

Halkidiki Travel Guide

Halkidiki: Greece's Three-Fingered Peninsula

Greece · Generated August 27, 2026 · mycitytravelguide.com/greece/halkidiki/

Things to do in Halkidiki

Beaches & Coastal Areas

Halkidiki's three peninsulas — **Kassandra**, **Sithonia**, and **Athos** — hide some of Greece's clearest water and whitest sand, from organized resort beaches to coves reachable only on foot.



Must See

Kavourotrypes Beach

3-5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A string of small coves on Sithonia's east coast backed by pine trees and granite boulders, **Kavourotrypes** ("crab holes") is repeatedly ranked among Greece's best beaches for its shallow turquoise water and rock formations perfect for jumping in. There's no direct road access to some of the coves — a short walk through the pines from the parking area keeps the crowds thinner than the name recognition would suggest.



Top Pick

Vourvourou

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A cluster of sandy bays on Sithonia's northeast coast facing a scatter of tiny islands, **Vourvourou** is calmer and shallower than the open-sea beaches further south, making it a favorite for families. Diaporos, the largest of the offshore islets, is a short kayak or pedal-boat trip away and has its own quiet beaches with almost no development.



Top Pick

Karydi Beach

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Often photographed from the pine-covered headland above it, **Karydi** near Vourvourou curves around impossibly clear shallow water that stays warm and calm most of the summer. The lack of a real road down keeps beach bars minimal, so it's better suited to a packed lunch and umbrella than a day of loungers and cocktails.



Notable

Sani Beach, Kassandra

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A long, gently shelving sandy beach on Kassandra's west coast, **Sani** sits beside a protected wetland and a marina lined with restaurants and yacht moorings. It's the most developed stretch on this list, with resort infrastructure making it an easy choice for visitors who want beach chairs, watersports, and dining all within walking distance.



Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- Sithonia's best coves often need a short walk from the nearest parking spot, bring water shoes for the rockier ones
- July and August afternoons get crowded at the well-known beaches, arrive before 10am for a spot
- A rental car or scooter is the only realistic way to beach-hop between Kassandra and Sithonia in a day



Religious Sites

Mount Athos, the third and easternmost of Halkidiki's peninsulas, has functioned as a self-governing monastic community for over a thousand years and remains off-limits to almost all visitors — its two-thousand monks and twenty monasteries are best seen from the water.



Must See

Book Ahead

Mount Athos Boat Cruise

3-4 hours Book Ahead



Map

Since women (and, in practice, most independent travelers) cannot set foot on the **Holy Mountain**, a boat cruise along its coastline from Ouranoupoli is how the vast majority of visitors experience Athos. Cruises pass close enough to see the cliffside monasteries — Simonopetra's tiered wooden balconies stacked against a sheer rock face are the most striking — while a recorded commentary explains each community's history.



Top Pick

Tower of Prosforios, Ouranoupoli

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

This 14th-century **Byzantine tower** standing right on Ouranoupoli's waterfront once marked the administrative border of the Athonite monastic state and now houses a small folklore museum. Climbing its narrow stone stairs gives a good vantage point over the harbor where the Athos cruise boats depart.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Men who want to actually set foot on Athos need a Diamonitirion permit arranged weeks in advance through the Mount Athos Pilgrims' Bureau in Thessaloniki, this is a separate undertaking from a day cruise
- Boat cruises fill up in summer, book the morning departure a day ahead in July-August
- Bring binoculars, the monasteries are dramatic but the boats keep a required distance from shore



Ancient & Historical Sites

Long before it became a beach destination, Halkidiki was home to a Classical Greek city-state and the birthplace of one of antiquity's most influential philosophers, alongside a cave that rewrote part of the human fossil record.



Must See

Petralona Cave

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Discovered in 1959, this limestone cave near the village of Petralona yielded a **fossilized human skull** estimated at several hundred thousand years old, one of the most important paleoanthropological finds in Europe, alongside stalactite formations and fossilized animal bones. A short guided walkway loops through the illuminated chambers, and an on-site anthropological museum displays casts and finds from the excavation.



Top Pick

Ancient Olynthos

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of the best-preserved examples of a **Classical Greek grid-planned city**, Olynthos was destroyed by Philip II of Macedon in 348 BC and never rebuilt, leaving its street layout and house foundations largely undisturbed for archaeologists. The site's mosaic-floored houses offer a rare, direct look at how ordinary (if wealthy) Greek families lived in the 4th century BC, rather than just its temples and public buildings.



Notable

Ancient Stageira

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

The birthplace of **Aristotle**, Stageira sits on a pine-forested headland with ruins spanning Archaic to Byzantine periods, including a marketplace, fortification walls, and a small harbor below. A modern park dedicated to the philosopher stands nearby in Stagira village, but the actual archaeological site is far quieter and gives sweeping views over the Aegean.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- Petralona Cave keeps a constant cool temperature, bring a light jacket even in summer
- Combine Olynthos with a stop in nearby Nikiti or the Sani beaches, it sits on the way to Sithonia
- Ancient Stageira has minimal shade, visit in the morning during summer



Museums & Galleries

Halkidiki's museums range from a cave-adjacent anthropological collection to a small archaeological museum gathering finds from across the peninsula's ancient sites.



