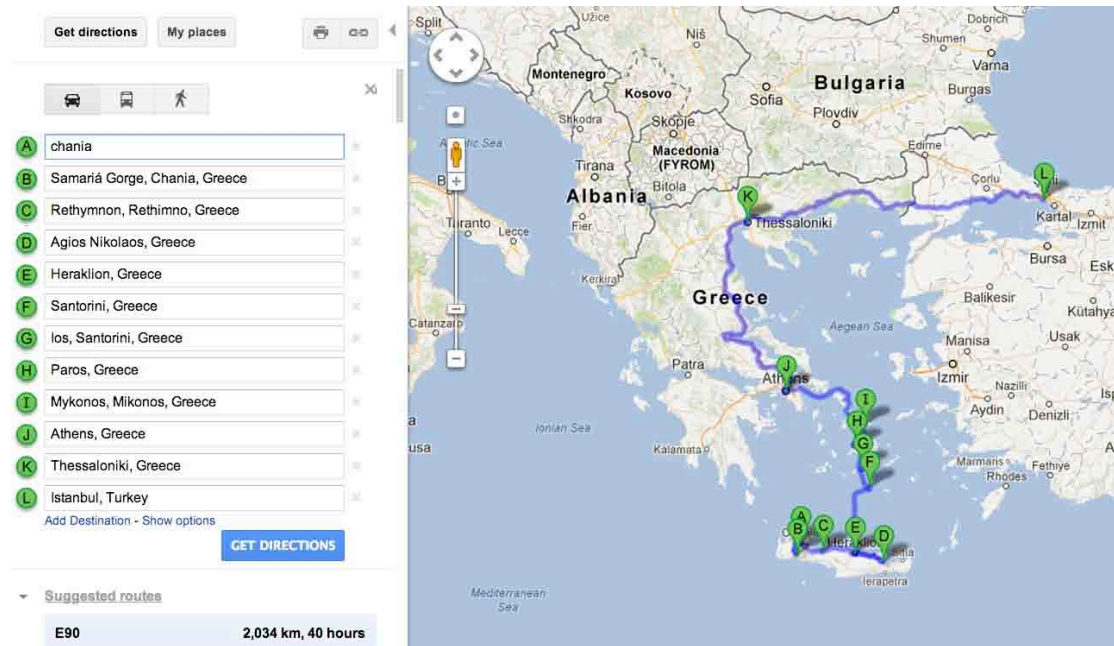


**GREEK ISLAND HOPPING -> Athens -> Meteora -> Istanbul then Europe**  
 (you may also wish to take in some additional Greek Islands close to Thessalonika)



- Best Greek Island for clubbers - [Mykonos](#), [Crete](#), [Santorini](#), [Ios](#) & [Rhodes](#)
- Best Greek Islands for beach lovers - [Skiathos](#), [Mykonos](#), [Paros](#), [Crete](#) & [Corfu](#)
- Best Greek Islands for painters and photographers - [Santorini](#), [Mykonos](#) & [Crete](#)
- Best Greek Islands for hikers - [Crete](#), [Corfu](#), [Santorini](#), [Paros](#) & [Mykonos](#)
- Best Greek Islands for windsurfers - [Naxos](#), [Mykonos](#), [Paros](#)
- Best Greek Islands for shoppers - [Mykonos](#), [Santorini](#) & [Rhodes](#)
- Best Greek Islands for car tourists - [Crete](#) & [Corfu](#)

**Crete:** (arriving from Morocco via Rome)

**Chania:**





## The Gorge of Samaria



HOME ACCOMMODATION RESTAURANT WHAT TO DO GETTING THERE SAMARIA GORGE HISTORY PHOTOS LINKS CONTACT

### The gorge of Samaria

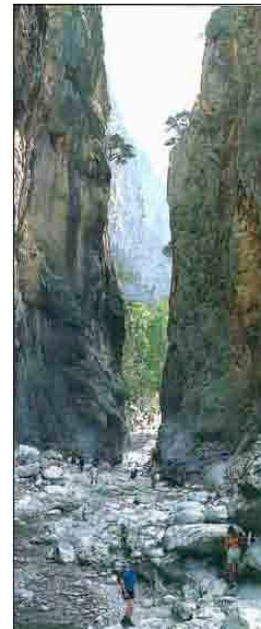
The gorge of Samaria is the second most visited tourist attraction on Crete (following the Minoan palace of Knossos) and by far the most popular walk. More than a quarter million people walk through the gorge every year from May to October. In winter the gorge is closed to visitors due to danger posed by water and falling stones.

