Click Here



```
I'm here to tell you why you MUST put visiting Meteora, Greece to the top of your bucket list! Since we've visited, I've waxed lyrical about its amazingness to anyone and everyone. Truth be told, we loved Meteora so much that we actually considered having our wedding here. We did, in the end, get married in Cinque Terre, Italy but only because we
wanted to be by the sea when we said our vows. Anyways, Meteora, Greece, is one of the most unique and memorable places we've visited. It's home to six, very photos don't even do this place justice! Out of the 50 countries we've been to, Meteora is in
our top 5 favorites. Now, that's a bold statement as we've been to some seriously amazing places! We hope this detailed blog post will inspire you to go off the beaten track a little and plan a visit Meteora, Greece - before it becomes the next big thing in travel. It sure is wow-worthy enough to be at the top of everyone's bucket list! It's crazy to think
how they built the monasteries! Our top tips for visiting Meteora: The dress code for the monasteries can be quite strict. For example, women are required to wear long skirts/ dresses and cover their shoulders. And men should not wear shorts. The entrance fee for each monasteries can be quite strict. For example, women are required to wear long skirts/ dresses and cover their shoulders.
June or September (our recommended months). Stay in the area for at least two nights, as realistically you will only be able to see 3 monasteries per day. This is because of their opening hours. Meteora is so unique! Yes, visiting Meteora is 100% worth it - it's one of the most unique destinations in all of Greece! There are six mountaintop monasteries
in Meteora and every one of them is worth visiting. Around 60 monks and nuns live in these monasteries which are built atop super-tall sandstone pillars. What a unique place to live! All of the monasteries are so photogenic and hold so much history! The history of Meteora is fascinating. Meteora and its surrounding areas were originally settled by
monks who lived in little caves in the rocks way back in the 11th century. As an invasion from the Turkish army looked imminent, these monks climbed higher up the rock face. Until they reached the inaccessible peak at the top. Here, through no easy feat, they managed to build the first monasteries. They actually brought all the building materials up
using ladders and ropes with baskets at the end. When the Turkish did finally invade, the Meteora monasteries became the academic and artistic centres for locals. Save this for later! There are six active monasteries in Meteora today,
all are connected by road or pathways. So, provided you start your day early enough you can see them all in one day. But, be mindful of their opening hours as they are all different! Me posing in front of the Holy Trinity! Hol
movie 'For Your Eyes Only'. To get to the Holy Trinity you must walk up 140 steps, this can be slow-moving on a busy day. Here, you can view the pulley system which was how the monks accessed the monastery hundreds of years ago. When you see it, you'll wonder how they managed it. I would assume they weren't afraid of heights! OPENING
HOURS | Holy Trinity is only open between 10 am - 4 pm every day except Thursday. Varlaam Monastery! Varlaam is the second-largest monastery in Meteora and was founded in 1517 by two brothers. It has lots of hidden nooks and crannies to explore, which means you can easily escape the crowds here. Varlaam also features a small but interesting
museum where you can learn all about the history of Meteora. As well as the museum, there are loads of other sections you can explore like the hospital and the kitchen. This is probably the poster child for Meteora, it's definitely the most eye-catching considering its size and the fact it sits precipitously on the edge of the rock! OPENING HOURS |
Varlaam is open between 9 am - 4 pm. It is closed every Friday. The garden is lovely! Founded way back in 1545, in 1988 it was converted to a convent of all the monasteries in Meteora. An important note, you can't take photos inside the convent but you can snap photos
outside. There's a lovely, colorful garden here which the nuns tend to. OPENING HOURS | It is open between 9 am - 4:30 pm. It is closed on Wednesdays. The view from Great Meteoron! Also known as Metamorphosis, it is the highest and most-visited monastery in Meteora. Interestingly, a Serbian Emperor named Uros became a monk and gave this
monastery all his wealth. This resulted in Megalo Meteoro becoming the wealthiest monasteries open from 9 am - 3 pm. It is closed on Tuesdays. The steps up! One of the smaller monasteries in Meteora, Agios Nikolaos, was built in the
16th century. We found that a lot of the tour buses seemed to skip here, so we had the place pretty much to ourselves. One of the selling points of this less-popular monastery is the small church which has beautiful murals painted on the walls and a lovely patio area with fantastic views of the surrounding landscape. Only one monk lives here
permanently and you'll often see him manning the ticket desk at the entrance. OPENING HOURS | Open daily from 9 am - 5 pm. It is open every day. The entrance to St Stephen's Nunnery! Agios Stefanos is a convent with one of the best views of the Meteora valley below. There is uncertainty on when Agios Stefanos was built, but it is estimated
around 1798. It was converted to a convent in 1961. It is easily accessible (not many steps leading up to it like other monasteries) and as a result the tour buses seem to love it. One of the most fascinating aspects of this monastery is the bullet holes that still adorn many of the exterior walls. OPENING HOURS | Open every day from 9 am - 1:30 pm
and again from 3:30 - 5:30 pm. It is closed on Mondays. Us on our tour of the Meteora monasteries! June and October are the best months for visiting Meteora! Our visit to Meteora was in mid-June, which worked well for us. Temperature-wise it was hot but not unbearably so. It can get very hot in July and August. Mid-June is also a little quieter than
other summer months as it is not quite peak season in Europe yet. A lot of tourism to Meteora is from Europe, so I would avoid the school holiday period (mid-July to the end of August) if possible. A friend of ours visited in late October. We saw his photos, and the beautiful fall colors made a stunning backdrop to the monasteries. It is a lot quieter in
October, and you can find some great hotel deals at this time. Walking to the monasteries in Meteora! Depending on where in Greece is your starting point, I would say visiting Meteora is to get to Meteora is to get the direct train
from Athens to Kalabaka. This takes 5 hours and can cost up to €30. This was how we departed Meteora and uncrowded. But bear in mind the train itself to be clean and uncrowded. But bear in mind the train fare). As this is a full-day tour
it's ideal if you're short on time and can't spend the night in Meteora. Because we were on a 6-week backpacking trip through Greece (including the tiny island of Syros and super-famous Santorini) we found our way to Meteora the less-popular way. We got the ferry from Corfu to Igoumenitsa, which takes approximately an hour and a half. From
Igoumenitsa, we hopped on a KTEL bus to Ioannina as we heard it was a cool university town. Ioannina had a really cool vibe, and it was cheaper than most of our other stops. In fact, we regretted not spending the night here. From Ioannina, we got the bus
to Kalabaka, which is the closest large town to Meteora. We did have to change buses in Trikala. All in all the journey took 3 hours 15 minutes. For all those buses the total cost was approximately €20. A very cheap way of getting to Meteora! For planning your routes to and from Meteora, we highly recommend the website Rome to Rio! The pool at
Hotel Meteora, where we stayed! We stayed at the gorgeous Hotel into the town of Kastraki, and it was honestly the nicest accommodation we had in Greece. It has 63 rooms, a pool, and the most epic view of the Meteora rocks. We didn't want to leave. It was a short walk from the hotel into the town of Kastraki, but be sure to bring a torch as the path is
unlit. However, most evenings there are fireflies to light your path home - magical! Our room at Hotel and Only Yours Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first light hit the Meteora included breakfast and we sat by the pool every morning watching the first li
options in Kastraki and in the larger town of Kalabaka. Kastraki town is next to Meteora! I recommend allowing at least two full days for visiting Meteora. That way, you'll be able to book an awesome tour, like the sunset tour we did for one of the days. And then, visit the monasteries on your own the next day and take your time in each one. If you
have the time, stay for 4 nights in Meteora, like we did. It was perfect for us as it wasn't rushed, and it enabled us to enjoy a full day at the gorgeous pool at our hotel (Hotel Meteora) and have lunch and dinner in the lovely town of Kastraki nearby. Me on our sunset tour! We booked a sunset tour of the monasteries and we highly highly recommend it.
