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from 9 am to 5 pm (closed on Thursdays), November – March from 10 am to 4 pm (closed on Thursdays), ticket: 3 euro. After checking the Holy Trinity the following remaining monasteries to visit are Agios Nikolaos and Agios Stefanos. Agios Nikolaos Anafanaps Monastery of Agios Nikolaos Anafanaps The Monastery of Agios Nikolaos Anafanaps is a small, simple, and beautiful monastery. It is located in the center of the town of Meteoara. The building was heavily damaged during WWII, but it has been restored and currently hosts a nunnery. Opening hours: April – October from 9 am to 1:30 pm and from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. (Closed on Mondays) On Sundays, it opens at 9:30. November – March, from 9:30 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 5 pm (closed on Mondays). Ticket: 3 euro. When To Visit Meteoara In Greece Agios Stefanos. Saint Stephen Monastery The area can be sweltering in summer and relatively cold in winter; therefore, the best time of the year to visit is spring (March-May) or fall (September-November). Besides better weather, you're bound to find fewer crowds and better accommodation prices. Best Photo Locations In Meteoara Meteoara is full of stunning photo spots where to take the most memorable pictures of the high rocks and the monasteries. One of the most popular places for pictures is Psaroptera, where sunsets are among the most beautiful in the region. Also, near Varlaam Monastery, there are breathtaking places to capture unique pictures of the high, dark rocks. Day Trip From Thessaloniki To Meteoara If you're visiting the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, you're probably wondering how to get to Meteoara from Thessaloniki. It is possible to reach Kalamakia by train to see some of the Greek monasteries on a day trip. You can either take this trip on your own or book a tour that includes the tickets and entrance to three of the six museums. If you plan to visit all of them, it's a good idea to spend the night in Kalamakia, since one day won't be enough for all the sightseeing. It's also possible to join a bus tour departing from the center of Thessaloniki to Meteoara. Different organized tours can take you to the Monasteries of Meteoara and then drive you back to the center of Thessaloniki. What To Wear At Meteoara Greece First, you should remember to carry comfortable walking shoes, such as hiking boots in winter or hiking sandals in summer. Also, wear sunglasses and sunscreen lotion in summer. Remember that the monasteries have a strict dress code regarding the clothes to wear. For example, men are required to wear long pants, while women are required to wear long skirts or dresses. If you're not appropriately dressed, some monasteries may provide shawls or skirts for visitors to borrow. Are there any restrictions for visitors to the monasteries? Visitors are expected to be respectful and quiet when inside the monasteries. Additionally, there may be restrictions on certain areas or buildings within the monastic complex. It's important to be aware of these rules to ensure a respectful and enjoyable visit. How many monasteries are there in Meteoara? There are currently six active monasteries in the Meteoara complex. These monasteries are inhabited by monks and nuns who follow the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition. When were the Meteoara Monasteries built? The exact construction dates of the monasteries vary, but they were mainly built between the 14th and 16th centuries. The challenging location was chosen by monks seeking solitude and spiritual elevation. How can I visit the Meteoara Monasteries? You can visit the Meteoara Monasteries by traveling to the town of Kalamakia in Greece. From there, you can take guided tours or hike up to the monasteries. 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Simple and clear- this is a family-run taverna since 1925. The traditional slow-cooked Greek food was delicious (we ate there twice), service is excellent, and you get to choose between sitting in a garden with the views of the rocks during the day or dining inside the dining room excessively decorated with souvenirs and almost a centuries' old ceiling. Set over two floors, the Taverna Gennia in Kastraki is a popular place where you can enjoy a good coffee and I am very picky with it. I have to admit I struggled with finding great coffee during my fairly short visit, but this coffee shop in Kalambaka did not disappoint. If you love it a little bit chocolaty, try their hot Mochaccino. Don't miss the homemade