

KAVALA

one destination,

a kaleidoscope
of **experiences**



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It translates into alternating colours and emotions, great fun and great flavours... It's a byword of lively vitality and human communication, culture and creativity... It means saying goodbye to monotony.

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"Panagia" old town with Fortress (centre), the town's ancient walls, Imaret (right, with domes) and church of the Panagia (top right, on the tip of the peninsula)

Kavala's historic centre



The old town by night with the Fortress illuminated



The lighthouse at the tip of the "Panagia", another town landmark



View of the "Halil Bey" Complex or "Patia Mousiki" (Old Music) as it is locally known

Discovering the old town

This is a trip back in time, a unique experience you definitely have to enjoy. Before getting to know Kavala old town, known locally as the Panagia neighbourhood, stop off for a little bit and enjoy the magical amphitheatrically built view of the fortress, the Imaret, the paved streets, the beautiful neoclassical buildings, the interplay of sun on sea, the beaches and the lighthouse. Then, gradually, step by step set off on your tour:

The Imaret

Heading up the narrow winding lanes, one arrives at the Imaret. This large complex from the late Ottoman period is a classic example of Islamic architecture and almost the only one to have survived intact in the city. It was built between 1817 and 1821 by the founder of the last Egyptian dynasty, Mohammed Ali. It served as a Muslim seminary and boarding house as well as a 'poor house' for the destitute of the town irrespective of their religion. Since 2004 it has been a luxury hotel.

Mohammed Ali's "Konak" (House)

After a short stopover for fresh fish and mezes in the picturesque taverns (which often becomes a long stopover), you can continue on your exploration of the town.

A little lower down from the Imaret, in a key location in the old town, is Mohammed Ali Square. On the left-hand side is a house, known as locally Mohammed Ali's "Konak" (house) which is one of the largest and best designed mansions in the Panagia neighbourhood. Outside the house stands a bronze statue of a man on horse which was sculpted by the Greek sculptor Dimitriades. Mohammed Ali's "Konak" now functions as a cultural and entertainment centre.

The medrese (an Islamic educational establishment) today houses the local neighbourhood cultural association and one of the Municipality of Kavala's doctors' surgeries.

The Kavala Fortress

Kavala Fortress protrudes from the rocky hilltop and stands proud as the eternal defender of the city. Its walls with their embrasures and the central round tower which protrudes from the walls are key features of the castle.

The largest part of the fortress was built in the first quarter of the 15th century on the ruins of the Byzantine acropolis.

The inner courtyard surrounded the entire area of the castle that needed to be defended. The water tank, the artillery store and food store, and the garrison's accommodation.

Today it is a place of rest where visitors and local residents can stroll around or visit the outdoor theatre to attend cultural events or enjoy a drink at the outdoor refreshment stall.

From left to right: The interior of the Imaret / The Kamares (aqueduct) / Typical old town houses / View of the Fortress with a section of the wall, the "Halil Bey" Complex in the centre and the church of the Panagia on the right

Panagia Church and the Lighthouse

After the square is one of Kavala's most beautiful churches, the Panagia, offering a stunning view, and the Lighthouse at the end of the old town peninsula. Both are great spots to enjoy the view as the sun sets and the day fades, bidding farewell to architectural styles which are different yet blend harmoniously.

Halil Bey Complex

Ascending towards the Castle through Mehmet Ali Street, you will come across the Halil Bey Complex which includes the Halil Bey Mosque which dates from the beginning of the 20th century, an older minaret possibly dating from the 16th century and a medrese. The mosque is built on the foundations of an Early Christian basilica.

The Kamares (Arches)

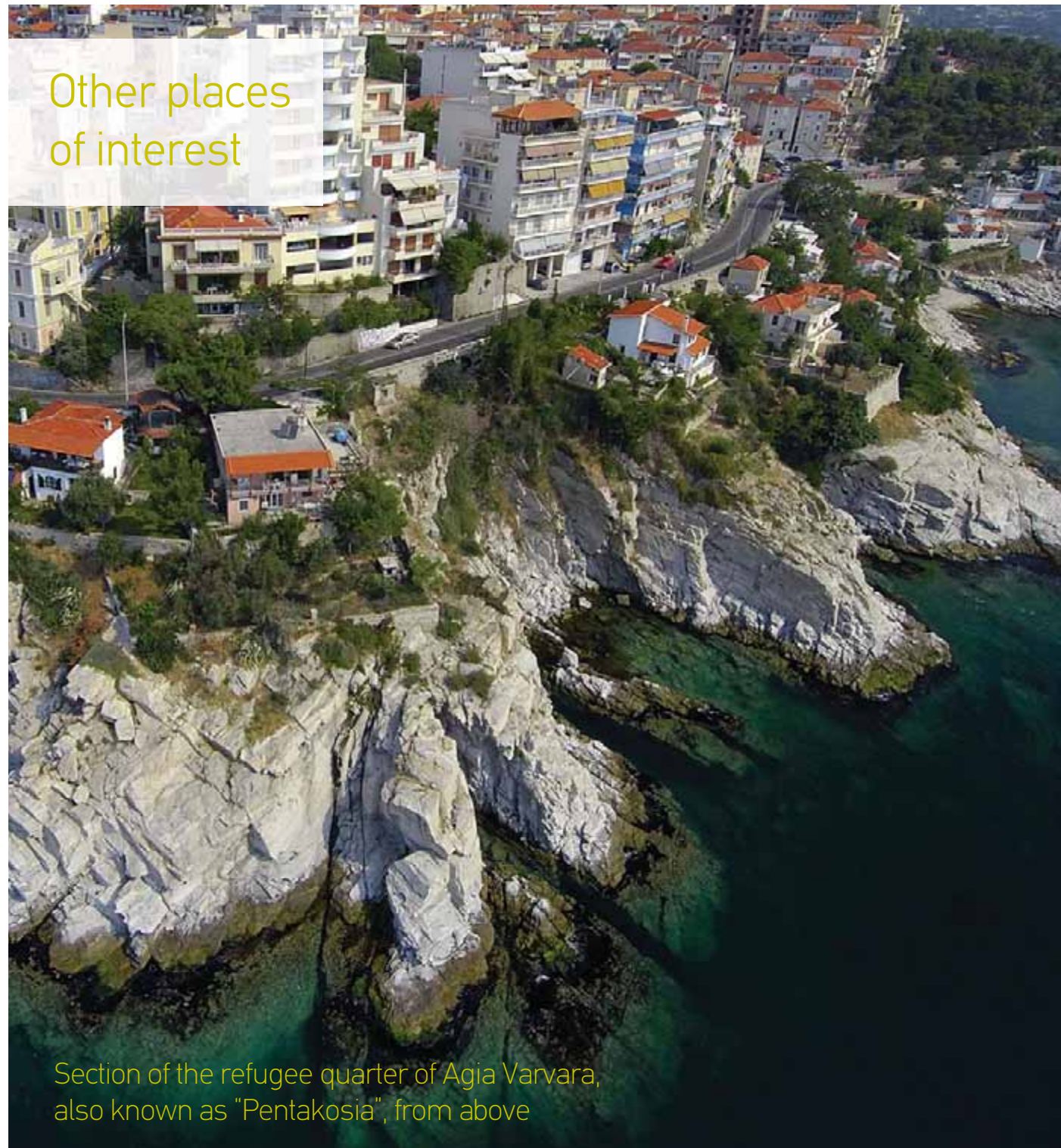
The last but most famous historical monument, and an integral part of the old town, is the Kamares.

