

MUNICIPALITY OF VERIA GREECE























5 URBAN
CENTERS
Self-Drive Itineraries
VERIA

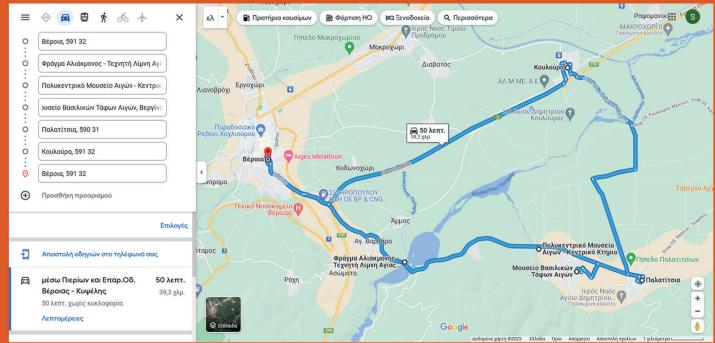
www.discoververia.gr

Route 1. Veria

The plain of the ancient Macedonians

Setlements: Veria, Vergina, Palatitsia, Kouloura (Archaeological Museum of Veria, Dam of Aliakmonas River, New Archaeological Museum of Aigai, Palatitsia, Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai, Kouloura, Veria)

Total distance: 39,3 km. Duration of driving: 50 m.



Point 1: Veria — Archaeological Museum of Veria

The Archaeological Museum of Veria exhibits the antiquities found in the Region of Imathia. Here, one can see findings from the Late Stone Age till the Hellenistic Period. The majority of the exhibits come from the period of the acme of the Macedonian Kingdom. At the reception hall stands the impressive marble statue of the river god Olganos in the figure of Alexander the Great. The "Wall of Memory" is an exhibition that includes a total of 190 tombstones, funerary and honor altars and marble sarcophagi dating from the 4th c. B.C. until the 4th c. A.D.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Archaeological Museum of Veria. **Open:** 12 months, every day except Tuesday, hours: 09:00-17:00.

GPS for parking: Archaeological Museum of Veria (Beroea), G6H4+MI Veria



Point 2: Dam of Aliakmonas River

The Aliakmonas River, an area of the Natura Network 2000 (GR1210002), the longest river in Greece, constitutes a source of life for the entire region of Imathia. The Aliakmonas River is a natural border that separates the two big mountains, the Mt Vermion and Pieria Mt, creating a unique picturesque landscape. The dam created the artificial lake of Agia Varvara, contributed to the smooth irrigation of the surrounding lands.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Opposite the parking, below the Bridge, is the entrance of the Dam. This point is the beginning of a riverside walkway, which in aprx. 2 km has two floating platforms.

GPS for parking: Close to "Haliakmon Dam Bridge", F7R4+32 Veria

Distance from the previous point: 6,2 km



Point 3: New Archaeological Museum of Aigai

Aigai was the capital city of the ancient Macedonian Kingdom. The Museum is located at the exact spot of where the Palace of King Phillip II and Alexander the Great used to be. The museum consists of indoor and outdoor exhibition areas, training and scientific rooms, maintenance laboratories, a virtual museum from the rise of Macedonia to Alexander the Great and many more.

HIGHLIGHTS:

New Museum of Aigai. **Open:** 12 months, every day except Tuesday, hours: 09:00-17:00.

GPS for parking: Polycentric Museum of Aigai (Aegae) Main Building, F8V4+HJ Vergina

Distance from the previous point: 4,9 km





Point 4: Palatitsia

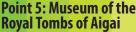
One of the oldest settlements of Imathia that was named after the nearby palace (palace) of Vergina (Aiges). The village is mentioned in writings of 1328. According to tradition, Apostle Paul spent a night in Palatitsia in his way from Veria to Athens. Close to the center of the settlement is the Holy Church of Agios (Saint) Demetrius, which was built in the 16th c. with 80% raw materials coming from the palace of Aigai.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Holy Church of Agios Demetrius (16th c.) outside and inside if it is open.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint Demetrius at Palatitsia, F8HP+9X Palatitsia

