



This season the mountains are calling!



TravelTale

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TravelTale

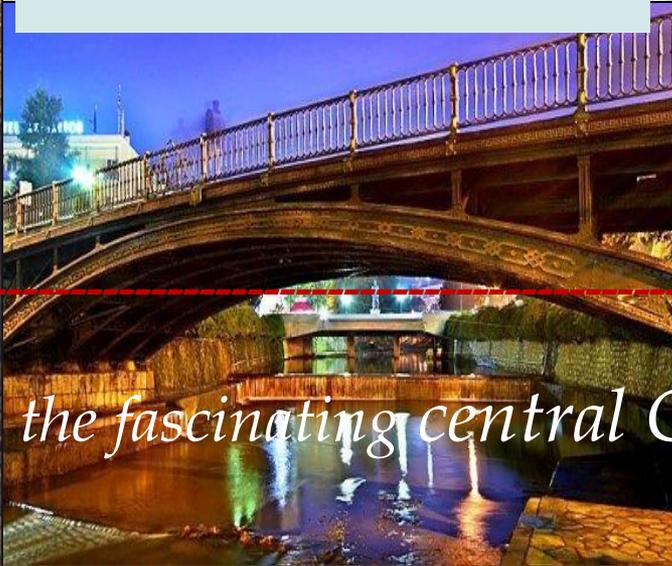




Ideal destination for autumn -winter!



500 €



7 DAYS

A journey to the fascinating central Greece and more!

**TRIKALA- METEORA- KALAMBAKA -PLASTIRAS
LAKE-PILI -NERAIDOHORI-ASPROPOTAMOS**

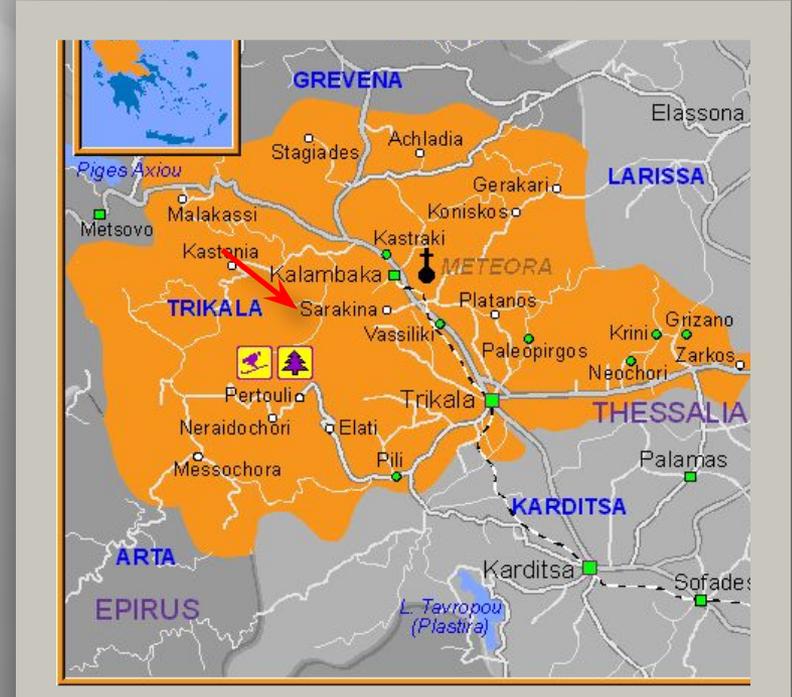
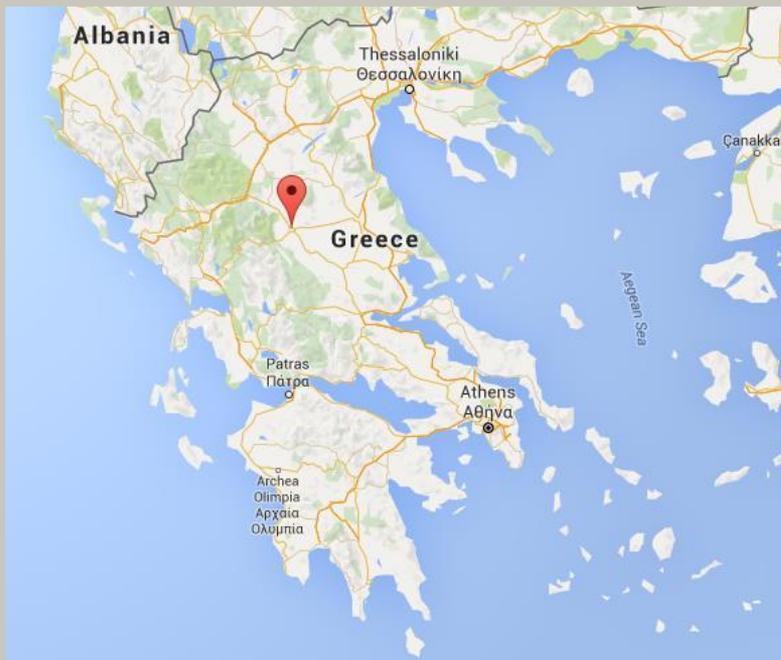
(travel

expenses from/to the city excluded)



Dionisios Repousis

Where we are



HOW CAN YOU REACH ATHENS AIRPORT

Direct flights from all big European cities

To book your flight look at:

<https://www.skyscanner.net/flights-to/ath/airlines-that-fly-to-athens-international-airport.html>

To get from the airport to Athens:

http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/travelling_in_greece/from_the_airport_to_athens

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TRANSPORTATION TO TRIKALA FROM/TO ATHENS

By Train: about 6 or 7 train routes per day to and from Athens

<http://www.trainose.gr/en/>

By bus: About 8 routes per day

http://ktel-trikala.gr/?module=default&pages_id=24&lang=e
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TRIKALA ANANTI CITY RESORT HOTEL



<http://anantiresort.gr/index.html>

Located on a hillside at the outskirts of Trikala, with breathtaking, haunting views that embrace the plain of Thessaly and the surrounding areas **Ananti** is a modern, stylish and luxurious **five star hotel**.

