

Setting Metsovo the navel of touristic development of Pindos

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Abstract

Metsovo is the seat of the sole municipality of Metsovo county. After the implementation of the Kapodistrias plan, the municipality of Metsovo is composed from Metsovo and the former communities of Anilio, Anthohori and Votonosi and its population is, according to the 2001 census, 4492 people. Its size is 177,676,000 m².

From the rest of the settlements of the county of Metsovo, Milia has remained a community seat while Ampelia, Analipsi, Mili, Xiriko, Siolades and Chrissovitsa have been allocated to the municipality of Egnatia.

The municipality of Metsovo borders on the North the community of Perivoli and the municipality of Gorgiani of the district of Grevena of the Grevena prefecture. On the North-East it borders the community of Milia, on the East the municipality of Malakassi of the district of Kalabaka of the Trikala prefecture and on the West the municipalities of Egnatia and East Zagori of the district of Dodoni of the Ioannina prefecture.

Two large Greek rivers spring from Metsovo, Metsovitikos, a side-river of Arahthos, and Aaos, while the flow of Pinios towards Thessalia originates in the col of Katara.

The geographical position of Metsovo just described, makes access to the three famous byzantine and post-byzantine open-air museums, but also to the three important sites of the religious and spiritual upheaving of our country, Meteora in Thessalia (which are just 75 km. away), Kastoria in Macedonia (122 km) and the island of the Lake of Ioannina (60 km), very easy.

Despite its mountainous ground, but probably thanks to that, Metsovo can be indicated as the center of touristic development of Pindos. Its hotel infrastructure of 700 beds allows it. After the completion of the long-lasting works of Egnatia road, the time needed to pass from Igoumenitsa, the gate of Western Greece, will be shortened to 1 hour and 15 minutes while from the capital of Macedonia, Salonica, the time will be shortened to 2 hours and 15 minutes. So mountain lovers, but also the lovers of cultural tourism, will make Metsovo the basis of their excursions to the beautiful forests and rivers of the area and to the picturesque traditional and historical settlements. With the photographic material that accompanies the following 11 proposed circular routes the wealth in monuments and the natural beauties that we meet on the majestic mountain of Pindos and especially in the regions under Sarantaporos and over Kalaritikos will be indicated. Our border on the East will be Pinios and on the West Mitsikeli and Arahthos.

1. Metsovo – Milia – Krania – Platanistos – Panagia – Abelohori – Matoneri – Koridallos – Metsovo (111 km)
2. Metsovo – Milia – Krania – Kipourio – Zakas – Spileo – Mikrolivado – Milia – Metsovo (150 km)
3. Metsovo – Milia – Krania – Filippei – Samarina – Smolikas – Fourka – Konitsa – Ioannina – Metsovo (290 km)
4. Metsovo – Milia – Krania – Kipourio – Alatopetra – Mesolouri – Dotsiko – Samarina – Distrato – Smixi – Metsovo (237 km)
5. Metsovo – Valia Kalda – Perivoli – Vovoussa – Flabourari – Aaos dam – Chrissovitsa – Metsovo (155 km)
6. Metsovo – East Zagori (Doliani – Makrino – Elatohori – Greveniti – Tristeno – Miliotades) – Metsovo (146 km)

7. Metsovo – Central Zagori (Manassis – Dikorifo – Vitsa – Monodendri – Ano Pedina – Elafotopos – Kato Pedina) – Kalpaki – Ioannina – Metsovo (230 km)
8. Metsovo – Municipality of Timfi (Fragades – Negades – Kipi – Kapessovo – Vradeto – Tsepelovo – Skamneli – Iliohori - Vrisohori) – Vovoussa – Metsovo (272 km)
9. Metsovo – Anilio – Anthoussa – Tria Potamia – Stefani – Metsovo (105 km)
10. Metsovo – Megalo Peristeri – Sirako – Krapsi – Baltouma – Metsovo (137 km).

The 11 routes above, without a visit to Metsovo sights and without hiking excursions around the village, need 2 weeks of staying in the village. Ameliorating the roads and especially the roads in the forests (without unnecessary widening and the simultaneous destruction of the environment) and signposting the routes will contribute to the effort of making Greek and foreign tourists choose the traditional settlement of Metsovo as the destination of their future vacations.