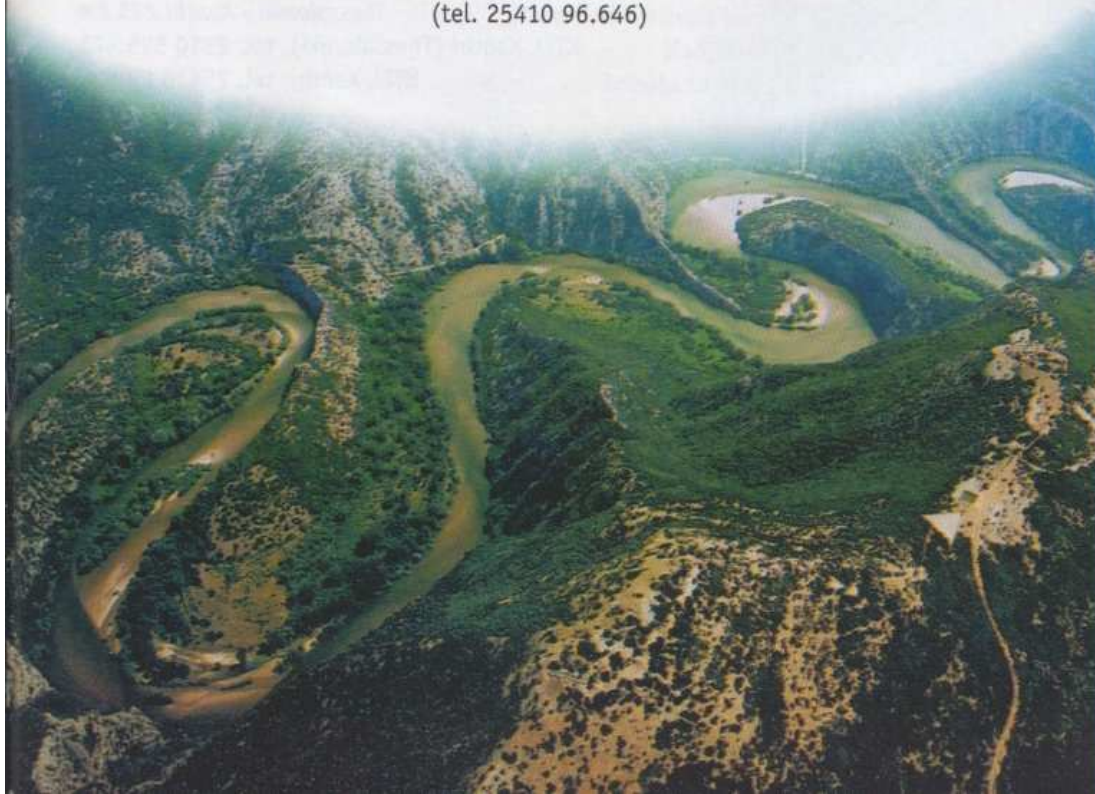
The Straits of the Nestos, that is, the 17 kilometres over which the river winds its way between Stavroupoli and Toxotes, are home to a significant number of the country's fauna and have been proclaimed (PD/1977) an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** under special protection. The trip by train is magical, and the footpath from Galani, carved into the rocky riverbank, is one of the most beautiful hiking trails in Greece. The sports facilities offered in this area include canoe-kayak, flying fox, trekking, parapente and cycling.