6 nights in a double room **for 300E** (per person) (Rate includes breakfast and free access to outdoor pool, indoor heated pool, sauna , hamam and gym).

The agency will be responsible for the transportation of the group by a mini van!
(in the price)



Dinner at the hotel's exquisite restaurant!



On the roof of the hotel discover Oltre Bar/Restaurant where the stunning view of the city of Trikala will steal your heart from the first moment. With a **broad range of Mediterranean specialties** and a well-constructed **wine list**, A unique dining experience!



2nd Day : Cultural tour of Trikala, the city of bicycles!

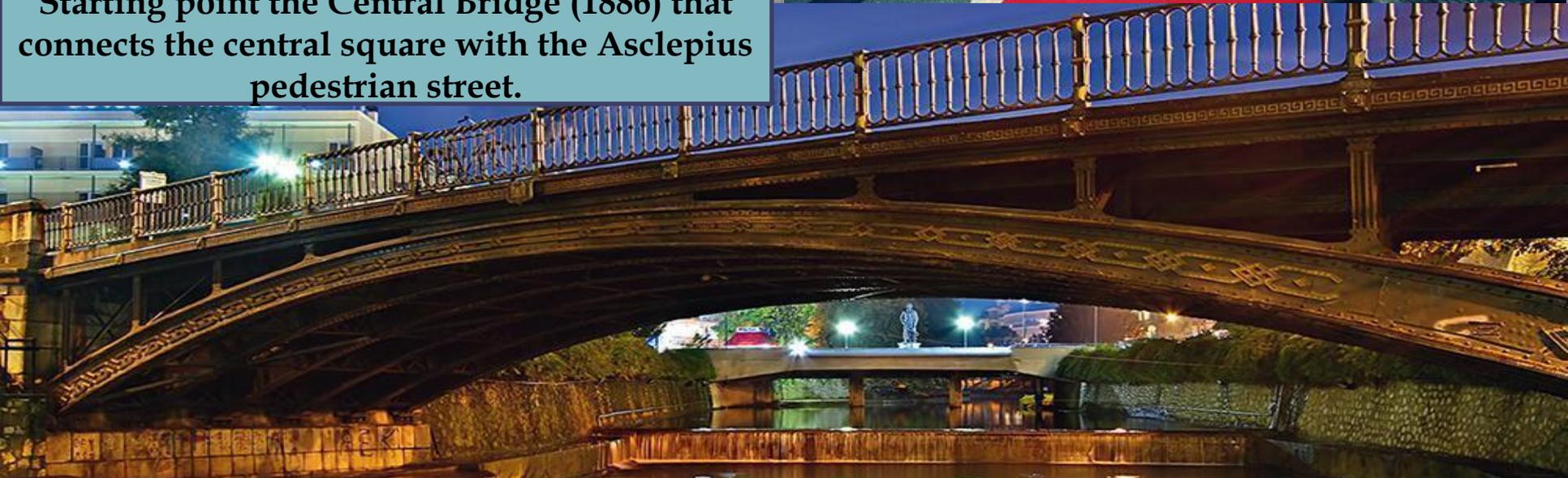
*Bicycles
for free!*



Guided tour of the city by bikes!
Three bike paths run through the
city and bicycles for public use are
even provided by the municipality
at certain info points.



Starting point the Central Bridge (1886) that
connects the central square with the Asclepius
pedestrian street.





We will ride our bikes across the overgrown with trees banks of *Lethaeus river* until we reach the **mosque of Osman Shah** (or the Koursoum Mosque because of its lead roof) of the **16th century**, the work of the famous Sinan Pasha and we go on with the **Tsitsanis Museum**, which combines three monuments in one: **The twin Ottoman Baths** of Osman Shah on the ground floor, the story of the famous composer Tsitsanis on the first floor and the city's **old prisons** until 2006. Both these monuments nowadays host exhibitions of art and other events.

