

Kastoria, the capital of the prefecture, is one of Macedonia's most scenic cities, a real museum of Byzantine art. It is built on the shores of the lovely **Orestiada lake**.

The city flourished, both culturally and economically particularly from the 17th century onwards. Since that time, the people of Kastoria work mainly with furs and embroidery. Today, the city has approximately 3.000 very profitable fur and textile workshops and factories.

Kastoria has more than 75 Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches (from the 9th century up to the 19th). Most of their walls are filled with frescoes of exceptional quality. The city's famous mansions of the 18th and 19th centuries are also a sight to see. Lake Kastoria is especially beautiful in autumn and spring. On the north bank, near **Dispilio** village, (7 km. from Kastoria) are the remains of one of the oldest settlements in Europe of the Stone Age.

Argos Orestiko (10 km from Kastoria) is a rapidly developing town thanks to the boom of the weaving and fur-processing industry. On the outskirts of **Nostimo** village there is a petrified forest of tropical plants and fossils from the sea and animal kingdom.

There are many pretty villages in the district, perched on hillsides, surrounded by firs and beech trees, as well as lakeside settlements with tavernas specializing in fish from the lake.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Folk Museum (Aivazi mansion): tel. 24670 28.603

Kastoria Byzantine Museum (Dexameni square), tel. 24670 22.325.

Sports

Rowing - Sailing: in the lake. Information, Kastoria Yacht Club, tel. 24670 29.400.

Mountain climbing: In Mounts Grammos and Vitsi. Information, Kastoria EOS (Alpine Society), tel. 24670 82.666

Shopping: Furs, fabrics, flokates and Kilims (carpets).

Events:

Carnaval (Ragoutsaria) 6 to 8 of January

Fur exhibition in April.

River party of Aliakmon river (every August), information tel. 24670 31.204

How to get there:

By bus: Athens-Kastoria, KTEL bus terminal, Athens, tel. 210 512.93.08. Thessaloniki-Kastoria, KTEL terminal Thessaloniki, tel. 2310 595.485, KTEL Kastoria, tel. 24670 83.455.

By plane: Athens-Kastoria, Athens International Airport "El. Venizelos", tel. 210 35.30.000, Kastoria airport, tel. 24670 42.515.

Kastoria

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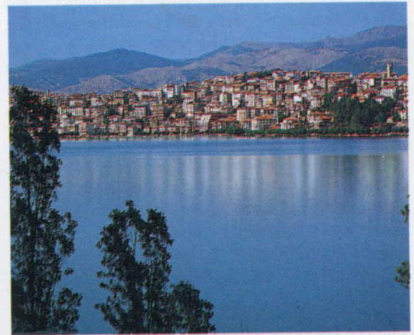


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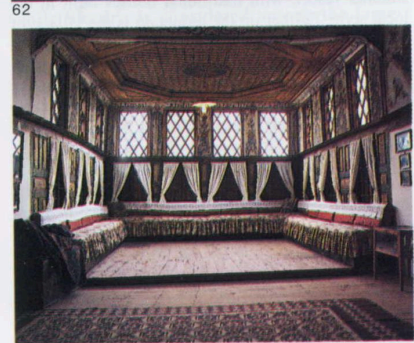


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57, 61, 62, 65. Views of Kastoria and its lake.
58. The furs made in Kastoria are famous all over the world.
59. Kastoria. The church of Koubellidiki.
60. Byzantine frescoes.
63. Interior of a mansion.
64. Detail from a mansion.

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