granola bar dipped in dark chocolate, yum.What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and Meteora?Moussaka for meat lovers, saganaki for cheese lovers, and stuffed eggplants or stuffed peppers and tomatoes for vegetarians. Also, big white beans are one of the best vegetarian traditional dishes found all over Greece, also available in Meteora's restaurants.There are two towns you can stay in Meteora-Kalambaka-a bigger, more popular town with plenty of restaurants, bars, pastries, and souvenir shops. It would be a more convenient place to stay for those who arrive by train or bus as the stations are located in Kalambaka. Kastraki – a smaller, quieter, cozier, town which is easy to park at and also has a few fantastic places to eat, a great choice for those who drive. Nonetheless, both towns offer some great accommodation options and are equally convenient for reaching the Meteora complex in a matter of minutes (when driving). Also, Kastraki and Kalambaka are steps away from each other. Thus, if you drive, you can get between the towns quickly. Check my top picks of Meteora accommodation below.I hope you found this Meteora travel blog useful and that it has helped you to easily plan your visit to Meteora monasteries. If you are planning your trip to Greece, make sure to check out my Greece travel resources as well as browse other posts about Greece on my travel blog (scroll down). Visiting the incredible Meteora region in Greece during your vacation? This guide to the best Kalambaka hotels will show you where to stay near Meteora so that you can make the most of your time when there. Where to stay in Meteora Greece Although Meteora can be reached when taking day trips from Athens, this UNESCO World Heritage Site deserves as much time as you can give it. After visiting Meteora and its surrounding area, you'll want to stay in Kalambaka or Kastraki. Both towns offer the best accommodations in the area. From Kalambaka and Kastraki near Meteora The villages of Kalambaka and Kastraki are the best places to stay near Meteora due to their close proximity to the monasteries. Kastraki is closer to the monasteries and park, and is a smaller, and perhaps more charming place to stay. It's really like a traditional village. Kalambaka is a larger town, with more infrastructure and modern accommodation. As such there are more Kalambaka hotels than hotels in Kastraki. Booking.com Meteora Where To Stay The majority of the hotels in Kalambaka and Kastraki are smaller, family-run places, although there are a couple of local Greek chain hotels among them. Both villages have a range of accommodation to suit all budgets, and I've included something for everyone. I've also linked to Booking which helps you get the best price for booking a hotel near Meteora. Here are my suggestions for the top 5 hotels in Kalambaka and Kastraki. Top Kalambaka Hotels in Meteora Greece Divani Meteora Hotel in Kalambaka The Divani Meteora Hotel is located in the village of Kalambaka, and is classed as 4-5 star hotel. Whilst it doesn't have a swimming pool, it does have an in-house spa. The sauna and Jacuzzi might be useful after a day spent sightseeing around the monasteries of Meteora! A very comfortable place to stay for a night or two. ** Read the TripAdvisor reviews for this hotel here - TripAdvisor Reviews ** ** Find the best hotel prices here - Compare Prices Online ** Kosta Famissi Hotel in Kalambaka If you can get by the rather garish and kitsch front entrance, you will find that this hotel in Kalambaka offers pretty good value for money. It's a 3 star place with around 50 rooms, so you should find a place to stay even in the very busiest times of year. Opposite, there is another hotel with almost the same name. I didn't want to ask if it belonged to the same family, just in case they had fallen out at some time in the past! ** Read the TripAdvisor reviews for this hotel here - TripAdvisor Reviews ** ** Find the best hotel prices here - Compare Prices Online ** Tsimakli Guesthouse near Meteora Tsimakli Guesthouse is a small, family-run hotel in Kalambaka. It has a swimming pool, a restaurant, and a bar. The hotel is very comfortable and has a great location. It is a good choice for those who want to stay in Kalambaka and have access to the facilities in the village. ** Read the TripAdvisor reviews for this hotel here - TripAdvisor Reviews ** ** Find the best hotel prices here - Compare Prices Online ** Top Hotels in Kastraki, Meteora Meteora Hotel in Kastraki A luxury 4-5 star hotel in the village of Kastraki, the Meteora Hotel is an ideal place to be based. With a swimming pool and