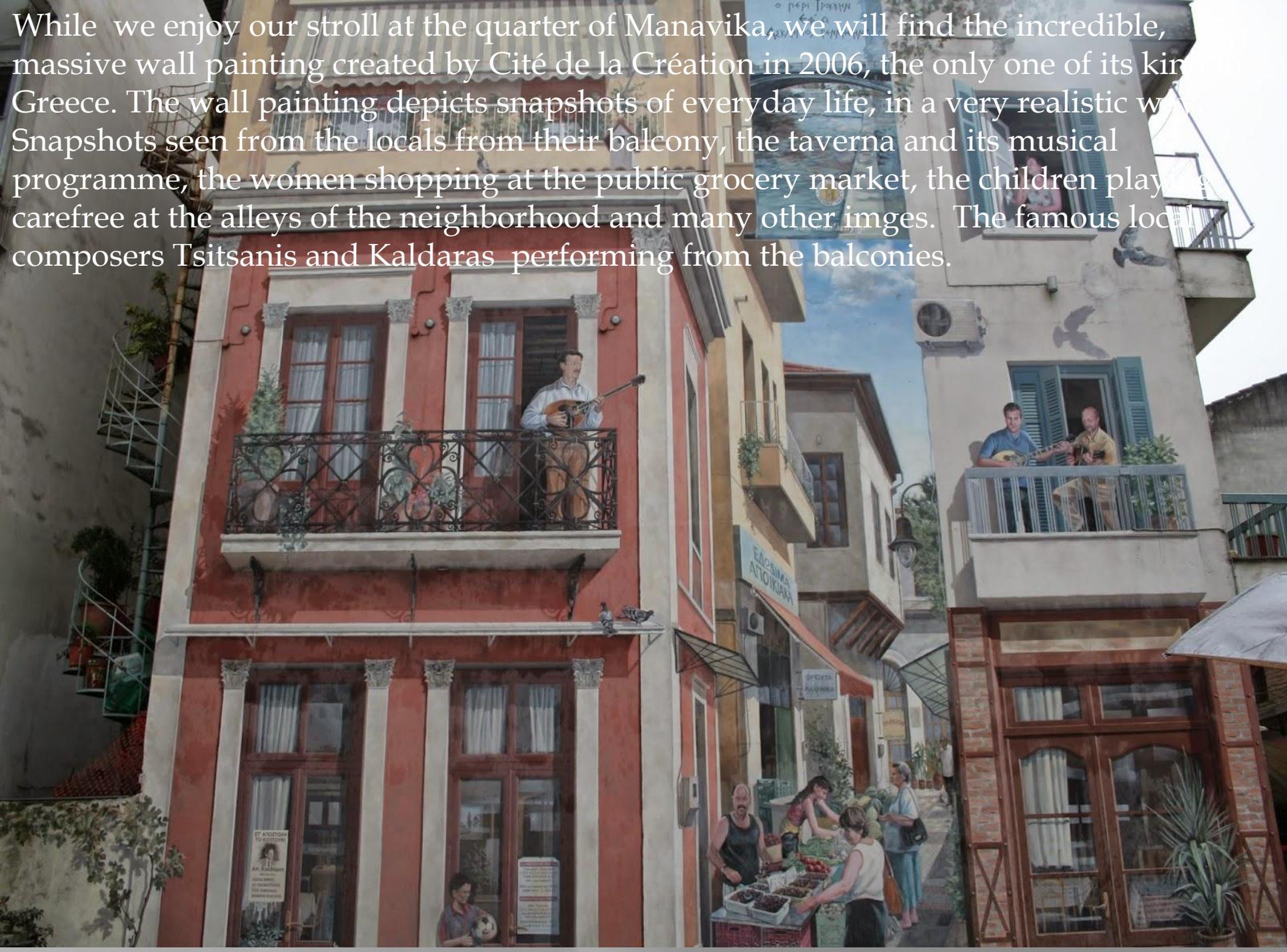
Especially the Tsitsanis Museum is worth a visit, dedicated to Vasilis Tsitsanis, one of Greece's most important composers and songwriters who hailed from Trikala and was particularly influential in the field of "Rebetika", a form of folk music often referred to as the 'Greek blues'.



On our way back we move towards the northeastern part of the city through the two main areas that constitute the old town of Trikala, Manavika and Varousi. The Manavika district formerly housed the market, while today it mainly houses traditional taverns, restaurants and cafes.



Manavika
district



While we enjoy our stroll at the quarter of Manavika, we will find the incredible, massive wall painting created by Cité de la Création in 2006, the only one of its kind in Greece. The wall painting depicts snapshots of everyday life, in a very realistic way. Snapshots seen from the locals from their balcony, the taverna and its musical programme, the women shopping at the public grocery market, the children playing carefree at the alleys of the neighborhood and many other images. The famous local composers Tsitsanis and Kaldaras performing from the balconies.

For lunch you can choose from a wide variety of the traditional restaurants with Mediterranean specialties. Suggested: "Ladofanaro", "Tsikali", "Katogi".



Rabbit with olives, rice and potatoes.

A variety of grilled meat.



Don't miss the grilled pleurotus mushrooms!



A boat ride along Lithaios River .



In the afternoon a boat ride in the picturesque **Lithaios River** (named after **oblivion**) with its clean, cool air and swans and ducks, facing the statue of Asklepius, the famous doctor of antiquity, and the waterfalls of the central bridge!

Free time for coffee or dessert at the Asklipios pedestrian street or at Narcissos café at Manavika.



Indulge in the famous traditional Greek coffee accompanied with **loukoumi** or **spoon sweets!**

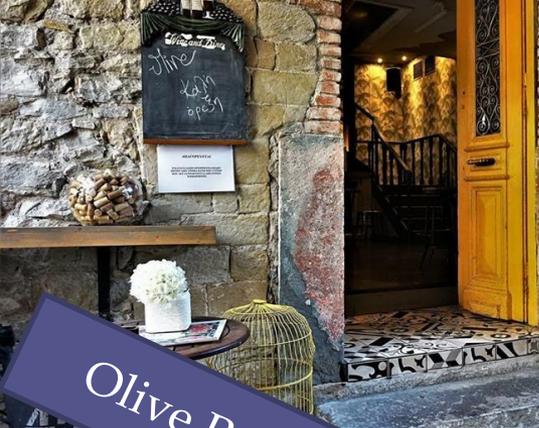
Try the most popular treats throughout Greece during the Christmas Holidays **Kourabiedes** (Sweet butter cookies) and **Melomakarona** (Greek honey cookies)



Syrup desserts like **Kataifi** or **baklava**



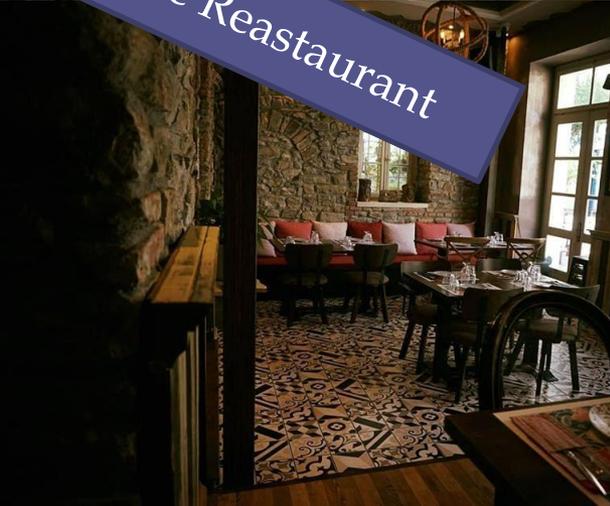
Free time for shopping or rest back at the hotel



Dinner with live Greek music.
Dance sirtaki and Hasapiko!



