

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!



Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

By Floriane

The site of **Meteora**, these impressive rocky peaks, which host monasteries on their top, is a sublime site to see at least once in his life and it is one of our favorites of our 3 months in Greece. Come and explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Meteora in Kalambaka** .

We give you below all **our practical advices** to enjoy 100% this exceptional site, time of visit, opening hours, what to see and what to do ? as well as how to get to Meteora from **Athens** and **Thessaloniki**... We wish you a nice visit to this magical place!

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

Sommaire détaillé

- [Where are the Meteora in Greece?](#)
- [What to see and do in Meteora?](#)
- [How to visit the monasteries of Meteora?](#)
 - [How much time is required?](#)
 - [What are the visiting hours?](#)
 - [Which monasteries to see in Meteora?](#)
 - [Where to buy tickets?](#)
 - [How to visit Meteora on foot?](#)
 - [What are the best photo and sunset spots?](#)
 - [How to dress during your visit?](#)
- [Where to sleep in Meteora?](#)
- [Where to eat and drink in rooftop ?](#)
- [Our good addresses on our map](#)
- [How to come to Meteora, to Kalambaka?](#)

Where are the Meteora in Greece?

The famous site of meteors is located in mainland Greece, in the region of Thessaly, in the north of the country. The town at the foot of the site is called **Kalambaka**, it is located 3 hours from the city of **Thessaloniki** and 4 hours from **Athens**.

What to see and do in Meteora?

The meteors are a set of rocks on which monasteries were built, today **6 are open to visitors**. If you stay only a few days, it is very difficult to visit all of them because each monastery has its own closing days and they are not the same for all of them (otherwise it would be too easy for the visitors!).

It is not very complex to plan a visit in advance. The advantage is that no matter what day of the week it is, you will always find one open. We were able to visit 2 of them and we went to the many viewpoints to enjoy beautiful panoramas of this site.

□ *Where to sleep: [Alexiou Hotel](#) is a renovated hotel at the foot of the Meteora mountains, ideal for being the first to visit the monasteries.*

A mysterious place

You will certainly have heard a lot about it before coming to Greece, indeed, it is a fairy tale place, almost unique in the world, since several rocky masses, straight out of **a science-fiction movie**, will rise in front of you with monasteries perched on top.

The first **hermits** came to settle in this place where serenity reigns, nevertheless the mystery still persists as to how the constructions were made.

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

How to visit the monasteries of Meteora?

How much time is required?

We advise you to devote at least **2 days to the visit of the sites**, to visit at least

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

one monastery then to take time to admire this incredible decoration, several places are arranged to allow you to contemplate the site in its totality.

Also note that as each monastery is perched on top of its rock, access is after climbing a certain number of steps so you may not want to do more than 2 in the same day.

You can either visit the site by **car**, free parking is available in front of each monastery, by **bus** from Kalambaka, or by foot (we will talk about this below).

What are the visiting hours?

Each monastery has **its own closing days**, generally **2 days of affiliation**, and its own schedule. By the way, in winter, they close very early (around 3pm) and some even close for a short period.

For example, for our part, we stayed 5 days on the spot, because we had to wait for the opening of the Grand Meteora which reopened after 3 weeks of closure and we had time, otherwise we would not have stayed so long.

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

Which monasteries to see in Meteora?

In Meteora, you can see and visit the following 6 monasteries:

1. Monastery of the Great Meteor
2. Monastery of Agios Nikolaos Anapavsas
3. Monastery of Varlaam
4. Monastery of Roussanou
5. Monastery of Agia Triada
6. Monastery of Agios Stephanos

We visited the **Varlaam Monastery**, climbing many steps before arriving in a lovely little courtyard with a beautiful little church featuring lovely frescoes (photos inside are not allowed.).

It culminates at more than 380 meters above the plain, it is supposed to offer the most spectacular view, nevertheless, we could not enjoy the superb view, because the weather was very foggy. Feel free to leave a comment if the view is really worth it!

Then we also visited the **Great Meteor**, located just across the street, it is the largest and most visited, its name helps sell it well, in any case, we wanted to see

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

the BIG Meteor.

It will be necessary once again to climb many steps, all this effort is rewarded once in the enclosure of the monastery, it is a very rich and complete visit. The different areas and terraces are all interesting to visit, and the omnipresent wood brings warmth to the place.

As it is the most visited we advise you to go there **early in the morning** to avoid being in the middle of tourist buses.

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

Where to buy tickets?

Tickets cost just a few euros and can be purchased directly from the ticket office at the entrance to each monastery (approx. €5 per monastery).

□ **Remember to have enough change on you** □

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

because, of course, credit cards are not accepted. Believe us, you won't want to turn back after climbing all the steps.

We were missing a few cents when we arrived, the person at the counter let us in anyway, she must have felt a little sorry for us with our daughter in portage.

→ If you'd like to get an in-depth understanding of the size of the site, you can opt for a guided tour that includes visits to several monasteries. All costs are included, and your local guide will be waiting for you at the site entrance.

How to visit Meteora on foot?

To visit Meteora **on foot**, a nice and easy path starts from the town of Kalambaka, you will reach the first monastery after 20 minutes. All the monasteries are next door to each other, and **a single road** links them all, so you won't get lost.

What are the best photo and sunset spots?

You have several spots to take from pretty, on the side of the road, we have indicated on the map below, our two favorite places, offering a beautiful unobstructed view of the site and with a small parking lot located next to. We advise you to go there at the end of the day to make beautiful photographs during the golden hours, the site is even more mysterious at the end of the day.

