# HESSALONIKI

USE IT — NNNN Nawino Network, Member of the Northern Greece Entrepreneurs Cultural Society

FOR YOUNG TRAVELLERS

MADE BY LOCALS NOT COMMERCIAL FOR FREE

## ACT LIKE A LOCAL

**1 TINY HYPERMARKETS**
Run out of cigarettes, condoms or tissues? Need a beer or a snack at 4 in the morning? Go straight to a periptero (kiosk). There are hundreds of them throughout the city, many are open 24 hours and they have everything you may need.

**2 BECOME A COFFEE JUNKIE**
We consume gallons of coffee and spend hours in cafés talking, doing business and reading newspapers. Explore the city's coffee culture and our favourite drink: iced-coffee, frappé.

**3 LIKE A HOBO**
Thessaloniki is inhabited by 1 million humans and some hundreds of stray dogs, which participate in city's life. They live in specific neighbourhoods, have names and even wait for the green light to cross the road. Usually they are lazy, but if you attract their interest they can follow you to your walk. In Ano Poli, the old district, however, cats are the ones who dominate public space.

**4 NO SMOKING**
The government feels successful for its anti-smoking policy, but actually there is almost no non-smoking place in the city. You don't need to start smoking, too, just be patient.

**5 DON'T FORGET YOUR SWIMMING SUIT**
We know, the idea of the sea being a few steps away from your hostel is challenging. But, please, don't jump into Thermaikos!! It is not that clean. You better catch bus no. 69 and go to Epanomi beach. Pleasant, clean enough and cheap to go. Only 1 hour from downtown by city bus.

**6 LIGHT A CANDLE**
Visit one of the hundreds Byzantine churches, which date back to the 15th century, and light a candle, like locals do. Each church is dedicated to a saint and each saint has its own fan. For example Aghios Fanourios helps you find lost things. The only thing you have to do is to make a Fanouropita (Fanourios pie), to go to Aghios Fanourios church and to give it to the priest to "read" it.

**7 MEET THE RIGHT PEOPLE**
Don't bother if in summer the city is empty. Everybody has gone to Chalkidiki, the popular peninsula with the exotic beaches. Make friends with somebody who has a summer house and spend a couple of days there.

**8 STICK TO WINE**
Alcohol is quite expensive in Greece (beer around 5€). Stick to house wine at a taverna. It's tasty and cheap. If you prefer beer, try our local Vergina from a periptero.

**9 IT'S NOT AN EXCORCISM**
When you see people in the street or in the bus making the sign of the cross, don't worry, they are not performing an exorcism. It is a sign of respect and faith as they pass a church.

- 315 BC: Thessaloniki was founded by the King of Macedonia Cassander who married Thessaloniki, sister of Alexander the Great, and named the city after her.
- Since then there have been a series of invasions and occupations. Thessaloniki was part of the Roman, the Byzantine and the Ottoman Empires, each of which left their fingerprints.
- During the Byzantine era Thessaloniki was at its peak and many churches 27 were built.
- 15th century: about 20,000 Sephardic Jews were expelled by the Spanish king and settled in Thessaloniki 34.
- 1850: First tourists come to town and Thessalonians discover selling souvenirs like belt-knifes, silks, rose oil and carpets.
- 1912: Thessaloniki became part of Greece.
- 1917: The city centre was destroyed by fire and lost its Balkan character – traces of it can be seen at Ano Poli. The city centre was rebuilt in a western European style dividing the open space into vertical and horizontal lines.
- 1922: Due to the violent population exchange between Greece and Turkey, Thessaloniki became known as the "Capital of Refugees". About 20,000 Muslims left and 100,000 Christians came).
- 1925: The Aristotelion University was established on the former Jewish cemetery which covered nearly 35 hectares. (The Jewish cemetery in Prague is about one hectare).
- 1941: The Nazis occupied Thessaloniki. The majority of the Jewish community of the city was deported to the concentration camps of Eastern Europe.
- 1957: Frappé, the local iced-coffee was invented during the International Trade Fair of Thessaloniki by accident.
- 1950/60/70s: Due to rural depopulation Thessaloniki filled with internal migrants.
- 1978: A severe earthquake damaged the centre and the clock of Stoa Malakopis ("Markets" walking tour N) stopped. Check out at what time the earthquake took place.
- 1990s: With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian-Greeks immigrated to Thessaloniki. In this decade Greece became a receiving country of several migration flows.
- 1997: Thessaloniki became European Cultural Capital
- 2011: Euro vs. Drachma
- 2014: Thessaloniki will be European Youth Capital

## 5 MIN OF HISTORY
### A Story of incomings and outgoings

**1 LAMPRO'S BAKERY**
Gulliver-sized bakery combined with cheap prices and perfect for those early mornings just after your party time. Try the enormous peniri or the bagel with raisins (0.50€). It opens around 09:00 to 15:00.

**2 RE-USING JUNK**
If you think that your grandma's old chair is a piece of junk, you have to pass by Filippou 21. The 2OBJECT REPAIR team will transform it into a design piece: a table, a light, a clock. In a small, cosy place (cinema of the early 1920s), you can find small treasures starting from 1€. Pieces of furniture from old houses, even from garbage bins, are reborn in the hands of Nikos and Christos. Check out their website (www.2objectrepair.gr).

**3 FOOD PARADISE**
Up for a late night dinner or snack with a bunch of friends? Go straight to BIT BAZAR. Have a look at The "Markets" walking tour R

**4 HATZIS**
One of the oldest pastry shops in Thessaloniki, founded in 1908, HATZIS is famous for its oriental delights, made with fresh, pure and traditional ingredients, including syrup and cream from buffalo milk. Sounds too heavy for you? Well, try the ekmek kataifi with kaimaki and you'll be asking for more. Prices start from 3€ per sweet with daily offers for 1,50€.

