



THASSOS

Emerald Island

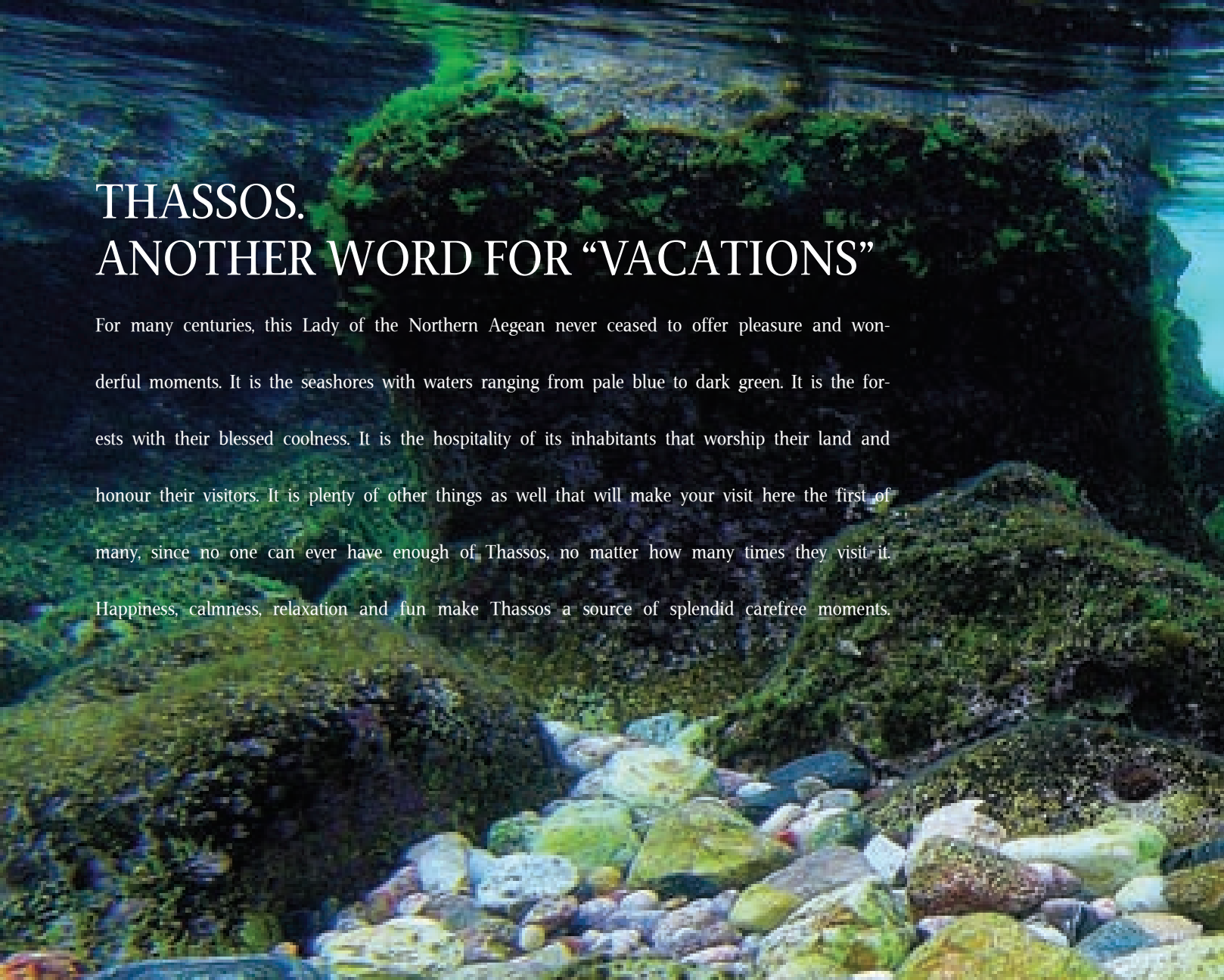


THASSOS

Wherever someone will travel to, Thassos is the island they will never forget, because this magical island fills everyone with joy and happiness from the very moment they arrive. It has been called «Emerald Island», «Green Diamond of the Aegean» and many other names that probably sound far-fetched to people who have not visited the island yet. But when someone arrives here, they find themselves at a loss for words to describe the experience of their vacation.

THASSOS. ANOTHER WORD FOR “VACATIONS”

For many centuries, this Lady of the Northern Aegean never ceased to offer pleasure and wonderful moments. It is the seashores with waters ranging from pale blue to dark green. It is the forests with their blessed coolness. It is the hospitality of its inhabitants that worship their land and honour their visitors. It is plenty of other things as well that will make your visit here the first of many, since no one can ever have enough of Thassos, no matter how many times they visit it. Happiness, calmness, relaxation and fun make Thassos a source of splendid carefree moments.





HISTORY OF THE ISLAND

In the beginning of the 7th century BC, Thassos first appeared as a colony of Parians. The father of history, Herodotus argues that the Phoenicians had already settled here many years before. According to Herodotus, Thassos owes its name to Thassos, son of the Phoenician King Aginor. According to mythology, Thassos arrived on the island looking for his sister Europe, who had been abducted by Zeus.

After the 5th century BC, the Hellenic Thassian State flourished and earned the title «Athens of the North».