This is an impressive section of an extensive water supply system that was built by Suleiman the Magnificent to supply water to the barren rocky Panagia peninsula.

This grandiose creation is 280 m long and consists of 60 arches in four different sizes built around 1530, probably on the site of the long wall which Emperor Andronicus II Paleologus had built.

The Kamares served as an aqueduct bringing water to the city from a spring located close to the present-day village of Palia Kavala.

Other places of interest



Section of the refugee quarter of Agia Varvara, also known as "Pentakosia", from above



View of Kavala from the mountain showing the "Kamarea", the old town with its fortress and Thassos in the background



A typical Kavala beach

Moving past the Arches you are transported back to the present. The Kavala of today: a dynamic, vibrant, friendly and people-oriented town.

Kavala is a lively place

which knows how to respect its history, incorporate it into its present-day operation and look into the future.

Kavala is the most developed urban centre in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.

A large port and equally large marina, coupled with the Nea Peramos port and the Nea Iraklitsa marina, mean that this is one of the most important fishing centres in the entire country.

One of the Mediterranean Sea's largest fish markets is located here with merchandise being shipped from here to numerous domestic and international markets.

Of course, this is also a unique tourist destination that can satisfy even the most demanding visitor!

Kavala is an active plan,

combining the pace of the big city with a style that utterly relaxing, no matter what time of day it is!

Down at the port,

An ideal destination for a cruise, Kavala has a vibrant market, a bustling business community and yet knows how to wind down as the day goes on.

Its outdoor cafes are ideal spots for some ouzo and mezes. The view of the Panagia peninsula with its castle and old town is stunning.

The port is ideal for short strolls along the harbour wall with the yachts all lined up, and a great place to look out to the long stretches of beaches and small villages that lie further out.

Shopping in the city

In the narrow lanes in the Agios Nikolaos neighbourhood, close to the central square, the shops give you a taste of a bygone age. The modern, large commercial shops are on the other side between Omonia St. and Venizelou St. Those two shopping areas are connected by the modern Municipal Market building. The place is bustling every day as the locals come here to shop for food. The market is clean, offering a wide variety of fresh produce.

The neighbourhoods

In the Ai Giannis neighbourhood, which lies right in the heart of the town you can see old mansions and the church of St. John that the neighbourhood takes its name from. Stroll down Kyprou St. with its charming neoclassical buildings. The town's other neighbourhoods are Kipoupoli, Vyronas, Potamoudia, Profitis Ilias and Kallithea. All of them have small, quaint houses with courtyards, gardens and terracotta-tiled roofs. In one of these neighbourhoods, at the shops or down at the port the locals are bound to shout you an ouzo with some starters or something sweet to eat.



The Tourist Information Centre, in the central square

It's in neighbourhoods like these that you'll meet the residents of a town full of traditional Greek beauty and hospitality.

A city with a strong cultural and historical continuity. Here the modern co-exists harmoniously with the neoclassical and traditional everywhere!

THE MUNICIPAL TOBACCO WAREHOUSE

The Warehouse was built in the first decades of the 20th century for a Turkish tobacco merchant. It is a fine example of Ottoman neoclassicism (fake columns, capitals, and friezes) using elements of the baroque style such as the imposing top piece on the roof featuring four crowns. Having been recently renovated, the Tobacco Warehouse is used today to host a diverse range of cultural events.

THE LAZARISTS MONASTERY

Built between 1888 and 1892 the monastery reflects various architectural styles with a strong neoclassical influence. It was formerly used as the French Consulate.

THE ADOLF WIX BUILDING

The building was erected in 1899 by the German baron, Adolf Wix, as the headquarters of his commercial activities and as his home. Today it houses various services of the Municipality of Kavala.

THE TOWN HALL

The building is a miniature version of a Hungarian castle and was built circa 1895 by the Hungarian tobacco merchant, Pierre Herzog.

THE GRAND CLUB

The Grand Club building was erected in 1909 by the local society for the relief of the poor and was used to host social events and happenings. Its neoclassical form contains many elements from the ancient Greek tradition.

TOKOU MANSION

Today this building houses the Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities. It was erected in 1879 by the tobacco merchant, D. Tokou and was used as a consulate and later as the Town Hall from the liberation of Kavala until 1937.