**5 GOURMET OR TRADITIONAL?**
Both, because traditional tastes are becoming trendy in Thessaloniki. One place to experience this trend is NEA FOLIA, a unique old school style Greek taverna. Only Greek products are used here and the recipes, from all around Greece, are cooked in a modern way. Read the daily menu on the blackboard and get ready to taste the complexity of Greek cuisine. Don't leave before dessert is offered (for free). (10-15 €)

**6 HOT SOUP AT NIGHT**
A thessalonian night ends at TSAROUCHA. The best antidote is patsa, a traditional Greek soup (not for vegetarians!), after a long night out and too much alcohol. Eat it with the tasty garlic sauce called skordostupi and some grated red chilli peppers called bukovo. TSAROUCHAS is open 24/7, that's why it's clientele varies from well dressed layers to working class heroes.

**7 COCKTAILS IN THE CANTINA**
"Colombou Market" is an interwar period arcade. Before that, in the same place was located a cantina where the cook Giuseppe Colombo used to cook for the people working in railway construction (to connect the city with Belgrade). The market was named after the cook and the bar opened in the summer of 2011, was named CANTINA TROPICANA. The place is stylish and funky, the cocktails good enough and the music ...Tropicana. Check the back yard with the black marble floor between the walls of the surrounding buildings.

**8 @MAMAS**
Tired of junk food? Want to try some homemade Greek food? Then visit ODYSSEAS, a family run magiro. The focus lies on the food, so be patient if you have to wait a bit longer - it's worth it! We love it because of the big portions and the good price of 3-5€ per meal. Sunday closed.

**9 AG. PANTON MARKET**
Every neighbourhood has a street market once a week: where farmers from around Thessaloniki and other regions sell their products. The most famous is the Saturday market on AG. PANTON STREET, a street in the west side of the city. Be part of the multicultural crowd and buy fresh fruits, vegetables, fish and other local products, cheap clothing, shoes, and lots of other things. (bus Nr. 32, 34, bus stop: Strofi Ksirokrinis)

**10 DESSERT FOR FREE**
OINOXOS opened at the mid-1990s and remains one of the coziest places to eat. Large portions, where gourmet meets tradition, and friendly staff. Vintage posters, Greek old romantic music and the best semi-sweet wine ever (for 3,50€ per 500ml). Try their daily salad specials, fava or kasekrokettes (cheese balls). About 10€ per person (including wine). Open daily: 12:00-02:00.

**11 THE RED BAKERY**
Located in the heart of the students dominated area behind Rotonda, KONKINOS FOURNOS is an Ali Baba's Cave. There is a debate whether the spinach pie or the olive bread is the best here. Whatever you choose for your breakfast don't forget to buy traditional Greek koulouraki (cookies) to accompany your coffee. And, if it happens to be here in December, taste melomakarona, the favorite Christmas sweet.

**12 ROTONDA'S SQUARE**
Buy a beer from a kiosk or supermarket and go straight up to ROTONDA Square where you'll find metalheads, punks, hippies and students hanging out there. In the evening, no matter how bad the weather is, This area is a student area full of cafés, bars and tavernas with decent prices.

**13 MEET A FRIEND @ KAMARA**
Meet a friend at KAMARA (a tourist must-see and Thessaloniki's number one meeting point). The arch was build by Emperor Galerius in memory of his victory over the Persians. In the beginning of the century the tram passed through it, today it is the starting point for your night out.

**14 PARTY TIME FOR FREE @ THE CAMPUS**
NIGHT: It would be a great pity if you missed one of the parties that happen every Friday and Saturday night (after midnight) during winter time, when universities are open (but don't go during Christmas or Easter holidays). Drinks for 2€, beer for 1€, music and dancing until the morning light. How can you say No? Just follow the music and the crowd and ask.
DAY: Universities also have plenty of lawn areas where you can hang out on a sunny morning, especially next to the university's central library.

**15 MUSEUMS**
These museums are where you'll learn all about greek history, but take your time. Go straight to MUSEUMS backpage.

**16 TOURIST CLASSIC**
Catch bus Nr. 50 from LEFKOS PYRGOS (every hour) and enjoy a hop-on hop-off sightseeing tour for only 3€. The ride lasts 60 minutes. Summer: 08:00-21:00. Winter: 09:00- 16:00)

**Into the gay life**
During the day you can usually meet everybody in the cafes of ZEFKSIDOS STREET 21 which is transformed into a catwalk when the weather is good. The oldest gay bar in town, BIGAROON 51, is very close and is a good choice for an early drink for both boys and girls. After midnight, follow the crowd moving to Ladadika and Valaoritou areas. The popular choice is ENOLA 32. Use the elevator to reach the second floor, where it is located, and dance until the morning. Don't miss its parties and also the Greek nights on Wednesday which is a unique local experience. The newest entry in Thessaloniki's gay night life is SHADOW 55 with pop/dance music and sexy dancers. Check its theme nights during the week. BAR ME 54 claims to be the bears' cave of the city and an alternative choice to the students-dominated above mentioned clubs. If you are a woman go directly to DADA FRESH 53.

