



tours / excursions

# LARISSA



**LARISSA**  
OpenCity

MUNICIPALITY OF LARISSA  
ΑΙΜΩΝ ΑΡΧΑΙΩΝ



**LARISSA**  
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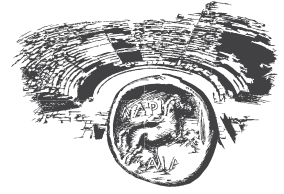
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**LARISSA**



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MUNICIPALITY OF LARISSA  
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΛΑΡΙΣΣΑΙΩΝ

tours / excursions  
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> Folklore Museum of Larissa  
*standing collection detail*



Dear friends,

Roaming the city you will discover its profound history, coming across sights of various historical periods, with the First Ancient Theatre of Larissa being the most emblematic, the only one in the Balkans to be located centrally in an urban net. The Bezesteni, the Second Ancient Theatre, Saint Achilles Basilica, Yeni Mosque and many others are among the city sights.

Due its central location Larissa has always been a welcoming, multicultural city with both financial and social dynamics.

Today, it has evolved in the metropolitan centre of the country. The heart of Larissa beats at its center with a wide net of pedestrian zones and squares, and also its impressive market.

You can choose from the recommended cultural tours the one that interests you the most – The Art Gallery , the Folklore Museum and of course the Diachronic Museum. Enjoy the Larissian hospitality and the city's day and night livelihood.

The locals will welcome you and will willingly accommodate you in a friendly and hearty manner. Enjoy your coffee at our bustling squares and your dinner in the restaurants, bars or cafes at the picturesque alleys. Don't forget to taste the local traditional drink tsipouro as well as the local delicacies it comes with. Do your shopping at the local market shops and relax yourself talking a walk at the banks of Peneios River. Plan your night out choosing among the cultural events and/ or one of the music scenes of the city.

Welcome to Larissa and I hope you have a pleasant stay in our city. I am sure you will be highly impressed by the city, beyond your expectations.

**Apostolos Kalogiannis**  
Larissa Mayor



## Larissa

Larissa is an ancient city and has been inhabited for almost 8.000 years, from the Neolithic era. Today it is one of the biggest and liveliest Greek cities and it is famous for its various musical, theatrical and cultural events and its lively night life. River Peneus is its famous river, inextricably linked with the city of Larissa through the eons, going through the city center. It lies on the north side of the Frourio Hill, below the Saint Achilles Church, and along with the Alcazar Park, they create an oasis of green and tranquility within the city center, only a short walk away from the central square. Due to its location, Larissa is a starting point of short excursions to places of cultural, historical and environmental interest in the vicinity.

### ||||||| 8000 years of History

Our distant ancestors, the Pelasgians, by land clearing the rich valley of Peneus River set their first crop lands. The cleared lands were named Argi / Pelasgian Argos (Argos Pelasgikon is the original name of Thessaly) and near those they build the cyclopean citadels which they named "Larissas". Larissa, the rock-set citadel of the Thessaly land, a city with a history of millennia, which continues to determine the rhythm of life in Thessaly, which knows how to have fun but also to create. This is the impression the city leaves to today's visitor who will tour its museums and archeological sites, will enjoy their coffee in the squares and pedestrian streets, on the Frourio Hill with the 15th century Covered Market, Bezesteni, the remains of the 6th AD century paleochristian church, with the tomb of St. Achilles and Roman antiquities. The renewal of the Frourio area and the pedestrianization of its streets brought the visitor close to the distant past of the city. The Hill, according to archaeological research, has been continuously inhabited, and from the Neolithic to the Classical era has been the Acropolis of Larissa.

### ||||||| The City's Identity

Larissa, the capital city of the Larissa Municipality as well as the Thessaly Region and seat of the Regional Administration, is approximately 350km far from Athens and 154km from Thessaloniki. It is located in the center of the Thessalian plain, at the banks of the River Peneus at an altitude of 70m, with a population of over 200,000 people. The city has been built on the same location since ancient times, has always held a strategic role due to its location in the center of Thessaly and Greece in general. It's a transportation hub and a transit center, with significant prospects for growth.

The location, however, is not the only factor that helped the development of the city. Larissa was a city favored by the fertile land, which generously gave it its wealth, by the river Peneus that enlivens this land and by its active people. Thus, its role in the Greek economy has always been decisive, both in primary production and in the processing of agricultural and livestock products.

At the same time, Larissa is developing in the field of services, tourism and health, as, in addition to the two public hospitals and the headquarters of the Medical School of the University of Thessaly, it has rehabilitation centers with high quality services, as well as private clinics. The city has faculties of the University of Thessaly, with over 20,000 students, while the Averofios Agricultural School, an architectural jewel of the early 20th century, which was the first Agricultural University of the country, continues to play an important role in agricultural education. Larissa is also home to important wider public sector administrations, as well as the two largest military formations in the country (1st Army, Tactical Aviation Headquarters).



> First Ancient Theatre of Larissa



> St. Achilles Basilica Mosaic



> Bezesteni



## > **The City: Sights and Cultural Areas**

### **A. Historical City Centre**

#### ||||| **Tour**

There are many important ancient, byzantine and ottoman monuments in the city of Larissa. Most of them are located on Frourio Hill, where the first indications of habitations of the city were found in the Neolithic era and where the ancient citadel was. During the Byzantine era it was the religious center of the city and during the Ottoman years the commercial and military one.

