

## Exploring the best of Thessaly



### Athens - Lake Plastira - Elati - Aspropotamos - Meteora - Athens

**Duration:** 4 days

**Level:** Easy


**Tour Pace:** Moderate

**Tour comfort:** Standard

**Suitable for:** All travelers

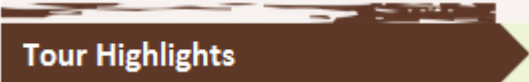
**Available:** All year round



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Are you looking for a short, yet trully **revitalizing escape** in a unique flourishing landscape? The region of **Thessaly** is your ideal destination! Easily accessible both from Athens and Thessaloniki, the area features with wonderful, **diverse landscapes** of immense natural beauty, **spectacular mountains, lush valleys, rivers and lakes**, offering numerous opportunities for nature-based activities. Besides the stunning natural setting, travelers in Thessaly can explore the **UNESCO Worldwide Heritage Site of Meteora**, visit **folkloric villages** and get a **real taste of Greek culture, cuisine and history**. Do you want to combine your getaway to nature with? If yes, then you cannot miss!

If your time is limited or you want to add on more Greek destinations during your trip to Greece, our **“Best of Thessaly”** exploration, which runs all year round, will give you the best insight of the country’s mainland.

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- *Explore the magical **lake Plastira** on a **kayak or hydro-bike***
- *Visit **unspoiled traditional villages** scattered along the **Aspropotamos** riverside*
- *Enjoy **horseback riding or mountain biking** in the lush meadows of **Pertouli**, surrounded by dense forests*
- *Find out how women used to wash in past times their woolen clothes in the **“Mantani”***
- *Taste delicious **local food and wines***
- *Visit the **unique 13 domes church of Timios Stavros***
- *Learn how to **cook traditional Greek pies** and **how a kind of local sour milk is produced***
- *Follow the paths of the ancient monks and visit the **cliff – top monasteries of Meteora***

# TRAILS BEYOND

## Trip Itinerary

### Day 1: Athens - Lake Plastira

Early in the morning, we meet at the designated meeting point, where you will meet your fellow travel companions and board our mini bus. We soon depart with direction the dreamy **Lake Plastira**, a destination that combines harmonically serenity with adventure. We will first visit the Dam of the artificial lake and enjoy the stunning views it offers!



After lunch in one of the traditional taverns around the lake, we will **explore** the endless natural beauty of the area on a **hydro-bike** or **canoe/kayak**! For those of you that prefer **mountain biking**, there are numerous trails around the lake.



Lunch



Traditional Hotel in Lake Plastira

### Day 2: Elati - Pertouli - Kalirroi



After breakfast, we will depart for the **traditional mountainous village of Elati**. On our way there, we will make a stop at the beautiful **arch stone bridge of Saint Vissarion**, built in the 1527. You are free to enjoy a walk by the riverside, a refreshing tea/coffee by the bridge or buy herbs, honey and traditional drinks by local vendors.

Once in Elati, you can explore the village, admire the traditional architecture of stone-made houses and enjoy the delicious local cuisine in one of the village's

family run tavernas.

Our first stop, after lunch, is at **Pertouli meadows**, a beautiful plateau, surrounded by mountains with dense forests, rivers and enormous fir trees, which we will explore while **riding** our **horses** or **mountain bikes**, depending on your preferences!



# TRAILS BEYOND

We will then visit some of the traditional scenic villages and the old church of **Agia Paraskevi or Holy Transfiguration**.

Upon arrival in our beautiful hotel, an interesting cultural evening is waiting for us! We will visit the **Folklore Museum**, inside the hotel, where we will see traditional gold-embroidered uniforms and



weapons of the Greek War for Independence. Then, we will



visit the traditional **“Mantani”** and learn how the women used to wash the woolen clothes in the past. In the end, before dinner, we will visit the cellar of the hotel and **taste locally produced biological wines and tsipouro**.