Not only did we get to see all six famous monasteries, two of which you can go inside and explore. FYI, the monasteries are closed on certain days. We also visited the Byzantine Church of the Virgin Mary - a bit of a hidden gem place in Meteora. The cherry on top of
the cake for us on this tour was getting to watch the sunset at the best spot in Meteora. We did so with a beer in hand. Our guides were so knowledgeable with many having grown up in the area. You can BOOK the sunset tour we did here! The sunset was magical on the tour! Another tour recommendation: You can book a half-day guided tour of all
the monasteries in a luxury vehicle, departure is from Kalabaka. It's 4 hours long and costs just €35. If you don't plan on spending the night in Meteora (although I highly recommend staying here if you can) you can book a full-day guided tour from Athens or from Thessaloniki. Prices start from €81 for these two tours. But please keep in mind that
they involve a lot of time in the bus as the drive from Athens to Meteora is 4 hours each way! The hiking trail from Kastraki! If you want, you can visit the Meteora monasteries without a tour. Which is what we did the day after our sunset tour. There is a hiking trail from Kastraki town, but it is very steep in some parts. Thus, we recommend being of
reasonable fitness. There's also a longer trail loop that starts in Kalabaka, but this is over 18 km long and will take around 5 hours to complete! Alternatively, you can catch a public bus to the road that the monasteries are located on, however, the departure times vary by day
and month - so, it's best to enquire about this with your accommodation when you arrive. The steps can be tough to some monasteries! The climb to each Meteora monasteries! The climb to each Meteora monasteries! The climb to each Meteora monasteries in difficulty. For example, The Great Meteora monasteries is a climb to each Meteora monasteries.
Nunnery) is one of the easiest to reach as there are very little steps leading to it. My favorite monastery in Meteora (and the most-visited) - Holy Trinity involves a steep-ish climb of 140 steps. Cute street in Kastraki! The view outside of town Thankfully, there are lots of authentic Greek restaurants a short drive from the monasteries in the small town
of Kastraki - here, we loved Stefanos Meteora Tavern and Restaurant Batalogianni. A longer drive away in the larger town of Kalabaka, some of our favorite restaurants included Elias Garden & Restaurant Meteora. And there you have it, a short snippet into our time in Meteora, Greece. We spent 3 nights here at one of the nicest hotels we've ever
stayed in and, honestly if we had more time in Greece, we could have easily spent a week in Meteora. It truly is a destination you should add to your bucket list. While you're here, you may also enjoy reading our other Europe blogs, like - 11 Epic Things to do in Santorini in the Summer (2024 Guide) Best activities in Cinque Terre (5 best things to do)
much non-stop since 2011 and visited 50 countries! Categories Select Category Africa Australia Belize Bucket List Destinations Canada Central America Cinque Terre Cuba Dubai El Salvador England Essential Information Europe Greece Guatemala Hong Kong India Ireland Italy Lanzarote New Zealand North America Portugal Pregnancy Queenstown
Santorini South East Asia Spain Sri Lanka Sydney Taipei Turkey Uncategorized Vancouver Vietnam Wales Whistler This post may contain affiliate links. This means that if you click a link, we may make a small commission off any subsequent purchase, at no extra cost to you. For more information, please check our privacy policy. Due to its tucked
away position in the very center of Greece's mainland, Meteora is a bit out of the way, especially when you compare it to other sites closer to Athens that are more obvious stops for a day trip, like Cape Sounion or even Delphi. But I'd argue that Meteora is definitely worth a visit, for an overnight or two if possible, but it's equally worthwhile as a day
trip for the time-strapped visitor. If you're not sure if Meteora is worth visiting, here are 5 reasons we think the answer to "is it worth visiting Meteora" is (almost always) yes! Is it Worth Visiting Meteora is worth visiting Meteora.
crowds!) I went to Meteora in January and it was exquisite. There had just been a snowstorm all over Thessaly and Macedonia, and as a result, the landscape was dusted in a glittery white snow that made the monasteries even more beautiful. Add this to the fact that there were almost no other tourists - maybe one or two other small minivans full of
day trippers - made Meteora all the more magical. Meanwhile, Stephanie went to Meteora in October, and she found it not to be too crowded and well worth it as well. However, we have both heard from various tour guides in Greece that Meteora can be a bit of a nightmare in summer. Tour buses park everywhere, making getting in and out of
monasteries difficult; if you've rented a car, parking is all but impossible. Lots of people climbing the steep monastery steps (what, did you think there was an elevator? Well, there is, but it's really just a rope-and-pulley system across a ravine, and definitely not for tourists...) If you truly want to visit Meteora and your Greece trip is during high-season
(June to August), you should go anyway, but you should be aware that it'll be quite crowded and it may dull the magic a bit. If you're wondering if Meteora is worth visiting in the off-season.... well, I'll let my winter in Meteora bhoto essay do the talking. It's really easy to get there on a day trip About a 3-hour drive from either Athens or Thessaloniki.