Distance from the previous point: 4,1 km



The Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai (UNESCO) is located at Vergina Village. It is an impressive underground construction; on the exterior it has the form of a clay tomb where the important findings and the exquisite frescoes, are exhibited. The treasures of the Royal Tombs exhibited next to the very same tombs provide a sense of the splendor of the city of Aigai during the years of its acme. Here is the magnificent tomb of Philip II as well as the famous golden urn and other valuable personal belongings of the great King of the Macedonians.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Museum of the Royal Tombs in Vergina. Open: 12 months, every day except Tuesday, hours: 09:00-17:00.

GPS for parking: Free Museum Parking, F8MC+RV Vergina **Distance from the previous point:** 4 km

Point 6: Kouloura

From Vergina to Veria, one can follow the road that passes through the village "Kouloura". This road crosses the plain of the ancient Macedonians. Kouloura is one of the oldest settlements in the plain of Imathia. It was destroyed in 1935 by a flood of Aliakmonas river. During the Balkan Wars, the 4th Infantry Regiment camped in the wider area, while during the WWI, French soldiers encamped in the churchyard.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The church of the village (1918) which is dedicated to Saint George (Agios Georgios) and the new majestic church of Saint George.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint George, G8V8+87 Kouloura

Distance from the previous point: 10,6 km

Return to Veria (12,1 km). End of ROUTE 1.











Route 2. Veria

Christian pilgrimage sites

Settlements: Veria, Rachia, Kastania, Georgianoi (Veria – Byzantine Museum, Rachia, Holy Monastery of Panagia Kallipetras, Kastania, Holy Monastery of Panagia Soumela, Georgianoi, Veria)

Total distance: 51,4 km. Duration of driving: 1 h 29 m.



Point 1: Byzantine Museum of Veria

The Byzantine Museum of Veria is housed in a majestic 1911 landmark industrial building known as the Mill of Mark, which is located close to the traditional district Kyriotissa next to the ancient town wall. The exhibits are housed in three floors, 720 sq.m. of total area and each floor has a separate exhibition theme. Icons, murals from churches and buildings of the region, mosaics, architectural sculptures, marble inscriptions, pottery and miniature art and coins, manuscripts, and burial findings compose the rare collection of the permanent exhibition.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Byzantine Museum of Veria. **Open:** 12 months, every day except Tuesday, hours: 09:00-17:00.

GPS for parking: Byzantine Museum of Veria (Beroea), G693+M9 Veria





Point 2: Rachia (2 stops)

The village of Rachi or Rachia is built southwest of Veria at a height of 400 meters. After the failure of the revolution of Naoussa in 1822 the village was destroyed. In 1916 French engineers surveyed the village to construct a new settlement for the refuges of Pontus. Nowadays, the village is considered an important place for recreation and sport activities for inhabitants of the area, enjoying the privileged view to Mountain Vermio and the lush fields of Imathia at the same time. Close to the settlement is the Holy Monastery of Kallipetra.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The bench of Aliakmonas River. One of the points with the best view to the mountains and the river on the way to the Holy Monastery of Kallipetra.

GPS for parking: Bench of Aliakmonas (Παγκάκι – Σημείο Θέασης Αλιάκμονα), F65C+FV Veria

Distance from the previous point: 8,9 km

Stop 2. The Monastery of Kallipetra also known as the monastery of the Macedonian Struggle is located next to Aliakmonas River in the region of Rachia. It is honoured at the birthplace of the Virgin Mary and the name Kallipetra (beautiful stone) derives from the rock that shades it. It is one of the oldest monasteries with the oldest indication of its existence traced back earlier than 1100 and provides wonderful view to the river of Aliakmonas.