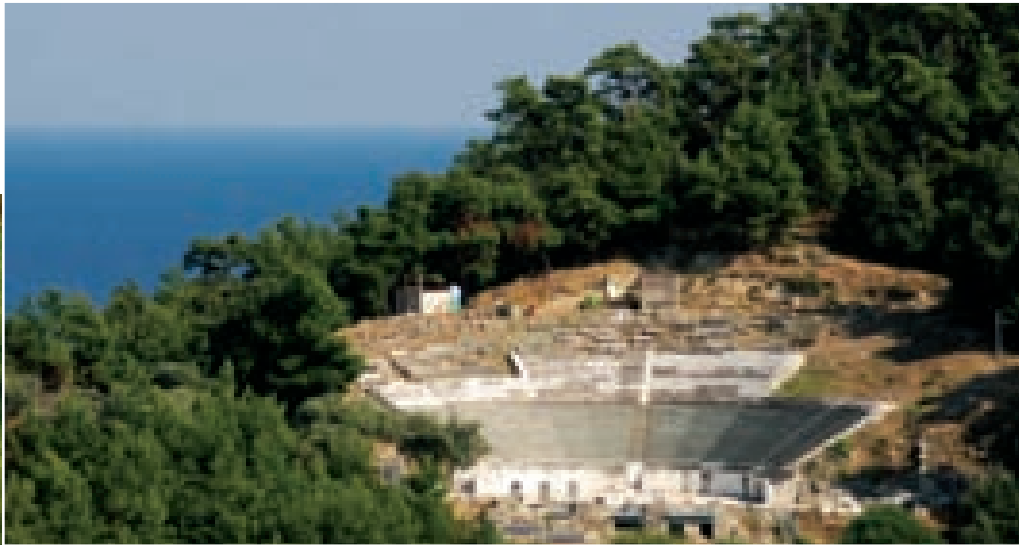
Aiming to exploit the rich gold deposits of Mount Paggeo, the Thassians founded Krinides in 360 BC, at the slopes of the gold bearing mount. Twenty years later, however, Thassos was occupied by Philip 2nd and annexed to the Macedonian State. The Romans who came after the Macedonians in 197 BC, arrived in Thassos and were welcome as liberators, since the Roman legions did not destroy anything but contributed to the resumption of commercial activities and conceded privileges to its inhabitants.

Heading to Filippi, Apostle Paul passed offshore the island in 52 AC. In all probability, he disembarked here in order to sow the first seeds of Christianity.

A long period of time followed, during which Thassos became the apple of discord for many conquerors. Two years after the fall of Constantinople, it finally ended up in hands of the Ottomans.

In 1813, the Vizier of Egypt Mohamed Ali became the owner of Thassos, a fact that marked the beginning of another enlightening period for the island. During the years of his occupation, it became a place of freedom for the island residents. This was reversed once more in 1902, when Thassos came under the domination of Turks once again, and was finally liberated by Admiral Pavlos Kountouriotis. The island was integrated to the rest of Greece in 1912.

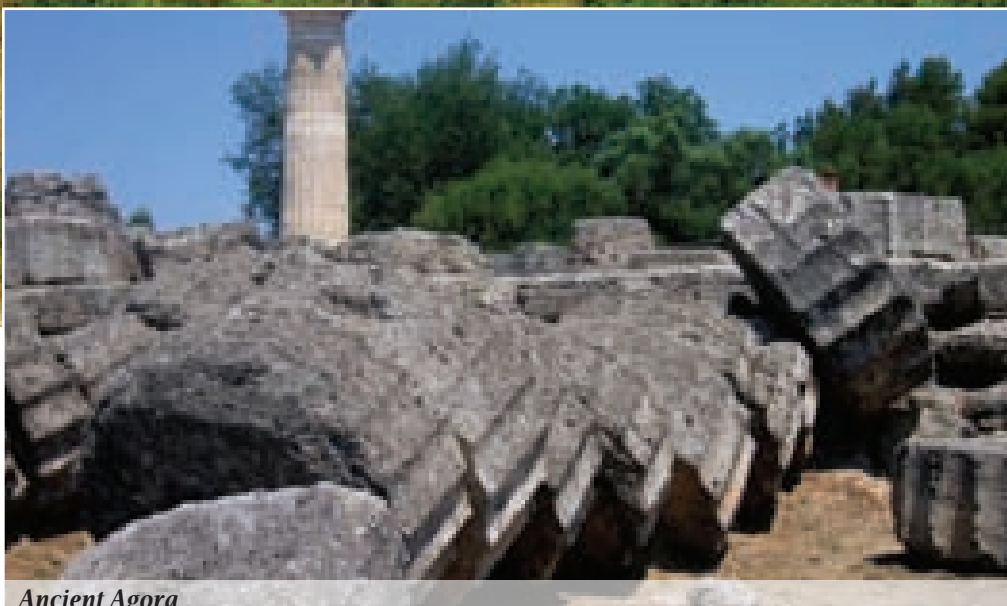




Limenas - Ancient Theatre



Alyki



Ancient Agora

LIFE IS HERE

LIMENAS

Since the antiquity, Limenas has been the most important town of the island. Being the capital of the island housing the Town Hall, central administrative services and the biggest market as well, Limenas has turned into a modern town keeping its tradition very well-protected.

Limenas began to take its modern shape from the middle of the 10th AC century due to inhabitants coming from other villages, mainly from Panagia, while refugees from Asia Minor and Thrace settled here in 1922. It was the latter that played a decisive role in its development and progress.

Its constant development has turned Limenas into an international tourist attraction. Picturesque narrow alleys, challenging promenades that one cannot resist, beautiful small shops, invite you in with their fine pieces of work. Fish-taverns and cosy hangouts giving off the smell of ouzo keep the visitor up until day-light, a perfect opportunity for visitors to marvel the exquisite sunrise.

The island's nightlife can rival that of the most cosmopolitan islands of the Aegean, vibrant with voices of youngsters and loud music, which keep the night awake. An intense cultural life, numerous archaeological sites and amazing beaches make Limenas a first class destination for thousands of people arriving here from all around the world.