Top Pick

Anthropological Museum of Petralona

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Set at the entrance to Petralona Cave, this small museum displays casts of the famous fossilized skull alongside prehistoric tools and animal remains found in the cave system, with explanatory panels covering the site's significance to human evolution research.



Notable

Archaeological Museum of Polygyros

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Halkidiki's main archaeological museum, in the regional capital Polygyros, gathers finds from Olynthos, Stageira, and other sites across the peninsula, including mosaics, pottery, and grave goods spanning the Classical to Hellenistic periods.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Visit the Anthropological Museum right before or after the cave tour, tickets are often sold together
- The Polygyros museum is a good rainy-day option if beach plans get rained out



Tours & Activities

Beyond lying on a beach, Halkidiki's clear water and scattered islets make it a strong base for boat trips, diving, and sailing.



Top Pick

Ammouliani Island Boat Trip

4-6 hours No Booking Needed

The only inhabited island off Halkidiki's coast, **Ammouliani** is reachable by a short ferry from Trypiti or Ouranoupoli and offers sandy beaches, a fishing-village atmosphere, and views back toward the Athos peninsula. It's an easy half-day or full-day trip, often paired with a stop at the nearby uninhabited Drenia islets for snorkeling.



Notable

Diving in Sithonia

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Sithonia's rocky coves and clear visibility have made it one of northern Greece's more established **diving** spots, with local operators running beginner try-dives and certified dives to underwater rock formations and the occasional wreck. Water stays warm enough for comfortable diving from June through September.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book the Ammouliani ferry or a combined boat tour a day ahead in peak season
- Dive operators are concentrated around Vourvourou, Sarti, and Toroni on Sithonia's coast



Day Trips & Excursions

Halkidiki's compact size and proximity to Thessaloniki make several worthwhile excursions possible without changing your base.



Top Pick

Thessaloniki Day Trip

6-8 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Northern Greece's largest city is under an hour's drive from most of Kassandra and closer still from Halkidiki's western edge, making it an easy day trip for its **Byzantine churches, waterfront promenade, and White Tower**, plus a livelier restaurant and nightlife scene than anywhere on the peninsulas.



Top Pick

Sithonia Coastal Drive

6-8 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A full loop of Sithonia's coastal road strings together most of the peninsula's best viewpoints and beaches — Vourvourou, Sarti, Kalamitsi, and Toroni — in a single scenic day, with plenty of tavernas along the way for lunch stops overlooking the water.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Leave early for the Thessaloniki trip to beat both the return traffic and the midday heat
- Fill up on fuel before the Sithonia loop, some stretches have long gaps between stations



Christmas Market

Halkidiki itself is a summer-driven beach peninsula with no old-town Christmas market tradition of its own, so December visitors base themselves near **Nea Moudania** or **Polygyros** and take the short drive into **Thessaloniki** for the region's big holiday market and lights. Local towns still put up trees, lights, and small seasonal stalls, but the full Christmas market experience is a day trip away.



Must See

Thessaloniki Christmas Dream (Aristotelous Square)

Half day to full day No Booking Needed



Map

The largest and best-known holiday market in the region, set up along **Aristotelous Square** and the waterfront in central Thessaloniki, about a one-hour drive from most Halkidiki resorts. Expect a lit giant Christmas tree, wooden chalets selling ornaments, roasted chestnuts, loukoumades, and mulled wine, plus a temporary *ice-skating rink* and a small funfair for kids. In 2026 the market is expected to run from around **December 1 through January 6**, matching the pattern of recent years, though exact dates are confirmed closer to the season by the Municipality of Thessaloniki. It is easily combined with a day of sightseeing on Egnatia Street and the Thessaloniki waterfront.



Top Pick

Aristotelous Square Ice Rink

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Part of the same Thessaloniki holiday setup, an open-air **ice-skating rink** is installed on Aristotelous Square each winter alongside the market stalls, usually running the same December-to-early-January window. It is a popular add-on for families making the trip in from Halkidiki, with skate rental on site and the square's lights and market stalls right around it. Evening visits are especially atmospheric once the tree and street lighting are on. Combine it with dinner in the Ladadika district nearby, which stays lively and decorated throughout the season.



Notable

Nea Moudania Christmas Tree Lighting and Town Square

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Nea Moudania, the main town on Halkidiki's gateway toward Kassandra and Sithonia, sets up a central **Christmas tree** and seasonal lighting in its main square each December, along with small local stalls and events organized by the municipality for children and families. It is a low-key, local alternative for travelers who want a festive stop without leaving Halkidiki. Scale is modest compared to Thessaloniki, but the harbor-town setting and quieter pace make it a pleasant evening walk. Check the municipal calendar closer to December for the exact lighting date and any organized events.