GPS for parking: lera Moni Theotokou Kallipetras, F64F+99 Veria

Distance from the previous point: 1,6 km







Point 3: Kastania (2 stops)

Built at an altitude of 1,100 meters on the slopes of Mountain Vermio, the village of Kastania is one of the highest inhabited in the country. The village is perched literally in a magical location among firs, beeches, pines, walnuts and apples. The tall, massive chestnut trees that dominated the area until 1920 and gave their name to the settlement, were cut by the French troops during the WWI. The current inhabitants came from Pontus to be settled in Kastania in 1924.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The church of the settlement with the lovely bell tower, dedicated to St John the Baptist.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint John the Forerunner, C45C+7H Kastania

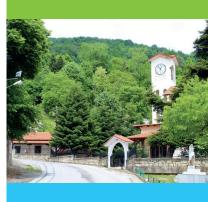
Distance from the previous point: 17,9 km

Stop 2. The Holy Monastery of Panagia Soumela is the spiritual center of Pontian Hellenism. This is an attempt to revive the famous Monastery of the same name, the ruins of which are still preserved on Mount Mela, near Trabzon of the region of Pontus. This initiative was undertaken by the Pontian Greeks, led by Filonas Ktenidis founder of the "Panagia Soumela" Foundation in 1950. In August of 1951, the icon of the Virgin Mary, painted by the Evangelist Luke himself, was transferred from the Byzantine Museum of Athens, where it was kept for years.

GPS for parking: Holy Monastery of the Virgin Mary Soumela, C458+XR Kastania

Distance from previous point: 2,4 km





Point 4: Georgianoi (2 stops)

The village of Geogrianoi is located at an altitude of 440 meters. The "Georgians" who were refuges from the area of Caucasus, founded the village in 1922. In the running waters of the village of Geogrianoi one can see or get excellent quality trout, fresh or smoked.

Stop 1. The parish church of Agios (Saint) George.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint George, F598+4H Georgianoi

Distance from the previous point: 11,7 km

Stop 2. The trout – fish farm.

GPS for parking: Fish Farm, F5PM+8H Veria **Distance from previous point:** 2,7 km

Return to Veria (5,7 km). End of ROUTE 2.

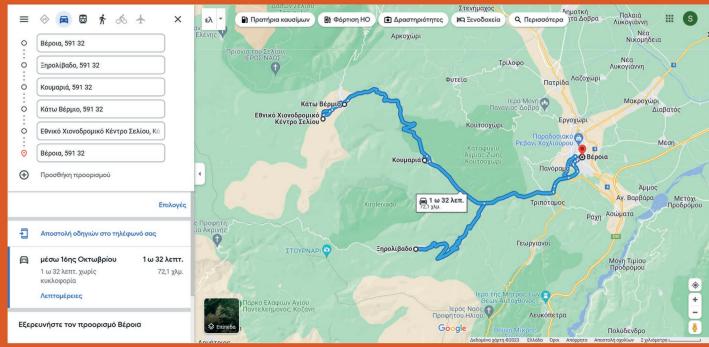


Route 3. Veria

The settlements of Mt Vermio

Settlements: Veria, Xirolivado, Koumaria, Kato Vermio (Veria, Xirolivado, Koumaria, Kato Vermio, Seli Ski Resort, Veria)

Total distance: 72,1 km. Duration of driving: 1 h 32 m.



Point 1: Veria

Northern of the city of Veria, through a stunning route we meet the villages of Xirolivado, Koumaria, Kato Vermio. On the mountain, there are more than 70 km of marked hiking E4 trails that make the mountain significant destination for hiking, climbing and mountain biking activities. During the summer period cultural, sport and religious events attract many visitors and tourists. Mountain Vermio also hosts on its slopes four mountain shelters and the oldest ski resort in Greece at Seli.



The village of Xirolivado is built at an altitude of 1,220 meters on a plateau of Mountain Vermio and is one of the highest settlements in Greece. The settlement is very old dating back to Byzantine times. It was destroyed several times and finally inhabited by farmers due to the pastures of the area, in 1840.