#### ||||| **First Ancient Theatre of Larissa**

The First Ancient Theater of Larissa was built in the first half of the 3rd century BC, during the reign of the Macedonian King Antigonos Gonatas, on the south side of the Frourio Hill, where during ancient times the fortified citadel towered and is one of the most important and greatest theaters of the era. The monument has the characteristics of a Hellenistic theater with the three key parts: the cavea – the orchestra – the stage. The cavea is built on the hillside of the Frourio Hill. A runway, called “diazoma” for the audience to move around divides the cavea into two parts; the main theater and the epitheater. The Ancient Theater is a magnificent structure and it is believed it could accommodate at least 10,000 spectators. Worship ceremonies, theatrical plays, music events, singing competitions and political events associated with the top governing body of the city, the Common of Thessalians, took place in the Ancient Theater. According to archaeological evidence and inscriptions the temple of Dionysus must have stood in an area near the theater.

#### ||||| **A Three Aisled Early Christian Basilica**

This Basilica is located on the Frourio Hill. It is speculated that this was the first church in the city, dedicated to the patron saint, Saint Achilles, the first bishop of the city. It was built in the 6th century AD on a tomb which is likely to have belonged to St. Achilles. Nowadays, only the foundation level is still preserved. The narthex is decorated with Byzantine mosaic floors.

#### ||||| **Bezesteni**

Currently known as Frourio, it was built by the Ottomans at the end of the 15th century. It was used as a covered market and later, after having been altered on the outside, it was used as a powder magazine and a fortress -its current name Frourio (Greek for Fortress) is attributed to this particular use-, till the Thessaly liberation in 1881. There is a presumption that, built in the Bezesteni's walls, are marble, architectural parts of the ancient temple of Athena Polias, which preexisted on the Hill..



> Yeni Mosque



> The Second Ancient Theatre

### ||||| Yeni Mosque

This is a 19th century structure that was being used as a mosque till 1924. From 1939 to 1941 it hosted a small archeological collection and the Municipal Library, while from 1957 to January 2012 it hosted the Archeological Museum of Larissa. It is located in Laou Square, opposite Saint Vissarionas Church and the Conservatory. After the exhibits have been relocated to the new Diachronic Museum it has remained closed. It will shortly operate as a Cultural Interface Point, an interactive and information portal, where via modern technology the visitor will be updated on cultural projects and events. At the same time, tourist info will be available and will also serve as a pre-exhibition venue.

### ||||| Other Archeological Monuments

Other worth mentioning monuments the archeological dig has brought to light are: The Second Ancient Theater, the Early Christian Baths (valaneia) in Blana and Lamproulis Squares, the Mid-Byzantine Church, the Byzantine graveyard, the Byzantine wall, the Byzantine cistern of the 3rd century AD., the Great Bath, the Bairakli Mosque, the Powder Magazine/Old Prison. the Column of Poseidon in Dimitras str. and the ancient roman road in Nikis str.



> Byzantine Fortification

## > **Info** **Useful Phone Numbers** **Links**

Diachronic Museum of Larissa  
Larissa Directorate of Antiquities  
District Office  
Mezourlo 41500  
Tel.: +30 2413 508200-201  
E-mail: [efalar@culture.gr](mailto:efalar@culture.gr)  
Opening hours: 09:00-16.00  
Daily and Weekends except Monday

Communications and Public Relations Bureau  
Municipality of Larissa  
1 Ion Dragoumi Str., 41222, Larissa  
Tel. 2413500211  
Email: [dhmlar1@larissa.gov.gr](mailto:dhmlar1@larissa.gov.gr)

Acquaintance with the cultural identity of Larissa could be complemented with field trips to the diverse and multifaceted Historical Center according to the following instructions. Do not forget to visit the Diachronic Museum of Larissa, located on the Mezourlos Hill, on the southern part of the city, on the ring road to Trikala. Guided tours by archaeologists can be organized upon request.

## > **Suggested tours in the Historical Center / Monuments and the Diachronic Museum of Larissa**

### ||||||| Route 1

One of the suggested tours starts at the Yeni Mosque (where the Archeological Museum used to be hosted from 1957 till its relocation to the Diachronic Museum of Larissa) in the center of the city, near the central market, on the crossroads of the streets Kiprou and Venizelou. Just opposite the Yeni Mosque are the two great squares of Agamemnon Blanas and Saint Vissarion. On the A. Blanas Square, Early Christian baths of the 5th century B.C. have come to light by archeological digs, while in the Saint Vissarion Church the Larissian painter

Aginor Asteriades has painted the frescoes.

As you head to the city center that is on your right and while you have walked a great part of Venizelou Street, on Papaflessa Street, you will come across the Bairakli Mosque (located on the crossing of the pedestrian zone of Papaflessa and Osis Streets).

From there you can either head up the Frourio Hill to take a break in one of the cafés or continue your exploration of the historical center on Venizelou Street. A few dozen meters later you will meet the Great Ottoman Bath (Buyuk Hamam), whose impressive dome of the lockers is easily discernible. The monument is now embedded in newer structures. A small part emerges under the small dome, which today is not visible.

