

ZAGORI

• **Vikos Gorge & Zagori Information Centre at Aspraggeli**
Tel. – Fax: (+30) 26530 22241, e-mail: pindos.np@gmail.com/ kpasprag@otenet.gr
• **Vikos Gorge & Zagori Information Centre at Papigo**
Tel. – Fax: (+30) 26530 25096, e-mail: kppapigo@gmail.com

Exhibit centers

- **Rizarios Handicraft Centre**, Monodendri, Zagori, Tel.: (+30) 26530 71119. Handcrafted traditional wefts and embroideries exhibition
- **Rizarios Exhibition Centre - Photography Exhibition**, Monodendri, Zagori, Tel.: (+30) 26530 71513
Visiting Hours: Daily 09:00 a.m. – 16:00 p.m.
Tel.: (+30) 26530 71119 www.rizarios.gr, exb@rizarios.gr
- **Cultural Center – Botanical Museum** “K. Lazaridis”, Koukouli, Zagori
Tel.: (+30) 26530 71775, Library, botanical and other exhibits are presented.
- **Sheep-fold of Sarakatsani people**, Skamnelli, Zagori. Outdoor exhibition, concerning the Sarakatsani’s way of living. The different types of dwellings (konakia) are presented, the household goods, the blankets, the tools used for daily Sarakatsani activities etc. Tel.: (+30) 694 7102385
- **Water Power Museum**, Vovousa, Municipality of Zagori Tel.: (+30) 26560 22843

Monasteries – Churches

- **St. John Rogovou Monastery** (1028-1034) Tsepelovo, Vikaki Gorge
- **St. Paraskevi Monastery** (1412) Monodendri, Vikos Gorge
- **Kimissi Theotokou Monastery** (7th century) Votsa, Vardas River, Greveniti
- **Panagia Spiliotissa Monastery** (1597) Aristi, Voidomatis River
- **Evangelistria Monastery** (1793) Ano Pedina
- **Aghas Triadas Monastery** (1667) Vrisochori
- **Triune Church St. Triada - St. Dimitrios and St. George** (1779) Negades
- **Kimissis Theotokou Church** (1630) Koukouli
- **St. Dimitrios Church** (1668) Greveniti
- **St. Vlasios Church** (1852) Megalo Papigo
- **Taxiarches Church** (1591) Kato Pedina

Stone-paved footpaths

- **Vitsa**
- **Vradeto**
- **Koukouli** (Koukouli - Kipi, Koukouli - Vitsa)

Stone Bridges

- **Aghios Minas Bridge** (Dilofo)
- **Noutsos or Kokori Bridge**, Vikos Gorge (Koukouli, 1750)
- **Missios Bridge**, Vikos (Koukouli – Vitsa, 1748)
- **Three-arched Plakida or Kaloigeriko Bridge**,

KONITSA

Exhibit centers

- **Konitsa History Photography exhibition**. Old Muslim School, Suleiman the Magnificent Mosque, Konitsa Tel.: (+30) 26550 24144
- **Folklore Museum** at Agia Paraskevi, Konitsa Tel.: (+30) 6976551251
- **Library**, Konitsa, Tel.: (+30) 26550 22298
- **Monastery - Ecclesiastical Museum**, Esodia tis Theotokou (Presentation of Mary)(1672), at Molista

Monasteries -Churches

- **St. Anargiron Monastery**, (1658) at Voidomatis gorge, Kleidonia
- **St Apostles Monastery** (1662) at old Kledonia, Kleidonia
- **Panagia Stomiou Monastery** (1774) at Aaos canyon, Konitsa
- **Osios Nikanoras Monastery** (1816), Nikanoras
- **Esodia tis Theotokou (Presentation of Mary) Monastery** (1672) at Monastiri
- **St. Nikolaos Metropolitan Church** (1842) Konitsa
- **St. Paraskevi Church** (1864) at Palaioseli
- **St. George Church** at Pigi

Stone Bridges

- **Voidomatis Bridge**, Kleidonias (1853)

METSOVO

Pindos Information Centre at Metsovo
Tel. – Fax: (+30)26560 42720
e-mail :kpmetsov@otenet.gr

Exhibit centers

- **Tositza Mansion in Metsovo** (Folklore Museum), Tel.: (+30) 26560 41084
- **E. Averoff's Institution Gallery** Metsovo, Tel.: (+30) 26560 41210, Fax: (+30) 26560 42617
42617 Visiting hours: 10a.m.-16p.m. daily (Tuesdays closed). www.averoffmuseum.gr averoff@otenet.gr.
Paintings and sculptures made by Greek artists of the 19th and 20th century.