**45 DYNAMO project-space**
It is a new space in the city that hosts art, architecture and design exhibitions, performances and workshops. Pass by the kiosk-shop to browse experimental publications. Check its site and don't miss opening parties on Fridays where you will meet the most fresh minds in the city! http://dynamoprojectspace.blogspot.com

**46 LA PARFUMERIE GRECQUE**
Find your favourite perfumes in this small Aromatopolio (Perfume Shop). Create your very own perfume or body cream that perfectly suits your taste. Every time you choose your perfume, the owner will make you spin around to spray some drops all over you. Perfume prices start at 7€ per bottle! Do not get intimidated by the long queues, the service is really quick and friendly.

**47 Coo**
Coo is not only a café/bar, it is an idea. If you want to get in contact with local designers and their artwork, Coo is the best place for that. Design, art and music - you will find everything under their rooftop. Check out the basement for live concerts- If you like the music listen to their own online radio station (www.cooradio.com) back home.

**48 REMBETIKO MEETING POINT**
TOUBOURLIKA is the students' underground Rembetiko (Greek Blues) meeting point. A small cozy traditional tavern, whose owner, Pantelis, plays his bouzouki every night. Very good cuisine (also open during day) and very reasonable prices. (About 15€ for a good meal with wine/retsina, ouzo or tsipouro).

**49 HEADBANGING**
Attached to the dark side of life or a dancing queen? Visit 8BALL CLUB and dive into the core of Thessalonikis club scene. Bringing the best of the best for live concerts 8Ball is one of the top addresses. You can bang your head to guitar riffs or dance to the sound of the 80s, cause 8Ball Club is an allrounder.
Talk of the town.

**50 SIMPLE & TASTY** (Bakaliarakia tou Aristou)
People who work hard at the port need to eat something substantial, tasty and cheap - and since you are right next to the port, this has to be fish! That's why ARISTOS exists. For more than 70 years it has offered Thessalonians fried fish, fried potatoes and the all-time-classic skordalia (garlic sauce). Don't expect to pay more than 10€ for a big portion.

**40 MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY**
Thessaloniki´s MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY is located in the renovated port Warehouse A. The exhibition of Greek and foreign artists' work is displayed in 1000m² of space. The highlight of the museum is its café, which is a meeting point for young artists and has a spectacular view on the backside of the port with its cranes and is probably the only non-smoking café in town. Opening hours: Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Sunday 11:00-19:00, Friday-Saturday 11:00-21:00. (2€ ; students 1€).
If you want to keep up with museums visit the CINEMA MUSEUM and the CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART only a stone´s throw away.

**41 WEST EXPLOSION**
Typically in Greece, when you visit somebody in the afternoon, you will be offered a Greek coffee, accompanied with loukoumi (delight), fruit preserves, vanilla or mastic sweet or cherry juice. All these retro sweets, based on fruits, can be still found in the SHOP OF PAPAGEORGIOU, a family-run business since 1937.

**42 SOCIAL SPACE FOR FREEDOM**
MICROPOLIS is in a neo-classical building. High painted ceilings and several tiny balconies make you feel like in one of Almodovar´s movies. Ask for their schedule of concerts, exhibitions, political social discussion rounds which frequently take place there. The bar-café is open every day 12:00-01:30.

**43 KIR-YiANNIS** (I hara tou yianni)
It looks like it popped up from the 1980s and has cheap traditional Greek food. Enjoy it on a chequered tablecloth or take it away. Try their handmade Soutzoukaki or Kokoretsi and the delicious Melitzanosalata (eggplant salad). It could save you from a hangover on a Friday or a Saturday night as it stays open 24h.

The area around VALAORITOU STREET 44 is undoubtedly the hot spot of the city, the vibrant commercial centre with early 20th century bank buildings, which used to host hundreds of textile shops after the war, has been the hidden secret of the city for a long time. Now the impressive 100-year-old mansions and the 1970s style industrial buildings are bars, restaurants, architectural offices, and design studios.
If you are a fan of house and electro music go to ELVIS, one of the oldest bars: entrance is free. PARTIZAN, next door, is an industrial style alternative bar where experimental theatres, art exhibitions and various parties take place. If you like mainstream music or just want to admire the marvellous renovated building pay a visit to PICADILLY. Check also 45 and 47.

**33 THE BAR IN THE MARKET** (Vasileos Irakleiou 37, Stoa Modiano)
In the heart of the Stoa Mondiano, APYRAMORIA is a unique location for every late-nighter. With free live concerts every Monday night you can dance all night long to loud music, especially funk and soul.

**34 JEWISH HERITAGE**
The JEWISH MUSEUM is a contribution to the Jewish Community of the city which dates back to 315 BC and still exists, even though the majority of the community were lost during the Nazi occupation in the 1940s. The museum is relatively new and features photos, clothes, documents, grave stones etc. It is housed in a building that remained in the city centre after the great fire in 1917 when most of the centre was destroyed. It also contains a library for Jewish history.
Opening hours: Tuesday and Friday: 11:00-14:00, Wednesday and Thursday: 11:00-14:00, 17:00-20:00, Sunday: 11:00-14:00
Free entrance for students.

**35 FACE TO FACE**
With minimalist interior design and reader-friendly light, IANOS is not only a book store but also a meeting point to exchange opinions in a balancing act connecting past and future of the city. In its separate section about Thessaloniki you will definitely find an illustrated book about one of the most fascinating cities in Europe! Also, visit the frequently-changing art exhibitions inside for free.

**36 ROOM WITH A VIEW**
DOMATIO METHEA means "A room with a view" and perfectly describes this place. On the fifth floor of the historic OLYMPION cinema, overlooking the aristocratic Aristotelous Square. Has one of the best views of the city and makes great cappuccino. If the atmosphere is clear you can even see Olympus, the mountain of Gods and legends.