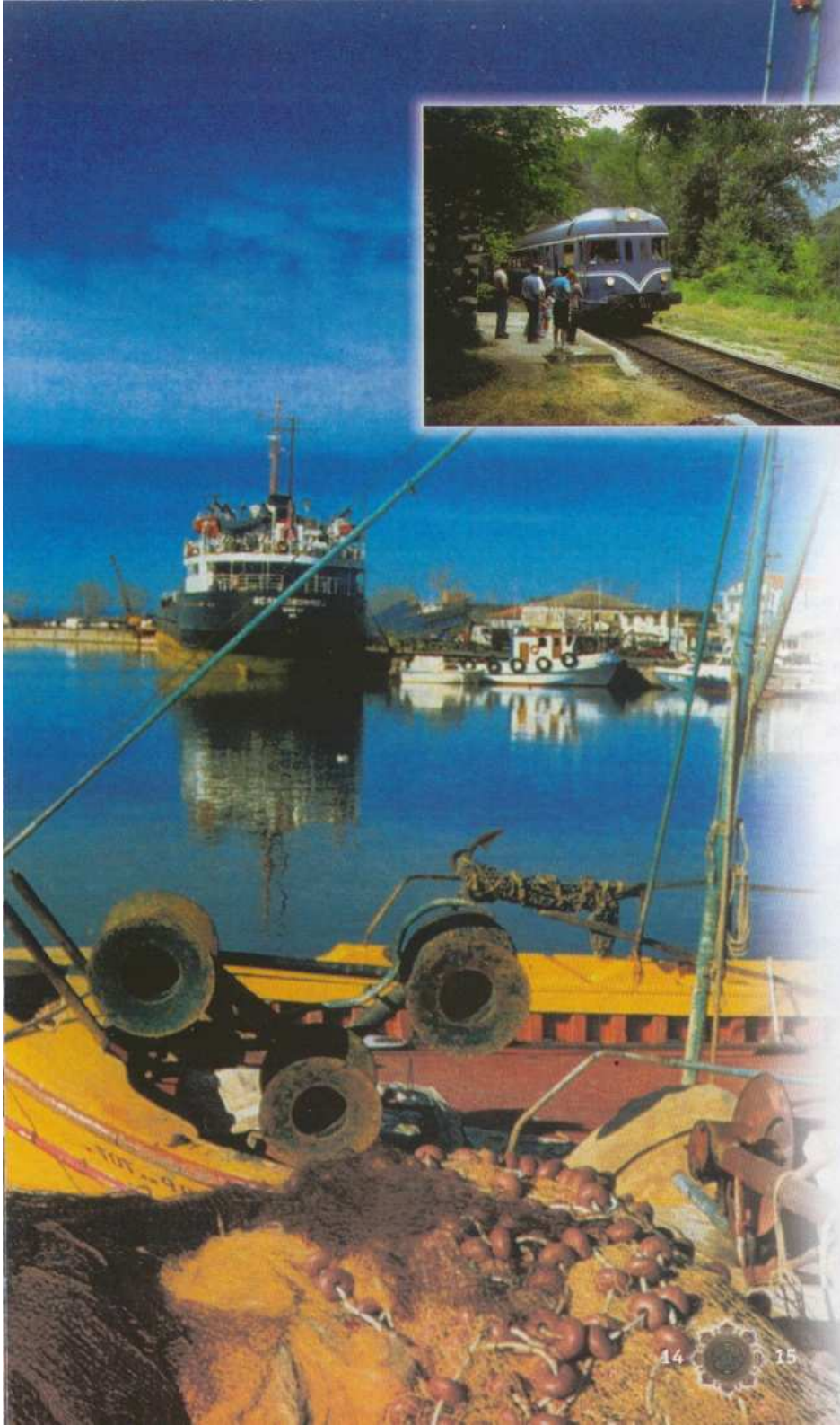
THE NESTOS DELTA

254 species of birds many of them rare and endangered have been recorded in the Nestos Delta, which covers much of the southern part of the Prefectures of Kavala and Xanthi. The area is accessible both from the east (Erasmios, Prefecture of Xanthi) and from the west (Keramoti, **Nestos Information Centre**, (tel. 25910 51.831). The uniquely beautiful riparian forest known as **Kotzi Orman** is approached from Keramoti.

LAKE VISTONIDA

Lying 26 km from Xanthi and covering a total of 44.000 hectares, Lake Vistonida is an inestimably valuable complex of wetlands habitats. More than **260 species of birds** live in this area, which, like the Nestos Delta, is protected as an EU Bird Sanctuary and part of the NATURA 2000 network. **Porto Lagos Information Centre**, (tel. 25410 96.646)





how to get to xanthi

By inter-city coach (KTEL)

Athens - Xanthi 738 km

KTEL Xanthi (Athens), tel.210 51.32.084

Thessaloniki - Xanthi 225 km

KTEL Xanthi (Thessaloniki), tel. 2310 595.423

KTEL Xanthi, tel. 25410 22.684

By rail

Athens - Xanthi,

OSE Athens, tel. 210 52.97.777

Thessaloniki - Xanthi,

OSE Thessaloniki, tel. 2310 517.517

OSE Xanthi, tel. 25410 22.581

By air

From Kavala airport

(Chrysoupoli which is

35 km from Xanthi)

tel. airport: 25910 53.273



CULTURAL EVENTS

January 8

Girl Power is the theme of the Babbo or Mami Festival celebrated in Nea Kessani and Mangana