THE MUNICIPAL CONSERVATOIRE

This is the oldest of the houses built in Kavala before 1864. After World War I it was used as a bank but since 1987 has been in the possession of the Municipality of Kavala and houses the Municipal Conservatoire. The style is strongly neoclassical with impressive pediments, columns and carved decoration.

Kavala through the ages



The Early Christian Basilica B' which dominates the archaeological site of Philippi

HISTORY (Text: Kyriakos Lykourinos, Historian)

Kavala's story in history reflects the fate of any historical city.

It was first mentioned in the 7th century BC under the name of Neapolis, the new city, a colony of the people of Thassos, and then as a strong, independent city and later as a member of the large Athenian League.

During the time of the Macedons, King Philip, father of Alexander the Great, annexed it from Athens and it became the port of his stronghold at Philippi.

During the Roman period it became a major port and a much frequented staging port on the Via Egnatia. In 49 AD the Apostle Paul disembarked here to find the Philippians and to establish the first Christian church in Europe.

In memory of that event in the 7th or 8th century the town was renamed 'Christoupolis', Christ's city, and during the entire Byzantine period the castle played a major role in defending the Byzantine state.



Square clay tile with relief of male and female comic and tragic masks (Archaeological Museum of Kavala)

In 1391 the town was captured by the Ottomans and destroyed. The town with its new name 'Kavala' was re-established in the 16th century. Around 1530 strong new defence works (the castle and walls) were built, and on the site of the old walls the impressive aqueduct (the Kamares) was built and the city began to expand beyond the bounds of its ancient and Byzantine walls.

In the 18th century its port became important in European trade as a staging post.

From 1864 the city began to expand outside its walls and by the beginning of the 20th century the population had boomed and the economy was flourishing thanks to the tobacco trade.

With the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913 five centuries of Ottoman domination came to an end. In October 1912 Kavala was occupied by the Bulgarians but on 26 June 1913 the battleship Averof sailed into the Bay of Kavala and liberated the city.

Following Asia Minor Disaster of 1922 around 30,000 refugees settled in Kavala and the city grew and played a leading role in social and labour struggles. However under the German Occupation of 1941-1944 the city received major blows which continued during the Civil War too.

To find out more about the major turning points in the history of Kavala it is well worth visiting the town's various museums.

THE MUSEUMS

The Archaeological Museum of Kavala

The museum was established in 1934 when the first archaeological collection in Kavala was put together. During the period of German and Bulgarian occupation the Museum was looted and many antiquities were spirited away or were destroyed.

Built next to Faliro Park at the left-hand edge of the port, the Archaeological Museum is today one of the most important such museums in Greece.

The items on display include objects made of stone and clay from the Neolithic period and the bronze age, finds from the Dikili Tash settlement and other prehistoric villages.

The largest part of the museum is taken up by the new exhibition entitled 'Neapolis – Christoupolis – Kavala' which presents the history of the town over time from antiquity to the present day told via its monuments. On display are marble architectural parts of the temple of Athena Parthenos (Ionic capitals, etc.), Archaic and Classical statues, black-red and red-black pottery, coins and sculptures. The finds from Ancient Amphipolis are also very important.



An interesting collection of Hellenistic era statuettes (Archaeological Museum of Kavala)

The Municipal Folk Museum

The museum consists of an historical archive, an ethnographic collection, a visual arts collection, a natural history collection and library, and also offers museum education programmes focusing on its exhibits.

Historical & Ethnological Museum of the Greeks of Cappadocia

This museum is located in Nea Karvali and includes exhibits relating to the Greeks of Cappadocia such as traditional costumes, carpets in the famed Cappadocian style, icons, jewellery and embroidery among other things. The museum won an award from the European Union as the Best Museum in Europe in 1997.



Exhibit (Kavala Tobacco Museum)

The Tobacco Museum

This is the only museum dedicated to tobacco in all of Europe. This is a modern industrial museum, with a wealth of exhibits and archival material (from 1870 onwards) that prides itself on its interactive displays, and takes visitors on a trip around its facilities but also back through the story of oriental-style tobacco, to a time at the start of the 20th century when Kavala was the largest centre in Greece processing and exporting tobacco to the whole world.

The Philippi Archaeological Museum

The Philippi Archaeological Museum was built in the 1960s. The building has two sets of exhibition rooms that contain a permanent exhibition of the finds produced by excavations of the ancient city.

The first presents archaeological materials (inscriptions, sculptures, pottery, coins and jewellery) and historical and audiovisual materials relating to the city of Philippi and the surrounding area from the prehistoric period to the end of the Roman Empire. The second presents the Christian city (via inscriptions, architectural parts, mosaics, pottery and coins) from the Early Christian period when the city was at its height to its decline in the 7th century AD and its final abandonment at the end of the 14th century after the Turkish conquest.



Crown of large funerary stele with sculpted acanthus leaves and anathemia (Archaeological Museum of Kavala)

Philippi: where three worlds meet



Philippi was once one of the most important cities in Eastern Macedonia. The area around Philippi was inhabited from the Neolithic period, a fact testified to by the Dikili Tash settlement, some 2 km east of Philippi, where finds dating back to 5,000 BC have been found.

The city was originally called Crenides but received its final name from King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great.

It was a large, important city due to the fertile plain on which it was located and the gold mines nearby, and

flourished in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC and under Roman rule.

However, two different but equally important facts are what has made Philippi some important historically speaking.

In 42 BC the famous battle of Philippi took place here between two major Roman camps, between the senators who had murdered Julius Caesar and his successors.

In 49 AD the Apostle Paul founded the first Christian church on European soil at Philippi, baptising Lydia, and her family in the Zygaktis River, making her the first European Christian. Today the small village next to the Philippi archaeological site is called Lydia.

Archaeological site – Ancient Theatre

The Philippi archaeological site lies around 17km from Kavala. Excavations continue to bring to light important finds such as a section of the Via Egnatia, the ruins of the Roman Forum, the 'prison' of Apostle Paul, Early Christian churches and, of course, the renowned ancient theatre of Philippi.