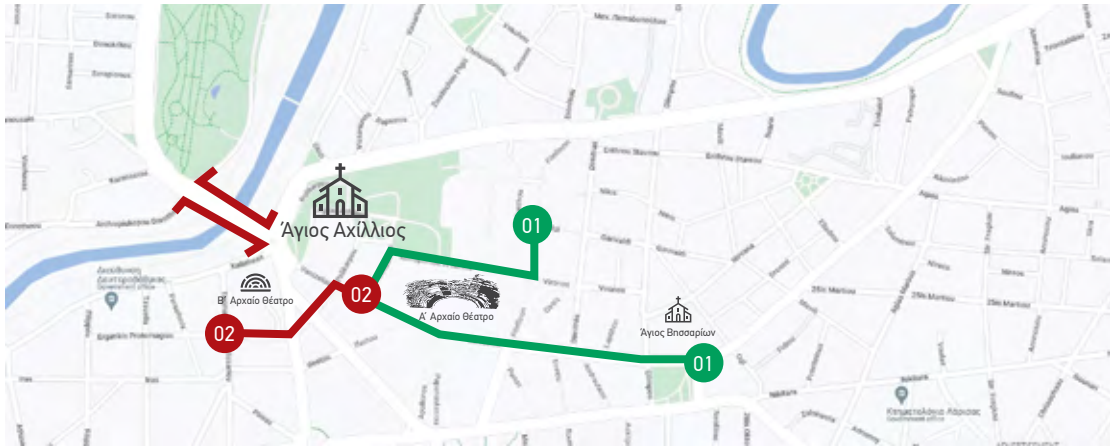
Walking along the pedestrian zone of Venizelou Street and after a short walk of about 2 minutes (following the Ottoman Bath) stands the First Ancient Theater of Larissa at the foot of Frourio Hill. The Frourio Hill however hides more.

Heading up north you will meet a complex of Early Christian monuments, mainly of the Byzantine and Ottoman period, brought to light in recent years. More specifically, at the Lamprouli Square, you will find the 15th century Bezesteni, as well as the preserved parts of the 6th century Early Christian baths, the Early Christian Basilica of St. Achilles and the Byzantine Basilica of the 11th – 12th century AD, along with burial grounds of the same period.

## Route 2

Finally, heading southwest, on the crossroads of Tagmatarchou and Protomagias Streets, you can visit the Second Ancient Theater of Larissa, whose construction began in the 1st century BC.

Its importance lies in addressing specific mentality needs of the ancient Larissians, since the First Ancient Theater, following the Roman conquest (i.e. after the 2nd century BC) was converted into an arena and could not be used for other kind of events..



## > Larissa, City for Bicycle

The inhabitants of the city love the bicycle, using it transportation but also for entertainment. Besides, the morphology of the city and the relatively short distances favor the use of the bicycle. In fact, since 2018, with a series of important urban regeneration projects, the city of Larissa is transforming into a model city for Greece in terms of sustainable mobility, with the aim of limiting the overuse of cars in the center and promoting alternative mobility solutions. Pedestrian streets, low traffic roads and an extensive network of bike lanes have changed the face of the city, further promoting bicycle use.





> Pappa's Mill



> Municipality Art Gallery



> Municipality Art Gallery

## > Larissa, City of Culture Sights and Cultural Venues

### B. Contemporary Larisa: Museums and Monuments

#### ▄▄▄▄ Diachronic Museum of Larissa

The new Museum of Larissa, of a showroom of 1,500 sq.m., in a 54 acres area in Mezourlo, includes characteristic samples of the Thessalian culture from the Paleolithic and Neolithic era, the Iron and Bronze Age, the Archaic, the Classical, the Hellenistic, the Roman, the Early Christian, the Byzantine to the Ottoman period and the 19th century. Unique figurines and pottery from the prehistoric settlements of Thessaly, ancient sculptures and funerary offerings as well as mosaics are among the exhibits.

#### ▄▄▄▄ Folklore - Historical Museum of Larissa

The museum hosts an exhibition that presents us with the modern Hellenic civilization and particularly the one of the Thessaly from the 16th century to the mid 20st. The museum presents the pre-industrial civilization in the rural Thessaly, as well as the urban life of Larissa. It aims at promoting and preserving the folk culture of Thessaly.

#### ▄▄▄▄ Museum of Military Veterinary Service

It is located in Nikolaos Plastiras Camp and is housed in two stone buildings. It is one of a kind for both Greek and European standards. Its exhibition includes material from the operation of the Veterinary Service of the Greek Army.

#### ▄▄▄▄ Museum of the National Resistance

It is in Ioustinianou Street, in the courtyard of the 5th High School of Larissa. It is housed in the building of the old powder magazine, formerly used as a prison.

#### ▄▄▄▄ Municipal Art Gallery of Larissa

The second and most important gallery in the country was founded in 1983 and operates in a modern building since 2003. Part of the G.I. Plastiras collection is exhibited there – 150 artworks of the 19th and 20th century as well as Heinrich Schliemann's furniture. Important personal and group exhibitions take place in its grand showrooms as well as some exhibitions in collaboration with other museums, galleries and institutions.



## ||||||| Pappa's Mill

Pappa's Mill is a building complex in Georgiadou Street. It is an industrial structure for milling built in 1883. It has been reconstructed twice due to fire damage and has been the most characteristic industrial building in Thessaly. Today, Pappa's Mill belongs to the Municipality of Larissa that has turned the complex into a cultural, educational, recreational, and conference center. The Mill Theater, putting up plays of the Municipal and Regional Theater of Larissa/ Thessalian Theater, the halls and headquarters of the Municipal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tiritomba Puppetry and the Doll Museum, the Municipal Ballet School, the summer cinema and a music stage called "Mill 1927".

## ||||||| Larissa, City of Hippocrates Hippocrates Monuments and Medical Museum

The father of Medicine, Hippocrates spent the last years of his life in the city of Larissa. His tomb came to light after a flood in the 19th century and is located in the exit of the ancient city to Gyroni. Near this spot, opposite Alcazar Park, a cenotaph and a modern monument of the statue of Hippocrates has been erected, while since 1986 the building also hosts the Medical Museum. The museum can be visited upon request.

