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Ermoupoli is one of the most beautiful small towns in Greece. Founded during the Greek War of Independence by refugees from other islands, it soon became the country's main port and a major commercial center. The city flourished throughout the 19th Century, and many buildings from that period give it a distinct neoclassical appearance.
Though... The first time we visited Tinos we were shocked to discover that it's one of the less touristy Greek islands. Even though it's part of the Cyclades Archipelago, it receives far less tourists than Mykonos, directly in front. You see, Greece is so beautiful and has so many islands that you can always find the... If you dreamed about the perfect little
town, in the perfect Greek island, then Parikia is for you. The settlement has all that makes Greece famous: archaeology, beaches, blue domes, cute plazas, whitewashed houses, delicious food and warm hosts. Parikia is one of our favorite spots in the Cycladas. Though not fully under the radar,... Serifos has a special place in our hearts. It was one of
the first islands we visited before moving to Greece. Now that we live in Athens, we visit regularly. Since it's only 62 miles (100 km) from the port of Piraeus it's easy for us to go. In fact, we try to go to... If you are wondering whether to go to Santorini or Mykonos, you are lucky. We are talking about two of the most beautiful islands in the world.
Santorini and Mykonos are in the Cyclades, the most famous group of islands in Greece. However, though equally gorgeous, they are quite different.. Therefore, they cater to different.. Maybe Tinos is not the first Greek islands are far more popular. Not that there's
anything wrong with the likes of Santorini or Mykonos. We've been there and loved them. However, Tinos Island is amongst the nicest less visited islands... Sifnos is everything a Greek island should be. The not so touristy island boasts blue crystalline water, pristine beaches, lovely nature, cute little towns, delicious food, 300 churches, historic
buildings, archaeology, and incredible hospitality. Located a couple of hours away from Athens, the island is easy. Indeed, Syros is perfect if you want to experience the best of Greece: beaches and culture. We know the island
pretty well, so we'll help you decide where to stay in Syros. Syros has hotels for all tastes set amongst... Sifnos and Serifos are some of our favorite islands in the Cyclades archipelago. Located just a step away from Athens in the Agean sea, they boast extraordinary beaches, charming old towns, and killer sunsets. What else could you possibly ask
for? Greek delicious food and superb hospitality complete the feast. No matter how many pictures of... The first time we went to Mykonos we were already living in Athens. A friend from the US announced he was visiting Mykonos we were already living in Athens. A friend from the US announced he was visiting Mykonos we were already living in Athens. A friend from the US announced he was visiting Mykonos we were already living in Athens.
Santorini. We've been back to Mykonos, in different seasons. We... Before moving to Greece, we decided to spend some time in Athens to see how we liked it. Additionally to its own beauty, Athens is pretty close to 6000 islands. Who hasn't dreamed of going to a Greek Island? They occupy a special place in our collective imaginary. However, most of
these islands are packed... Hi, I am Milos, architect, blogger, and world traveler. I was born in Belgrade (Serbia) in the 80s. Soon enough my life went through several major changes, including the collapse of my original country, war, sanctions and isolation. Luckily for me, I was able to travel during my student years. This changed my life for good,
and forever! In 2006 I moved to Barcelona to pursue my career as an architect. Due to a string of short lived circumstances, I ended up working in tourism. From bike and walking tours, to apartment rental, and travel writing, I did it all. In 2016, I began sharing my stories from my travels around the world in my blog: Happy Frog Travels. In 2018, my
husband Andre and I moved to Athens. I fell in love with Greece instantly. Over the years, we traveled all around the country enjoying every moment of it. We discovered beautiful cities, towns, and villages, walked along impressive mountains, swam in crystal blue waters, and chilled in golden beaches. We ate and drunk like kings and experienced
Greece's unparalleled hospitality everywhere we went. That's how In Love With Greece was born. Here you'll find lots of information about the country's most popular places, and its not so famous ones too. We have tons of tips, including the coolest things to do, and the best hotels to stay at. Join us and let's explore Greece together. Have you ever
heard of a stunningly beautiful place on Earth called Meteora, located in Central Northern Greece; I'm always fascinated that such interesting rock formations existed in Greece; I'm always fascinated
when natural Earth wonders are integrated with man-made architectural phenomenons. In this post you'll find a comprehensive guide on everything you need to know about visiting Meteora How much it costs to visit the Monasteries How to dress when visiting
the Monasteries Regional cuisine of inland mainland Greece and where to eat Where to hike How to get to the Grand Meteora (the most famous of all the Monasteries) How Much Time Should you Spend in Meteora? We spent two nights in Meteora and used the first day to visit three of the Monasteries and take photos at the lookouts, and the
second day for hiking. Two nights and three days was a bit short, but that's because we love to hike and there were a plethora of hikes to explore around the area. If you're a climber or hiker, then I would recommend 3 - 5 days. What Does "Meteora" Mean? Meteora literally means
"suspended in the air" or "high in the heavens" (what an appropriate name!) The area is made up of monolithic rock formations and boulders that flowed into a delta at the edge of a lake over millions of years. A series of
earth movements pushed the seabed upwards, creating the plateaus, fissures and fault lines that we see today. As early as the 11th century, the caves in the rocks were occupied by Monks, but the Monasteries atop the cliffs were not built until the 14th century when Monks sought a hiding place to protect them from Turkish attacks. At that time, the
only way to get up and down into the Monasteries was by rope ladders and pulleys. Now there are modern staircases and ramps to allow tourism access to each Monasteries was by rope ladders and pulleys. It looked like tourists in brightly-colored clothing. However, with my camera's zoom lens, I realized that it was laundry
drying outside, which leads me to believe that somebody perhaps lives inside of this cave, even though there appears to be no way to access it... *shudders* How Much Does it Cost to Visit the Meteora Monasteries? Meteora is located in the area of Kalambaka. Most of the tourists were from France and Russia. There were originally 25 Monasteries,
but after natural disasters and deterioration over time, only six now remain; four are Monasteries (men only), and two are nunneries (women only). Each Monasteries are high up on the cliffs, it requires a bit of physical capability to walk up and
down all the stone steps. It's a great workout and completely worth the efforts! (Click on each photo to enlarge it) A bit dodgy for those with vertigo! I love the little sunflower poking out of the window with a dot of color! Dogs here have no sense of mortality. Dog will lay in the middle of the street, wherever he damn well pleases (don't worry, no dogs
were harmed in the making of this photo) How Do You Dress To Visit the Monasteries? Men and women must cover the knees (pants will not suffice). There are no requirements to cover the head as in many churches. Because
these are active Monasteries, the dress code is strict. However, not to worry as each Monastery provides pants for men and wrap around skirts for women. I love this photo so much because it shows Sasha's childlike wonder (as he ducks his head through the low doorway) Where to Eat in Meteora In Meteora there are several bakeries serving baklava
and halva, a local dessert with butter, toasted almonds and sugar. It had a mochi-like gelatinous consistency and the top part tasted like flan. It was delicious and so fattening! I love that depending on the region of Greece in which you are visiting, the local fare differs. For example, food on Crete Island was very different from inland mainland Greece,
where you'll find very little seafood, and because of the higher altitudes and cooler climates, olives aren't as prolific as they are in the oven, cooked in tomato sauce), grilled cheese with balsamic vinaigrette, lots of fresh meats (usually lamb, pork and
chicken), Greek meatballs in tomato sauce, and stuffed zucchini with minced meat, onions, rice dill & oregano. And of course, you can always count on a Greek salads. Sometimes the translations from Greek to English make me giggle
Our second day in Meteora consisted of exploring some of the hiking trails, which were phenomenal. Hiking in Meteora You can easily hike on your own, though there are several guided hiking tours, including scrambling guides as well! (Excellent for climbers, not for the faint of heart, because, well, yeah....the photos below say it all.) We discovered a
great trail that wandered through the lowlands with views looking up at the rock formations, which was spectacular. This is one of the thousands of reasons I love travel; because it makes you realize what a small place you occupy in this great world and humbles you. We simply parked our car and took off. (PS: I think there may be more cats in
Greece than humans. You'll see this scene a lot): Watch out for extraordinarily dangerous, large, beastly and aggressive wildlife, such as this menacing guy! 

We were afraid someone was going to step on him, so Sasha picked him up and moved him to the other side to safety. Beautiful Photos That Will Make you Want To Visit Meteora! The trail
comes out to a plateau where you can view a Monastery only accessible by foot (there is no road where you can just drive and walk up to it.) How To Get To The Grand Meteoron After the plateau, the trail goes directly through the main road, the
trail continues inconspicuously down a cobblestone path and back into the forest. These are the trails that were used hundreds of years ago to remain unnoticed by potential enemies. After a few hundreds of years ago to remain unnoticed by potential enemies. After a few hundreds of years ago to remain unnoticed by potential enemies.
out of our hotel, I saw two bicycles with heaps of gear on the back and a tanned guy in a helmet. I asked him where he was headed to on the bike, thinking he might say a neighboring country such as Bulgaria or Albania. To my shock, he said "Thailand". My jaw dropped. "I'm sorry, did you just say you are biking from here to Thailand?!" thinking
perhaps I needed to clean out my ears from all the sea water. He confirmed that I had heard correctly. By his accent and name (Stefan), I guessed that he was from Germany. I was correct. I asked him how long he thinks it will take, and he said about one year and a half. The guy on the left of me (Andy) is originally from Nebraska but hasn't lived in
the states for over ten years, so his accent is all kinds of crazy. He spent four years living in Medellin, Colombia (where we visited at the start of our journey) and traveled all over South America and Europe. He ditched his backpack in Madrid, bought a bike, and hasn't looked back. They started out as solo adventurers but met each other on the road
and decided to bike together since they both miraculously happened to have the same destination. What an incredible journey! I just had to take a photo with them (they smelled pretty "Earthy") but these guys are my heroes. So that, my friends, is how do visit Meteora in three days to fit in food, views, Monasteries, hiking, culture and dessert! *PIN
THIS POST!* Though Meteora is famous around the world, it doesn't get all of the attention it deserves. Isn't that great? Unlike the country's most popular islands, there aren't huge crowds of tourists and you can always have alone time. Besides, most tourists visit for the day and leave. Therefore, spending at least one night in Meteora is a must. You
will be able to enjoy this UNESCO listed site on your own, catch the sunset, walk about at night breathing fresh air, and eat like a king. We live in Athens and travel the country every time we can. Whenever we want ancient architecture, breathtaking nature, and warm people, off we go to Meteora. We have prepared this comprehensive guide to
visiting Meteora. You will have the time of your life! *This post contains affiliate links. If you make a purchase through these links, we may earn a commission at no extra cost to you. What's Special about Meteora No other place in Greece, and we believe in Europe, combines nature and architecture like Meteora. We are talking about an impressive
geological formation. Massive rocks and hills tower above cute traditional towns. Ancient monasteries crown these rocks. You have to see it to believe it! When you are there, you can't help but marvel at the ingenuity and work of the monks who built them as back as the 14th Century AC. They were careful to build elegant temples that blend with
nature. The interior of the temples is as grand as the exterior. You will see Byzantine art at its best. Gorgeous frescoes cover the walls. The air is fresh and the views are epic. Monasteries of Meteora There are six main monasteries to visit: Monastery of Great Meteoron, Monastery of St. Nicholas Anapafsas, Monastery of the Holy Trinity, Monastery of Great Meteoron are epic.
Rousanou, Monastery of Varlaam, and Monastery of St. Stephen. From Kalambaka you can walk up the hill, so take your time. From Kastraki you can walk to the Monastery of Saint Nicholas Anapafsas along the main road. This walk is easier. Walking to the other four monasteries is
hard and takes hours. If that's your thing and you are in great shape, go for it. If not, take an organized tour, hire a taxi with a driver, or drive yourself. Monastery of Great Meteoron, also known as the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus, is the oldest and grandest of them all. The only monastery most
sacred than this one is Mount Athos. Not only that, but the 50,000 square meter (538,000 sq foot) monastery stands on the biggest rock in Meteora. Athanasios, the Meteorate monk, came up with the idea of monastery stands on the biggest rock in Meteora.
stairs carved into the rock, including an incredible museum distributed throughout the monastery of St. Nicholas Anapafsas The first monastery you will encounter on your way from Meteora town is the Monastery of St. Nicholas
Anapafsas, founded at the end of the 14th Century, The first thing you will see when you get there is the Church of St. Anthony. Pop in and check the incredible 14th Century frescoes that cover the walls. As you will find the Church of St. Anthony.
Nicholas. The frescoes inside the church are the most famous ones, attributed to the best Cretan iconography painter, Theophanes Strelitzas. The former Table, now a reception hall, occupies the top level. Monastery of Holy Trinity (Agia Triada) You will have to make a bit of an effort to get to this one. In old times you had to use ropes to get to the
Monastery of the Holy Trinity. In 1925, 140 steps were carved into the stone facilitating the access. When we were walking up, we couldn't help but think how hard it must have been to build the temple! Movie fanatics will recognize it from the 1981 James Bond Movie For Your Eyes Only. At least movie fans of a certain age! The monastery is
considered the third oldest, built in 1438. However, the main church built in 1475 has frescoes completed in 1741. On the other hand, the paintings in the chapel of Saint John Babtis date from 1682. We believe this one offers the best views. To the east, the Monastery of St. Stephen up close. Then the valley of the Peneus, Kalambaka River, the Chaia
Mountains, the Monastery of Varlaam, and the Great Meteoron. Monastery of Rousanou towers seamlessly above the most incredible rock formation. When we were looking up, we thought that the monastery and the rock were one massive structure! The Monastery dates back to
the early 16th Century and sits over a former church. Though for centuries you had to use ropes to climb, thanks to donations, the monks carved stairs into the rock in the 1930s. Since the Monastery has three levels. The Church of the
Transfiguration of the Savior from 1530 is on the top floor. Go in and prepare to be dazzled by delicate frescoes from 1560. Monastery of Varlaam (according to the locals Barlaam) is the second largest in Meteora. The monastery is named after the monk Varlaam. He built the first church on top of the hill in the 14th
Century. However, when the monk died, the place fell into oblivion. In 1542 two monks and brothers built the first church and revamped the monastery is
from 1627, with post-Byzantium paintings done in 1637. Once done exploring the buildings, take a look at the pulley system that hangs from the tower used by the monks to lift food. Monastery of St. Stephen, all you have to do is cross a bridge. The monastery
has two churches. The oldest one is from the 16th Century and was heavily bombed during World War II. The other one is from 1798. However, St. Stephen has a special place in the heart of Greeks due to its importance during the so-called Macedonia. The
Greek Orthodox Church organized guerrilla efforts from the monastery. The museum within St. Stephen has an impressive collection, including relics from the monastery the monastery. The museum within St. Stephen has an impressive collection, including relics from the monastery.
Dormition of the Virgin Mary. If you think the outside of the 14th Century church is cool wait until you see the exceptional mural inside. Keep walking westwards next to the pillars and you'll pass by the Holy Church of Saint Basil and Saint Constantine and Helen. This is the nicest walk you can do in Kalambaka. Do not worry; you decide for how long
and how fast to walk. To the south of the town, you will find the Natural History Museum of Meteora and Mushroom Museum. Kalambaka's biggest and nicest square is Riga Fereou. It's the best place to enjoy the vibe and mingle with the locals. Kastraki is much smaller than Kalambaka. It's completely engulfed in nature. Tall pillars surround
the village from the north, east and south. You will see many hermit cells carved into the rocks. Take the local road that begins at the main square and head southeast. You will pass two large rocks to the west and reach the Holy Monastery of Saint Anthony and the Hermit Caves of Saint Nicholas Badovas. The Geological Museum of Meteora is in
Kastraki. It's free and full of rocks and fascinating info. It's on the main plaza. Kastraki's main orthodox temple is there too. Everyone in the city visits the plaza to go to church, socialize, and enjoy the views. Churches and Natural Sights Nearby To the north of Kastraki and St Nikolaos Monastery lies the late 14th Century Ypapanti Monastery. Unlike
the rest of the monasteries, it was built entirely inside a large rock cavity. You'll be on top of the hill, surrounded by trees. It's a 40 minute walk from downtown Kastraki. If you visit Meteora in spring or fall, go to the Agia Paraskevi Waterfall, named after
the next door village. A 15 minute drive from Kalambaka takes you to the Monastery of Agio Theodoroi. The 17th Century masterpiece is on top of a tall mountain. Trikala The city of Trikala is just 12 miles (20 km) from Kalambaka. You have to see its incredible Byzantine Castle. It's free and you can climb to the clock tower to enjoy jaw dropping
views. Trikala's Old Town is beneath the fortress. The city was Ottoman for over 400 years. You will see fantastic stone houses all around. Walk south to the former Ottoman prison, now the museum. Our favorite spot in the city is
the central bridge. If you like biking or walking, you can do so along the river that crosses the entire city. Trikala is a destination in itself. We strongly recommend spending at least one night at the uber luxurious Ananti Resort and Spa. Hiring a Private Tour or Joining an Organized One? If you want to organize a private tour, ask the locals at shops,
restaurants, and taxi drivers on the street. Everybody is friendly and straightforward. You can also hire these online tours through GetYourGuide. We tend to like small groups. It's perfect if you don't have much time. You get to see the 6 monasteries
in approximately 4 hours. You can then explore Kastraki or Kalabaka. However, we believe walking is the best way to experience Meteora. The air is fresh and the views are fantastic. We felt exhausted but invigorated once done with the monasteries in about 5 hours. You
can also rent a car online. Tips for Visiting the Monasteries Each monasteries Each monasteries Each monasteries Each monasteries of worship, so cover your knees and shoulders to enter the monasteries. You can borrow skirts or trousers in most monasteries. To enjoy the
best views of Meteora, stop at Psaropetra viewing point. We went to catch the sunset. Aren't we romantic? We walked there from Kalabaka, and came back ecstatic with joy. We are in love with Greece! Where to Stay Since the town is in the middle of the monasteries, we strongly recommend staying in Kalambaka. The stones and temples change
color as the sun rises and sets. At nights, everything is magical under the stars and the moon. We usually stay at Alsos House, just beneath the rocks. It's a traditional stone house with balcony and views are perfect for
families. Stay in Kastraki if you want to be surrounded by nature. It is even quieter than Kalambaka, just a half an hour walk away. Plus you get to experience life in a Greek village. The Pyrgos Adrachti Hotel is at the edge of Kastraki, in the middle of a pine forest with views over the hills and rocks. Book a room with balcony and oak wood floors on
the top floor. Check out our detailed post on where to stay in Meteora. Where to Eat and Drink We had delicious Greek food in front of Kalambaka's City Hall while enjoying views of the rocks. For a fancy lunch or dinner, go to Meteoron Panorama. It's got the best views in Kalambaka and sophisticated food. We had coffee and cakes at the traditional
Vavitsas Bakery. It's on Kalambaka's central roundabout. The charming ladies working there helped us organize our private tour to the monasteries. Naturally, we tried the local pudding called Spatoula. Our favorite restaurant in Kastraki is Senses Resto Bar, on the main road. It's got a lovely garden with views and delicious food. For coffee or a cold
beer go to Qastiro Meteora. It's a traditional stone house with unforgettable views. It opens till late. How to Get to Meteora Athens to Meteora and enjoyed the whole journey. Trains are our favorite means of transport. Not only they pollute far less, but you can stretch your legs during the
journey. Andre says he can read on trains but not on buses. From Athens to Meteora there is one daily train early in the morning. Another option is to take any of the daily trains to Paleofarsalos. Five trains go from there to Kalambaka town.
Thessaloniki to Meteora Though Thessaloniki is a bit closer, there are no direct trains. Instead, take a train to Paleofarsalos, where you have to plan your journey well. If you rather take a bus, go to Trikala and hop on a connecting
bus to Kalambaka. The entire journey takes just over 3 hours. Thessaloniki's Train Station is northwest of the city center. Buses leave from bus station Macedonia, further northwest. Organized tours to Meteora. It's a great way to visit the monasteries and to meet
fellow travelers. Several of our friends have gone on tours and came back raving about them. This tour leaves from Athens. Take note that it's a 14 hour tour! That's exactly why we recommend it. You will have enough time to see the best of Meteora. You'll go back to Athens exhausted but very happy. If you are in Thessaloniki take this tour. Since
all times and enjoy fresh air. Compared to the rest of the country, summers in Meteora are perfect. The maximum temperatures of around 70 F (22 C), nights are magical. July and August are peak season, but Meteora is never crowded. The average temperature in winter is 48 F (9 C) and the sun shines
almost every day. If you are lucky it may snow a bit. We went once in January and where left speechless by the beauty of the hills and temples covered under a thin layer of snow. One of the biggest mistakes people make when visiting Greece is spending a day in Athens then heading straight to the islands, completely skipping over the monasteries of
nights should be enough to see as many of the monasteries as you want. If you're looking to have a few chill days, Meteora would be a great place to enjoy some of the monasteries of Meteora, so hopefully this will help your visit!