Early spring

Two-week carnival party in Xanthi, and the Camel or Tziamala Festival in Stavroupoli and other villages

Late summer - early autumn

Palia Poli Festival, two-week cultural festival in Xanthi

Hadjidakis Choral Festival

Tribute to Manos Hadjidakis, in Xanthi

Last 10 days of July

"Dimokritia", in Abdera

"Patatiada"

The first weekend after August 15, in Feloni, with potato dishes and cultural events.

Nestos-River Party

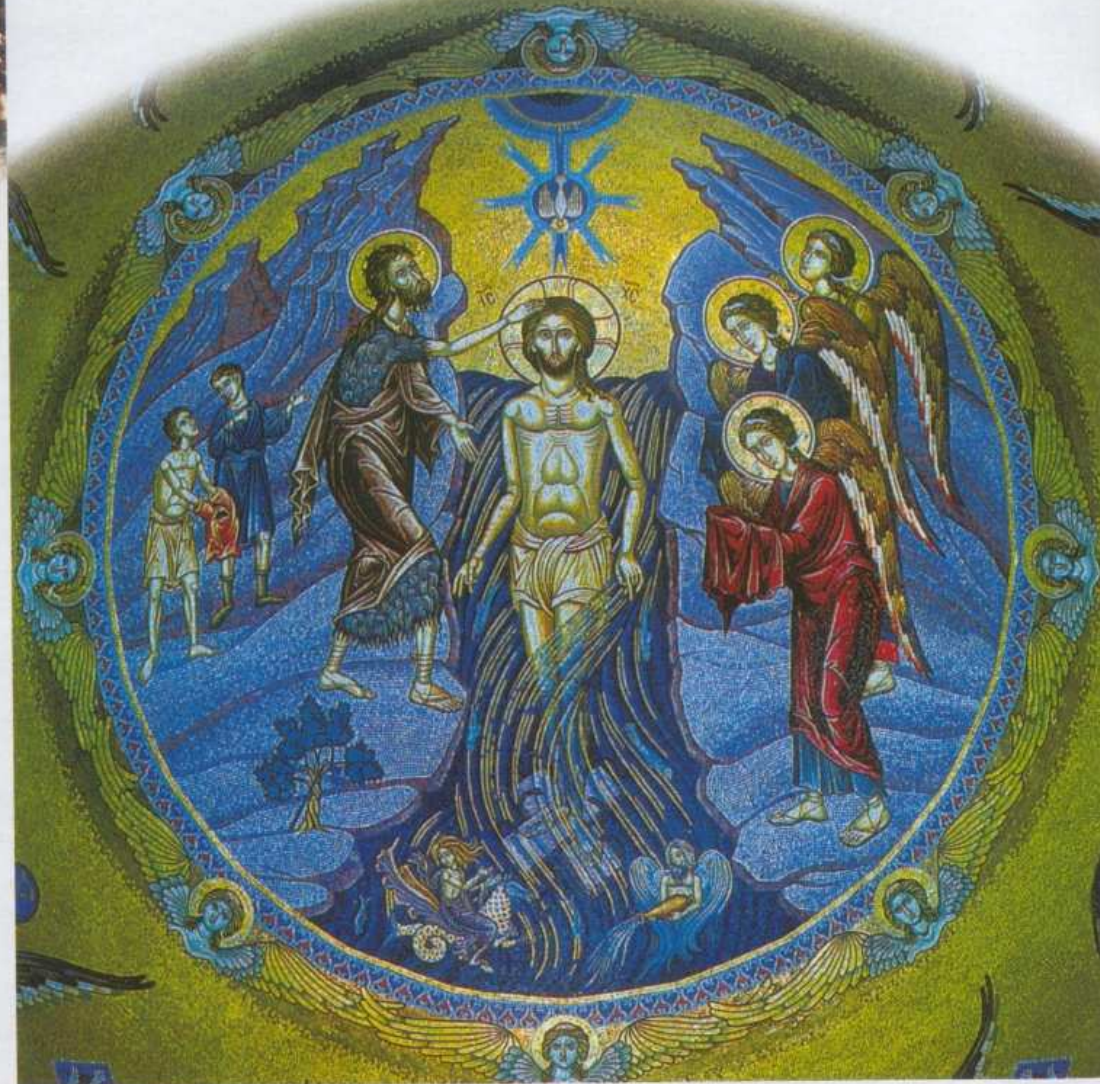
Every August, on the Straits of the Nestos, near Galani, with concerts, sports events, etc.



