

the skiathos and halkidiki guide



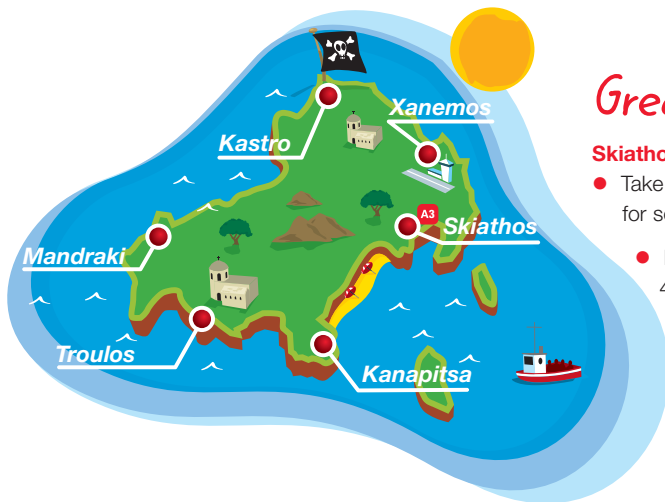
Discover Skiathos and Halkidiki...

Skiathos is blessed with many exquisite beaches and is one of Greece's premier resorts. The island's only major settlement is the capital and port of Skiathos Town, which lies on the southeast coast. However, more curious visitors will discover inviting walks, picturesque monasteries, hilltop taverns and even quiet beaches.

Halkidiki is a popular holiday destination located in the North of Greece near the city of Thessaloniki and consists of three peninsulas, Kassandra, Sithonia and Mount Athos. Halkidiki is famous for its traditional villages, outstanding beauty and the best beaches with crystalline waters and their pure white sand.

A1 = Avis Locations

Please note that some places mentioned in this guide do not appear on the map. This guide is to be used as an overview of the destination.



Great spots to visit in an Avis car...

Skiathos

- Take a trip to Kastro, the island's fortified pirate-proof capital between 1540 to 1829 for some tremendous views.
- Hiring a car is a must for a visit to **Moni Evangelistrias**. Poised above a gorge 450m above sea level, and surrounded by pine and cypress trees, the monastery was once a refuge for freedom fighters during the War of Independence.

Halkidiki

- Drive to **Poligiros**, the capital built like an amphitheatre up the foothills of Mt Holomodas or Sithonia, the middle of Halkidiki's three peninsulas, renowned for its beaches and tiny villages.
- **Sithonia** is the most beautiful unspoiled area in Halkidiki. The best way to visit this area is by car. There are numerous traditional villages and also many secluded beaches where the water is crystal clear. It is a very relaxing way to enjoy the sheer beauty of Halkidiki.

Top tips for Skiathos and Halkidiki

- **A right hand side road system** operates in Skiathos and Halkidiki.
- **Speed limits:**

	Halkidiki	Skiathos
Motorway	120km/h	60km/h
Open Road	110km/h	60km/h
Town	50km/h	30km/h
- **Petrol stations** are not as common as in other European countries. Most stay open until 21.00.
- **Drivers must be 21 or over** to drive and hold a valid driving licence for more than 12 months.

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Getting the most out of Skiathos and Halkidiki

Top selling tips

Always introduce car hire into every booking...

Q. What do you like to do on holiday?

"I hired a car in... and it was great for seeing / doing..."

Q. Have you been to the area before?

Yes *"So you know that there's a lot to do round there. Let me get some car hire prices for you"*

No *"Well there's lots to do in that area (such as) and the best way to see them is by hiring a car"*

Q. Do you normally hire a car on holiday?

Yes or No *"Let me get some prices for you, it usually works out cheaper to pre-book"*

Places to note...

Skiathos

The monastery of **Panaghia Kounistra** is just above Troulos and is where the holy icon of Panaghia Kounistra patron of Skiathos was found. It is set in a very pretty spot, has a grape arbour and a tavern within its walls.

Skiathos' most famous son and considered to be Greece's best writer of modern prose, **Alexander Papadiamantis** lived in a house at the end of Papadiamanti Street in **Skiathos Town**.

Halkidiki

Thessaloniki - The second largest city in Greece. Many places of history can be visited such as the old town and the oldest church St Dimitrios. For some relaxation, a drink by the promenade offers the opportunity to enjoy the cosmopolitan atmosphere. Also great for shopping, the city has a huge open daily market but also a selection of designers shops.

Mt Athos is the most spectacular place in the area. It is the third peninsula of Halkidiki. There are more than 20 monasteries where even today 1700 monks are based.

Savings to be made...

Do more with your holiday by hiring a car. You could save money at the same time as well! Compare these excursion costs against car hire:

A half day tour of the Byzantine museum and churches of Thessaloniki costs €50 per person, that's €200 for a family of four!

Please note that the information stated is subject to change and is used as reference only. Avis cannot take any responsibility if the information is incorrect.

Benefits of renting a car...

- **Comfort** – choose an air conditioned car and travel in comfort.
- **Freedom** – explore those hidden treasures.
- **Value for money** – if you enjoy sightseeing, car hire can work out much better value for money than excursions.
- **Flexibility** – do what you want, when you want.
- **Reliability** – no need to wait around for buses or trains.

Avis locations

Halkidiki

- Kalithea - Kassandra (KLK) A1
- Neos Marmaras - Sithonia A2

Skiathos

- Skiathos (S3K)
Paralia, Seafront Road A3

Join the festivities

February / March / April

Easter is celebrated in all the villages and towns of Halkidiki for it is the biggest religious event for the entire Greece and is particularly interesting to see and live.

June / July / August

On the feast day of the Dormition of the Virgin, big celebrations and festivities take place at the villages of **Megali Panaghia**, at **Aphytos** in **Halkidiki**.

On the last Sunday in July swimmers gathered in Kallithea, Halkidiki, to participate to the **"crossing of the Toronean Gulf"** and swim until Nikiti.

During the summer various cultural events are organised by the local council on the peninsula of **Bourtzi**, Skiathos, located between the old and the new harbour.

Local festivities are taking place with music, food and drink during the celebration of the Assumption of the Virgin; the procession of the burial of the Virgin at the **monastery of Evangelistria**, Skiathos, is also worth seeing.

September / October / November

During November, various events are organised at Nea Potidea, Halkidiki, for the commemoration of the **Holocaust of Cassandra**.



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