HIGHIGHTS:

Stop 1. The Holy Church of Elijah the Prophet and the view from it.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Elijah the Prophet, F39J+JC Xirolivado

Distance from the previous point: 18,9 km

Stop 2. The small lake next to the settlement that is formed during the summer months that the locals name it "Bara".

GPS parking σημείου: Cultural Center of Xirolivado, F38H+RC Xirolivado

Distance from the previous point: 550 m.







Point 3: Koumaria (2 stops)

The village of Koumaria is a small mountain village built around the end of the 19th century at an altitude of 750 meters. In Koumaria one can enjoy coolness during the hot summer months and picturesque walks in the snow in winter. In Koumaria someone can try local recipes in one of the reputable restaurants of the village and spend the night in its traditional hostels that are open all year round.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The Holy Church of Saint Nikolaos in the center of the settlement.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint Nicholas, G38P+WC Koumaria

Distance from the previous point: 15 km

Stop 2. The churches of Saint Nikolaos and Panagia with its unique grove.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of the Little Virgin Mary, G3CO+4V Koumaria

Distance from the previous point: 650 m.





Point 4: Kato Vermio (Seli)

Kato Vermio or Seli was founded in 1826 at an altitude of 1450 meters. Seli has a rich folklore tradition. It is considered as one of the top alpine destinations in the country thanks to National Ski Resort which is located just few kilometers away from the village as well as the birthplace of winter sports in Greece. In Seli, the visitors can dine in one of the traditional taverns and restaurants that operate all year-long tasting local recipes and they can spend the night in any of its chalets.

GPS for settlement's parking: Open-air parking, H22H+MF Kato Vermio

Distance from the previous point: 10 km

HIGHLIGHTS:

The central square and the Holy Church of Saint Apostles (H22G+5Q Kato Vermio).

The traditional houses on the street where the Folklore Museum of Seli is (G2XG+WM Kato Vermio)

The Holy Church of the dormition of the Virgin Mary (H23F+9X Kato Vermio).





Point 5: Seli Ski Resort

Seli Ski National Center at 1.900 mt was the first organized ski resort in Greece. It has been operating since 1934 when the first Pan — Hellenic Ski Competition was organized; for many years it was the only ski resort in Greece. It goes without saying that ski tradition in Greece started at Seli. The National Ski Resort has 17 ski tracks, 14 km of descent, various difficulty levels to meet the needs of each visitor. There are also 8 km of lang-lauf tracks and several snowboard tracks. The natural environment and the landscape worth a visit also in summertime.

GPS for parking: Parking LOT of the National Ski Resort of Seli, G2V7+VX Kato Vermio **Distance from the previous point:** 2,8 km

Return to Veria (25,1 km). End of ROUTE 3.



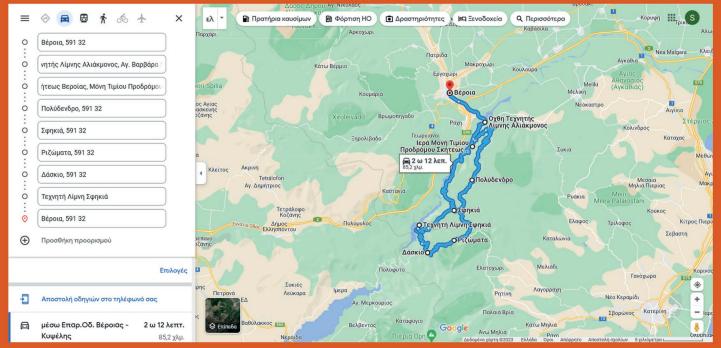


Route 4. Veria

The route of Aliakmonas River

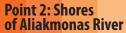
Settlements: Veria, Polydendri, Sfikia, Rizomata, Daskio (Veria, Shores of Aliakmonas River, Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist, Polydendri, Sfikia, Rizomata, Daskio, Artificial Lake of Loggas, Veria)

Total distance: 85,2 km. Duration of driving: 2 h 12 m.



