

the *thassos* guide



Discover the emerald of the Aegean...

The island of Thassos has a close proximity to mainland Greece – only 10km from Kavala. It is often referred to as the 'emerald isle' due to its unrivalled natural beauty of huge oaks, plane trees and shaded mountain villages. The other main attraction of Thassos is its attractive white-sand beaches and the archaeological remains in and around the capital. The island was once known for its gold in ancient times but is now a major provider of oil and white marble.

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...

- Rent a car to visit the fascinating **Archaeological Museum of Thassos** located in the capital of Limenas. It has been built near the ancient agora, on the small port. It exposes various findings from Thassos such as potteries, statues and terracotta figurines.
- The **Monastery of Archangelos Michail** is dedicated to the Archangel Michel and is located on the road between Astris and Alyki, on a cliff. It is worth seeing for its breathtaking location and for the construction itself.
- Take a drive to **Paradise Beach** which lies on the east coast of Thassos and is unmatched by its beauty with gleaming white sands. The beach itself lies within a bay, and the water is very calm and excellent for swimming. There are also water-sport amenities and taverns close-by.
- Make the journey to **Maries Lake** in the centre of the island, surrounded by wilderness of rolling hills and trees. The tranquil and peaceful atmosphere makes it ideal for walkers and cyclists.
- Visit the town of **Alyki**, which has the remains of 7th Century B.C temples and buildings. Alyki may be a small town today but it is still well worth the journey.



Top tips for Thassos

- Minimum driving age of 21.
- **Speed limits:** Highway 120km/h
Minor roads 90km/h
Urban roads 50km/h
- The drivers and all passengers are required to wear **seat belts** at all times.
- Children under the age of 12 years of age are not allowed to sit in the front seat.
- A **right hand side** road system operates in Thassos.

According to the Greek legend, Thassos was the island of the Sirens - the devilish women with a fish tail. It is said that they had such a beautiful voice that every man who would listen to them, would fall under their spell and perish to their deaths.

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.

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Getting the most out of Thassos

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...

Theologos is the old island capital, and still the centre for the southern half of the island. The mountains and the inland landscapes of this area are among the most picturesque on the island and there are hundreds of paths and trails for hiking and mountaineering.

Kastro is perhaps the oldest village on Thassos. Built on an inland peak, Kastro was totally abandoned apart from the church of St. Athanasios, who has always been the villagers' guardian and patron saint. The landscape and flora are rich reward for those that take the trouble to visit.

The old hamlet of **Maries** is one of the oldest on the island, built over a wooded ravine. The village church is dedicated to the archangels and is one of the oldest churches on Thassos. It is adorned with many works created by monks.

Take a hike up **Mount Ypsarion** to admire the view of the entire island laid out before you - it makes the journey well worthwhile. The road is fairly good and leads you up to the highest peak on the island.

Savings to be made...

Do more with your holiday by hiring a car, You could save money at the same time as well! Here's an excursion cost to compare car hire against:

An all-day guided tour of Thassos costs 32 EUR that's 128 EUR for a family of four!

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.

Avis locations

- **Thassos (G5C): A1**
Thassos Main Office, Limenas Thassos

Join the festivities

January / February / March

In January there is the big **festival of Saint Athanasios**. In Kalivia there is the festival of Easter with a big dance.

Carnival period - Many villages throughout the island celebrate this event. The village of Panagia (the most famous and impressive carnival of the island) celebrates with parades, dances, food and wine.

April / May / June

Three days after Easter is the fair of Saint George; a pagan custom takes place in Limenaria and Kalivia during which the inhabitants are performing a "dance to the rain", hoping for rain in April.

July / August / September

The feast of Agios Panteleimon is celebrated in the Monastery of the same name. **The Cultural Festival** is organised in the ancient theatre of Limenas. It is the most important festival of the island, organising various concerts and ancient Greek plays in the Stadium and the theatre.



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