

Nestled in the heart of Greece's Epirus region, Metsovo is a mountain town that feels like a page from a fairytale. Known for its stone buildings, traditional artisan shops, and picturesque, misty landscapes, Metsovo captivates everyone who visits.

Perched at an altitude of around 1,160 meters on the slopes of the Pindus mountains in central Greece, the town offers visitors breathtaking views, rich cultural heritage, and authentic Greek hospitality.

From savoring the local wines and cheeses to exploring scenic trails and historic monasteries, a visit to Metsovo is a journey into the heart of Greek tradition and natural beauty.



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Where is Metsovo?

Metsovo is located in northwestern Greece, in the [Epirus region](#), between the cities of Ioannina and Trikala.

Perched at around 1,160 meters, Metsovo boasts stunning views of the surrounding peaks and valleys. Its location makes it a perfect getaway for those seeking a tranquil retreat in nature, yet it is still accessible from major cities in Greece.

The incredible monasteries of [Meteora](#), now Greece's second most popular attraction after [The Acropolis](#), is only one hour south-east so Metsovo is the perfect addition to a road trip in this region. Fly into Athens, [pick up a car](#) and fly out of Ioannina or even [Corfu](#), if you want some island time as well.

How to Get There

Metsovo is well-connected by road, making it an easily accessible destination whether you are traveling from Athens, Thessaloniki, or Ioannina.

The nearest airport is in Ioannina, approximately 50 kilometers away, which offers domestic flights from Athens. From Ioannina, a scenic drive through winding mountain roads brings you to Metsovo in about 45 minutes.

For those traveling from Athens, the journey takes around four and a half hours by car, following the E65 highway through central Greece. If you're coming from Thessaloniki, expect a drive of approximately two and a half hours via the Egnatia Odos highway.

Public transportation is also an option. Buses from Ioannina and Thessaloniki run frequently to Metsovo, providing an affordable and comfortable way to reach the town without the need for a car. However, having a vehicle allows for greater flexibility when exploring the surrounding areas.



When to visit Metsovo

Metsovo is a year-round destination, offering distinct experiences in each season. The best time to visit depends on your interests and the type of activities you enjoy.

Spring (March to May)

Spring is a beautiful time to visit Metsovo, as the surrounding mountains and valleys come to life with lush greenery and blooming wildflowers.

The temperatures range from 5°C to 18°C, making it perfect for hiking and exploring the town without the crowds of peak seasons.

Summer (June to August)

Summers in Metsovo are mild compared to other parts of Greece, with temperatures ranging between 12°C and 28°C.

This is an excellent time for outdoor enthusiasts, as the cooler mountain air makes hiking, cycling, and exploring the countryside pleasant. The town is lively with festivals and cultural events, offering visitors a taste of local traditions.

Autumn (September to November)

Autumn is another fantastic time to visit, as the landscape transforms into a stunning palette of reds, oranges, and yellows.

The temperatures range from 5°C to 22°C, and the town is less crowded, allowing for a more relaxed experience. It is also a great time to taste seasonal delicacies, including local wines and freshly made cheeses.

Winter (December to February)

For those who love snow and winter sports, Metsovo is an ideal winter destination.

The town is often blanketed in snow, with temperatures ranging from -5°C to 10°C. Skiing at Anilio Ski Resort is a popular activity, and the cozy atmosphere of Metsovo's traditional guesthouses makes for a perfect winter retreat.



Where to stay in Metsovo

Metsovo offers a variety of accommodations, from luxurious boutique hotels to charming guesthouses that reflect the town's traditional character.

Grand Forest Metsovo

For those looking for a high-end stay, Grand Forest Metsovo is a luxurious resort offering stunning views, modern amenities, and a relaxing spa. It is situated on a hill overlooking the town, about a 15 minute drive away. This hotel has a farm with horses, and a spa centre with indoor pool, hot tub and sauna, and is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World.

Archontiko Metsovou Boutique Hotel

This family-run boutique hotel combines traditional Metsovite architecture with modern comforts. With its cozy atmosphere, wooden interiors, and warm hospitality, it is an excellent choice for a romantic getaway or a relaxing retreat.

Hotel Apollon

This hotel is right on the town square in the middle of town and is a very comfortable traditional place to stay. The hotel has a car park, an elevator and rooms with fireplaces and panoramic views, making it perfect for all kinds of travellers.

Hotel Kassaros

Located close to the town square, Hotel Kassaros is a charming option for travelers seeking traditional accommodation with easy access to Metsovo's main attractions. The hotel features a cozy lounge with a fireplace, perfect for unwinding after a day of exploring.