prefecture of kavala

HISTORY

Inhabited since the Neolithic age, its position made it a target for Goth and Hun invaders. The Apostle Paul preached the gospel at Philippi and founded there the first Christian church in Europe. The prosperity of the Byzantine Age was interrupted by the Normans and ended by the Ottoman occupation (1380). The region was liberated from Turkish rule in 1913.





a cultural tour of kavala city

Capital of its Prefecture, the city of Kavala (pop. 70.000) was founded as Neapolis in the 7th century BC by colonists from Thasos, became an ally of the Athenians and later the port for Philippi. In the Byzantine era the city was known as Christopolis.

Archaeological Museum (tel. 2510 222.335): Finds from early and classical antiquity, including fragments from the Temple of Pallas Athena and the prehistoric settlement of Dikili Tas, near the village of Krinides.

Folk Life Museum (tel. 2510 222.706): Collection of folk life items, plus paintings and sculptures by Thasos sculptor Polygnostos Vagis (1894-1965) and other artists.

The Fortress: The first fortifications date from the 5th century and were subsequently expanded.

Panagia (Old Town): Beneath the fortress lie the narrow, winding streets of the Old Town, built over the ruins of the original colony and the heart of the city until the end of the 19th century.

The Town Hall, The Municipal Library, Plateia Kapnergati - Kapnaophiki, Ancient Via Egnatia

Muhammad Ali's House: (Now a museum) On the square in front of the house is an equestrian statue of the founder of the last dynasty to rule in Egypt.

Imaret: Islamic gem, built in 1817 by Muhammad Ali as a theological college, poorhouse and boarding school.

The Lighthouse, at the end of the promontory

The Aqueduct: Built over the traces of the Long Wall, to assure the city's water supply.

St Paul's Cathedral, Church of St John, Monastery of St Silas, Monument to St Paul, in the harbour

Kiprou Street, with its handsome neo-classical buildings

archaeological sites

Philippi: 15 km from Kavala is the town of Philippi. Founded by colonists from Thasos in 359 BC, seized and renamed by **Philip II of Macedon** in 356 BC, its monuments date from the ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods. The ancient theatre, a segment of the Via Egnatia, the agora, the Early Christian basilicas, the Octagon and the prison of St Paul all attest to the city's prosperity. This was the site, in 41 BC, of Antony's battle with Brutus and Cassius. This was where St Paul first preached the gospel in Europe (AD 49) and baptised Lydia, **Europe's first female Christian** convert, in the river Zygaktis: there is a church called by her name and an open-air baptistery. The Archaeological Museum has a unique collection of finds from the prehistoric, ancient, Roman and Byzantine ages, and the ancient theatre is used in the summer for theatrical performances.

Amphipolis, (tel. 23220 32.474): Athenian colony, founded in 438/437 BC at the mouth of the Strymon River. Occupied by Philip of Macedon in 357, it remained under Macedonian control until 168, when Rome made it a free city and the headquarters of the Roman governor of Macedonia. It flourished during the Imperial age, and became a leading religious center in the 5th and 6th centuries, only to be abandoned early in the 7th century. The Archaeological Museum of modern-day Amfipoli contains many very interesting and important finds.



MUSEUMS

Museum of Cappadocian Culture, Nea Karvali

Folk Life Village of Akontisma, Nea Karvali

Accommodation for 100, recreational, convention and exhibition facilities, open-air theatre

spas

Loutra Eleftheron, (tel. 25940 51.240): For rheumatic and gynaecological disorders. Hotel, pools, hydrotherapy.