Limenas - Kalogeriko

A TOUR OF THE ISLAND

PRINOS - SKALA PRINOU

«From a pine-tree branch you can dive into the sea». Pine-trees in this area, which is also as «Dassylio» (Small Wood), literally emerge from the sea. Skala Prinou and Prinou are almost one nowadays, due to the rapid development rates of the area. Here, many visitors buy organically biological olive oil under the brand name “Kardiofyllo”.

MIKRO (SMALL) AND MEGALO (BIG) KAZAVITI

It is difficult to find mountainous villages of such beauty. They lie only five hundred meters away from each other and few kilometres from Prinou. Their history and their offer during the times of pirates who invaded the coasts of the island are remarkable. Here, the visitor will have the opportunity to admire the stone-made mansions with their wooden balconies and painted ceilings that have survived many hardships. A coffee at the square, the local goat kid's meat, and other delicacies served in the taverns of the village constitute another strong incentive for anyone to visit this very beautiful area.



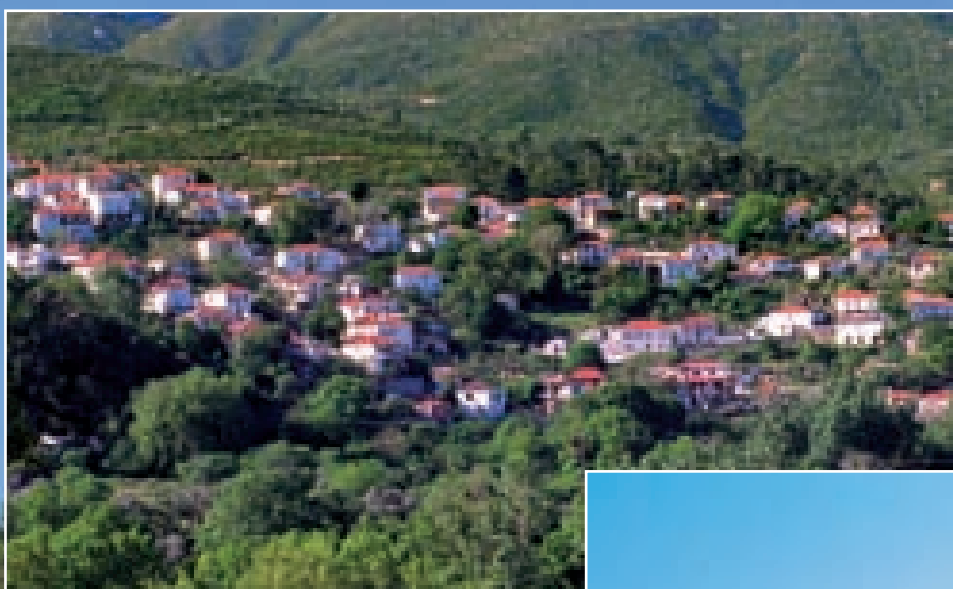
Kazaviti

RACHONI - SKALA RACHONI - AGIOS GEORGIOS

Heading westwards, Skala Rachoni is the first village one meets after Limenas. Traditional ouzeris and an endless sandy beach make up is the scenery of this coast. Heading to Ypsario, one passes through the villages of Rachoni and Agios Georgios. A break at one of their picturesque cafis are strongly recommended. Rachoni boasts the oldest olive groves of the island. This is an opportunity for a visitor to buy provisions of with olive oil and honey.

SKALA SOTIROS – SOTIRAS

Its inhabitants resisted but finally decided to share the beauties of their place with the tourists. Skala is in constant development, and the most well-informed ones climb up to Sotiras to meet with tradition and honour its flavours. The village is famous for its mild, dry climate, a remedy for those who suffer from ailments due to humidity. People who are familiar with the secrets of Thassos buy their bread from a bakery in Skala. Its taste is unforgettable.



Rachoni



Skala Sotiros

KALIRACHI - SKALA KALIRACHIS

In the serpentine – like alleys of this mountainous village, the Thassian architecture is distinguished in the best way. The Folklore Museum that hosts its treasures is housed in a very beautiful mansion. On the amazing pebble beach of «Klisma», visitors can enjoy swimming, taste good “mezedes” (tidbits) and fresh fish in taverns all around.

MARIES - SKALA MARIES

For those who wish to find out how the Greek villages looked like before the times of organised tourism, Maries is a unique opportunity. The view to the sunset leaves everyone utterly speechless. The freshest fish is ubiquitous in Skala's picturesque small taverns. «Aspas» beach is a small bay with crystal-clear water and sugary sand; Visitors here are few and knowledgeable. .



Maries



Skala Kalirachis

LIMENARIA

From Trypiti bay up to Kalyvia Settlement, the biggest town of the island has to offer numerous hotels, rooms to let and an exciting nightlife. The edifice that used to host the head offices of the German Company «Speidel», also known as «Palataki», is a sample of 20th century excellent architecture. On Metallia (Mines) beach the abandoned mines offer the visitor an unprecedented experience.