Meteora is a worthwhile day trip, despite the long travel times While Meteora looks to be out of the way, in reality, it's an easy day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities: Thessaloniki and Athens. I visited Meteora on a day trip from two of the most popular mainland Greece cities and the most popular mainlan
(a rental car would also work, but try the Greek train system on a day trip at your own sanity's peril...) I'll link to both the tours we did at the end of this post, so you can book for yourself if I've convinced you that Meteora is worth visiting! While certainly, we could have enjoyed a bit more time around Meteora, enjoying the scenery and visiting more
monasteries, we both found that one day was plenty when it came to taking in the sights, not getting monastery fatigue, and still getting a good overall impression of Meteora on a day trip from Athens That said, while Stephanie and I both visited Meteora on a day
trip from different cities in Greece, there are plenty of people who plan to stay in the area around Meteora for a few days and explore the area around Meteora is phenomenal for people who plan to stay in the area around Meteora for all its magic and wonder
(and get to see several sunrises and sunsets too — a major plus for photographers, and something that we didn't get to experience as day-trippers). Other activities near Meteora include rafting, Jeep excursions, canyoning, and more, so if you're looking for an active side to your Greece trip, it's a fantastic place to stop. The landscape is like something
out of Avatar The landscape is like something from a make-believe planet! You may have an odd sense of deja vu when arriving in Meteora — it's been used as a film backdrop in several movies, from Game of Thrones (where it was digitally rendered to be the Eyrie) to the James Bond movie For Your Eyes Only. When arriving in Meteora, I was
shocked at just how beautiful it was. I'd dare say the landscape outshines the monasteries. Here, rock formation of these pillars is fascinating from a geological perspective, so I highly suggested at just how beautiful it was. I'd dare say the landscape outshines the monasteries. Here, rock formation of these pillars is fascinating from the earth, which made it even more otherworldly. The formation of these pillars is fascinating from the earth, which made it even more otherworldly.
visiting Meteora with a guide who can elaborate on how this landscape formed over many millions of years; I can't hope to describe it properly with my lack of scientific vocabulary, but it's a fascinating history. And the monasteries is exquisite! But of course, the real reason why
you're visiting Meteora is not just to see its otherworldly landscape but its monasteries for which the landscape but its monasteries dates back to 1344, when a monk from Mount Athos brought his followers to Meteora, where he later founded Meteoron Monastery about a decade later. They built it on a rock
where they could control access to the monastery, by drawing up the long ladder whenever political issues reared their head. And that would happen sooner rather than later: Turkish forces continually raided northern Greece, and the Byzantine Empire began to form the cracks in its foundation that would eventually be its undoing, when the
Ottomans later took over all of Greece. However, due to their inaccessibility and their inaccessibility and their inaccessibility and their monasteries fell into disrepair or disuse. Six
Thessaloniki or Athens. It takes about 3 hours in each direction from either city. Contrary to what you'd expect, taking a group shuttle tour is actually more economical than taking public transportation, as trains in Greece can be a little pricy. In Thessaloniki, I took this exact guided tour to Meteora. You can read my full write-up here. Stephanie took
a guided tour when she visited from Athens a few years ago, which is similar in terms of time and what it offers, but it departs from Athens. This is the tour she recommends for seeing Meteora from Athens. This is the tour she recommends for seeing Meteora from Athens. Greece Travel Resources Here are a few things to know before coming to Greece. First, you can read our article on planning a trip to Greece to
make sure you've thought about each of the travel planning steps on our eleven-point checklist. Second, if you're planning to explore the islands as part of your trip here, we have recommendations in our Greek island hopping guide and our Greek destinations guide. Basing yourself in Athens? You'll want to read our tips for safety in Athens, our
recommendations for where to stay in Athens (or our related post on Athens hotels with Acropolis, and our favorite Instagram spots in Athens. Or will you be based out of Thessaloniki in winter, or Thessaloniki cafes. Don't Forget Travel
Insurance! Finally, make sure you always travel to Greece or anywhere in Europe with a valid travel insurance policy. Greece is a very safe place to travel insurance, I use World Nomads. I've been a happy customer of
theirs for almost three years, and I'm happy to refer them to anyone I meet. Get a travel insurance quote for your trip here. Since the first time I saw Meteora it has been near the top of my bucket list. I found it hard to fathom such a stunning place was in fact real. The opportunity came last September to finally prove it with a short trip to Northern
Greece. My plan was visiting on a self guided tour and these are the best travel tips from my Meteora is a series of monasteries. Why Visiting Meteora is a series of monasteries are an operose creation of monks, and their internal beauty belies their location. It's
rocks were formed some 60 million years ago, when a series of movements pushed the seabed upwards. This created a high plateau with a series of fault lines. The rocks are a mixture of sandstone and conglomerate. The area was first settled by monks around the 11th century looking for solitude and with time the concept of the monasteries grew
With the threat of the Ottomans the monks retreated higher and higher in defence and eventually the first monastery Great Meteoron was constructed. At one time 24 monasteries stood atop the rocks in its golden era. If you are wondering is visiting Meteoron was constructed. At one time 24 monasteries stood atop the rocks in its golden era. If you are wondering is visiting Meteoron was constructed. At one time 24 monasteries stood atop the rocks in its golden era. If you are wondering is visiting Meteoron was constructed.
means I may receive a commission if you click a link and purchase something that I have recommended. While clicking these links won't cost you any money, it will help keep this site going and me travelling. Thank you for your support. Visiting Meteora Meteora Monasteries opening schedules My research suggested there was some difficulty in
seeing all the monasteries, due to the fact that at least one of them is closed every day of the week. Some careful planning later and I worked out a schedule to see all six. Or at least give it a shot. If you pay particular attention to the opening times of the various Meteora monasteries, then it's easy to work around. One monastery is always closed on
alternating days so it's not possible to do all in one day. Opening times very between high and low season, and makes it much more difficult to achieve come winter. The best time to visit Meteora then is from April to May, or September to October, when temperatures are bearable. St Stephens Nunnery Opening Hours: 9:00 to 13:30 and 15:30 to
17:30. The monastery is closed on Mondays. Grand Meteoron Monastery Opening Hours: 09:00 to 15:00. The monastery is closed on Wednesdays. Varlaam Monastery Opening Hours: 09:00 to 16:00. The monastery is closed on Sundays. The monastery is closed on Wednesdays. Varlaam Monastery Opening Hours: 09:00 to 16:00. The monastery is closed on Sundays.