Despite the numerous changes which the theatre has been subjected to over the centuries of its historical course, it remains vibrant and hosts the annual Philippi Festival with performances of the great poets and dramatists of antiquity.

Apart from a unique experience a visit to Philippi is also a rare 'rendezvous' with the history of three

worlds: the ancient Greek, the Roman and the Byzantine-Christian. What an immense wealth!

Prehistoric settlement

The "Dikili Tash" prehistoric settlement is located at a distance of around 2 km from the archaeological site. With rich findings and evidence of continuous and intense human activity from the beginning of the Neolithic period (5,500 BC) to the Bronze Age (1,000 BC) and the Byzantine era, the settlement is yet another journey through time for visitors!

Historic religious sites



From left to right: The outdoor area where the faithful are still baptized in the Zygaktis River, the same spot where St. Paul baptized the first European Christian, Lydia / Present-day baptism in the Zygaktis River / The Agia Lydia baptistry / The baptistry's stained glass windows / A place of faith in continuous action from the time of St. Paul to the present day

The sense of emotion does not dim as one visits the Church in Nea Karvali where the relics of St. Gregory the Theologian are held and in Polystylo with the relics of the five holy martyrs, Saints Efstratios, Afxentios, Mardarios, Eugenios and Orestes. In the wider area of Mt. Pangeo there are numerous monasteries, adding to the sense that is an endless place of pilgrimage. The first and most important is the grandiose **Ikosifinisa Monastery** followed by the Monasteries of **Agios Panteleimonas, Ipapandi, Panagia Pangeotissa, Axion Esti, Agios Dimitrios and Theia Analipsi**. Also worth visiting is the Monastery dedicated to the **Archangel Michael on Thassos**. The **Monastery of Agios Silas** on one of the hills outside Kavala, set amid towering pine trees, is always worth a visit.

Another monastery worth visiting is **Metamorfofi Sotiros Monastery** at Nikites in the Lekani Mountains. In the town of Kavala you can show your dedication to the faith by visiting a series of churches such as: The **cathedral of Agios Pavlos** (the Apostle Paul), Kavala's patron, which is grandiose on the outside and adorned with Renaissance wall paintings on the inside, ornately painted by monks from Mt. Athos. The **church of Agios Nikolaos** and behind it the monument to the Apostle Paul, where he first set foot in Europe. The **church of Agios Ioannis**, the first church built outside the walls of Kavala, dating from 1867 and the **Church of Profitis Ilias** high on the rock, giving you the sense that you are closer to god.



From left to right: The domes of the Monastery of Panagia Ikosifinisa on Pangeo / Pilgrimage to the miraculous icon of Panagia Eikosifoinissa / White-washed chapel on a peak of Mt. Pangeo

Where the first European Christian was baptised

Kavala attracts many pilgrims, and is a holy place where visitors can enjoy one religious experience after the other. If you let your imagination run free, you might even see yourself among those people in the crowd listening reverently to the first Christian sermon preached in Europe by the Apostle Paul.

Walking over the same soil perhaps you will feel proud that you can relive the first baptism of a European Christian, that of Lydia, at the baptistry.



The St. Paul Monument at the side of the church of Agios Nikolaos, near the port

Summer
at its best!



White sand and clear, turquoise water at the magical beaches of the "Ammolofi" (Sand Dunes)



From left to right: The organized beach and modern "Batis" camp site / Walking by the sea along the "Tosca" beach / Playing by the sea

Even before you arrive at Kavala's beaches and coastline you're bound to be impressed by their colour. When you do arrive, you will simply surrender yourself to their uniqueness!

Clean, sandy beaches with on-beach services and crystal clear waters can be found inside the boundaries of the city but also in a radius of 80 km from it. They are a standing temptation to dive into the blue of the sea... in other words ... the very best of summer!

"Just a hair's breadth away"

Kavala's beaches start within the boundaries of the city itself and there are great beaches to be visited within a range of just 5-6 km.

All of them are really clean and fly the European blue flag. Each has its own authentic, refreshing personality. Try them all!

Kalamitsa Beach, lies 2 km from the city centre and with its on-beach services is a hospitable place, ideal for swimming and fine food at the nearby fish taverns. This is the perfect place for those not fond of travelling a lot to get to the beach.

Batis Beach, is just 1 more kilometre away. The beach has a camp site, on-beach services and showers, changing rooms, a restaurant, bar, and is a real favourite with racket ball players.

Toska Beach, 4 km from the city, is one of the best known beaches offering quiet, clear waters and a restaurant.

Palio Beach, 6 km away, is a picturesque resort that combines the beauty of mountain and sea, and is particularly popular with visitors from other towns in neighbouring prefectures.

Perigiali Beach: At the town's eastern entrance, 2 km from the city centre. A beach partially organized by the Municipality of Kavala with free admittance Seafood and fish taverns offering culinary treats are located at various points along the seafront.

Rapsani: A true "urban kid" very near the centre for those who cannot leave the town. Organized by the Municipality of Kavala it has free admittance. The beach boasts a taverna and cafes.

"Heading west"

The number of choices available multiplies the further away you head.

Sticking to the coastline there is a continuous stretch of amazing beaches:

Nea Iraklitsa, lies 13 km from the city and is renowned for its natural beauty and picture postcard looks, with greenery, a wide stretch of sand and enjoyable sea, a refreshment stand and camp site not to mention taverns serving up delicious food.

Nea Peramos Beach, lies 16 km from the city and competes in terms of beauty with some of the most famous tourist destinations in Greece with amazing sands, unique taverns and the best fish in the area.

