



Post-ADE FAM Tour
Thessaloniki (including Veria-Vergina) | April 18 - 21, 2018

WHERE: Thessaloniki

WHEN: April 18-21, 2018

This FAM requires a minimum number of 10 participants.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

- **Wednesday, April 18**
 - Athens – Thessaloniki (FLT OA108 Depart Athens at 8:45AM)
- **Thursday, April 19**
 - Thessaloniki – Veria – Vergina - Thessaloniki
- **Friday, April 20**
 - Thessaloniki – Free day for shopping and night life
- **Saturday, April 21**
 - Thessaloniki – Athens (FLT OA111 arrives Athens at 12:20PM)

COST (includes air to/from Thessaloniki):

Occupancy	Price*
Double Occupancy	\$747
Single Occupancy	\$1,028

WHAT'S INCLUDED*:

- Bus transportation from and to the airport in Thessaloniki.
- All transfers and guides to all sightseeing tours as mentioned in program
- Accommodation to Electra Palace Hotel
- Lunch and Dinners as mentioned in the above program.
- Entrance fees to archaeological sites/museums
- Airfare (OA 108 G 18APR 3 ATHSKG HK30 0845 0940 / OA 111 G 21APR 4 SKGATH HK30 11.35 12.20)

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

- Travel insurance is not required but is highly recommended.
- Your registration is non-refundable unless the FAM is cancelled by ASTA or the Supplier.
- Valid passports are required but Visas are not needed.
- Airport transportation to/from the Athens airport is not included, approximate cost is \$20.
- Have questions? Contact Don McGahee at Don@asta.org.

Thessaloniki (520 km. north of Athens) is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the area. Built near the sea (at the back of the Thermaïkos Gulf), it is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of its stormy history and its cosmopolitan character, which give it a special beauty and charm.

A tour in the centre of Thessaloniki might at the end drive you to all important historical destinations of Northern Greece, like Veria and Vergina, the places where you can meet with the royal family of Alexander the Great and Philip the II.



FULL ITINERARY

Day 1

- Our flight departs from the Athens Airport at 08.45 am. Direct transfer to the hotel Electra Palace.
- A tour to the city of Thessaloniki. We will visit the Ancient Forum, with squares, porticoes, additional buildings and odeum, the palace complex of Galerius Maximilianus, the thermae, the hippodrome, temples and other monuments. We will see the famous triumphal Arch of Galerius, built in AD 305 to commemorate his military successes in general in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire, as well as the Rotunda, and early 4th century building, which later was converted into a Christian church.
- We will see many Byzantine monuments, due to the significant part of Thessaloniki during the Byzantine period, but also many Ottoman monuments, like the White Tower, mosques, hamams and the market.
- We will have lunch at the Old City with the Ottoman and traditional Macedonian architecture. The centre is called Ladadika (Oil Market), which now is a centre of night life and traditional food and music.
- We will see the famous Aristotelous Square.
- Return to the Hotel.
- Free dinner. You can enjoy a night walk in a city that never stops the party!



Day 2

- We will drive to the cities Veria and Vergina, two historically important destinations for the history of the family of Alexander the Great and Northern Greece. Veria was the third most important city of the Byzantine Empire, after Constantinople (Istanbul) and Thessaloniki. The impressively large number of Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches gave the city the nickname "Little Jerusalem". Vergina (ancient name was Eges) was the first capital of the ancient Macedonian Kingdom. The excavations in 1977, revealed the 20th century greatest discovery on Greek land. The treasures found were of great archaeological and historic significance and the territory of the ancient Macedonian Kings was proclaimed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



But the modern city of Veria and Vergina is a mixture of Greek – Ottoman and Jewish culture colours, so a walk through the market and local restaurants and cafeterias will give you the impression of a tour to history and centuries. We will see the Tribune of St. Paul who visited Veria twice (50-51AD and 57AD), the Old Court of Justice and the impressive Tower of princess Vergina, the second saved section of ruins of the tower, the Ancient Roman Road - Via Egnatia, which demonstrates Veria's past administrative, spiritual and financial power. We will also see the Ottoman period monuments such as the Twin Baths, the Karachmet Bridge, the Medresse Mosque, Choungiar Mosque and the Orta Mosque.



- The Old Cathedral, built between 1070-1080; one of the greatest temples of the middle Byzantine period, houses wall paintings that date back to the 12th, 13th and 14th century.

- We will have lunch at Veria, and free time to enjoy the two historical but always alive cities of the North.

- Return to the hotel. Free time to enjoy being a citizen of Thessaloniki for a night!

Day 3

- Free day for your shopping and night life experience in Thessaloniki. Remember that the city of Thessaloniki is famous for the traditional food, you can find everywhere in the streets. Try seafood with tsipouro alcohol, the famous "bougatsa" (cream filled pie, or cheese pie), and of course the known Macedonian wines.



Day 4

- Free time.
- Our flight to Athens will depart at 11.35 am.

Electra Palace Hotel

The Electra Palace Hotel is built in one of the most impressive city squares of Greece, Aristotelous Sq., 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.