Hotel Galaxy

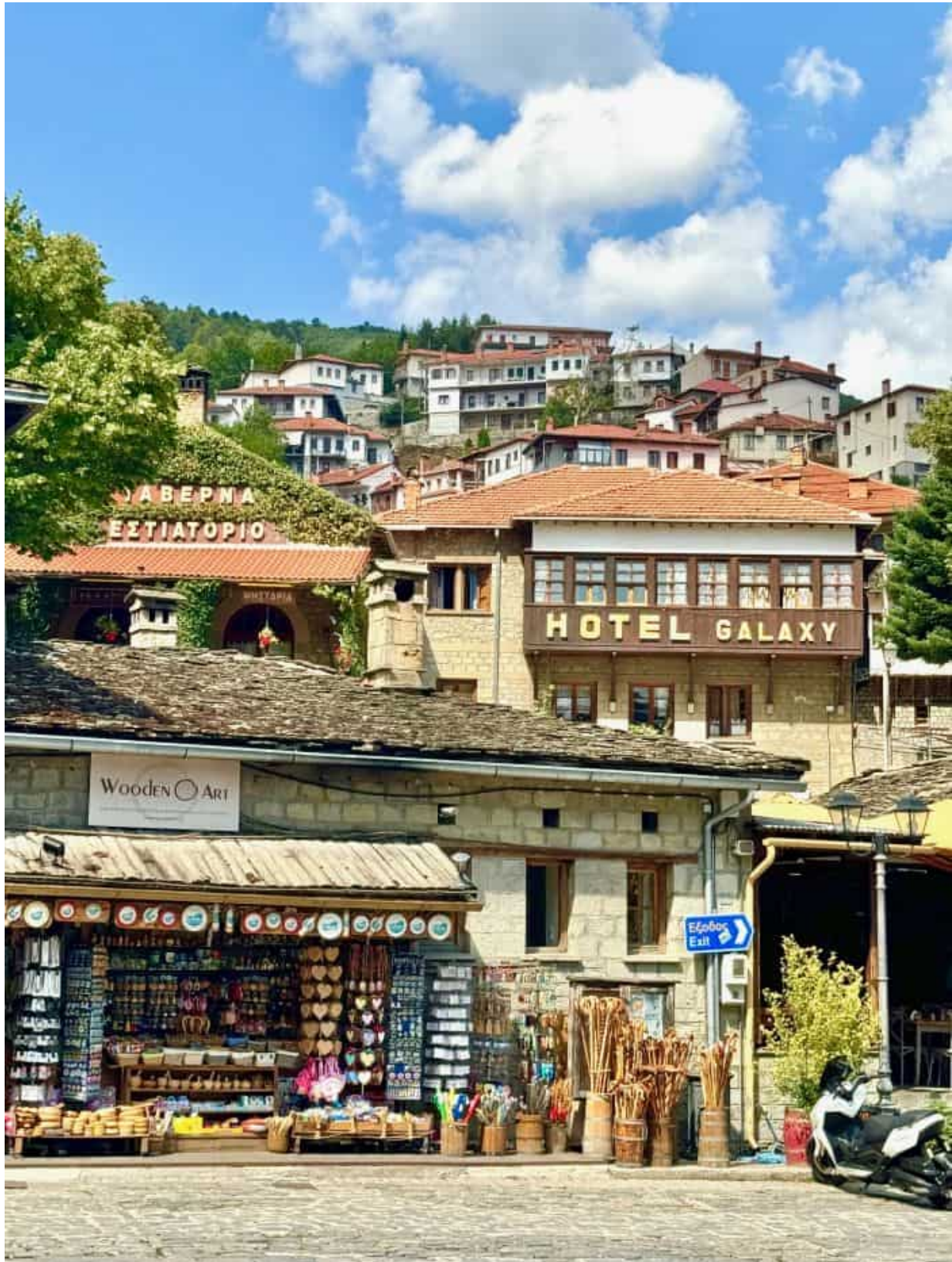
It's impossible to miss this small but imposing hotel as you wander around Metsovo. Perched just above the town square Hotel Galaxy is oozing charm and tradition and is very affordable too. There are 8 rooms and three have fireplaces, as well as 2 suites. The taverna is also excellent.

Guesthouses and Traditional Lodgings

For a more authentic experience, consider staying in one of Metsovo's traditional guesthouses. Many of these lodgings are housed in restored stone buildings and offer a glimpse into the town's rich heritage while providing comfortable accommodations.



Hotel Kassaros



Hotel Galaxy



Hotel Apollon Metsovo

Things to do in Ioannina

Wander Through the Historic Center

Metsovo's cobbled streets, lined with traditional stone houses featuring wooden balconies and red-tiled roofs, create an atmosphere that feels almost frozen in time.