## ||||||| Grove

You should not miss visiting the Grove of Larissa, a relaxation and recreation area, a lung of green at the banks of Peneios River, near the city exit to Tyrnavos. There you will find a playground as well as walking paths and bike trails.







> Sculpted River



> Alkazar Park



> Μουσείο Σιτηρών και Αλεύρων

### ||||| Alkazar Park

Alkazar Park is the largest and most important park of the city, with a history of more than 100 years, located next to the banks of the Peneus river and below the Frourio hill and the St. Achilles Church.

### ||||| Sculpted River

In Central Square and Tachidromeiou (Greek for Post Office) Square you can find two of the most impressive fountains of the city, which are works of the Larissian sculptor Nela Golanda, composing the project «Sculpted River». You will find the first part of the project on Tachidromeiou Square, with the waterfalls symbolizing the mountain springs of Peneios River. The spirit of the sculptural installation continues to the Central Square fountain, with the reappearance of the waters, which supposedly follow an underground route symbolizing the lowland river flow.

### ||||| Horse Monument

The horse has been for centuries the city symbol as well as the symbol for the local football team. At present, there are two modern monuments, of which the first is located below the Saint Achilles church, artwork by Miltos Papastergiou, and the second in Alcazar Park, artwork by Zacharias Bekiaris.

### ||||| Museum of Grain and Flour

The Museum of Grain and Flour is housed in the central building of the Mill of Papas. Through its different sections, the permanent exhibition presents the phases of the technological development of the Mill as well as the stages of the industrial process, from the moment the grains arrived in sacks until the final product of flour was dispatched to the market. The Museum designs and implements educational programs for children, adults and families, as well as school groups. It also organizes a variety of scientific and cultural activities, promoting and enhancing the continuous communication of the local community with the Museum.

### ||||| Jewish Holocaust Monument of Larissa

It is located in Jewish Square, which is just a few meters away from Central Square.

### ||||| Victory Monument

It was placed by the Greek army on the Frourio Hill in 1962, to commemorate the Greek victory in the 1940-1941 war. They chose the city of Larissa because it is located in the center of the country and thus the Greek people is honored for its struggle for freedom.

### ||||| National Resistance Monument

It is located in Alcazar Park and is the work by the Larissian sculptor Filolaos Tloupas. The Museum of National Resistance used to be housed beneath the monument, but has now been relocated to the building of the old powder magazine.



> Averofeios Agricultural School

### ||||| Municipal Conservatory of Larissa

It was established in 1930 and since 1993 it has been housed in the current building. Its infrastructure and activity has been a benchmark for the rest of the conservatories in the country.

### ||||| Cultural Stage

The under construction “Culture Stage» / O.I.E.L currently accommodates a series of cultural events on the ground floor.

### ||||| Averofeios Agricultural School

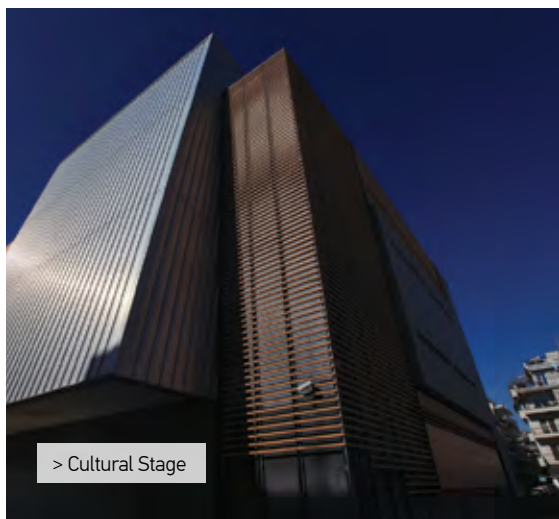
The complex of the Averofeios Agricultural School stretches in a land of approximately 40 hectares at the city exit to Trikala. It consists of 43 buildings, which since 1993 have been declared historical listed monuments. It is a legacy of Georgios Averof. The School was founded in 1901 and opened in 1911. It has been the first Agricultural University of the country and the work of M. Karagatsis «Colonel Liapkin» is a reference to this school.

### ||||| Peneios

In a 5-minute walking distance from the Central Square, it flows beneath the Saint Achilles Bridge on the inner branch of Peneios River. Enjoy the waterside walkways, the cycle paths, and the pedestrian bridges, away from the busy city center, yet so close. Directly related to the long history of the city, Peneios River is affiliated with athletic and cultural events, being next to the Alcazar Park and the Kipothearto, as well as other recreational areas.



> Municipal Conservatory



> Cultural Stage

## > Info

### Useful Phone Numbers

### Links

#### **Diachronic Museum of Larissa**

Ring road of Larissa  
Mezourlo, 41500, Larissa  
tel. 2413 508 242  
e-mail: efalar@culture.gr  
www.dml.culture.gr

#### **Folklore Museum of Larissa**

Farsalon & Gourgioti str.  
tel. 2410 239446 - 2410 239537  
www.liml.gr  
e-mail: limlmus@otenet.gr

#### **Open hours:**

Monday, Tuesday: 8:00-14:00, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 – 20:00, Saturday: 10:00-14:00, National holidays: Closed, Entrance fee: 3€ - Free for students and people with disabilities

#### **Military Museum of the Veterinary Army Office**

'General N. Plastiras' Camp First Army Headquarters  
tel. 2410 993352  
Monday - Friday 09:30-13:30 (upon request)