Athens. The Athens to Meteora train runs from Syntagma station, taking around 4 hours, but also sometimes requiring a change at Paleofarsalos. Driving the 350 km from Athens takes in the region of 4 hours as well. Public transport to Kalambaka from Thessaloniki is serviced by rail. Trains run from the New Railway Station and can take anywhere
from 3 to 4 hours and often involving a change at Paleofarsalos. . I in fact spent three nights in Meteora, using it as a base to explore the surrounding area. My international flight brought me to Thessaloniki and after picking up my rental car a 3 hour and 238 km trek across the country saw me arrive in Kalabaka just after 6 pm on a Monday. You can
also visit Meteora Monasteries by full day private tour from Athens or by train tour. Sunset Rock I figured I immediately had no time to waste in my Meteora sightseeing and so set out for the landmark known as sunset rock. As you may have guessed it's a good place to watch a sunset was at 715 but with the mountains surrounding it was
closer to 7. I arrived just on time to the rock. Sunset rock is a huge outcrop that can be walked out along, with dramatic drops on three sides. It is not for those with limited mobility, and unquestionably not for those with vertigo either. I felt nervous just standing there and watching people moving it's edges. And it's here you want to be to see the
famous Meteora sunset. I'll be honest it's a challenging shoot as the sun is still high in the sky as it sets behind the mountains to the west. To get in the sky, sun, mountains to the temples and valley below, involves a lot of trial and error. But it's a stunning sight and wonderful introduction to Meteora. The views from Sunset Rock Kalabaka As a base
for Meteora, the many hotel options in Kalabaka are the perfect solution. Most staff here are English speaking. It's also a great location to find Meteora tours. The town is more than just a base though. Not to be missed are; Hellenic Culture Museum; which contains the collection of Mr. Pavlos Balogiannis and dedicated to the history of Greek
education and learning; Natural History Museum: a dead zoo collection of local wildlife and a unique mushroom museum; The Digital Projection Centre; a 3-D guide through the mythology and monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries of MeteoraPrivate Tour offering a full day trip to see the monasteries o
time over the days I spent in Kalabaka, to explore the town too. But its too much story for this blog. You'll find all that over on my Kalambaka (otherwise known as Kalambaka) and checked into my comfortable budget accommodation at Mythos Guesthouse, before enjoying
a Moussaka and beer at the aptly named Restaurant Meteora. Greek cuisine is a personal favourite of mine. I fell asleep listening to the sound of a singing local family, who were apparently preparing for a wedding that week. Greece\'s top accommodation @ At breakfast the next morning I met my host Spiros, a cheerful guy indeed. On the subject of
the monasteries he said realistically I could probably only do three in a day. Very few people it seems try to see all six. Challenge accepted! I was provided with a nice illustrated map that my hotel provided for visiting Meteora, and I set out to prove Spiros wrong that day and do five. With breakfast served at 8, I was on my way to the first of my
monasteries before 9. First up was a hiking tour from Kalambaka to Meteora and the trail that led up to Holy Trinity Monastery. A neat little hand drawn map with suggestions to visit Meteora What is the Dress Code to Visit Meteora What is the Dre
required. Ladies a long skirt or trousers is needed. Basically shoulders and knees can't be seen, these amount to temptation apparently. If you wish to enter but don't meet the dress requirements then you will be issued with something to wear. I for one would not want to have to wear that skirt, so I dressed for the occasion. Holy Trinity Monastery
elected to take the hike rather than drive from Kalabaka up to the first monastery. The path is accessible behind the Holy Temple of the Dormiton of the Virgin Mary. I couldn't resist the urge to visit some churches along the way though. The first was a more modern Byzantine church called St Vissarion's Church and bearing in mind that no
photography is allowed in any of the monastery churches, this is therefore the perfect place to capture some of that art. With my distractions out of the way I now joined the rock path up to the Holy Trinity Monastery. This monastery is famed in particular for its appearance in the James Bond 1981 movie For Your Eyes Only. The path from hotel to
monastery was tough enough and has without a doubt quite a few hundred steps. Add that to the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the left The monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the left The monastery with the monastery with the left The monastery with the monastery with the pulley system to the left The monastery with the left The monastery with the monastery with the left The monastery with the monastery with the left The monastery with the left The monastery with the left The monastery with the monastery with the left The monastery with
century paintings. Looking back this was probably my least favourite of all the monasteries and the one which I would least recommend. It was an introduction to the pulley system through which all of the monasteries were previously accessed. The drop over the edge was dizzying. I would not be doing that ride. It was a wise idea to add all those
steps in the 1920's. The net from the pulley used to carry people and things up I was really hoping I didn't drop my phone To the rear though is a yard and path that extends to the edge of the rock. It's worth a clamber over the rocks to the cross and the scary as hell drop down to Kalabaka. Leaving the monastery you can subsequently continue on to
the circular Meteora road and a hike to the different monasteries, starting with the nearby Monastery of St Stephen. I however had left my car at the hotel, so back down, and a well shaped stick now became my trusted best friend. Landing on your butt or back is a
sure fire way to ruin a holiday (It happened on my last day in Thessaloniki, so I consider myself an expert on this). Bring hiking poles if you plan to take the road from Kalabaka, the quickest route heading North-West through Kastraki village sees you first and
foremost arrive at the monastery of St Nicholas Anapafsas. Parking outside, the monastery is 80 metres above on the rocks. Yes it means more steps. Along with the 150 that lead inside. This monastery is built on a small
rock so has the unique structure of being built up. It's a three storey monastery, with a small chapel on the bottom floor, followed by a communal seating area. I was intrigued to find some monks here deep in discussion about theology. Or perhaps football, I couldn't understand. Access to the church with the fantastic murals was also here, and to the
rear a patio area with beautiful views. Meteora landscape from St Nicholas Monastery But perhaps my greatest fascination with this monastery is with the fact it was built by two monks in the 16th century, and is even kind enough
to give a postcard with his photo on it. Legend. The sole monk who now lives here, and works the cash desk. Following your visit, do walk up along the road if driving as the views back to the monastery are worthwhile. The best view of St Nicholas Monastery Roussanou Monastery With the steady increase in elevation, not only do the views get more
spectacular but so too do the monasteries. Roussanou was founded in 1545 by two brothers, but has since been converted into a nunnery in 1988. It is the largest of any of the monasteries I had yet encountered. If travelling by foot a path leads from sunset rock direct to here and is also a handy shortcut if you need it. Roussanou is impressive. It
stands right on the roadside, as a massive hunk of rock descends upwards, to where it is perched. Nevertheless it looks like it could roll over at any minute. Ascending the prerequisite 150 steps you arrive to the top of a rock, but not the one where the monastery sits. That is reached by a bridge. Below a colourful garden of flowers and crops grows.