POTOS

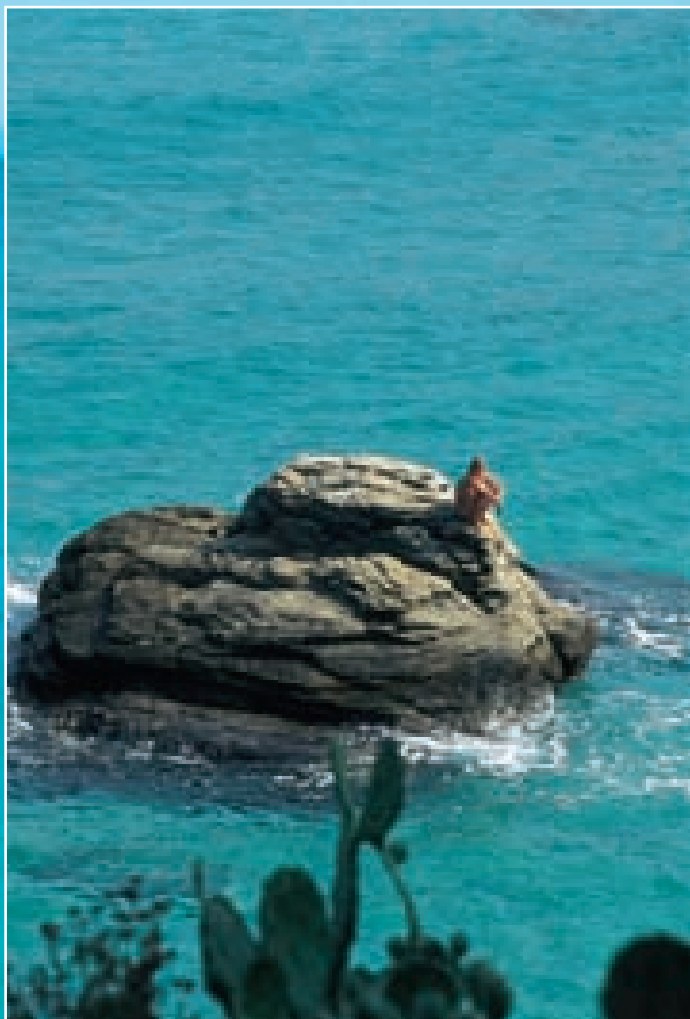
Exquisite, lively, with many options for amusement, Potos doesn't let anyone be discontent. Water sports and dancing, beach bars vibrant with music rhythms are characteristic of this marvellous beach. Its excellent small taverns lying on the waterfront just add to the landscape.

One kilometre away is Pefkari, the very beautiful bay where pine trees literally grow in the sea!

THEOLOGOS

It used to be the island's largest village until the middle of last the century and still counts a lot of inhabitants. Its financial development through the centuries resulted in residences of high aesthetic value. Since 1979, it has been characterised as a traditional settlement. Apart from its beauty, Theologos is also famous for its unique and delicious "goat kid's meat" offered in local taverns. Those who come here never miss the opportunity to taste it.

In the wider area of Theologos, the settlements of Astris just a few kilometres from Potos are certainly worth visiting. Other places one should not miss are Giola, a sea-lake of indescribable beauty and Kynira, popular with numerous holiday-makers due to one of the most famous beaches of Greece, called Paradise.



POTAMIA - SKALA POTAMIAS

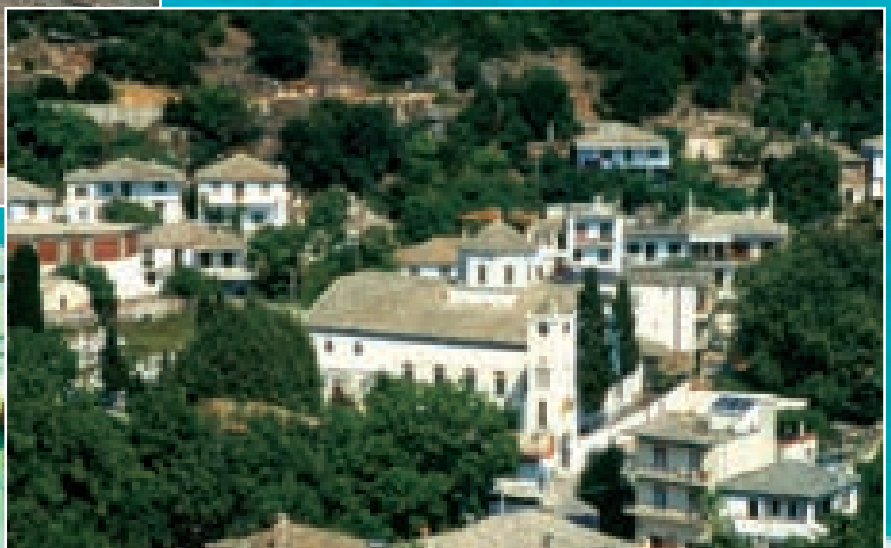
Green is so prevalent that it impresses everyone, the moment they arrive in Potamia. Lovers of mountain climbing can begin the conquest of Ypsario's highest peak here. Thousands of visitors come to Skala Potamia every summer, where the mountain marries with the sea. Full of taverns, bars and cafis, the coastal road ends at the area's small harbour with the imposing Tarsanas (Boatyard), erected by the monks of Agion Oros (Athos) in the 19th century.

PANAGIA

Apart from Her Name, Panagia (Virgin Mary) endowed the village with everything one could ask for. Its oak-tree that covers the square is historic. Running waters spring cold from the mountains. Although the village's Skala (Berth) is called Avlakia, Chryssi Ammoudia (Golden Sand) is considered its beach. Here, the sunrise is unique. Moreover, delicacies of the area are not to be missed: various meats including goat kid's meat, prevalent once again, as well as the home-made confected fruits and jams.



