one city...
many destinations
MUNICIPALITY OF IOANNINA INFO
FACTS AND FIGURES

About Ioannina
Ioannina is the Capital City and the largest in the Epirus Prefecture (North-West part of Greece). The City is built on the bank of Pamvotis Lake (500 m. altitude). The Municipality of Ioannina, has a population of 120,000 inhabitants, an airport, a University with 30,000 students, two hospitals, a sufficient hospitality capacity (more than 206 hotels in the Ioannina County //total: 6,721 beds, 2012 data) as well as a qualitative business-tourism infrastructure. Ioannina is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in Greece, with an important course in the nation’s history and multicultural characteristics. Modern buildings and shopping centers coexist with the well preserved historic landmark buildings, the imposing monuments, the popular-silver art workshops, the picturesque neighborhoods and alleys, the lakefront walkways and the large squares. Ioannina also has a large and thriving academic community which brings a lively and creative dynamism to the city. Daily life in the city is full of intellectual and artistic events. During the year, there are also important sports events, mainly held at lake Pamvotis.

Ioannina County is an area where visitors can combine both mountain landscape and water foundations, in a close distance of the Ionian Sea coasts with the famous blue flags beaches. The multicultural scenery with the innumerable historic monuments (including the first ancient Greek theatre of Dodoni), museums with exquisite objects, documents and treasures, the Castle and the Historic – Traditional Town Centre, the Island in the lake with the exceptional byzantine monasteries together with the extraordinary famous Perama Cave, is a guarantee for every type of visitor.

The surrounding area includes the famous Zagori, Konitsa, Metsovo, Tzoumerka etc., which construct a network of beautiful traditional villages that spread all over the mountains around the city. During the last decade, the city of Ioannina as well as its surroundings have become a favourite and promising tourist destination in Greece, offering many forms of alternative touristic options like sport activities (skiing, rafting, hiking, biking, climbing, sailing, paragliding, etc.), cultural and religion pathways and routes, as well as relaxing city break escapes. All these together with the exclusive gastronomic tastes offered in the area (Traditional Epirotic cuisine with top quality dairy, meat-poultry, fish, herb and spices, products and spirits), the qualitative level of entertainment and the intense nightlife, develop an exceptional atmosphere.
Experience a world where Jewish, Muslims and Christians have been meeting trading and mixing over the centuries against the breathtaking backdrop of a castle town that evokes the spirit of a distant past. Take a romantic stroll along the Old Town’s picturesque perfect neighborhoods expanding around the Castle (Siaráva, Kourmánio, Yialí Kafénó, Anxartisias) and gaze at the well preserved edifices and monuments, the beautiful squares and the folk art workshops that produce the famous Ioánnina silverware. As you enter one of the largest castle towns in Greece through its monumental gates, you will encounter two acropolises, “Epano Goulas” with Ashlan Pasha Mosque and Its-Kale Akropolis, where the Fetihé Mosque built by Ali Pashá during the Turkish occupation lies. Within the Castle are the **Municipality Museum** and the **Byzantine Museum**

**The Archaeological Museum** - located in 'Litharitsa Park' located just opposite the Town Hall. The museum contains many artifacts unearthed in the surrounding area such as Palaeolithic tools, the ruins of **Dodoni** and ancient cemeteries such as Vitsa and the Oracle of Acheron. The museum also has many inscriptions, headstones, and a collection of coins.

**Take a small boat** and visit the isle of Ioánnina, in the northeastern part of the city's lake. There, a colorful settlement with traditional buildings and historic monasteries inhabited by 150 people will embrace all your senses.

**Get acquainted with the modern** part of the city through walking along Michail Aggelou - Harilaou Trikoupi - 28th October, Áverof and Aneksartísias streets that create a bustling commercial town centre with market brand stores and traditional shops. **The Art Aficionados** should definitely pay a visit to the **Folk Art museum and the Municipality's Art Gallery**. In the city there is also a plethora of grand mansions (Pyríniála, Misiou, Despoti, Tzavella) that now house museums, libraries and civil services.

**Must also visit** the famous **Perama Cave** with the prehistoric findings, only 3km far from the city.
Dodoni, 21 km SW, a famous archaeological site near the village of Dodonoupoli (Mandres), on the foot of the Tomaros Mountain. The famous oracle of ancient Dodoni, which was a centre of worship for Zeus, was built adjacent to one of the most ancient chthonic sanctuums (the Earth was worshiped here since 2600 B.C.). The priestesses interpreted Zeus 'oracles from the rustle of the sacred oak tree’s leaves and from the pigeons’ flight. The renowned ancient theatre of Dodoni is one of antiquity’s largest, with 55 rows of seats and a capacity of 18,000. The theatre was built in the 3rd century B.C. under Pyrrhus, king of the Molossians, who united the Epirus tribes and brought great prosperity to the region.