- Bagiotiko Flume (Kipi- Koukouli, 1814)
• **Kontodimos or Lazaridi Bridge**
Vikaki Gorge (Kipi, 1753)
• **Two-arched Milos Bridge**, Bagiotiko stream (Kipi, 1748)
• **Three-arched Petsioni Bridge**, Tributary of Zagoritikos river (Fraggades, 1818)
• **Three -arched Kaloutas Bridge**, Zagoritikos River (Kaloutas)
• **Tsepelovo Bridges**
(Xatsiou, Anthias or Paleogeifiro, 1804)
• **Kir-Aleksis Bridge**, Skammeliotiko River (Skamnelli, 1812)
• **Kouitsas Bridge**, Tributary of Aaos River (Vrisochori)
• **Stathis Bridge**, Tributary of Zagoritikos River (Dikorfo)
• **Kaber Agas Bridge**, Zagoritikos River (Miliotades)
• **Tsiplani Bridge**, Vardas River (Greveniti – Tristeno, 1875)
• **Vovousa Bridge**, Aaos River (1748)

Waterfalls - Springs

- **Iliochoiri Waterfalls**, Iliochoiri
- **Papigo Spings**, on the road from Mikro to MegaloPapigo

Watermill – Water based (flokati) cleaning facility

- **Watermill– Water based cleaning facility of Tristeno**
- **Kipi Watermill** (Kipi)
- **Water based cleaning facility of Vovousa**

Historical & Archeological sites

- **St. Minas Kastraki: Acropolis of Hellenistic Period**, 3rd century BC. Settlement and fortifications of Late-Byzantine -Post-Byzantine period, 13th -19th century BC.
- **Grampala Hill (or Ruinikos)**, on the road from Aristi to Kato Pedina. Battlefielddof 1940.
- **Ancient Settlement of Vitsa** Monodendri Settlement, cemetery, basins, aqueduct from Archaic, Classical period (9th – 4th century BC)
- **Skamnelli Acropolis:** Ruins of entrenchment from Classical – Hellenistic period (4th – 3rd century BC)
- **Greveniti Acropolis:** Ruins of entrenchment from Hellenistic period (3rd century BC)
- **Makrino Acropolis** (KiatralArie Hill): Ruins of entrenchment from Hellenistic period (3rd century BC)

Panoramas

- **“Oxia” location**, Monodendri. View to Vikos Gorge
- **Monastery of Agia Paraskevi forecourt**, Monodendri
- **“Beloi” location**, Vradeto
- **Panoramic view location in Vikos village**
- **“Bokovo” location**, between Skamnelli and Gyftokampos

- **Konitsa Bridge**, Aaos River (1850)
- **Bousli Bridge**, Aaos tributary, Topolitsa (Konitsa, 1904)
- **Pournias Bridge**, Sarantaporos tributary (1853)
- **Pigi Bridge**

Historical & Archeological sites

- **Klidi of Voidomatis:** Prehistoric ruins (Paleolithic period, 14,000 – 8,000 BC)
- **Castle of Konitsa:** Ruins of entrenchment, Byzantine period
- **Konitsa Historical Centre:** Traditional settlement (50 mansions)
- **Zeinel Bei Mansion**, Konitsa Tel. (+30)26553 60326
- **Suleiman the Magnificent Mosque**, Konitsa
- **4 Tourbedes (Tombs)**, (old Muslim monasteries' mausoleums) Konitsa. Tel: (+30) 26553 60326