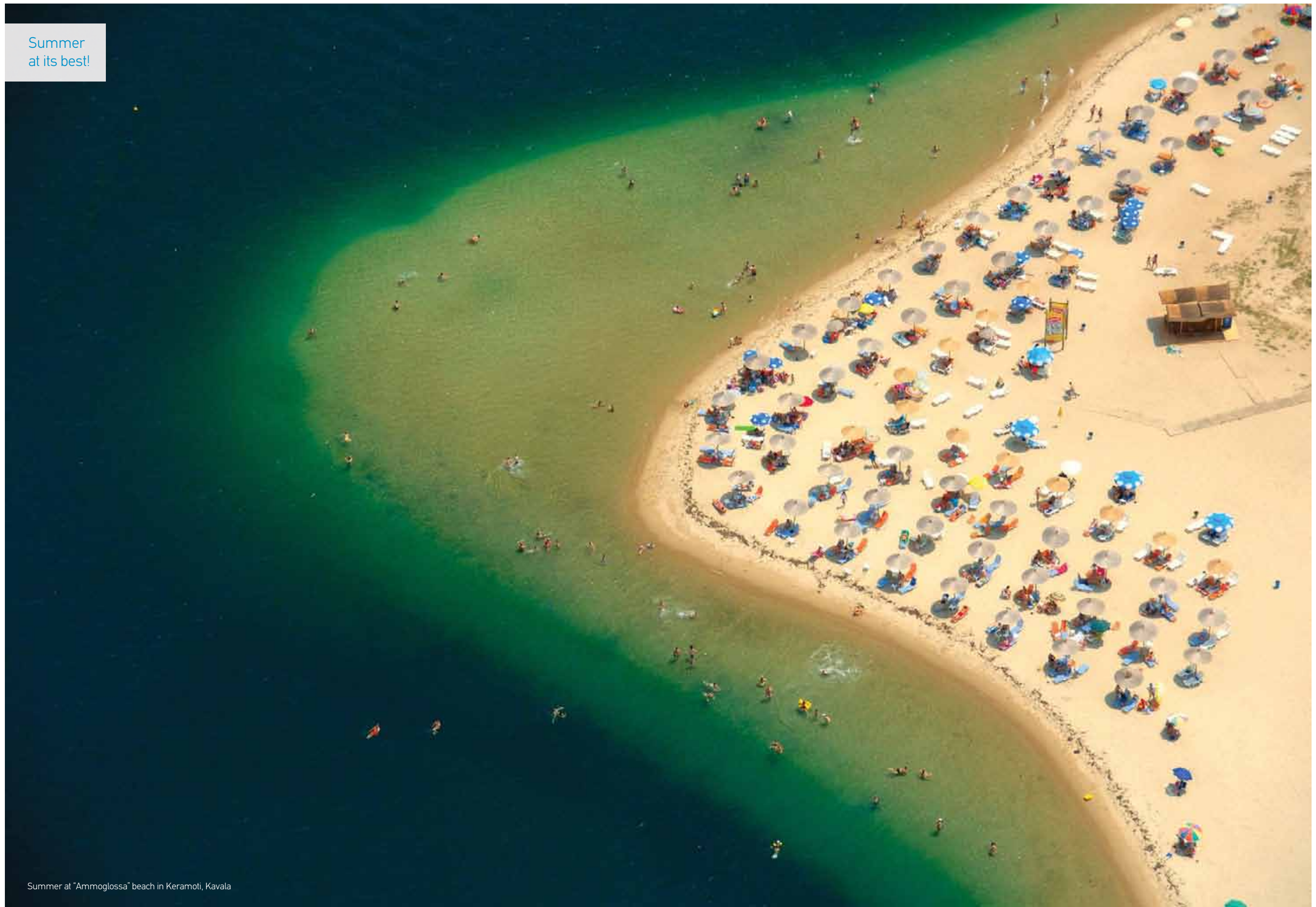
West of Nea Peramos is the exotic beach, **Ammolofi**. The fine-grained sand coupled with the crystal clear, shallow waters make this a magical place, hard to find elsewhere.

Further away along the coast road are the beaches **Kataskinosis**, **Akti Eleohori**, **Akti Myrtofyto**, **Akti Folia**, **Almyra**, **Sarakina**, **Karyani** and **Akti Ofryni**, all charming beaches with fine-grained sand and crystal clear waters.

There's also the renowned **Keramoti Beach** 40 km east of Kavala. This is an exotic landscape where the river Nestos flows into the sea, a small peninsula stretching out to sea, like an island in the Pacific Ocean sitting in the Mediterranean Sea!