Krinides Mud Baths, (tel. 2510 516.450): Recommended for orthopaedic, renal, respiratory and gynaecological disorders.





gold – bearing pangaios and its MONASTERIES

The mountain (1950 m) known as Pangaïos or Enniakorfo (9 peaks), and to Homer as Nyssa, stands between the mouths of the Strymon and Angitis rivers. It was an apple of discord between the Athenians and the Macedonians on account of its rich deposits of gold and silver: its mines were first worked by the Phoenicians, later by the Thasians and the Athenians. It was here, according to Homer, that Dionysus was born and raised; it was here that Orpheus was destroyed by the Furies; and it was here, at an altar to Dionysus that once stood at its summit, that the Orphic Mysteries were celebrated. It has forests of beech, oak fir and plane trees, and besides the Ski Centre there are also a climbing lodge, a chalet and a Forest Village.

MONASTERIES

Ikosifinissa Monastery, Nikisiani

Agios Panteleimon, Chrysokastro

Ypapanti, Palio Hortokopi

Pangaiotissa, Hortokopi

Agios Dimitrios, Nikisiani

More information at www.dimospaggaiou.gr

historic COMMUNITIES ON MOUNT pangaios

Pravi, better known as Eleftheroupoli, was for many years a flourishing commercial and crafts centre. It still has many fine examples of traditional Macedonian urban architecture, large tobacco warehouses and handsome mansions along its narrow streets.

Nikisiani, **Mesoropi** and **Mousthenei** are traditional villages still virtually untouched.

FORTRESSES – KASTRA

Kavala

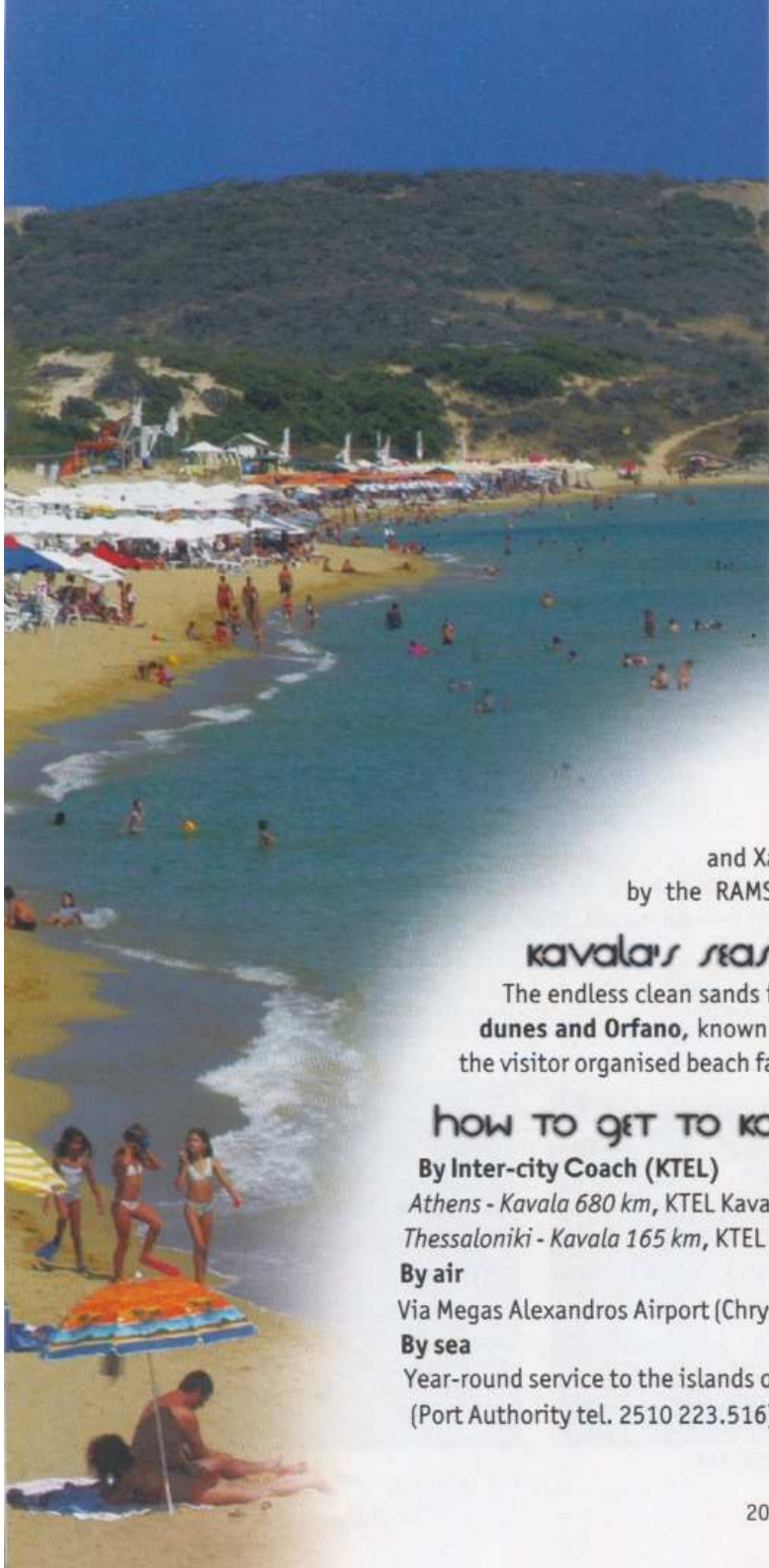
Acropolis of Philippi, above the archaeological site of Philippi