Language - Greek. While you likely won't need to know any Greek before you go. But, I always recommend learning a few phrases because it really does mean a lot when you just show that you tried. At this point I can say "thank you" in over a dozen languages, and Greek is easily the HARDEST. Here's a few I'd recommend learning, at the very
least practice saying thank you! Thank You: efharisto A trick is to think about saying "ef-Harry's-toe" Hello: yeia sou (yah soo) Good Morning: kalimera (kah-lee-meh-rah) Please/You're Weclome: parakalo (para-kah-loh) Yes: nai (neh) No: oxi (oh-khee) Currency - Greece is a member of the European Union, so they're on the Euro. At the time of writing
this post, 1 USD was was equal to 1.01 euro, but you can check the current conversion rates here. Things to Pack: check out my Amazon Storefront for some of my must-haves for a trip to Greece! When you're reading a getting recommendations, reading a blog, or just googling things, don't be surprised when things are spelled differently. Since
Greek isn't in the Latin alphabet, there's not really a "right" or "wrong" way to translate it to a Latin alphabet, aka there's multiple ways to spell the same word. For example, the town Chalki in Naxos can also be spelled Chalkio, Halki, Xalki. A pro Greece travel tip is if you look up something and it's not exactly what you expected, you're probably just
seeing a difference spelling! Because a travel blog post wouldn't be complete without letting ya know how to stay connected back home: I always recommend getting a local SIM card when going to any international destination. It's the best way to get connected to the local cell networks, for the lowest price. For example, if we were to use our US
network to connect internationally, it would be $10 PER DAY each! Based on my research for which SIM cards to get to travel Greece, we decided to go with Vodafone. We paid 35 euros for 30 days of data in Greece. PS: if you travel to Greece as a couple, family, or with friends, unless you really need to all be connected, I'd recommend just getting
one SIM card to save money. For us, I get one and then Austin just uses his phone on wifi since we're quite literally ALWAYS together. Meteora came about 100's of years ago in the 11th century when monks built them to be closer to god atop of
massive rock pillars. At one point there were 24 monasteries in Meteora, but only 6 remain active now, all of which are open to the public! The easiest way to get to Kalambaka is to take the direct train from Athens. They run multiple times a day and tickets should cost around 50 euros a person for a round trip ticket. The train ride can be pretty
scenic at times, so I'd get a forward facing window seat! It will take approximately 4 hours. You can buy tickets on the Hellenic Train website. If coming from Athens, you'll want to buy tickets from the Athens station to Kalambaka station. Buy round trip tickets (it's a little cheaper than buying two one ways), and take the direct train from Athens that
leaves around 8am. If you take a later train, you'll probably have to switch trains at another station or hop on bus for the last hour (we did this on the way back to Athens from Kalambaka). In theory you could probably do a day trip to see the monasteries of Meteora, but it would be pretty tight with the 4 hour train ride each way! I'd recommend
spending at least 1 night if you can. We stayed at Hotel Kaikis and it was perfect for what we needed! Cute balconies looking at some of the unique cliff formations. Good wifi, clean, and super helpful staff (i.e. how we found Spitiki!! The best spanakopita I had in all of Greece). We arrived pretty early in the morning on the train from Athens and they
held our bags while we went to the monasteries and even put them in our room for us once the room was ready before we got back. Even if you don't stay at Hotel Kaikis, I'd stay near there on the main road, Trikalon. This is where most of the restaurants and shops in the area are. A few other options: The monasteries run off donations, and most of
monasteries. Here are the 6 monasteries of Meteora open to the public to visit, including which day of the week in the summer they're closed (you can find the winter hours here): Holy Monastery of St. Stefanos (Closed Mondays) Holy Monastery of St. Stefanos (Closed Mondays) Holy Monastery of Rousanou (Closed Wednesdays) Holy Monastery of St. Stefanos (Closed Mondays) Holy Monastery (Closed Monda
of Holy Trinity (Closed Thursdays) Holy Monastery of Varlaam (Closed Fridays) Holy Monastery of St. Nicholas Anapafsas (open everyday) In my opinion, it's not really want to. We visited 4 in total which was plenty for us! There are a few different ways to visit the monasteries, ranging from the
hardest & cheapest way, to the easiest & most expensive way. Option 1: hiking the whole way. This is the free way to get to the monasteries and back, but will include a LOT of walking & hiking uphill/downhill. Depending on the weather, it can also be stifling hot (as it was when we were there in July). On our first day, we chose the cheaper option
because we are who we are. We thought the hike would be a cheap fun way to explore. While it was sweating, and the hike didn't provide any real scenic views that you wouldn't have gotten once you were at the monasteries anyways
Option 2: on our second day in Meteora, day 1 kicked some sense into us, and we chose the middle option between price & costs, and took a taxi for 10 euros up to Great Meteora, then walked to the other monasteries from there and hiked back down to town afterwards. If you want to take a taxi up, they're basically all a 10 euro flat rate (cash). You
can almost always a taxi or two sitting around the main roundabout in front of the Tourist Information Center Kalambaka. Option 3: if we'd had it in our budget this would've been the most fun way to explore! There are scooter rentalsyou can get for around 30 euros for the day. If you can spent a little extra to rent a scooter I'd highly recommend it!
Otherwise the taxi is a fine option too. If you do want to do a hike in Meteora, I'd recommend hiking to a viewpoint for sunset and it won't be as hot while hiking! There's a spot known as Sunset Rockthat's popular for sunset views. Before we went to Greece I didn't really think I actually liked Greek food.
And oh my, how wrong I was. I just hadn't had the right type of Greek salad. It should be large chunks of tomatoes, red onions
peppers, cucumbers, olives (I pick them out because I actually hate olives), and an ungodly large chunk of feta cheese. That's it! The dressing is a simple oregano, salt, pepper, olive oil, and vinegar splash on top. We became so addicted to these we still make at least 1 Greek salad at home every week. Spanakopita - these flakey spinach cheese pies
were approximately 50% of my diet in Greece. I had one every morning, always in search of one that tasted as good at the first one I had while visiting Meteora on our first day in Greece (spoiler alert, none lived up, but you best believe I tried them all in the name of research) Bougatsa - to me, it's like spanakopita but swap out the spinach and cheese
for sweet custard and powdered sugar. These became my "treat" to myself on the mornings I needed a little pick-me-up. Freddo Espresso/Freddo Cappuccino - the only place I've ever had a true cold espresso is Greece and they do it SO WELL. I order mine as a double with light sugar and enjoy every sip of the frothy goodness Traditional Greek
coffee - this will be very controversial to any Greeks reading this: but this is just Turkish coffee. Typically served in an espresso cup with the ultra fine grounds left at the bottom of the cup. In the rest of the world it's called Turkish coffee, in greece it's called Greek coffee. This largely is because Turkey and Greece shared a LOT of the same food
culture because at one point they were all ruled by the Ottomans. There's a deep and complicated history between Turkey and Greece. Basically don't call Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffee" in Greece, and don't call Turkish coffee "Turkish coffe
Make sure to try the bougatsa (custard pie) too! I wish I could add this to every Greece travel blog out there! Spitiki Again Spitiki, Again Mekras Bakerhouse - a tiny hole in the wall bakery with awesome fresh baked goods! Get some for snacks for exploring the monasteries or to take for the train ride back to Athens! Restaurant Meteora - Greek
restaurant with a cute patio with great reviews Feel the Rocks - nicer lunch spot with good views Chicken Time - quick authentic gyros Fast Food Diava Have you been to visit the Monasteries of Meteora? Comment and let me know what you thought! Blank 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, which monasteries are worth seeing, their opening times, where to stay in 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 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 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 (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 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 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 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 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 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 and its "suspended in the air" monasteries in Greece, aerial view of Russonou nunnery A brief overview 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 and historical significance.
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
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 in Greece, the rope basket you can see in this image
was used in old days to transport good and even people, Holy Trinity monasteryIn Orthodox Christian belief the body 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. Linking 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 map shows the exact
locations of each monastery and other points of interest mentioned in this Meteora guide. How to get to Meteora guide. How to get 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 are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki International Airport are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki. Tours offer a hassle-free journey but also limited flexibility. Buses are the most inconvenient way to visit Meteora are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki.
full control over your own schedule and also eases moving around the Meteora area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive from Athens to Meteora from Athens to Meteora from Athens and 2.5-3 hours to drive from Thessaloniki to Meteora area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive from Athens to
Meteora). Train from Athens to Kalambaka (or Kalambaka (or Kalambaka)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 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 Palaeofarsalos thens at 22:26. Three times a day intercity and regional trains are 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 Palaeofarsalos Athens.
slow regional trains with interchange in Palaeofarsalos town departing from Thessaloniki (Neos Sidirodromikos Stathmos) to 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. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 hours depending on the journey takes between 3 hours depending on the journey takes and a sold of the journey takes a sold of the
and the most time-consuming option is taking a bus. From Athens "Liossion" bus station you can 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 to choose a tour
to Meteora, these would be my top picks (based on the ratings and reviews of other travelers):Click to check more Meteora toursLooking at tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around 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-Kallitheas) leading to monasteries and then back down to Kalambaka. Although
Meteora is quite expensive, it is small enough to get around Meteora on your own or in a rental car. There is only one main road with a couple of side roads winding above Meteora rocks and monasteries. Getting lost is impossible. The
distances between monasteries are short thus you can drive between them in minutes. Parking is available at each of the monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries as well as at several lookout points.
around 18-30 EUR per day for a scooter. Getting around Meteora by taxi. If you do not have your own transport, the other quick way to get to the monasteries and between them is to hire a taxi. One trip costs 5-7 EUR depending on where you are going. If you don't mind and enjoy walking, you can limit your taxi rides to one or two. Ask the driver to
get you to the Great Meteora monastery at the far end on the west side and then visit the remaining on foot. Call the taxi to bring you back to town (Kalambaka or Kastraki, depending on where you stay). Alternatively, return by walking downhill. Getting around Meteora by e-bike. Another great transport option available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-
bike. Rents are available for a duration of a few hours, half-day, to a full day (around 25 euros for a full day). Getting around Meteora by walking or hiking- the distances between monasteries. Nonetheless, it is around 16
kilometers distance if you do a circular route starting your walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walking. Cycling around Meteora but you must be quite fit to tackle all the uphills. Walking is much easier than peddling steep inclines. In fact,
apart of one group of mountain bike cyclists venturing the verdant hills above Meteora, we didn't see many people cycling around. Getting around Meteora with a tour. For those of you who have limited time, require guidance, and/or aren't keen on walking, there are plenty of tours available to book in Kalambaka (Meteora). For example, this Meteora with a tour.
sunset tour from Kalambaka is top-rated by travelers. For best time to visit Meteora is autumn (mid-September to November) and spring (mid-March to May) when the day temperatures are the most pleasant (15-25 °C/83-59 °F). However, do not expect to be the only visitor. I traveled to Meteora on the last week of October hoping it
to be empty, and it was far from that, especially on the weekend. Tour buses were unavoidable, arriving at the most popular viewing points for sunset and sunrise on the dot and then heading directly to the monasteries (which open quite late at 9 am). For the least crowds: the best time to go to Meteora is in winter (December-February). Yet, you can
expect snow (it does freeze at night) and quite cold during the day (6-12 °C/42-53 °F) Avoid: summer is possibly the worst time to visit Meteora due to the heat and thousands of tourists. In June-August temperatures during the clear day are an average of 27-33 °C/80-91 °F. It can be way more on clear midday under the sun. I would recommend
spending a minimum of 1 night in Meteora allowing yourself to experience sunrise and sunset over the Meteora valley. Those are magical times of the day not to be missed. However, if you are planning on doing some serious photography and want to capture each monastery at its best light, or in general, spend more time properly exploring the area
at a slower pace, plan at least 2-3 nights in Meteora. You could easily spend more as the place is so beautiful and can keep you busy not only with visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to
include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora monasteries have longer opening times in summer (April 1st to October 31st) and shorter in winter (November 1st to March 31st). Refer to the
monasteries' opening times and hours both for summer and winter below. Meteora monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays;
Monastery: 10 AM -4 PM, closed on Thursdays; St. Stephens Nunnery: 9 AM-1:30 PM and 3:30 PM-5:30 PM, closed on Tuesdays and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays
Wednesdays, and Thursdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM-1 PM and 3 PM-5 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, and
9:30 AM - 4 PM on Sundavs. open every dav.Which of Meteora monasteries vou shouldn't miss and which ones should you skip? Great Meteoron and Varlaam are the largest monasteries are very popular and most of the tour buses nead to
those. After reading different opinions and then visiting the monasteries myself, below I share a short overview of each of the monasteries to help you get an idea and make your pick if you can't visit them all. Legend: *** my favorite, ** good to visit, * if you have time. Note that it is based on my personal opinion and you may agree or disagree with me
at the end of your trip. Nonetheless, I hope it will still be helpful should you need to choose which monastery to go to and which one just to admire from afar. Rising up from a lonely pillar, at a lower elevation than others, St Nicholas Monastery is the smallest of all six. It is the first monastery you will come across when driving (or walking) a circular
route from Kastraki. Or it will be the last when coming down the road from Kalampaka side towards Kastraki. Good to know: St. Nikolas is the least visited monastery. Tour buses tend to skip it, which means it is quieter and less busy than other monasteries. There is a beautiful chapel with some of the best in Meteora 16th-century frescoes depicting
Biblical scenes. There are several viewpoints, with an amazing rooftop terrace. St. Nikolas of Anapafsas was the monasteries. Another reason why people tend to skip and ended up visiting twice! Yep, I did love it that much. While other people seem to
neglect it for not being impressive enough, which I completely disagree with, I felt like Agios Nikolas monastery was the least commercialized and the most secluded. Even my Greek friend felt the same way. Indeed, the climb to reach the monastery is quite steep with possibly the largest number of steps to tackle. For this reason, many tourists don't
bother climbing, and tour buses carrying big groups skip it. To me, the miniature, yet 3-floor monastery felt very homey. The katholikon (the church of the monastery where monks pray) has a special energy, while the rooftop terrace is open to fascinating close-up views of the rocks of Meteora, Kastraki town below, Russsonou, and Varlaam
monasteries at a distance. Views from the terrace of St Nikolaos monastery Situated within a green forest, beautiful inside out, Roussanou is a nunnery dedicated to Saint Barbara. According to the ancient story, for accepting and promoting Christianity, Agia Varvara (st. Barbara) was beheaded by her pagan father. Today, 13 nuns inhabit Rousannou
which is the second smallest monastery among surviving six. Although to reach Russanou you will have to tackle a few steep steps, it is one of the easiest to access. Nonetheless, many tour buses still skip it because due to its smaller size it cannot accommodate large groups of tourists. This makes Russanou a little less visited and it was my second
favorite monastery out of six. And did I mention that Roussannou is one of the most photographed monasteries as it is extremely photographed monasteries as it is extremely photograph Meteora and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting
captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery in Meteora, GreeceA windy stone path leads to the foot of the imposing lonely rock which made a base for the 14th century Agia
Triada. Being featured in a popular James Bond film, today Holy Trinity is the other most photographed monastery in Meteora, especially for the views over the Meteora valley. Established in the mid-14th
century, the largest and one of the oldest, Great Meteoron Monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff. Due to its many red-roofed buildings, the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the
area and the life of the monastic community. Meanwhile one of the most interesting and rather spooky parts inside Great Meteoron is the sacristy where you can see hundreds of skulls of the most popular hence it gets very busy during the day. Parking can be
packed as well. Thus, it is a good idea to plan to visit the Great Meteoron monastery as soon as it opens. Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron. Varlaam is the second-largest monastery in Meteora. Varlaam has several great lookout points, including a beautiful
courtyard overlooking Meteora valley with Roussanou in the distance. There is also a small museum that briefly introduces the history of the area and some interesting facts about monastic life in the old days. Courtyard in Varlaam monasteryThus, if you cannot visit Great Meteoron, Varlaam is a good alternative to visit. To me, Varlaam, although
undeniably beautiful, felt too commercialized (the same applies to Great Meteoron and even Saint Stephan). The souvenir stalls at the entrance are a bit of a vibe killer. Let alone there are masses of people visiting. Thus, in my humble option, it is enough to see one of the two biggest monasteries and spend some more time exploring the above-
mentioned smaller ones. Good to know: Varlaam monastery does not provide free skirts for ladies. Thus, make sure to bring your own, or purchase one for 3 euros at the entrance (this is separate from the 3 euros entrance fee). At the southern edge of the Meteora cluster, and just a minute's drive from Holly Trinity monastery, Saint Stephen's
nunnery was first inhabited by ascetic Jeremiah, in the early twelve century. Evolving through centuries, the whole complex was completed in the 19th century. Due to the easy access over the small bridge, St. Stephen's monastery is one of the most frequented and can get uncomfortably busy. For this reason, it was my least favorite, yet is worth
visiting for its impressive frescoes. Saint Stephen nunnery, Meteora, Greece There are plenty of wonderful viewpoints of the monasteries accessible from the main road. That being said, a couple of the spots for Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset watching are: Psaropetra lookout/ Sunset Rock (perfect for sunset) Main Observation Deck of
Meteora (great for sunrise and sunset) These two spots are amazing but also very popular. If you want to find out more of the best Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones).
is 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
remembrances. Taverna Gardenia in Kastraki- this is a popular and beloved dining spot in Kastraki serving traditional Greek foods. Recommended coffee shop in Meteora For the best coffee I managed to find during my Greece road trip. I love my
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 and
Meteora? Moussaka for meat lovers, saganaki for cheese lovers, and stuffed eggplants or stuffed peppers and tomatoes for 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 of you 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 accommodation below. 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.
