

Northern Greece – Kingdom of Alexander

Tour Code GA

2 – 10 June 2017

This mountainous peninsula of mainland Greece, with its rugged and dramatic landscapes, was once home to the two of the greatest rulers of the ancient world; Philip II and Alexander the Great. This groundbreaking tour is mainly based in historic Thessaloniki, capital of Northern Greece. A World Heritage centre full of beautiful churches and Roman palaces. Nearby we discover Alexander the Great's birthplace and capital, the ancient Greek city of Pella and explore the ancient sacred city of Dion, the religious centre of the Kingdom of Macedonia. We also visit the spectacular Royal Tombs at Vergina, resting place of the murdered Phillip II of Macedon.

Alexander the Great statue at Pella,
capital of ancient Macedonia



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Day 1 Fly to Thessaloniki. Drive to Kavala

Morning departure for our direct British Airways flight from London Gatwick to Thessaloniki. On arrival we drive to Kavala to the central 4* Airotel Galaxy hotel for two nights. This afternoon we have a tour of its historic quarter known as Panagia overlooked by an imposing Byzantine fortress. A welcome dinner has been arranged at a local restaurant (D)

Day 2 Visit Thasos Island

We spend the day on the beautiful island of Thasos that lies just off Kavala. We take the ferry and then bus to Limenas to see its excellent archaeological museum and nearby ancient agora before driving west to the cliff top monastery of Arhangelou with its 400 year old church. We also pause at the ancient temple of Alyki set in an olive grove and close to some stunning sandy cove beaches. Dinner at a traditional restaurant (B,D)

Day 3 Visit Philippi and Amphipolis

We head inland to ancient Philippi established by Philip II in 356 BC and abandoned in the 14th century after the Ottoman conquest. Today we can visit this well preserved Greek site along with its excellent museum. We continue back along the coast to ancient Amphipolis, founded in 437 BC and currently receiving huge media interest after the excavation of the largest tomb ever discovered in Greece, believed to belong to one of Alexander's generals. We continue to Thessaloniki, our base for the next six nights, at the central located Zaliki hotel (B)

Day 4 Visit Sanctuary of Dion and Castle of Platamonas

This morning we explore the ancient sacred city of Dion, situated in view of the legendary Mount Olympus. This extensive sanctuary was the religious centre of the Kingdom of Macedonia and dedicated to Zeus. Later we drive to Platamonas, to see its extensive Crusader castle, built in the early 13th century. Dinner at a traditional restaurant (B,D)

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Day 5 Visit Epanomi and Olynthos

The area around Epanomi is renowned for its excellent grapes and so its vineyards! We visit a local winery that is well known to be one of the best in Greece. We learn about the tradition of vine growing, the vinification processes, and taste some of its wines. There is even a small museum within the winery. Later we visit the site of ancient Olynthos, built on two hills between the Kassandra and Sithonia peninsula of Halkidiki. Olynthos was, according to mythology, the son of Strymonas, King of Thrace, who was killed during a lion hunt.(B)

Day 6 Visit Pella, Lefkadia and Vergina

Today we discover Alexander the Great's birthplace and capital at the ancient Greek city of Pella. We also visit the spectacular Royal Tombs at Vergina, resting place of the murdered Phillip II of Macedon and father of Alexander. At Lefkadia we see four ancient Macedonian tombs, dating from between the 4th and 2nd century BC. Dinner at a traditional restaurant (B,D)

Day 7 In Thessaloniki

Morning walking tour of Thessaloniki, walking the streets of the old town to view the principal Roman heritage of the city including the Arch and Palace of Galerius and the Roman forum. There are also some fantastic Byzantine churches notable for their mosaics and frescoes littering the old town which we will visit and an excellent museum of Byzantine Culture. The afternoon is left free for personal exploration (B)

Day 8 In Thessaloniki

Today we visit the Byzantine fortifications and upper town of Thessaloniki, a World Heritage Site before we awe in wonder at the treasures housed in the Archaeological Museum which also features a spectacular exhibition of gold from burials and excavations of the region. We meet later for a farewell dinner in a quality local restaurant (B,D)

Day 9 Fly to London

After breakfast we transfer to Thessaloniki airport for our direct flight to London Gatwick with EasyJet arriving at lunchtime (B)

Cost £1595.00 per person in a twin room (excluding international flights)

Single supplement charge £195.00



Price includes -

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ A specialist Greek guide throughout the tour
- ▶ All transportation in private a/c coach
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Quality four star hotels on BB basis
- ▶ Five quality restaurant dinners on a la carte menu
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Bottled water daily
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

Not included – travel insurance, lunches and non specified dinners, drinks, guide and driver gratuities, British Airways/EasyJet flights

The Kastron (Castle) or Ana Poli (Upper Town) of Thessaloniki