How to dress during your visit?

To visit the monasteries of Meteora, you will have to cover your shoulders and legs. We advise you to put some scarves in your bag, as the ones offered on site are not free. It's always a shame to buy something you're almost certain not to use again.

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

Where to sleep in Meteora?

We advise you to spend at least one night in the city of Thessaloniki or in Athens and back, as the round trip is a bit long in one day.

Some friends joined us from France to visit this part of Greece with us, so we left our camper for a few nights to sleep in an accommodation that could accommodate us all.

You can either stay in **Kastraki** (a small village of 1000 inhabitants), rather dead in the off season or in Kalambaka. We **recommend that you spend the night in Kalambaka**, so that you can enjoy the many restaurants and cafés the town has to offer after your visit to the site.

□ **Our favorite** : [Alexiou Hotel](#) a **renovated hotel**, nicely decorated, which is why we chose it, as many hotels in this area are a little outdated, at the foot of the Meteora, ideally placed to enjoy the **town of Kalamka** and especially to get to the **Meteora easily**.

The staff will give you good advice on visiting the monasteries. Large parking lot (we parked our camper for several nights) free and nearby.

[Top-rated accommodations in Meteora](#)

Where to eat and drink in rooftop ?

We advise you to prepare or buy your sandwiches if you wish to eat on the site, or to go back down to Kalambaka town. Here are our good addresses in **Kalambaka**, found by us, tested and approved:

- **[Fell the Rock](#)**The restaurant has a modern decor (a nice touch, as it's not always easy to find in Greece) and offers a variety of dishes (burger, pizza...). Honestly, the most of this address is its roof top, from which you have a beautiful view on the meteors. We advise you to go there for **a** drink.
- **Taksimi Taverne**: this is a **typical** little **taverna**, offering well-cooked **Greek specialties** at excellent value for money. And the staff is adorable. We went there because it is extremely well rated on Google, we were absolutely not disappointed.
- **Mekras Bakerhouse**: a good bakery to fill up before exploring the site!

What not to do to keep the kids busy while waiting for our dishes!

Our good addresses on our map

How to come to Meteora, to Kalambaka?

From Athens

The Meteora site is located at the foot of the town of **Kalambaka, 3 hours from the city of Thessaloniki and 4 hours from Athens**. It is one of the most visited sites in mainland Greece, so it is easily accessible from both cities. There are several options available to you:

- **By vehicle:** we opted for this option, count 4 hours of driving to reach the meteor site from Athens. The route is not exciting, with a large part on fast lanes and highways. We were there in low season so we could easily park in Kalambaka near our hotel and in the different parking lots at each monastery.

How to rent a car in Greece

After testing a number of comparators, **[Discover Cars](#) has clearly become our favorite site** for comparing car rental prices. The site aggregates offers from hundreds of rental companies, allowing you to quickly identify the best rate according to your criteria.

This filter lets you check at a glance :

- the amount of the security deposit
- type of bank card accepted (debit or credit)
- what's really included in insurance
- customer reviews for each rental company

For example, we found a car **from €30 per day** at [Athens airport](#).

☐ [Our complete guide to renting a car for your road trip in Greece](#)

☐ [Compare Athens car rental deals easily at DiscoverCars](#)

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

- **By public transport:** several **buses** and **trains** make the journey daily, count 3h30 - 4h of journey so if you wish to make the round trip in the day we advise you to take the first departures which leave around 7h.
- **Excursion from Athens:** if you'd like to visit the meteor site without having to worry about organization, you can book an "all-inclusive" excursion (pick-up from your hotel, bus or train journey, bus to the meteor site, entrance tickets to the monasteries and **English-speaking guide** on site).
[Book your pick-up excursion from Athens](#)

Two-day excursion to Delphi and Meteora from Athens: If you want to see the two emblematic sites of Greece in two days, you can inquire about this [excursion](#).

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

From Thessaloniki

- **By vehicle:** we also made this trip, count 3 hours of road to reach the site of the meteors from Thessaloniki (we left the meteors to reach the city of Thessaloniki). It's good roads again with a good portion of expressway and highway.
- **By public transport:** several **buses** and **trains** make the journey daily, count 3h30 - 4h of journey (with connection) so if you wish to make the round trip in the day we advise you once again to take the first departures which leave around 7h.
- **Excursion from Thessaloniki:** as from Athens, if you'd like to visit the meteor site without having to worry about organization, you can [book an "all-inclusive" excursion](#) (pick-up from your hotel, bus or train journey, bus to the meteor site, entrance tickets to the monasteries and **guide** on site).

After visiting the Peloponnese, the city of Athenes, the [archaeological site of Delphi, Olympia](#) and Meteora, we're off to explore the region of Thessaloniki.

We loved writing this article to take us back to the visit and our photos.

Feel free to leave us a **note** below to let us know if you are planning this trip, **ask**

Visit Meteora in Greece: everything you need to know!

any questions or **share** on social media, [our Instagram](#), we will answer you with great pleasure! If you liked this article, please rate it with 5 stars below.

Donnez une note à cet article :
2 avis (5/5)

Merci de partager notre article :

- [Share on X \(Opens in new window\) X](#)
- [Share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\) Facebook](#)
- [Share on Pinterest \(Opens in new window\) Pinterest](#)
- [Share on WhatsApp \(Opens in new window\) WhatsApp](#)
- [More](#)