The Samaria gorge is the longest one in Europe. It is an area of stunning natural beauty. Rare flora and fauna have survived in this area and are protected. The mountains that have formed it are wild, high and steep. One will pass through forests of ancient cypresses and pines and descend between vertical cliffs. The path starts from Xyloskalo (near Omalos) in the White Mountains at an altitude of 1230 meters and comes to an end at the village of Agia Roumeli at the Libyan sea. Walking through the gorge usually takes anything from 3 to 5 hours (excluding the breaks).

If you would like to avoid the crowds, you could choose to start your walk towards the middle of the day. This way you could reach Agia Roumeli in the evening, having enjoyed the gorge all to yourself. You could spend the night in Agia Roumeli and then have a wonderful day at the beach before you leave.

Nevertheless beware: the Samaria gorge is not just an easy stroll. The path is 16km long and although it is maintained and in good condition, it is quite stony and also steep at times. If you are not used to this type of exercise you may find it pretty heavy going and will certainly feel your legs for days afterwards.

For more details about the Samaria walk and the best way to do it visit [The gorge of Samaria](#).



More Details: <http://www.west-crete.com/samaria-gorge.htm>



## Rethymnon





**Agios Nikolaos**





**Heraklion (not so great but ferry to Santorini)**



## Ferry from Heraklion to Santorini

**Step 3: Pricing** ?

Your selection consists of:

Itinerary	Departure	Arrival	Vessel	Company	Passengers	Vehicles
1. HERAKLIO-THIRA(SANTORINI)	21-07-2013, 08:20	21-07-2013, 10:40	MEGA JET	SEA JETS	1	0

[Change Selection](#)

Itinerary Pricing Analysis

**Outbound trip (HERAKLIO - THIRA(SANTORINI))**

Passengers	Accommodation Class	Price
Male Adult	ECONOMY UPPER DECK	€ 55,00
		<b>Sub Total: € 55,00</b>

**Total Price: € 55,00**

### Santorini:





**Step 3: Pricing** ?

**Your selection consists of:**

Itinerary	Departure	Arrival	Vessel	Company	Passengers	Vehicles
1. THIRA(SANTORINI)-IOS	20-07-2013, 11:30	20-07-2013, 12:10	SUPERJET	SEA JETS	1	0

[Change Selection](#)

Itinerary Pricing Analysis

**Outbound trip (THIRA(SANTORINI) - IOS)**

Passengers	Accommodation Class	Price
Male Adult	ECONOMY UPPER DECK	€ 28,50
		<b>Sub Total: € 28,50</b>

**Total Price: € 28,50**

**IOS (Party Island)**





**Step 3: Pricing** ?

Your selection consists of:

Itinerary	Departure	Arrival	Vessel	Company	Passengers	Vehicles
1. IOS-PAROS	21-07-2013, 15:30	21-07-2013, 17:50	BLUE STAR ITHAKI	BLUE STAR FERRIES	1	0

[Change Selection](#)

Itinerary Pricing Analysis

**Outbound trip (IOS - PAROS)**

Passengers	Accommodation Class	Price
Male Adult	ECONOMY CLASS / Berth/Seat	€ 14,50
<b>Sub Total:</b>		<b>€ 14,50</b>

**Total Price: € 14,50**

## Paros



**Your selection consists of:**

Itinerary	Departure	Arrival	Vessel	Company	Passengers	Vehicles
1. PAROS-MYKONOS	21-07-2013, 10:50	21-07-2013, 11:35	SEAJET2	SEA JETS	1	0

[Change Selection](#)

**Itinerary Pricing Analysis**

**Outbound trip (PAROS - MYKONOS)**

Passengers	Accommodation Class	Price
Male Adult	ECONOMY LOWER DECK	€ 28,30
<b>Sub Total:</b>		<b>€ 28,30</b>

**Total Price: € 28,30**

## Mykonos



**Your selection consists of:**

Itinerary	Departure	Arrival	Vessel	Company	Passengers	Vehicles
1. MYKONOS-PIRAEUS	21-07-2013, 14:15	21-07-2013, 19:45	BLUE STAR NAXOS	BLUE STAR FERRIES	1	0

[Change Selection](#)