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). The following Meteora guide will help you answer questions
such as whether is Meteora worth visiting, which monasteries of Greece you can visit, how to get to Meteora in Greece is located near the imposing Pindos Moutain in Kalambaka, in continental Greece. These famous monasteries in Greece stand among and on top of enormous dark rocks and
give life to the second most important monastic community in Greece after Mount Athos. Its name was given by the founder of the Megalo Meteora Monastery, Saint Athanasios Meteora means high up in the air. The following Meteora guide will
help you answer questions like, is Meteora monasteries of Greece can you visit, how to get to Meteora monasteries, although only six of them are still functioning. All the Meteora monasteries in
Greece are living museums housing icons and other remarkable historical relics. The Meteora complex is included on the UNESCO World Heritage Monuments list. Hundreds of pilgrims visit Meteora double from Athens, the Greek capital. How To Get To Meteora Monasteries From Athens The
Holy Trinity Meteora Monastery It's possible to take a 1-day tour to Meteora by train, bus or car. However, it is also a valid idea to tour Meteora By Bus To visit the imposing location, the first thing to do is to travel from Athens to
Kalambaka. To do so, you will need to reach Trikala and, from the Liosion bus station. Getting To Meteora By Car It's also a great idea to visit Meteora in a rental car. The route to take is the National Greek Road Athina - Livadia - Lamia, following
the direction to Kalambaka. Getting To Meteora By Train This is probably the easiest and most beautiful way to visit Meteora. Trains depart from Athens, Thessaloniki, Larisa, Livadia, and Paleofarsalo. The closest train station is in Kalambaka and, from here, you can get to Meteora either by car or by taxi. If you're taking the train from Athens,
remember that the Meteora trains depart from Larissa station. Where To Stay In Meteora and at a more relaxed pace, the best thing you can do is spend one or two nights in the area. You will not regret it. The following hotels have
been divided according to different budgets, so you can easily find the best place to stay in Meteora Monasteries Map Booking.com Budget Hotels in Meteora Host El Greco: Budget accommodation in Kalambaka. This stone-built with place features comfortable rooms with a terrace or balcony and serves homemade breakfast daily. There's a
cozy communal kitchen for guests. Bike hire is available, and car rental can also be arranged. Meteora Central Hostel: Set in Kalabaka, 2 km from Meteora Central Hostel is a 3-star hotel set in one of the highest points of Kastraki village
with fantastic views of the Pindos Mountains. From each balcony, guests can enjoy uninterrupted views of the famous rocks of Meteora and the green forests of pine trees. Mid-Range Hotels In Meteora Hotel Doupiani House: Along with amazing views of the Pindos Mountains. From each balcony, guests can enjoy uninterrupted views of the famous rocks of Meteora and the green forests of pine trees. Mid-Range Hotels In Meteora Hotel Doupiani House: Along with amazing views of the Pindos Mountains.
hotel is very close to the Meteora Monastery - Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas. Petrino Guesthouse: A gorgeous property, this 1845 original stone building has been recently restored. It features modern accommodations with breathtaking views of Meteora. Some rooms have a fireplace, one features a spa bath, and one is disabled-friendly. Hotel Kastraki:
This place is in the traditional village of Kastraki, offering comfortable rooms with an open balcony. There is also a Meteora Rocks. Free private parking is available. Luxury Hotels In Meteora Hotel Xenion tou Georgiou Merantza: The place is surrounded by
the Tzoumerka Mountains, not far from Meteora mountain monasteries. Rooms are comfortable, and the property also features a swimming pool, a sun terrace, and a traditional restaurant. Meteora Boutique Villa A: A beautiful accommodation for a comfy stay in the area; the villa is in Kalabaka. Enjoy the garden, terrace, and nearby activities,
including cycling and hiking. Tsikeli Hotel Meteora - Adults Only: This place is just 100 m from Kastraki's center. The rooms enjoy brilliant views of the area. Guests can enjoy a rich breakfast next to the fireplace in the shared lounge in winter or the garden during the summer, with magnificent Meteora views. Brands We Use And Trust How To Get
Around In Meteora Greece You can book many alternative trips and tours once you get to Meteora if you don't want to rely on your own navigation skills to go from one Meteora monastery to the other on your own navigation skills to go from one Meteora monastery to the other on your own navigation skills to go from one Meteora monastery to the other on your own. These organized tours take you to see the monasteries of Meteora, Greece, in a private car or minivan. Some travelers choose to rent a
car in the area, and it's a great idea if you love adventure. Each monastery has a parking area close to the road, and it's not hard to go from one Meteora monastery to the next one by car. Alternatively, it's a good idea to rent a scooter in Kalambaka; however, remember that many tourists choose this option, so book in advance to find the kind of
vehicle you want. Some pilgrims choose to hike or walk from the sites. In this case, try to devote at least three full days to your trip to do it at a more relaxed pace. Meteora Monasteries were open in the past, today you can visit six, which are still standing and
open to the public; the following Greece monasteries on cliffs are open and ready for you. Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Great Meteoron Roussanou Monastery Holy Trinity Monastery Agios Stefanos Varlaam Monastery Holy Trinity Monastery
calendar. The most remarkable ones are Great Meteoron and Varlaam, which are often the most visited and crowded. It's a good idea to visit these two Meteoron The Holy Monastery of Great Meteoron is one of the oldest Greek Orthodox
monasteries in Meteora and the biggest of them all; it dates back to the 14th century, and once inside, you can also visit the museum and the main church. Opening hours: April - October from 9 am to 3 pm (Closed on Tuesdays). November - March from 9 am to 3 pm (Closed on Tuesdays).
Monastery Varlaam is the second biggest monastery in the area, and it dates back to the 14th century, it was founded by a monk named Varlaam, and he was the only one to live on the rock. Once he died, the monastery was abandoned until 1517. Opening hours: April - October from 9 am to 4 pm (Closed on Fridays). November - March, from 9 am to
3 pm (Closed on Thursdays and Fridays). Ticket: 3 euro. Roussanou Monastery Holy Monastery of Roussanou Monastery, also known by the name of Agia Barbara. This beautiful building is a nunnery dating back to the 16th century. Opening hours: April - October 31 from 9.30 am to 5 pm (Closed on
Wednesdays). November - March from 9 am to 2 pm (Closed on Wednesdays). Ticket: 3 euro. Holy Trinity Monastery Meteora also dates back to the 14th century and is not easy to access. The building is high up on a cliff, and you will need enough strength to hike up nearly 150 steps. Opening hours: April -
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October 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 Anapafsas Monastery Of Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas The Monastery of Agios Nikolaos
Anapafsas dates back to the 14th century and features ancient and beautiful frescoes. Opening hours: April - October from 9 am to 4 pm (Closed on Fridays). Ticket: 3 euro. Agios Stefanos squite accessible. The monastery was built back in 1400 AD. The religious
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 to 5 pm (Closed on Mondays). Ticket: 3 euro. When To
Visit Meteora In Greece Agios Stephanos. Saint Stephen Monastery The area can be sweltering in summer and relatively cold in winter; therefore, the best tie 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
Meteora Meteora 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 Psaropetra, 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 Meteora If you're visiting the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, you're probably wondering how to get to Meteora If you're visiting the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki. It is possible to reach Kalambaka 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 Kalambaka, 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 Meteora. Different organized tours can take you to the Monasteries of Meteora and then
drive you back to the center of Thessaloniki. What To Wear At Meteora 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
Women will need to wear a long skirt, dress, or sarong. Don't worry much; all the monasteries have wrap skirts you can borrow at the entrance. Also, should be covered. Men should be covered. Men should wear long pants, although it can be possible to access the monasteries wearing pants that hit below the knee. The Meteora Monasteries are a complex of
monasteries situated on towering rock pillars in central Greece. They are known for their stunning natural beauty and religious significance. How many monasteries are inhabited by monks and nuns who follow the Eastern Orthodox Christian
tradition. When were the Meteora 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 Meteora Monasteries? You can visit the Meteora Monasteries by
traveling to the town of Kalambaka in Greece. From there, you can take guided tours or hike up to the monasteries? The Meteora Monasteries are of great religious and historical significance. They have served as centers of spirituality and
monasticism for centuries and are also UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Can I take photography rules may vary from one monasteries, and some may charge a small fee for photography. Is there an entrance fee to visit
the Meteora Monasteries? Yes, there is usually an entrance fee to visit each monasteries? Visitors are expected to dress modestly when visiting the monasteries. This means covering your shoulders and wearing long skirts or
pants. If you're not appropriately dressed, some monasteries? Visitors 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
essential to follow the guidance of the monastery staff. What is the best time to visit the Meteora Monasteries? The best time to visit Meteora is during the spring and fall when the weather is pleasant and the tourist crowds are smaller. However, the monasteries are open year-round, so you can visit at any time of the year. Now you are ready to head
to Meteora, Greece; which of these Meteora Monasteries and towering cliffs is unlike anywhere else in the world. But before you pack your bags, here are five essential things every traveler should know — from dress codes to the best times to visit
There are a few things to know before you visit Meteora and the ancient monasteries of Meteora. Below, we have prepared a shortlist of important things to be aware of before you plan a trip here. Things that would help you plan a better trip and appreciate this unique UNESCO World Heritage Site of Greece! What is the meaning of the name
Meteora? One of the things many people wonder about is the meaning of the name Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite in the area in our distant past, as many might think. "Meteora" didn't originate from a fallen meteorite from a fa
the giant cliffs remained suspended between the heavens and the earth. Athanasios, the leader of the first group of monks and the founder of Megalo Meteoron monastery, was the very first to use the name "Meteoron" to describe the surreal geological phenomenon. The word Meteoron or Meteoron (plural is Meteora) in the Greek vocabulary
translates into something that remains suspended in midair or a thing that floats in the English language to describe the celestial objects entering our atmosphere or floating in space, originating from the Greek word "meteoro". Meteora, like a scene in the Avatar film After
Athanasios and his companion monks managed to climb the largest in size cliff, they felt as if they stood suspended in the midair. Thus, Athanasios had the idea to name that particular cliff "Megalo Meteoron" meaning the "huge suspended in the winter. There would
be certain days during this period when the mist and the clouds would completely engulf the site. During these mystical moments, the monks of Meteora monasteries would observe the peaks of the surrounding cliffs rising above the clouds. Surely, this surreal scenery
of the floating cliffs around them would look as if God was offering them a rare glimpse of the heavens above! Here are the 5 things to know before you visit Meteora 1. How do you reach the Meteora monasteries? Today, Meteora monasteries? Today, Meteora monasteries?
monasteries that people can visit all year round. Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, Agia Triada Agios Stefanos 5 out of 6 monasteries (Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, and Agia Triada Agios Stefanos 5 out of 6 monasteries (Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, and Agia Triada Agios Stefanos 5 out of 6 monasteries (Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, and Agia Triada Agios Stefanos 5 out of 6 monasteries (Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, Agia Triada Agios Stefanos 5 out of 6 monasteries (Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, Agia Triada Agios Stefanos 5 out of 6 monasteries (Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, Agia Triada Agios Stefanos 5 out of 6 monasteries (Great Meteoron, Varlaam, St. Nikolas, Roussanou, Agia Triada) have staired as a supplication of the supp
It only has a small bridge to cross, making it the most accessible and the most popular one. Pro Tip: So, for those who have mobility issues, the monastery inside! Keep in mind, though, that not all monasteries provide any real access or facilities for disabled people. The stairs
to climb in the monasteries with staircases range between 150 to 300 steps each. Fact: The monasteries don't provide any sort of easy access or amenities for disabled people. Another important thing to keep in mind is the lack of restrooms only inside the monasteries, and in most cases. This
means that to use the restrooms, you'll be forced to climb a lot of stairs! Many visitors are totally unaware of the difficult access to monasteries. They wish to visit all 6 monasteries under the scorching sun in the summer in just a single day! Unless you are in perfect physical condition and well-trained, our advice is to avoid such unnecessary physical
and mental stress. Food and water: Expect to find canteens with small snacks and refreshments outside the monasteries? Over the past few years, the popularity of the entire site has risen almost exponentially. Meteora has become the second most visited place
in mainland Greece, apart from the Acropolis in Athens. We estimate that close to 2 million people nowadays will visit the site. The majority of the people will come during the main season between April and the end of October. Although there is an adequate road system reaching all 6 active monasteries, you may soon find that driving probably wasn't
the best idea. For more info on how to get to Meteora by car, read here. There are days with traffic jams occurring outside the most popular monasteries because of the big coaches and the many cars that arrive from nearby places to do a day trip to the Meteora monasteries. During those days, you won't be able to find a parking space anywhere near
the monasteries, and most likely, you might end up stuck in traffic. Book a tour and avoid the traffic. That's why we highly recommend that you avoid taking your car for the visit. By all means, please do so! Choose either to join a local tour, take the public bus, a taxi, a wonderful bike tour, or walk. Bonus: Local guides handle all navigation, and you
enjoy better access and insights. If you can't avoid taking your car during the high season, then a good idea is to try to reach the monasteries early in the morning. You should drive up there at around 08:00 pm, at least an hour earlier than the opening hours of most monasteries. It will still be quiet, and you will get to enjoy the mesmerizing morning
light of Meteora away from the big crowds. Choose to visit the most popular ones first and as early as possible, and try to finish your visit by noon at the latest, before the masses of tourists and the big coaches arrive at the site. The most popular among the active monasteries are the following three: Agios Stefanos, Great Meteoron, and Varlaam. 3. Is
there a dress code to enter the Meteora monasteries? For many years, Meteora has been a UNESCO World Heritage site and an archaeological site. It was also officially declared by the Greek state as a Holy Place. You are going to visit a religious site of great importance, so you are expected to show the appropriate respect. To enter the monasteries?
of Meteora, all men are required to wear long pants, while sleeveless t-shirts or sleeveless shirts are needed, while shoulders must be covered at all times. All Meteora monasteries at the entrances do provide skirts are needed, while shoulders must be covered at all times. All Meteora monasteries at the entrances do provide skirts are needed, while shoulders must be covered at all times. All Meteora monasteries at the entrances do provide skirts are needed, while shoulders must be covered at all times.
aware that men who show up at the entrance of monasteries with very short pants or sleeveless shirts will be denied access! Pro tip: Always carry a lightweight shawl or scarf in summer. Kids up to 12 years old are excluded from paying entrance fees and the dress code. 4. What are the Opening hours and entrance fees in monasteries? The
monasteries of Meteora remain open all year round for visitors. They all charge a small entrance fee of 5,00 euros per person to enter. Again, kids up to 12 years old don't have to pay any entrance fee and the free pass for kids apply to all monasteries. The monasteries of Meteora have different opening hours, but all divide them
into 2 main seasons: The winter period (November till the end of March) and the Summer period (April till the end of October). You might find slight variations from monastery to monastery as to the exact dates the 2 main seasons apply to each one of them. Over the past few years, there have been many changes and adjustments made in the
schedule of some monasteries. These changes often take place without any prior notice, so be careful to frequently check our site for the updated opening hours of the Meteora monasteries. Read more about: Visiting Meteora
During Holy Week 5. Are pictures, videos, and drone footage shooting allowed at Meteora? Meteora ranks among the top Instagrammable places around the world. The site is frequently visited by some of the best photographers and cinematographers to capture the magical aura of Meteora! As an official holy place and an archaeological site for
Greece, there are restrictions by Greek law. Be informed before making any attempt to set your tripod to shoot. For amateur photographers, there is no restriction whatsoever for landscape photographers, there is no restriction what landscape photographers are the landscape photographers.
monasteries. The monks don't allow anyone to photograph the interiors of the churches, especially the murals, or in any of the museums located inside the Meteora monasteries or videos as you wish. Do not attempt to fly a drone inside or outside a
monastery. Flying drones without written permission from the authorities is strictly forbidden by law anywhere on the site. Meteora, as an archeological site of Greece, has a flight restriction zone of up to 4.000 ft.! Don't take pictures or videos of monks or nuns, unless they specify otherwise. They can be very annoyed if you attempt this because you
make them feel like a tourist attraction. Be very respectful of their way of life and the fact that you are accepted to enter their home! Professionals, on the other hand, if they intend to use any material produced at Meteora for commercial reasons, will have to contact the Ministry of Culture of Greece and fill out the paperwork to receive permission
The Ministry of Culture of Greece and the monks reserve the right to deny you the production if they find the submitted project to be offensive or incompatible in any way with the holiness of the site. This process as a whole might take more than a month to be completed, and depending on the commercial usage intended, one must pay the
appropriate license fee. In any other case, any material produced for commercial purposes without a proper license issued by the Greek Ministry of Culture might result in legal actions against you! Want to skip the planning stress and just enjoy? Join one of our top-rated half-day or full-day tours, with pickup, guides, and custom options. Explore Our
Tours → Wondering how to visit Meteora independently? Here is my easy guide to visiting Meteora monasteries are worth seeing, their opening times, where to stay in Meteora monasteries 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 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 GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know here we have a supplication of the greece with the properties of the greece with the greece with the gree
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 in Meteora is closed on one day
during the weekday in the summer season, and some 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 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 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 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 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 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 every other location looks well, just ordinary.
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. 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 good 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 earthy 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. Linking 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. Holly Trinity monastery with Kalambaka town in the background aerial view, Meteora, Greece My Meteora guide. How to get to Meteora points of interest mentioned 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 area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive to Meteora from Athens and 2.5-3 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 (or Kalambaka (or Kalambaka (or Kalambaka) Once a day direct intercity train from Athens 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 and regional trains are available with change in PalaeofarsalosAthens
 Kalambaka 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 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 "Liossion" 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 quide, 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 to choose a tour to Meteora, these would be my top picks (based on the ratings and reviews of other travelers):
multiple ways to get around Meteora: car, scooter, taxi, electric bicycle, tour, and walking (or even hiking). When 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-Kallitheas) 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
scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries easily(taken you are comfortable riding windy and hilly roads). Expect to pay around 18-30 EUR per day for a scooter. Getting around Meteora by taxi. If you do not have your own transport, the other quick way to get to the monasteries and between them is to hire a taxi. One
trip costs 5-7 EUR depending on where you are going. If you don't mind and enjoy walking, you can limit your taxi rides to one or two. Ask the driver to get you to the Great Meteora monastery at the far end on the west side and then visit the remaining on foot. Call the taxi to bring you back to town (Kalambaka or Kastraki, depending on where you
stay). Alternatively, return by walking downhill. Getting around Meteora by e-bike. Another great transport option available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-bike. Rents are available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-bike. Rents are available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-bike. Rents are available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-bike. Rents are available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-bike.
relatively small, thus many people choose to walk along the main road or hike the foresty paths between monasteries. Nonetheless, it is around 16 kilometers distance if you do a circular route starting your walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walking. Cycling around Meteora. It is also
possible to cycle around Meteora but you must be quite fit to tackle all the uphills. Walking is much easier than peddling steep inclines. In fact, apart of one ground Meteora with a tour. For those of you who have limited time
the most pleasant (15-25 °C/83-59 °F). However, do not expect to be the only visitor. I traveled to Meteora on the last week of October hoping it to be empty, and it was far from that, especially on the weekend. Tour buses were unavoidable, arriving at the most popular viewing points for sunset and sunrise on the dot and then heading directly to the
monasteries (which open quite late at 9 am). For the least crowds: the best time to go to Meteora is in winter (December-February). Yet, you can expect snow (it does freeze at night) and quite cold during the day (6-12 °C/42-53 °F) Avoid: summer is possibly the worst time to visit Meteora due to the heat and thousands of tourists. In June-August
temperatures during the clear day are an average of 27-33 °C/80-91 °F. It can be way more on clear midday under the sun.I would recommend spending a minimum of 1 night in Meteora allowing yourself to experience sunrise and sunset over the Meteora valley. Those are magical times of the day not to be missed. However, if you are planning on
doing some serious photography and want to capture each monastery at its best light, or in general, spend more as the place is so beautiful and can keep you busy not only with visiting monasteries, but also hiking Meteora, and exploring the area at a slower pace, plan at least 2-3 nights in Meteora. You could easily spend more as the place is so beautiful and can keep you busy not only with visiting monasteries, but also hiking Meteora, and exploring the area at a slower pace, plan at least 2-3 nights in Meteora.
the surrounding areas if you drive. Visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed.
monasteries have longer opening times in summer (April 1st to October 31st) and shorter in winter (November 1st to March 31st). Refer to the monasteries opening times and hours both for summer (April 1st to October 31st). Refer to the monasteries opening times and hours both for summer (April 1st to October 31st).
on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Wednesdays; Holy Trinity Monastery: 9 AM - 5 PM, open every day. Meteora
monasteries opening days and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Wednesdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Thursdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Wednesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, cl
ThursdaysSt. Stephens Nunnery: 9:30 AM-1 PM and 3 PM-5 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monasteries, while St. Stephano
nunnery is the easiest to access as it doesn't have steep staircases. All three monasteries are very popular and most of the tour buses head to those. After reading different opinions and then visiting the monasteries myself, below I share a short overview of each of the monasteries to help you get an idea and make your pick if you can't visit them
elevation than others, St Nicholas Monastery is the smallest of all six. It is the first monastery you will come across when driving (or walking) a circular route from Kastraki. Good to know: St. Nikolas is the least visited monastery. Tour buses tend to skip it, which
means it is quieter and less busy than other monasteries. There is a beautiful chapel with some of the best in Meteora 16th-century frescoes depicting Biblical scenes. There are several viewpoints, with an amazing rooftop terrace. St. Nikolas has the steepest and longest climb out of all Meteora monasteries. Another reason why people tend to skip
it. St. Nikolas of Anapafsas was the monastery I was going to skip and ended up visiting twice! Yep, I did love it that much. While other people seem to neglect it for not being impressive enough, which I completely disagree with, I felt like Agios Nikolas monastery was the least commercialized and the most secluded. Even my Greek friend felt the
same way. Indeed, the climb to reach the monastery is quite steep with possibly the largest number of steps to tackle. For this reason, many tourists don't bother climbing, and tour buses carrying big groups skip it. To me, the miniature, yet 3-floor monastery felt very homey. The katholikon (the church of the monastery where monks pray) has a
special energy, while the rooftop terrace is open to fascinating close-up views of the rocks of Meteora, Kastraki town below, Russsonou, and Varlaam monasteries at a distance. Views from the terrace of St Nikolaos monastery to the
ancient story, for accepting and promoting Christianity, Agia Varvara (st. Barbara) was beheaded by her pagan father. Today, 13 nuns inhabit Rousannou which is the second smallest monastery among surviving six. Although to reach Russanou you will have to tackle a few steep steps, it is one of the easiest to access. Nonetheless, many tour buses still
skip it because due to its smaller size it cannot accommodate large groups of tourists. This makes Russanou a little less visited and it was my second favorite monasteries as it is extremely photogenic and has a variety of wonderful angles to capture it from? Make
sure to also read my guide to The 10 best locations to photograph Meteora and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monasteries.
