

## THESSALONIKI

In 316 B.C. at the inlet of Thermaikos Gulf ancient king Kassandros founded a new city, which he named for his wife Thessaloniki, stepsister of Alexander the

For centuries, as co-capital of the Byzantine empire and afterwards, Thessaloniki was the crossroads of nations and has attracted many foreign rule thus establishing an international character by sustaining the coexistence of various and diverse civilizations, religions and cultures.

Today as we entered the 21st century, Greece's second largest city has become the headquarters of many organizations and institutions aimed at the reconstruction and development of the Balkans.

Innumerable Byzantine monuments and churches, the magnificent findings from the royal tombs in Vergina, the famous national theater, an outstanding cuisine, its intensive night-life and its proximity to the suburbs beaches of Halkidiki, make modern Thessaloniki an even more attractive point for tourism in Greece.

## **KALAMARIA**

Since the sixties, NCTh premises are situated in Kalamaria, region in the eastern part of Thessaloniki, which in 1954 became an independent municipality. Settled by refugees from Asia Minor in the beginning of the last century, Kalamaria today is considered one of the most attractive regions of Major Thessaloniki. Opposite to Kalamaria's huge coastline with nautical clubs, Thessaloniki's official marina and it's traditional beach you can admire majestic Olympus, residence

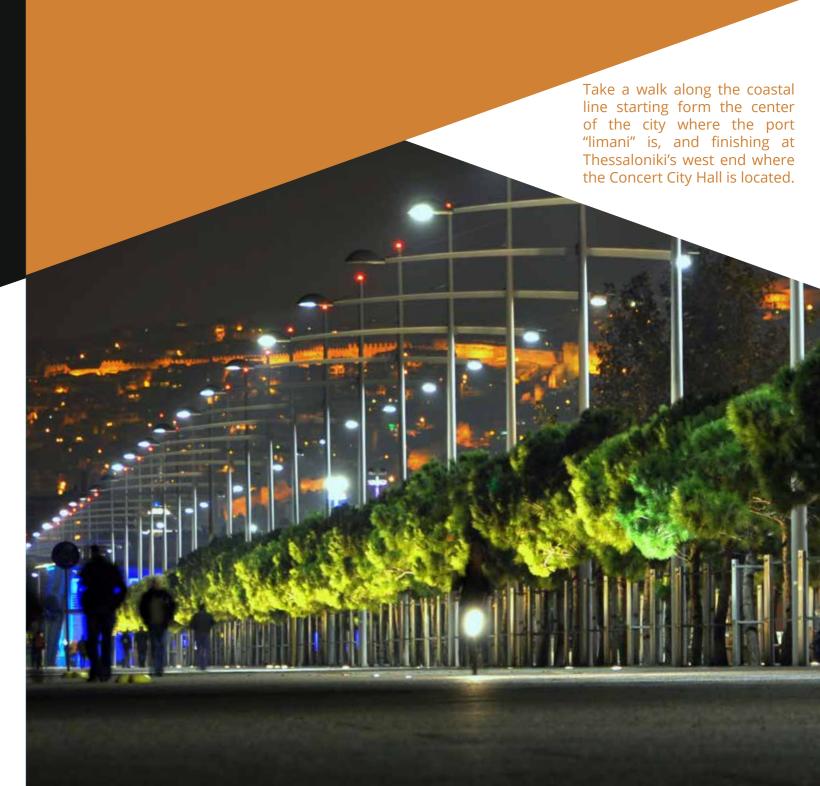
of ancient Greek gods, as well as a marvelous sunset, considered one of the most impressive in Greece.

## MACEDONIA

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

For more than 2000 years, Macedonia is connected with Greek history. In 330B.C., King Philip II was nominated head of a Greek federation and his son Alexander the Great at his well-known expedition spread the Greek civilization up to India. In the courtyard of Macedonian kings, brilliant Greek scientists taught, as well as writers and philosophers like Aristotle. Excavations in Pella and Vergina, capitals of the ancient Macedonian state at the foot of mount Olympus, brought in the light marvelous findings from that period, which are exhibited in the museums of Thessaloniki and Vergina.

In the 9th century A.D., the missionaries Cyrille and Methodist set off from Macedonia and particularly from Thessaloniki in order to spread Christianity. The Cyrillic alphabet that they used constitutes until today the basis for reading and writing for most populations in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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