It's something that in particular impressed me in this stark countryside, how the monks and nuns had cultivated the harsh land here to be fertile. a bridge lets you enter the monastery The nuns are strict within, and are quick to remind anyone raising a camera that this is indeed a holy place and photos are prohibited. That is, with the exception of the
open outdoor area, where the views are impressive as anywhere when visiting Meteora. one of the best panoramas in the hills The Byzantine church was the first to really impress me too. With two rooms the art was exemplary, and would set the standard for the three monasteries that would follow. The art follows the same ideology in all, with Jesus
at the top of the cupola surrounded by the apostles, prophets and angels. But it's the other room that caught my eye, the walls here were a series bible scenes of depictions of executions, decapitations, amputations and bodily disfigurations that I don't know the word too. It's all rather dark, morbid and completely fascinating. My favourite is the to me
unknown monster who seems to be eating souls. Fascinating. A postcard of the inside of the church Another showing the many scenes of death on the church walls It was only just past noon, and I'd covered three monasteries and walked 10km. It was looking good for my ambition. After a refueling stop at a taberna in Kastraki, I was powered on by a
delicious Greek Salad. Varlaam Monastery Varlaam would prove to be my favourite. First of all there's the location, at the highest point of the road circling the Meteora. From a distance it is the most aesthetic and characteristic of all them. The views from the car park ranked best of all on my scorecards too. And that's before I even stepped inside.
Varlaam from the distance across an expanse Views from Varlaam Views from Varlaam Warlaam was formed in 1542 by two brothers from the town of Ioannina. The church, a collection of three rooms, features reliefs from Frago Catelano, and are as sumptuously decorated as any in all the monasteries. Interestingly the net is still preserved that
carried the monks up the cliff face. It was this net and rope that was referred to, in which the monks claimed they would use it until it was god's will to have it replaced. Needless to say that means. If your time is up, it's up. The net carried everything up a staggering 373 metres. I guess this is where those vertical drop
amusement rides got their inspiration. Varlaam was easily the biggest of the monasteries that I had thus far seen. Besides the aforementioned church there are a large number of visitable rooms, from the kitchen to the hospital, and the old refectory has been converted to a museum. And quite the museum too, featuring vestments and religious relics
from over the centuries. But it's greatest horde are it's bibles and bible covers. All are elegantly decorated and a great exhibit of engraving and calligraphy. The monastery also has in its possession a 16th century wooden barrel, still preserved and a great indication of the craftsmanship of the monks. It is said it was used to contain water. Personally
thought it would be fantastic for wine. Elegantly decorated in flowers and centred on a pagoda. It's the monastery is a spectacular balcony, decorated in flowers and centred on a pagoda. It's the monastery at Meteora then I
implore you to make it Varlaam. But why come all this way for just one. Varlaam from the courtyard The colourful courtyard and pagoda of Varlaam Agios Stefanos Monastery And so I had clocked up four and yet it was only approaching 3pm. I applauded myself on my planning and set off for the final monastery open on the day, Agios Stefanos or St
Stephans Monastery. It was only opening at 3 anyway so my plan was to perfection. I stopped on a few hard shoulders along the way to admire the view, before finally arriving. A large crowd had amassed here so perhaps this wasn't the ideal time to visit. One plus side was an English tour I found on site, and I inadvertently learned a little bit from
them. The monastery is not accessed by steps like the others but by a bridge, making it the only monastery suitable for wheelchairs and those with impaired movement. It was founded in 1545 by Hosios Antonios and Hosios Philotheos. In 1961 the monastery became a convent as nuns moved in. The convent has in fact two cathedrals owing to the
older one being damaged by wars of the 20th Century. Bullet holes still grace it's walls. Interestingly the artwork of the church is still being painstakingly restored, and it was an eye opener to see how the artists were working in tight cramped spaces. From the back of the monastery there is again an exhilarating drop and this time the view is of the
town of Kalambaka, stretching to the mountains beyond. Kalambaka below Sunsets while Visiting Meteora: Part 2 With time on my hands I did some more exploring of the area searching from the remnants of the some 24 monasteries that once stood in this area. The sun would set around 7pm again that evening so I set off again subsequently to catch
that magical sunset. This time I choose the unnamed rock not far from sunset rock. It's about 5 minutes walk in the direction of Great Meteoron. I also came armed with a more diverse range of techniques. I think the results turned out better. Do not miss the sunset in this location. Success- my favourite What a place! Great Meteoron Even though it
would have been possible to see Great Meteoron on the Wednesday and depart the area with all 6 monasteries seen, I was instead sidetracked by a trip to the excellent Vikos Gorge. So on the Thursday morning, I awoke with the plan of completing the set. The first and largest of the monasteries, Great Meteoron. Meteoron of course means floating in
Stephan's monastery, there are 250 here. Much like Varlaam, here there is a number of museums, one of the religious relics, another dedicated to the period of war. A display on the skills of the monasteries coopers is excellent, and its kitchen also very
beautiful. Its church is also quite stunning with the wonderful art you have come to expect by now. Meteoron and the zigzag steps that reach there The beautiful preserved kitchen Art to the rear of the church of the Transfiguration of Jesus The stonework of the buildings is a gorgeous colour Perhaps I was all monaster-ied out, but as yet I preferred.