Panoramas

- **Prophet Ilias** (Ano Konitsa)
- **St. Barbara Chapel** (Konitsa)
- **Ano Kleidonia settlement** with view to the “towers” of Papigo and the valley of Konitsa

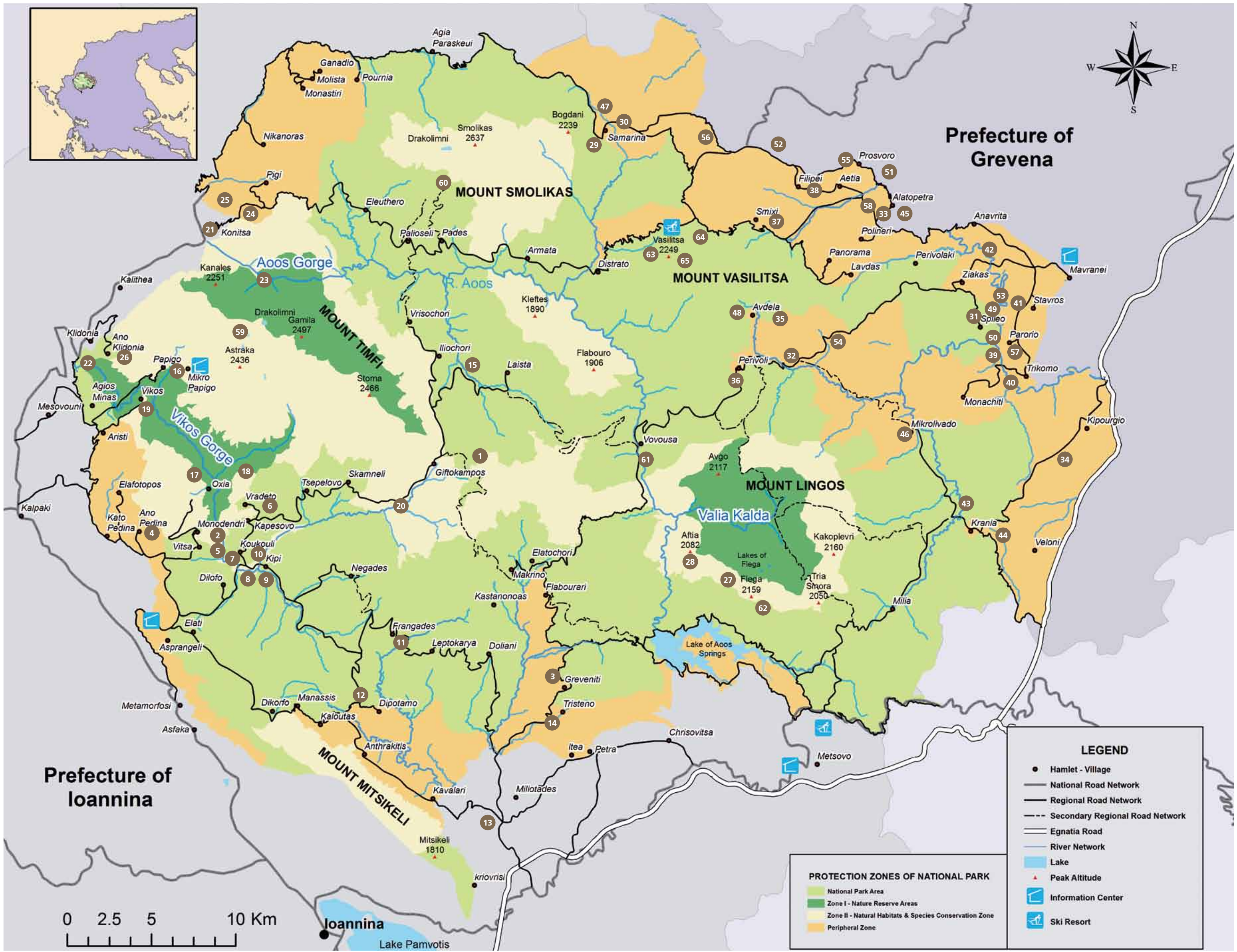
Water based (flokati) cleaning facility

- **Water based cleaning facility of AgiaParaskevi**

- **Katogi Traditional Winery**, Metsovo, Tel.: (+30) 26560 41010
- **Folklore Museum**, Milia village

Panoramas

- **Panorama** location at Flega peak, of the Ligos Mountain. View to Aaos springs artificial Lake, Valia Kalda Valley and to Flega lakes.
- **Panorama** location at Aftia peak, of the Ligos Mountain. View to Aaos springs artificial Lake and to Valia Kalda Valley.