**37 FLOWER POWER**
Surrounded by apartment buildings you will find the most colourful spot in the city, LOULOUDADIKA, the flower market. Of course, it can't compete with the Dutch ones, but its surrounding streets lead you to a different century. Have a seat next to the Ottoman GIAHOUDI HAMAM and order a gyros at XENOFONDAS.

**38 THE PRECIOUS DROP**
Natural spices and flavours from Greece are the best gifts. MASTIHASHOP is a good place to experience Greek culinary products and cosmetics. Most products here are based on mastic, the aromatic resin derived by mastic trees which are cultivated only in the southern part of the island of Chios. In Mastihashop good quality comes with good design and packages can be one more reason to taste the precious content.

**39 FLAVOUR OF THE PAST** (Kapani Market B)
Built in 1937, in the heart of one of the oldest open markets in town, it's also the oldest of its kind. In BALSAMO you will meet local women buying spices for their gourmet recipes, women looking for natural cosmetics, people looking for their favourite relaxing tea and endless selection of pots full of herbs from all over the world. Take a look at the girl painted on the stairs, the advertisement dates back to the early 1930s. Discover Kapani Market and its tiny shops where you will find all sorts of culinary delights.

**27 MYSTIC UNDERWORLD & LITTLE CONSTANTINOPLE**
The city´s underworld is a network of catacombs and crypts. The only one open to the public is the CATACOMB OF AGIOS IOANNIS PRODROMOS. It is said that this catacomb leads to the church of Agios Dimitrios. Leave the daylight behind you and step into a mystery!
Next to it is AGIA SOFIA, a scaled model of the Hagia Sofia in Istanbul. It was built in the 7th century AD and is a world heritage monument of UNESCO. Situated in a garden with palm and pine trees you can admire some of its original mosaics inside. Opening hours: 08:30-14:00, 17:30-20:00.

**28 ISAVRON PEDESTRIAN ZONE**
A lovely narrow road on your way down from Kamara towards the sea. Enjoy the shade of the trees and have a coffee or a cold beer at I STRUMMER. Watch out how much you drink, the owners are tattoo artists and you might end up with a souvenir. During winter you should try a hot chocolate at MICRO MOND, the retro interior design is unique. Greece has also found its way to handmade stuff. Get some handmade souvenirs for your beloved ones at home and visit KITCHEN 29. You'll find something for dreamers, mustache lovers and summer birds made by Ioanna, a local designer.

**29 NAVARINO SQUARE**
Below Kamara is NAVARINO Square, very popular because of its cheap cafés. Buy a crepe or hot dog and admire the ancient palace of Galerios, home of a thousand cats lining-up for their daily meal from their neighbours.Visit Navarino Network (Apellou 3) to get a hard copy of Use-It Thessaloniki.

**30 THERMAIKOS**
In a row of fancy and glamorous bars and cafés at the promenade you shouldn't miss THERMAIKOS, one of the oldest bars in the city, with its red painted front side and the chest flagstones on the floor. People from around the world have travelled just to visit this bar. You cannot but admire the design details and most of all, the attractive clientèle. This is the real thing.

**31 LIQUOR AND LITERATURE**
LOXIAS is a combination of drinks and books. The owner used to have a book store next door. While he would sit and drink with friends in the evenings he had the idea of combining reading and drinking. Now you can relax with wine or tsipouro and read while having a spectacular view of the ancient ruins. Ask the kitchen for the meal of the day which is hot in the pot.

**32 ARTHOUSE**
Do you want to have a drink while wandering in a gallery or just have a look in contemporary pieces of art while drinking a beer in a bar?
You can easily combine art and drinks in the ART-HOUSE gallery bar, located in one of the oldest nightlife streets downtown. It opens late in the evening and it stays until early in the morning.

**21 THE ABSOLUTE URBAN LANDSCAPE**
The small pedestrian ZEFKSIDOS STREET is one of the most "Thessalonian" places in the city. No longer than 100m and surrounded by typical Greek apartment buildings, home of six cafés, a delicatessen, a bakery, a photo shop, a clothing shop and a funky kiosk. It's the place where urban people meet. If you don't find a place to sit, order a cocktail, grab a Free Press newspaper from the kiosk and take a seat next to the flower beds!

**22 CREPE STREET**
If you are a student in Thessaloniki you have probably eaten 1000 crêpes in your life. We usually don't eat our crêpes sweet. Make your own creation with vegetables, chicken and a variety of sauces. They are also great for a long night out.

**23 ARCHITECTURE WE LOVE TO HATE**
The main contribution of Greece in world architecture is the polikatikia, the small scale apartment building, with balconies, where residents have the chance to enjoy the Mediterranean sun and grow their little gardens. Actually, they are the buildings where most people live and love to hate. The cute, tree lined SVOLOU STREET is a journey into the history of architecture of the Greek polikatikia. All modern architectural changes can be found here. Most interesting are the elegant buildings of the 1940s on the upper side of the street with their bay windows and neoclassical elements.

**24 SWEET TRIANGLE**
Ever heard of trigona? You definitely will do, during your stay in Thessaloniki! Trigona means triangles and refers to those triangular desserts with sweet cream, sold at selected pastry shops of the city. One of them is ELENIDIS, established over 50 years ago, and who continues the tradition of hand-made sweets.

**25 SOUTZOUKAKIA**
The street connecting Tsimiski Avenue with the promenade is known as DIAGONIOS (diagonal). That's how the all-time classic grill restaurant located on the street is called. This place reminds you of old Thessaloniki. We love the good and fast service, the reasonable prices and most of all the famous soutzoukakia - the spiced, sausage-shaped meatballs that are served with Greek salad. Expect to pay 15€ for a meal. Closed during weekends and August.