Pefkari beach



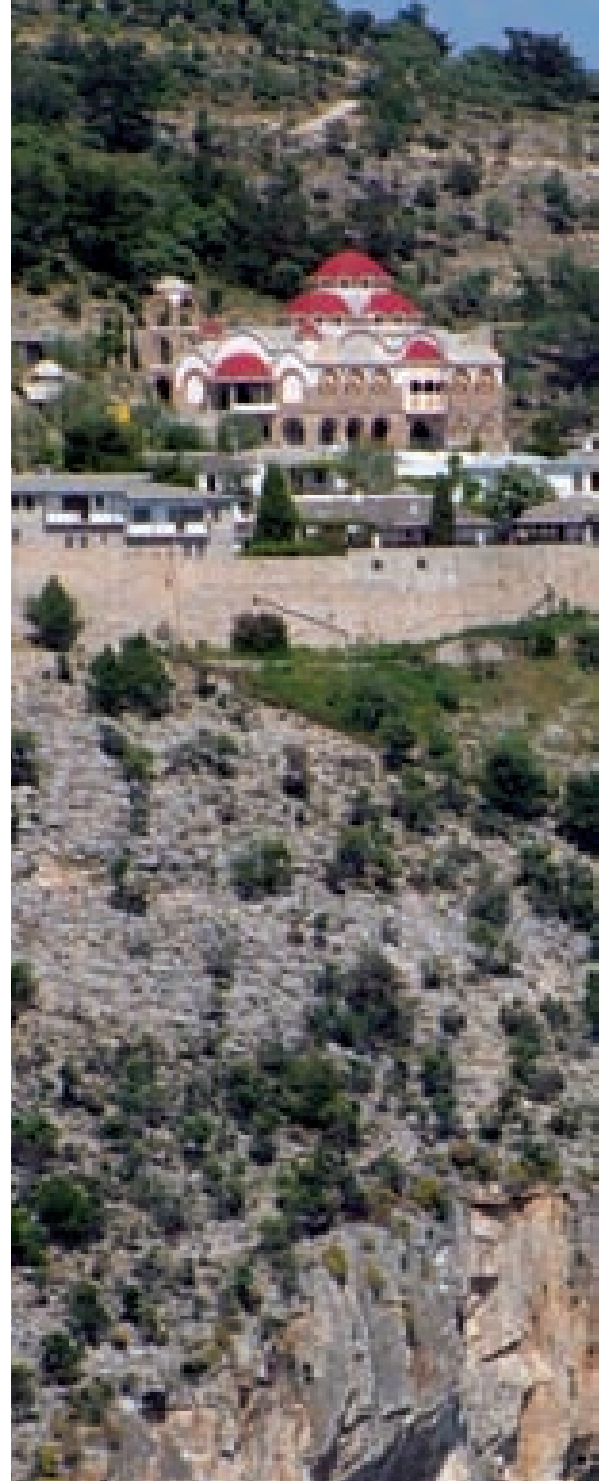
Panagia

A PILGRIMAGE TOUR

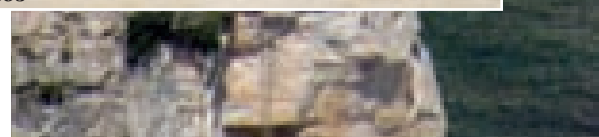
Just like in any other part of Greece, Orthodoxy is deeply rooted in Thassos. Ossios Daniel arrived in Thassos a few years after the times of Iconoclasts and retired to an island's cave until the Thassians discovered his holiness and dozens of them asked him to let them stay by him. It was then that the first coenobium was established on the island. He is registered in hagiology as Ossios Daniel of Thassos and our Church commemorates him on September 12th. In 1652, Thassos acquired its second Saint. A young martyr, the fourteen-year old Ioannis moved from Thassos to Constantinople. There and in spite of all offers made by the Great Vizier, he refused to convert religion. As a result, the order for his execution was immediate.

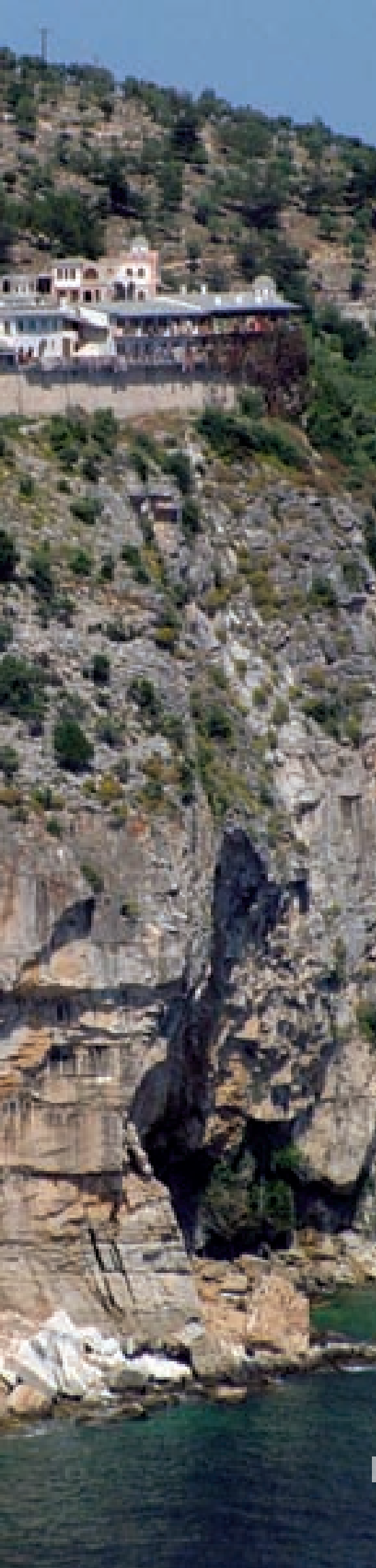
Nowadays there are plenty of historic shrines on the island. The Monastery of the Assumption dominates at a short distance from the village of Maries. On the opposite side, Athos and its endless greenery work wonders on people's «clenched» soul. Miracles here are just superfluous. The midnight mass held at the monastery fills ones' heart with God, making the pursuit of evidence a completely unnecessary procedure. The Monastery of Archangel Michael is the biggest and also the most renowned Monastery of Thassos. A piece of a Holy Nail that Christ was crucified with is kept here. The monastery is built on the edge of a cliff and the view to the Aegean Sea gives pilgrims the sense of being suspended. Moreover, in the Monastery of Agios Panteleimonas visitors are left with the strong sense of spiritual uplift.