**Itinerary Pricing Analysis**

**Outbound trip (MYKONOS - PIRAEUS)**

Passengers	Accommodation Class	Price
Male Adult	ECONOMY CLASS / Berth/Seat	€ 34,00
		<b>Sub Total: € 34,00</b>

**Total Price: € 34,00**

## Athens







## Fly Athens To Istanbul

### Athens, Greece (ATH) to Istanbul, Turkey (IST)

Tue, 07/30 · 1 adult · Economy · [Change search](#)

No Price Predictor. [Learn Why](#)

Rate \$132 \$1904

Stops  Non-stop \$132  1 stop \$227  2+ stops \$450

[More filters](#) ▶

1-15 of 43 Results

Airlines	Airports	Leave	Arrive	Duration	Stops	Price ▲
Olympic Airlines	ATH>IST	7:05p	8:30p	1h 25m	0	<b>\$132</b> <a href="#">Book</a>
Book with: <a href="#">\$132 Olympic Air</a> · <a href="#">\$143 Orbitz</a> · <a href="#">more</a> ▼						
Aegean Airlines	ATH>IST	1:55p	3:15p	1h 20m	0	<b>\$133</b> <a href="#">Book</a>
Book with: <a href="#">\$133 Aegean Airlines</a> · <a href="#">\$144 Orbitz</a> · <a href="#">more</a> ▼						

**OR GOING BY BUS OR TRAIN VIA METEORA**

**Getting from Athens to Meteora**



[Meteora](#) is home to the [incredible “suspended” monasteries](#) which attract hordes of tourists every year. The best time to visit the monasteries is, without a doubt, [spring](#) . Allow for at least a day to visit the monasteries.

The nearest town is Kalampaka\* and both trains and buses stop there. The tranquil city is located right under the imposing rocks. From here, you can either take a bus or embark on a long hike to get to the monasteries.

### By train

There are direct trains between Athens and Kalampaka/Kalambaka. All are InterCity, high-speed trains. There are several departures a day (earliest at 6:50 a.m. and latest at 11:59 p.m.). The [OSE website](#) (Greek railways) is a bit hard to navigate, but switch to English and you'll get the hang of it

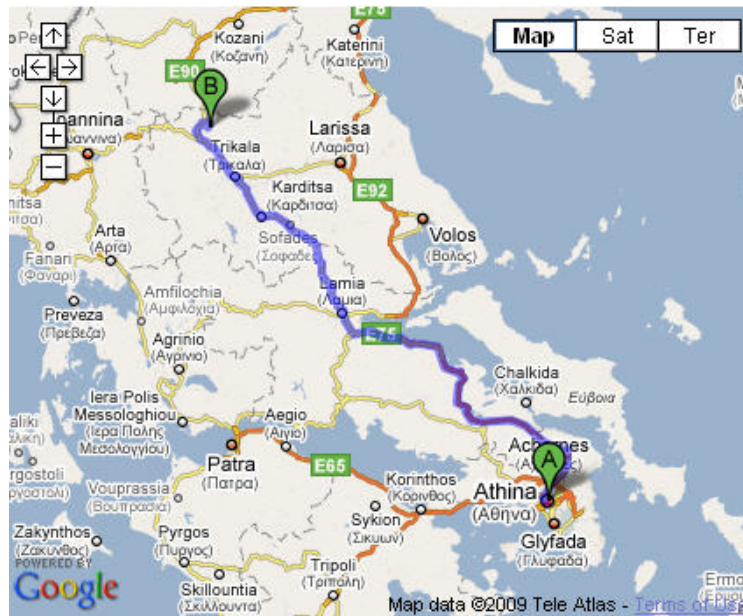
There is a direct train, leaving daily at 8:27 a.m. It takes about 5 h and the web price starts at **16.50 euros** (the full price starts at 18.30 euros).

There are also indirect trains via Palaeofarsaros. The travel duration is between 5 h and 9 h, depending on the connections. Prices (web) range between 13 euros and 23.90 euros.

Pay attention that most trains are delayed (due to weather, for example). So pay attention when you choose a connecting train.