Optional

Polygyros Winter Festivities

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Polygyros, the administrative capital of Halkidiki, hosts its own modest round of December events including a lit town tree, carol performances, and craft or food stalls organized by the local municipality. It gives visitors staying inland or heading toward Mount Athos views a taste of small-town Greek Christmas without the crowds of a big city market. Seasonal treats like melomakarona and kourabiedes are widely available in local bakeries during this period. It pairs well with a short visit to the Polygyros Archaeological Museum earlier in the day.

Tips for Christmas Market

- Halkidiki has no major Christmas market of its own; plan a day trip into Thessaloniki for the full market and ice-rink experience.
- Roads from the Kassandra and Sithonia peninsulas into Thessaloniki can be quiet in winter but check weather before an evening drive back.
- Many hotels and restaurants on the peninsulas reduce hours or close for winter, so confirm opening times in advance.
- Confirm exact 2026 market and lighting dates with the Thessaloniki municipality and local Halkidiki town halls closer to December.



Nightlife & Entertainment

When the sun sets, Halkidiki swaps its turquoise coves for a lively after-dark scene stretching from Cassandra's beach clubs to Sithonia's laid-back cocktail bars. Expect open-air venues, Greek and international DJs, and a season that runs hot from June through September.



Must See

Kalithea Strip

3-5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The undisputed party heart of Cassandra, Kalithea's main strip comes alive after midnight with a dense cluster of bars, cocktail lounges, and open-air clubs pumping everything from Greek pop to house music. Streets fill with a young, mixed crowd of locals and tourists hopping between venues until sunrise. Expect **themed party nights**, foam parties in peak season, and terraces spilling onto the pedestrian walkway.

Many venues offer *free entry* with a minimum drink purchase, and the strip is entirely walkable, so no need to worry about transport once you arrive. Come after 11pm for the real energy, earlier if you want a calmer dinner-and-drinks vibe before the crowds roll in.



Must See

Camel Beach Bar

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A legendary sunset beach bar near Possidi on the Cassandra peninsula, Camel Beach Bar draws crowds for its laid-back daybed lounging by afternoon and its transformation into a buzzing dance floor by night. The setting is unbeatable: fine sand, shallow turquoise water, and uninterrupted views west across the Thermaic Gulf for one of the region's best sunsets.

Expect **chilled lounge music** during golden hour giving way to upbeat sets as the night progresses, alongside a full cocktail menu and light bites. Arrive early to claim a daybed, and bring cash as some smaller bars in the area do not accept cards. Best visited July through August when the scene is in full swing.



Top Pick

Porto Carras Marina Bars

1-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The upscale marina at Porto Carras in Sithonia offers a quieter, more polished alternative to Cassandra's party strips. A row of stylish lounge bars and waterfront tavernas line the yacht-filled harbor, serving craft cocktails and Greek wines to a relaxed, well-heeled crowd. Live acoustic sets and jazz duos are common on summer evenings.

It is an ideal spot for an *after-dinner drink* with a view of moored sailboats and the marina lights reflecting on the water. The atmosphere stays sociable but never rowdy, making it a good pick for couples or anyone wanting nightlife without the noise. Reservations are recommended for the more popular waterfront tables in August.



Top Pick

Hanioti Nightlife Avenue

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Hanioti's central avenue turns into a compact nightlife hub each evening, packed with cocktail bars, cafe-bars, and a couple of small clubs within a short stroll of the beach. It draws a slightly more relaxed, family-adjacent crowd earlier in the night before shifting toward a younger dance-focused scene after midnight.

Bars here often run **happy hour deals** in the early evening, and several rooftop terraces offer sea breeze views over the strip below. It pairs well with a beachfront dinner, since most restaurants and bars sit within the same pedestrian zone. A solid choice if you want variety without traveling far from your accommodation in Cassandra.



Tips for Nightlife & Entertainment

- Peak nightlife season runs from late June to early September; many bars close or reduce hours outside these months.
- Kassandra (Kalihea, Hanioti) skews younger and louder, while Sithonia (Porto Carras) offers a calmer, upscale scene.
- Carry some cash, as smaller beach bars and late-night spots do not always accept cards.
- Taxis between resorts get scarce after midnight in high season, so plan your return trip or stay within walking distance.



With Kids

Halkidiki is as easy on families as it is on postcards: shallow, calm-water bays for little swimmers, waterfront promenades built for strollers, and a steady supply of pony rides, boat trips and amusement rides to burn off extra energy. Most kid-focused activities cluster around the resort towns of Kassandra and Sithonia, with playgrounds and gentle attractions requiring little advance planning.



Must See

Nea Moudania Waterfront Playground

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The long seafront promenade in **Nea Moudania** is one of the easiest wins for families staying anywhere near the base of the Halkidiki peninsula. A landscaped stretch of park runs along the water with a modern playground, shaded benches for parents, and a bike-and-scooter path that lets kids burn off energy safely away from traffic. In the evenings the promenade fills with local families, ice-cream stands and the occasional street performer, giving it a relaxed, low-key vibe rather than a touristy one.

Its flat, paved layout makes it stroller-friendly, and the shallow, gently sloping beach right alongside the park is a good option for toddlers who are not yet confident swimmers. There are no entry fees and no set schedule, so it works well as a spontaneous late-afternoon stop before dinner, or a first activity on arrival to let kids stretch their legs after a long transfer.