The monastery is accessible from the villages of Mikro Kazaviti, Sotiras or Maries. There is a homonymous Church dedicated to Virgin Mary's Assumption in Panagia village, fully connected with the life of village residents. The visitor here is in awe when facing the old icons (14th - 17th century), the icon of Panagia Pantovlepoussa (Virgin Mary) and old coins of Panagia known as "bakires". The red-and-white pennon of Richard the Lionheart since the era of Crusaders is also kept in the church.

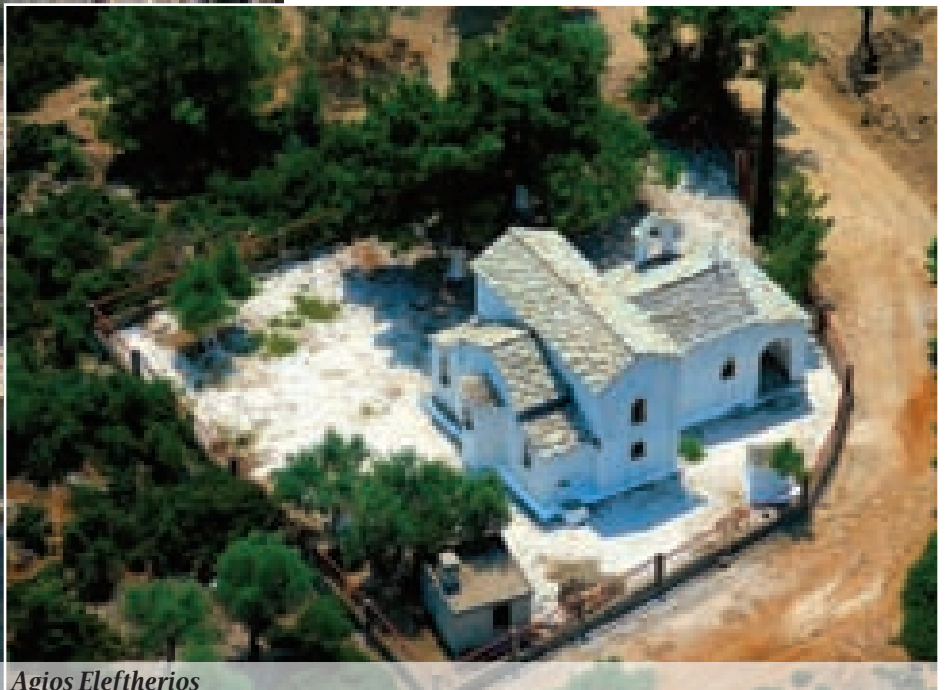


Agios Antonios





Evreokastro



Agios Eleftherios

BEACHES

Strong winds never blow on the beaches of Thassos, unlike all other islands of the Aegean sea. They are safe since most of them are organised and do not hide surprises, since the water deepens progressively. Access to all beaches of the island is very easy due to a good road network, and for the steepest ones, there are paths leading to their bosom in safety. Whenever you wish to have a cool swim, you can do so at your nearest beach, since the sea is very clean all around the island.

The most famous beaches are Makryammos, Pachys, Glyfada, Papalimani, Nysteri, Chryssi Ammoudia in Skala Panagias, Chryssi Akti in Skala Potamias, Kynira, Paradise, Themonia, Alyki, Psili Ammos, Astris, Akti Potos, Pefkari, Akti Limenaria, Trypiti, Skala Maries, Akti Kalirachis, Akti Sotiros and Akti Alsilio in Skala Prinos.

Smaller bays with hidden sandy beaches where absolute calmness dominate are also here waiting to be explored and to provide quiet moments of pleasure.



Chryssi Akti



Chryssi Ammoudia

SPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Swimming, rackets, deck-chairs ... excellent choices for food and clubbing are the most popular activities during vacations. Equally popular is also the «traditional» shopping of folk-art items, such as famous handmade textiles for house decoration, traditional deserts, honey, olives and olive-oil that has earned its reputation just like any product here. Apart from that, since Thassos offers opportunities for numerous sports ... why not take advantage of them?

Boats and special equipment await enthusiasts of water-skiing on the well-organised beaches of the island. The waves in Paradise beach offer you a unique chance for unforgettable wind surfing. Jet ski, banana and sea parachute are available in most organised beaches. Apart from the sports performed “on the crest of the waves”, there are those that request deep waters. Those waters hide numerous fishes in their depths, as well as other wonderful pictures that favour diving and fishing with a rifle – harpoon. Ambitious anglers may try their luck in fishing with a fishing rod or line wherever they like in Thassos, even from their vehicles!

For those who prefer sports on dry land, there are numerous tennis courts in organised hotels and campsites. Those who love forests and are nature lovers have the opportunity to climb Ypsario, a challenging mountain to conquer for mountain climbers and hikers alike, who may reach its peak through some very nice emerald green paths.



VISIT...

ANCIENT THASSOS (LIMENAS)

Within a few meters' walk from the ancient Harbour, in front of the Archaeological Museum stands the Ancient Agora, where excavations brought many monuments to light. One of the most important is the "Diodos ton Theon" (the Thoroughfare of Gods), which was built in 470 BC and formed a great building complex. In 1836, the French traveller E. Miller brought its bas-reliefs to the Louvre Museum where they still stand. Another important monument is Glaucus' Grave who arrived in Thassos along with Parians in the 7th century BC. We also mention the cyclical altar of Theagenis, the famous Thassian athlete who is said to have won 1.400 victories in the Panhellenic Games, the Odeum and the paleochristian basilica of Agora, dating back to the 5th or 6th century AD. Following a small cobbled road we reach the Ancient Theatre of Thassos, which has been located there since the 5th century BC as Hippocrates informs us.