Trinity Monastery in Meteora, GreeceA windy stone path leads to the foot of the imposing lonely rock which made a base for the 14th century Agia Triada. Being featured in a popular James Bond film, today Holy Trinity is the other most photographed monastery in Meteora, especially by aerial photographers. Do not shy away from 145 steep steps
and make sure to visit Holy Trinity. To me, Holy Trinity is unmissable, especially for the wiews over the Meteora valley. Established in the mid-14th century, the largest and one of the oldest, Great Meteoron Monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff. Due to its many red-roofed buildings, the monastery can be mistaken for a small
fortified town rather than a holy place. Visiting the Great Meteoron monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the most interesting and rather spooky parts inside Great Meteoron is the sacristy where you can see hundreds of skulls of the monks
who have lived there over the years. Tip: Great Meteoron monastery is one of the most popular hence it gets very busy during the day. Parking can be packed as well. Thus, it is a good idea to plan to visit the Great Meteoron monastery as soon as it opens. Great Meteoron monastery as soon as it opens. Great Meteoron monastery as soon as it opens.
away from the Great Meteoron, Varlaam is the second-largest monastery in Meteora. Varlaam has several great lookout points, including a beautiful courtyard overlooking Meteora valley with Roussanou in the distance. There is also a small museum that briefly introduces the history of the area and some interesting facts about monastic life in the old
days.Courtyard in Varlaam monasteryThus, if you cannot visit Great Meteoron, Varlaam is a good alternative to visit. To me, Varlaam, although undeniably beautiful, felt too commercialized (the same applies to Great Meteoron and even Saint Stephan).
visiting. Thus, in my humble option, it is enough to see one of the two biggest monasteries and spend some more time exploring the above-mentioned smaller ones. Good to know: Varlaam monastery does not provide free skirts for ladies. Thus, make sure to bring your own, or purchase one for 3 euros at the entrance (this is separate from the 3 euros
entrance fee). At the southern edge of the Meteora cluster, and just a minute's drive from Holly Trinity monastery, Saint Stephen's nunnery was first inhabited by ascetic Jeremiah, in the early twelve century. Evolving through centuries, the whole complex was completed in the 19th century. Due to the easy access over the small bridge, St. Stephen's
monastery is one of the most frequented and can get uncomfortably busy. For this reason, it was my least favorite, yet is worth visiting for its impressive frescoes. Saint Stephen nunnery, Meteora, Greece There are plenty of wonderful viewpoints of the monasteries accessible from the main road. That being said, a couple of the spots for Meteora
photography for sunrise and sunset watching are: Psaropetra lookout/ Sunset Rock (perfect for sunset) Main Observation Deck of Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the
10 best spots for Meteora photography. Sunset rock lookout point in MeteoraMeteora Restaurant in Kalambaka- yep, the name is 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 remembrances. Taverna Gardenia in Kastraki serving traditional Greek foods. Recommended coffee shop in MeteoraFor the best coffee head to 14oz in Kalambaka. Set on the dining spot in Kastraki serving traditional Greek foods. Recommended coffee shop in MeteoraFor the best coffee head to 14oz in Kalambaka. Set on the dining spot in Kastraki serving traditional Greek foods. Recommended coffee shop in MeteoraFor the best coffee head to 14oz in Kalambaka.
main road at the entrance to Kalambaka, 14oz had the best coffee I managed to find during my Greece road trip. I love my 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 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 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 and I am very picky with it. I have to admit I struggled with finding great coffee I managed to find during my fairly short visit, but this coffee and I am very picky with it. I have to admit I struggled with finding great coffee I managed to find during my fairly short visit, but this coffee and I am very picky with it. I have to admit I struggled with finding great coffee I managed to find during my fairly short visit, but this coffee and I am very picky with it. I have to admit I struggled with finding great coffee I managed to find during my fairly short visit, but this coffee I managed to find during my fairly short visit, but this coffee I managed to find during my fairly short visit.
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 wegetarians. 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. There are two towns you can stay in Meteora: Kalambaka-a bigger, more popular town with plenty of restaurants. There are two towns you can stay in Meteora: Kalambaka-a bigger, more popular town with plenty of restaurants.
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 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). Wondering how to visit Meteora independently? Here is my easy guide to visiting Meteora 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 before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in GreeceEverything you need to know 
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 al
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 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 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 these apictures 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 these apictures of the beautifully ornated room. I found staying in Kastraki a better choice as this town is smaller and quieter than these apictures of the beautifully ornated room. I found staying in Kastraki a better choice as this town is smaller and quieter than these apictures of the beautifully ornated room. 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 driving around Kastraki were always easy. Meanwhile, access to monasteries by car is equally convenient. Guided tours from Athens and driving around Kastraki were always easy. Meanwhile, access to monasteries by car is equally convenient. Guided tours from Athens and driving around Kastraki were always easy.
to give you a heads up, Meteora is one of the absolute 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 Russonou nunnery A brief overview of Meteora and its "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 monasteries. Today only 6 of them remain and are fully functional (2 nunneries and 4 male monasteries). Today only 6 of them remain and are fully functional (2 nunneries and 4 male 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 good 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 earthy 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. Linking 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. Holly Trinity monastery with Kalambaka town in the background aerial view, Meteora again by the same Meteora guide. How to get to Meteora Positioned 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 and Inter
2.5-3 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 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 to Kalambaka (or Kalambaka (ore of the two base towns for visiting Meteora). Train from Athens and Thessaloniki to Kalambaka (one of the two base towns for visiting Meteora). Train from Athens and Thessaloniki to Kalambaka (one of the two base towns for visiting Meteora). Train from Athens and Thessaloniki to Kalambaka (one of the two base towns for visiting Meteora).
7:57 AM and arriving at 12:03, trip duration 4:06 hours. Four times a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka train station, departing at 12:03, trip duration 4:06 hours. Four times a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka to AthensOnce a day intercity and regional trains are available from Kalambaka train station, departing at 18:22 and arriving at 18:22 and arriving at 18:22 and arriving at 18:23 and arriving at 18:
are available with change 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 Thessaloniki. The journey takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the time of the day. Thessaloniki an interchange in Palaeofarsalos town departing from Kalambaka to Thessaloniki.
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 "Liossion" bus station you can catch a bus to Trikala town and then another bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus. From Athens "Liossion" bus station you can catch a bus to Trikala town and then another bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus. From Athens "Liossion" bus station you can catch a bus to Trikala town and then another bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus. From Athens "Liossion" bus station you can catch a bus to Trikala town and then another bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus. From Athens "Liossion" bus station you can catch a bus to Trikala town and then another bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the most time-consuming option is taking a bus to make the 
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
tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around Meteora: car, scooter, taxi, electric bicycle, tour, and walking (or even hiking). When 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-Kallitheas) leading to monasteries and then back down to Kalambaka. Although Meteora by
well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries easily(taken you are comfortable riding windy and hilly roads). Expect to pay around 18-30 EUR per day for a scooter. Getting around Meteora by taxi. If you do not have your own transport, the other quick way to
get to the monasteries and between them is to hire a taxi. One trip costs 5-7 EUR depending on where you are going. If you don't mind and enjoy walking, you can limit your taxi rides to one or two. Ask the driver to get you to the Great Meteora monastery at the far end on the west side and then visit the remaining on foot. Call the taxi to bring you
back to town (Kalambaka or Kastraki, depending on where you stay). Alternatively, return by walking downhill. Getting around Meteora by e-bike. Rents are available for a duration of a few hours, half-day, to a full day (around 25 euros for a full day). Getting around Meteora
by walking or hiking- the distances between monasteries are relatively small, thus many people choose to walk along the main road or hike the foresty paths between monasteries. Nonetheless, it is around 16 kilometers distance if you do a circular route starting your walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit and the foresty paths between monasteries are relatively small, thus many people choose to walk along the main road or hike the foresty paths between monasteries.
 monasteries on walking. Cycling around Meteora. It is also possible to cycle around Meteora but you must be guite fit to tackle all the uphills. Walking is much easier than peddling steep inclines. In fact, apart of one group of mountain bike cyclists venturing the verdant hills above Meteora, we didn't see many people cycling around. Getting around
Meteora with a tour. For those of you who have limited time, require guidance, and/or aren't keen on walking, there are plenty of tours available to book in Kalambaka (Meteora). For example, this Meteora sunset tour from Kalambaka is top-rated by travelers. For best weather: the best time to visit Meteora is autumn (mid-September to November)
and spring (mid-March to May) when the day temperatures are the most pleasant (15-25 °C/83-59 °F). However, do not expect to be the only visitor. I traveled to Meteora on the last week of October hoping it to be empty, and it was far from that, especially on the weekend. Tour buses were unavoidable, arriving at the most popular viewing points for
sunset and sunrise on the dot and then heading directly to the monasteries (which open quite late at 9 am). For the least crowds: the best time to go to Meteora is in winter (December-February). Yet, you can expect snow (it does freeze at night) and quite cold during the day (6-12 °C/42-53 °F). Avoid: summer is possibly the worst time to visit Meteora
due to the heat and thousands of tourists. In June-August temperatures during the clear day are an average of 27-33 °C/80-91 °F. It can be way more on clear midday under the sun. I would recommend spending a minimum of 1 night in Meteora allowing yourself to experience sunrise and sunset over the Meteora valley. Those are magical times of the
day not to be missed. However, if you are planning on doing some serious photography and want to capture each monastery at its best light, or in general, spend more as the place is so beautiful and can keep you busy not only with
visiting monasteries, but also hiking Meteora, and exploring the surrounding areas if you drive. Visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed.
my post about 10 Epic Photo Locations in Meteora monasteries have longer opening times in summer (April 1st to October 31st) and shorter in winter (November 1st to March 31st). Refer to the monasteries opening times and hours in summer (April 1st to
October 31st):Great Meteoron Monastery: 9 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM, closed on Mondays; Agios Nikolaos
Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 5 PM, open every day. Meteora monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 3 PM, close
WednesdaysHoly Trinity Monastery: 10 AM -4 PM, closed on ThursdaysSt. Stephens Nunnery: 9:30 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, and 9:30 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, and 9:30 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Agio Nikolaos 
Varlaam are the largest monasteries, while St. Stephano nunnery is the easiest to access as it doesn't have steep staircases. All three monasteries myself, below I share a short overview of each of the monasteries to help you get
an idea and make your pick if you can't visit them all.Legend: *** my favorite, ** good to visit, * if you have time.Note that it is based on my personal opinion and you need to choose which monastery to go to and which one just to admire from
afar. Rising up from a lonely pillar, at a lower elevation than others, St Nicholas Monastery is the smallest of all six. It is the first monastery you will come across when driving (or walking) a circular route from Kastraki. Good to know: St. Nikolas is the least
visited monastery. Tour buses tend to skip it, which means it is quieter and less busy than other monasteries. There are several viewpoints, with an amazing rooftop terrace. St. Nikolas has the steepest and longest climb out of all Meteora
monasteries. Another reason why people tend to skip it.St. Nikolas of Anapafsas was the monastery I was going to skip and ended up visiting twice! Yep, I did love it that much. While other people seem to neglect it for not being impressive enough, which I completely disagree with, I felt like Agios Nikolas monastery was the least commercialized and
the most secluded. Even my Greek friend felt the same way. Indeed, the climb to reach the monastery is quite steep with possibly the largest number of steps to tackle. For this reason, many tourists don't bother climbing, and tour buses carrying big groups skip it. To me, the miniature, yet 3-floor monastery felt very homey. The katholikon (the church
of the monastery where monks pray) has a special energy, while the rooftop terrace is open to fascinating close-up views of the rocks of Meteora, Kastraki town below, Russsonou, and Varlaam monasteries at a distance. Views from the terrace of St Nikolaos monastery Situated within a green forest, beautiful inside out, Roussanou is a nunnery
dedicated to Saint Barbara. According to the ancient story, for accepting and promoting Christianity, Agia Varvara (st. Barbara) was beheaded by her pagan father. Today, 13 nuns inhabit Rousannou which is the second smallest monastery among surviving six. Although to reach Russanou you will have to tackle a few steep steeps, it is one of the easiest
to access. Nonetheless, many tour buses still skip it because due to its smaller size it cannot accommodate large groups of tourists. This makes Russanou a little less visited and it was my second favorite monasteries as it is extremely photogenic and has a variety
of wonderful angles to capture it from? Make sure to also read my guide to The 10 best locations to photograph Meteora and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora and its hanging monastery at surrounding views over Kalambaka and views over Kalambaka an
stairway cut into the cliff. The stone path to Holy Trinity Monastery in Meteora, GreeceA windy stone path leads to the foot of the imposing lonely rock which made a base for the 14th century Agia Triada. Being featured in a popular James Bond film, today Holy Trinity is the other most photographed monastery in Meteora, especially by aerial
photographers. Do not shy away from 145 steep steps and make sure to visit Holy Trinity. To me, Holy Trinity is unmissable, especially for the views over the Meteora valley. Established in the mid-14th century, the largest and one of the oldest, Great Meteora valley. Established in the mid-14th century, the largest and one of the oldest, Great Meteora valley.
buildings, the monastery can be mistaken for a small fortified town rather than a holy place. Visiting the Great Meteoron monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museum will be a story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museum will be a story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museum will be a story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museum will be a story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museum will be a story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museum will be a story of the area and the life of the monastery and its museum will be a story of the area and the life of the monastery and a story of the area and the life of the monastery area.
where you can see hundreds of skulls of the monks who have lived there over the years. Tip: Great Meteoron monastery is one of the most popular hence it gets very busy during the day. Parking can be packed as well. Thus, it is a good idea to plan to visit the Great Meteoron monastery as soon as it opens. Great Meteoron monastery panoramic
viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteora. Varlaam is the second-largest monastery in Meteora. Varlaam has several great lookout points, including a beautiful courtyard overlooking Meteora valley with Roussanou in the distance. There is also a small museum that briefly introduces the history of the
area and some interesting facts about monastic life in the old days. Courtyard in Varlaam monasteryThus, if you cannot visit. To me, Varlaam is a good alternative to visit. To me, Varlaam, although undeniably beautiful, felt too commercialized (the same applies to Great Meteoron and even Saint Stephan). The souvenir stalls at the entrance
are a bit of a vibe killer. Let alone there are masses of people visiting. Thus, in my humble option, it is enough to see one of the two biggest monasteries and spend some more time exploring the above-mentioned smaller ones. Good to know: Varlaam monastery does not provide free skirts for ladies. Thus, make sure to bring your own, or purchase one
for 3 euros at the entrance (this is separate from the 3 euros entrance fee). At the southern edge of the Meteora cluster, and just a minute's drive from Holly Trinity monastery. Saint Stephen's number was first inhabited by ascetic Jeremiah, in the early twelve century. Evolving through centuries, the whole complex was completed in the 19th
century. Due to the easy access over the small bridge, St. Stephen's monastery is one of the most frequented and can get uncomfortably busy. For this reason, it was my least favorite, yet is worth visiting for its impressive frescoes. Saint Stephen nunnery, Meteora, GreeceThere are plenty of wonderful viewpoints of the monasteries accessible from the
main road. That being said, a couple of the spots for Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset) Main Observation Deck of Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset) These two spots are amazing but also very popular. If you want to find out more of the best Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset) These two spots are amazing but also very popular. If you want to find out more of the best Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset) These two spots are amazing but also very popular.
(including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora Photography. Sunset rock lookout point in Meteora Restaurant in Kalambaka- yep, the name is 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 remembrances. Taverna Gardenia in Kastraki serving traditional Greek foods. Recommended coffee shop in
MeteoraFor the best coffee head to 14oz in Kalambaka, Set on the main road at the entrance to Kalambaka, 14oz had the best coffee I managed to find during my Greece road trip. I love my 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 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, bars, pastries, and souvenir shops. It would be a more convenient place to stay for those of you 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 Meteora, Greece should be at the top of everyone's Greece bucket list. Meteora is a UNESCO World Heritage site with beautiful views and an admirable history. The place feels holy. But before you visit, there are things you
should prepare for: The Monasteries are holy places, and some are still inhabited by Monks and Nuns. While visiting Meteora Monasteries you must be dressed appropriately they do have skirts and shoulder
scarves for women, so don't worry too much if you didn't pack something appropriate. For men we found that some locations had leg coverings (so plan on bringing long pants!). Women are expected to wear skirts or dresses that are a conservative length, and
shirts that cover the shoulders. Men are expected to wear pants and shirts that cover their shoulders. Also not required, but also consider that there are lots of stairs and walking! Wear comfortable shoes with good support! Some Monasteries have up to 300 steps. The only Monastery without stairs to enter is the St Stephens (or Agio Stefano)
monastery. Be prepared with water, good shoes, and your stamina! If you have physical limitations, the views around Meteora and the St Stephen's monastery entrance. The monastery entrance are still great! However, they do not have any accommodations for monastery entrance.