Point 1: Veria

From Veria, this route goes to the northern slopes of the mountain of the Muses. At the point where Aliakmonas River separates Mountain Vermio from Pieria Mountains, at an altitude of 750 m. and parallel to the river, the villages Polydendri, Daskio, Rizomata and Sfikia are located. Just a few km further north, there is the «Logga» lake, one of the largest mountain lakes in the area with rich flora and fauna. In the greater area, some monuments, traces of ancient settlements and traditional buildings of folk architecture are saved until today.



According to the Greek mythology, Aliakmonas was one of the sons of Oceanus and Tethys. Pliny the Elder, the Roman author, confirmed an ancient tradition says that sheep that drank water from this river would turn their colour to white. Aliakmonas contains 33 kinds of fish and 215 kinds of birds have been observed. Along its shores, there are beautiful spots for walking or picnic.

HIGHIGHTS:

The shores of Aliakmonas artificial lake have wonderful view to the Dam.

GPS for parking: Shore of the Artificial Lake of Haliacmon, F7P5+92 Makedonis

Distance from the previous point: 6,6 km

Point 3: Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist

The Holy Monastery of St. John the Baptist —Skiti Veria is located after the dam of River Aliakmonas and parallel to the river. It is one of the most historical monasteries. In 1822 it was destroyed by the Ottomans and rebuilt until 1830. Valuable items and important relics are housed in the Monastery. A narrow path leads to the Holy Cave of St Gregorios Palamas and to a small waterfall.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Inside the Monastery. The Cave of St Gregorios Palamas. The peacocks at the entrance.

GPS for parking: Iera Moni Timiou Prodromou Skiteos Veroias. F650+7H Veria

Distance from the previous point: 6,5 km











Point 4: Polydendri (2 stops)

On the first semi-flat plateau on the north side of the Pieria Mountains, at an altitude of 760 meters, stands the village of Polydendri. The name fits the village because it is surrounded by wooded areas, built in a beautiful place with a nice climate, fresh mountain air and crystal-clear waters. Polydendri (or Polydendro) has famous taverns which are a pole of attraction for visitors.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The Holy Church of Agios (Saint) Athanasios and the remains of St Kosmas oak tree.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint Athanasius, C6FQ+2J Polydendro

Distance from the previous point: 15,5 km

Stop 2. Folklore Museum of Polydendri

The Folklore Museum of the Cultural Association of Polydendri was founded to save and disseminate the local Folk Tradition. It is housed in the renovated building of the Primary School of the 1920. There is a collection of useful objects and tools such as cooking utensils, household utensils, radios, typewriters, tools for agricultural and livestock work. (Tel. for pre-arranged visit: +30 6980 798941, +30 6978 870857, +30 6976 655713).

GPS for parking: Folklore Museum, C6CQ+38 Polydendro **Distance from the previous point:** 300 m.





Point 5: Sfikia (3 stops)

The village if located on the western slopes of the Pieria Mountains, at an altitude of 610m. In Sfikia village there was a large settlement of the Bronze Age and in various surrounding places there scattered extensive settlements, cemeteries and individual buildings of the classical Hellenistic and Roman times have been found.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The Holy Church of Saint George before the settlement.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint George, 96P4+XH Sfikia

Distance from the previous point: 7 χλμ.

Stop 2. The Holy Church of St Constantine and Helen (1919) in the settlement's central square.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saints Constantine and Helen, 96P5+98 Sfikia

Distance from the previous point: 240 m

Stop 3. The early Christian Basilicas of St. Dimitrios in Sfikia village with architectural remains from the 5th, the 12th, and the 13th century.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Saint Demetrios — Paleochristian Basilica B of Sphikia, 9695+F3 Sfikia

Distance from the previous point: 2,4 km





Point 6: Rizomata (2 stops)

The village is located on the western slopes of the Pieria Mountains, at an altitude of 600m.