Top Pick

Sani Marina Kids Water Sports

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The marina area near **Sani** hosts a cluster of family-oriented water sports operators offering gentle, supervised activities for children rather than the high-speed jet-ski and parasailing options aimed at adults. Pedal boats, small kayaks and calm-water paddleboards are available for rent by the hour, with life jackets sized for kids and shallow, protected water close to shore. Banana boat rides, when conditions allow, are usually run at a slower pace for younger riders on request.

Because the marina sits in a sheltered bay, the water stays calmer than on more exposed stretches of coast, which reassures nervous parents and less confident swimmers alike. Staff at most kiosks are used to first-time young riders and will happily adjust speed and duration. It is an easy half-day add-on to a beach morning, and most operators only take walk-up bookings rather than advance reservations.





Notable

Halkidiki Horse Riding Ranch

1 hour Book Ahead



Map

A handful of small riding stables scattered around inland Halkidiki, particularly near **Nikiti** and **Polygyros**, offer short lessons and led pony rides aimed squarely at children rather than experienced riders. Sessions typically start with grooming and basic handling so kids get comfortable with the animal before mounting, followed by a slow, guided walk around a paddock or along a quiet countryside track under close staff supervision.

These are working farms rather than polished attractions, so expect a rustic, hands-on setting with goats, chickens or rabbits often kept alongside the horses, which tends to delight younger children as much as the riding itself. Sessions run in short blocks so attention spans are not overtaxed, and most ranches will tailor the length and pace to the child's age and confidence. Advance calling is recommended in peak summer as slots fill quickly with family groups.



Notable

Glass-Bottom Boat Family Cruise

45 minutes - 1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Several small operators along the **Sithonia** coast run short glass-bottom boat trips designed to keep young children entertained without the seasickness risk of longer open-water excursions. The boats cruise slowly over clear shallows and rocky reefs, letting kids watch fish, sea urchins and the occasional octopus through the hull without having to snorkel or swim.

Trips usually last under an hour, run close to shore, and depart frequently through the day from small coastal harbors, so there is rarely a long wait. Crews often narrate in simple terms for younger passengers and sometimes stop over a sandy patch for a quick swim break. It is a gentle, low-effort way to introduce children to marine life before or after a more active snorkeling day, and works well even for kids who are wary of deeper water.



Optional

Pefkochori Amusement Park

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The resort strip of **Pefkochori**, on the Kassandra peninsula, has a small open-air amusement park with a modest set of rides, bumper cars, and an arcade hall geared toward younger children rather than thrill-seekers. It is the kind of low-key, walkable evening stop that fits naturally after dinner on the town's pedestrian street, with ice-cream shops and souvenir stalls lining the same area.

Rides are gentle and scaled for smaller kids, though there are usually a few options for older siblings too, and the arcade games offer an easy way to occupy restless teenagers. It gets busy on summer evenings, so arriving earlier avoids the longest queues. There is no entry fee to the park itself, with rides paid individually or through a token system, keeping costs flexible depending on how long the family wants to stay.

Tips for With Kids

- Mornings and shallow bays near Nea Moudania or Sani are safest for toddlers; save deeper Sithonia coves for older, confident swimmers.
- Book horse riding and any guided boat trips a day ahead in July and August, as family-friendly slots fill fast.
- Bring water shoes for rocky stretches of coastline near the glass-bottom boat departure points.
- Evening amusement park visits avoid the midday heat and let kids nap through the afternoon instead.



Events Calendar

Halkidiki comes alive throughout the year with religious feast days, wine and food festivals, open-air concerts, and beach parties spread across its three peninsulas. This 2026 calendar highlights the recurring and seasonal happenings worth building a trip around, from spring blossom festivals to New Year fireworks on the waterfront.



Must See

Ouranoupoli Feast of the Assumption

Full day No Booking Needed



Map

Every **August 15, 2026**, the fishing village of Ouranoupoli, gateway to Mount Athos, celebrates the **Feast of the Assumption**, one of the most important dates on the Orthodox calendar. The day begins with a solemn liturgy at the village church, followed by a procession of the icon of the Virgin Mary through the streets down to the harbor. By afternoon the mood shifts to celebration, with long communal tables set up along the waterfront for a free public feast of grilled fish, lamb, and local wine, paid for by village associations. Traditional dancing continues late into the night to live *clarino* and violin music. Visitors are welcome to join the procession and the feast, making it a rare chance to experience authentic Greek village life rather than a staged tourist show. Arrive early for a good vantage point near the harbor.



