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Discover
Thessaloniki
in 50'

Cultural Route's fares

On the Cultural Line Bus (No 50) you can use:

- **Tickets**
(full price ticket at 1,80€ or a reduced price ticket at 0,90€)

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- **Unlimited (Prepaid) Travel Cards**
- **Unlimited Travel Cards for people with disabilities**



Thessaloniki on the go!

A trip around the history of the city
with OASTH's
Cultural Route Bus

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Cultural Route

Cultural Route

Thessaloniki on the go!

Welcome to the Cultural route of the
Organisation of Urban Transportation of
Thessaloniki.

The "History of Thessaloniki" route stops at
many of the historical monuments which have
created the city's centuries of history from
ancient, hellenistic, roman and byzantine times
up until today.

Thessaloniki is a city with a multicultural
character due to the many nationalities of
people who have lived here as the centuries
passed.



Stops

White Tower (STARTING POINT)

The **White Tower** is the monument-symbol of Thessaloniki. Dating from 1535 AD, the 30-metre high tower is the sole survivor of the 24 towers looking out to sea which were part of the city's fortifications. Today it houses a museum exhibition on the **History of Thessaloniki**. Opposite the White Tower is the **Society of Macedonian Studies** (1951), which houses a permanent art exhibition, the **National Theatre of Northern Greece** (1962), and nearby the route's departure stop, the **Royal Theatre of Northern Greece**, built in 1997 in the place of the original building dating from 1940.

1st Stop: Museums

The **Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki** (1962) houses archaeological treasures from the dawn of prehistory up to late antiquity. The museum also houses collections of ceramics, wall-paintings and mosaics, as well as stone objects, metalwork and handicrafts. At the junction of 3 Septemvriou Str. and Stratou Avenue is the **Museum of Byzantine Culture** (1994), with exhibits from the Early Christian to the Post Byzantine eras. At the junction of Tsimiski and Nikolaou Germanou streets is the **Thessaloniki YMCA** building (1934) and opposite to it, covering an area of 18 hectares, is the Thessaloniki International Fair, which has been in operation since 1925, the **OTE (Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation) Tower** and the **Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art**, with a large collection of paintings, engravings, sculpture and photography.

2nd Stop: Palace of Galerius – Esperos

On Alexandrou Svolou str. is the **Ippodromiou Square** with archaeological findings from the Roman Hippodrome. Next to it is the liveliest square in the City, **Navarinou Square**, with the Palace of the Emperor Galerius, built in the early 4th century.

3rd Stop: Church of Agia Sofia

Next to the bus stop you will see one of the oldest and most important monuments of the Christian Orthodox faith, the **Ieros Naos tis tou Theou Sophias** (Church of Agia Sofia), built in the early 7th century on the site of an older temple. A little to the north is the Paleochristian Basilica of Acheiropoietos, built in the mid-5th century.
1st suggested walking route (1st Byzantine sight-seeing tour): Church of Agia Sophia – Holy Monastery of Agia Theodora – Panagia Chalkeon – Acheiropoietos – Byzantine Church of Agios Panteleimon.

4th Stop: Aristotelous Square

Aristotelous Square, with its view of the Thermaic Gulf, is the heart of Thessaloniki and the most important square in the city. This area is the commercial centre of the city, with the traditional **Ladadika quarter** and the **Modiano market**.
2nd suggested walking route: Aristotelous Square – Modiano Market – Yehudi Hamam – Louloudadika - Eleftherias Square – Thessaloniki Holocaust Memorial – Port (old warehouses, Cinema Museum) – Ladadika quarter - Jewish Museum.

5th Stop: Diikitirio

On the north side of Egnatia Str. is the 11th century Church of **Panagia Chalkeon** and the 15th century **Bey Hamam** baths. At the junction of Egnatia and Venizelou streets are two 16th century buildings: the **Hamza Bey Mosque**, also known as the **Alkazar**, and directly opposite, the **Bezesteni Covered Market**, which according to travellers in the 16th century was the most beautiful market in the Balkans. At the corner of Egnatia Str. and Aristotelous Square are the **Bey Hamam baths**.

The **Diikitirio** (Government House), a building of particular architectural interest, built in 1891, formerly housed Ottoman government services and now houses the Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace. Directly opposite is **Diikitiriou Square** with findings from the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods.



