



Meteora, literally means “suspended in the air”. Located above the town of Kalambaka, on the north-western edge of Greece’s Plain of Thessaly, Meteora is an exquisite complex that consists of giant rock formations that reach nearly 500m in the sky, like something out of a science fiction movie! Balanced across 24 pillars are monasteries, visible through the clouds!

The monasteries, that sit on top of these rocks, make up the second most important monastic community in Greece, after Mount Athos in Halkidiki peninsula.

The history of Meteora goes millenniums back. Scientists believe that these pillars were formatted about 65 million years ago, during the Tertiary Period.

In the Byzantine times, monks had the inspiration to construct monasteries on top of these rocks so that they would be closer to God. The foundation of Meteora monasteries began during the 14th century.



Join us on a spectacular full day experience through the magnificent valley of Meteora, a wondrous geological phenomenon protected by Unesco as a World Heritage Site (estimated 1,500,000 visitors per year)

As a highlight, we shall visit the most distinguished monastery, dedicated to the Transfiguration of Christ.



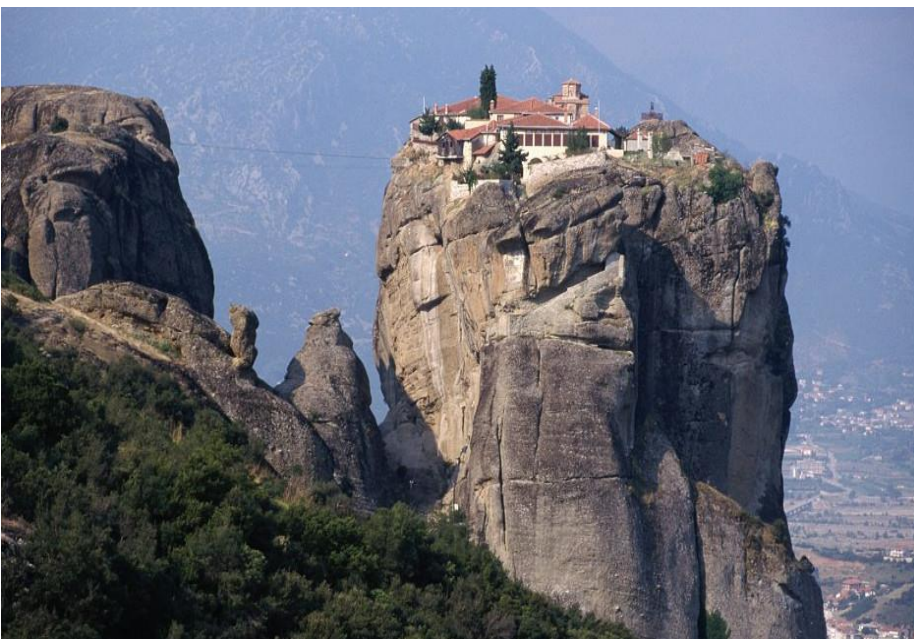
The Monastery of the Great Meteoron, founded in the 14th Century by a monk from Mount Athos, is the highest (615 m altitude), largest, oldest yet most impressive of the six active ones.

The Great Meteoron reached its peak during the 16th century, when it received significant imperial donations.



As a super bonus, we shall visit the Cave of Theopetra, just 5 km away from Meteora, a recently excavated (2005), yet unique archeological site, mainly because it revealed many of our early history secrets, like the finding of the oldest known man-made structure on earth. This unique cave with its great location, its superb access to fresh clean water and its vantage point, served like a magnet for those early inhabitants who could recognize and benefit from such key advantages. Those early human settlers used it continuously for more than 130.000 years!

Its uniqueness from an archeological perspective is that it contains, within a single site, the records of two greatly significant cultural transitions:
The replacement of Neanderthals by modern humans, and the later transition of man from hunter to farmer after the end of the last Ice Age.



FULL DAY “**METEORA**” OPTIONAL TOUR INFO

WHEN : Thursday the 13TH of April 2017.

ESTIMATED DEPARTURE : 09:15 (the exact time and place of departure to be announced during the conference)

ESTIMATED RETURN : 20:00

PRICE PER PERSON : 50 euros (only cash paid at the congress reception desk)

INCLUDED : Transportation with A/C bus Volos-Meteora-Volos.(One-way distance 170 km, some 2 hours drive per way)

INCLUDED : English-speaking certified local guide on sites

INCLUDED : 3 course lunch menu at a local restaurant with Meteora view!(Choice of beer or house wine or soft drinks included. Vegetarian meals can be arranged, please let us know in advance)

NOT INCLUDED : Entrance fees (approx 6 euros in total for the monastery + Theopetra cave)

DRESS CODE : Skirt, covered shoulders+back for the ladies. Trousers for the gentlemen.

MINIMUM PARTICIPANCY : 30 persons

REGISTRATION-QUERIES : Via e-mail to Mr Stamatis Vassalos : stamvassalos@gmail.com by Monday the 6th of February 2017.

Are you ready for a lifetime experience?





Thessaly Prefecture Area Map