stylish touches it is instantly appealing, but really, it's the views which make this place a winner. ** Read the TripAdvisor reviews for this hotel here - TripAdvisor Reviews ** ** Find the best hotel prices here - Compare Prices Online ** Dellas Boutique Hotel in Kastraki, Meteora My final choice for one of the best places to stay near Meteora, is the Dellas Boutique Hotel in Kastraki. It is a 3 star hotel, but probably deserves 4. It has a cosy feel to it, with the feel of a modern, elegant mountain lodge. There is both a bar and dining room in the hotel, making it a good place to stay for people who want all the facilities in one hotel. ** Read the TripAdvisor reviews for this hotel here - TripAdvisor Reviews ** ** Find the best hotel prices here - Compare Prices Online ** Tsikeli Hotel Meteora – Kastraki Village Kastraki's most elegant hotel, decorated in earth tones, stone and wood, has no noisy children to spoil your romantic getaway as it's an adult only hotel. Choose from the cozy, budget-friendly double to the opulent suite with its own sauna and Nespresso coffee machines; all include Coco-Mat beds and refrigerators. There are magnificent views of Meteora from the front garden, and breakfast is served here most days. You can also hire e-bikes and cars to explore the Meteora rocks area and to reach the monasteries. Read more here: Tsikeli Hotel Wondering how to visit Meteora independently? Here is my easy guide to visiting Meteora monasteries in Greece. This practical Meteora travel blog includes information on the best time to go, how to get to and around Meteora, which monasteries are worth seeing, their opening times, where to stay in Meteora, places to eat, and other handy tips and interesting facts. "The beauty of Meteora is intense". These were the words of my Greek friend who traveled with me to visit the mysterious monasteries perched atop narrow pillars of rock. The otherworldly 60 million years old rock formations with ages old buildings perched on top look like a surreal drawing or a CGI of a fantasy movie. Indeed, you have to see Meteora to believe it exists. Yet it is hard to comprehend how on earth the monks back in the medieval ages came up with an idea and actually managed to build sacred homes atop hundreds of meters tall vertical rocks. The nature and human work involved are no less than mind-blowing. Read this Meteora guide for everything you need to know to efficiently plan your time in one of the most spectacular places on Earth. An Easy Guide to Visiting Meteora Monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceTips and FAQ for visiting MeteoraThese Meteora travel tips will give you an overall idea of what to expect during your visit:There are 6 functional Greek Orthodox monasteries in Meteora that you can visit during their opening times (provided below in this post). The entrance fee to each of the monasteries is 3 EUR per person. Budget 18 EUR if you want to visit them all. Greek nationals enter for free. Each of the 6 monasteries in Meteora is closed on one day during the weekday in the summer season, and some of them a few days a week during the winter season. All of them are open during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) all year round. Mind the dress code when visiting Meteora monasteries: you must cover your shoulders and knees to enter monasteries. Ladies must wear a long skirt covering the knees (pants are not allowed for ladies and they are strict about it). All of the monasteries (except Varlaam) provide skirts free of charge at the entrances. Meteora's popularity grew exponentially during the past few years. Thus, expect lots of independent visitors and even more tour buses all year round from sunrise to sunset. Visit during winter months for the least amount of people. Parking is available at each of the monasteries. When it gets full, people park alongside the main road, which is normal.Snacks, water, and soft drinks are available to buy at the entrances to the largest monasteries- Great Meteoron, Varlaam, and Saint Stephen. Yet, bring your own bottle of water if you are planning on visiting smaller monasteries or venturing off the beaten path.It is possible to visit all monasteries in one day on a weekend. However, it may feel exhausting and rushed. If you can, spend at least one night in Meteora to experience the sunset and the sunrise– the most magical times for photography.It is possible to get around Meteora and visit monasteries by walking if you are game (and fit enough to handle at least 16km uphill and downhill). 