

**Pre-ADE FAM Tour
Jewish Heritage Tour Athens & Thessaloniki | April 11 - 13**

WHERE: Thessaloniki

WHEN: April 11-13, 2018

3 day/2-night including domestic air

NOTE: Booking deadline by February 28, 2018. Bookings received at March 1st will be subject to availability for both air and hotel.

Minimum participation: 10 pax (Maximum up to 15 pax)

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

- **Wednesday, April 11**
 - Board flight OA 126 at 7:20PM for Thessaloniki
 - Transfer to 5-star Electra Palace Hotel

- **Thursday April 12**
 - Thessaloniki highlights tour
 - Veria Tour

- **Friday April 13**
 - Morning return flight to Athens
 - Tour of Jewish community in Athens, including two Synagogues, visit to Jewish cemetery and Monument to the victims of the Holocaust
 - Dinner at a Thessaloniki Restaurant
 - *Please note that accommodations for this night are NOT included. Participants must book the Hilton Athens on their own through our event website, www.astaade.org.*

COST: (multiple options below)

Internal View Twin Rooms

Occupancy	Price*
Twin Occupancy	\$1,312
Single Occupancy	\$1,468

Premium City View Twin Rooms

Occupancy	Price*
Twin Occupancy	\$1,359
Single Occupancy	\$1,546

Superior Sea View Twin Rooms

Occupancy	Price*
Twin Occupancy	\$1,390
Single Occupancy	\$1,624

WHAT'S INCLUDED*:

Price includes:

- Round Trip Air fare Athens/Thessaloniki/Athens
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Thessaloniki
- Two nights' accommodation at the 5-star ELECTRA PALACE hotel, Thessaloniki, including daily breakfast and taxes (New overnight tax of €4.00 per room per night is NOT included and should be paid by guests directly to the hotel)
- Complete Thessaloniki tour per itinerary including Jewish guide
- Arrival Transfer in Athens
- Complete Athens tour per itinerary including guides
- Airfare (OA 126 11APR Athens – Thessaloniki 7:20PM / OA 105 13 April Thessaloniki – Athens 8:15AM)

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

- Travel insurance is not required but is highly recommended.
- **Prices do NOT include accommodation at the Athens Hilton hotel on 4/13/18. Participants must book the Hilton on their own through the ADE website www.astaade.org**
- If minimum participation of 10 pax will not be reached, this tour can operate with fewer pax at a pro-rata per person surcharge based on ground transportation and guides only.
- Your registration is non-refundable unless the FAM is cancelled by ASTA or the Supplier.
- Valid passports are required but Visas are not needed.
- Most all archaeological sites are not handicapped accessible.
- Have questions? Contact Don McGahee at Don@asta.org.

NOTE: Booking deadline: by February 28, 2018.

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DETAILED ITINERARY

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Arrive Athens airport and connect to flight OA126 at 7:20PM.

Arrive Thessaloniki airport at 8:15PM; meet & greet outside the baggage claim area and escorted transfer to the 5-star ELECTRA PALACE HOTEL.

Majestic: this word is not an overstatement when it comes to the Electra Palace hotel in Thessaloniki. Built in one of the most impressive city squares of Greece, Aristotelous Square, facing the endless sea of the Thermaikos Gulf, its architecture at once imposing and noble, it is one of the city's architectural gems.

Inside the hotel's byzantine-inspired exterior, hides a neoclassical heart: wood paneling, marble inlay and wooden floors, plush carpets, cabriole and chesterfield sofas, ornate furniture, luxurious details, generous amenities and, of course, breathtaking views: on a clear day one can easily see as far as Mount Olympus across the gulf. Beneath the Electra Palace Thessaloniki's windows and balconies, lies the lively center of a vibrant city: Aristotelous Square. In between city square and mighty mountain, the expansive horizon, the endless blue of the sea.





Thursday, April 12, 2018

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel's roof top restaurant

8:30AM Setting off from the hotel we will have the opportunity to see and visit some of the most important monuments of the Jewish heritage and presence in Thessaloniki together with the city's highlights.