### By bus

The buses to Kalampaka/Meteora depart from Terminal B (Liosson Street). There are departures daily starting from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. (here's a [schedule](#) ; look for Trikala/Meteora) . The journey takes 4 h 30 min to Trikala. Allow another 3 1/2 h to get to Meteora. The price is about **€30** per person one way.\*\*



### Getting from Thessaloniki to Meteora

#### By bus

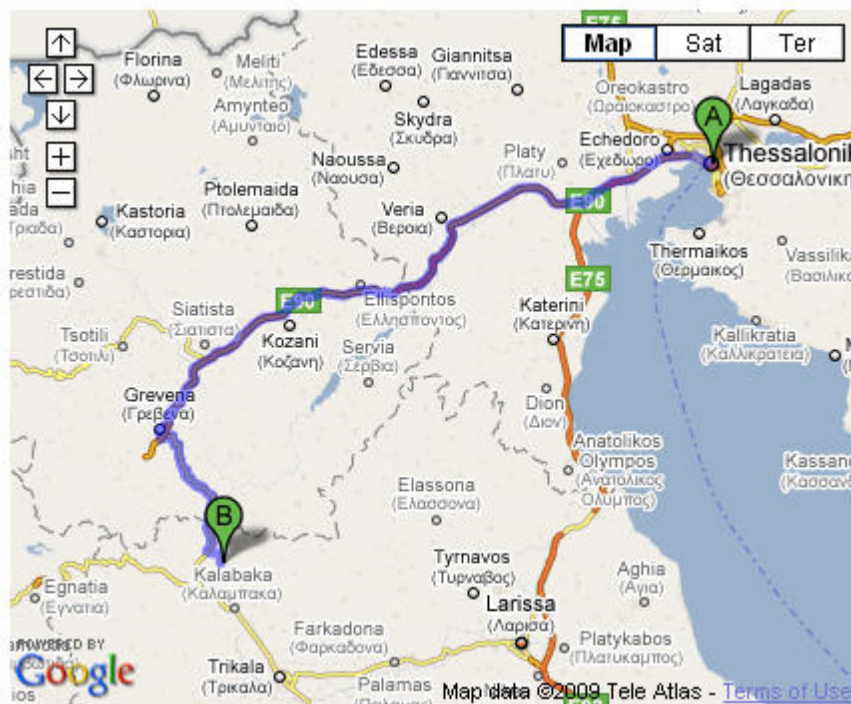
The buses are run by [KTEL](#) but the company's website is not tourist friendly at all. It's impossible to find any timetable online and if you want to call them, you have to speak Greek (and pay a hefty fee for the call).

There are about six buses daily which connect Thessaloniki to Kalampaka, the city located near Meteora. The journey takes about 3 hours. The first bus is at 8 a.m. and the last one at 9 p.m. (they depart about every 3 hours). The tickets are around €15 per person, one way. Once you are in Kalampaka you can either take a local bus to take you to the monasteries (1/2 hour ride) or embark on a long hike.

### By train

There aren't any direct trains between Thessaloniki and Kalampaka / Meteora. You need to change trains in Larissa. There are three connections daily and no matter which one you take, you'll be spending about 1-2 hours in Larissa. The total travel time is between 2h 50 min and 4 h 18 min, depending on the type of train you are taking and the time spent in Larissa waiting for the connection. Once you get to Kalampaka, you need to either take a local bus or hike to Meteora.

The schedule can be found on [DB Bahn](#) but you cannot get the prices here. The Greek Railways Website ([OSE](#)) is also in English but the city names are in Greek alphabet so it's pretty much impossible to navigate the timetables.



### More info on direct buses from Athens to Istanbul:

Several Turkish bus companies run **big, comfortable buses** between [Istanbul's Büyük Otogar](#) (Main Bus Terminal) and the **Peloponnese Bus Station** (Stathmos Pelopponisou Praktorio OSE) in **Athens, Greece** or **vv**, stopping at **Xanthi** (Iskeçe), **Komotini** (Gümölcine), **Thessaloniki** (Selanik) and **Larissa**. There is at least one bus per day.

It's about a **12-hour ride** between [Istanbul](#) and **Thessaloniki**, with a stop at Alexandroupolis along the way. It's a **20- to 22-hour ride** (1150 km/715 miles) between [Istanbul](#) and **Athens**, with stops for meals, toilet, and smoking, but no hotel (overnight) stop.

The **one-way fare** (single) between [Istanbul](#) and **Thessaloniki** is about [TL90](#); between [Istanbul](#) and **Athens** [TL140](#). Round-trip (return) fares may be discounted about 12%.



then EUROPE: (Looks good to me)