From the top of the rock of Rizomata the visitor can enjoy the view of the beautiful village as well as the wonderful landscape offered by Mountain Vermio and Pieria Mountains. In the village of Rizomata but also in all the Pieria Mountains, the famous tomato "Rizomaton" is cultivated, the most delicious tomato in Greece.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The small stone Theater that hosts many and remarkable events.

GPS for parking: Small Theatre, 9659+89 Makedonis **Distance from the previous point:** 8,1 km

Stop 2. The Holy Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary in the center of the settlement.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, 9625+XQ Rizomata

Distance from the previous point: 1,2 km

Point 7: Daskio

It is located at an altitude of 630 meters in a beautiful natural environment. The natural environment that surrounds the village, the beautiful and imposing lake that stretches low of the first hills of Pieria, rightly classify Daskio in the most beautiful mountain parts of Macedonia. Daskio is one of the few places that still keep the customs and traditions so alive.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Watermill of Daskio, where one can see how a traditional watermill operated.

GPS for parking: Church of the Holy Trinity, 85PF+M8 Daskio (settlement's center).

Distance from the previous point: 5,9 km

Point 8: Artificial Lake "Loggas" (Sfikia)

A small oasis, rich in flora with its stone port, a haunt of fishermen and for those who want to spend a few moments of peace gazing at the wild ducks and enjoying the unique tsipouro of the area.

GPS for parking: Port of the lake 40.363402, 22.153657, 9573+9F7 Makedonis

Distance from the previous point: 6,2 km

Return to Veria (32,7 km). End of ROUTE 4.









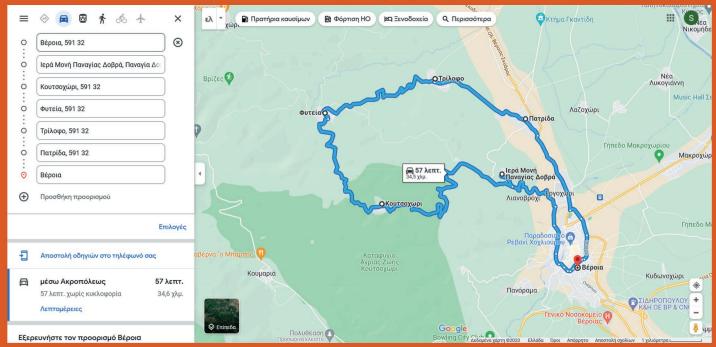


Route 5. Veria

The land of the vineyards

Settlements: Veria, Kostochori, Fitia, Trilofos, Patrida (Veria, Holy Monastery of Panagia Dovra, Fitia, Trilofos, Patrida, Veria)

Total distance: 34,6 km. Duration of driving: 57 m.



Point 1: Veria

Departure from Veria to the mountain of Vermio. This route is focusing on the vineyards of the area. The art of wine making is known since antiquity and the settlements of the region are famous for the quality of the produced wine and tsipouro.

Point 2: Holy Monastery of Panagia Dovra

The monastery is built between two hills in idyllic natural scenery surrounded by dense vegetation. The monastery was founded in the 12th c. and it is dedicated to the Assumption of Virgin Mary. It is one of the most ancient temples of the region. The monastery has been continuously operational by 1822. In 1995 the monastery was re-founded and now operates as a male monastery. The restoration of the monastery was accompanied by α radical renovation of the buildings, maintaining the old architectural style.



The Monastery from inside. The Holy Church of Saint Loukas. The Byzantine Art School.

GPS for parking: Iera Moni Panagias Dovra, G5WG+9Q Veria

Distance from the previous point: 5,9 km





Point 3: Fitia (2 stops)

The area of Fitia according to indications has been inhabited since antiquity. The village was called Tsornovo or Chernovo which means black wine (tserno vino) because of the dark red wine produced by its vineyards. The people of Fitia are still considered one of the best grape growers and wine makers in the area. During the revolution of 1821, the inhabitants of Fitia fought against the Ottomans. Nowadays, the village is popular culinary mountainous destination surrounded by a dense forest of oak, chestnut and beech trees.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The Church of St. Athanasios (a part that was saved from the old church) was declared in 1969 as a historical monument by the Greek state. On its walls there are frescoes of saints, with the most impressive being that of Saint Nestor.