you might find that parking can be difficult at times depending on the time of day and the time of year that you visit (shoulder season and off-season will be easier). If you want to avoid the parking situation there are plenty of tours offered that will take you to the different monasteries as day trips from other sites, or just from Meteora! The
monasteries have different schedules. There is typically one Monastery closed per week day during the summer, except St Nicholas (or Agios Nikolaos) monastery which is open every day during the summer. Before vising Meteora, take a look at the schedule (or timetable) here for closing times and monastery closures so you can plan accordingly. If
you want to visit every monastery we recommend staying the night in the area so you can visit the monasteries. The inside of the monasteries have incredible paintings and chapels, but you are not able to take photos of them. If you want to remember
them you can buy some of the books at the gift shop. You also cannot take photos of the nuns or monks unless they expressly specify otherwise. You can take photos in the courtyards and the lookouts and you will really get some AMAZING shots! Visiting Meteora is an unforgettable experience. Ready to plan your visit? Read our article to learn more
about what to expect at each Monastery. The word 'Meteora' means "suspended in air," and that's an apt description for the six Eastern Orthodox monasteries perched on top of the monasteries and because of the landscape. Ancient Greeks
believed Meteora was the site of the battle between the Olympians and the Titans, and it's easy to see why the area was thought to be a mystical place. If you're in Mainland Greece, then Meteora needs to be on your itinerary! Monks began construction on the monasteries in the 14th century. Their choice to build on these intimidating rock formations
was two-pronged. The cliffs offered protection from Turkish attacks and were a perfect place to achieve isolation. For monks, the cliffs represent humanity's struggle for spiritual elevation. There used to be 24 monasteries, but only six are still standing. Meteora is a UNESCO World Heritage Site under two categories - nature and art. It's one of the
only places in the world that qualifies for more than one category. Fun facts: Meteora was in the James Bond film For Your Eyes Only, and the TV show Game of Thrones wanted to film here, but the monasteries when you're here. To visit all six, you'll need at least a couple of days
There's also a 21 mile/35 kilometer-long network of hiking trails below (and sometimes up to) the monasteries. From some of these angles, you can
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see a majority of the monasteries at the same time. And the Meteora rock formations make for the most extraordinary backdrop. The Meteora Monasteries are near the town of Kalambaka in Central Greece. Kalambaka is about four hours from Thessaloniki. Kalambaka has a train stopped and the most extraordinary backdrop. The Meteora Monasteries are near the town of Kalambaka in Central Greece. Kal
with direct trips to and from Athens and Thessaloniki every day. The most common way people visit Meteora is as a day trip from Athens. This is a long day trip, and you'll only get to visit a couple of monasteries and viewpoints. But if you only have a day to give to the Meteora Monasteries, then this still one of the Best Day Trips from Athens. And a
trip here will enhance any Athens Itinerary. The best option for visiting Meteora, if you have time, is to spend at least one night in Kalambaka. This would give you at least two days here – one day visiting the monasteries and one day exploring the base of the rock formations and the hermitages. Kalambaka has lots of accommodation options. Another
option is to combine Meteora with another day trip. The most popular day trip from Athens is Delphi, which is in the general direction of Meteora on to the same trip. Many tour companies offer a two day one night trip to Delphi and Meteora. You would still only get one
day at each site, but you would get longer days at both places. Greece's peak tourism season from June - August gives you the best chance of good weather at Meteora, but the crowds and prices will be triple what they are the rest of the year. The shoulder seasons from April to May and September to October are the best times to visit because your
chances of good weather are still high, and costs and other tourists will be more manageable. The off-season from November - March will have the lowest prices and very few tourists, but the Monasteries can become inaccessible due to Winter weather. Many of the hiking trails are also closed during these months. At least one monastery is closed
every weekday, and the monasteries aren't open for as long in the Winter. So if there's a specific monastery you want to visit, make sure you plan accordingly. Here are opening and closing times for all six monasteries year-round. Entry to each monasteries aren't open for as long in the Winter. So if there's a specific monasteries year-round. Entry to each monasteries accept credit cards, so you need to have cash for all the
monasteries you want to visit. Dress conservatively. Women must wear a skirt or dress that goes below her knees, and her arms must be covered. If a woman doesn't come with the proper attire, she'll be required to cover up with one of the communal skirts or shirts available at each monastery. Men must wear pants (not shorts) and a long-sleeve
shirt, or you'll also be required to cover up. This is not a sponsored post, and, as always, the thoughts and opinions expressed here are entirely my own. Some of these links are affiliate links, and, at no cost to you, I may earn a small commission. A lot of tourists make a short stop in Thessaloniki on their way to the beach. Of course, the beaches are
nice, but Greece's second largest city is an attraction in itself. Thessaloniki was the co-capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. Then, together with Izmir, it was one of the two biggest trading port cities during the
Ottoman Empire. To our delight, the city has successfully preserved all these historical layers. That's the city's glorious past. Thessaloniki today is a vibrant city, full of young creative people, great coffee everywhere, bars galore and a restaurant offer that rivals (some would say beats) that of Athens. So, what to do in Thessaloniki in 3 days? Discover
architecture, enjoy the city's atmosphere and if you have extra time head to the beach! *This post contains affiliate links, we may earn a commission at no extra time head to the beach! *This post contains affiliate links, we may earn a commission at no extra time head to the beach! *This post contains affiliate links, we may earn a commission at no extra time head to the beach! *This post contains affiliate links, we may earn a commission at no extra time head to the beach! *This post contains affiliate links, we may earn a commission at no extra time head to the beach! *This post contains affiliate links affiliate links. If you make a purchase through these links, we may earn a commission at no extra time head to the beach! *This post contains affiliate links affiliate links affiliate links. If you make a purchase through these links affiliate links affiliate links affiliate links. If you make a purchase through these links affiliate links af
during the Roman Empire. In fact, in 41 BC it was granted free city status and soon became a major trade hub. To our amazement, all archaeological Roman remains are in the city center. As cool as it sounds! Walk along pedestrian Gounari Street until you see the Galerius Palace Complex, the seat of the Eastern Roman Empire. Continue up north on
the same street until you get to the Arch of Galerius and the Rotunda, two impressive monuments part of the palace complex. Take note that the Rotunda was once an orthodox church and a mosque. Before you get there, you will reach noisy Egnatia Street. Turn left and walk a bit until you reach a large park-square on your right. The Roman Forum
or Agora is behind the park. The main sight on the forum is the ancient amphitheater - Odeion. Byzantine Thessaloniki As mentioned above, Thessaloniki As mentioned a
the Unesco included the Rotunda, together with 12 Byzantine churches and monasteries, a Bath and the City Walls in its World Heritage Sites list. Though you can walk starting along Egnatia Street, we believe it's better to turn left and right into the smaller side streets. By doing so, you avoid pollution while exploring the side cafés and shops. You'll
spot two churches near the Arch of Galerius: the tiny Metamorphosis tou Sotiros (Church of the Saviour) and the large Aghios Panteleimon; both built during the 14th Century. Take your time and soak in the beauty and peace of its interior. If
you continue right on Agias Sofias Street you'll reach the Church of the Acheiropoietos. Built in the 5th Century, it is the city's oldest surviving church. Before you get to the Roman Forum be sure to stop by the 11th Century Panagia Chalkeon. The Old Town (Ano Poli) + City Walls (Kastra) Head up northeast to the Old Town in the afternoon. On your
 way there you'll stumble upon several Byzantine churches including the reconstructed Hagios Demetrios, with a historical crypt, and the Church of Prophet Elijah further up the hill. After crossing Olimpiados Street you'll find yourself inside the Ano Poli.
Don't rush and wonder about its curvy cobbled streets. Take small Elefsinos Street and turn right on the first corner in Theofilou Street. You'll find several historical houses there. Continue along the same road (name changed to Akropoleos), until you reach the Alysseos Tower on the ancient City Wall. If you slightly deviate from your route you'll see
the only remaining Byzantine Baths. Remember to go all the way up to the Heptapyrgion Fortress. Young friendly Greeks and fantastic views of the entire city and the sea await you. You guessed it; sunset is the best time to be there, especially if you are visiting Thessaloniki in winter. Day 2 City Center At the beginning of the 20th Century,
Thessaloniki was a large Balkan city with beautiful buildings, but a chaotic urban grid. So after the fire of 1917 destroyed most of the city center, the Greek government decided to build a new one. They appointed the French architect and urban planner Ernest Hébrard to make a new European Thessaloniki. He designed a symmetrical orthogonal grid
parallel to the sea, with diagonal avenues accentuating the plan. Aristotelous Street is full of shops and restaurants. Begin your walk at the monumental Aristotelous Street is full of shops and restaurants. Begin your walk at the monumental Aristotelous Square by the sea and walk along Aristotelous Street is full of shops and restaurants.
is full of car-free areas, so we really enjoyed walking about the city. Some of the best cafés in the city are on Agias Sofias and Iktinou, both pedestrian streets southwest of the Agia Sophia Church. Marketplaces and Ladadika Thessaloniki's main marketplaces are close to Egnatia, on both sides of Aristotelous Street. Dating back to the Ottoman
Empire, Kapani Market on the left is the city's oldest market. The Modiano Market (Jewish Market), next to it, is from the 20th Century. On the other side of Aristotelous Street, you'll find small Athonos Market (Jewish Market), next to it, is from the 20th Century. On the other side of Aristotelous Street, you'll find small Athonos Market. The market is food heaven! You can't go wrong with the numerous small shops, food stalls, and great local restaurants serving fresh food. No
western industrial franchises here! Food tours are a great idea to get to know the area. As mentioned above, the fire of 1917 wiped most of Thessaloniki's city center. Tiny Ladadika Neighborhood is the only neighborhood downtown that survived the fire. Due to its location near the port, during centuries it was an important market place. By the
beginning of the 20th Century, the area had turned into a red light district. Nowadays it is one of the city's nicest neighborhoods with cobbled streets, little squares, and cool bars and restaurants. Ottoman Empire from 1490 to 1912. Fortunately, several interesting Ottoman buildings have survived to this
day. Close to Kapani market, you will find the Yahudi Hamam, the bath of the Jews. You can't go inside. Pretty close you will find the textile market, the Bezesteni. The place is still working, with people selling all sorts of stuff. Do not forget to check nearby Hamza Bey Mosque. Built in 1467, this beauty is the oldest surviving Islamic worship place built
in Thessaloniki. Not only that but with a total area of 12000 sq foot (1150 m2), it is the largest surviving mosque in Greek territory. You'll find the Bey Hamam on the park along Egnatia Street. Currently, the baths are used for cultural events and exhibitions. Behind the Agios Dimitrios Church lies the Yeni Hamam. You simply cannot skip this place. In
fact, we liked it so much we went several times, both for lunch, coffee, and late night drinks. Not far from there is the Alaca Imaret Mosque, built in the 15th Century and now under reconstruction. Another fascinating place not to be missed is the Atatürk Museum on Apostolou Pavlou Street, next to the Turkish Consulate. This beautifully
reconstructed house is where no other than Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in 1881. Jewish Thessaloniki We had no clue that Thessaloniki had such an important role in Jewish history. What's more, we didn't know that Judaism was so important in Greek culture. In fact, the earliest Jews in Europe are the Romaniote, an ancient culture that spoke
Greek and Hebrew and that thrived in and around ancient Thessaloniki. But that's not all. When the Spaniards kicked out the Sephardic Jews back in the 15th Century, when the city was part of the Ottoman Empire, out of its 157,000 inhabitants, 80,000 were Jews. They prayed in the
 40 synagogues and 50 chapels scattered all around the city! Let's not dwell on what Nazi Germany did to the Greeks, Jews and just about anyone. The small Yad Lezirakon Synagogue is in between the Kapani and Modiano Markets. It's hard to find, but trust us it's there! You won't have trouble recognizing nearby Monastirioton Synagogue.
Unfortunately, we were unable to access both of them. A listed building dating back to 1906 on Agia Mina Street houses the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki. This museum serves to acquaint the public with the city's Jewish historical and cultural heritage. Villa Olga is on downtown Vassilissis Olgas Street. Until 1978, this crumbling yet beautiful villawing the city's Jewish historical and cultural heritage.
was the Italian Consulate. During the war, Italian cónsuls granted dozens of Greek Jews forged identity cards claiming they were Italian so they could be saved from deportation to concentration to concentration
city goes to the 6 mile (10 km) seafront promenade for a walk. Fantastic Ottoman mansions lined the coastline until the great fire of 1917. Today large monotone buildings occupy their place. However, take your time and you will find some real jewels of postwar architecture. Plus you'll see some of Thessaloniki's main landmarks. Start your walk at
the warehouses near Ladadika. The Museum of Photography, the Cinema Museum and the Contemporary Art Center of Thessaloniki are all there. Walk along the shore and you'll pass again by the majestic Aristotelous Square. If you continue in the same direction you'll arrive at the White Tower, the symbol of the city. Who would have thought that
this elegant building was once a prison where mass executions took place? After the tower, the seafront expands to include green spaces. Finish your walk by the Alexander the Great Statue and the Zongolopoulos Umbrellas. Nice Villas If you are into architecture and history Thessaloniki won't disappoint you. Go to the beginning of Leof. Vasileos
Georgiou Avenue, next to the Umbrellas monument. Walk down south along the avenue and don't let the countless concrete residential buildings discourage you. Amongst them, you'll spot first are the Villa Michaelidi and the Salem Mansion.
Turn left on Archeologikou Mousiou Street and on your right you'll spot the Yeni Mosque. Go back to the avenue and continue towards the south. After a few minutes, you'll see a garden on your right. Go inside to visit the Jewish
Villa Modiano and the Folklife and Ethnological Museum. Continuing further south you'll see the Ottoman Villa Mehmet Kapanci on your right. If you are still not tired go all the way to the Ottoman Villa Mordoch and the Jewish Casa Bianca. Street Art
Thessaloniki is not a street art Mecca like Athens or even Belgrade, but it does have a few very large and impressive murals that you shouldn't miss. Some pieces are part of the Face Art Public Mural Project launched in 2011 during that 15th Biennial of Young Artists. Others are the works of great artists such as BLU, DALeast or Faith47. In 2017 theorem are the works of great artists such as BLU, DALeast or Faith47. In 2017 theorem are the works of great artists.
city hosted the Street Art Festival Thessaloniki but unfortunately, it didn't become an annual event. The area around pedestrian Gounari Street has several interesting murals. One is directly in the street. Another one is right across the Rotunda in Konnou Melenikou Street, next to the ancient City Wall. On the corner of Egnatia and Socratus Streets
there is a pretty big one, and also on Mitropolitou Gennadiou Street, there are two cool murals. There's a hilarious one about the Greek financial crisis. Finally, you'll find the nicest mural in Ladadika, on Tsimiski Street. This powerful piece is about domestic violence
Where to Eat and Drink Without a doubt, Greek food is one of the world's most varied. In Thessaloniki, you can find anything from local flavors to all types of international cuisine. For an unforgettable experience dine in one of the markets. You won't have trouble finding good food at Kapani, Modiano and Athonos markets. Be adventurous though, and
try to find the hidden Bit Bazar. For drinks go the delicately refurbished Yeni Hamam (Aigli Geni Hamam), behind the Hagios Demetrios Church. Whope in Ladadika is another cool place to have lunch, dinner and go for a drink. Where to Stay To feel the charm of
Thessaloniki you have to stay in the middle of its historical center. That is the area inside the city walls. The best option is the Electra Palace Thessaloniki, literally in the center of Aristotelous Square. This top class hotel is part of a historical compound. Another superb hotel in a historical building is the Antigon Urban Chic Hotel. Other great hotels
downtown are the Domotel Olympia and the Plaza Hotel. If you rather stay in an apartment check the Maroon Bottle Luxury Suites. Finally, don't hesitate and book a room in the Makedonia Palace Hotel if you are into modern architecture and sea views. How Many Days in Thessaloniki We designed this guide for people wondering what to do in
Thessaloniki for 3 days. If you have up to three days in Thessaloniki stay in the city and skip the beach. Another option is to skip the beach altogether. There are so many things to see and do in Thessaloniki that you can easily spend a week there without getting bored. In fact, there is a
chance you might fall in love with this old Mediterranean lady, as we did. If you are short of time, we suggest this gorgeous bike tour. The mountaintop monasteries at Meteora, Greece are a marvel of human creativity. Can you believe people saw these enormous sandstone pillars and thought, "I'm going to live up there!"? That's exactly what
happened centuries ago, and today you can visit the monasteries that are still inhabitied by 60 monks and nuns. Originally there were 24 monasteries are worth seeing, where to stay, places to eat, and many more tips to
make your trip super efficient! Some links in this post are to affiliate sites. If you purchase something! I am very grateful when you use my links to make a purchase. Here are a few tips that will make your trip to Meteora in 2024 easier: Entry to each monastery is 3€ - This means
that in total, you will spend 18€ per person to visit all six monasteries. Know the (dress) code - Women are required to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders, whereas men are not allowed to wear a long skirt and cover their shoulders.
every monastery free of charge). It's not really possible to "beat" the tour busses - Most monasteries open at 9am, and by 9:30am there are already busses at their doorsteps. The easiest way to avoid the crowds is to travel in the off season or to spend your time at monasteries which are more difficult to access (learn about this below). This region of
Greece is subject to a lot of rain! - In an instant, you can go from sunshine to pouring rain. Be prepared by checking the weather report, bringing an umbrella, and being prepared to keep your things (e.g. camera, bag) dry. Stay in Kastraki instead of Kalambaka for easier parking and driving - Driving in Greece can be a little fun and a lot of chaos. If
you want an easier time, try booking a hotel or guesthouse in Kastraki. It's just as close and convenient as Kalambaka with a fraction of the population. You can easily reach Meteora from Athens or Thessaloniki via guided tours. You can easily reach Meteora from Athens or Thessaloniki via guided tours.
with over 150 positive reviews. Sunrise in Meteora, as seen from our balcony at Hotel Meteora Kastraki . Looking for a full-blown guide for Northern Greece? Check out my Northern Greece?
south. Interesting facts about Meteora It was used as a filming location for the James Bond movie, For Your Eyes Only. Meteora also inspired the backdrop for Game of Thrones when Tyrion is being held in the Eyrie. The Linkin Park album Meteora got it's name from...well, Meteora. During World War II, the Germans occupied Meteora and burned
down some of the precious artifacts. In Grand Meteora you can see images of people throwing a Nazi off a cliff from a monastery. The more you know Onto the itinerary! Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 18-20 Recommended accommodation Hotel Meteora Monasteries Duration 2.5 days Dates visited June 2.5 
selection for breakfast, and a swimming pool you didn't realize you needed. And affordable! Recommended dining We enjoyed Taverna To Paramithi in Kalambaka the most during our stay. They even had live, traditional music played by a pair of old Greek dudes with live instruments! Recommended guidebook This Greece travel guidebook was super
helpful planning our entire trip through Northern Greece. Opening hours Every monastery is closed on a different day of the week, except Fridays where two monasteries are closed. This means that if you want to visit all of them, you need to visit over a two day period of time. Monastery Summer opening hours Winter opening hours Closed on Great
Meteoron 09:00-16:00 09:00-15:00 Tuesdays Holy Trinity 09:00-15:00 Tuesdays Holy Trinity 09:00-16:00 09:00-16:00 Fridays Roussanou 09:00-16:00 Fridays Rouss
monasteries Legend \bullet \bullet \bullet Must visit \bullet \bullet Recommended \bullet If time permits Great Meteoron (mid-1300s) \bullet \bullet \bullet Great Meteoron (mid-1300s) \bullet \bullet \bullet Great Meteoron (mid-1300s) \bullet \bullet \bullet Recommended \bullet If time permits Great Meteoron (mid-1300s) \bullet \bullet \bullet Great Meteoron (mid-1300s) \bullet \bullet Great Meteoron (mid-1300s) \bullet \bullet \bullet Great Meteoron (mid-1300s) \bullet Great Meteoron (mid-13
judgement. You should know that orthodox christians were widely persecuted during the Ottoman Empire, so many of the art references this fact. Some special features of Great Meteoron: Three distinct museums, including a library containing a copy of the Suda, a 10th-centry Byzantine encyclopedia that references many ancient sources that have
 since been lost. Gallery of art made by a contemporary artist who mimics the style of the period in which the monastery that was featured in the 1981 James Bond movie For Your Eyes Only. The stairs to reach this monastery number
over 130! You will definitely feel the burn after climbing all these stairs. Has a great lookout point where you can climb and take some photos of monasteries in the distance. Varlaam is the second biggest monasteries in the distance. Varlaam is the second biggest monastery in Meteora, and considered one of the nicest. What I liked about this place is that you thought you were finished
exploring it, and then you discover a new corner where something is still waiting for you! Here's what you should know about Varlaam: Has a great, compact museum about the history of the area and how the first monks came to dwell in the cliffs. First
class toilets As I mentioned, we were surprised to find that Great Meteoron Monastery only had squat toilets and subsequently regretted not taking advantage of the fancy onces at Varlaam. Roussanou (mid-1500s) • Monastery of Rosanau is dedicated to St. Barbara, a women who dedicated her life to Christianity and was subsequently beheaded by
her father. Today she's the patron saint of coalminers, and this nunnery in her name has 13 nuns in residence. According to this blog post about the meteora monasteries. TIP: You can access this nunnery from both above and below. Above you get a great view over the
valley, and it's probably shorter to walk, however there is less parking available. St. Stephen's nunnery • This nunnery is one of the busiest we went to! Perhaps owing to how easy it is to access, St. Stephen's nunnery is one of the busiest we went to!
appear between the different monasteries, including the final judgement and brutal torture of saints from the time of Christ to the Turkish occupation. St. Nikolaos Anapfsas • Of all the monasteries, including the final judgement and brutal torture of saints from the time of Christ to the Turkish occupation. St. Nikolaos Anapfsas • Of all the monasteries, including the final judgement and brutal torture of saints from the time of Christ to the Turkish occupation. St. Nikolaos of Anapfsas is the most underwhelming. It's quite small and for some reason, the stairs to get there were some of the
most exhausting! That said, it's not very crowded, as I'm guessing most tour busses tend to skip it. Read my article about my travel photography camera kit, which I use to take all the photos you see on the blog! Best lookout points in Meteora Almost anywhere you look, there's an awesome view to be had over the valley. That said, a few places stand
out as the best spots to take photos - two main lookout points: Psaropetra lookout points: Psaropetra lookout point on our way to the lookout point but you can pull over and block the road briefly while you take a photo
That point isn't on any map but is featured in the image above! The photo below was taken at the Psaropetra lookout point. As I shared above, during the high season it's practically impossible to beat the busses, most monasteries didn't feel cramped and I only
really needed to wait in line for one. For that reason, I do think that June was a good choice for when to visit Meteora. It's hot but not sweltering, and the busses are there but they actually had a rather small impact on us. There are also a lot of gorgeous photos of Meteora in Autumn, so I would certainly love to come back and see the valley in fall
foliage. Where to stay near Meteora We booked Hotel Meteora Kastraki, which is located on its own road a bit outside of Kastraki. This made parking really straightforward, while driving into Meteora took something like ten minutes topcs. The room are rather basic, but the balcony is huge and you can book a room with a view of Meteora (which
makes it really easy to get sunrise photos!). The price was also quite affordable at around 80€ per night when we booked. Guided tours of Meteora, I could definitely see how it would be engaging to have a tour guide explain the history to you as you weave around these majestic rock formations
Sometimes you don't realize how cool something is until you know the history. Adding a trip to Meteora is a feasible option is you're planning to visit Athens or will be traveling in Northern Greece. If you prefer to do a guided tour, perhaps because you won't have a car in Greece or you just want that personal touch, here are three of the top-rated
tours in Meteora. If you're considering Meteora as an Athens day trips, I would encourage you to see if it's possible to stay overnight at least one night. Or, at least, ensure that you'll be in Meteora for sunset. Have you ever been to Greece? Where would you like to visit most? I've got an upcoming guide to some off-beat parts of Greece and a northern
Greece itinerary, so stay tuned! Pin this post for later! We moved to Greece 6 years ago because we love it! Come, visit Greece and you will see the nicest beaches in Europe, splendid cities, and fantastic nature. As if that was not enough, you will eat delicious food and meet the best hosts in Europe. Tourism is coming back
to Greece big time in 2025. Fortunately, you can visit the country all year round! We are lucky to live in Athens, close to some of the world's nicest beaches and islands. Here are our 10 reasons why you should visit this year. *This post contains affiliate links. If you make a purchase through these links, we may earn a commission at no extra cost to
architecture are amongst the best in the world. What else could you possibly ask for? The best food in Europe and some of the best beaches in the world complete the feast. Greece is an attack on the senses. Here, you get to travel in time to ancient cultures, embrace the future, explore gorgeous nature, eat superb food, and enjoy splendid weather!