The town square is the heart of Metsovo, where locals and visitors gather to enjoy a coffee or a glass of local wine while taking in the scenic surroundings.

The square is also home to a statue of Evangelos Averoff, a prominent benefactor who played a crucial role in the town's development.

Skiing and Outdoor Activities

During the winter months, Metsovo transforms into a popular skiing destination. The nearby [Anilio Ski Resort](#) offers excellent slopes for both beginners and experienced skiers.

For those who love other outdoor activities, the area surrounding Metsovo is a paradise for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Trails lead through dense forests, past alpine lakes, and up to breathtaking viewpoints overlooking the Pindus Mountains.

Lake Aaos Springs

For nature enthusiasts, a visit to Lake Aaos Springs is highly recommended.

This artificial lake, surrounded by lush forests and mountain peaks, is an ideal spot for hiking, picnicking, and birdwatching. The lake's reflective waters create a magical setting, particularly during sunrise and sunset.

Visit the Averoff Museum and Art Gallery

Founded in 1988 [The Averoff Museum of Neohellenic Art](#) represents works by the major Greek painters.

Art lovers will appreciate the Averoff Gallery, which houses an impressive collection of over 700 painting sculptures and prints from Greek painters of the 19th and 20th centuries. The gallery is a cultural gem, offering insight into Greece's artistic heritage and its evolution over the years.

The museum and gallery has regular exhibitions as well as educational workshops, concerts and symposiums.

Explore the Monastery of Agios Nikolaos

One of the most serene places in Metsovo is the Monastery of Agios Nikolaos, located just

outside the town.

Dating back to the 14th century, this Byzantine-era monastery is nestled in a tranquil setting surrounded by lush forests and rolling hills.

Its stone architecture and frescoed interiors reflect the rich artistic and religious traditions of the region. Visitors can admire the well-preserved frescoes that adorn the walls, offering a glimpse into centuries-old Orthodox Christian art. The monastery is still active today, and is an essential stop for history and nature lovers alike.

It is a great prelude to the Monasteries of Meteora, which many visitors include on a road trip.

Taste Metsovo's Famous Cheese and Wine

Metsovo is famous for its dairy products, particularly its smoked Metsovone cheese and the creamy Metsovela.

A visit to a local dairy farm or cheese factory provides an opportunity to see the traditional cheese-making process and, of course, sample some delicious local flavors.

For wine lovers, the [Katogi Averoff Winery](#) is a must-visit. This winery, founded by Evangelos Averoff, produces some of Greece's finest wines, combining local grape varieties with Bordeaux-style winemaking techniques.

A guided tour includes a walk through the wine cellars and tastings of the estate's best vintages.

Traditional Handicrafts and Shopping

Metsovo has a long tradition of woodcarving and weaving, and visitors can find beautifully crafted souvenirs such as handmade rugs, wooden furniture, and traditional clothing.

Walking through the town, you'll discover workshops where artisans still use centuries-old techniques with many unique souvenir opportunities on offer.













Things to do near Metsovo

Meteora

One of Greece's most iconic sites, [Meteora](#) is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed complex of monasteries perched atop towering rock formations. Located about an hour's drive from Metsovo, this awe-inspiring destination offers a blend of history, spirituality, and jaw-dropping scenery. Visitors can explore several of the monasteries, some of which date back to the 14th century, and take in panoramic views from the cliffs.

[Book a guide](#) to get a deep insight to the monasteries, their history and way of life today.

Ioannina and Lake Pamvotida

The historic city of [Ioannina](#), about 50 minutes from Metsovo, is known for its Ottoman-era charm and lakeside beauty.

Visitors can explore the old town, visit the imposing Ioannina Castle, and take a boat ride to the island on Lake Pamvotida, home to quaint monasteries and the Ali Pasha Museum.

Vikos Gorge & Zagori

For those who love nature and adventure, Vikos Gorge in the [Zagori region](#) is a must-visit. Approximately an hour's drive from Metsovo, this spectacular canyon is one of the deepest in the world. Hiking trails lead to breathtaking viewpoints, making it an ideal day trip for outdoor enthusiasts.

The UNESCO world heritage Zagori villages are known for their traditional stone architecture and iconic arched bridges.

The most famous bridges, such as the Kalogeriko and Plakidas bridges, are set against stunning mountain scenery and make for a perfect photography stop.

The Aaos River and Valley

Just a short drive from Metsovo, the Aaos River and its surrounding valley offer beautiful landscapes, perfect for hiking, picnicking, and even fishing.

The area is particularly stunning in the autumn when the foliage turns brilliant shades of red and gold.



Meteora

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