GREVENA

Valia Kalda Information Centre, at Mavranai
Tel.: (+30)24620 87563, Fax: 24620 87564,
e-mail: kpmavran@gmail.com

Exhibit centers

- **Mushroom – Folklore Museum** at Lavda, Tel.: (+30) 6972033243
- **Folklore exhibition** Samarina, Tel.: (+30) 6979030119
- **Folklore exhibition** Manakis Brothers Photography exhibition (pioneering photographers and cinematographers in the Balkans, 1905-1918), open during the summer, Avdela village Tel.: (+30) 6932033938

Monasteries – Churches

- **St. Paraskevi Monastery** (Samarina, 1713)
- **Megali Panagia Church** (Samarina)
- **Assumption of Mary** (Koimisi tis Theotokou)

- **Monastery** (Spileao , 1633)
- **St. Nikolas Church**, between Ziakas and Perivolivillages (1803)
- **Sts. Theodore Church**, between Polineri and Alatopetra villages
- **St. Athanasios of Gorgiani Monastery**, on the road from Kipourio to Krania
- **Transfiguration of Jesus Church** (1900) (Metamorfofi tou Sotira), east of Avdela (1900)
- **St. George Church**, in Perivol's central square (1760)
- **St. Nikolas Church**, Smixi (1750)
- **Sts. Constantine and Helen Church**, Fillipei (1886)

Stone Bridges

- **Aziz Aga Bridge**, (triple-arched), over Venetikos River. Has the longest span of any arched bridge in Macedonia. (Trikomo, 1727)
- **Kagelia Bridge**, double-arched, Venetikos River (Trikomo, Monahiti, 19th c.)
- **Portitsa Bridge**, double-arched, Venetikos River, at Portitsa gorge (Spileao , 1793) -Katsogianni

- **Bridge** (or watermill bridge), triple-arched, Velonias River (Spileao , 1800) - Liatisas Bridge, single-arched, Velonias River (Spileao , 1800)
- **Ziakas Bridge**, double-arched, Velonias River, tributary of Venetikos, (Ziakas, 19th c.)
- **Stabeki Bridge**, tributary of Venetikos (Krania, 1850)
- **Matsagani Bridge**, single-arched, tributary of Venetikos (Krania, 1850)
- **Alatopetra (or Prosforo) Bridge** or the Blind Man's Bridge, single-arched, Velonias River (between Alatopetra and Prosforo villages, built before the 1900's)

Watermill - Water-cleaning mills

- **Traditional watermill** – traditional water cleaning mill for rugs and blankets. Mikrolivado village, at 850m.
- **Traditional cleaning mill** for rugs and blankets, Samarina village.
- **Traditional cleaning mill** for rugs and blankets, at “Manakia” location outside Avdela village.
- **Katsogiannis Watermill**. Located 2km east of Spileao, by the Venetikos River.

Panoramas

- **Panorama** from mount Oriakiak-picnic location, Spileao village.
- **Panorama-picnic location**, Prophet Elias chapel at 1,384 m, near Prosforo village.
- **«Kourouna» picnic location**, on the road from Fillipei to Samarina village.
- **«Karastergios Spring» picnic location**, on the road from Ziakas to Perivoli village.
- **Picnic location «Exarhos»**, on the road from Ziakas to Perivoli village.

Waterfalls

- **Tsourgias gorge waterfall**, 100m height, at Aetia village.