6th Stop: Church of Agios Dimitrios

The **Church of Agios Dimitrios**, patron saint and protector of Thessaloniki, is one of the grandest Christian Churches still standing. The five-aisled basilica has gone through multiple construction phases. Partially burnt in 1917, the restoration work took 30 years to complete. The Church, which has 7th century frescoes and mosaics dating from the 5th to the 9th century, has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Monument. To the right, heading towards the sea, you will find the Ancient Agora. This was the social, religious and commercial centre of the city during Roman times. Heading from Agios Dimitrios, via Agios Nikolaos and Kassandrou streets, you will see the **Yeni Hamam** (late 16th century) and the **Alatzia Imaret** (1484), distinctive examples of ottoman architecture.

3rd suggested walking route (2nd Byzantine sight-seeing tour): Church of Agios Dimitrios – Byzantine Church of Profitis Ilias – Church of Agia Aikaterini – Dodeca Apostoloi Church.

4th suggested walking route (Ottoman sight-seeing tour): Yeni Hamam – Alatzia Imaret – Musa Baba Mausoleum.

We hope you enjoyed your journey in time through the historical monuments of Thessaloniki with OASTH's Cultural Bus Route.

7th Stop: Koule Kafe

The **Church of Panagia Lagoudiani**, on Iouliaou Str., is the catholicon of a female monastery dating back to 1802. As the bus continues to climb towards the **Ano Poli (Upper Town)**, a different era comes to life before you. Besides the monuments, you will see many parts of the traditional city grid, with narrow cobblestone streets and buildings with the unique elegance and lack of adornment of Traditional Macedonian Architecture. Take a walk around the area known as the Koule Kafe, which literally means "Castle Café". The same area is also home to the 13th century **Byzantine Baths**, as well as the **Church of Osios David (Blessed David)**, the catholicon of Latomou Monastery and the oldest architectural example of its kind preserved in Europe.

8th Stop: Taxiarchon

The **Church of the Taxiarches (Archangels)** was first constructed in the 14th century but was converted into a mosque during Ottoman rule. The church is in the **Old Town**, which was built on higher ground than the modern city and is still partly enclosed by the old citadel walls. With numerous Byzantine churches and monasteries, the Old Town exudes the atmosphere of an earlier era.
5th suggested walking route (3rd Byzantine sight-seeing tour): Agios Nikolaos Orfanos – Taxiarches Church – Church of Osios David.

9th Stop: Ano Poli (Upper Town) - Keladis

This section of the old town was inhabited during the last years of the 19th century, when consecutive waves of refugees found a safe home in Thessaloniki.

10th Stop: Trigonio Tower – Agioi Anargyroi

From Eptapyrgiou Str you can see the **Byzantine fortification walls** constructed by Theodosios the Great in the 4th century, and one of the most important sights in the city. The walls end at Trigonio Tower, where you can enjoy an amazing view. To the north is the **Eptapyrgio** (also called **Yedi Koule**, from the name of the middle of the seven towers that once existed). Over the past five centuries the Eptapyrgio has been used as a government building and as a prison while today it houses the offices of the archaeological service.

11th Stop: Moni Vlatadon - Platanos

Passing through the 2nd Portara (Gate) you will come across **Moni Vlatadon**, a monastery dating back to the 14th century and the sole survivor among dozens of Byzantine monasteries that formerly existed in Thessaloniki. The forecourt offers a magnificent view of the city and of the Thermaic gulf.
6th suggested walking route (4th Byzantine sight-seeing tour): Eptapyrgio – Trigonio Tower – Moni Vlatadon.

12th Stop: Pasha Gardens – Agios Pavlos

According to the legend this is the site where St Paul the Apostle taught when he visited Thessaloniki and the area carries the name of the church which was dedicated to him. The Pasha gardens belong to the adjacent hospital complex, which was built in 1903.

13th Stop: Eastern Walls – Hospital

The route here is downhill and runs parallel to the impressive **Eastern Walls** of the Old Town. These 4th century walls formerly extended all the way to the seafront.

14th Stop: Rotonda – University

To the left of Ethnikis Amynis street is the **University Campus** and its oldest building, the old **School of Philosophy**. The **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki** was founded in the interwar period, and is the leading intellectual institution in the city. To your right is the Church of **Rotonda**, a cylindrical building dating back to the early 4th century AD, during the time of the roman emperor Galerius. South of Rotonda on Egnatia Str. and dating back to from the same period, you can see the triumphal Arch of Galerius (Kamara).
7th suggested walking route (Roman sight-seeing tour): Rotonda – Arch of Galerius (Kamara) – Palace of Galerius – Roman Agora.

White Tower (END POINT)

At the end of the route, we suggest a walk along the city's waterfront to see the **Statue of Alexander the Great**. Late afternoon is a particularly good time as you may also enjoy a fabulous sunset. And finally, from the White Tower, you can view the city from a different angle, from the sea point of view.