



VOLOS

THE JEWEL OF THE PAGASETIC GULF



Volos (326 km. from Athens, 215 km. from Thessaloniki) is the capital and economic centre of the prefecture. Thanks to its privileged position at the foot of Mt. Pelion on the Pagasetic gulf, it is a good base for enjoying the sea, wooded slopes, and green valleys that surround it. As for the derivation of the word «Volos», which according to a Byzantine historian of the 14th century was called «Golos», there are several theories; the most widely accepted is that it represents a corruption of the Mycenaean Iolkos.

Founded in the mid 19th century, modern Volos, with 71,000 inhabitants, is a cheerful, lively town, soundly laid out with pleasant broad streets. The waterfront is an ideal spot for a stroll. A modern coastal avenue bustling with life, it is lined with pastry shops, cafes and restaurants. From the suburb of Ano Volos, built upon the slopes of Pelion, the Pagasetic gulf and the town below take on another dimension. Volos

harbour is particularly active. It is the main export centre of Thessaly and the scene of much commercial and passenger traffic bound for the Sporades, the great ports of the Mediterranean, Syria, and other Middle Eastern cities.

SIGHTSEEING:

The liveliest area of Volos is represented by the pedestrian area of Viale Argonafton, where there are cafes, tavernas and tsipouradika, the typical places to enjoy the liqueur, the tsipouro, a sort of brandy made from pomace served cold to accompany the appetizer or dessert, or as an aperitif with olives, raisins or almonds.

The old town of Volos is developed through the streets of Iasonos, Dimitriadou and Ermou, the heart of nightlife.

- The Archaeological Museum of Volos "Athanassakio": houses finds from the Bronze Age, pottery of the eighth and fifth

centuries BC, and sculptures of the sixth and fifth centuries. Particular the collection of funerary steles from the archaeological site of Dimitriada.

- The Municipal Art Gallery in City Hall, includes an interesting collection of paintings, sculptures and engravings by modern Greek art.

- The Kitsos Makris Folklore Museum: houses the collection of folk art scholar Makris, which includes 25 paintings of Theophilos Hatzmichael, Byzantine icons and pottery.

A few kilometers from Volos, are the archaeological sites of Sesklo and Dimini, two of the oldest Neolithic settlements in Europe.

To the north of Volos lies the Pelion peninsula, considered one of Greece's most beautiful, with magnificent coastline and spectacular views.

The nearby Mount Pelion, the

mythological birthplace of the centaur Chiron, is considered one of the most beautiful mountains of Greece: here you can visit traditional villages, as Melios, who can be reached with the characteristic train.

AROUND VOLOS:

The lush area around Volos is scattered with interesting archaeological sites which history buffs will find very rewarding, while the summer resorts bordering beautiful beaches abound in picturesque tavernas offering local delicacies. The azure sea is ideal for bathing.

West of Volos:

Taking the Volos - Larissa National Road, a small detour will lead you to one or more of the various archaeological sites in the vicinity: the prehistoric settlement of Dimini (6.5 km) with a ruined acropolis, walls and two beehive tombs

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