Olive Reastaurant



3rd day: Continuing the Cultural tour of Trikala

Visit to the medieval fort of Trikala, the city's most famous monument and landmark which lies on the northeast side of the city. The imposing Fortress of the Tower and the Clock are its most important section. The old fort, which had suffered significant damage, dates back to the Classic and Hellenistic eras and was first restored in the 6th century AD, in the years of Emperor Justinian. It was last repaired by the Turks after the revolutions in Thessaly in 1854 and 1878. Inside the wall surrounding the fort, the Byzantine churches of Archangel Michael and the Transfiguration were built. An underground water-supply reservoir that starts from Kalambaka ends at the third and highest cornice of the fort. You can climb the tower via the old stone staircase and reach the clock in order to admire the view of the whole city and even Meteora rocks!

The clock tower



The medieval fortress



Walking around THE OLD TOWN OF TRIKALA

A picturesque image is composed by the old traditional area **Varousi** which spreads along the east side of the Fort. It was the neighborhood of the noblemen of the city. The old Varousi district lends itself to strolls through the narrow streets amid the traditional houses with their *sahinisia* – extensions of the first floors of the houses similar to northern European ‘erker’ bay windows. Here Vasilis Tsitsanis was inspired the famous song

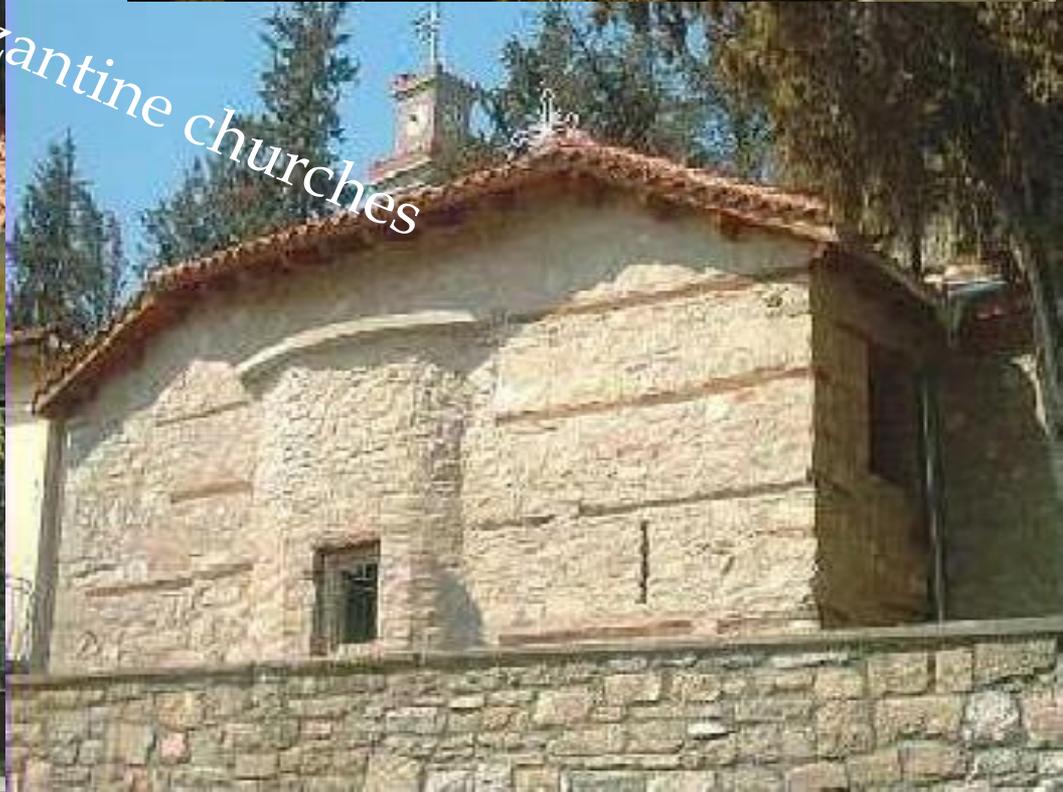
“*Sakaflias was killed.*” The story of Sakaflias
populace and especially to Trikala.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ve9ARvRZqs



Going down the hill of the Fortress and through Varousi we will find most of the **city's churches** – some of them being very old. There are churches which date back to the 16th century.

St John the Forerunner (1674), St Anargiroi (1575), St Ioannis the Merciful, Panteleimonas and St Dimitrios (end of 16th-beginning of 17th century) when the city was under Turkish occupation. **St Episkipsi (1863-1877), Virgin Mary Revealed (1849-1853) and St Paraskevi (1843).**



Visit to the Kliafa History and Cultural Center or The old Soda Factory of Kliafa family,

a local maker of fizzy drinks since 1926. Here one can see exhibits from Trikala's industrial and historical past, black and white photographs of the city from times gone by, as well as a collection of old labels and a wide range of bottle caps from soft drinks from around the world.



Responsible for the tour of the exhibits will be Mrs Maroula Kliafa, a famous, prize awarded novel writer and storyteller! If you are lucky enough you will indulge in the narration of traditional fairytales!



Lunch at the superb tavern "Hani"

Free time for shopping and rest.

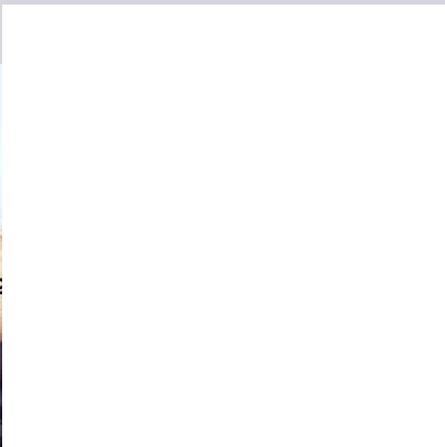
Lunch at "Hani". The building is a perfectly restored old inn. Food inspired from the Greek cuisine. Try one of the inspirational huge fresh salads and do try something from the vast variety of appetizers (the local cheese "galotyri", the Greek delicassy "dolmadakia"). The wine list is extensive and contains only Greek wines.



