

Avdera Thrace – Sights

Today, Avdera belong to the Municipality of Avdera and to the prefecture of Xanthi, in the northeastern side of Greece.

1. Archaeological Museum

The Archaeological Museum of Avdira operates since January 2000. Its exhibitions include objects from the excavations in the region of Avdera (7th century b.c. to 13th century a.d.) and are developed in three thematic areas: a) Public Life, b) Private Life and c) Burial Customs.



2. Archaeological Site of Avdera

In the archaeological site of Avdera the visitor can admire part of the main city of Avdera, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman period which has been discovered until today and spreads over an area of 3.000str. The fortification walls, between which the ancient theater was built, distinguish, while on the southwest lies the Hill of Acropolis and on the northwest the archaic, classical and Hellenistic cemetery.

3. Byzantine Acropolis

This Byzantine construction lies in the coastal hill named "Bouloustra" and is right above the Ancient Port.

4. Ancient Port

The Ancient Port lies in the western side of the modern port. It used to be one of the most important and commercial ports of the Aegean Thrace, as it held a position of strategic importance.

5. Ancient Theater

Recent researches from the archaeological department in the archaeological site of Avdera revealed the position where the Ancient Theater lied.

6. Vistonida Lake – Bird Watching – Porto Lagos

Mythology comes alive when Hercules created Vistonida Lake because, according to the legend, in the region of Porto Lagos Hercules performed his 8th legend exterminating the horses of Deomedes by opening a coastal canal through which the sea flooded the lower lands of the plain.



Vistonida Lake, with an area of 44.000 acres, in addition with the small lagoons that surround it, the virgin forest of Nestos delta and the virgin forests of the mountainous area with the streams that cross them, is an ideal destination, internationally recognized for the development of such kind of activities in a diverse and highly valuable complex of wetland. In this region hundreds of bird species have been observed.

Touristic facilities

Accommodation

1. "Kamara Pipina", Traditional hostel in Avdera, A' Class
Tel.: +30 25410 29729 /+30 25410 51151, +30 6974601018

2. "Agnanti hostel", Traditional hostel in Avdera, A' Class
Tel: +30 25410 25965, +30 6972834112

3. Hotel "Porto Vistonis", A' Class hotel, Porto Lagos
Tel.:+30 25410 96630, Fax: +30 25410 96060

4. Hotel "Porto Lagos", A' Class hotel, Porto Lagos,
Tel.: +30 25410 96255, +30 6972243921

5. Hotel "Petrinos Lofos", A' Class hotel, Potamia, Xanthi
Tel.: +30 25410 96930, +30 6937323110

6."Lefkippos", Hostel in Avdera
Tel: +30 25410 71441, +30 25410 51154

7. "Oikotouristiki", Furnished apartments, Porto Lagos
Tel. & Fax: +30 25410 96601