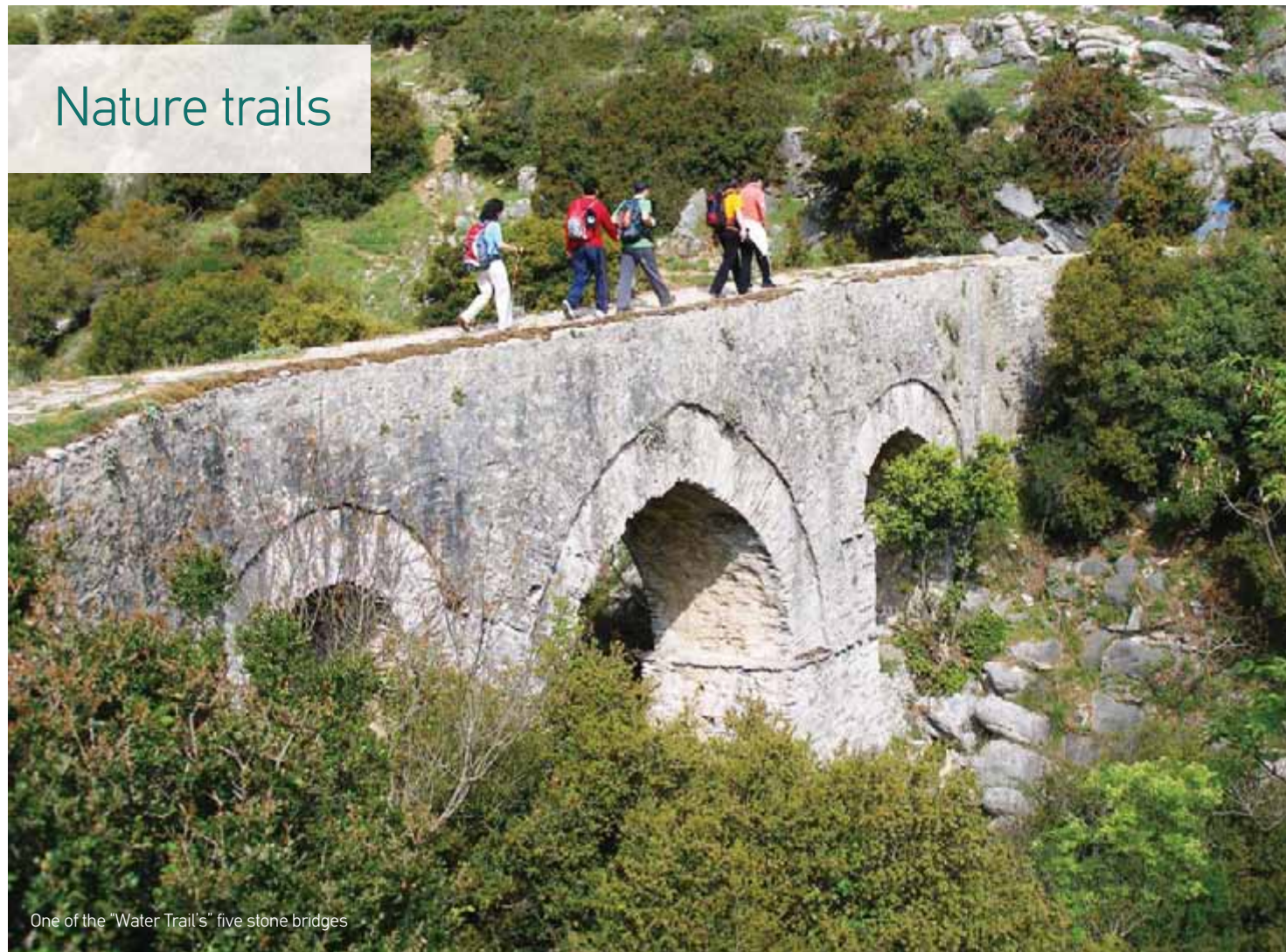
Kavala is really worth it in Summer! Enjoy the great beaches, relax on the sand and cool down by taking a dip in the crystal clear waters.

Summer
at its best!



Summer at "Ammoglossa" beach in Keramoti, Kavala

Nature trails



One of the 'Water Trail's' five stone bridges

The closer one gets to a place, the more one discovers its hidden beauties. That rule also applies to the trails and pathways in the wider area of Kavala.



The Water Path – The Palia Kavala path

This is the most important trail in Kavala. The route consists of two sections.

“The Water Trail” path

The path, 10,5 km long, begins in the district of Agios Konstantinos. Passing through trees, fields and over 5 stone bridges it arrives at the village of Palia Kavala. Its first half follows the water course which supplied the town during the Turkish Occupation. It regularly slaloms alongside the old covered channel which carried the water which springs from the “Mana tou nerou” (“Mother of water”) to the impressive aqueduct “Kamares”. The trail is noteworthy because it combines historic, cultural, aesthetic and environmental elements uniquely

The Palia Kavala path

This environmental path begins in the village of Palia Kavala. It ends after 3 km. at the entrance of the village Zygos, following a course of unique natural beauty full of aesthetic surprises! Perennial plane trees covered in ivy, the crystal-clear water of the springs and the impressive waterfall with its two turquoise vathres offer the impression of a small jungle. The watermill and washing pools, the caves and precipitous rocks, the natural beauty and unique flora will impress the visitor at any time of the year.



The Palia Kavala paths (from left to right): A wooden bridge over the crystalline waters / a walk among the ancient plane trees / the waterfall

Paths on Mt. Pangeo

There are also a series of paths through the gold-rich mountains of antiquity (the **Avli**, **Mesorropi**, **Nikisiani** and **Ikosifinisa** paths, among others) some of which feature historical focal points while others feature abundant water, small waterfalls and lakes, but all offer unique chances to explore the Greek countryside and are bound to touch your senses.

The Kavala Forest

The northern side of Kavala is bordered by forest. It extends from Agios Silas Church and the Konstantios Boarding School to the Horafas area and Agios Athanasios Church. In addition to looking amazing and the environmental benefits it offers, the forest also provides residents and visitors to Kavala with the chance to easily and rapidly access sports and leisure venues.



A traditional stone bridge over a ravine in the Lefki settlement

Exploring the surrounding region



The Nestos River flowing towards the estuary creates images of unique beauty

Kavala town is not just a magical destination. It is also the ideal base for some stunning excursions and explorations of the local area.

River Nestos – Estuary – The Nestos straits

No special introductions are needed. This is an amazing route that is bound to enchant you. The River Nestos lies on the eastern side of Kavala. Its source is located in Bulgaria and it flows into the Aegean creating a natural paradise with 6 lagoons, a large forest packed with water-loving tree species (Kotza-Orman forest) and an idyllic valley (the Nestos Straits) measuring 27 km long. Its verdant banks, the blue sea and the shapes formed by the currents here are all part of the unique scene painted by nature.

Wildlife and numerous bird species find refuge in the Nestos Estuary,

which is a world renowned resting place for migratory birds. The mountainous boundaries between the prefectures of Kavala and Xanthi are home to the Nestos Straits (known locally as the Stena Nestou), a true monument of nature. Towering trees, rock caves, sandy beaches and wildlife paint a picture which becomes all the more beautiful with every metre travelled. The Nestos Straits are ideal for walking, for long treks and for extreme sports organised by the agencies you find in the village of Toxotes.