Top Pick

Kassandra Spring Wine and Food Festival

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Held each year as the tourist season begins, the **Kassandra Spring Wine and Food Festival** runs from **April 24 to April 26, 2026** in the main square of Kallithea. Local wineries from the Halkidiki peninsula pour their latest vintages alongside producers of thyme honey, olive oil, and cured meats, while tavernas set up tasting stalls serving regional specialties like bougatsa and grilled octopus. Live *rebetiko* and folk music fills the evenings, and children's craft stalls keep families entertained. The festival marks the unofficial start of the Halkidiki season, giving visitors a first taste of the region before the summer crowds arrive. Entry is free, though tasting tokens for wine and food samples are sold at kiosks around the square. It is a relaxed, community-driven event best enjoyed on foot, wandering between stalls at a leisurely pace over a single evening or across the full weekend.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Sithonia Summer Concert Series

2-4 hours Book Ahead



Map

From **June 15 through August 30, 2026**, open-air stages in Neos Marmaras and Sarti host the **Sithonia Summer Concert Series**, a run of weekly evening performances featuring Greek pop stars, jazz trios, and traditional Pontic and Macedonian dance troupes. Concerts typically begin around 9:30 pm once the day's heat has faded, with the sea as a natural backdrop and the amphitheater seating filling quickly for headline acts in July. Some nights are dedicated to emerging local musicians, giving the series a mix of big-name draws and grassroots talent. Food trucks and beach bars nearby stay open late on concert nights, turning the events into a full evening out. Tickets for headline shows are sold online and at the door; most weekday performances remain free. It is one of the best ways to experience Halkidiki's lively summer culture beyond the beach.





Top Pick Book Ahead

Kassandra New Year Eve Waterfront Celebration

3-5 hours Book Ahead



Map

On **December 31, 2026**, the resort towns of Kassandra, led by Nea Moudania and Pefkochori, host waterfront **New Year celebrations** that run from early evening until well past midnight. Stages set up along the seafront promenades feature live bands playing Greek and international hits, with local choirs performing carols earlier in the evening for families. As midnight approaches, crowds gather along the harbor for a fireworks display over the water, followed by dancing that continues into the small hours at nearby bars and tavernas. Many restaurants offer special *reveillon* menus with multiple courses and live music included, so booking ahead is recommended for a table with a sea view. The mild coastal climate makes it far more comfortable than an inland New Year celebration, and the fireworks reflecting off the Aegean make for a memorable send-off to the year.



Notable

Arnaia Chestnut and Harvest Festival

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

As autumn settles over the wooded hills of central Halkidiki, the mountain town of Arnaia hosts its **Chestnut and Harvest Festival** from **October 17 to October 19, 2026**. Streets around the old town fill with stalls roasting fresh chestnuts, along with pressed olive oil, walnuts, and mushrooms foraged from the surrounding forests. Local producers demonstrate traditional milling and weaving crafts, and the town's stone houses and cobbled lanes provide a scenic, cooler alternative to the coast. Folk dance groups perform in the central square each evening, and a farmers market runs throughout the weekend selling produce direct from small mountain farms. The event draws mostly Greek visitors from Thessaloniki, giving it a genuine, unpolished character. It pairs well with a walk through Arnaia's Byzantine architecture and is an easy half-day trip inland from the beaches.

Tips for Events Calendar

- Book restaurant tables and event tickets at least a week ahead for August 15 and New Year celebrations, as these are the busiest dates on the calendar.
- Summer concert nights in Sithonia get crowded in July, so arrive early for good seating at headline shows.
- Village festivals like Ouranoupoli's and Arnaia's are free and open to visitors, but dress modestly if attending the religious processions.
- Check exact dates closer to the event, as small local festivals can shift by a few days depending on the church calendar or weather.



Hidden Gems

Beyond Halkidiki's famous beaches lies a quieter side of the peninsula — traditional villages, forgotten monasteries, and rugged landscapes that most tourists never see. These spots reward travelers willing to venture off the main coastal routes into the region's mountainous interior.



Notable

Parthenonas Village

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Tucked into the slopes of **Mount Itamos** above Sithonia, Parthenonas is a stone-built village that was nearly abandoned in the 1960s when residents moved to the coast for tourism work. It has since been lovingly restored, and today its narrow cobbled lanes, slate-roofed houses, and tiny stone chapels feel frozen in time. There are no big attractions here, just *quiet wandering*, a handful of family-run tavernas, and sweeping views over the pine forests toward the Toroneos Gulf. Come at sunset when the light hits the old stone walls and the village empties of the few day-trippers who find it. It is one of the best-preserved traditional settlements in the region and a favorite of photographers.



Notable

Holomontas Forest and Taxiarchis Village

Half day No Booking Needed



Map

Holomontas is a dense national forest of beech, chestnut, and fir trees covering the mountainous heart of the Halkidiki peninsula, a stark contrast to the sun-baked coastline most visitors expect. At its center sits **Taxiarchis**, a highland village known for woodcarving workshops and cooler mountain air even in peak summer. Hiking trails wind through the forest past streams and clearings, and the area is popular with local Greeks for weekend picnics rather than international tourists. Wildlife including deer and birds of prey can sometimes be spotted. It is an easy detour for anyone craving forest air and *total quiet* after days on crowded beaches, and the drive up through switchback roads is scenic in its own right.