We shall visit the old great Synagogue – the only one of the many Synagogues of the city preserved from the time before the second World War – the citadel to enjoy a panoramic view of the Thessaloniki to see the ruins of the city fortifications and the Acropolis from close range.

Our tour will continue along Queen Olga's avenue at where still exist some of the most beautiful old mansions of the city, most of which were Jewish properties.

We will also pass by the Hippocrates Hospital - former Hirsch Hospital - which is one of the most important charity foundations of the Jewish community of past days.

Continue to the White Tower- symbol of the city and the statue of Alexander the Great with a short stop for great photo opportunities.

We will then be passing by from the International Fair Grounds, the University Campus as well as the very important Roman monuments of Rotunda and Arch of Galerius, then proceed to the old railway station, the place from where the Jews of Thessaloniki were deported by the Nazi authorities to the concentration camps of Poland and Germany.

We will walk around the central traditional food market, another part of the city closely connected with the Jewish community of Thessaloniki even in present days, and visit the monument of the Holocaust and the Museum of the Jewish presence in Thessaloniki.

We will also visit the Modiano mansion, one of best maintained old Jewish properties, nowadays converted into the Folklore Museum where traditional Jewish costumes are also exhibited.



We continue our tour to the Basilica of St. Demetrius which is the most important church of the city as well as one of the earliest and most interesting Byzantine churches of Greece. At some point during the tour there will be a break for lunch on own.

We continue to the town of Veria to walk around the Jewish quarter of city and see some 19th century mansions and also visit the recently restored old Jewish synagogue of Veria. Veria is a city with a very large Jewish community up till WWII.

Continue to visit the splendid museum of Vergina including the Royal Tomb of King Phillip II, father of Alexander the Great.



Return to Thessaloniki and enjoy dinner at the Jewish Community restaurant

Overnight at the Electra Palace, Thessaloniki

Friday, April 13, 2018

06:15AM Pick up from the Electra Palace and transfer to Thessaloniki airport for flight OA105 at 8:15AM

09:05AM Arrive ATHENS airport; meet and greet outside the baggage claim area.

From Athens airport, we begin our tour with the visit of the Jewish museum. The new building of the Museum houses a rich collection and visitor services in an area of 800 m2, organized in permanent exhibition areas with thematic modular exhibits, an art gallery, a periodic exhibition space, a research library, a space for educational programs, a photo archive and laboratory and a conservation laboratory. The museum's official guide will explain and narrate about the museum's rich exhibits.



During this full day tour, you will have time for a light lunch on own.

After our visit to the museum we will continue to the two Synagogues at Melidonis street in Thission. The Jewish Community of Athens has two functioning synagogues, both on the same street facing each other, around Thission, near the city center.

The older of the two is the Romaniote, built in 1904. It is called Etz Hayyim, a common name for Romaniote synagogues. Still called “the Ioannina Synagogue” by the community’s older members, it is the smaller of the two and is used today only during the High Holidays. The ground floor houses the community’s offices, in rooms originally intended for a Jewish school.



Right across the street is the newer and larger Beth Shalom Sephardic synagogue, built in 1935, renovated in the 70’s, and the one fully used today. Its exterior is in white marble with neoclassical elements, while the spacious interior bears not much resemblance to the Greek tradition regarding synagogue design. Depending on the Rabi’s schedule we might have the opportunity to meet and chat with him.

Our tour will continue to Athens’ Nikaia area to visit the Jewish cemetery **and Monument to the victims of the Holocaust.**

The second cemetery of the Jewish Community of Athens occupies 20,000 sq.m. within the Third Cemetery of Athens at 7 Pireos St. in Nikaia (a suburb west of Athens). It came into use after World War II and continues until this day, although the remaining space is very limited. A surrounding wall protects it and it is guarded. The 1999 earthquake damaged the building used for the burial services. It was restored by a Community benefactor.



Transfer to the Athens Hilton for check-in.

7:30PM Pick up from the Athens Hilton and transfer to the *GOSTIJO* Kosher restaurant for Shabbat dinner. The menu will consist of:

Soup
A large variety of salads
Fish course
Meat or chicken course with potatoes or rice and peas
Dessert
Coffee or tea and alcoholic drink (assume it is wine)

After dinner, return transfer to the Athens Hilton.