Palaiohori, on Mount Pangaïos

Nea Pergamo Anaktoroupolis, at Nea Peramo

Pyrgos Apollonias, on the shore road between Nea Peramo and Loutra Elefthera
Orfanio





NESTOR DELTA

Straddling the southern border between the Prefectures of Kavala and Xanthi, it is one of the most important wetlands in the world, is protected by the RAMSAR Convention, and is home to herons, cormorants and flamingos.

KAVALA'S SEASIDE VILLAGES

The endless clean sands from **Kalamitsa, Batis, Toska, Palio to Nea Iraklitsa, Nea Peramos, the dunes and Orfano**, known collectively as the western beaches or 'yalohoria' (shore villages), offer the visitor organised beach facilities as well as seaside tavernas and cafes.

HOW TO GET TO KAVALA

By Inter-city Coach (KTEL)

Athens - Kavala 680 km, KTEL Kavala (Athens), tel. 210 51.29.407

Thessaloniki - Kavala 165 km, KTEL Kavala (Thessaloniki), tel. 2310 595.422, KTEL Kavala, tel. 2510 222.294

By air

Via Megas Alexandros Airport (Chrysoupoli), which is 30 km from Kavala, (Airport tel: 25910 53.273)

By sea

Year-round service to the islands of the North Aegean and summer service to much of the rest of the Aegean, (Port Authority tel. 2510 223.516)



cultural events

January

Revival of the custom of "Arapides", in Nikisiani

April

Pontic Wedding, in the village of Zygos

2nd half of June

"Eleftheria", cultural events
marking the anniversary of the liberation of Kavala

July - August - September

Festival of Philippi, in the ancient theatre,
multi cultural events

July

International "Sun and Stone"
Festival of Traditional Dance, Nea Karvali

August

Grape Festival, Elaiohori

September

Potato Festival, Lekani





Thasos

HISTORY

The history of the island begins in the prehistoric age. There are ruins of fortified coastal settlements at Limenaria, Theologos and Skala Sotiros. Colonists from Paros founded their capital city of Thasos at Limena early in the 7th century BC. From there new settlements were created on the mainland opposite, including at Galypsos, Apollonia, Antisara (Kalamitsa), Neapolis (Kavala) and Topirus. It became a member of the Delian League, but was eventually destroyed by the Spartans. Philip of Macedon absorbed it into his realm, and it continued to flourish under the Romans. The target successively of Arabs, Genovese, Turks and Venetians, it was taken by the Ottoman Turks in 1479 and liberated in 1912.



archaeological journey

Ancient Agora - Odeum - Artemisio
Dionysio - Posidio - Voria Synikia
Theatre - The Wall and the Acropolis
Silinos - Iraklio - Arch of Caracalla
Alyki, with the ancient marble quarries

MUSEUMS

Archaeological Museum, Limena, (tel. 25930 221.80)
Vagis Museum, Potamia, (tel. 25930 61.400)