Greek Hotels are Different When it comes to hotels, Greece excels again. Most hotels are small and medium-size, and they pay attention to every detail. From the splendid Nymfes Hotel in Kamares beach in Syros, and they pay attention to every detail. From the splendid Nymfes Hotel in Kamares beach in Syros, and they pay attention to every detail.
number of open-air terraces. Sipping your cocktail and tasting delicious moussaka on a lovely terrace is fantastic and healthy. Besides, you get to enjoy outdoor spaces everywhere. In 2024 travel to Greece and eat outside every day! The food is delicious all around the
country, and no one does outdoor eating like the Greeks. Greek hospitality is in a league of its own. The service is elegant and warm, everybody speaks English, and the restaurants are beautiful! Athens a long time ago, you won't believe how much the city has changed. There's live music everywhere! Numerous streets
Music and art take over the city and the Epidaurus Theatre. Winter in Athens is a bit quieter, but everything is open. Brilliant Places near Athens too. Comfortable buses connect Athens with three ancient sites. Delphi, the ancient sanctuary with fantastic views, is
only a 3-hour bus ride from Athens. Another option is the marvelous theater in Epidaurus, 2 hours from Athens, is the old temple by the beach in Sounion. If you are into beautiful cities, you can take a bus, and in 2 hours you'll be in Nafplio, the former Greek capital. Of course, you can also rent a car
or hire a taxi. We recommend this tour to Epidaurus, Mycenae and Nafplio. Less Visited Islands are Amazing Traveling by ferry to the wonderful islands of Greece is a magical experience. We're not so crazy about it because Andres gets dizzy. However, there are several lesser-known islands just a short ferry ride away. It takes around 2 hours to reach
Sifnos, and you can combine it with a visit to Serifos or Syros. If you're short on time, a great option is to hop on a fast ferry and visit. Beaches, old towns, archaeological ruins, and scenic treks are some of their highlights. We use Ferryhopper to check prices and buy
our ferry tickets across Greece. The Popular Islands are Still Worth Visiting Locals say that the best islands in Greece are not the famous ones. Except for Santorini. No matter how many islands you've visited in your life, this one is in a league of its own. Visit Santorini in winter and you'll escape the crowds. The same applies to Crete, our favorite
island in Greece. You can take any of the numerous boats from Athens to other islands, such as Mykonos and Rhodes. Both places will take your breath away. That said, we do recommend avoiding July and August in the most popular islands. Meteora, in
Thessaly, is another world-famous beauty. Meteora is a fantasy come true. Outstanding nature blends beautifully with fascinating architecture. Six medieval monasteries stand high on cliffs that rise tall out of nowhere. Each ancient monasteries stand high on cliffs that rise tall out of nowhere. Each ancient monasteries stand high on cliffs that rise tall out of nowhere. Each ancient monasteries are tons of wonderful treks into nature.
had the entire place to ourselves. Once again, you can rent a car and drive there or take a safe train from Athens or Thessaloniki. Impressive Small Towns and Big Cities One of the things that surprised us the most in Greece is its gorgeous historic towns. Just like elsewhere in the Balkans, the typical Greek town is not especially interesting. That said
there are dozens of places with impressive heritage. When it comes to the biggest cities, their main draw is their unique ambiance. Greeks like to eat and drink, and every city has a large central area full of tavernas. Apart from that, every big city has interesting sites, and none of them is overly touristy (except for Athens). Thesaloniki is Fabulous
Northern Greece is perfect for those of you coming from the rest of Europe by car. Thessaloniki is close to Promachonas and Evzoni, two main border crossings. It's a vibrant cosmopolitan city with a plethora of historical sites. Thessaloniki is quite different to Athens. Many Greeks believe the food in Thessaloniki is close to Promachonas and Evzoni, two main border crossings.
Chalkidiki Peninsula and its outstanding beaches are more beautiful than ever. When it comes to beaches, the ones in Chalkidiki have nothing to envy from the Greek islands. In fact, some people consider them the prettiest. We love and enjoy them all equally! Things to Know before Traveling to Greece Though you will get medical assistance all
around the country, we recommend having private travel insurance. We always do everywhere we go. Extra caution is always needed when you travel outside of your home country. As travelers, we want to be sure that we will get immediate medical assistance. Greece is part of the European Union and the Schengen Visa Agreement. Thus you can
visit Greece with any valid Schengen visa, or without a visa if you come from a visa free country. You can check here if you need visa to visit that it's fair to ask: why
should I go to Greece? The answer is pretty straightforward. Greece is amongst the prettiest places on the planet. The food is delicious, and the Greeks are the best hosts in Europe has such splendid beaches. As if that was not enough, the country has hills, forests, valleys, and gorges. Let's not forget some of the oldest
and most impressive archaeological remains in the world. The hotels are simply perfect. You will find the one that suits you. Best Time to Go to Greece depends solely on you. Our favorite months to travel around the country are May, June, September, and October. The
weather is splendid. You can bathe in the sea, and there are fewer tourists. Some people love winter in Greece. It's never cold. In particular, if you compare it to other places in Europe. The sun always shines, and there are no crowds at all. Other people love summer. It's super-hot in Greece during July and August. That's perfect if you love the beach
To many, a trip to Greece is all about the ancient city of Athens and the country's most spellbinding destinations, Meteora. Hidden among the mountains of Thessaly, Meteora is both naturally and historically fascinating, thanks to its unique
rock formations and monasteries. You're in for a real treat if you visit Meteora - the improbable sight of ancient monasteries teetering on narrow pillars of rock. Follow these Meteora is a thing. To fully appreciate why Meteora is so special, you need a little context on what it is and how it came to be. Meteora is a
 place of unusual topography as well as an important historical and religious site. It's the interplay of these features that make it such a unique destination. Meteora" roughly translates to "suspended in the air." While some stand entirely on their own, others work
 with the ordinary hillside to form valleys, creating an unpredictable landscape. This landscape alone would be a draw for tourists, but what really makes Meteora special is that the cliffs of many of these rocks are home to Greek Orthodox monasteries
themselves seem "suspended in the air." There were once two dozen monasteries across Meteora, but only six remain active. These six monasteries, along with their monks and nuns, are what visitors come to see in Meteora. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Positioned right in the middle of Greece, away from many of the country's other major
destinations, Meteora isn't the most convenient place to reach. Although that may limit your options for how to travel there from Athens or Thessaloniki. Recommendation: If you don't have much time in Greece, consider visiting Meteora on a guided day
trip, such as this day tours from Athens or Thessaloniki. To reach Meteora from Athens, you can take a regional train to the town of Kalabaka, which sits at the foot of the beautiful Meteora rocks. The direct trains from both Athens and
Thessaloniki that connect via Palaiofarsalos. You could also take the daily bus that connects Athens to Kalabaka and takes roughly the same time. Of course, you could always rent a car and drive yourself to Meteora. This is not only the quickest option, but also allows you to shape your itinerary as you'd like. For the best rental prices, check out
Rentalcars.com. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Since Meteora covers a surprisingly expansive area, it's important for you to work out how you'll get around there. The right option for you depends on how much time you have there and how you'll get around there. The right option for you depends on how much time you have there and how you'll get around there. The right option for you depends on how much time you have there and how you'll get around there.
tour, driving, or walking. If you have limited time in the area and want to see the most important sights as easily as possible, a tour is the way to go. You have a huge selection of guided tours here, from a full-day tour of the monasteries to a four-hour tour that just shows you the best sunset spots. There are also activity tours for visitors interested in
photography, food, or even rock climbing. The two most popular tours are the Panoramic Meteora and Monasteries Tour and the second in the evening, so you can join both of them on the same day to get the most out of your time in Meteora. You'll get to visit all the monasteries and experience
the incredible sunset from the famous Adrachti Pillar. You'll find roads winding around the wonderful landscape throughout Meteora. If you drive here, you can quickly get between each of the scenic lookouts. While it's the slowest way to see Meteora,
hiking is the best way to see this part of Greece. Hiking trails starting at Kastraki and Kalabaka weave through the countryside up to each of the monasteries. They get quite steep, and you'll occasionally need to follow the roadside, but you'll see far more of Meteora on foot than you could any other way. Recommendation: If you don't feel confident
enough to venture out on your own, consider this amazing five-hour hiking tour of Meteora. Time of year is one of the most important factors to consider when you're planning a trip to Meteora. How you choose to get around and how much you like dealing with other tourists will determine the best time for you. Located in the country's mountainous
center, Meteora is considerably cooler than Greece's islands. That means it experiences milder summers than the south, so hiking around in the heat isn't that bad. Still, summer is peak season for Greece, so the small monasteries can drop below
freezing. It's also harder to find places to stay and eat, as many businesses close for the offseason. As with more manageable tourist numbers, you won't feel crowded and should find the weather comfortable. Even better is seeing the landscape of Meteora
bursting with color, be it the blossoms of spring or the foliage of fall. If you plan to stay in the region for a night or more, you should choose somewhere that gives you convenient access to the sights of Meteora as well as restaurants and other services. Essentially, your choice of location comes down to two areas: the town of Kalabaka and the
neighboring village of Kastraki. They sit at opposite sides of the main monasteries of Meteora, so you can drive or walk from either. It's only about 2 kilometers from the center of one to the other, so it's also easy to get between the two towns. As the larger of the two, Kalabaka has more accommodations and restaurants, and it's where both the business from the center of one to the other, so it's also easy to get between the two towns. As the larger of the two, Kalabaka has more accommodations and restaurants, and it's where both the business from the center of one to the other, so it's also easy to get between the two towns.
and train arrive. Kastraki, on the other hand, is a small village with a quaint atmosphere. You'll still find quite a few restaurants here and plenty of accommodation options, but you'll have to make your way over from the bus or train station in Kalabaka. With
multiple pools and recreational facilities, attentive staff, and clean, stylish rooms, this grand hotel makes a great base for a Meteora visit. A nice midrange option is Tsikeli Boutique Hotel. This beautiful three-star hotel has style in spades, not to mention views of the epic surrounding scenery. It's in a quiet part of Kastraki but still not far from the
heart of the village. One of the few budget options around Meteora is The Holy Rock Hostel. This relatively new hostel offers the cheapest beds in Kalabaka, helpful staff, and great facilities such as a kitchen and common areas. While there are no places to get food up by the monasteries, you'll find a great selection of restaurants in Kalabaka and
Kastraki. As the bigger town, Kalabaka offers a bit more variety than Kastraki, which tends to stick to traditional Greek restaurants. In either town, you can expect plenty of Greek staples, such as grilled meats, saganaki appetizers, salads, and abundant vegetables. All of this goes best with Greek wine, including some local varieties. One great place to
visit is Taverna Xarama, a traditional Greek restaurant halfway between Kastraki and Kalabaka. Not only is the food good, but you have a good chance of being serenaded with a guitar, courtesy of the family that owns the tavern. Another place to consider is Taverna Gardenia in the center of Kastraki, which has tasty souvlakis. One of the best travel
tips for Meteora is to hike if you can, as this allows you to see not only the monasteries, but also the landscape in its entirety. The monasteries feel way more remote when you hike up through the forest to reach them. You also get to see the beautiful features of the forest, from trickling streams to small viewpoints. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net
Hiking in Meteora generally means alternating between following the main road and taking trails through the forest to the monasteries. While the trails are steep at times, you don't need to be a champion hiker to tackle them. To give yourself plenty of time to hike, you should plan to stay at least two days in Meteora. David Johnston /
 travelsewhere.net The best route from Kalabaka starts at the northernmost point of town. The narrow dirt track takes you out past olive groves before you climb up to the Monastery of the Holy Trinity. If you start from Kastraki, you'll take the main road leaving the village to the northeast, which will bring you to the Monastery of St. Nicholas of
Anapafsas. The hiking trails are pretty well outlined, though it's not always clear as to exactly where they lead. To avoid getting lost, grab a map of Meteora, which most of the area's hotels and tour operators give away for free. Some places provide more detailed hiking maps, but you'll need to pay for them, and they may not be necessary. Another
option is to download maps onto your phone, ensuring you'll always know where you are. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net No travel tips for visiting Meteora are complete without talking about each of the six active monasteries, the area's main focus. Sure, there are some other landmarks and sights, but you come to Meteora to see the monasteries
and how they fit into this remarkable landscape. The other things to do here are really just cherries on top for those who have a little extra time. How much time you should give yourself in Meteora depends largely on how you'll get around. If you take a guided tour or drive yourself, you could see all the highlights in one day. Hiking is best done over
two days, though, so that you aren't rushed and can explore a little further. You'll need to pay an entrance fee of €3 (about $3.28) per adult - anyone older than 12 - at each of the main monasteries. While this small price is well worth it, you might want to pick only a few to enter if you have a big group and a tight budget or little time. We've covered
the main six (and then some) here to help you decide whether to explore them all. As the oldest and largest of the Meteora monasteries, the Monastery of Great Meteora monasteries, its stone ribbon of stairs and countless buildings make it seem more like a fortified village.
than a monastery. Inside this 14th-century monastery, you'll be treated not only to views of Meteora, but also to gilded frescoes of saints and a museum on Meteora visit, as it provides some context on the places you'll be visiting. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Not far from Great
Meteoron is the next-largest monastery, Varlaam. Built in the 16th century, this wonderfully preserved monasteries. Sitting roughly in the middle of the monasteries, varlaam. Built in the 16th century, this wonderfully preserved monastery is almost like a palace with its pristine architecture. It houses a church, refectory, and chapels full of religious icons, not to mention the most monasteries.
Rousanou is Meteora's most photographed monastery. This is because it stands out the most against the landscape, being perched on a cliff that's visible from most other parts of Meteora. After sustaining significant damage in World War II, the monastery was rebuilt and is now an active convent. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Likely the lowest-
lying monastery of the main six, the Monastery of St. Nicholas of Anapafsas looks almost like it grew from the stone pillar it sits upon. It's hard to see where the rock ends and the monastery begins. Inside is an ornate chapel (which doesn't allow photography, sadly), a little bell tower, and a rooftop viewing terrace, which really only has views of
 Kastraki and the Monastery of Rousanou due to its low vantage point. The most isolated and hardest to reach of the Meteora monasteries is the Monastery has received multiple renovations over the years, but it remains pristinely
picturesque with awesome views out over Kalabaka. In fact, it was a filming location for the Holy Trinity lies the last of the big six, the Monastery of St. Stephen. This is the most accessible monastery in Meteora, with no
stairs necessary to reach it. In the main chapel and cathedral, you can find lingering reminders of the damage inflicted during the Greek Civil War on this now-convent. Across the landscape of Meteora, you'll likely see the ruins of several other monasteries. They aren't really accessible today and are generally far away from the famous ones. For
example, the Monastery of Ypapanti is closed to the public but still visibly wedged into the cliff face. For a full panoramic view of Meteora, visit the scenic viewpoint roughly halfway between the Rousanou and Holy Trinity monasteries. With a small parking lot right off the main road, it's easy to spot. Fitting all of Meteora's splendor into a single shot
is tricky, but this lookout gives you your best chance. Another place to go to admire the rocks and boulders of Meteora's skinniest rocks. Surrounded by the hills of the region, it's an atmospheric spot and easy to reach if you walk east out of Kastraki past the Byzantine Church of the
Assumption of Virgin Mary. That about does it for our tips for traveling to Meteora. You should now be amply prepared to visit this magical destination and fall further in love with Greece. Wondering how to visit this magical destination and fall further in love with Greece. Wondering how to visit this magical destination and fall further in love with Greece. Wondering how to visit this magical destination and fall further in love with 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 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
Greece Everything you need to know before visiting Meteora monasteries in Greece 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 monasteries in Meteora is closed on one day during the weekday in the summer season, and some of them are open during the weekday in the summer season.
(Saturday and Sunday) all year round. Mind the dress code when visiting Meteora monasteries: you must cover your shoulders and knees to enter 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 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 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 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 and its "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 is a UNESCO-protected site since 1988. The distinct rocks which you can see in 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 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 in Greece, the rope basket you can see in this image was
 used in old days to transport good 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 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. Linking 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. Holly 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 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 are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki International Airport and Thessaloniki. Tours offer a hassle-free journey but also limited flexibility. Buses are the most inconvenient way to travel to Meteora are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki.
full control over your own schedule and also eases moving around the Meteora area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive from Athens to drive from Athens to Meteora from Athens and 2.5-3 hours to drive from Thessaloniki to Meteora area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive from Athens to drive from Athens and 2.5-3 hours to drive from Thessaloniki to Meteora area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive from Athens to drive from Athens and 2.5-3 hours to drive from Athens are many tolls on the way from Athens to drive from Athens and 2.5-3 hours to drive from Athe
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, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train to the following train t
Meteora). Train from Athens to Kalambaka (or Kalambaka (or Kalambaka (or Kalambaka, departing at 7:57 AM and arriving at 12:03, trip duration 4:06 hours. Four times 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 PalaeofarsalosAthens-Kalambaka one-way ticket price is around 36 EUR, return of 57 EUR. Train from Thessaloniki to Kalambaka There 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. The journey takes between 3 to 6 hours depending on the time of the day. Train from Kalambaka to Thessaloniki (Neos Sidirodromikos Stathmos) to Kalambaka.