During the summer months, the Ancient Theatre of Thassos hosts performances of ancient drama. The Acropolis lies a bit more northern. On its eastern wall, a supernatural half-finished ram-bearing Kouros (Adolescent) of a 3,50 m height was found in 1920. The sightseeing of Thassos ancient town ends with a visit to the Archaeological Museum where important items and collections are exhibited.

VAGI'S MUSEUM

Dedicated to the worldwide famous Thassian sculptor Polygnotos Vagis, it's been founded in his birthplace, Potamia hosting a great part of his work.

ALYKI

Apart from being one of the most beautiful landscapes of Thassos, Alyki is also a significant archaeological site where the visitor can admire many ancient and medieval monuments. From the 6th century BC to the 6th century AD, at the edge of Alyki peninsula, there used to be marble quarries, signs of which are still visible nowadays.

PALATAKI

One of most characteristic sights of Limenaria, Palataki dominates upon a rocky cliff overlooking the sea. This two-storey building constitutes a sample of elaborate architecture and was built in 1903 by the German Company "Speidel", which was exploiting the island's mines at that time.

KASTRO (CASTLE)

Kastro, the most ancient settlement of the island, is built on one of Ypsario Mountain's peaks, at an altitude of 800 m. It flourished during the times that the Aegean was raided by pirates. Its abandonment occurred in the early days of the 20th century, when its inhabitants became workers at the mines of the German Company Speidel and established Limenaria.