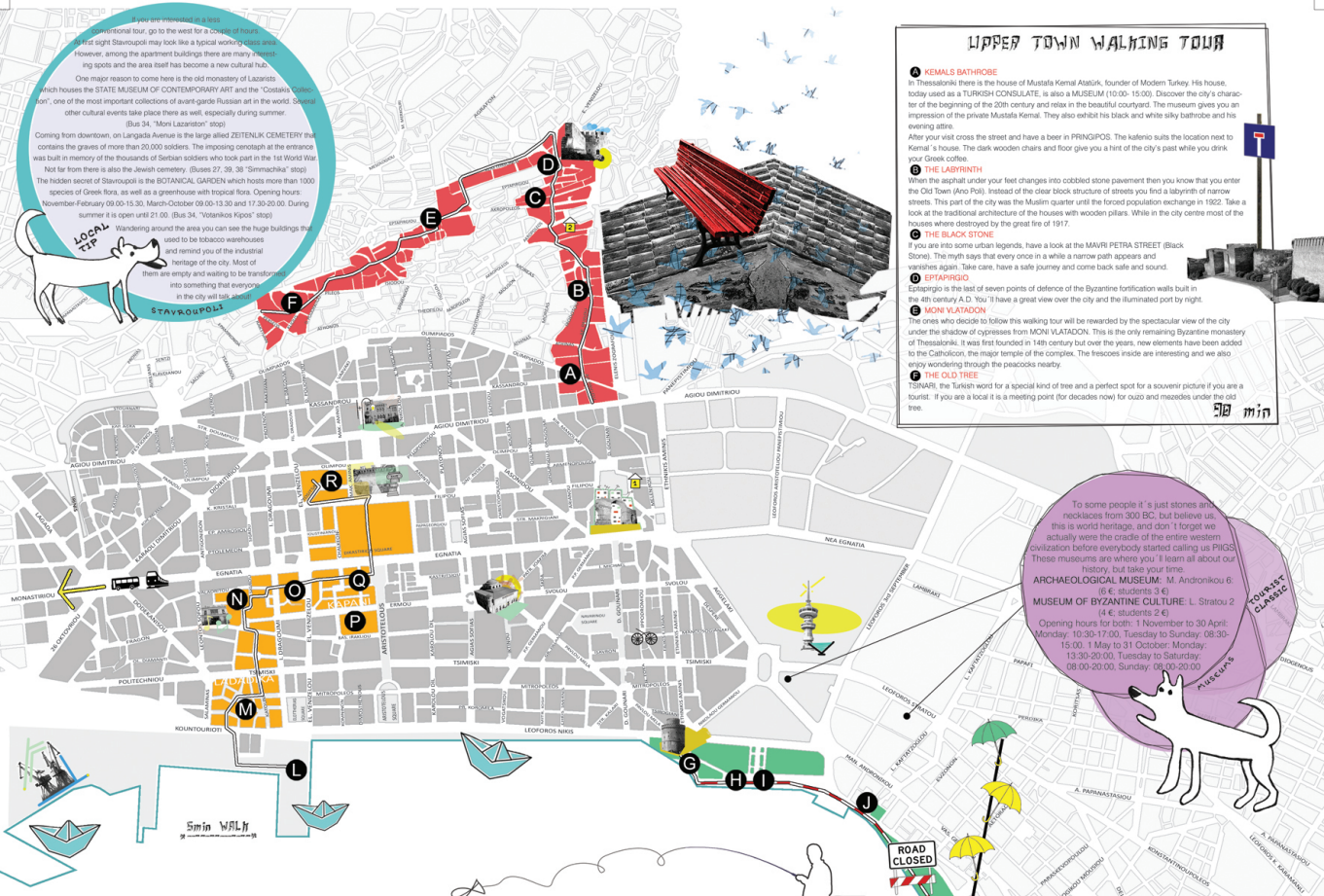
**26 CLASSIC AND ALTERNATIVE**
RESIDENTS is one of these bars you wish they never change. Cause it plays alternative sounds, the staff is friendly, the drinks are not expensive and people here really have fun. It has been running for 10 years and it tends to become classic. Usually it's the choice for the last drink of the night. Don't forget to check the live concerts and dj sets.

**17 AFTER PARTY**
End your party night with soft reggae tones and a peniri (traditional pastry filled with yellow cheese, ham or potatoes; 1,50-2,50€) at GIANNI. The place is run by two brothers who serve you from 01:00- 15:00. Check it out especially during the weekend and meet lots of young people getting a snack before going to sleep.

**18 MEATING POINT**
Yok Balik means 'no fish' in Turkish, so this is a definite stop for all meat lovers! Its small size, loyal clientèle and proximity to the university make YOK BALIK busy all day long. Try the fteroto bouri, a chicken and salad sandwich speciality, made with a thin Arabic pitta bread! Prices start from 3€ per sandwich. Open daily from noon to 01:00.

**19 THE HOUSE OF THE REMBETIKO VIRTUOSO**
Undoubtedly the best place in town to enjoy great music and the best Rembetiko (Greek Blues) performers. Every night PRINGIPISA hosts professional Rembetiko musicians and occasionally famous Greek singers and bouzouki performers in exclusive live performances. On a normal day you can spend about 10€ for a drink and some little snack. During special shows, drinks and snacks might cost a little bit more.

**20 GREEK COFFEE CULTURE**
KAFENAI is one of the few old Greek urban style kafenia (cafes) left. Enjoy your Greek coffee, tsipouro or beer among youngsters and old men who spend their time reading newspapers. Time passes slowly at Kafenai, so get into the Greek coffee-drinking culture and take your time. The house cat is the best example - it has mastered the art of relaxation.