GPS for parking: Holy Church of Agios Athanasius, H465+C6 Fitia

Distance from the previous point: 9,3 km

Stop 2. Explore the settlement from the central park of the settlement.

GPS for parking: Park of Fitia, H475+9C Fitia **Distance from the previous point:** 850 m.





Point 4: Trilofos (2 stops)

Trilofos is one of the oldest villages of Imathia. Many new settlements and cemeteries have been identified in the area, forming a dense network of archaeological sites dating from the Early Neolithic period to the post-Byzantine years. The cultivation of the vine is one of the important agricultural occupations of the local with the settlement to be well-known for its excellent wine and tsipouro production.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The "Thymiopoulos Vineyards". The winery specializes in producing wines from the variety Xinomavro in ten different versions. All the vineyards are farmed organically, following biodynamic practices selected after careful assessment of their impact on the vine.

Tel. for pre-arranged visit: +30 233 109 3604, +30 693 206 4161 GPS for parking: THYMIOPOULOS VINEYARDS, H4FX+J2 Trilofo

Distance from the previous point: 5,3 km

Stop 2. The "Kosmidis Winery." The family owns 100 acres of vineyards. It produced red wines from the varieties Syrah and Xinomavro and white wines from the Gewürztraminer and Asyrtiko. The Kosmidis family is in wine producing industry since 1926.

Tel. for pre-arranged visit: +30 23310 93243 & +30 6931 120165, +30 6974 752410

GPS for parking: Kosmidis Winery, H5C5+94 Trilofo **Distance from the previous point:** 1,1 km







Point 5: Patrida (2 stops)

The founder of the village is Efstathios Chorafas, after whom the cultural association of the village is named and on its site is the Monument of the Representation of the Uprooted. The inhabitants are mostly of Pontic origin, coming in 1921 from the village of the Caucasus region. The village developed very quickly and in 1926 the first agricultural cooperative was created with the main product being the peach.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stop 1. The "Marantidi Winery" is located in the center of the settlement. The family tradition of wine producing begun some decades ago. The wines and the tsipouro are produced by grapes cultivated in a private owned vineyard.

Tel. for pre-arranged visit: +30 23310 26668 & +30 6986 892630

GPS for parking: Winery Marantidis, H56P+6C Veria

Distance from the previous point: 3,2 km

Stop 2. The winery "Taralas Estate". The wine tradition of the Taralas family has deep roots in history, which began at the end of the 19th century. The family has more than 10 privately owned hectares that they cultivate. The wines are produced from the varieties of Xinomavro, Malagouzia, Pregnadi and Roditis. Tel. for pre-arranged visit: +30 23310 64474 & +30 6973 029499

GPS for parking: Taralas Estate, H547+MJ Dovras **Distance from the previous point:** 2,4 km

Return to Veria (8,5 km). End of ROUTE 5.









HOW TO USE THE "Veria - 5 Urban Centers Self-Drive Itineraries" GUIDE:

- The devises or the car need to be equipped with a GPS application. Search the points by name or by GPS coordinates.
- All routes are circular. Each route can start from any point. A point can be skipped or be replaced with another which is close and is referred in another route.
- All settlements of cities, towns or villages are inhabited. The larger ones have shops, pharmacies, café and restaurants.
- The best time to visit Monasteries and Holy Churches is from 10:00 am to 13:00 pm.
- •The visitors can design their own itinerary combining point of interest from different suggested Routes or add new points of interest according to information provided on the web site of the Municipality of Veria: www.discoververia.gr
- Information about accommodation, restaurants, entertainment and other travel services is provided on the web site of the Municipality of Veria:

http://en.discoververia.gr/organize-your-trip-to-veria/





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