The roast calf's head ("mosharokefali")



Pork fried with leeks



The roasted egg-plant).



Roasted mastelo cheese,

After lunch: A half-day visit to the Mill of the Elves



In a truly magical place in the city of Trikala and the old " Matsopoulos Mill", the magic of Christmas comes into life for the 7th consecutive year!
This year, from the **end of November till the 7th of January**, a new fairytale will take us on a journey through time!

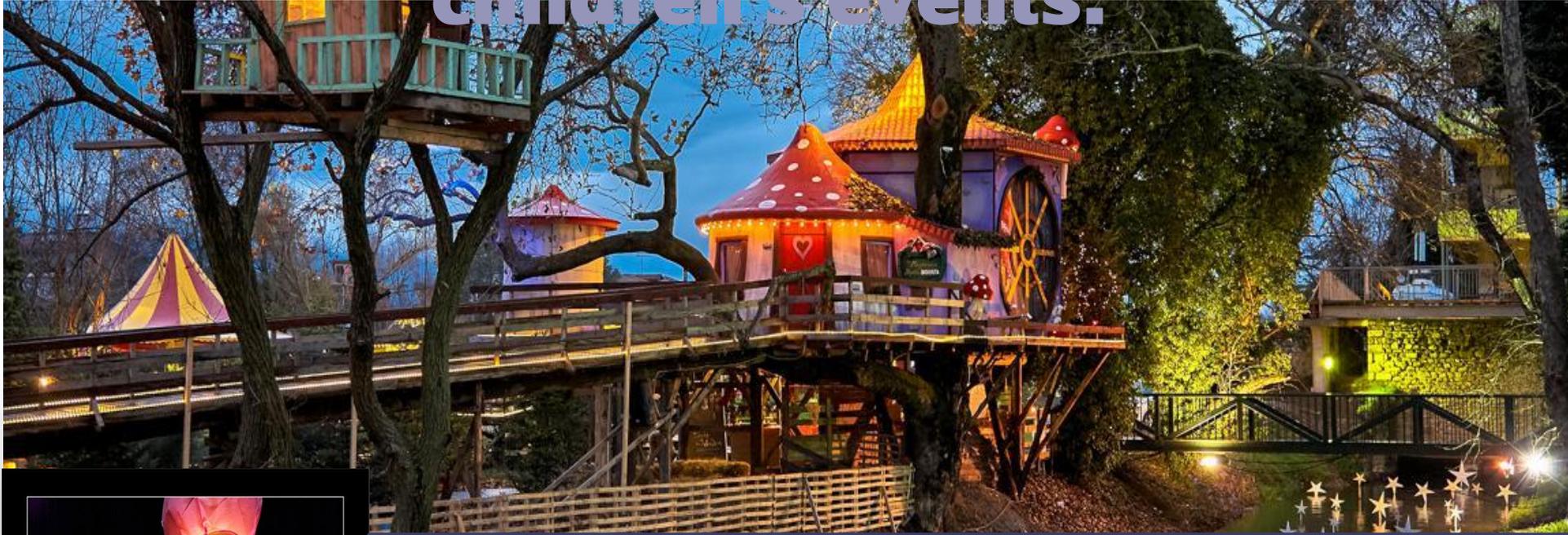
<https://www.facebook.com/milosxotikon.gr/>
<http://www.milosxotikon.gr/home/the-mill-of-elves/>

**The Mill of the Elves: The most popular Christmas park
The absolute Christmas destination in Greece**

*Free
Entrance
Free
Activities*



Every day surprises, artistic activities, concerts, dance and children's events.



Buy souvenirs, grab a bite for dinner or taste the "Farsala Halva", a local specialty or donuts with honey!



4th day: Visit to Plastiras Lake: an ideal destination for each season (a name born by the former Prime Minister of Greece Nikolaos Plastiras)

Plastiras Lake is artificial and was created after the construction of the dam. A magical place with forests, in which Fairies and the Sleeping Beauty found their shelter. A place for visitors who seek peace and serenity, but also for those who look for adventure, combining mountain and lake activities.



The villages within the region of Agrafa organize a great sum of cultural events and activities throughout the year, each one entailing its unique beauty and interest.



Horse riding, archery, mountain bike on the shores of the lake



A visit to the post-Byzantine church "Panagia Pelekiti" at Karditsa. Tradition says that the name "Pelekti" is due to the fact that in order for the Monastery to be built on the almost vertical rock it was necessary to first chop the rock with wooden tools after the suggestion of the Virgin, according to the dream of the masters.



In the village of Mesenikola: the Winery and the Wine Museum

Mesenikolas is one of the three villages where the Grape variety "black Mesenikola" is grown. There are also visiting wineries. At the Museum of "Wine and Vine", one of the most interesting museums in Greece, you will learn a lot about the production of wine.



At Lake Plastira we will walk along the streets of the picturesque villages, enjoy the tranquil view of the lake and taste the traditional pies from Thessaly, well-done meat and fillet of fresh trout.