If you are interested in a less conventional tour, go to the west for a couple of hours. At first sight Stavroupoli may look like a typical working-class area. However, among the apartment buildings there are many interesting spots and the area itself has become a new cultural hub.

One major reason to come here is the old monastery of Lazaristes which houses the STATE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART and the "Costakis Collection", one of the most important collections of avant-garde Russian art in the world. Several other cultural events take place there as well, especially during summer. (Bus 34, "Moni Lazariston" stop)

Coming from downtown, on Langada Avenue is the large allied ZEITENLIK CEMETERY that contains the graves of more than 20.000 soldiers. The imposing cenotaph at the entrance was built in memory of the thousands of Serbian soldiers who took part in the 1st World War. Not far from there is also the Jewish cemetery. (Buses 27, 39, 38 "Simmachika" stop)

The hidden secret of Stavroupoli is the BOTANICAL GARDEN which hosts more than 1000 species of Greek flora, as well as a greenhouse with tropical flora. Opening hours: November-February 09.00-15.30, March-October 09.00-13.30 and 17.30-20.00. During summer it is open until 21.00. (Bus 34, "Votanikos Kipos" stop)

Wandering around the area you can see the huge buildings that used to be tobacco warehouses and remind you of the industrial heritage of the city. Most of them are empty and waiting to be transformed into something that everyone in the city will talk about.

## UPPER TOWN WALKING TOUR

**A** KEMALS BATHROBE
In Thessaloniki there is the house of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of Modern Turkey. His house, today used as a TURKISH CONSULATE, is also a MUSEUM (10:00- 15:00). Discover the city's character of the beginning of the 20th century and relax in the beautiful courtyard. The museum gives you an impression of the private Mustafa Kemal. They also exhibit his black and white silky bathrobe and his evening attire.
After your visit cross the street and have a beer in PRINGIPOS. The kafenio suits the location next to Kemal´s house. The dark wooden chairs and floor give you a hint of the city's past while you drink your Greek coffee.

**B** THE LABYRINTH
When the asphalt under your feet changes into cobbled stone pavement then you know that you enter the Old Town (Ano Poli). Instead of the clear block structure of streets you find a labyrinth of narrow streets. This part of the city was the Muslim quarter until the forced population exchange in 1922. Take a look at the traditional architecture of the houses with wooden pillars. While in the city centre most of the houses where destroyed by the great fire of 1917.

**C** THE BLACK STONE
If you are into some urban legends, have a look at the MAVRI PETRA STREET (Black Stone). The myth says that every once in a while a narrow path appears and vanishes again. Take care, have a safe journey and come back safe and sound.

**D** EPTAPIRGIO
Eptapirgio is the last of seven points of defence of the Byzantine fortification walls built in the 4th century A.D. You´ll have a great view over the city and the illuminated port by night.

**E** MONI VLATADON
The ones who decide to follow this walking tour will be rewarded by the spectacular view of the city under the shadow of cypresses from MONI VLATADON. This is the only remaining Byzantine monastery of Thessaloniki. It was first founded in 14th century but over the years, new elements have been added to the Catholicon, the major temple of the complex. The frescoes inside are interesting and we also enjoy wondering through the peacocks nearby.

**F** THE OLD TREE
TSINARI, the Turkish word for a special kind of tree and a perfect spot for a souvenir picture if you are a tourist. If you are a local it is a meeting point (for decades now) for ouzo and mezedes under the old tree.

90 min

To some people it´s just stones and necklaces from 300 BC, but believe us, this is world heritage, and don´t forget we actually were the cradle of the entire western civilization before everybody started calling us PIIGS. These museums are where you´ll learn all about our history, but take your time.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM: M. Andronikou 6: (6 €; students 3 €)
MUSEUM OF BYZANTINE CULTURE: L. Stratou 2 (4 €; students 2 €)
Opening hours for both: 1 November to 30 April: Monday: 10:30-17:00, Tuesday to Sunday: 08:30-15:00. 1 May to 31 October: Monday: 13:30-20:00, Tuesday to Saturday: 08:00-20:00, Sunday: 08:00-20:00

## MARKETS WALKING TOUR

Thessaloniki has always been a major commercial centre and more or less remains so until now. Away from the international brands of Mitropoleos Street, in the western part of the city centre you can find the old markets and the commercial past of the city.

**L** PORT
Although the port has expanded to the west, the old warehouses remain there, housing some of the most interesting cultural landmarks of the city. In the mind of most Thessalonians though, it´s the place where the International Film Festival and International Documentary Festival take place.
Interested in fine arts or not, grab a beer and relax on the promenade, behind the warehouses, with the view of the cornice.

**M** LADADIKA- THE OIL WAREHOUSE
The charming, renovated warehouses gave the name to this area where commercial activities in the oil market used to take place in the past. Being next to the port, it was the first place where sailors, after travelling a long time, used to spend their first money visiting the famous brothels. During the 1990s, this area quickly transformed into the nightspot of the city. Today, it´s a pleasant neighbourhood with many choices for food and drink. It´s also the heart of the rock/ metal scene of the city with bars and clubs and also many studios of bands housed in the old industrial buildings around.

**N** STOCK EXCHANGE SQUARE
The cosmopolitan "Chrimatistiriou" Square is now the heart of the nightlife but in the past used to be the heart of Frankish quarter. The imposing building of STOA (Arcade) MALAKOPI is the old Bank of Thessloniki, founded by the Allatini Brothers, one of the most successful businessmen in the city. The years passed, the Jews and Franks left and the old mansions were abandoned. However, the area has kept its vibrant commercial character until recently with many artisan, textile and cloth shops. Go there before all of them transform into bars and studios!