Notable

Village of Arnea

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Arnea, inland in the Aristotelis municipality, is one of the best-kept traditional Macedonian villages in northern Greece, with red-tiled roofs, timber-framed stone houses, and a long history of copper and textile crafts. Its old town is a maze of stepped alleys largely untouched by mass tourism, and the small local museum showcases traditional weaving and metalwork still practiced by a handful of artisans. The central square hosts a lively weekly market and unpretentious tavernas serving hearty mountain fare like **wild greens pies** and grilled meats. Arnea sits close to Stageira, birthplace of Aristotle, making it easy to combine with an inland day away from the coast. Its architecture earned it protected heritage status, yet it remains refreshingly uncrowded.





Optional

Fournos Lagoon and Nature Reserve

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Near Nea Fokea, this small coastal lagoon and wetland is one of Halkidiki's overlooked ecological pockets, home to herons, flamingos in migration season, and other waterbirds rarely seen by beachgoers a few kilometers away. A flat walking path skirts the reed beds and salt flats, making it an easy stop for birdwatchers or anyone wanting a break from sand and sun. There are no facilities or entry fees, just an unspoiled stretch of shoreline ecosystem. Locals sometimes fish along the edges in the early morning. It is a rewarding stop for nature lovers and a reminder that Halkidiki's coastline holds more than resort beaches, especially for those interested in *birdlife and quiet scenery* outside the main season.

Tips for Hidden Gems

- Rent a car — these inland spots are not served by public bus routes and are best combined into one loop day away from the coast.
- Visit Parthenonas and Arnea in late afternoon for cooler temperatures and better light for photos.
- Bring cash for small tavernas and workshops in the mountain villages, as card acceptance is inconsistent.
- Pair Holomontas Forest with a picnic — there are no restaurants directly inside the reserve.



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Halkidiki, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Must See

Rizes Greek Creative cuisine★★★★★ 4.9 (116)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Rizes Greek Creative cuisine is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.9★ from 116 reviews. Located at Epar.Od. Paliouriou-Afitou, Kallithea 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM



Must See

Philema Afitos Restaurant★★★★★ 4.9 (260)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Philema Afitos Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.9★ from 260 reviews. Located at Greece, Afitos 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM





Must See

Metoxi Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (2,598)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Metoxi Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.8★ from 2598 reviews. Located at Kassandreia 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM



Must See

Marigoula★★★★★ 4.8 (1,735)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Marigoula is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.8★ from 1735 reviews. Located at Konstantinoupoleos 7, Poligiros 631 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 1:30 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM





Must See

Diamond Beach Club Moudania★★★★★ 4.8 (1,778)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



[Map](#)

Diamond Beach Club Moudania is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.8★ from 1778 reviews. Located at Agiou Georgiou, Nea Moudania 632 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Must See

Taverna Tzitzikas★★★★★ 4.7 (5,738)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



[Map](#)

Taverna Tzitzikas is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 5738 reviews. Located at Porto Koufo 630 72, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM





Must See

Aknos Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (840)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Aknos Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 840 reviews. Located at Unnamed Road, Pefkochori 630 85, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM



Must See

Blue Senses Beach Restaurant Bar★★★★★ 4.7 (1,279)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Blue Senses Beach Restaurant Bar is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 1279 reviews. Located at Sarti 630 72, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 8:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM





Must See

Fiki Fiki Asian Peruvian Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (103)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Fiki Fiki Asian Peruvian Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 103 reviews. Located at Kassandra Palace Seaside Hotel, Kriopigi 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 4:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 4:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 4:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 4:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 4:00 – 11:30 PM



Must See

Vouka★★★★★ 4.7 (886)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Vouka is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 886 reviews. Located at 3CXP+X7, Afytos 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM



Must See

To Simadi★★★★★ 4.7 (3,072)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

To Simadi is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 3072 reviews. Located at Παραδεισος, Παράδεισος, Neos Marmaras 630 81, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM





Must See

Ta Kastras★★★★★ 4.7 (2,888)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ta Kastras is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 2888 reviews. Located at Κανάλι Νέας Ποτίδαιας, Nea Potidea 632 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM



Must See

Tsaparis Ouzo House Fish Tavern★★★★★ 4.7 (2,059)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Tsaparis Ouzo House Fish Tavern is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 2059 reviews. Located at Pefkochori 630 85, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM





Must See

Magnolia Mediterranean Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (163)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Magnolia Mediterranean Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.6★ from 163 reviews. Located at Kriopighi 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM



Must See

Synagrida Restaurant Nikiti Chalkidiki★★★★★ 4.6 (2,347)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Synagrida Restaurant Nikiti Chalkidiki is a highly-rated restaurant in Halkidiki, rated 4.6★ from 2347 reviews. Located at Egialou, Νικήτη 630 88, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 12:30 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 12:30 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 12:30 AM



Beach Bars

Real, highly-rated Beach Bars in Halkidiki, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Must See

Solea Beach Bar★★★★★ 4.9 (257)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Solea Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.9★ from 257 reviews. Located at Polychrono 630 85, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM



Must See

Diamond Beach Club Moudania★★★★★ 4.8 (1,778)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Diamond Beach Club Moudania is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.8★ from 1778 reviews. Located at Agiou Georgiou, Nea Moudania 632 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM





Must See

Konstantinidi Beach Bar★★★★★ 4.7 (102)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Konstantinidi Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.7★ from 102 reviews. Located at Unnamed Road, Kassandra 630 85, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM



