



Northern Greece

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Best Places to Eat

- Doltso (p264)
- Castello Restaurant (p292)
- Paparouna (p242)
- Eleas Gi (p258)
- Petrino (p271)

Best Places to Stay

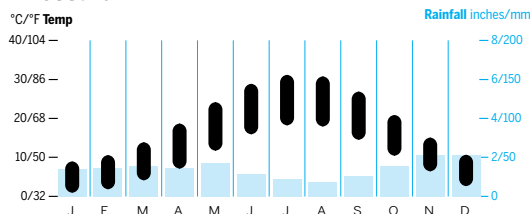
- Primoula (p286)
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Why Go?

Immense northern Greece (βόρεια Ελλάδα) stretches across more cultures and terrains than any other region in the country. Mighty civilisations, including Macedonians, Thracians, Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Turks, have left traces here. You'll find beaches to rival the islands, especially in popular Halkidiki and around Parga, along the golden Ionian coast. Ruins such as Ancient Dion and the Byzantine castles in Kavala and Platamonas fire the imagination. Discover the mountains of Epirus, ripe for hiking and winter sports, and Macedonia's serene lakes. Within this rich tapestry is Greece's second city, Thessaloniki, teeming with inventive nightlife and festivals. The terrain stretches into the plains and woodlands of Thrace, right to the Turkish border and the birdlife-rich Evros River. Border influences from Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey add distinctive flair to culture and cuisine. For travellers hungry for variety, northern Greece is the place to tuck in.

When to Go

Thessaloniki



May–Aug Sizzle on beaches in Parga and Halkidiki, or cool down in refreshing Edessa.

Sep–Nov Bask in lower coastal prices then hit Thessaloniki's music and film fests.

Dec–Apr Snuggle into a ski lodge in Zagorohoria, or combine city and snow in Florina or Veria.



Northern Greece Highlights

- 1** Gorging yourself on the cultural riches, dining and nightlife of **Thessaloniki** (p231).
- 2** Slinging a hammock or hitting mountain-biking trails on the popular **Halkidiki Peninsula** (p248).
- 3** Hiking the **Vikos Gorge** (p284).
- 4** Roaming the old quarter by the Kastro in **Ioannina** (p279) before taking a ferry to the tranquil island (p282).
- 5** Pointing your binoculars at wheeling birds of prey in Thrace's **Dardia Forest Reserve** (p274).
- 6** Cycling, kayaking or simply sitting back and enjoying the lake at **Kastoria** (p263).
- 7** Being charmed by ruins, museums and a beautiful bridge in **Arta** (p289).
- 8** Feeling the spray of **Edessa's** thundering waterfalls (p259).
- 9** Contemplating Mt Olympus from the **Castle of Platamonas** (p257).