SETTLEMENTS

Theologos, Kastro Limenarion, Kallirahi, Mariess, Rahoni,
Kazaviti, etc





how to get to Thasos

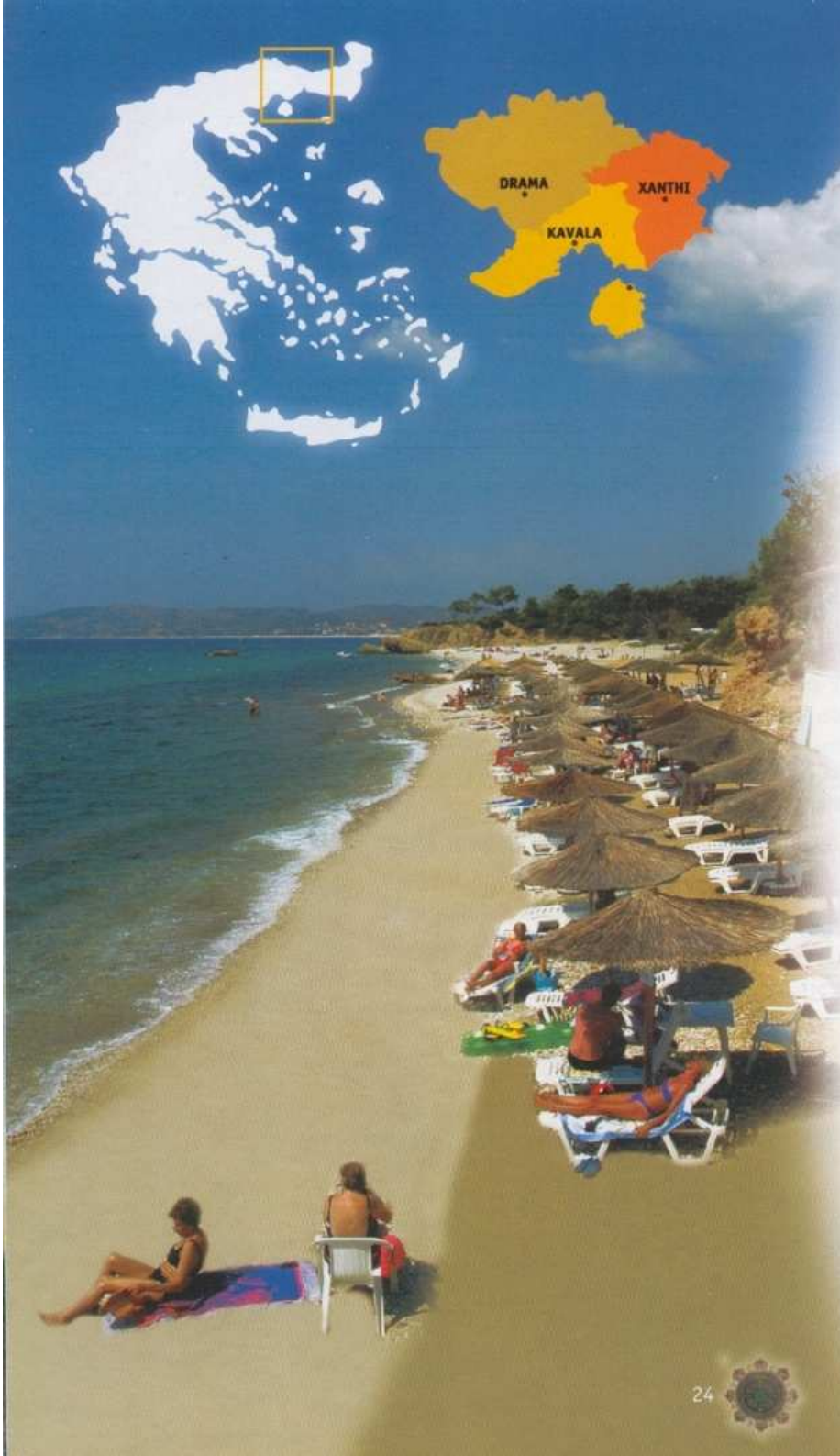
By air

Athens - Kavala
(Chrysoupoli airport, 10 km from Keramoti,
which has regular sailings for Thasos)

By coach and boat

Thessaloniki - Kavala 165km
Kavala - Prinos by ferry or flying dolphin
Nea Peramos - Limena by ferry
Keramoti - Limena by ferry
Port Authority Kavala, tel.2510 224.472
Port Authority Limena, tel. 25930 22.105
Port Authority Prinos, tel. 25930 71.390
Port Authority Keramoti, tel. 25910 51.204





beaches

Chryssi Ammoudia, Potamia, Kinira (Paradise) Alyki, Psili Ammos, Pefkari, Potos, Limenaria and Prinos are just some of the island's fabulous beaches with admirable tourist facilities.





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