

MESSINIA

THE PREFECTURE OF MESSINIA

On the southwest end of the Peloponnese, with its rich natural landscape and its age long history, Messenia Prefecture, numbers, nowadays, 175.600 residents. The prefecture has all modern infrastructures of a hospitable place; thus, you can reach Messenia either by driving or by airplane.

The strong presence of the prefecture in history is obvious from the hundreds of monuments that are hidden in all of its areas. The extremely tall towers are still dominant in Mani's villages. The remains of the medieval Castles are harmonized with the natural landscape, while the remains of the ancient times confirm the references made to the area in Homer's works. Visit the local museums, which fully demonstrate this age long history!

A visit to Messenia prefecture includes excursions to the traditional villages of Mani, as well as explorations, by hiking or cycling, in the forests of Mount Taygetus. Enjoy the view from the highest mountain range of the Peloponnese and discover the small heavenly destinations that are hidden among its rocks! The bottom of the Messenian Gulf and its deep blue waters below the pine trees, make the experience unique.

As far as culture is concerned, the prefecture of Messenia has plenty of things to demonstrate, such as annual cultural events, art groups and active bodies that draw the attention of many visitors, by maintaining the local customs and traditions.

And, of course, the experience is completed by the delicious traditional cuisine, with flavors from Mani. The local production, with the domestic products, has spread the reputation of Messenia prefecture, even abroad. It is a very friendly area, ideal for jaunts!

MUNICIPALITY OF KALAMATA

Built at the foot of Taygetus, Kalamata is characterized by the beauty of a seaside city, and it is an ideal summer destination, since its beach is four kilometers long. Nowadays Kalamata numbers 75.000 residents.

In the areas around the city, there are many of the best beaches in the Peloponnese. However, it is likewise a beautiful winter destination, since at Taygetus you can find anything you may be seeking for, during your winter holidays. The city has a variety of features, which can satisfy every visitor. Art lovers will find regular cultural events, while nature lovers can go hiking in the mountain. There are many sport centers, as well as cycle lanes in the biggest roads. The museums thoroughly present the history of Kalamata as well as of the wider area of Messenia, while the folklore and cultural societies, often revive many of the local customs.



The history of the city begins in the ancient times, since it is mentioned in Homer's works, with its ancient name, Phari. This name derived from the legendary founder of the city, son of Hermes, Phari. However, during the ancient times, the importance of the city was not that great in the area, since it was still under the Laconian rule. The name Kalamata appears for the first time in works of the 12th century and its origin is controversial. The most prevalent opinion argues that the city was named after the byzantine Monastery of Panagia Kalomata, which was probably located in area of the Castle. Other scholars, suggest that the name derived from the Greek word "kalamia" (reeds), meaning the reeds of River Nedontas. During the 13th century, the reputation of the city spreads, when it comes under the Frank rule, and it obtains its own castle. Two centuries later, Kalamata is under the Ottoman rule. For three centuries, approximately, the rule rotates between Ottomans and Venetians, until 1821, when the Greek Revolution was proclaimed in Kalamata. The liberation of the city and the proclaiming of the Revolution by Petrobey Mavromichalis on the 23rd of March, 1821, is the most significant event in the long lasting history of Kalamata. After the construction of the port, at the end of the 19th century, the city gradually develops along with the commercial and manufacturing activity.

Nowadays, Kalamata is the second biggest city in the Peloponnese and it is one of the most popular touristic destinations, especially during the summer months.

The new **motorway Korinthos-Tripolis-Kalamata** which has reduced travel time to/from Athens and Thessaloniki, the new luxury Hotel Complex **Costa Navarino** which contributed to the upgrading of the Kalamata international airport "Captain Vasilis Konstantakopoulos" with national/international flights and the construction of major infrastructure projects have contributed to the recognition of the region and its placement on the world tourist map.

The presence of art is also intense in the city, since many cultural events are being held on an annual basis. The most famous of them is the International Dance Festival of Kalamata, which attracts thousands of visitors every summer.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Messinia, a destination that satisfies every requirement, a destination combining originality, comfort and fun, offering satisfaction to the guests, many facilities to event organizers, a destination that will ensure success, by transforming "business with pleasure!" into practice.

With a modern airport, that connects the major cities of Greece and Europe, a port capable of handling large ships, and modern marinas, Messinia continuously improves its road network and infrastructure with luxury hotels, conference halls and sports facilities.

The beautiful natural environment of Messinia, along with the pleasant Mediterranean climate makes it ideal for all kinds of sports activities throughout the year. Today's athletic infrastructure stands and is an area that boasts some of the finest athletic centres in the country. The region has 34 football pitches, 29 outdoor playgrounds, 6 stadiums, a municipal and a private swimming pool, a shooting range, 3 training halls, 4 gyms, an installation for sea sports, 4 volleyball courts, several basketball and tennis courts, and halls for bridge, billiards, bowling, etc.

The towns of Messinia combine modern facilities with traditional colour. Squares and parks in each town ensure relaxation, the many organized beaches comfort and coolness in the summer and a good road network an easy escape to the countryside.

The local markets in the towns are worth visiting. Whether traditional or modern they satisfy the most demanding consumers by offering countless clever, original and interesting choices.

LOCAL TRANSPORTS

Urban bus lines and **taxi** are usually used for local transport throughout the city.
For bicycle lovers, there is a bicycle lane of about 4 km, which passes through the center of the town and ends at the beach.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Kalanata Tourism Support Office

St. Apostles Church square, 24100 Kalamata
Tel (+30) 27210 90413 (*Daily 9:00–14:00 & 18.00–21:00, except Sundays*)
www.kalamata.gr

Messinian Chamber of Commerce & Industry - KalamataCVB

23rd Martiou Square, 24100 Kalamata
Tel (+30) 27210-62200 Fax: (+30) 27210 -62229 (*Monday to Friday: 08:00–16:00*)
Email: kalamatacvb@messinianchamber.gr
www.kalamatacvb.gr
From Monday to Friday: 08:00–16:00

General Hospital of Kalamata

Antikalamos, Messinias - 24100, Kalamata
Tel: (+30)27213 63000, Emergency: (+30) 27210 46281-2 - Fax: (+30) 27213 63104
Email: info@nosokomeiokalamatas.gr
www.nosokomeiokalamatas.gr

Police Directorate of Messinia

Iroon Polytechniou str - New Entrance - 24100, Kalamata
Tel.: (+30)27210 44600 - Fax: (+30)2721044621
www.astinomia.gr

Greek Automobile and Touring Club ELPA

Polytechniou str (New city entrance) - 24100 Kalamata
Tel: (+30)27210 -93376 - Road Service Line: 10400
www.elpa.gr

Marina of Kalamata

Tel: (+30) 27210 21054 - Fax: (+30) 27210 26079
Email: kalamata@medmarinas.com
www.medmarinas.com

Apartments, rooms & hotels in Messinia

KalamataCVB
www.kalamatacvb.gr

Tourist Accommodation association of Messinia - Apartments & rooms in Messinia

www.magicmessinia.gr

Apartments, rooms in Mani

www.messinianmani.gr