8. Camping "Natura", Mandra Beach
Tel.:+30 25410 51040, 51041, <http://www.camping-natura.gr>

MUSEUMS

1. Archaeological Museum of Avdera, Tel.: +3025410 51003
2. Folklore Museum of Avdera, Tel: +30 25410 51207/51259

USEFULL TELEPHONES

Municipality of Avdera

Tel.: +30 25413 52500

Police Department

Tel.: +30 25410 81 222

Port Police Porto Lagos

Tel.: +30 25410 96 666

Port Station Avdera

Tel.: +30 25410 51 520

Regional Health Center

Tel.: +30 25410 51 204

Pharmacy Avdera

Tel.: +30 25410 51 261

Prefectural Hospital Xanthi

Tel.: +30 25410 47100

Information Center Vistonida Lake

Tel.: +30 25410 96 646

Thermal Bath

Tel.: +30 25410 96 349

TRANSPORTATION

Bus Station Xanthi

Tel.: +30 25410 22 684

Train Station Xanthi

Tel.: +30 25410 22 581

Airport "Megas Alexandros" Kavala

Tel.: +30 25910 53 273 - 53 279

Airport "Democretus" Alexandroupoli

Tel.: +30 25510 45198

Radiotaxi Xanthi

Tel.: +30 25410 29 977 - 72 801 - 3

Port Police Avdera

Tel.: +30 25410 96 666

Port Station Avdera

Tel.: +30 25410 51 520

European Cultural Route Project

The labours Of Hercules



Vas. Konstantinou 1
67 100 Xanthi - Greece

Tel. +302541022533, +302541025105
Fax: +302541025987

Website: www.ebex.gr
Email: ebex@otenet.gr

The labours Of Hercules

The present proposal aims to create a tourist – historic – cultural path with reference to the life, travels and the labours of the most important hero of the Greek mythology, Hercules. Our purpose is the record of data and documentation of the need for such a route planning that, above all, will have educational character but also can create a cohesive and high-value tourist product that will unite the countries from which Hercules passed or lived in. A fact that is considered as very important is that the Renaissance was based on Greek mythology, Arcadia and the movement of Arcadismus and Hercules is the oldest common cultural background of the Europeans that its traces have not been completely eliminated, although more than 3.000 years have passed. Furthermore, Hercules is the only temporal, prehistoric European hero and, as a consequence, this particular route will act as a cultural bridge and as a big educational park where the visitor will live and walk in the traces of the hero thousands of years after his action.

Route targets

- Utilization of the path for the benefit of local economies. Creation of synergies between tourism, cultural heritage and sustainable development.
- Promotion and development through cultural activities.
- Creation of a bridge among the Mediterranean countries, among countries all over the world, due to Hercules, who is a symbol of piece, friendship and prosperity.
- Encouragement of intercultural dialogue, business partnerships and know-how exchange.
- Strengthening of thematic tourism.
- Creation of a cultural, touristic product, based on the old, interesting history of the great mythic hero, Hercules.

Proposed route

The proposed route passes through countries where Hercules achieved his labours and other heroic events which are: Greece (Peloponnisos, Crete, Thrace), Spain, France, Italy, Georgia, Turkey-Black Sea, Morocco, Egypt, Libya.



The Labours of Hercules



Mythic map with Hercules travels



Avdera of Thrace and Hercules

The mythology presents Hercules as founder of the town of Avdera. It is said that he built Avdera in honor of his friend Avderus, from whom the town took its name. Avderus was killed by the carnivorous horses of the king of the Thracian Bistones, Diomedes (Hercules's 8th labour). The town was located in a privileged for the trade position, had two ports and rich cropland. Consequently, the Tiiön's colony quickly evolved into one of the most flourishing towns of the northern Aegean.

Travel identification with the proposed countries of the cultural route

1) GREECE (Peloponnisos – Thrace – Crete)

The mythological hero was born in Thebes and was son of Zeus and Alcmene. Nine of the twelve Hercule's labours performed in Greece and especially in Peloponnisos, Thrace and Crete.

2) SPAIN

The Geryon's ox labour performed in Spain. Specifically, in La Coruna the emblem of the city, the shield of Bilbao, is the lighthouse built by Hercules, on the base of which there is a skull with two bones that is considered to be the head of Geryon. Moreover, in this region there are the so-called columns of Hercules, the gates of Gibraltar.

3) LIBYA

A place for the existence of Adeus could be in the region of Maghreb, as Lucan in one of his books says that an unknown Libyan narrated to Roman Kourios a story about Hercule's victory against Adeus.

4) EGYPT

In Greek mythology Bousiris was the king of Egypt. Bousiris was harsh and inhospitable, since he killed any stranger that arrived to his kingdom. Hercule's ended Bousiri's hardness when he passed from Egypt on his way to the Esperidon's apples labour or the Geryon's ox labour.

5) MOROCCO

Tanjah is an ancient Phoenician city. A few kilometers outside the city lies "the cave of Hercules", a touristic attraction, in which it is believed that the hero slept before executing one of his labours.

6) TURKEY – BLACK SEA

In the region of Black Sea, in northeastern Turkey, Hercules performed his 9th labour by stealing Ippolyti's belt.

7) GEORGIA

Hercule's after Arabia and Asia and after crossing Black Sea went to Kaykasos where he found Promitheas tied with chains and, according to the legend, he released him.

8) ITALY

The myth says that on the return journey after Geryon's labour, Hercules passed from Italy where he was robbed by the numerous gang of Kakos while he slept. After chasing and capturing Kakos and his gang, he built a temple devoted to his father Zeus, which survives until today.

9) FRANCE

Hercules passed from the Pyrenees and went to Gaul, which took its name from Hercule's son, Gaul.