Historical & Archeological sites

- **Anitsa War Monument**, commemorated to the battles of the Pindos 1940-41. Accessible from the old road from Fillipei to Samarina village.
- **Acropolis and tombs**, found at the archeological

- site of Spilaio, dating from Palaeolithic to Byzantine Eras.
- **Hellenistic temple and settlement**, , at the acropolis of Kastri, near Alatopetra village

Trekking Shelters

- **Ski resort Vasilitsa** Tel. : (+30) 2462076530
- **Ski resort Politses, Metsovo** Tel. : (+30) 2656029111
- **Tymfi Trekking Shelter “D. Georgoulis”**, Astrakia – Papigo, Ioannina. Tel.: (+30) 6973 223100
- **Smolikas Trekking Shelter**, Palioseli - Konitsa. Tel.: (+30) 6942 939939/ 6988 015666
- **Valia Kalda Trekking Shelter**, at Vovousa, Ioannina. Tel.: (+30) 26510 29445 & 22226, 26560 22200, 6977 314779
- **MetsovoTrekking Shelter**, Mavrovouni, Metsovo. Tel.: (+30) 26560 41207
- **TymfiTrekking Shelter**, Chalet,Vasilitsa Ski Resort, Tel.: (+30) 24620 82820, Mob.: (+30) 6980 214027
- **Gomara Trekking Shelter - Chalet “Vasilitsa 1850”**, Vasilitsa Ski Resort, Grevena, Mob.: (+30) 6944 425074
- **Vasilitsa Trekking Shelter - Chalet**, Vasilitsa Ski

- Resort, Grevena, Tel.: (+30) 24620 84100, Mob.: (+30) 693 270 2100



The northern Pindos National Park

The mountainous woodlands of Northern Pindos host an exceptional ecosystem, inviting visitors to appreciate pristine mountain and forest environments. Preservation of this rare ecology has required the creation of an innovative, effective management policy.

The Northern Pindos National Park was created in 2005 with the unification of Valia Kalda and Vikos-Aoos National Forests and incorporation of the intervening wilderness region. With an area of nearly two thousand square kilometers (1.969.741.000sq.m.), it is the largest National Park on the Greek mainland. The Park includes nearly all the Zagori district, parts of Konitsa and Metsovo, and the western region of Grevena County.

The Park offers a unique combination of natural wilderness regions and traditional villages. A large number of endemic plant and animal species thrive on mountain slopes of rare geologic significance. Eleven regions of the EU wide network of nature protection areas **“NATURA 2000”** are included at the National Park, eleven Wildlife Refuges, a Biogenetic Reserve Region (Valia Kalda) and two areas that are internationally recognized as bird conservation sanctuaries. The mountain of Oriakias, at the east of the Park region, is an “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.” In 2010, the Vikos-Aoos region, hosting the world’s steepest gorge (Guinness World Record), was established as an International Geopark by UNESCO, due to its large geological and geomorphological value. An aspiring UNESCO Geopark, the Tethys Geopark, is located in the Grevena region of the Park.

The Land Use within the **National Park** is an innovative scheme that unifies the protection of wilderness and conservation areas with traditional rural cultures dependent on herding, lumbering and mountain-based agriculture. To preserve the ecosystem and traditional mountain lifestyle, a land-use management system was developed that established a graded system of conservation zones. Four distinct management regions have been delineated over the park area:

1. The **Nature Reserve Areas (Zone I)** include the core areas (National Forests) of the National Park,

that is, Valia Kalda, the Vikos Gorge and Aaos Canyon. These are the environmental hearts of the park and require the most effective protection of the existing natural environment with minimal human intervention. Scientific research, guided tours for visitors and eco-tourist programs have been designed to allow access to these areas, with the least environmental impact.

2. Four areas adjacent to the environmentally sensitive core areas have been delineated as **Habitat and Species Conservation Zones (Zone II)**. The land uses in these areas are also restricted to preserve the natural environment. The sustainable management of these zones includes research activities and encouragement of traditional agriculture.