Vrellis’ Greek History Wax Museum - Bizani village, 12 km from the city of Ioannina. The creation of all exterior spaces and buildings, the interior formations, and the wax effigies exposed, are the handiwork of the sculptor Paul Vrellis.

The serenity of Lake Pamvotis will weave a powerful spell over you... like a stunning mirror of outstanding natural beauty; Lake Pamvotis reflects the splendor of the surrounding landscape in its waters. To take in the most breathtaking view of the lake and the city alike you have to reach the village of Ligíades, on the slopes of Mitsikeli, opposite Ioánnina, ideally when the sun sets. Alternatively one may choose to follow a romantic biking route around the lake; go rowing, sailing or trekking through exhilarating mountain paths.

Don’t miss the opportunity to visit Zagori, a complex of 46 picturesque traditional villages built in a magical setting amidst pine and fir trees with a unique traditional architecture, impressive stone mansions, water fountains – rivers and undulating, natural forest surroundings.

Ioánnina is also the gateway to the Vikos-Aoós National Park (Unesco) is fast becoming one of Greece’s most happening cities. It’s a bustling commercial and cultural centre, and home to nearly 30,000 energetic university students who give it a fair amount of nightlife. The city is also becoming a real treat for epicureans, with plenty of fine food and drink on offer.

Taste: Don’t leave the city unless you have tasted the local traditional desserts ‘yianniotikos baklavas’-‘kataifi’ and ‘yianniotiko loukoumi’ and or indulge in sweet-smelling tsipouro together with the locals. All over the city and the wider region one can taste traditional gastronomic treasures as well as other inspired and fruitful cuisines’ like Italian and French combined with Greek color.

Accommodation: The city boasts an excellent tourist infrastructure! From family run pensions and excellent small boutique hotels to elegant ***** luxury hotels, a variety of lavish sanctuaries will infuse a romantic atmosphere all over you...
Wine cultivation in the County of ioannina, particularly in the cases of varieties destined to wine making, dates back to the 16th century. The “ZITSA” wine cultivation area, which includes six communities, thanks to the tradition and reputation it had in wine making from old times, has been characterized as an area with "Appellation d’ Ori-gine de Qualite Superieure" wines. It is a privilege placing the region’s wine among those of high quality. The composition and relief of the terrain, the elevation between 600 and 700 meters, the weather conditions and the uniqueness of the white variety of Debina grapes give to the renowned wine of the region a rich and fine aroma, a smooth and pleasant taste.

Silversmith craft in Ioannina has its roots in the depths of time it has recorded an important growth from the times of Despot of Epirus onwards. The greatest flourishing was marked in the 18th and 19th century. The Ioannina jewels and utensils, offer a warm human optical impression, rendered in a particular fine and elegant dimension. The silversmith workshops presently operating at Ioannina continue the tradition, creating hand-made products of high artistic and aesthetic perfection, worth of their glorious past.

SEASONALITY FACTS

The Ioannina County has a great potential to be a place for all year – round fun, relaxation and adventure. During Autumn and Winter, resort guests and day use visitors can spend holiday and vacation time in a unique environment that offers a wide variety of skiing opportunities like Heliskiing & Free-ride, downhill skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, active and passive recreation, as well as leisure activities.

Spring and Summer in the area also offers an array of stunning landscapes as well, lush and wild flora, rare wildlife, running rivers, tranquil lakes and big blue skies. This gorgeous setting presents countless opportunities through for city breaks, gastronomic pleasures, relaxing and unique sightseeing, wander walks through tradition and history as well as outdoor fun and adventure, including Hiking, Horseback riding, Rafting, Sailing, Biking, Canoeing, Lake Water sports, river and lake Fishing, Hunting, Camping, activities in nature and much more.

REACHING IOANNINA

By Plane: There are two flights from Athens to Ioannina International Airport per day offered by Olympic Airways.

By Road: The town is 410 km. from Athens and 290 km. from Thessaloniki. Through the newly developed Eg natia highway the driving distance from the city of Thessaloniki to Ioannina is only 2hours drive.

Port: Igoumenitsa’s Port is currently the third port in size in Greece but considered as no1 as far as the country commercial access. It is situated in the northwest part of mainland Epirus, opposite Corfu Island (18 nautical miles) and very close to the borders between Greece and Albania. It lies also 92 km. (half an hour) away from Ioannina. The geographical position of the port turned the city of Igoumenitsa into the most important commercial harbour of Northwest Greece.
’Ioannina is a multicultural city with exceptional natural beauty of landscape, built on the bank of Pamvotis lake, offering many leisure opportunities. Historic & religious monuments, museums with traditional and unique exhibits, the Castle, the Island, walks in the Old City, the Market with the silverware shops as well as the alternative tourism activities options combined with exquisite gastronomic cuisine and intense nightlife, compose a promising tourist destination for all.’

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