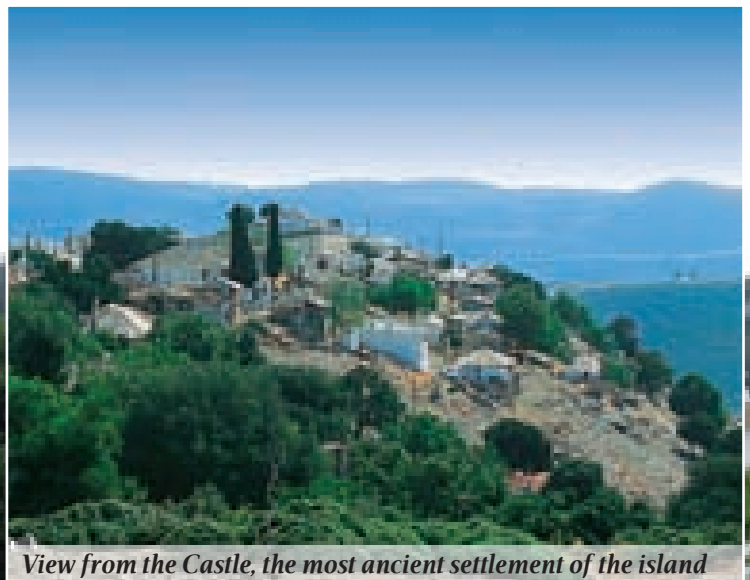
Ancient Agora



Vagi's Museum

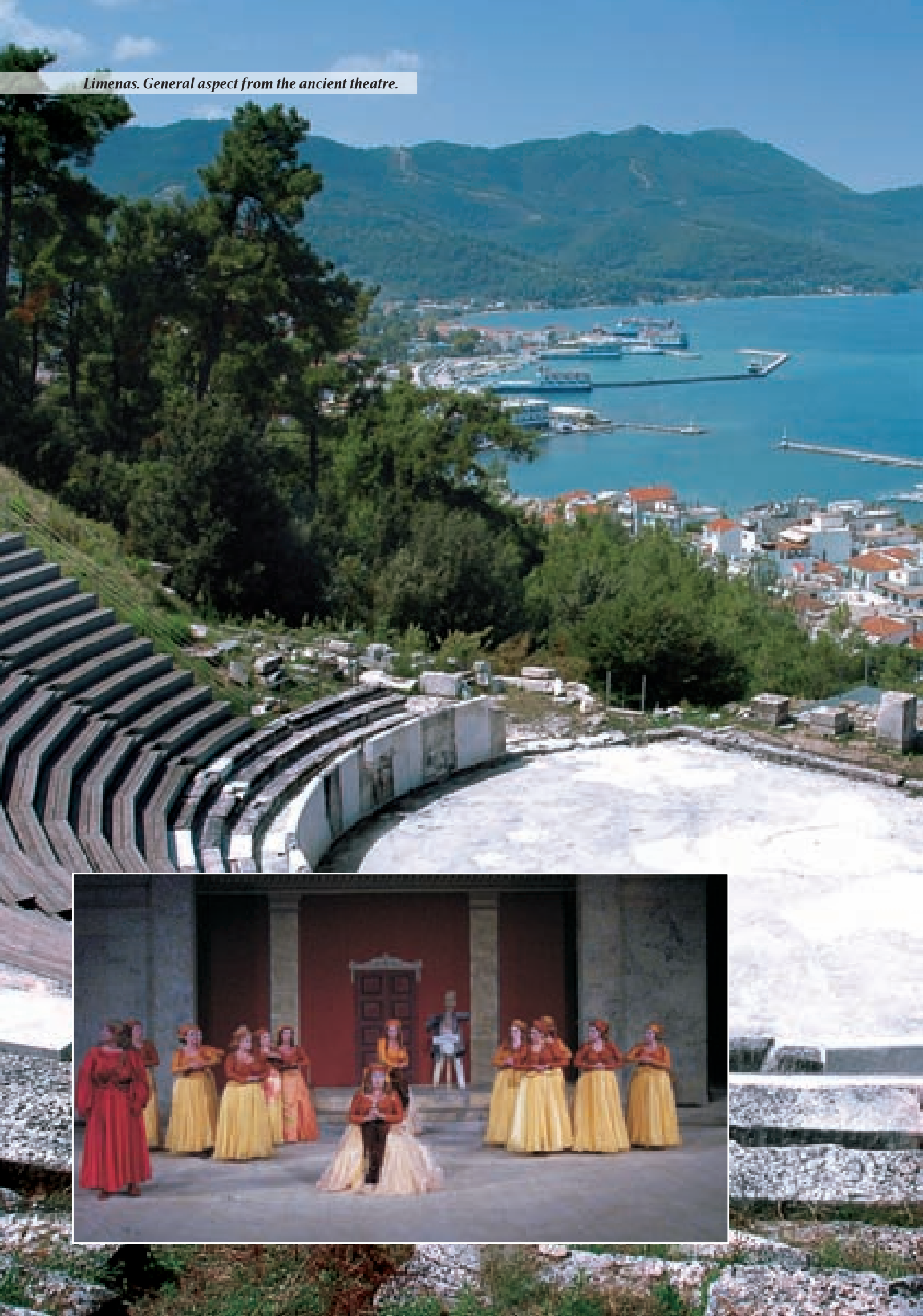


Palataki



View from the Castle, the most ancient settlement of the island

Limenas. General aspect from the ancient theatre.





CULTURE

The work of cultural societies on the island is very important. Being many-membered and active, not have they kept traditions alive, but they have also undertaken the arduous task of organising social events all around the island for decades, with the aid and support by the Prefectural Authorities of Kavala and the solidarity of local sponsors, too.

Nowadays, many considerable cultural events are organised by Thassos Municipality, carried out on a daily basis. Concerts and theatrical performances are held in the Ancient Theatre of Limenas, in the ancient sanctuary of Dioscouri in Alyki, in the Ancient Agora of Limenas, in Metallia (Mines) of Limenaria, in Kazaviti, Panagia and Potamia. Concerts of traditional and modern music take place in all villages and campsites of the island. Many cultural events are held in the framework of «Kazavitiana». Those are held in Mikro Kazaviti and are extended through July and August. One will definitely live a unique experience while visiting Thassos during the period of Carnival. Taking place in Panagia, the famous carnival of the island is a real tribute to Dionysus. The organisation of this historic carnival belongs to “Bacchus” Cultural Society. Provocation, swear words and red wine that flows in abundance are its basic features. Thassos’ Carnival is also celebrated with parades in Potamia, theatrical performances full of vivid local colours in Kalirachi and the burning of King Carnival in Rachoni.



TRADITION

All year round, festivities take place, in commemoration of various Saints. Churches were erected dedicated to them in urban centers, as well as in the country. During such occasions, cooking and treating visitors with the traditional «courbani», a preparation of boiled meat and crumbled wheat. However, it is on the 15th of August, during the celebration of Virgin Mary's Assumption in Panagia where the festivity of festivities takes place and «courbani» is prepared in incredible quantities due to thousands of visitors. You must not forget that the name of the village before the church was erected used to be «Anastasimo» and it was renamed to «Panagia» (Virgin Mary), soon after the church was built.

One of most popular folklore events of the island is the representation of a Thassian Wedding in Theologos. A large parade starts from the «bride's» house wandering round around the village alleys. Feasting and dancing reach their peak at the village's stadium where the participants enjoy traditional food and desserts.

Another custom of the island is called «Gia vrex Aprili m» (Do rain, my April) and it takes place in Limenaria the second day of Easter. It is an major celebration during which, residents pray for God to send them rain to water their vineyards and have good wine harvest. A similar custom is that of "Anavrochiaris," relating to the summer drought. This takes place occurs every year in the village of Potamia on July 31. On the night of Easter, Judas's Burning takes place in Panagia. The Thassians, people of great respect for their tradition and history, succeeded in preserving their customs and traditions and did not allow them to be converted into simple tourist attractions removing or adding elements that would make them more appealing. This offers visitors the opportunity to come to touch with pure tradition and gain knowledge, besides entertainment.

Other folklore festivities are: "Foties tou Angoustou" (Fires in August) that take place each year on the 31st of July in Kalyvia (Limenaria). Moreover, there is "Kloubani" in Theologos taking place on the day of Saint Dimitrios.



«*Gia vrex Aprili m*»



House in Limenas



Agios (Saint) Dimitrios "Kloubani" - Theologos




























"Fires in August" Kalyvia (Limenaria)



Judas's Burning

LEGEND OF MAP

MOTORWAY	
MAIN ROAD	
PRIMARY ROAD	
SECONDARY ROAD	
CARRIAGE ROAD	
RAILWAY	
CAR FERRY	
BORDERS OF PREFECTURE	
TOP OF MOUNTAIN	
INHABITED AREA TILL 5.000	
INHABITED AREA TILL 1.000	
URBAN AREA	
ANCIENT MONUMENT	
CASTLE	
CHURCH / MONASTERY	
CAMPING SITES	
SWIMMING AREA	
MARINA	
CAVE	
LIGHTHOUSE	
SKI RESORT	
AIRPORT	
CURATIVE BATHS	
TUNNEL	
GORGE	



HOW TO REACH THASSOS

From Chryssoupoli's airport to Keramoti harbour (10 minutes) and then with shuttle ferry services, that take you to the island in 25 - 30 minutes.

From Kavala's harbour with shuttle ferryboat services to Prinos and flying dolphins to Limenas and Prinos.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Greece 0030)

Town Hall	25930 23118, 25930 23085	Ferry Boats	
Tourist Police	25930 23111	ANETH	25930 22318, 22694
Health Centre	25930 71100 - 1	NEK	25930 22426
Port Authorities Thassos	25930 22106	Bus Station	25930 22162
Port Authorities Prinos	25930 71390	Police Station	25930 22500
Flying Dolphins	25930 23382	Airport	25910 53271 - 2
Archaeological Museum	25930 22180	Vagi's Museum	25930 61400

PREFECTURE OF KAVALA

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