3. The Main Area of the Park constitutes the largest area of the National Park and includes several village lands where environmental and traditional mountain lifestyles are protected. The Park promotes the preservation of traditional activities, with maintenance of the environmental balance. Eco-tourism and education in this area is encouraged.

4. Areas outlying the National Park borders, but considered essential to the Park’s ecosystem are included in four **Peripheral Zones (Zone P)**. The Peripheral areas are buffers between the highly protected areas of the Park and the surrounding region. Land use restrictions are placed on activities that have a negative effect on the maintenance of the Park area in a natural state. The Peripheral areas overlap the range of protected species, such as the brown bear (Ursusarctos) and other wildlife. Sustainable growth and development of recreational activities are promoted, with a goal or restoring these buffer zone regions to a more natural, but economically sustainable, state.

In general, traditional animal husbandry, agriculture, forestry usage, and the production and marketing of local resources and commodities are protected. The development of tourist facilities, “agri-business” scale farming, and hydroelectric projects are restricted. Country inns and guesthouses, trekking shelters, and small-scale agricultural units that promote environmental conservation and traditional lifestyles are encouraged.



Roe
(*Capreolus capreolus*)



Salamander
(*Salamandra salamandra*)

Ecological Value

The fact that the park hosts many rare ecosystem types and many endemic species of fauna and flora adds a high ecological value to the protected area. The biology of the region is determined by the particular topography (high mountain ranges, ravines, slopes with different orientation), the geology and the presence of special rocks, the climatic conditions and the presence of humans throughout the years.

Over **2000 plant species** have been catalogued throughout the area of the Park. Many flowering plants and herbs are endemic and considered endangered species. Among the fungi of the area, over 2500 species of mushroom have been documented.

Wild life in the park includes **60 species of mammals**, among these almost all of the endangered mammals of Greece. The most important are the chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*) and the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). The populations of these species are higher in the park refuge than anywhere else in Greece. Other important species include the wolf (*Canis lupus*), the roe (*Capreolus capreolus*), the wild cat (*Felis sylvestris*), the otter (*Lutra lutra*) and some of the more common ones, such as the boar (*Sus scrofa*) that has a population increase in the region. Some traces and observations indicate the lynx’s (*Lynx lynx*) periodical presence in the region.

Among the **186 species of birds** that the area hosts, the birds of prey are of great interest and

particularly the Egyptian vulture (Neophron percnopterus), which is a universally endangered species, the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*), the robin (*Falco peregrinus*), the fish hawk (*Hieraetus pennatus*), the osprey (*Circaetus gallicus*) and the golden hawk (*Falco biarmicus*). There is also a remarkable woodpecker presence, such as the large black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*) and the Balkan woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriaca*).

30 reptile species are encountered the National Park area, including **16 lizard, 10 snake and 4 turtle species**. Indicatively, we note the presence of the Dalmatian Algyroides lizard (*Algyroides nigropunctatus*), the Japanese striped snake (*Elaphe quatuorlineata*) and the Marginated Tortoise (*Testudo marginata*).

Out of the **14 amphibian species** that are hosted in the area, of particular interest are the alpine newts (*Triturusalpestris*) or the “dragons”, located at high altitudes, such as the Dragon lakes at Mounts Smolikias, Tymfi and Flega and the salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*). The Park’s rivers and their tributaries make an excellent habitat for 17 species of fish, among which: the pindovino (*Barbatula pindus*), an endemic species, only found in Aaos River; the Albanian Roach (*Pachychilon pictum*), another two endemic species of trout (*Salmoalgyroides* and *Salmoalpinus*), also found in Aaos River and some more common species, such as the trout (*Salmo trutta*), the fresh water mullet (*Leuciscus cephalus*), the common nase (*Chondrostoma nasus*) and the barbel (*Barbus peloponnesius*).