Flocks of birds at the Nestos River estuary

River Nestos, Delta, the Nestos Straits

You can experience the beauty of life with all the senses here, and go canoeing or kayaking, mountain climbing on the precipitous rocks or just continue your tour among the mountainous villages of the Lekani Mountains (Lekani, Kechrokambos, Dysvato, Platamonas, Palea Kavala). These are amazing routes whether it is winter or summer, with constant shifts in the landscape and colours. Along the way are tiny, picturesque villages, ideal for a short break, with their fountains and plane trees, small cafes and endless tales to be heard from the charming old men.



Path along the Nestos Straits

Mt. Pangeo

West of Kavala lies Mt. Pangeo, the gold-bearing mountain, where Orpheus lived and where the god Dionysus had his temple. This is a lush and verdant paradise, drenched in firs, pines and all species of forest trees and an ideal place for mountain lovers, for one-day trips or longer stays.

Today there is a tarmac road that leads right up to the peak where there is a mountain-climbing refuge. However, Mt. Pangeo is also scattered with monasteries with an important story to tell, such as Ikosifinisa Monastery considered to be one of the cradles of Orthodoxy.

Prehistoric rock paintings at Philippi



The Alistrati and Maara caves (the sources of the Angitis river)

This is a double, unrepeatable experience definitely worth the visit. These are two caves that belong to the network of caves formed by the Angitis River.

THE CAVE AT THE SOURCE OF THE RIVER ANGITIS (MAARAS CAVE) is located close to Kokkino-gia, near Prosotsani in the prefecture of Drama, and lies around 60 km from Kavala town. It was discovered in 1978 by a team of Greek and French cave explorers. The roof full of stalactites, some of which are 2 m in diameter, stretching all the way down the water's surface. The coloration is amazing and is due to the existence of metals such as manganese, iron and copper among others.

ALISTRATI CAVE is located to the east of Prefecture of Serres on the border with the Prefecture of Drama and lies around 65 km from Kavala town.

It is considered to be one of the largest and most beautiful caves in Greece, perhaps in all of Europe, and nature certainly showed its power in creating decorative rock formations inside this cave. The entrance to the cave is a charming chamber 8 m high which leads on to various soaring tunnels and rich decoration in the form of stalactites and stalagmites.

The Nestos Straits



The interior of the Maara cave at the source of the Angitis River

The rock paintings at the Philippi and Kryoneri settlements

The rock paintings engraved on granite and limestone by the prehistoric inhabitants of the Pangeo Mt. are perhaps the richest and most important in Greece offering a unique insight into the life and spirit of the people of the Bronze and Iron Ages, in numerous simple beautiful representations of hunting, game, people, weapons and warfare. The rock paintings are located mainly at two sites: at Philippi and the Kryoneri settlement at the foothills of Mount Lekani.

Thassos: a nearby jewel



Swimming at Alyki beach on Thassos, next to the ruins of the ancient mines and the Early Christian basilicas



The port and "Kalogeriko" building which houses the Cultural Centre of the town of Limenas

This is a verdant island with an abundance of clear blue water. There is lush vegetation and crystal clear waters. Small bays, lace-like coastlines, rugged rocks and inaccessible caves: this place combines leisure and sites of archaeological interest. It blends traditional lifestyle with modern shops and nightlife. It is an island that has it all and yet is only a short trip away!

This emerald island is quick to win visitors over, which has made its reputation spread around the world, and its beauty has been the source of artistic inspiration for creators from all walks of life.

Dense forests of pine, Pinus negra and firs, and groves of cultivated olive trees cover the entire island, and

there are numerous quaint villages just waiting to be discovered one after the other. The island has beautiful beaches with characteristic names: Makryammos, Archangelos, Pefkari, Potos, Alyki, Kinyra, Chryssi Ammoudia, Rachoni.

Thassos is one of the few islands in Greece to have a perimeter road which allows visitors to tour the island and admire all the coastal villages and even the remotest of beaches.

Just a 75-minute boat ride away from Kavala, or half the time if one travels from Keramoti, Thassos is a unique destination that combines everything you could ever want to see or do on a perfect day trip.



Two synonymous concepts: Thassos and crystal-clear emerald water



The nunnery of the Archangel Michael

Head for port!

Cruises

When a destination is as attractive as Kavala, the 'invaders' come from land, air and sea!

That's because as a maritime tourism destination Kavala has numerous comparative advantages when compared to other similar port cities. These advantages have been complemented by the establishment of independently organised cruises and by membership of joint schemes run with other cities and destinations.

By choosing one of the cruises of the eastern Mediterranean you can get to know Kavala and its sights and visit the archaeological site of Philippi since the port of Kavala is one of the ports that cruise liners tend to call at.

In any event, Kavala is one of the favourite stops for travellers following in the footsteps of Apostle Paul.



Art and culture



Playing in the Kavala Fortress



Just before a performance at the Philippi Festival at the Ancient Theatre of Philippi

CULTURE

As one of the area's most important ports, even from the time of antiquity, Kavala developed into an open city, welcoming many different races and cultures. This resulted in the creation of a unique mosaic of cultures, with elements whose roots lie in Europe and the Orient!

TRADITIONS

The fact that Kavala keeps its traditions alive makes it a truly vibrant city. People from the Pontus, Asia Minor, Thrace and the Sarakatsans have all added their valuable cultural heritage to that of Kavala, a heritage which their ancestors preserved with respect over the course of the centuries. Customs relate primarily to major Orthodox Christian feasts such as Christmas and New Year's Eve, but numerous customs can also be found around the issue of marriage, or relating to the feast days of specific saints such as St. John. The **Arapides** custom is well known and the best place to see it is **Nikisiani** on Mt. Pangeo on the feast day of St. John at the beginning of the year.

The **Sagia** custom at **Nea Karvali** (which takes place on 5 January) entails casting out the goblins and is definitely worth seeing, while visitors can also enjoy a re-enactment of a **traditional Pontian**

wedding in the village of Zygos, near Kavala, on the Sunday of St. Thomas, the first Sunday after Easter.