Varlaam. The most stunning sight of Great Meteora, and the one that perhaps will last longest in my memory. Conclusion on visiting Meteora and all six monasteries If you have two days on your
hands then visiting all six is very much a possibility on a Meteora self guide tour. Just time a visit well and choose your monasteries wisely. Then strap on comfortable shoes, long pants, and witness this wonder of nature and man. If you are inspired or simply enjoyed this blog, I would appreciate a share on social media or a pin. Visiting Meteora
 Visiting Meteora April 25, 2024 April 25, 2024 April 25, 2024 Asher X Meteora is a place you have likely seen and marvelled at during some time in your life. Located in Greece, this rock formation is home to one of the most beautiful monastery complexes in the world. With its imposing pillars, gigantic boulders and intricate churches, it's no wonder that visitors
keep coming back to Meteora. Quite simply put, it is one of the best places I've visited in all my travels. Most will Meteora during summer, but what is Meteora during summer, but what is Meteora during winter. Want to
follow in our footsteps and visit Meteora "Meteora" translates to "suspended in the air" or "in the heavens", and so it certainly is a fitting location for the striking holy monasteries that encompass the entire area. The first hermit
monks arrived in Meteora around the 11th century, seeking complete solitude and spiritual isolation. Today, you can still see the outside of these hermit caves (though not all tours will include this on their itinerary, but my tour did) and imagine the remarkable lives these monks had. Over the 14th and 15th centuries, the monasteries of Meteora
expanded and continued to be built upon these are Great Meteoron, Vaarlam Monastery, Rousanou Monastery, Rousanou Monastery, Rousanou Monastery, Rousanou Monastery, Rousanou Monastery, St. Nicholas Anapafsas Monastery, Rousanou Monastery, Rousano
holiest places in Greece when it comes to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Meteora is located near the picturesque town of Kalambaka, and although worth visiting and exploring in its own right, those short on time will likely try to visit from the more popular cities of Athens, the capital, or Thessaloniki. It's possible to rent a car and visit Meteora
yourself independently, but we wouldn't recommend this option because of the sheer length of the drive. From Athens, driving to Meteora takes over 4 hours, non-stop. From Thessaloniki, the drive takes about 3 hours. Plus, parking is difficult to find around the area. Therefore, we think the best way to visit Meteora is by guided tour. By choosing a
reputable tour, your transport will all be handled seamlessly. Plus, Meteora is a place with such religious and historic significance that I think having a tour guide will really enhance the overall experience. I don't think this applies to all places, but Meteora is definitely a destination that I would recommend hiring a guide for. This is the tour we did:
Full Day Meteora & Hermit Caves Tour From Athens. We chose this tour based on the volume of near-perfect reviews, and the fact that they also include stops that other itineraries often neglect (e.g. the hermit caves, the village of Kastraki, various viewpoints for photography). The tour was absolutely excellent - it was a long day but undeniably great.
My guide was super friendly, patient and unbelievable knowledgeable. If you're looking for a tour of Meteora using public transport? Yes, you can get to Meteora using public transport but it's a little inconvenient. Usually, you'd be able to take a 4-5 hour train from Athens Larissa
Railway Station to Kalambaka Station. From Kalambaka Station, you would then take a local bus service that would usually take you to the monasteries. However, as of January 2024, the railway infrastructure that would usually take you to the monasteries.
the train was not an option. Meteora is always pretty crowded (deservedly so, it really is that stunning), but the crowds definitely dwindle by the time winter visit. The space in the monasteries is pretty tight, so this lack of crowding is very much
appreciated and welcomed! Honestly, visually speaking, there isn't that much difference with how Meteora looks in the winter compared to the summer. You still get the same magnificent rock formations, same impressive mountains in the background and same monasteries. The only difference is that you might a blanket of snow cover Meteora in the
peak of winter (around January), in which case the entire area turns into a gorgeous winter wonderland. Although the temperature is colder in the winter - in general - winter is mild at Meteora, and the rest of Greece for that matter. During my
visit, I only wore a moderate hoodie and long pants, and that was enough to keep me warm. So what are some potential disadvantages of visiting Meteora in the winter? Well, there are a few, but these definitely aren't dealbreakers. Shorter sunlight and opening hours Between November to March, different monasteries shorten their opening times to
varying degrees. For example, the Holy Monastery of Great Meteoron moves its opening time backwards by half an hour, and closes an hour earlier at 2pm. Some monasteries, such as the Holy Trinity Monastery don't change their opening time backwards by half an hour, and closes an hour earlier at 2pm. Some monasteries, such as the Holy Trinity Monastery don't change their opening times at all. This can be a bit of an inconvenience when planning as it obviously means you have less time to visit
the monasteries. Furthermore, the sun sets a lot quicker during the winter is a less busy time in general to visit Meteora, with one exception - holiday
season. This is around the time between Christmas and the first week of January. As is usually the case in pretty much any tourist destination, this is a busy time for Meteora and it's unlikely that you'll have the monasteries to yourself. Meteora's official winter season is between November 1 to March 31. If you had the choice, I would recommend
visiting either in November or March because of milder weather. However, we visited in December and still found it to be a great experience. What is the Meteora dress code? Meteora follows a strict dress code, so please remember this before leaving your accommodation. Men: Required to wear long pants. Sleeveless shirts are
prohibited. Women: Long skirts are a must, and shoulders must be covered. Other: To be on the safe side, generally wear something that pretty much covers your knees and shoulders. Yes, Meteora is definitely worth visiting in the winter. Visiting was truly an unforgettable experience I'll never forget, and I had the added benefit of not having as much
of a crowd at the monasteries too. A lot of my positive experience is attributed to the fantastic tour company I went with, Visit Meteora, check out their Official Website, Planning to visit Meteora and
want to know more? Let me know in the comments below! Follow me on Instagram! April 25, 2024/ Asher X/ To many, a trip to Greece is all about the ancient city of Athens and the country's most spellbinding destinations, Meteora. Hidden
among the mountains of Thessaly, Meteora is both naturally and historically fascinating, thanks to its unique rock formations and monasteries teetering on narrow pillars of rock. Follow these Meteora travel tips to make sure you don't miss a thing. To fully
appreciate why Meteora is so special, you need a little context on what it is and how it came to be. Meteora is a place of unusual topography as well as an important historical and religious site. It's the interplay of these features that make it such a unique destination. Meteora is defined by a series of large rock pillars. These pillars give the area its