Brown bear
(*Ursus arctos*)



Chamois
(*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*)



Falco peregrinus



Metsovo Information Centre



Monitoring program



Patrolling in Valia Kalda



Orchid
(*Acampsis pyramidalis*)



Valia Kalda

Ski Resorts

The Pindos National Park hosts one of the most beautiful ski resorts of Greece. Located on Mount Vasilitsa (2,249m) 42km northwest of the city of Grevena, the ski centre was founded in 1975 and established as the National Ski Centre of Greece in 1991. Winter sports enthusiasts praise the quality and depth of its snow cover and its extended snow season: the resort is open for skiing from the first of December to March, and sometimes well into April. Vasilitsa offers alpine, slalom, downhill, freestyle, cross-country and snowboarding opportunities and hosts several winter sport competitions each year. It now hosts 18 runs, one of which is the longest natural ski run in Greece, 7 lifts (including 2 chair lifts, 4 t-bars and a “baby-lift”) and a snowboard terrain park at 1,850m. Mount Vasilitsa is ideal for off-season fitness activities as well, such as Nordic (ski) walking and trekking, while during the sum-

Management of the National Park

The Management Agency of Vikos-Aoos and Pindos National Parks was founded in 2002, and since 2007 has overseen operation of the Northern Pindos National Park. The Park agency is within the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, dedicated to supervision of protected wildlife areas and it is administered by an eleven-member Administrative Board.

Management is responsible for the implementation of protective restrictions within the land use zones of the Park area, data collection required for environmental monitoring, proposals of scientific research initiatives, and of technical and infrastructure projects. The Park Management Agency is headquartered in Grevena, but its administration services currently are accommodated at the Vikos-Aoos Information Centre, located at Aspragelli, Zagori of Ioannina.

mer the slopes host a Mountain Bike Park and the Pan-Hellenic Downhill Race.

For ski reports and announcements, contact the Vasilitsa Ski Resort Management Agency: Tel.: Intl Access + 30 – 24620-76530 or visit their website at www.vasilitsa.com.

Metsovo has built a modern ski resort (Profitis Ilias Ski Resort) on Mount Politsies, right next to Profitisilias Chapel, at 1,360m in altitude. Appropriate for beginners, it hosts five downhill ski slopes, one cross-country ski run, 2 surface lifts and a baby lift. Still in a development phase, this centre offers a chalet with restaurant and cafeteria, a ski school and an equipment & snowmobile rental store.

For more information and announcements: Tel.: Intl Access + 30 – 265602911, 2656042772, 2656041095, 265604263 or visit their website : www.metsovo-ski.gr.