5 out of 6 monasteries are accessible via a number of steep stone stairs (minimum 140 to over 200, depending on the monastery). This should be taken into consideration if a visitor has mobility restrictions. Only St. Stephen nunnery has a flat path with no staircase, making it easily accessible to everyone. Frescoes inside the monasteries are beyond impressive. However, photography is not allowed inside churches (they will spot you through cameras if you try to snap a shot). Yet, there are a few places in a couple of monasteries, where you can take a picture of the beautifully ornated room.Located in Thessaly, the central region of mainland Greece, Meteora is reachable both from Athens and Thessaloniki by car, bus, train, or tour.Choose Kastraki over Kalambaka for a more peaceful stay. I found staying in Kastraki a better choice as this town is smaller and quieter than the popular and busy Kalambaka. Also, parking and driving around Kastraki were always easy. Meanwhile, access to monasteries by car is equally convenient.Guided tours from Athens and Thessaloniki are a great option if you are not willing or cannot travel independently. There are one-day, two-day, and even 3-day tours available from both cities. Just to give you a heads up, Meteora is one of the absolute best places to visit in Greece. After seeing Meteora every other location looks well, just ordinary. That being said, it might be worth leaving the best for the last on your Greece itinerary. Meteora travel essentialsOne of the rooms where photography was allowed.Guide to Meteora monasteries in Greece, aerial view of Russounou nunnery A brief overview of Meteora and its "suspended in the air" monasteriesTranslating as "suspended in air", the uniqueness of Meteora is simply unmatched. It is hard to find a place on Earth that packs it all- unparalleled natural beauty intertwined with cultural and historical significance. No surprise that Meteora is a UNESCO-protected site since 1988.The distinct rocks which you can see in Meteora today are a result of the tectonic shift process which took place over 60 million years ago. The clustered smooth soaring peaks of Meteora reach up to 550 meters and are all different in shape making the typography one of a kind. The cultural and religious aspect comes into play from the 9th century AD when the first monks moved to the area and sought solitude in the caves of Meteora rocks. Historical sources confirm that the first sacred houses atop the steep pillars of rock started to be built by monks in the 11th century.The technology used back in the Middle Ages required years of scrupulous and hard work to finish each monastery. By the 16th century, there were two dozen Greek Orthodox monasteries. Today only 6 of them remain and are fully functional (2 nunneries and 4 male monasteries). Today bridges, staircases, and even funiculars (used by monks for transporting goods) allow easier access to each of the monasteries. Meanwhile back in the day ropes and baskets were the only means available to enter the sacred homes. Guide to visiting Meteora monasteries in Greece, the rope basket you can see in this image was used in old days to transport goods and even people. Holy Trinity monasteryIn Orthodox Christian belief the body remains the temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus, relics of saints are venerated. In every Greek Orthodox church, you will see earthly remains (bone of feet or hand, or part of a scull) embedded in altar tables. Orthodox Christians were widely persecuted during the Ottoman Empire. This cruel historical fact is reflected in detailed paintings of the frescoes inside the churches. James Bond's movie "For Your Eyes Only" was filmed in Meteora and The Holy Trinity appeared in some of the scenes making it the most photographed monastery.Linkng Park's album "Meteora" was named after Meteora in Greece way before it was discovered by many travelers. Game of Thrones fans may recognize the scenery of the fictional city of Eyrie backdrop of which was inspired again by the same Meteora in Greece. Holy Trinity monastery with Kalambaka town in the background aerial view, Meteora, Greece My Meteora map shows the exact locations of each monastery and other points of interest mentioned in this Meteora guide.How to get to MeteoraPositioned in central Greece, Meteora is not the easiest or quickest place to reach. The most convenient way to travel to Meteora is by car. Yet public transport (buses and trains), as well as tours, are also available.Trains offer the fastest connections from Athens and Thessaloniki.Tours offer a hassle-free journey but also limited flexibility.Buses are the most inconvenient way