“plastos”

Greens
pie

Traditional taverns

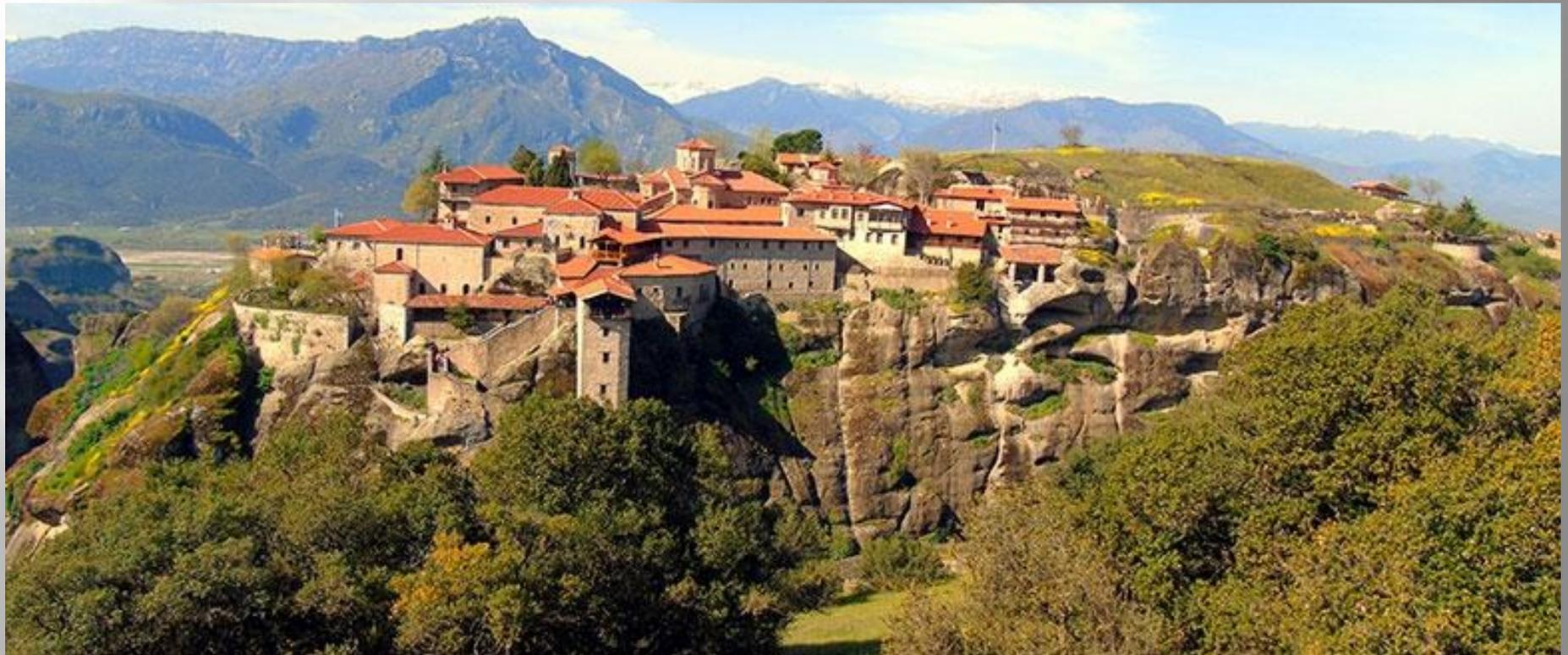
Fresh trout



Dinner at the hotel. A night full of tradition! Entertainment with local folk dances! You can even give it a try!



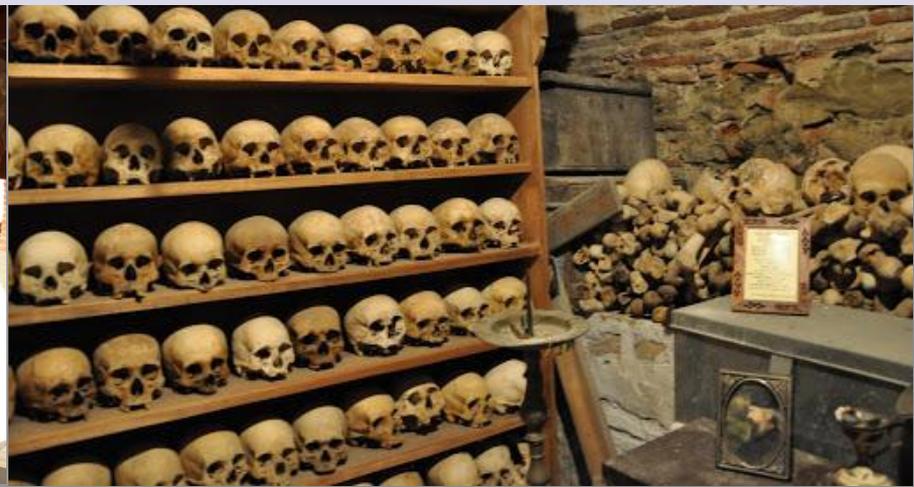
5th Day: Visit to **The Great Meteoron Monastery**, established around **1340** by **St. Athanasios Meteorites**. He ascended the highest pinnacle - legend says he was carried up by an eagle. From the southeast corner of the monastery, there are fine views to the neighboring **pinnacle**. This was once home to **Ypselotera** ("Highest of the Heavens"), the highest of the Meteora monasteries.



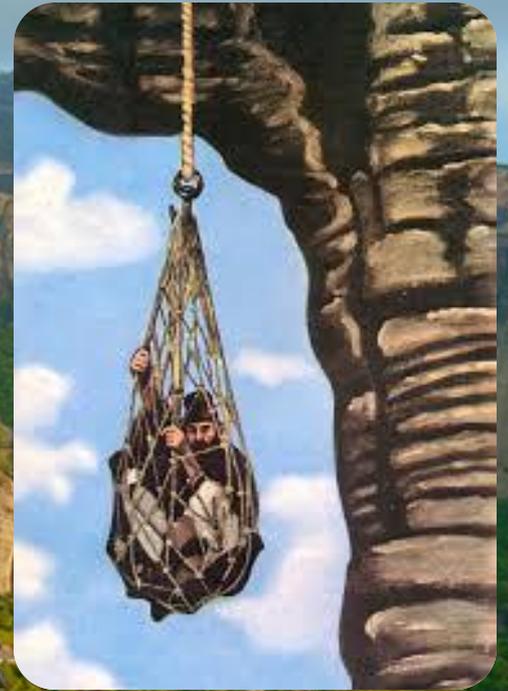


What to See:

The original hermitage of St. Athanasios, the Church of the Transfiguration, the frescoes of the *katholikon*, the excellent museum with wood-carved crosses, rare icons and important religious manuscripts, the adjacent kitchen, the wine cellar, full of wooden wine barrels and other agricultural supplies, the sacristy where skulls and bones of previous residents are neatly stacked on shelves.