LEADING FIGURES FROM ANTIQUITY

Many leading figures from the arts and the letters as well as sport were born in the area during antiquity, such as: the historian Marsyas from Philippi, the Olympian victor Lambos from Philippi, winner of the four-horse chariot race.

The inventor of parody, Hegemon came from Thassos, the sophist and rhetorician Stesimbrotus, the writer Androsthene who followed Alexander the Great on his Asian campaign, Theagenes one of the most important athletes in the sport of pancratium in antiquity, all came from the area.

Traditional, folk dances in the Municipal Gardens, in front of the Town Hall



G.A. Papaioannou Classical Music Festival

The festival was launched in the summer of 2000 and is run in collaboration with the Municipality of Kavala and the Municipal Conservatoire. The musical events and seminars held each summer as part of the festival take their name from the Kavala-born composer and teacher G. A. Papaioannou, thereby honouring his contribution to this art form.



"Sun and Stone" International Folklore Festival

This is an amazing event packed with sounds and colours, dance, music, traditional cuisine, customs, mores and traditions which are not widely known throughout Greece, and has been organised for more than two decades in July each year by the Nea Karvali Cultural Association.



FESTIVALS - EVENTS

Philippi Festival

This is a leading cultural event, and the country's second oldest festival after the Epidavros Festival.

The festival has been organised at the Ancient Theatre of Philippi every year since 1957 and attracts thousands of Greeks and foreign visitors. It is a large celebration of the arts and culture, giving spectators the chance to enjoy remarkable stagings of ancient drama and music and dance performances.

Kavala's "Eleftheria" Festival

A series of cultural events are also held in the second half of June each year to celebrate the liberation of Kavala which took place on 26 June 1913, rounded off with a feast day of the city's patron saint, the Apostle Paul on 29 June. The events are held in the grounds of the castle, in Eleftherias Square and in other parts of the city.

Spa therapies



The very best medicine is produced by nature's eternal laboratory, which has been producing them with miraculous accuracy for thousands of years, allowing people to stay healthy by using therapeutic mud or spa water. Visitors to Kavala can have access to all that!

Krinides Mud Baths

The Krinides Mud Baths are located at Philippi and are very close to the baptistry of St. Lydia. They are considered the most important therapeutic mud baths in Greece. The unique curative properties of mud and spa water are well known to anyone with health problems or those looking to enjoy a beauty treatment, since

mud also works as an amazing cosmetic. Mud therapy is based on the use of 'mature' mud. Its amazing properties have been well-known since the end of the 19th century as is clear from the old building that can still be seen at the mud baths today.



From left: Enjoying the therapeutic properties of a mud bath at Krinides Mud Baths.

Contemporary hydrotherapy (photo above) in the fully renovated after-byzantine bath on the site of Krinides Mud Baths (photo right).



Relax and enjoy



Cafes on Kyprou Str. against a backdrop of neoclassical buildings and the Town Hall



Cafes along the town's commercial centre



Enjoying carefree moments at a traditional café in the old town

Kavala means a lot of walking and touring of the town's countless narrow streets, each of which has its own small story to tell.

Explore the traditional shops in the Agios Nikolaos market one by one, discover the scents and colours of the past in the old town and taste the amazing dishes in the small taverns along the central paved street. Let the picturesque narrow lanes lead you up to the castle and take in the panoramic views of the town of Kavala.

When ascending to the Castle, you're bound to pass the countless taverns and ouzo bars, each of which has something special to offer!

Try the meat platters, the great starters or the local specialities. Choose one of the drinks on offer or wine or beer and combine them with great Greek music, rock music or simply take in the view over a coffee or the beverage of your choice. It is really worth walking the few extra metres to the Panagia lighthouse to enjoy the full moon or the sunset. The spectacle is breathtaking...

As one might expect, the second largest port in Northern Greece is famed for its fresh fish and seafood served daily on local tables, which is caught by small and large fishing boats run by the local fishermen.

Try amazing dishes in the local fish taverns and ouzo bars or in the quaint fishing port in the area close to the former Abattoir.

No matter where you look there will be something new and interesting for you to choose from.

The town's young people enjoy themselves at the renovated tobacco warehouses that have been transformed into clubs, bars and concert venues. If that's not your style, try the *bouzouki* music clubs and dance to the Greek beat with live music in the traditional *rebetika* music clubs. It will be dawn before you leave!

Fans of good roast meat should travel a bit out of town to one of the renowned roast meat taverns in the villages of Palea Kavala or Kryoneri.

One thing you definitely shouldn't miss out on while in Kavala is tsipouro, the local alcoholic drink, which along with the tsipouro from Volos and Tyrnavos is the very best of its kind!



The renowned, traditional kourabiedes (sugared almond cakes) of Nea Karvali



Flavours of Kavala!

No matter where you go memories and flavours of Kavala will follow you. So, make sure you take some of the most famous local products home with you, including:

- the incomparable Kourabiedes biscuits from Nea Karvali with whole almonds, or syrup sweets.
- Sugar preserved walnuts (karidakia) or the entire range of sugar preserves from Thassos.
- Wine, tsipouro and ouzo from Nea Peramos, Myrtofyto and Chrysoupolis respectively.

- Textiles and pottery from Thassos and icons from Kavala.

- Honey and olives from Thassos.

Don't forget...

The prefecture of Kavala is an important wine-producing region with 23 wineries and over 99 types of wine. Of those 70 are local wine varieties from Mt. Pangeo.

Accommodation facilities

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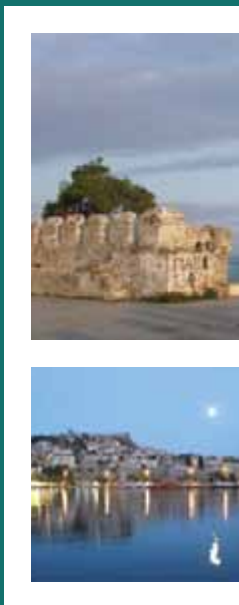
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