name: "Meteora" roughly translates to "suspended in the air." While some stand entirely on their own, others work with the ordinary hillside to form valleys, creating an unpredictable landscape. This landscape alone would be a draw for tourists, but what really makes Meteora special is that the cliffs of many of these rocks are home to Greek
Orthodox monasteries from the Middle Ages. Built in such a remote place to avoid the invading Turks, the monasteries across Meteora, but only six remain active. These six monasteries, along with their monks and nuns, are what visitors come to see in Meteora. David
Johnston / travelsewhere.net Positioned right in the middle of Greece, away from many of the country's other major destinations, Meteora isn't the most convenient place to reach. Although that may limit your options for how to travel there from Athens
or Thessaloniki. Recommendation: If you don't have much time in Greece, consider visiting Meteora on a guided day trip, such as this day tours from Athens or Thessaloniki. To reach Meteora from Athens, you can take a regional train to the town of Kalabaka, which sits at the foot of the beautiful Meteora rocks. The direct train leaves from Athens
once a day and makes the journey in less than five hours. There are also a few slower trains from both Athens and Thessaloniki that connects Athens to Kalabaka and takes roughly the same time. Of course, you could always rent a car and drive yourself to Meteora. This is not only the
quickest option, but also allows you to shape your itinerary as you'd like. For the best rental prices, check out Rentalcars.com. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Since Meteora covers a surprisingly expansive area, it's important for you to work out how you'll get around there. The right option for you depends on how much time you have there and
how you prefer to sightsee. For your first trip to Meteora, decide whether you'll mainly get around by taking a tour, driving, or walking. If you have a huge selection of guided tours here, from a full-day tour of the monasteries to a
four-hour tour that just shows you the best sunset spots. There are also activity tours for visitors interested in photography, food, or even rock climbing. The two most popular tours are the Panoramic Meteora and Monasteries Tour, and the Majestic Sunset Tour. The first is in the morning and the second in the evening, so you can join both of them on
the same day to get the most out of your time in Meteora. You'll find roads winding around the monasteries and experience the incredible sunset from the famous Adrachti Pillar. You'll find roads winding around the monasteries without much hassle. Each
monastery has its own parking lot, as do some of the scenic lookouts. While it's the slowest way to see Meteora, hiking is the best way to see this part of Greece. Hiking trails starting at Kastraki and Kalabaka weave through the countryside up to each of the monasteries. They get quite steep, and you'll occasionally need to follow the roadside, but
you'll see far more of Meteora on foot than you could any other way. Recommendation: If you don't feel confident enough to venture out on your own, consider this amazing five-hour hiking tour of Meteora. Time of year is one of the most important factors to consider when you're planning a trip to Meteora. How you choose to get around and how
much you like dealing with other tourists will determine the best time for you. Located in the country's mountainous center, Meteora is considerably cooler than Greece's islands. That means it experiences milder summers than the south, so hiking around in the heat isn't that bad. Still, summer is peak season for Greece, so the small monasteries can
easily become crowded. There are much fewer tourists in winter, when Meteora's temperatures can drop below freezing. It's also harder to find places to stay and eat, as many businesses close for the offseason. As with many destinations, shoulder season (spring or fall) is a great time to visit Meteora. With more manageable tourist numbers, you
won't feel crowded and should find the weather comfortable. Even better is seeing the landscape of Meteora as well as restaurants and other
services. Essentially, your choice of location comes down to two areas: the town of Kalabaka and the neighboring village of Kastraki. They sit at opposite sides of the main monasteries of Meteora, so you can drive or walk from either. It's only about 2 kilometers from the center of one to the other, so it's also easy to get between the two towns. As the
larger of the two, Kalabaka has more accommodations and restaurants, and it's where both the bus and train arrive. Kastraki, on the other hand, is a small village with a quaint atmosphere. You'll still find quite a few restaurants here and plenty of accommodation options, but you'll have to make your way over from the bus or train station in Kalabaka.
For a resort-like setting, treat yourself to the four-star Divani Meteora Hotel in Kalabaka. With multiple pools and recreational facilities, attentive staff, and clean, stylish rooms, this grand hotel makes a great base for a Meteora visit. A nice midrange option is Tsikeli Boutique Hotel. This beautiful three-star hotel has style in spades, not to mention
views of the epic surrounding scenery. It's in a quiet part of Kastraki but still not far from the heart of the village. One of the few budget options around Meteora is The Holy Rock Hostel. This relatively new hostel offers the cheapest beds in Kalabaka, helpful staff, and great facilities such as a kitchen and common areas. While there are no places to
get food up by the monasteries, you'll find a great selection of restaurants in Kalabaka and Kastraki, which tends to stick to traditional Greek restaurants. In either town, you can expect plenty of Greek staples, such as grilled meats, saganaki appetizers, salads, and abundant
vegetables. All of this goes best with Greek wine, including some local varieties. One great place to visit is Taverna Xarama, a traditional Greek restaurant halfway between Kastraki and Kalabaka. Not only is the food good, but you have a good chance of being serenaded with a guitar, courtesy of the family that owns the tavern. Another place to
consider is Taverna Gardenia in the center of Kastraki, which has tasty souvlakis. One of the best travel tips for Meteora is to hike if you can, as this allows you to see not only the monasteries, but also get to see the
beautiful features of the forest, from trickling streams to small viewpoints. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Hiking in Meteora generally means alternating between following the main road and taking trails through the forest to the monasteries. While the trails are steep at times, you don't need to be a champion hiker to tackle them. To give
yourself plenty of time to hike, you should plan to stay at least two days in Meteora. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net The best route from Kalabaka starts at the northernmost point of town. The narrow dirt track takes you out past olive groves before you climb up to the Monastery of the Holy Trinity. If you start from Kastraki, you'll take the main
road leaving the village to the northeast, which will bring you to the Monastery of St. Nicholas of Anapafsas. The hiking trails are pretty well outlined, though it's not always clear as to exactly where they lead. To avoid getting lost, grab a map of Meteora, which most of the area's hotels and tour operators give away for free. Some places provide more
detailed hiking maps, but you'll need to pay for them, and they may not be necessary. Another option is to download maps onto your phone, ensuring you'll always know where you are. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net No travel tips for visiting Meteora are complete without talking about each of the six active monasteries, the area's main focus.