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 price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR. For up-to-date train schedules, ticket price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR. For up-to-date train schedules, ticket price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR. For up-to-date train schedules, ticket price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR. For up-to-date train schedules, ticket price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR. For up-to-date train schedules, ticket price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR. For up-to-date train schedules, ticket price is around 27 EUR, return is 34 EUR. For up-to-date train schedules, ticket price is around 28 EUR.
and the most time-consuming option is taking a bus. From Athens "Liossion" bus station you can catch a bus to Trikala town 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 to choose a tour
to Meteora, these would be my top picks (based on the ratings and reviews of other travelers):Click to check more Meteora toursLooking at tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around Meteora There are multiple ways to get ar
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-Kallitheas) leading to monasteries and then back down to Kalambaka. Although
Meteora is quite expensive, it is small enough to get around Meteora on your own or in a rental car. There is only one main road with a couple of side roads winding above Meteora rocks and monasteries. Getting lost is impossible. The
distances between monasteries are short thus you can drive between them in minutes. Parking is available at each of the monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries as well as at several lookout points.
around 18-30 EUR per day for a scooter. Getting around Meteora by taxi. If you do not have your own transport, the other quick way to get to the monasteries and between them is to hire a taxi. One trip costs 5-7 EUR depending on where you are going. If you don't mind and enjoy walking, you can limit your taxi rides to one or two. Ask the driver to
get you to the Great Meteora monastery at the far end on the west side and then visit the remaining on foot. Call the taxi to bring you back to town (Kalambaka or Kastraki, depending on where you stay). Alternatively, return by walking downhill. Getting around Meteora by e-bike. Another great transport option available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-
bike. Rents are available for a duration of a few hours, half-day, to a full day (around 25 euros for a full day). Getting around Meteora by walking or hiking- the distances between monasteries are relatively small, thus many people choose to walk along the main road or hike the foresty paths between monasteries. Nonetheless, it is around 16
kilometers distance if you do a circular route starting your walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walking. Cycling around Meteora but you must be guite fit to tackle all the uphills. Walking is much easier than peddling steep inclines. In fact,
apart of one group of mountain bike cyclists venturing the verdant hills above Meteora, we didn't see many people cycling around. Getting around Meteora with a tour. For those of you who have limited time, require quidance, and/or aren't keen on walking, there are plenty of tours available to book in Kalambaka (Meteora). For example, this Meteora
sunset tour from Kalambaka is top-rated by travelers. For best weather: the best time to visit Meteora is autumn (mid-September to November) and spring (mid-March to May) when the day temperatures are the most pleasant (15-25 °C/83-59 °F). However, do not expect to be the only visitor. I traveled to Meteora on the last week of October hoping it
to be empty, and it was far from that, especially on the weekend. Tour buses were unavoidable, arriving at the most popular viewing points for sunset and sunrise on the dot and then heading directly to the monasteries (which open quite late at 9 am). For the least crowds: the best time to go to Meteora is in winter (December-February). Yet, you can
expect snow (it does freeze at night) and quite cold during the day (6-12 °C/42-53 °F)Avoid: summer is possibly the worst time to visit Meteora due to the heat and thousands of tourists. In June-August temperatures during the clear day are an average of 27-33 °C/80-91 °F. It can be way more on clear midday under the sun. I would recommend
spending a minimum of 1 night in Meteora allowing yourself to experience sunrise and sunset over the Meteora valley. Those are magical times of the day not to be missed. However, if you are planning on doing some serious photography and want to capture each monastery at its best light, or in general, spend more time properly exploring the area
at a slower pace, plan at least 2-3 nights in Meteora. You could easily spend more as the place is so beautiful and can keep you busy not only with visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to
include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora monasteries have longer opening times in summer (April 1st to October 31st) and shorter in winter (November 1st to March 31st). Refer to the
monasteries' opening times and hours both for summer and winter below. Meteora monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Wednesdays; Holy Trinity
Monastery: 10 AM -4 PM, closed on Thursdays; St. Stephens Nunnery: 9 AM - 5 PM, open every day. Meteora monasteries opening days and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on March 31st): Great Mete
Wednesdays, and Thursdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM-1 PM and 3 PM-5 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, and
9:30 AM - 4 PM on Sundays, open every day. Which of Meteora monasteries you shouldn't miss and which ones should you skip? Great Meteoron and Varlaam are the largest monasteries are very popular and most of the tour buses head to
those. After reading different opinions and then visiting the monasteries myself, below I share a short overview of each of the monasteries to help you get an idea and make your pick if you can't visit them all. Legend: *** my favorite, ** good to visit, * if you have time. Note that it is based on my personal opinion and you may agree or disagree with me
at the end of your trip. Nonetheless, I hope it will still be helpful should you need to choose which monastery to go to and which one just to admire from a lonely pillar, at a lower elevation than others, St Nicholas Monastery is the smallest of all six. It is the first monastery you will come across when driving (or walking) a circular
route from Kastraki. Or it will be the last when coming down the road from Kalampaka side towards Kastraki. Good to know: St. Nikolas is the least visited monasteries. There is a beautiful chapel with some of the best in Meteora 16th-century frescoes depicting
Biblical scenes. There are several viewpoints, with an amazing rooftop terrace. St. Nikolas has the steepest and longest climb out of all Meteora monasteries. Another reason why people tend to skip it. St. Nikolas of Anapafsas was the monasteries. Another reason why people tend to skip it. St. Nikolas has the steepest and longest climb out of all Meteora monasteries.
neglect it for not being impressive enough, which I completely disagree with, I felt like Agios Nikolas monastery was the least commercialized and the most secluded. Even my Greek friend felt the same way. Indeed, the climb to reach the monastery is quite steep with possibly the largest number of steps to tackle. For this reason, many tourists don't
bother climbing, and tour buses carrying big groups skip it. To me, the miniature, yet 3-floor monastery where monks pray) has a special energy, while the rooftop terrace is open to fascinating close-up views of the rocks of Meteora, Kastraki town below, Russsonou, and Varlaam
monasteries at a distance. Views from the terrace of St Nikolaos monastery Situated within a green forest, beautiful inside out, Roussanou is a nunnery dedicated to Saint Barbara. According to the ancient story, for accepting and promoting Christianity, Agia Varvara (st. Barbara) was beheaded by her pagan father. Today, 13 nuns inhabit Rousannou
which is the second smallest monastery among surviving six. Although to reach Russanou you will have to tackle a few steep steps, it is one of the easiest to access. Nonetheless, many tour buses still skip it because due to its smaller size it cannot accommodate large groups of tourists. This makes Russanou a little less visited and it was my second
favorite monastery out of six. And did I mention that Roussannou is one of the most photographed monasteries as it is extremely photographed monasteries as it is extremely photograph Meteora and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting
captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery in Meteora, GreeceA windy stone path leads to the foot of the imposing lonely rock which made a base for the 14th century Agia
Triada. Being featured in a popular James Bond film, today Holy Trinity is the other most photographed monastery in Meteora, especially by aerial photographers. Do not shy away from 145 steep steps and make sure to visit Holy Trinity is unmissable, especially for the views over the Meteora valley. Established in the mid-14th
century, the largest and one of the oldest, Great Meteoron Monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff. Due to its many red-roofed buildings, the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the
area and the life of the monastic community. Meanwhile one of the most interesting and rather spooky parts inside Great Meteoron is the sacristy where you can see hundreds of skulls of the most popular hence it gets very busy during the day. Parking can be
packed as well. Thus, it is a good idea to plan to visit the Great Meteoron monastery as soon as it opens. Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation.
courtyard overlooking Meteora valley with Roussanou in the distance. There is also a small museum that briefly introduces the history of the area and some interesting facts about monastic life in the old days. Courtyard in Varlaam monasteryThus, if you cannot visit Great Meteoron, Varlaam is a good alternative to visit. To me, Varlaam, although
undeniably beautiful, felt too commercialized (the same applies to Great Meteoron and even Saint Stephan). The souvenir stalls at the entrance are a bit of a vibe killer. Let alone there are masses of people visiting. Thus, in my humble option, it is enough to see one of the two biggest monasteries and spend some more time exploring the above-
mentioned smaller ones. Good to know: Varlaam monastery does not provide free skirts for ladies. Thus, make sure to bring your own, or purchase one for 3 euros at the entrance (this is separate from the 3 euros entrance fee). At the southern edge of the Meteora cluster, and just a minute's drive from Holly Trinity monastery, Saint Stephen's
nunnery was first inhabited by ascetic Jeremiah, in the early twelve century. Evolving through centuries, the whole complex was completed in the 19th century. Due to the easy access over the small bridge, St. Stephen's monastery is one of the most frequented and can get uncomfortably busy. For this reason, it was my least favorite, yet is worth
visiting for its impressive frescoes. Saint Stephen nunnery, Meteora, GreeceThere are plenty of wonderful viewpoints of the monasteries accessible from the main road. That being said, a couple of the spots for Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset watching are: Psaropetra lookout/ Sunset Rock (perfect for sunset) Main Observation Deck of
Meteora (great for sunrise and sunset) These two spots are amazing but also very popular. If you want to find out more of the best Meteora photography. Sunset rock lookout point in Meteora Meteora Restaurant in Kalambaka- yep, the name
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is 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
remembrances. Taverna Gardenia in Kastraki - this is a popular and beloved dining spot in Kalambaka. Set on the main road at the entrance to Kalambaka, 14oz had the best coffee I managed to find during my Greece road trip. I love my
good coffee and I am very picky with it. I have to admit I struggled with finding great coffee shop in Kalambaka did not disappoint. If you love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and 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 love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit chocolate, yum. What are the top foods to try in Kalambaka and love it a little bit a little bit a little bit and love it a little bit a littl
Meteora? Moussaka for meat lovers, saganaki for cheese lovers, and stuffed eggplants or stuffed peppers and tomatoes for 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.
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
three times now, I would say that spending 2 or even 3 days in the Meteora area is ideal if you are exploring mainland Greece on a road trip. As you can't stay in the monasteries themselves, the best places to stay near Meteora are the nearby villages of Kalambaka and Kastraki. Both villages have great hotels and other accommodation to choose
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 and Kastraki are smaller, family-run places, although there are a couple of local Greek chain hotels in Kalambaka and Kastraki are smaller, family-run places, although there are a couple of local Greek chain hotels in Kalambaka 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 Greece Divani Meteora Hotel in Kalambaka and Kastraki.
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 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** Monastiri Guesthouse
in Kalambaka The Monastiri Guesthouse gets consistently good reviews, making it one of the best places to stay near Meteora. It has a cosy, intimate feel to it, and the hosts seem to make everyone feel at home. This is a good choice of Kalambaka hotel for couples, especially if they are on a honeymoon in Greece! ** Read the TripAdvisor reviews for
this hotel here - Tripadvisor Reviews ** *Find the best hotel in Kastraki, 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 for 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 Vil
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 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 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 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 monasteries in Meteora is closed on one day 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 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 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 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 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 been also up, Meteora every other location looks well, just ordinary. That being said, it might been also up, Meteora every other location looks well, just ordinary. That being said, it might been also up, Meteora every other location looks well, just ordinary. There are one-day, two-day, and even 3-day tours available from both cities.
worth leaving the best for the last on your Greece itinerary. Meteora monasteries in Greece, aerial view of Russonou nunnery A brief overview of Meteora is "suspended in the air" monasteries Translating 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
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 images
was used in old days to transport good 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 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. Linking 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. Holly 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 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 are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki International Airport are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki. Tours offer a hassle-free journey but also limited flexibility. Buses are the most inconvenient way to visit Meteora are Athens International Airport and Thessaloniki.
full control over your own schedule and also eases moving around the Meteora area. It takes 4 hours 20 minutes to drive from Athens and 2.5-3 hours to drive fr
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, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Thessaloniki to Meteora, expect to pay some tolls as well. The following train connections are available from Athens and Meteora.
Meteora). Train from Athens to Kalambaka (or Kalambaka) 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 Palaeofarsalos Train from Kalambaka to Athens Once 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 PalaeofarsalosAthens-Kalambaka one-way ticket price is around 36 EUR, return of 57 EUR. Train from Thessaloniki to Kalambaka There 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. The journey takes between 3 to 6 hours depending on the time of the day. Train from Kalambaka to Thessaloniki (Neos Sidirodromikos Stathmos) to Kalambaka.
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 "Liossion" 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 to choose a tour
to Meteora, these would be my top picks (based on the ratings and reviews of other travelers):Click to check more Meteora toursLooking at tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora There are multiple ways to get around Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tourists stepping out of their tour bus in Meteora tourists stepping out of their tourists stepping out o
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-Kallitheas) leading to monasteries and then back down to Kalambaka. Although
Meteora is quite expensive, it is small enough to get around Meteora on your own or in a rental car. There is only one main road with a couple of side roads winding above Meteora rocks and monasteries. Getting lost is impossible. The
distances between monasteries are short thus you can drive between them in minutes. Parking is available at each of the monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter. You can rent a scooter in Kalambaka and drive around monasteries as well as at several lookout points. Getting around Meteora by scooter.
around 18-30 EUR per day for a scooter. Getting around Meteora by taxi. If you do not have your own transport, the other quick way to get to the monasteries and between them is to hire a taxi. One trip costs 5-7 EUR depending on where you are going. If you don't mind and enjoy walking, you can limit your taxi rides to one or two. Ask the driver to
get you to the Great Meteora monastery at the far end on the west side and then visit the remaining on foot. Call the taxi to bring you back to town (Kalambaka or Kastraki, depending on where you stay). Alternatively, return by walking downhill. Getting around Meteora by e-bike. Another great transport option available for rent in Kalambaka is an e-
bike. Rents are available for a duration of a few hours, half-day, to a full day (around 25 euros for a full day). Getting around Meteora by walking or hike the foresty paths between monasteries. Nonetheless, it is around 16
kilometers distance if you do a circular route starting your walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walking. Cycling around Meteora. It is also possible to cycle around Meteora but you must be quite fit to tackle all the uphills. Walking is much easier than peddling steep inclines. In fact
apart of one group of mountain bike cyclists venturing the verdant hills above Meteora, we didn't see many people cycling around. Getting around Meteora with a tour. For those of you who have limited time, require guidance, and/or aren't keen on walking, there are plenty of tours available to book in Kalambaka (Meteora). For example, this Meteora
 sunset tour from Kalambaka is top-rated by travelers. For best weather: the best time to visit Meteora is autumn (mid-September to November) and spring (mid-March to May) when the day temperatures are the most pleasant (15-25 ^{\circ}C/83-59 ^{\circ}F). However, do not expect to be the only visitor. I traveled to Meteora on the last week of October hoping it
to be empty, and it was far from that, especially on the weekend. Tour buses were unavoidable, arriving at the most popular viewing points for sunset and sunrise on the dot and then heading directly to the monasteries (which open quite late at 9 am). For the least crowds: the best time to go to Meteora is in winter (December-February). Yet, you can
expect snow (it does freeze at night) and quite cold during the day (6-12 °C/42-53 °F) Avoid: summer is possibly the worst time to visit Meteora due to the heat and thousands of tourists. In June-August temperatures during the clear day are an average of 27-33 °C/80-91 °F. It can be way more on clear midday under the sun. I would recommend
spending a minimum of 1 night in Meteora allowing yourself to experience sunrise and sunset over the Meteora valley. Those are magical times of the day not to be missed. However, if you are planning on doing some serious photography and want to capture each monastery at its best light, or in general, spend more time properly exploring the area
at a slower pace, plan at least 2-3 nights in Meteora. You could easily spend more as the place is so beautiful and can keep you busy not only with visiting Meteora in one day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to
include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora. Weteora monasteries have longer opening times in summer (April 1st to October 31st) and shorter in winter (November 1st to March 31st). Refer to the
monasteries' opening times and hours both for summer and winter below. Meteora monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM,
Monastery: 10 AM -4 PM, closed on Thursdays; St. Stephens Nunnery: 9 AM - 5 PM, open every day. Meteora monasteries opening days and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteora Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 5 PM, open every day. Meteora monasteries opening days and hours in winter (November 1st to March 31st): Great Meteora Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Agios Nikolao
Wednesdays, and Thursdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM-1 PM and 3 PM-5 PM, closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, and
9:30 AM - 4 PM on Sundays, open every day. Which of Meteora monasteries you shouldn't miss and which ones should you skip? Great Meteoron and Varlaam are the largest monasteries are very popular and most of the tour buses head to
those. After reading different opinions and then visiting the monasteries myself, below I share a short overview of each of the monasteries to help you get an idea and make your pick if you can't visit them all. Legend: *** my favorite, ** good to visit, * if you have time. Note that it is based on my personal opinion and you may agree or disagree with me
at the end of your trip. Nonetheless, I hope it will still be helpful should you need to choose which monastery to go to and which one just to admire from a lonely pillar, at a lower elevation than others, St Nicholas Monastery is the smallest of all six. It is the first monastery you will come across when driving (or walking) a circular
route from Kastraki. Or it will be the last when coming down the road from Kalampaka side towards Kastraki. Good to know: St. Nikolas is the least visited monasteries. There is a beautiful chapel with some of the best in Meteora 16th-century frescoes depicting
Biblical scenes. There are several viewpoints, with an amazing rooftop terrace. St. Nikolas of Anapafsas was the monasteries. Another reason why people tend to skip and ended up visiting twice! Yep, I did love it that much. While other people seem to
neglect it for not being impressive enough, which I completely disagree with, I felt like Agios Nikolas monastery was the least commercialized and the most secluded. Even my Greek friend felt the same way. Indeed, the climb to reach the monastery is quite steep with possibly the largest number of steps to tackle. For this reason, many tourists don't
bother climbing, and tour buses carrying big groups skip it. To me, the miniature, yet 3-floor monastery while the rooftop terrace is open to fascinating close-up views of the rocks of Meteora, Kastraki town below, Russsonou, and Varlaam
monasteries at a distance. Views from the terrace of St Nikolaos monastery Situated within a green forest, beautiful inside out, Roussanou is a nunnery dedicated to Saint Barbara. According to the ancient story, for accepting and promoting Christianity, Agia Varvara (st. Barbara) was beheaded by her pagan father. Today, 13 nuns inhabit Rousannou
which is the second smallest monastery among surviving six. Although to reach Russanou you will have to tackle a few steep steps, it is one of the easiest to access. Nonetheless, many tour buses still skip it because due to its smaller size it cannot accommodate large groups of tourists. This makes Russanou a little less visited and it was my second
favorite monastery out of six. And did I mention that Roussannou is one of the most photographed monasteries as it is extremely photographed monasteries as it is extremely photograph Meteora and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting
captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery in Meteora, GreeceA windy stone path leads to the foot of the imposing lonely rock which made a base for the 14th century Agia
century, the largest and one of the oldest, Great Meteoron Monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff. Due to its many red-roofed buildings, the monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the
area and the life of the monastic community. Meanwhile one of the most interesting and rather spooky parts inside Great Meteoron is the sacristy where you can see hundreds of skulls of the most popular hence it gets very busy during the day. Parking can be
courtyard overlooking Meteora valley with Roussanou in the distance. There is also a small museum that briefly introduces the history of the area and some interesting facts about monastic life in the old days. Courtyard in Varlaam monasteryThus, if you cannot visit Great Meteoron, Varlaam is a good alternative to visit. To me, Varlaam, although
nunnery was first inhabited by ascetic Jeremiah, in the early twelve century. Evolving through centuries, the whole complex was completed in the 19th century. Due to the easy access over the small bridge, St. Stephen's monastery is one of the most frequented and can get uncomfortably busy. For this reason, it was my least favorite, yet is worth
visiting for its impressive frescoes. Saint Stephen nunnery, Meteora, GreeceThere are plenty of wonderful viewpoints of the monasteries accessible from the main road. That being said, a couple of the spots for Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset watching are: Psaropetra lookout/ Sunset Rock (perfect for sunset) Main Observation Deck of
Meteora (great for sunrise and sunset) These two spots are amazing but also very popular. If you want to find out more of the best Meteora photography. Sunset rock lookout point in Meteora Meteora Restaurant in Kalambaka-yep, the name
is 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
remembrances. Taverna Gardenia in Kastraki - this is a popular and beloved dining spot in Kalambaka. Set on the main road at the entrance to Kalambaka, 14oz had the best coffee I managed to find during my Greece road trip. I love my
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.