#### **Medical Museum**

Gr. Lamprakis Str. (across Alkazar Park)  
tel. 2413 500333 (Press Office of Larissa Municipality)  
**Visitation upon request**

#### **National Resistance Museum**

Ioustinianou Str., near the 5th High School of Larissa  
tel. 2410 280220  
**Open hours:** Tuesday-Friday 09:00-13:00 και 18:00-20:00, Saturday: 10:00-14:00, Monday and Sunday closed

#### **Pappa's Mill Larissa**

Culture & Science Deputy  
Mayorality of the Municipality of Larissa  
53 Georgiadou Str., Larissa  
Information on events and projects:  
tel. 2410 614449  
e-mail: adhm6@larissa.gov.gr  
www.facebook.com/LarissaCulture

#### **Doll Museum**

tel. 2410 251657  
**Open hours:** Saturday & Sunday

#### **Museum of Grain and Flour**

Information tel. 2410530083  
**Open hours:**  
Monday: closed, Tuesday: 10:00-14:00, Wednesday-Friday: 10:00-14:00, 18:00-21:00, Saturday: 10:00-14:00, Sunday: 10:00-14:00  
e-mail: mouseiomylou@larissa.gov.gr

#### **Municipal Art Gallery of Larissa**

2 G.Papandreou Str., 41334, Larissa  
tel. 2410621205, 2410623615  
e-mail: dplarisas@yahoo.gr  
www.katsigrasmuseum.gr  
**Open hours:**  
Tuesday-Friday 10:00-14:00 and 18:00-21:00  
Free Entrance

### HEALTH CARE

**General Hospital:** 2413 504484  
**General University Hospital:** 2410 617.000, 2413 501.000, www.uhl.gr  
**Emergency line:** 166, 2410 685214  
**Social Insurance Institute:** 2410 563115-118  
**Pharmacies:** 1434

### TRANSPORTATION

**Bus Station:** 2410 567600, www.ktellarisas.gr  
**Train Station:** 2410 590161  
**Larissa City Taxi:** 2410 200.200  
**Radio Taxi:** 2410 661.414  
**City Buses:** 2410 533.903, www.ktelast-larisas.gr

#### **Police Directorate of Larissa:**

2410 683111, 2410 683112

**Municipality of Larissa Call Center:** 2413 500200  
www.larissa.gov.gr



An aerial photograph of a lush green valley. A river flows through the left side of the valley, and a railway line runs parallel to it. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green forest. A white vertical line is positioned on the right side of the image, and a white diagonal line is in the bottom left corner.

## > EXCURSIONS

Larissa is an ideal starting point for excursions to nearby places with great historical, cultural and environmental interest



> George Schwartz House Museum, Ampelakia

## > **Ampelakia**

Ampelakia is a traditional community of the Larissa County, built in the northwest part of Ossa Mountain, at the entrance of Tempe Vale. The village is known for its great mansions, as it met with important financial growth in the past due to the processing and dyeing of yarn in a red colour produced by processing the madder plant (*Rubia tinctorum*).

### ||||| **Ampelakia Union**

At the end of the 18th century Ampelakia residents who were processing the red yarns decided to create a union to face foreign competition. First, only small unions were formed but in 1778 they all merged into one. Georgios Mavros was the president of the union. The Ampelakia Union is considered the first one worldwide. During its operation Ampelakia enjoyed great flourishing and development. The local households became more affluent and new mansions were built, many of which have been restored. The union lasted until 1912 when it was dissolved.

The main reasons for its dissolution were the invention of aniline that had the same results as madder but was cheaper, the arguments among the union members, and the high taxes imposed by Ali Pasha. Also, the decline of European economy due to the Napoleonic wars was a great hit for the union.

## **Useful Phone Numbers, Links**

Historical Community of Ampelakia  
Tempe Municipality

Tel. 2495 093.349

<http://hellas.teipir.gr/Thesis/Larisa/Ampelakia/greek/history.htm>



> Olympus

## > Ellassona, Olympus

Ellassona is amphitheatrically built on the foot of a hill range on the south side of Mount Olympus. Ellassonitis River (or Ellassonitikos) crosses the city, meets Titarisios River and flows into Peneios River, the biggest river in Thessaly. The river divides Ellassona into the old city, built on the foot of the Olympiotissa hill and is called Varosi, and the new city stretching on the right side of the river. The two city parts are connected by three bridges and an old arched bridge, an Ellassona landmark. Finally, a short drive brings you to Lake Kefalovryso. Mount Olympus is called the Parthenon of Greek nature with rare endemic plants, alpine landscapes of unique natural beauty and oneof- a-kind environmental paths; a monument of nature, an ideal field for Environmental Education

Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece (peak of Mytikas with an altitude of 2,918 meters) and is located on the borders of Thessaly and Macedonia. It was declared the first National Park in the country in 1938 and has been a "Conserved Ecosystem of the World Biosphere" of UNESCO since 1981. It is included in the European Guidelines for the "Bird Areas Important of the European Community" and for the European Natura 2000 Network. It is a very popular destination for hikers, climbers and mountaineering clubs, with a variety of routes and organized shelters. The main features of Olympus are the deep valleys and the steep slopes. The area is directly connected to the mythical Mount Olympus, as it is essentially the point from which many visitors begin the climb to Olympus while is also the end point of the Olympus Marathon.