**O** THE TEXTILE MARKET
The place to live your oriental dream is undoubtedly BEZESTENI, the covered textile market and one of the first Ottoman buildings. The travellers of the 16th century describe it as the most beautiful market in the Balkans. While everything else has changed since the 15th century, Bezesteni remains the same and still houses textile shops.

**P** MODIANO MARKET
As a modern European metropolis in the beginning of the century, Thessaloniki had to replace noisy and messy Ottoman Bazaars with modern and well-organized markets. The MODIANO MARKET, built by the Jewish engineer Eli Modiano, was the first European-style covered market in the city. Since 1925 it hosts the main food market. The building is in need of renovation, but until this happens, feel and smell the atmosphere of the old market. And don´t forget your camera.

**Q** FLOUR MARKET
In the vibrant market of UN KAPANI (flour market), which exists since the Ottoman times at the same place, you will not only find flour, but also fruits, vegetables and other local products, as well as cheap clothes and fabrics in the crowded small shops.

**R** BIT BAZAR
Although the name is Turkish, BIT BAZAR MARKET was built in 1928, when Thessaloniki was already part of the Greek state, to serve the refugees who settled in the city after the population exchange between Turkey and Greece.
But this place is something more than a market; it´s something unique.

Don´t give a damn about the early bird: During the day the inner courtyard is used as a market. You don´t have to get up early to get the best stuff because the slogan is: "You will find something if you don´t search."

From dusk till dawn: As soon as the sun sets, books, paintings and other stuff are replaced by old wooden chairs and tables. The whole area transforms into a huddle of young waiters carrying around tables and chairs trying to get an extra square meter for their guests. Total chaos and total fun! Students come for a late night dinner or a snack, accompanied by ouzo or tsipouro. The prices in all tavernas are quite similar. Nevertheless, the crowd is never wrong, choose the taverna with the most visitors.

60 min

## SEASIDE WALKING TOUR

Be a local and walk along the promenade! Parts of the promenade are under construction, but don´t let that stop you. Enjoy the gorgeous coastal line.
You can make this tour on foot or you can rent a bike at DREAM BIKES, 5€ for 4 hours.

**G** THE DUNGEON
THE WHITE TOWER, a former prison built during the Ottoman period, is now Thessaloniki´s most famous landmark. During the economic crisis it became the meeting point of the Greek indignados, demonstrating against social cuts and injustice. In the evening the area turns into a popular meeting point for everybody. You can find cantinas selling food everywhere. We call this kind of food vromiko (dirty stuff), but it is actually very tasty, cheap and safe. Try the roasted corn and a variety of nuts (passa-tempo).

**H** CITY LIGHTS
A boat trip! The boats here are very popular, either to party or to take your other half on a romantic trip (about 30 minutes, mostly during the summer months), along the coast of the city in the night. You just have to pay for the drinks (no extra charge!) and enjoy the city from the water.

**I** ALEKOS
All roads lead to Rome? Not in Thessaloniki! Here all roads lead to ALEXANDER THE GREAT. His monument is not only for tourists, but its location is also popular with the local skateboard community.
Look for a free place on the stairs at the waterfront and enjoy the sunset. If you are lucky, you will usually get some unplugged guitar music. During the day, you have a beautiful view on Mount Olympus.

**J** BIG BROTHER
Even though the Open Air cinema NATALI mostly shows subtitled non-Greek movies, it is worth a visit because of its location. The open-air cinema is located in between three apartment blocks. Just have a look around you. While you watch a movie, you are being watched as well.

**K** THE 5 GARDENS OF EDEN
The newly renovated promenade includes a series of different gardens: ROSE GARDEN, GARDENS OF REMEMBRANCE, WATER, MUSIC and SOUND. In one of the gardens, where fresh herbs are planted, you may be forgiven for wanting to take some fresh mint with you, for your mojito.

75 min

## FOOD

We love good food and the city itself claims to be a gastronomic paradise. If you want to learn about food in Thessaloniki look at its history. Local cuisine combines the simplicity of Mediterranean cuisine with Balkan influence, enriched with spices and memories brought by immigrants who came from Constantinople, Asia Minor and the Black Sea region during the 20th century. A walk to any of the weekly street markets around the city can be revealing of what people eat.

Fresh vegetables and fruits can be found everywhere. The nearby ports provide the city with a huge variety of fish and seafood. Vegetables with tomato sauce, onions, garlic, herbs, and olive oil, cooked, with or without meat, are the basics and also the typical everyday meal.

However, eating at home is sometimes a routine; going to an ouzeri (ouzo restaurant) is an alternative, where you drink ouzo accompanied by a big variety of mezedes (side dishes) which is shared by everyone at the table. Soutzoukakia, the spicy minced meat balls, is a popular dish; mussels are the basis for a delicious risotto (mydopilafo); and fava (puréed chickpeas) a simple traditional dish that is becoming trendy.

Don´t ignore street food. Cheap and fast, it´s exactly what the thousands of students need. Breakfast must be substantial and can't be anything else than bougatsa, a special pie filled with cream or cheese or even spinach and meat accompanied by ariani (yoghurt milk) or chocolate milk. Try also any other kind of pie you'll find in the bakeries. The way it is made depends on the origin of the cook. Koulouri, the ring-shaped pastry, is the emblem of street food. It´s simple and healthy, and it is sold in bakeries but more traditionally in street stalls on Tsimiski and Egnatia streets.

Gyros is grilled meat (pork or chicken) and served in pitas with tomato, French fries, onion and salad (but not tzatziki, it´s too "Athenian"). It´s cheap, tasty and sustantial, the definition of low budget food.