Must See

Skala Beach bar★★★★★ 4.6 (102)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Skala Beach bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.6★ from 102 reviews. Located at Yerakini 631 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM



Must See

Ethnik Beach Bar★★★★★ 4.6 (4,372)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ethnik Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.6★ from 4372 reviews. Located at Τριστινικά 630 72, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 9:30 AM – 4:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:30 AM – 4:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:30 AM – 3:00 AM





Must See

Allou beach bar★★★★★ 4.6 (304)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Allou beach bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.6★ from 304 reviews. Located at Psakoudia 630 71, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 2:30 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 2:30 AM



Top Pick

Encore Beach Bar★★★★★ 4.5 (1,151)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Encore Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.5★ from 1151 reviews. Located at Αιγαίοπελαγίτικα, Ποσειδί 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:30 AM – 11:50 PM
- Tuesday: 9:30 AM – 11:50 PM
- Wednesday: 9:30 AM – 11:50 PM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM – 11:50 PM
- Friday: 9:30 AM – 11:50 PM
- Saturday: 9:30 AM – 11:50 PM
- Sunday: 9:30 AM – 11:50 PM





Top Pick

Navagos Beach Bar Paliouri★★★★★ 4.5 (2,881)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Navagos Beach Bar Paliouri is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.5★ from 2881 reviews. Located at Navagos Beach-Restaurant, Παλιούρι 630 85, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Top Pick

Aqua★★★★★ 4.5 (582)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Aqua is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.5★ from 582 reviews. Located at Παραλία, Νέα Ποτίδαια, Ag. Mamas 632 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM





Top Pick

Luuma★★★★☆ 4.4 (1,637)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Luuma is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.4★ from 1637 reviews. Located at Χαλκιδικής, Φλογητά 632 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM



Top Pick

Manassu Beach Bar and Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.4 (3,470)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Manassu Beach Bar and Restaurant is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.4★ from 3470 reviews. Located at 12ο χλμ. Βουρβουρού, Sarti 630 78, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM





Top Pick

Kyma Beach Bar & Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.4 (387)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Kyma Beach Bar & Restaurant is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.4★ from 387 reviews. Located at Kyma Beach Bar & Restaurant, Polichrono 630 85, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

Lotos Beach Bar★★★★☆ 4.4 (491)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lotos Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.4★ from 491 reviews. Located at Epar.Od. Paliouriou-Afitou 2, Kallithea 630 77, Greece.



Top Pick

Pefko Beach Bar★★★★☆ 4.4 (455)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Pefko Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.4★ from 455 reviews. Located at τρικορφο χαλκιδικης Τρίκορφο, Gerakini 631 00, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM





Top Pick

Kudu Beach Bar★★★★☆ 4.4 (558)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Kudu Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Halkidiki, rated 4.4★ from 558 reviews. Located at Μολα Καλύβα, Μόλα Καλύβα 630 77, Greece.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM

Practical Information

Best Time to Visit Halkidiki

Late May to June and **September** offer the best balance of warm sea temperatures, thinner crowds, and lower accommodation prices than the July-August peak. Summer brings the busiest beaches and the liveliest atmosphere in Kassandra's resort towns, but also the highest prices and traffic on the coastal roads. Winter is largely off-season, with many hotels, tavernas, and the Mount Athos cruise boats closed until spring.

Getting Around Halkidiki

A **rental car is essential** for exploring beyond a single resort — Halkidiki's three peninsulas are large and public buses (KTEL) run infrequently between the main towns, rarely reaching individual beaches. Thessaloniki International Airport, about an hour from central Kassandra, is the usual arrival point, and rental desks there are the easiest way to pick up a car on arrival. Ferries connect Ouranoupoli and Trypiti to Ammouliani island several times daily in summer.

➔ Airport Transfer

Thessaloniki Makedonia International Airport (SKG) to city center:

- **Taxi:** Direct to Halkidiki resorts in 45 to 90 minutes depending on destination, fixed rates around 60 to 120 euros
- **Private transfer:** Pre-booked minivan or car service to any Halkidiki peninsula hotel in 45 to 100 minutes, roughly 70 to 150 euros depending on distance
- **KTEL intercity bus:** Seasonal routes from Thessaloniki bus stations to Halkidiki towns like Nea Moudania or Kassandra resorts in 1.5 to 2.5 hours, about 8 to 15 euros, requires a taxi or local bus connection from the airport to the bus station
- **Rental car:** Self-drive via the A25 and A24 roads to Halkidiki in 45 minutes to 2 hours, rental rates from about 35 euros per day plus fuel

Shopping in Halkidiki

Local products worth seeking out include **thyme honey**, olive oil pressed from the region's own groves, and Byzantine-recipe cheeses from small producers around Arnaia and Polygyros. Ouranoupoli's waterfront shops sell Mount Athos-themed icons, incense, and monastery-made products such as soaps and preserves, brought over from the peninsula's monasteries.