School educational program



Aaos Canyon



Trapezitsa-Konitsa



Vasilitsa Ski Resort



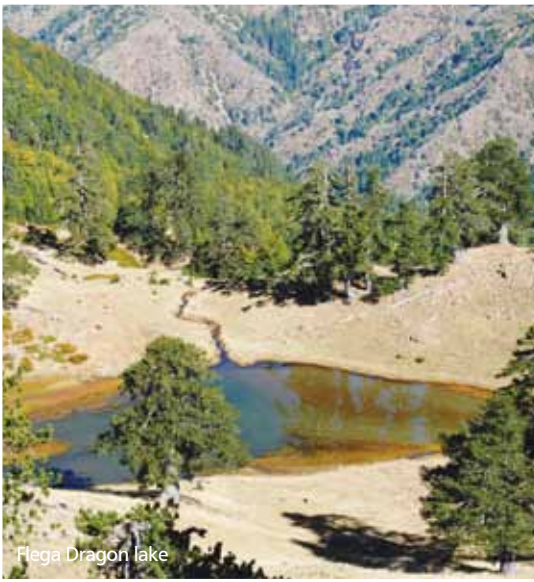
Vikos Gorge



Dikorfo



Kagelia Bridge, Trikomo

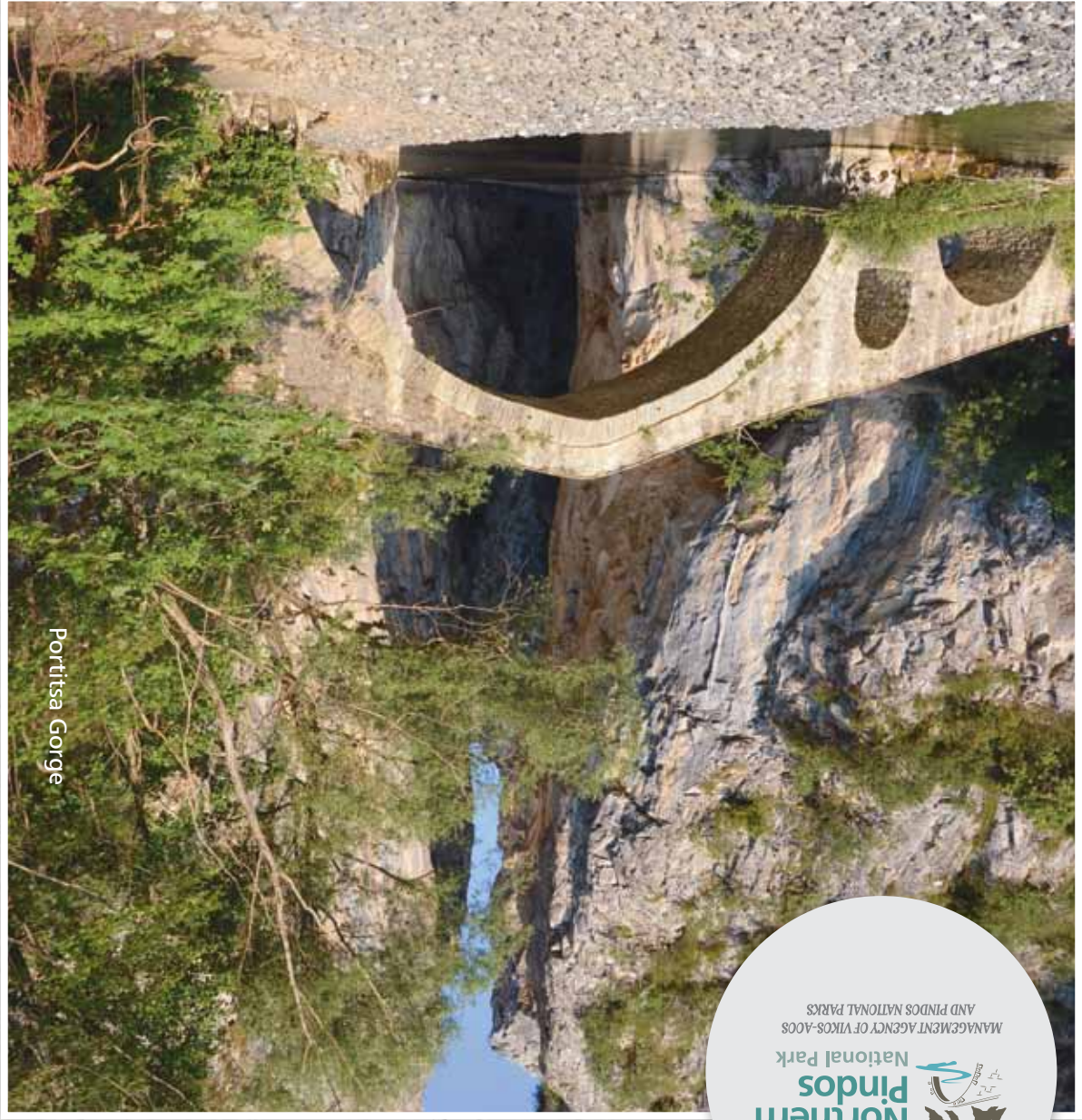


Flega Dragon lake



Aspragelli, Zagori, Zip code: 44007, Ioannina
Telephone: 26530 22245, 26530 22241, Fax: 26530 22241
Site: www.pindosnationalpark.gr

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Portitsa Gorge

Northern Pindos National Park
MANAGEMENT AGENCY OF VIKOS-AOOS AND PINDOS NATIONAL PARKS



Northern Pindos National Park
MANAGEMENT AGENCY OF VIKOS-AOOS AND PINDOS NATIONAL PARKS

Mount Tymfi

NORTHERN PINDOS NATIONAL PARK