A special element that defines the gastronomic habits of the city, which preserves tradition, is fasting. The most important fasting period prepares Christians for the greatest feast of the year, Pascha (Easter), and they do not eat meat and dairy products for 40 days before Easter Sunday (and Christmas as well). During these periods, local home cooking and many restaurants adjust their menu to meet the fasting needs of the people. You can find halvah at the supermarket and tahinopita in most bakeries; both are made of tahini (sesame paste) and are consumed especially during fasting period.

Sweet stuff is another highlight of the local gastronomy. Until the end of the 19th century it kept to the Byzantine and Ottoman tradition of baklava, delights, and fruit preserves. However, as a major commercial port Thessaloniki soon adopted European influences, and so French elegance became part of the local confectionery. Tsoureki and Trigona Panoramatos, which combine these two trends, tend to be the sweets-symbols of the city. Baklava, made of nuts and syrup, remains an all-time classic, Melomakarona (moist cookies dipped in honey syrup) are Christmas´ favourites and, of course, everybody loves traditional biscuits flavoured with cinnamon or mastic.

notes:

## TOURIST INFO

PUBLIC TRANSPORT www.oasth.gr
- No metro available, only buses. Single one- way ticket €0,80 at kiosks or inside buses (+0,10€). Alternatively buy a 24h ticket for 4€. Don´t forget to validate your ticket.
- To/from the airport/city centre: Bus 78. (about 45 minutes).
- To/from the inter-city Bus Terminal (KTEL Makedonia): Buses 8, 12, 31
- To/from the Railway Station: Buses: 2, 3, 10, 14 (walking distance from the city centre.)
- Night bus: N78. Every 30 minutes from the bus terminal to the airport and passes the train station and the city centre from Egnatia street.
- discover the city by bike: Dream Bikes 5€ for 4 hours

OUTSIDE THESSALONIKI
- The limited railway network is useful if you visit Athens and areas between the two cities or to visit towns nearby.
- Most towns and villages in northern and central Greece are accessible by the national bus service, KTEL. The buses leave from "KTEL Makedonia" Bus Terminal.
- International buses to Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey leave daily from the area around Railway Station.

OPENING HOURS
- Most shops close early in the afternoon on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and the rest of the days are open until 21:00 with a break in the afternoon.
- Supermarkets are open weekdays 09:00-21:00pm, Saturdays 09:00-20:00pm. On Sunday all shops are closed.
- Restaurants are open until late. Generally it is easy to find food on a 24/7 basis.

ACCOMODATION
- There are two hostels in town: "Rent Rooms Thessaloniki" (1) in the student area, and "Little Big House" (2) in Ano Poli (the old town district), Andokidou Street 24.
- Also check the cheap hotels on Egnatia Street.

-All the forthcoming events and changes on our FBpage **Use-It Thessaloniki**. Almost all cafes in Thessaloniki have free wi-fi. Stay tuned!

## 4 SEASONS OF THESSALONIKI

AUTUMN
In Greece the New Year starts in September. Everybody heads back to town and the wheels are slowly starting to turn again. The biggest festival of art, music and theatre, named DIMITRIA (dedicated to the patron saint of the city, St. Dimitrios, and can be traced back to the years 976-1025 AD), takes place in September-October. For more info visit www.dimitriatheos.gr . The city's international atmosphere reaches its peak during the **INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**, which takes place in November and transforms the city into a place of discovery. It lasts 10 days, and hosts movies from all over the world (www.filmfestival.gr). Wait for the English programme, usually uploaded only a few days before the festival. It takes places at the Olympion cinema and the docks. All the movies are screened with English subtitles. (ticket 6€)

Other events are the **CELEBRATION OF JAZZ** (jazz, world music - www.jazznet.gr), the **REWORKS FESTIVAL** (electronic music, installations, exhibitions and visual works - www.reworks.gr), and the **KOTH UNDERGROUND** (musicians of the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki in an "underground way" - www.smykoth.gr).

WINTER
Winter can be quite cold and especially humid. During Christmas the city is quite calm and empty. Students leave and everybody is celebrating with their family. New Year's Eve is also a family holiday, where people gather together to eat, drink and play cards for their good fortune in the next year.

SPRING
As the trees start to blossom, Greece celebrates its Independence Day (25th of March). Visit the annual **THESSALONIKI DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL** (www.tdf.filmfestival.gr), which takes place usually in March (ticket 4€).
Also, you should visit the **INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR** (www.thessalonikibookfair.com). It may not be the Frankfurt Book Fair, but it is one of the most important book fairs in the Balkans and the Mediterranean and is worth a visit. Every spring (April/ May) the fair takes place at the **HELEXPO** area in the city centre with changing topics and different authors from all over the world. And what's most important – entrance is free! There is also the **GUITAR PLUS**, a festival of Chamber Music for guitar and other instruments.

SUMMER
August is not the best time to visit Thessaloniki if you want to get the true feel of the city. The Feast of the Dormition (August 15th) is the peak of the holiday season. Throughout the month, the city is empty, most locals and their families go to their villages, summer homes, and seaside resorts. Still, the quietness of the city has its own charm.
Notes: Every two years, the **THESSALONIKI BIENNALE OF CONTEMPORARY ART** takes place (www.thessalonikibiennale.gr) with exhibitions, international workshops, performance festivals, and a variety of artistic events. The **PHOTOBIENNALE** (www.photobiennale.gr) is organized by the Thessaloniki Museum of Photography and has exhibitions, and various activities, such as portfolio reviews, lectures, workshops, master classes.

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