### ||||| Sights

Holy Monastery of Olympiotissi  
Environmental Education Center Kissavos  
Ellassona

||||| Environmental Education Center  
Kissavos Ellassona  
Olympus - History – Ecology

The Environmental Education Center was founded in 2008 satisfying the need of the local community to explore the environmental wealth of the area. It supports environmental education programs aimed at raising students' awareness of sustainable management of natural resources and protection of living systems. At the same time, the Center supports the training needs of teachers active in the field of environmental education by organizing conferences, seminars and related workshops..



## Educational Visit on Mount Olympus

On field projects the students, through group activities, will observe, collect and record original data. Those observations and data will be written down in worksheets which will then be presented to the plenary of the students to reach their final conclusions. In general, this program's goal is for the students to experience the uniqueness of Mount Olympus while becoming sensitized towards protecting and preserving nature areas as wildlife reserves and as areas for exploration and interaction with nature.

### One Day Excursion Itinerary

**9.30am – 10.30am** Arrival at the Environmental Center Facilities  
Presentation of the programme activities  
Viewing of a Multimedia Application about Olympus

**10.30am – 1.30pm** visit to Olympus areas of exceptional natural beauty (field activities)

**1.30pm- 2.00pm** Assessment – end of excursion

## Three Day Excursion Itinerary

### Day 1

**4.00pm–8.00pm** Arrival at the Environmental Center Facilities

Presentation of the programme activities

Viewing of a Multimedia Application about Olympus

Visit to the nearby Olympus area (Livadi, Kokkinopilos and more)

### Day 2

**9.00am–2.00pm** Visit to Olympus areas of exceptional natural beauty (field activities)

Visit to archeological settlements of the Olympus area (Azoros, Pithio)


Visit to Near Olympus settlements, search for traditional and historical clues (Platanodasos, Old Sparmos and more), and field activities

### Day 3

**9.00am – 11.00am** Visit to traditional buildings and to the Folklore museum of Tsaritsani (small town near Elassona)

**11.00am–1.00pm** Activities at the Centre facilities (presentation of group projects, role playing)

**1.00pm–2.00pm** Assessment – end of excursion



> Olympus, throne of Zeus



## > Useful Phone Numbers, Links

### Environmental Education Center of Elassona

1 Vlachodimou Str., 40200, Elassona

Info: Anagnostakis Spiros

tel. 24930 29571

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### Conditions:

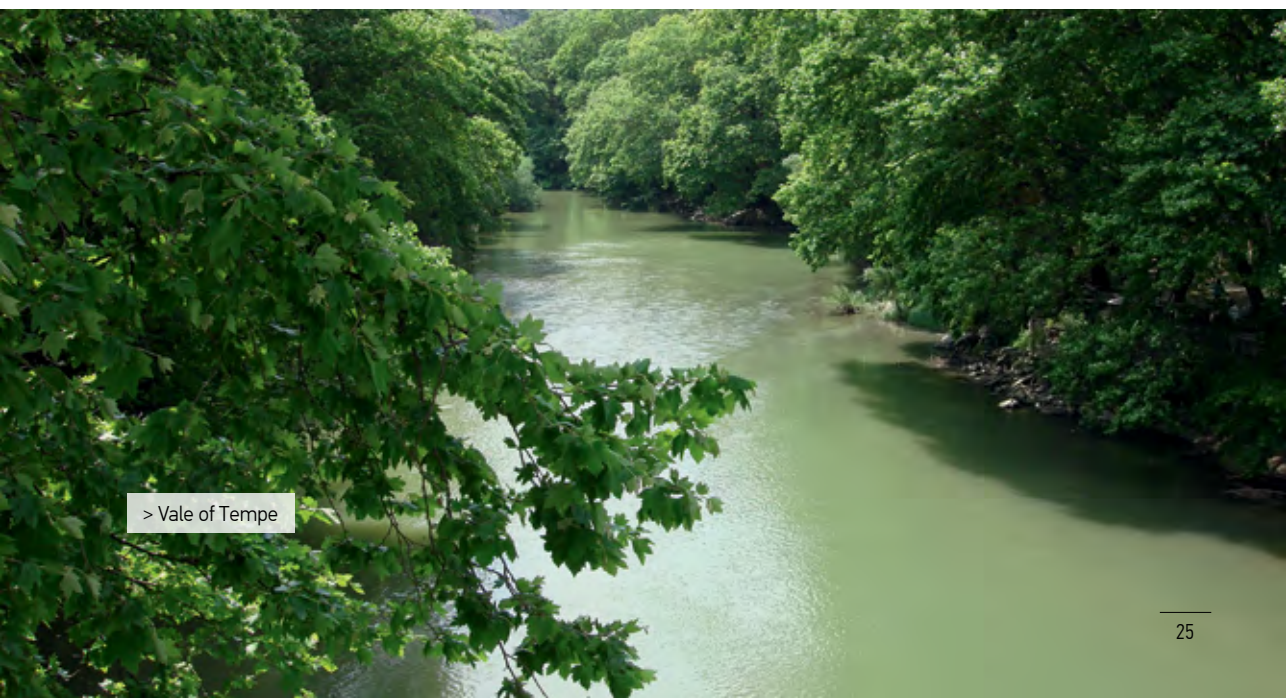
The school must comply with all stipulated terms and conditions of the institutional framework for the approval of the movement of the students and teachers accompanying them. During their visit the environmental school groups must have authorization for the transportation by the relevant Education Directorate and an official name list of the teachers and students (issued by the school and signed by the school headmaster). The teachers of the school groups are responsible for the safety and physical integrity of the students throughout the program.

The teachers are obliged to be informed on the specific features of the training program of the Centre in which they are to participate (kilometric travel distances, itinerary, appropriate clothing and footwear, etc.)