to travel to Meteora.The closest airports to Meteora are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki International Airport. Once in Greece, the most convenient way to visit Meteora is by (rental) car. It gives you full control over your own schedule and also eases moving around the Meteora area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive to Meteora from Athens and 2-3 hours to drive from Thessaloniki to Meteora. Also read: Renting a car in Greece: 30+ Key Things to Know before Driving in Greece.Good to know: there are many tolls on the way from Athens to Meteora and you can pay by card or cash at the toll gate. One way we paid around 20 EUR for the tolls between Athens and Meteora. If you are traveling from Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well.The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Kalambaka (one of the two base towns for visiting Meteora).Train from Athens to Kalambaka (or Kalampaka)Once a day direct intercity train from Athens (Larissa station) to Kalambaka, departing at 7:57 AM and arriving at 12:03, trip duration 4:06 hours.Four times a day intercity and regional trains are available with change in PalaeofarsalosTrain from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day direct intercity train is available from Kalambaka train station, departing at 18:22 and arriving in Athens at 22:26.Three times a day intercity and regional trains are available with change in PalaeofarsalosAthensKalambaka one-way ticket price is around 36 EUR, return of 57 EUR.Train from Thessaloniki to KalambakaThere are 6 times a day intercity and slow regional trains with interchange in Palaeofarsalos town departing from Thessaloniki (Neos Sidirodromikos Stathmos) to Kalambaka. The journey takes between 3 to 6 hours depending on the time of the day.Train from Kalambaka to ThessalonikiThere are 5 times a day intercity and slow regional trains with an interchange in Palaeofarsalos town departing from Kalambaka to Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day.Thessaloniki-Kalambaka one-way ticket price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR.For up-to-date train schedules, ticket prices, and booking tickets to Meteora (Kalambaka) online, visit the national railway website.The least convenient, and the most time-consuming option is taking a bus. From Athens "Liosion" bus station you can catch a bus to Trikala town and then another bus to Kalambaka. This trip due to less convenient schedules can take up to 8 hours. From Thessaloniki "Macedonia" bus station catch a bus to Trikala and then another bus to Kalambaka. Allow enough time to change buses.If you do not have your own means of transport and prefer having a knowledgeable guide, and all the logistics sorted, joining a Meteora tour either from Athens, Thessaloniki or Kalambaka is a good idea. Even with limited time, it is feasible to join a day tour and experience the magic of this truly incredible place.If I was planning my trip to Meteora I couldn't get a grasp of how big or small the area actually is. The logistics of getting between the monasteries was a mystery as the place itself.it all became very clear, however, when I got there and drove one loop from Kastraki over the main road (Epar. Od. Meteoron-Kallithea) leading to monasteries and then back down to Kalambaka. Although Meteora is quite expensive, it is small enough to get around either by car, taxi, or even cycling and walking. Getting around Meteora by car. The easiest way is to drive around Meteora on your own or in a rental car. There is only one main road with a couple of side roads

Athanasios the Meteorite. Within the monastery you'll find a museum and main church, but take some time soaking in the breathtaking views across Kalabaka from its courtyard. Tour the Great Meteoron and after you're done there, walk a few steps over to Varlaam, the neighboring monastery. Founded in the 14th century, Vaarlam is the second-largest monastery in Meteora and was reputed to house the finger of St. John and the shoulder blade of St. Andrew. You can easily spend 30-40 minutes wandering around each monastery and exploring the chapels, courtyards, cellars and so on. Taken from the viewpoint between Great Meteoron and Varlaam at sunset, We had time to go back to the hotel for a shower and to change after a day of sightseeing in Meteora - this outfit would not fly inside the monastery! Once you have explored Varlaam, take the path on your left (as you're exiting) to walk back down to where you parked your car. Bonus points for buying a popsicle outside Varlaam to cool yourself off. Ready to book your Meteora trip? We loved our stay at the family-run Pyrgos Adrachti hotel in Kastraki. The low-key boutique hotel is a 5-minute drive away from the Meteora monasteries. Click here to book your stay at the Pyrgos Adrachti hotel or click here to see other highly rated hotels in Meteora and the surrounding areas!Looking for more Meteora hotel options? You might also want to consider checking out at The Storyteller (an elegant boutique hotel with modern rooms), 1951 Suites (a renovated traditional house offering rooms with a view) and Tsikeli Boutique Hotel (an adult-only Meteora hotel with tastefully-decorated rooms). 