

## Industries - Facilities

Nowadays, in the area of Xanthi there are three tobacco industries - SEKAP A.E., Kapniki Michailidis and S.E.K.E. A.E. Moreover, there are actions underway which are required for the opening of the Museum of Tobacco in Xanthi. The purpose of the museum is the exhibition of objects of rich historical significance which will come from the cultivation, the processing and the disposal of tobacco both in older and recent years.

## Tourist Routes in Xanthi

### Inside the city

The tourist route in Xanthi starts from the Republic square with the clock tower in the middle, which is the city's landmark, and then the paved street B.Constantine follows where someone can see the recently renovated home of the well-known Greek musician Manos Xatzidakis. As the route continues, the entrance of the Old Town appears where the first old buildings and mansions can be seen that are now used as quaint bistro and café-bars. Here, someone can see the city's Town Hall as well. A walk in the Tobacco Museum and the famous Xanthi's Tobacco Warehouses mentioned above follows after the walk in the Old Town.



### Outside the city

A visit in the mountain area of Xanthi prefecture is essential, as the biggest part of the tobacco cultivation was and is being done in those areas. Visiting a tobacco field and watching part of the processing of the tobacco leaves from workers (as the traditional way of the cultivation has been preserved) will strengthen the assimilation of the cultivation process and also it will act as a training course for the visitors.



## Touristic facilities in the regional district of Xanthi

### HOTELS

AGRIANI, 4<sup>th</sup> km. Xanthi - Stavroupolis, ([www.agriani-hotel.gr](http://www.agriani-hotel.gr))  
ARTEMIS, Margatits Xanthi,  
DEMOCRITUS, 28<sup>th</sup> October 41, ([www.hoteldimokritos.gr](http://www.hoteldimokritos.gr))  
CASINO XANTHI ([www.casinoxanthi.gr](http://www.casinoxanthi.gr))  
XANTHI, Lefkipou 14, ([www.hotelxanthi.gr](http://www.hotelxanthi.gr))  
PETRINOS LOFOS, Mandra Xanthi, ([www.petrinoslofos.gr](http://www.petrinoslofos.gr))  
PHILOXENIA, Toxotes Xanthi, ([www.hotel-filoxenia-xanthi.gr](http://www.hotel-filoxenia-xanthi.gr))  
ELENA, Leof. Stratou, ([www.elenahotel.gr](http://www.elenahotel.gr))  
ELISSO HOTEL, Vas. Sofias 9 Xanthi, ([www.hotelelisso.gr](http://www.hotelelisso.gr))  
JOHNNY, Kimmeria, ([www.hotelgiannis.gr](http://www.hotelgiannis.gr))  
LE CHALET (Pigadia), ([www.lechalet.gr](http://www.lechalet.gr))  
NATASSA, 2<sup>nd</sup> km. N.R. Xanthi - Kavala, ([www.hotelnatassa.gr](http://www.hotelnatassa.gr))  
NEMESIS, Komnina, ([www.hotelnemesis.gr](http://www.hotelnemesis.gr))  
NESTOS, 1<sup>st</sup> km. N.R. Xanthi - Kavala, ([www.nestos-hotel.gr](http://www.nestos-hotel.gr))  
ORFEAS, M. Karaoli 40, ([www.orfeashotel.gr](http://www.orfeashotel.gr))  
PORTO VISTONIS, Porto Lagos, ([www.portovistonis.gr](http://www.portovistonis.gr))  
PARIS, Democritou 12, ([www.parishotel.gr](http://www.parishotel.gr))  
XANTHIPPEIO, 28<sup>th</sup> October 212,  
Z PALACE, End G. Kondyli, ([www.zpalace.gr](http://www.zpalace.gr))