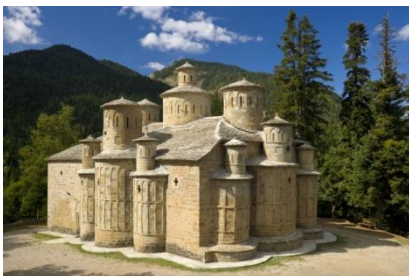


Breakfast, Dinner



Traditional Tower Hotel in Aspropotamos

## Day 3: Kalirroï - Meteora



This morning, we can enjoy various activities within the beautiful surrounding area, depending on the season. We can visit the impressive church of **Timios Stavros**, the only one that features 13 domes, all made of stone and enjoy a cup of hot tea at the church’s square. Depending on the season, we have the option to walk through an idyllic landscape in the forest, picking **wild strawberries,**

**damsons, blackberries, mushrooms and local wild herbs**. We can also visit traditional villages and a farmhouse, where the local women will show us how to **cook traditional pies** and how a kind of **local sour milk** (xinogalo) is produced.



For the more adventurous of you, you can enjoy **rafting in Acheloos river** or **hike to “Mantani of the Daemon” waterfall** (at an extra cost).

Later in the afternoon, we will drive towards the worldwide renowned **“stone – forest” of Meteora**.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



3\* Hotel in Meteora

## Day 4: Meteora - Athens

This morning we will visit the **UNESCO Worldwide Heritage site of Meteora** and their impressive top-cliff monasteries beyond the ordinary way! We will follow the paths that the ancient monks followed and explore the area, the monasteries and admire the breathtaking views. For the more **adventurous** of you, you can enjoy **rock climbing** on the sandstone steep rocks of Meteora and admire this unique natural setting from a different angle.



After lunch, we take our way back to the city of Athens, which we will reach in the evening.

For those of you having a late evening flight from Athens International Airport, you can be transferred straight to the airport or you can enjoy your last night in beautiful Athens, before leaving next day.



Breakfast, Lunch



### What is included:

- Trails Beyond tour leader for the whole trip and local guides & activity instructors
- 3 days of accommodation in 3-4\* hotels and traditional guesthouses, based on double occupancy (the 4<sup>th</sup> overnight depends on guests' flight schedule)
- All meals as indicated on the trip notes
- Mini bus rental for the whole trip, driver, fuel consumption and tolls
- Entrance fees to Meteora monasteries
- Cost for all activities included in the tour program and all the necessary equipment
- All taxes

### What is not included:

- International airfares
- Travel insurance, mandatory
- Hotel transfers to/from airports other than Athens airport
- Any meals not specified in the itinerary
- Any beverages or alcoholic drinks during meals
- Additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors
- Optional activities that are not included in the day-to-day itinerary
- Other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, and so on) and tips

### Prices 2015 for private groups:

<u>Number of guests</u>	<u>Low Season</u>	<u>High Season</u>
For 2-3 guests	860,0 €	900,0 €
For 4-5 guests	620,0 €	700,0 €
For 6 & more guests	500,0 €	580,0 €
*Single Supplement: 60,0€ Low Season: 01/01-15/06 & 01/09-31/12 High Season: 16/06-31/08		

\*Please read carefully our General Terms & Conditions

\*For prices out of Thessaloniki, please contact us



**Optional activities (net prices):**

- Kayak in Lake Plastira, visit the Botanical Garden, taste locally made tsipouro, return on bikes (Duration 2,5 hrs, Cost: extra 13€/person on top of price or 28€/person as a separate activity)
- Hiking from Kalyvia to the beautiful Anthochori waterfalls (Duration 2,5 hrs, Cost: 30€/person for 2 guests, 15€/person for 4+ more guests)
- Rafting in Acheloos river (Duration 1,5-2hrs in the water, 3,5-4 hrs in total, Cost: extra 30€/person on top of price, or 45€/person as a separate activity)
- Hike to “Mantani of the Daemon” waterfall (Duration 3,5-4 hrs, Cost: 15€/person for min. 6 participants, if the number of participants is less, we still perform the activity at the total cost 6 x 15€ = 90€ in total)