### Vale of Tempe / River Delta

Vale of Tempe is a valley of exceptional beauty between Olympus and Kissavos Mountains. It is the main crossing point from Macedonia to Thessaly and that is why the area was of great importance during ancient times.

The Vale is 10 kilometers long, while at its narrowest point a gorge of 25 meter width and 500 meters height is formed. Peneios River flows through it and empties in the Aegean Sea to create a delta of great biodiversity and ecological value.



> Vale of Tempe



> Larissa County Coast

### ||||| Larissa County Coasts

The Larissa coastline is about 50 km, beginning at the Milo's Glimeni beach (at the borders of Magnesia County) and reaching Messagala and Kastri Loutro (at the borders of Pieria County). In those 50 km there are more than 20 marvelous beaches and small gulfs in the shadow of Mavrovounio, Kissavos and Olympus Mountains. Many of those beaches are equipped with tourist facilities while others less or not at all equipped lie in the hands of Mother Nature. A particular tourist growth is evident on the beaches of Agiokampos - Sotiritsa - Velika (an uninterrupted beach of more than 10 km), Koutsoupia, Kokkino Nero, Stomio, Messagala and Kastri Loutro. Starting from south to north the beaches are: Milou Glimeni, Rakopotamos, Papakosta Coast, Polidendri, Agiokampos, Lower Sotiritsa, Velika, Vrahakia, Paliouria, Koutsoupia, Kokkino Nero, Tsiligiorgos, Platia Ammos, Kalivi, Pigadi, Psarolakas, Panagia, Stomio, Alexandrini/Strintzos, Kouloura, Messagala and finally Kastri Loutro.

### ||||| Meteora

Meteora is a complex of huge, dark-colored rocks of sandstone that tower outside the town of Kalambaka, near the first hills of Pindos and Chasia Mountain Ranges. The Meteora Monasteries built on the tops of some of the rocks, are today the second most important monastery complex in Greece after Mount Athos. Out of the thirty that have historically existed, today only seven are operative, which, since 1988, are listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. The wild and inaccessible landscape has been a convenient venue for Christian ascetics that settled in the area in an undefined time period. According to various Byzantinologists views the settlement had allegedly began before the 11th century. Meteora, due to its morphology, offered monasticism with a great shelter and has preserved cultural monuments and post-byzantine art work. At present, only six monasteries are open to visitors, namely: The male monastery of St. Nicholas Asmenos, or the Anapausa Monastery, the Rousanos or Arsani Monastery, the male monastery of the Transfiguration, known as the «Great Meteor» on the highest rock, the monastery of All Saints or Varlaam, the Holy Trinity Monastery (Meteora) and finally the female monastery of St. Stephanos (Meteora).



> Meteora

## |||||| Natural History Museum of Meteora

The Natural History Museum of Meteora is located in Kalambaka and hosts a rich collection of birds and mammals, as well as a complete museum of mushrooms, the first of its kind in Greece. About 300 species of animals are exhibited and several dozen kinds of mushrooms. The presentation of the collections through dioramas depicts with absolute accuracy, the animal and mushroom natural habitats. They are organized into theme groups and the exhibits are presented according to the type of ecosystem they belong to. An original presentation has been designed for the mushroom exhibition which includes the different phases of their growth, thus providing a complete view of how they develop in various ecosystems.

The museum offers tours for groups of visitors, Elementary Schools and High Schools, college students and other groups. Through tours, visitors become better acquainted with the museum exhibits and the environmental dangers. For the smooth operation of the Museum, tours are scheduled upon request. The excellent quality of the exhibits and the proper arrangement of the space bring an incredible outcome and make the museum visit not only a pleasant but also a productive experience.

### Useful Phone Numbers, Links

#### Natural History Museum of Meteora and Mushroom Museum

20 Pindos Str.  
PC 42200, Kalambaka  
tel. 24320 24959  
email: [info@meteoramuseum.gr](mailto:info@meteoramuseum.gr)  
[www.meteoramuseum.gr](http://www.meteoramuseum.gr)  
Info: Meteora, Kalambaka  
The Museum is open to the public daily





> Lake Plastiras

### ||||| Lake Plastiras

Lake Plastiras is an attraction for thousands of visitors all year round, as apart from dreamy beauty it boasts numerous impressive sights. There you are to find religious monuments of significant cultural and architectural interest, monasteries, museums, a dam, the Agrafa Mountain shelter, arched bridges and caves as well as locations with a panoramic, breathtaking view of Lake Plastiras.

### ||||| Plastiras Museum

Plastiras Museum is located in Mavrovouni village, dedicated to the life and work of “the Black Horseman”, with documents, photos and personal items, thus giving the visitor the chance to discover both known and unknown aspects of Nikolaos Plastiras' life. After hard efforts, significant archival material referring to Nikolaos Plastiras has been obtained. In particular, the museum came into 75 newspapers headlines on Nikolaos Plastiras, his election campaign speeches in 1951, 123 prewar articles dating back to 1922, a number of one-sheet newspapers with articles on N. Plastiras, the Dekemvriana and the Prime Minister's proclamation in January 1945, 45 caricatures dated between 1945 and 1950 that vividly depict the era. Since 1994, the legendary black horseman's home village hosts the Nikolaos Plastiras Historical Studies Center, takes up significant projects. The Museum is open daily and is visited by schools, associations and individuals from all over the country.