Varlaam Monastery!



The Holy Monastery of Varlaam is the second biggest monastery. It is located opposite of the Great Meteoron Monastery and it was founded in the mid 14th century by the exercitant Hosios Varlaam.

This is the monastery where you can visit the tower of the old preserved net, used by the first monks for their ascent and descent from the rock, until it was "God's will to have it replaced"!

Lunch in Kastraki village! Choose from a wide variety of traditional restaurants



Pastitsio, a Greek and Mediterranean baked pasta dish that contains ground beef and bechamel sauce.

Greece's national dish – Moussaka! (with eggplants and potatoes.)



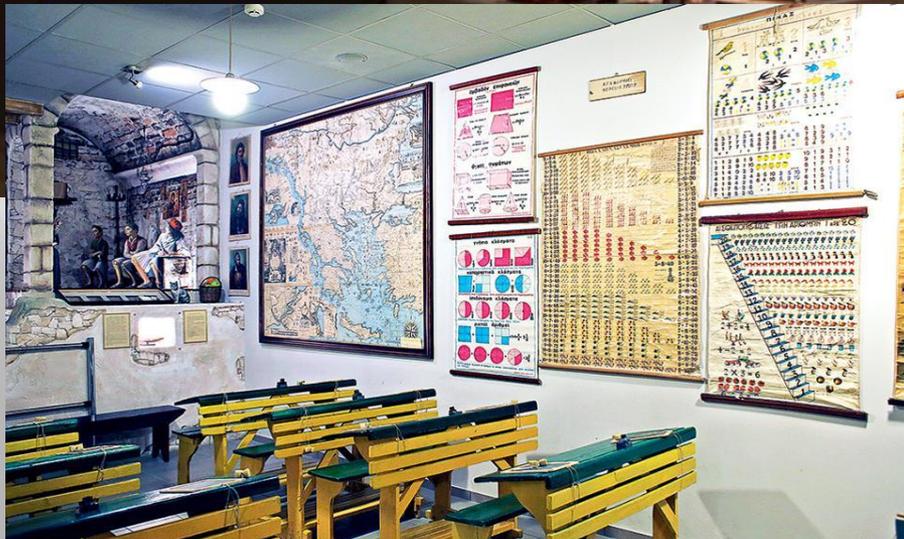
Lamb or pork chops!





A visit to the Museum of Hellenic Culture in Kalambaka

A hidden gem that houses a private collection, displaying true historical treasures from the last two centuries of the Greek Educational System, embellished with a few interesting activities. There is a special room devoted to Meteora. Of particular interest to educators, pupils, or anyone with a keen mind...



<http://www.bookmuseum.gr/en/>

6th day A visit to the nearby arched bridges!

- After breakfast departure and through a beautiful route from the mountain range of Koziakas we visit Pili where on the north bank of the river Portaikos stands the basilica of **Porta Panagia** that dates back to 1264.