Festivals & Events

Village **panigyri** (saint's-day) festivals bring live music, dancing, and shared food to Halkidiki's towns throughout summer, with Arnaia and Polygyros among the liveliest. Sardine festivals in coastal villages such as Nea Moudania celebrate the local catch with free grilled fish and wine each August, drawing large crowds from across the region.

Suggested Day-by-Day Itineraries

Day 1 - Cassandra Beaches: Settle in around Sani or Possidi, spend the afternoon on the beach and evening at the marina.

Day 2 - Petralona & Olynthos: Morning at Petralona Cave, afternoon exploring Ancient Olynthos on the way to Sithonia.

Day 3 - Sithonia Coastal Drive: Loop the peninsula's coast road, stopping at Vourvourou, Karydi, and Kavourotrypes.

Day 4 - Mount Athos Cruise: Morning boat cruise along the Athos coastline from Ouranoupoli, afternoon at the Tower of Prosforios and nearby beaches.

Day 5 - Ammouliani & Thessaloniki: Ferry to Ammouliani for a relaxed morning, or swap for a day trip into Thessaloniki if you'd rather end with a city.

Best Photo Spots

Kavourotrypes' granite boulders framing turquoise coves are Halkidiki's most photographed beach scene. The view of **Simonopetra Monastery** clinging to its cliff face, seen from an Athos boat cruise, is one of the region's most striking sights. **Karydi Beach** from the pine headland above it and the sunset over **Ammouliani's** harbor are both reliable golden-hour shots.

Electricity

Greece uses **230V, 50Hz** with Type C and Type F sockets (two round pins), the same standard used across most of continental Europe. Visitors from the US, UK, and most of Asia will need a plug adapter.

Food & Dining

Halkidiki's coastal tavernas specialize in **fresh seafood** — grilled sardines, octopus, and the day's catch simply prepared — alongside the region's own thyme honey drizzled over yogurt or local cheese pies. Inland villages around Arnaia and Polygyros serve heartier fare: wild greens, grilled meats, and Byzantine-recipe cheeses paired with local wine.

Where to Stay in Halkidiki

Halkidiki is really three separate peninsulas, so where you stay depends on the pace you want.

- **Kassandra (the first peninsula):** Closest to Thessaloniki airport and full of resorts, beach clubs, and organized nightlife strips. Suits *first-time visitors* and travelers who want *nightlife* without a long drive.
- **Sithonia (the middle peninsula):** Quieter pine-backed coves, smaller family-run hotels, and fewer crowds. A strong pick for *families* and couples wanting a calmer, more scenic base.
- **Near the main towns and ports (e.g. where ferries and buses connect):** Handy for travelers without a rental car who want easy access to shops, tavernas, and transport links. Works well for *budget travelers* relying on public transport.
- **Areas close to conference hotels and larger business-oriented resorts:** A few properties near the main road hubs cater to meetings and events, making them the practical choice for *business travelers* needing reliable wifi and easy road access.



Since Halkidiki spans a large area, most visitors do best renting a car regardless of base, as beaches, tavernas, and sights are spread along the coastline rather than clustered in one walkable center.

Halkidiki Travel Budget

Halkidiki is a mid-priced Greek destination, pricier in July and August and noticeably cheaper in June or September. Costs vary a lot between the quieter Kassandra villages and upscale Sithonia resorts.

- **Budget (€45-70/day):** Guesthouse or basic studio room around €30-45/night, self-catering or taverna lunches (gyros, souvlaki plates) for €8-12, KTEL bus fares of €2-5 between villages, and free beach days with minimal paid attractions.
- **Mid-range (€100-170/day):** 3-star hotel or apartment near the coast for €70-110/night, sit-down taverna dinners with fresh seafood at €18-28 per person, scooter or small car rental around €25-35/day, plus boat trips or day tours to the Diaporos Islands or Mount Athos cruise at €25-40.
- **Luxury (€250-500+/day):** Beachfront resort or suite from €180-400/night, fine dining and wine pairings at €50-90 per person, private car or driver service around €80-120/day, and premium excursions such as private yacht charters or spa packages running €100-300.

Tip: Renting a car is the most practical way to explore all three fingers of the peninsula, and prices for both stays and meals drop by roughly 20-30 percent outside peak summer weeks.

Is Halkidiki Worth Visiting?

Yes — few regions in Greece pack three distinct coastal personalities into one trip, all within an hour of a major international airport. Halkidiki rewards visitors who want variety without long transfers.

- **Easy access, big payoff:** Thessaloniki Airport puts you on Kassandra's beaches in under an hour, making it one of the most convenient island-style getaways on the Greek mainland.
- **Three peninsulas, three moods:** Kassandra offers lively resorts and turquoise water, Sithonia trades crowds for pine-covered hills and quieter coves, and Mount Athos preserves a centuries-old monastic republic reachable only by boat.
- **Something for every traveler:** Families gravitate to Kassandra's organized beach clubs, nature lovers and couples favor Sithonia's forested coastline, and culturally curious visitors can view Athos's monasteries from a scenic boat cruise even without a monastic visit permit.

Whether you are after beach time, quiet nature, or a glimpse of a living Byzantine tradition, *Halkidiki* delivers it without requiring a ferry to a far-flung island.