2. Drive on to Roussanou and Holy Trinity Next, drive over to Roussanou (also known as The Monastery of St. Barbara), a nunnery dating back to the 16th century. Today, it is still a working nunnery with more than a dozen nuns who reside there and tend to a church and reception halls. Compared to the other monasteries in Meteora, Roussanou is relatively easily accessible due to its lower elevation. Holy Trinity dates back to the 14th century and is not easy to get to as it sits high up on a cliff, so pace yourself as it is only reachable by hiking up nearly 150 steps. Because of its location and inaccessibility, few tour buses stop here so it may be perfect for those looking for a more peaceful opportunity to explore the grounds. In the past, the Holy Trinity also relied upon pulleys and baskets for supplies, but a small funicular is now used to carry supplies to the main building. Once you have visited these two monasteries, head back towards Kalabaka for lunch as St. Stephen's is shut from 1:30-3:30 pm (1-3 pm in the winter months). On your way back, you can stop at The Monastery of St. Nikolaos as it shuts earlier than the other monasteries. St. Nikolaos dates back to the 14th century and features detailed frescoes painted in the early 1500s; today, it houses just one lone abbot. 3. Next, head over to St. Stephen's St. Stephen's is the most accessible monastery as all you have to do is cross a bridge. If you have any mobility issues or are traveling with young children or elderly family then you may want to consider heading straight to St. Stephen's. It suffered a lot of damage during WWII and was abandoned until the 1960s when it was restored as a nunnery - today, it is home to more than two dozen nuns. As you drive from point-to-point, there are plenty of lookout areas that you can stop and take pictures at, just make sure you park safely and out of the way of other vehicles. Ready to see this incredible place with your own eyes? Click here to book your stay at the Pyrgos Adrachti hotel or click here to see other highly rated hotels in Meteora and the surrounding areas! My ultimate tip for visiting Meteora End the day with a stunning sunset at Psaropetra sunset view point in Meteora. Most people swarm to watch the sunset in Meteora from another viewpoint next to Varlaam, so this one tends to be relatively uncrowded. Even when there are more visitors there is still room for everyone to spread out. Psaropetra is just past the Roussanou nunnery parking lot. On a clear night you can expect the most mind blowing colours - see why this is probably the best sunset viewpoint in Meteora? "Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world." I hope this guide helps you to visit Meteora more efficiently and make the most of your time in Greece. Have you visited Meteora? What are your tips to travelers visiting the area? Ready to book your trip to Meteora in Greece? I recommend staying at the family-run Pyrgos Adrachti hotel in Kastraki. The hotel is only 1 kilometer from St. Nikolaos should you wish to walk, or a 5 minute drive away from where the monasteries are located. Make sure you ask for a room with a view! Click here to book your stay at the Pyrgos Adrachti hotel or click here to see other highly rated hotels in Meteora and the surrounding areas!Looking for more options for where to stay in Meteora? We would also seriously consider staying at The Storyteller (a stylish boutique hotel with modern rooms), 1951 Suites (a renovated traditional house offering rooms with a view) and Tsikeli Boutique Hotel (an adults-only hotel in Meteora with cozy and tastefully-decorated rooms). Planning a trip to Greece? Check out my other destination guides! Pin this for later! This article contains affiliate links. If you choose to book using these links, I will earn a small commission at no extra cost to you. Thank you for supporting my website by using these links! Enjoyed reading this article? 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