Sure, there are some other landmarks and sights, but you come to Meteora to see the monasteries and how they fit into this remarkable landscape. The other things to do here are really just cherries on top for those who have a little extra time. How much time you should give yourself in Meteora depends largely on how you'll get around. If you take a
guided tour or drive yourself, you could see all the highlights in one day. Hiking is best done over two days, though, so that you aren't rushed and can explore a little further. You'll need to pay an entrance fee of €3 (about $3.28) per adult - anyone older than 12 - at each of the main monasteries. While this small price is well worth it, you might want
to pick only a few to enter if you have a big group and a tight budget or little time. We've covered the main six (and then some) here to help you decide whether to explore them all. As the oldest and largest of the Meteora monasteries, the Monastery of Great Meteoron is an impressive sight. Though it doesn't sit quite as precariously as the other
```

monasteries, its stone ribbon of stairs and countless buildings make it seem more like a fortified village than a monastery, you'll be treated not only to views of Meteora's history. The museum is a great place to start your Meteora visit, as it provides some context on the places you'll be visiting. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Not far from Great Meteoron is the next-largest monastery, Varlaam. Built in the 16th century, this wonderfully preserved monastery is almost like a palace with its pristine architecture. It houses a church, refectory, and chapels full of religious icons, not to mention the most monks of any of the Meteora monasteries. Sitting roughly in the middle of the monasteries, Rousanou is Meteora's most photographed monasteries. Sitting roughly in the middle of the monasteries, Rousanou is Meteora's most photographed monasteries. monastery was rebuilt and is now an active convent. David Johnston / travelsewhere.net Likely the lowest-lying monastery of St. Nicholas of Anapafsas looks almost like it grew from the stone pillar it sits upon. It's hard to see where the rock ends and the monastery begins. Inside is an ornate chapel (which doesn't allow photography, sadly), a little bell tower, and a rooftop viewing terrace, which really only has views of Kastraki and the Monastery of Rousanou due to its low vantage point. The most isolated and hardest to reach of the Meteora monasteries is the Monastery of the Holy Trinity, which sits alone on a stone island and requires a climb up 140 stairs to enter it. This monastery has received multiple renovations over the years, but it remains pristinely picturesque with awesome views out over Kalabaka. In fact, it was a filming location for the 1981 James Bond movie For Your Eyes Only. Oleg Znamenskiy / shutterstock.com Just across a valley from the Monastery of the Holy Trinity lies the last of the big six, the Monastery of St. Stephen. This is the most accessible monastery in Meteora, with no stairs necessary to reach it. In the main chapel and cathedral, you can find lingering reminders of the damage inflicted during the Greek Civil War on this now-convent. Across the landscape of Meteora, you'll likely see the ruins of several other monasteries. They aren't really accessible today and are generally far away from the famous ones. For example, the Monastery of Ypapanti is closed to the public but still visibly wedged into the cliff face. For a full panoramic view of Meteora, visit the scenic viewpoint roughly halfway between the Rousanou and Holy Trinity monasteries. With a small parking lot right off the main road, it's easy to spot. Fitting all of Meteora's splendor into a single shot is tricky, but this lookout gives you your best chance. Another place to go to admire the rocks and boulders of Meteora's skinniest rocks. Surrounded by the hills of the region, it's an atmospheric spot and easy to reach if you walk east out of Kastraki past the Byzantine Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary. That about does it for our tips for traveling to Meteora. You should now be amply prepared to visit this magical destination and fall further in love with Greece. Meteora and its monasteries were on my bucket list for a few years after seeing incredible pictures of the place on the internet. It attracted me with its fantastic natural beauty and human created monasteries on top of rocks. The gigantic rocks of Meteora are perched above the town of Kalambaka, at a maximum height of 400 m (1200 ft.). The summits are decorated with historical monasteries, included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Only 6 of them have made it through the centuries, from an initial estimated number of 24. Mostly dating from the 14th to the 16th century, monasteries were built by monks who were previously hermits living in individual caves. These monks took months and years to carry the construction material to the top of rocks, using ropes, folding ladders, nets, and baskets. 1) How to get to Meteora? Most travelers come from Athens or Thessaloniki about 230 kilometers, so it depends on what else you have on your itinerary. Coming from Ioannina is also an option. 2) Best time of year to visit There are many visitors to Meteora all year round. The peak season is from July to October. I visited Meteora in early September and the daytime temperature was a bit above plus 30 degrees Celsius. I wouldn't have been happy to come earlier because I am not a huge fan of the heat, so I guess the September round would be good for visiting. Crowds were tolerable if you choose your monasteries, I didn't see crowds in other places. There are recommendations for visiting Meteora during the shoulder season or off season. The off season starts in November and ends in March. Just keep in mind that it can get really cold and slippery in winter there. There are recommendations to visit Meteora in May or June because of pleasant weather, lesser crowds, and off-season rates. 3) Where to stay? There are two options: Kalambaka town and Kastraki village. Kastraki is closer to Meteora, but Kalambaka is livelier. If you use a public bus to get to Meteora, make sure that your hotel or guest house is located near the bus stop. I stayed in Papastathis guest house in Kastraki and it was not bad. 4) How long to stay? Not to rush and to actually immerse in what Meteora has to offer I would recommend staying for a few nights there. I stayed for two nights and it worked fine for me. 5) Local transportation It is possible to do Meteora from Kalambaka and Kastraki by public bus and walking combined. There are four public buses a day running from Kalambaka and Kastraki to Meteora and back. The last bus departs back from Meteora at 16.00, so if you want to see the sunset there without your own transportation, be prepared to walk back. A taxi is also an alternative, but I didn't see many of them in operation. 6) Best times of the day for a visit Meteora is very touristic but mostly catering to tourists arriving in big tourist buses, so if you have a choice, better visit monasteries first thing in the morning before the arrival of most buses or later in the afternoon after their departure. Otherwise, you will be spending your time in lines and will not see so much because of the crowds. 7) Things to keep in mind Be prepared to take steps. As monasteries are located on top of cliffs you have to climb up to visit them. The Monastery of the Holy Trinity has 140 steps, others a bit fewer. The Holy Monastery of St Stephen is connected with a walking bridge, making it most accessible from all monasteries. Food and drinks are easily available in Kastraki and Kalabaka towns, but not at the top of Meteora and next to monasteries and next to monasteries. So better take food and drinks with vou. 8) Visiting monasteries. The entrance fee to one monasteries are easily available in Kastraki and Kalabaka towns, but not at the top of Meteora and next to monasteries. changing, so better check the newest information. Grand Meteorin 9-17 Closed on Tuesdays Varlaam 9-16 Closed on Fridays Saint Stephen 9.30-13 and 15-17 Closed on Mondays Holy Trinity 9-17 Closed on Thursdays Saint Barbara Roussanon 9-17 Closed on Wednesday Ipapantis 14th Located on a more isolated rock to the northwest of Kastraki, the Ipapantis monasteries To enter the monasteries To enter the monasteries of Meteora a dress code is enforced. Men must wear long pants and women, long skirts. Sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Skirts and trousers are provided at the entrance to monasteries, so don't worry too much about having them with you. Have you been to Meteora? Share your impressions in the comments section! Published by Anita on September 9, 2017 Author: Anita Sane About the authorAnita is a part-time traveller, passionate photographer and a retired career woman from Latvia, travelling mostly solo for more than 15 years. She is a skilled travel planner who plans and executes her travels by herself. Anita wants to show you how to travel the world and open your mind to new experiences. Follow her on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter and Bloglovin.