### HOSTELS

Woodland millage Eymanthos (Leivaditis)  
Agnanti, Avdera, ([www.xenag.gr](http://www.xenag.gr))  
Kamara Pipina, Avdera, ([www.kamarapipina.gr](http://www.kamarapipina.gr))  
Lefkippos, Avdera,  
Iniochos, Komnina,  
Nostos, Stravroupolis,  
To Archontiko ([www.toarchontiko.gr](http://www.toarchontiko.gr))  
Imera, (Toxotes), ([www.hotel-filoxenia-xanthi.gr](http://www.hotel-filoxenia-xanthi.gr))  
Tzivaeri, Lykodromio, ([www.tzivaeri.eu](http://www.tzivaeri.eu))  
Philidimos, Stravroupolis,  
Diava, Stravroupolis ([www.diava.gr](http://www.diava.gr))  
Indoglou Mechat, Thermes Xanthi  
Nefeles, Toxotes Xanthi  
Kokkymelon, Toxotes Xanthi, ([www.kokkymelon.gr](http://www.kokkymelon.gr))  
Agnantio, Ano Karyofyto, ([www.agnantio-xanthi.gr](http://www.agnantio-xanthi.gr))

## Connectivity

The connectivity with the prefecture of Xanthi includes many ways.

The airport which serves the prefecture of Xanthi is named "Megas Alexandros" and is located in Chrysoupolis (Kavala) south-west of Xanthi in a distance of 35 km from the town. By road mainly via Egnatia Odos which connects the borders of Greece-Turkey with Igoumenitsa.

By train that passes through Xanthi's prefecture via the Railway Station of the town. There are daily routes to Thessaloniki, Athens and Alexandroupolis.

The busses group of Xanthi is in recent years located in a new station that has the ability to service a bigger number of passengers with big comfort. There are interurban routes to all over Greece, as also to the outskirts and the villages. Someone can pass through Bulgaria via the road of Agios Konstantinos on the borders of the prefecture with the neighbor country as well.

## European Cultural Route Project

# The Tobacco Road



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# The Tobacco Road

The present proposal was conducted in order to map the tourist route which is associated with “tobacco road” in Europe and the Mediterranean region. The purpose of the study is to capture the contribution of culture and trade of tobacco in economic and sociopolitical development of these countries. The proposed route includes countries that either cultivated tobacco or traded it for final processing and sale. Specifically, the route includes the following countries: Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, German, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Egypt. In Greece, a tourist route within the regional unit of Xanthi is proposed, since it was the most famous area of tobacco production for a very long time. The intensive production of aromatic tobaccos and the systematic activity of the tobacco merchants in the global market ranked Xanthi really high among the wealthiest regions of the country.



## Xanthi and Tobacco

Herodotus and Plutarch were the first to mention the use of cannabis in ancient Thrace. The cultivation of tobacco was transferred in the valley of Nestos river by Ottomans in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The qualities of tobacco produced in the region of Xanthi considered being among the best in the world and their prices were very high. The best tobacco varieties, known as “chrysofylla” in the Ottoman Empire were produced in Genissea and Chrysoupolis. Tobacco was transported by caravans of camels or mules to the ports of Kavala and Porto Lagos as well as to many foreign cities where tobacco merchants from Xanthi were established.

In 1870 a great fire destroys Genissea, resulting in the transfer of the Turkish Governor’s headquarter in Xanthi in 1872. This was followed by the transfer of the whole administrative and commercial life in Xanthi as well. During the late 18th century tobacco cultivation has



become monoculture in the area of Xanthi. In a population of about 10.000 inhabitants, more than half (about 6.000) are referred to as active tobacco workers, while all the available hands of a rural family were employed in the cultivation and harvesting of tobacco leaves. Further treatments were also done collectively and preceded trade.

The influx of wealth in the region of Xanthi is testified by the building activity and survives until today in the warehouses of tobacco merchants and in their houses. In Xanthi the tobacco warehouses have been built near the train station and in a flat space, where there are appropriate conditions of humidity and the land was relatively cheap as it was not offered for real estate development. The tobacco warehouses of Xanthi are built during the era of intensive reconstruction of the city (1860-1912) and gradually became two-storey and three-storey, as the production of tobacco increased rapidly.

The buildings of tobacco warehouses are exquisite specimens of architecture, perhaps unique at European level. They stand out for their classic aesthetic principles, such as the symmetry in the organization, the harmonious proportions, the axial direction, the strict geometric border and the clarity of the building volume, the great height and certainly the acclaimed use of traditional materials. The tobacco warehouses in Xanthi consist a very important set of industrial architecture and this is the only similar area that survives today in Greece.

Tobacco warehouses have been declared as monuments from the Central Council of Modern Monuments and their upgrade may lead to the upgrade of the whole city and the creation of a unique urban whole.