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, make sure to check out my Greece travel resources as well as browse other posts about Greece, make sure to check out my Greece travel resources as well as browse other posts about Greece, make sure to check out my Greece travel resources as well as browse other posts about Greece on my travel blog (scroll down). 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 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 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 monasteries is 3 EUR per person.
week during the winter season. All of them are open during the knees to enter monasteries: you must cover your shoulders and knees to enter monasteries: you must cover your shoulders and knees to enter 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 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 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 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 monasteries in Greece, aerial view of Russonou 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, 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 good and even people, Holy Trinity monasteryIn Orthodox Christian belief the body 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 Meteora and The Holy Trinity appeared in some of the scenes making it the most
photographed monastery. Linking 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. Holly 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 Meteora map shows the exact locations of each monastery and other points of interest mentioned in this Meteora guide. How to get 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. 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, 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 train is available with change in PalaeofarsalosAthens-Kalambaka 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 Thessaloniki (Neos Sidirodromikos Stathmos) to Kalambaka.
day intercity and slow regional trains with an interchange in Palaeofarsalos town departing from 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 "Liossion" 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 to choose a tour to Meteora, these would be my top picks (based on the ratings and reviews of other travelers): Click to check more Meteora tours tours tour bus in Meteora tours to get around Meteora tours tour bus in Meteora tours to get around Meteora tours tour bus in Meteora tours to get around Meteora t
bicycle, tour, and walking (or even hiking). When 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-Kallitheas) leading to monasteries and then back down to Kalambaka. Although Meteora is quite expensive, it is small enough to get around Meteora on your own or in a rental car. There is only one main road with a couple of
side roads winding above Meteora rocks and monasteries. Getting lost is impossible. The distances between monasteries are short thus you can drive between them in minutes. Parking is available at each of the monasteries are short thus you can drive between them in minutes. Parking is available at each of the monasteries are short thus you can drive between them in minutes.
monasteries easily(taken you are comfortable riding windy and hilly roads). Expect to pay around 18-30 EUR per day for a scooter. Getting around Meteora by taxi. If you do not have your own transport, the other quick way to get to the monasteries and between them is to hire a taxi. One trip costs 5-7 EUR depending on where you are going. If you
don't mind and enjoy walking, you can limit your taxi rides to one or two. Ask the driver to get you to the Great Meteora monastery at the far end on the west side and then visit the remaining on where you stay). Alternatively, return by walking downhill. Getting around
Meteora by e-bike. Another great transport option available for a full day). Getting around Meteora by walking or hiking- the distances between monasteries are relatively small, thus many people choose to walk along the main
road or hike the foresty paths between monasteries. Nonetheless, it is around 16 kilometers distance if you do a circular route starting your walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki. Thus, account for a full day if you aim to visit monasteries on walk/hike from Kalambaka or Kastraki.
tackle all the uphills. Walking is much easier than peddling steep inclines. In fact, apart of one group of mountain bike cyclists venturing the verdant hills above Meteora, we didn't see many people cycling around. Getting around Meteora with a tour. For those of you who have limited time, require guidance, and/or aren't keen on walking, there are
plenty of tours available to book in Kalambaka (Meteora). For example, this Meteora sunset tour from Kalambaka is top-rated by travelers. For best time to visit Meteora is autumn (mid-September to November) and spring (mid-March to May) when the day temperatures are the most pleasant (15-25 °C/83-59 °F). However, do not
expect to be the only visitor. I traveled to Meteora on the last week of October hoping it to be empty, and it was far from that, especially on the weekend. Tour buses were unavoidable, arriving at the most popular viewing points for sunset and sunrise on the dot and then heading directly to the monasteries (which open quite late at 9 am). For the least
crowds: the best time to go to Meteora is in winter (December-February). Yet, you can expect snow (it does freeze at night) and quite cold during the day (6-12 °C/42-53 °F)Avoid: summer is possibly the worst time to visit Meteora due to the heat and thousands of tourists. In June-August temperatures during the clear day are an average of 27-33
 °C/80-91 °F. It can be way more on clear midday under the sun.I would recommend spending a minimum of 1 night in Meteora allowing yourself to experience sunrise and sunset over the Meteora valley. Those are magical times of the day not to be missed. However, if you are planning on doing some serious photography and want to capture each
monastery at its best light, or in general, spend more time properly exploring the area at a slower pace, plan at least 2-3 nights in Meteora. You could easily spend more as the place is so beautiful and can keep you busy not only with visiting monasteries, but also hiking Meteora, and exploring the surrounding areas if you drive. Visiting Meteora in one
day is also possible but it is tiring and rushed. Even if you are arriving on a tour, try to include at least spending one night in Meteora. Guide to visiting Meteora. Meteora monasteries have longer opening times in summer (April 1st
to October 31st) and shorter in winter (November 1st to March 31st). Refer to the monasteries' opening times and hours both for summer (April 1st to October 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9 AM - 3 PM, closed on Tuesdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9 AM - 4 PM, closed on
Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9 AM- 4 PM, closed on Wednesdays; Holy Trinity Monastery: 10 AM -4 PM, closed on Thursdays; St. Stephens Nunnery: 9 AM- 5 PM, open every day. Meteora monasteries opening days and hours in winter (November 1st to
March 31st): Great Meteoron Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; Varlaam Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Thursdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Thursdays and Fridays; Roussanou Monastery: 9:30 AM - 2 PM, closed on Thursdays and Fridays; Wednesdays, and Thursdays; PM - 3 PM, closed on Thursdays; PM - 3 PM, cl
closed on MondaysAgios Nikolaos Anapafsas Monasteries, while St. Stephano nunnery is the easiest to access as it doesn't have steep staircases. All
three monasteries are very popular and most of the tour buses head to those. After reading different opinions and then visiting the monasteries myself, below I share a short overview of each of the monasteries myself, below I share a short overview of each of the monasteries to help you get an idea and make your pick if you can't visit them all. Legend: *** my favorite, ** good to visit, * if you have time. Note that it is
based on my personal opinion and you may agree or disagree with me at the end of your trip. Nonetheless, I hope it will still be helpful should you need to choose which monastery to go to and which one just to admire from a far. Rising up from a lonely pillar, at a lower elevation than others, St Nicholas Monastery is the smallest of all six. It is the first
monastery you will come across when driving (or walking) a circular route from Kastraki. Or it will be the last when coming down the road from Kalampaka side towards Kastraki. Good to know: St. Nikolas is the least visited monastery. Tour buses tend to skip it, which means it is quieter and less busy than other monasteries. There is a beautiful
chapel with some of the best in Meteora 16th-century frescoes depicting Biblical scenes. There are several viewpoints, with an amazing rooftop terrace. St. Nikolas of Anapafsas was the monastery I was going to skip and ended up
visiting twice! Yep, I did love it that much. While other people seem to neglect it for not being impressive enough, which I completely disagree with, I felt like Agios Nikolas monastery was the least commercialized and the most secluded. Even my Greek friend felt the same way. Indeed, the climb to reach the monastery is quite steep with possibly the
largest number of steps to tackle. For this reason, many tourists don't bother climbing, and tour buses carrying big groups skip it. To me, the miniature, yet 3-floor monastery where monks pray) has a special energy, while the rooftop terrace is open to fascinating close-up views of the rocks
of Meteora, Kastraki town below, Russsonou, and Varlaam monasteries at a distance. Views from the terrace of St Nikolaos monastery Situated within a green forest, beautiful inside out, Roussanou is a nunnery dedicated to Saint Barbara. According to the ancient story, for accepting and promoting Christianity, Agia Varvara (st. Barbara)
 was beheaded by her pagan father. Today, 13 nuns inhabit Rousannou which is the second smallest monastery among surviving six. Although to reach Russanou you will have to tackle a few steep steps, it is one of the easiest to access. Nonetheless, many tour buses still skip it because due to its smaller size it cannot accommodate large groups of
tourists. This makes Russanou a little less visited and it was my second favorite monasteries as it is extremely photographed monasteries as it is extreme
and its hanging monasteries. Roussanou monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting captivating views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and surrounding Meteora rocks and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and valleys, Holly Trinity is a gorgeous byzantine monastery at sunsetBoasting views over Kalambaka and valleys over the monastery at sunsetBoasting views over the monastery at the process of the contraction of the monastery views over the monastery views over the monastery views over the monastery views over the m
the imposing lonely rock which made a base for the 14th century Agia Triada. Being featured in a popular James Bond film, today Holy Trinity is the other most photographed monastery in Meteora, especially by aerial photographers. Do not shy away from 145 steep steps and make sure to visit Holy Trinity. To me, Holy Trinity is unmissable
especially for the views over the Meteora valley. Established in the mid-14th century, the largest and one of the oldest, Great Meteoron Monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff. Due to its many red-roofed buildings, the monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff. Due to its many red-roofed buildings, the monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff. Due to its many red-roofed buildings, the monastery holds a commanding position on the highest cliff.
monastery and its museums will provide you with good insight into the story of the area and the life of the monastic community. Meanwhile one of the monastic community. Meanwhile one of the monastic who have lived there over the years. Tip: Great Meteoron monastery is
one of the most popular hence it gets very busy during the day. Parking can be packed as well. Thus, it is a good idea to plan to visit the Great Meteoron monastery panoramic viewLocated on a slightly lower elevation, just a few steps away from the Great Meteoron, Varlaam is the second-largest
monastery in Meteora. Varlaam has several great lookout points, including a beautiful courtyard overlooking Meteora valley with Roussanou in the distance. There is also a small museum that briefly introduces the history of the area and some interesting facts about monastic life in the old days. Courtyard in Varlaam monasteryThus, if you cannot visit monasteryThus,
 Great Meteoron, Varlaam is a good alternative to visit. To me, Varlaam, although undeniably beautiful, felt too commercialized (the same applies to Great Meteoron and even Saint Stephan). The souvenir stalls at the entrance are a bit of a vibe killer. Let alone there are masses of people visiting. Thus, in my humble option, it is enough to see one of
the two biggest monasteries and spend some more time exploring the above-mentioned smaller ones. Good to know: Varlaam monastery does not provide free skirts for ladies. Thus, make sure to bring your own, or purchase one for 3 euros at the entrance (this is separate from the 3 euros entrance fee). At the southern edge of the Meteora cluster,
and just a minute's drive from Holly Trinity monastery, Saint Stephen's nunnery was first inhabited by ascetic Jeremiah, in the early twelve century. Evolving through centuries, the whole complex was forest inhabited by ascetic Jeremiah, in the early twelve century.
uncomfortably busy. For this reason, it was my least favorite, yet is worth visiting for its impressive frescoes. Saint Stephen nunnery, Meteora, GreeceThere are plenty of wonderful viewpoints of the monasteries accessible from the main road. That being said, a couple of the spots for Meteora photography for sunrise and sunset watching
are:Psaropetra lookout/ Sunset Rock (perfect for sunset) Main Observation Deck of Meteora (great for sunrise and sunset) These two spots are amazing but also very popular. If you want to find out more of the best Meteora photo locations (including lesser-known ones), make sure to read my post about the 10 best spots for Meteora
photography. Sunset rock lookout point in Meteora Restaurant in Kalambaka-yep, the name is 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 remembrances. Taverna Gardenia in Kastraki serving traditional Greek foods. Recommended coffee shop in MeteoraFor the best coffee head to 14oz in Kalambaka. Set on the main road at the entrance to
Kalambaka, 14oz had the best coffee I managed to find during my Greece road trip. I love my 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 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. 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). One of our favorite places in all of Greece is Meteora, in Thesaly. The geological formation is in itself magnificent. Fortunately and once again thanks to the Greeks, the Meteora monasteries are equally beautiful. These isolated architectural masterpieces date back to the 14th century and offer unforgettable views. Interiors
are equally impressive: medieval frescoes line walls and ceilings. Take note that Meteora is a sacred site, revered in Greece second only to Mount Athos in Khalkidhiki. So plan well where to stay in Meteora and enjoy your visit! *This post contains affiliate links. If you make a purchase through these links, we may earn a commission at no extra cost to
you. Kalambaka (Kalabaka or Kalambaka or Kalambaka or Kalambaka is the main gateway to Meteora. Unfortunately, Kalambaka was savagely damaged and looted During World War II. What we see today is all modern, including infrastructure for tourists. A roundabout where the tourist info office is marks the center of town. To the west of the
Tourist office, you will find Trikalon, the town's main drag lined with taverns, shops, and cafés. Couple of blocks east on Patriarchou Dimitriou Street there is the Digital Projection Center of Meteora. There are also a couple of big chain
hotels. Obviously, the whole point of staying in Kalambaka is the views. To be surrounded by nature, stay in Alsos House, close to the rocks. The views from this guiet traditional Greek hotel are spectacular. The Divani Meteora is a big hotel part of the Divani Greek chain. It's located in the heart of downtown and has a spa with an outdoor and indoor
pool. On the other hand, the Dellas Boutique Hotel is on the road to Kastraki. It's a great place to stay if you want to be away from the fuss, yet pretty close to the center. Kastraki they are in the middle of the village. The tiny village is
completely authentic with houses made of stone and clay roofs, a church, a museum, and a couple of restaurants in Kastraki is closer to the monasteries. What's more, there are a couple of interesting hermit cells next to the willage. All you have to do is walk around admiring the views. Though there are many hotels and restaurants in Kastraki, most
close during low season. Great Hotels in Kastraki The best hotels in Kastraki are right next to the rocks. Most are relatively small family-owned hotels and guesthouses. The Pyrgos Adrachti Hotel is like a tower overlooking the rocks. Consequently, the views are incredible. The lovely Hotel Meteoritis is downtown and offers rooms with balconies
overlooking the area. Located on the road that leads to the monasteries, Hotel Kastraki excels in privacy and service. Of course, the views are superb too. Other Hotels near Meteora To stay in the middle of nature and with the best views are superb too.
village and has tastefully decorated rooms with big balconies overlooking the rocks. The Grand Meteora Hotel at Kastraki in summer. This luxury hotel with all modern-day conveniences has a huge outdoor pool with unobstructed views of
the rocks. It is one of the best hotels near Meteora. Our Opinion on Where to Stay in Meteora You can't go wrong with any of the abovementioned options. Kalambaka and Kastraki are both nice guaint towns. On the other hand, staying a bit off urban areas allows for a deeper connection to nature. If visiting during high season, stay in Kastraki. The
village is lively, and you can walk to the monastery of St Nicholas. If visiting off-season stay in Kalambaka, you can hike to a couple of monasteries too. Those of you with a bit more time should stay outside of Kastraki in any of the large hotels and explore the entire area. Take a look at our
detailed guide to visiting Meteora. Add the Meteora monasteries to your bucket list, pronto! Meteora in Greece is hands down the most jaw droppingly unreal and otherworldly destination I've ever visited. Hands. Down. Its name means "suspended in the air", and once you have explored the area you will understand how that came about. Located in
the central region of Greece, Meteora is home to 6 UNESO World Heritage Site monasteries and nunneries precariously perched atop massive rock pillars. What's truly amazing is that these 6 monasteries are still active sites of worship, and while car parks and stairways now replace baskets and ropes, visiting Meteora feels like taking a giant leap
back in time. If you're visiting Greece, Meteora is one destination that shouldn't be skipped. If you're short on time, it is possible to spend 1 or 2 days in Meteora exploring the hanging monasteries and sunset viewpoints. Is it exhausting? Yes. Is it doable? Also yes. Can you visit Meteora without joining a tour? Heck yes. Read on for practical travel tips
including the Meteora dress code and where to stay to help plan your trip to the hanging monasteries of Meteora and the hanging monasteries, including the best time of year to visit, the location of Meteora and how to get
there, what to bring, how to get around and what to see in Meteora. 1. The best time to visit Meteora View from Pyrgos Adrachti hotel in Kastraki The best time to visit is in late spring (March to May) or autumn (September to November) when the crowds are less hectic. However, Meteora is manageable in the summer months if you start early and
visit the largest monasteries before the tour buses arrive. 2. How to get to Meteora in Greece? Meteora is located near the town of Kalabaka, bam smack in the middle of mainland Greece. Most visitors travel from major cities such as Thessaloniki to Meteora or from Athens to Meteora is approximately 230 KM or a 3 hour
drive away from Thessaloniki, or roughly 350 KM or a 4 hour drive away from Athens. Because of the way we designed our Greece road trip itinerary we actually drove to Meteora after a night in Olympia and that was the easiest, most pleasant way for us to stick to our own schedule; the drive was fairly leisurely and took approximately 7 hours, but as
you approach Meteora the roads become more narrow as you make your way through the mountains. In general, driving around Greece is extremely easy (if I can do it, so can you) and cities are well-connected by brand new highways and plenty of rest stops. Just don't be surprised if every other car zooms past you at 20 km/hour over the speed limit!
Looking for the best prices for rental cars around the world? Click here to book your rental car ahead of your trip. Bookings can be cancelled or amended if your plans change! We rented our car in Greece from Kosmos for approximately 50 Euros per day. If you don't plan on renting a car, there are public transportation options from Athens and
Thessaloniki but I would recommend staying at least 1 night in Kastraki or Kalambaka (sometimes also spelled Kalambaka or 
Kalabaka to visit the various monasteries, or alternatively there are plenty of day trip operators that can drive you around to see the monasteries of Meteora in a private car if you do not have access to your own transportation. If you do not plan on driving and would prefer to walk/trek between the sites, I would recommend giving yourself a full 2
days in Meteora. You could choose to walk to get between the monasteries, but it is sweltering hot in the summer months and there is a lot of ground to cover between the different sites - do not underestimate the distance between the monasteries of Meteora, as well as the trek back into Kastraki or Kalabaka. I remember driving past some poor souls
who were schlepping up the hilly roads in the heat and thinking, "I'm so glad that isn't me right now". I would recommend that you do a mixture of driving and hiking to make the most of your time in Meteora. Each monasteries.
There are also a few different gas stations in the area so make sure you compare prices as they vary a fair bit. Looking to visit other incredible historical sites in Greece We spent 2 nights 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. If you make your way to Meteora by car, there are some tight corners and narrow pathways to navigate in order to get to this
hotel. The rooms are spacious and comfortable, and the owners are helpful - they are the ones who told us about the Pyrgos Adrachti is the view from the balcony - make sure you ask for a room with this 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. The rooms are
modern and tastefully decorated, and there is parking available for those who are self-driving. Click here to check out the rooms and suites at this renovated traditional house in Kalabaka. Reviewers love the location, helpful host and easy on-site parking.
Some rooms also have a small terrace. Click here to check rates and availability at 1951 Suites. Tsikeli Boutique Hotel: This adults-only hotel in Meteora offers easy access to the monasteries from Kastraki. Perfect for couples and special occasions, some of the cozy and modern rooms are equipped with hot tubs and private balconies. Parking is also
available on-site. Click here to check rates and availability at Tsikeli Boutique Hotel. 5. What to bring and the Meteora dress code Bring: Sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, water, a snack, a good camera that can capture photos in low light as the sunsets are spectacular. However, you should know that you cannot take photos within the interiors of the
monasteries, and that you shouldn't take photos of any of the monks or nuns without their explicit permission. Also bring cash as you will need to pay €3 to enter each monastery. Wear: Good walking shoes. The Meteora monasteries have strict dress codes so women will need to pay €3 to enter each monastery. Wear: Good walking shoes. The Meteora monasteries have strict dress codes so women will need to pay €3 to enter each monastery.
covered so no trousers or shorts. However, all the monasteries have wrap skirts and shawls at the entrances that you can borrow. Should also be covered but I noticed that they are far more strict about the long skirt. Men should wear a t-shirt or long sleeve shirt (no sleeveless shirts) and pants but I saw a few people who got away with
wearing long shorts that hit just below the knee. Remember that the monasteries of Meteora In this central region of almost inaccessible sandstone peaks in Greece, monks settled on these "columns of the sky", and "Meteora" became the name the monks
gave to the monolithic columns that seemingly pierced the clouds and sky. The name, "Meteora", roughly translates into "suspended in air". In its heyday, there were a total of 24 monasteries. Today, there are 6 still standing: St. Nikolaos Anapafsas, Great Meteoron, Roussanou, Holy Trinity, Varlaam and St. Stephen's. They all vary in size and have
different visiting hours that change depending on season. If the map below doesn't load then click here for a map of the monasteries in Meteora. They are also closed on different days of the monasteries in Meteora and Varlaam) fill up quickly with
busloads of tourists, so its best to start your day early. Wondering which monastery to visit in Meteora? Here is the rough order in which I would recommend seeing the monastery and Varlaam in the morning
Here's where the walking and hiking part kicks in. Skip St. Nikolaos (the first monastery you will hit on your way up) and drive past the monastery by around 100 metres and park the car on the side of the road. This is where the trail begins to hike up to the Great Meteoron and Varlaam (look for a small, unmarked wooden bench). The hike to Great
Meteoron will take approximately 45 minutes and is mostly shaded, but the path is uneven and uphill. About 3/4 of the way through you will reach a fork in the road - take the left path to head up to Great Meteoron. The Holy Monastery of Great Meteoron is the largest and oldest monastery remaining in Meteora, founded in the 14th century by Saint
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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 secondlargest 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. Ste 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 book 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 boutique hotel) 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! Enjoyed reading this article? Subscribe to the mailing list! \* Unsubscribe at any time. Your e-mail address will only ever be used to send the occasional Yoga, Wine & Travel newsletter.

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