### ||||| Belokomiti Educational Forest

It is woodland whose basic infrastructure serves roaming, hiking and setting up environmental educational programmes. Belokomiti Educational Forest is part of the public forest complex of Agrafa Mountain and stretches in an area of 5,688 acres. Special hiking routes have been flagged in the forest, aiming at the observation of significant natural environment elements as a means of education and alternative forms of entertainment. Their whole length is 15km. Six different ecologic paths have been created in the University Forest. One of the six leads to the Observatory and an amazing view. A very detailed record of the forest has taken place (European Network, Natura 2000), and thus consists a valuable source for both educational institutions and the occasional visitors.

### ||||| Environmental Education Centers

In the lake area there are two Environmental Education Centers (E.E.C.), in Mouzaki and in Neochori. This proves the rich ecosystem of the region.

### Useful Phone Numbers / Links

Lake Plastiras  
Development and Culture Company  
[www.limniplastira.gr](http://www.limniplastira.gr)

Environmental Education Centers  
Mouzaki Karditsa  
tel:24450 43242  
email: [kpekardi@sch.gr](mailto:kpekardi@sch.gr)  
<http://www.kpem.gr>

### Environmental Education Centers Neochori

The center operates with the scientific staff support by ANKA SA, who provide their services voluntarily.

**The E.E.C. in Mouzaki** has been active since 1996 and is housed in the Student Home. It offers space for lectures and seminars, a library, computer equipment, chemistry, biology, photography and art labs. It also offers accommodation and recreational areas. It organizes environmental education programmes, seminars and workshops for students, for teachers and individuals on the following subjects: Forests, Wetlands, Ecotourism, Energy, Nutrition and Environment, Noise Pollution, Recycling etc.

**The E.E.C. in Neochori** is housed in the old, stone school of the town and promotes the scientific investigation of the natural and human environment through environmental education programs. It offers laboratory and presentation equipment for education and research in the fields of land, forest and lake ecosystems. Its programmes include: Water - Water lands, and Land Ecosystems. It organizes tours and educational projects for schools and other groups.v.

### ANKA SA

Brouziotis Theofilos  
tel: 24410 42363 (ext 209)  
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email: [tsitra@anka.gr](mailto:tsitra@anka.gr)  
[www.anka.gr](http://www.anka.gr)

### Botanical Garden

Papantonis Dimitris  
Mobile: 6973 999013



> Pedestrian bridge, Peneios - Alkazar

### Accommodation in Larissa

Larissa, due to its central location on the map is an ideal place for accommodation and with an easy access to the surrounding area. At the same time, the city offers a variety of entertainment options any time of the day - coffee shops, taverns, restaurants, bars, music scenes and theaters, most of which are located near the two large city squares (Central Square and Tachidromeiou Square) and Frourio Hill.

### Suggested Visits

#### A. 2 nights-3 days

Day 1 Arrival in Larissa - city tour  
Day 2 Elassona - Mount Olympus  
Day 3 Ambelakia – Vale of Tempe - departure

#### B. 3 nights -4 days

Day 1 Arrival in Larissa - city tour  
Day 2 Elassona - Mount Olympus  
Day 3 Ambelakia – Vale of Tempe  
Day 4 Meteora and Lake Plastiras – departure

#### C. 4 nights -5 days

Day 1 Arrival in Larissa - city tour  
Day 2 Elassona - Mount Olympus  
Day 3 Ambelakia – Vale of Tempe  
Day 4 Meteora or Lake Plastiras  
Day 5 Larissa County Coasts – departure

#### \*Note

The above visits include the most important monuments and sights of the area. Visits can be customized based on the needs of a particular student group.

Brochure design and photo gallery by Giannis Petrou / [www.korax.gr](http://www.korax.gr)

English Translation by Ioanna Kogiou / [ykogios@gmail.com](mailto:ykogios@gmail.com)

## Larissa Hotels

hotel	category	telephone	website
IMPERIAL	*****	2410 687.600	<a href="http://www.larissaimperial.com">www.larissaimperial.com</a>
DIVANI PALACE	*****	2410 252.791	<a href="http://www.divanis.com">www.divanis.com</a>
PARK	****	2410 537.161	<a href="http://www.parkhotellarisa.gr">www.parkhotellarisa.gr</a>
OLYMPUS TERRA	****	2410 539.939	<a href="http://www.olympus-terra.gr">www.olympus-terra.gr</a>
COMFORT SUITS & ROOMS	****	2410 614.040	<a href="http://www.comfortlarissa.gr">www.comfortlarissa.gr</a>
ASTERAS	***	2410 534.772	<a href="http://www.asterashotel-larisa.gr">www.asterashotel-larisa.gr</a>
GRAND	***	2410 257.711	<a href="http://www.grandhotel-larisa.gr">www.grandhotel-larisa.gr</a>
DIONISSOS	***	2410 230.101	<a href="http://www.dionissoshotel.gr">www.dionissoshotel.gr</a>
METROPOL	***	2410 537.161	<a href="http://www.hotelmetropol.gr">www.hotelmetropol.gr</a>
ACHILLION	**	2410 537.401-3	<a href="http://www.achilliohotel.gr">www.achilliohotel.gr</a>
HELENA	**	2410 287.461	<a href="http://www.helena.gr">www.helena.gr</a>
ACROPOL	**	2410 537.088	
DIETHNES	**	2410 234.210	<a href="http://www.hotel-diethnes-larisa.webnode.gr">www.hotel-diethnes-larisa.webnode.gr</a>
PANTHEON	*	2410 234.810	<a href="http://hotelpantheonlarisa.blogspot.gr/">http://hotelpantheonlarisa.blogspot.gr/</a>





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