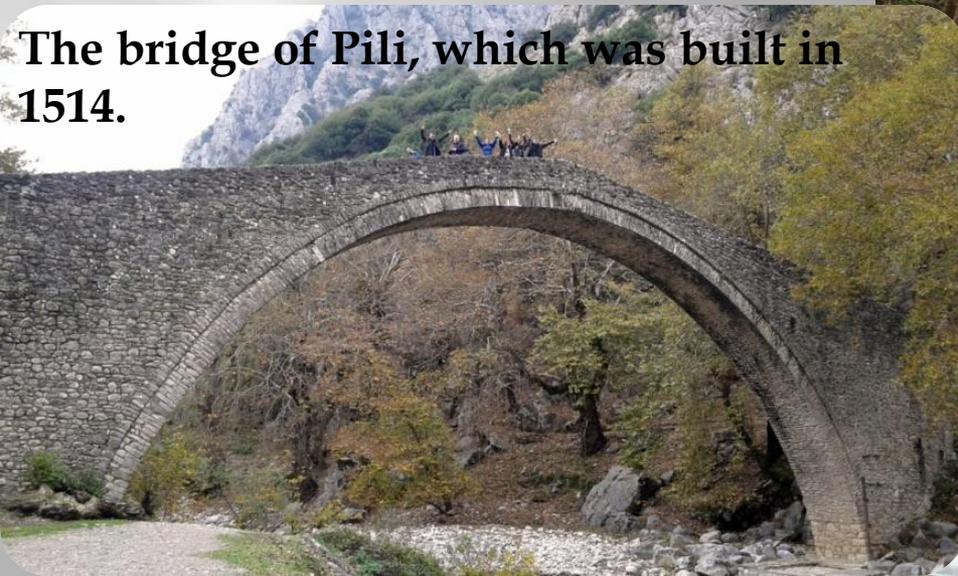
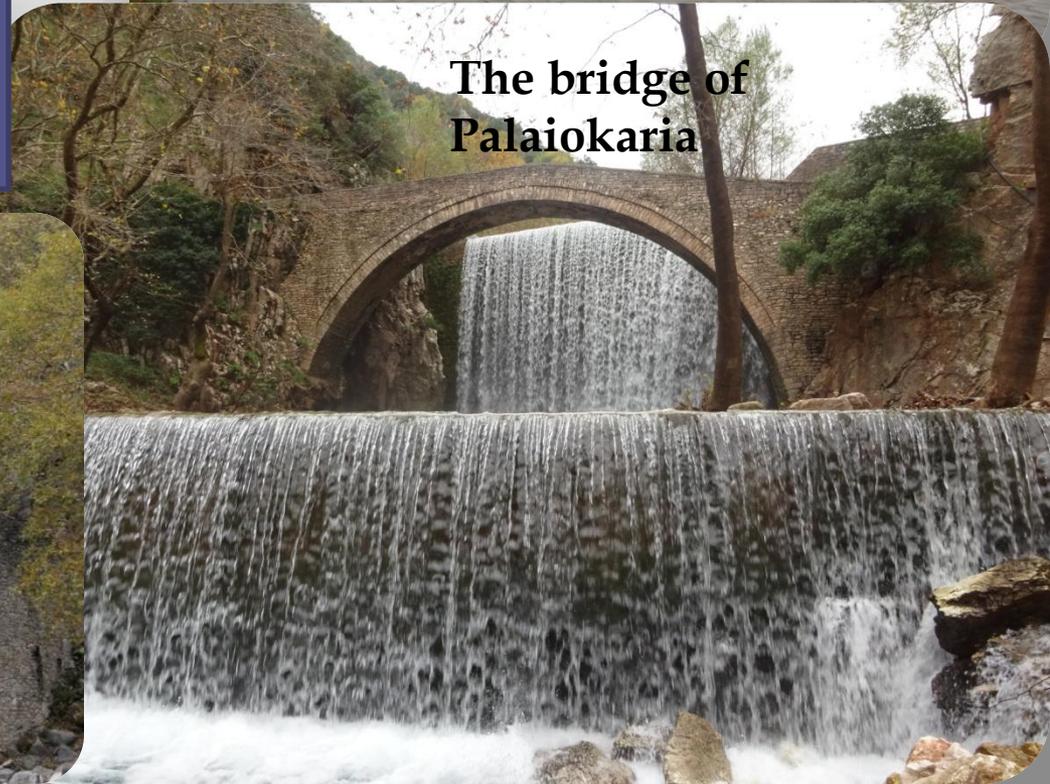
The imposing and beautiful bridge of **Palaiokarya**, with its two artificial waterfalls, stands there since the 16th century.

The bridge of Pili, which was built in 1514.

Church of Porta Panagia, late 13th century.



The bridge of Palaiokaria

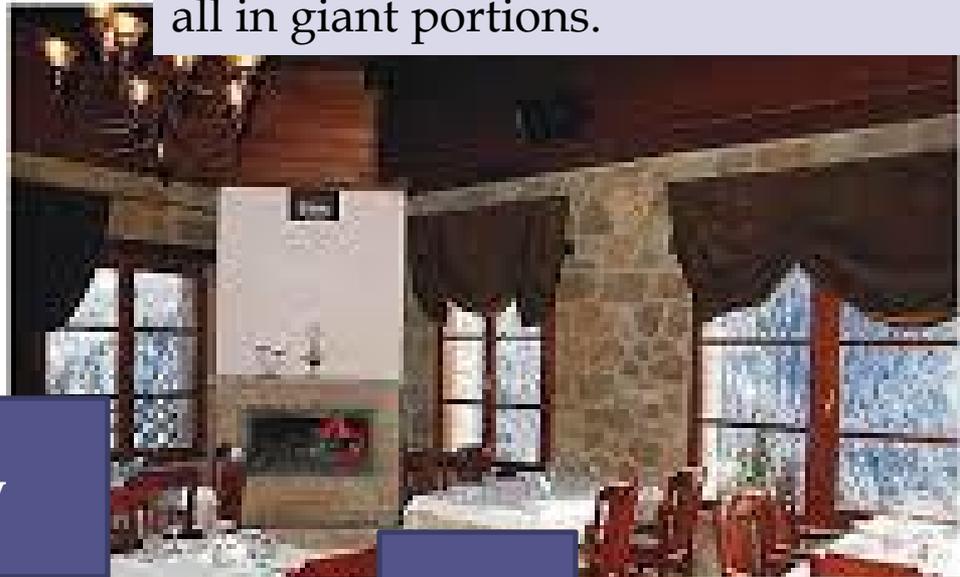


We will drive to the village "Neraidochori". Lunch in a traditional tavern. The locals say the name "Neraidochori" was derived from old legends and traditions of fairies, elves and ghosts that appeared in the forests in the evening, while a more "constrained" view indicates that the village owes its name In Mount Neraida at the foot of which it is built.



Sausages

Wild boar, deer stew, calf soup, soup stew with cheese, anything cooked perfectly and all in giant portions.



Trahanas with chicken



Deer stew



Wild boar



Church of exaltation of the Holy Cross in Doliana.

Built at an altitude of 1150 meters in the forest of South Pindos and after a beautiful route alongside Aspropotamos, lies the monastery between Doliana and Krania. What makes the church distinguish is its many cupolas, which give it a real Byzantine magnificence. Today there are twelve cupolas. It is an extraordinary post-Byzantine church and impressive edifice of great architectural



On our way back we will have plenty of time in Kalambaka city for souvenirs and dinner.

Optional: A visit to the Museum of Natural History of Meteora & Mushrooms Museum

Krania is the largest village of the complex at 1.150 meters altitude. There you will find a Folklore Museum too.



7th day Departure



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of TRIKALA

Links

<http://www.greece-is.com/5-great-things-about-trikala/>

http://www.arttable.gr/estiatoria_ellada_limnh-plasthra/article/8249/limnh-plasthra-oi-kaluteres-protaseis-faghtou

<http://www.milosxotikon.gr/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Mill-of-Elves-Presentation-.pdf>

<https://www.visitmeteora.travel/gr/what-to-see>