



Olymbiada

# Halkidiki

Renowned for its magnificent golden beaches, often backed by pine forest, Halkidiki comprises three peninsulas extending into the Aegean south-east of Thessalonika (Salonika).

The western and the central peninsulas, called Kassandra and Sithonia, are a summer playground and developed accordingly. The easternmost, Athos, is less commercialised, as is appropriate for a region which takes its name from the Holy Mountain there, and is world-famous for the male-only 'monk's republic' in its southern part.

Olymbiada is an unspoiled, authentically Greek seaside village. It is in an area of outstanding natural beauty and even has its own archaeological site, ancient Stagira, the birthplace of Aristotle.

Backed by pine-covered hills, Olymbiada has a fine sandy beach – gently shelving and very safe – stretching around the bay, with a fishing harbour to one end. Half-a-



dozen seasonal tavernas plus a handful of cafés directly front the beach. Walk south over the headland, past hilltop Stagira, and the beaches just get better and better!

The area is heavily wooded and good for walking. Our Olymbiada hotels give advice and free maps for walkers. Mountain bikes are also offered free of charge and again advice and routes are freely given by the hotels.

A 45 minute drive to the south, the small town of Ouranoupolis is known as 'the gateway to Athos'. Monks and priests mix with tourists, including pilgrims and walkers, and the souvenir shops are heavy on religious icons. Small ferryboats service the Athos monasteries, which men need a

permit to visit. There are popular daily cruises along the western Athos coastline to view the monasteries from the sea. Ouranoupolis itself has a famous Byzantine tower, a wide selection of cafés and restaurants, and good sandy beaches to either side.

For greater exploration of the area car hire is recommended. A car also brings attractions such as ancient Philippi, where St Paul first preached in Europe, within reach (90 minutes via the fast east-west motorway just to the north).

Our holidays here are very flexible, based as they are on daily flights, and we are pleased to quote for odd durations. They may also be combined with a few nights in fascinating Thessalonika, or with a fly drive arrangement to discover northern and even central Greece.



## Halkidiki Information

### Getting to Halkidiki

Daily flights Gatwick to Salonika, or Mondays from Manchester, East Midlands, Luton, Newcastle and Bristol (please ask for details). Then 75 mins by private taxi to Olymbiada or 2 hrs to Ouranoupolis. Flight details will be given at the time of booking.

### Multi-Centre Options

Tailor-made with Thassos or, with a car, with Pelion and Hidden Greece fly drive holidays.

### Car Hire & Self-Transfer Savings

See page 170 for details. Price savings can be made if you are prepared to hire a car from the airport and self-transfer – please ask for a price quotation.

### Representative

We have no representative in Halkidiki and so would recommend our holidays here to the more independent Greek traveller. However, English is spoken at all our hotels, who are always happy to give local information and assistance.

### Olymbiada Festival

The whole village celebrates its main Saints Day on 7th July. Following a procession from the church, the annual shindig includes unlimited free local mussels and wine. Worth catching we think!



## Liotopi Hotel Olymbiada

■ 2 Star Plus ■ Half Board ■ Air Conditioning ■ Free WiFi

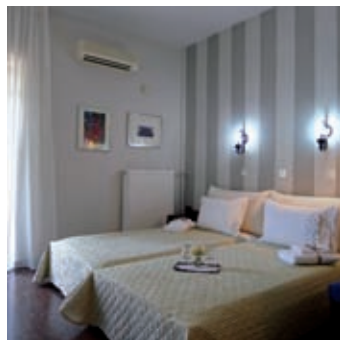
Just a minute's walk from our Akroyiali Hotel, the charming Liotopi is a sister-hotel to the Akroyiali, well-run (by Lulu) and equally friendly. Set in a lush garden just 50m from the sea, opposite the small fishing harbour, you are only a minute's walk from the start of Olymbiada's long sandy beach.

The hotel has only 16 pretty rooms on the first and top floor, a mix of doubles and twins. All possess air-conditioning, tv, fridge, tiled shower room, and good-sized covered balcony with appealing views to the sea, garden or the wooded hills behind the village (we can usually confirm sea view if booked in good time). Rooms are individually furnished and attractively decorated in a simple, tasteful style.

The colourful garden to the front has seating and shade, and here a very good breakfast with homemade jams and cakes is served. Dinner is taken at the Akroyiali restaurant just a minute's walk away (see panel).

Mountain bikes are free of charge and the hotel gives a free map and advice for cyclists and walkers.

As applies to Akroyiali guests, those



staying here have free use of sunbeds and umbrellas on the beach just 100m away. As also applies to the Akroyiali, we think it would be almost impossible not to thoroughly relax here.

## Half Board menu

Guests at the Akroyiali and Liotopi hotels stay on a half board basis, which includes an evening meal taken at the Akroyiali's decked restaurant area on the beach. We do not often recommend half board as, in our experience, Greek hotel kitchens rarely match the quality and choice of the local

tavernas. The Akroyiali, however, is an exception. The food is home-cooked taverna fare, some of it organic (many of the vegetables and salad ingredients are home-grown without chemicals) and the choice generous. No set meals here. You will have a virtual free choice from the large and varied taverna menu, including a minimum of 10 starters or salads, 10-20 main dishes and 3

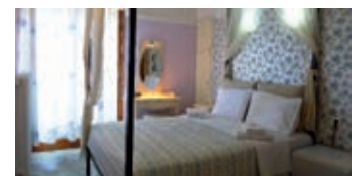


## Akroyiali Hotel Olymbiada

■ 2 Star Plus ■ Half Board ■ Air Conditioning ■ Free WiFi

Above the beach to the southern end of the village, the Akroyiali (also called Germany) represents all that is best in small Greek family-run hotels. Run by Dimitris and his family, the Akroyiali also has a good taverna restaurant.

The hotel has only 17 rooms, all on the upper floors. Recently refurbished (winter 2010) they are comfortably furnished (all beds and furniture are new) in a light modern style, and all possess air conditioning, tv, fridge, tiled shower/wc and good-sized furnished balcony. Half enjoy lovely sea views, and we can confirm one of these rooms if booked in good time. Some rooms can take a third bed for a child, and the hotel has a family room for 4.



Directly in front is the fine sandy beach, where sun beds and umbrellas are provided free of charge to hotel guests. WiFi and mountain bikes are also complimentary and the hotel gives a free map and advice for cyclists and walkers.

The Akroyiali, although simple, is a near-perfect base for a completely untrammelled holiday where everything you actually come on holiday for is right on your doorstep.



View from Akroyiali

desserts (including fruit). Unusually, good vegetarian options and even some sea food and fish dishes are included (the area is known for its fresh mussels!) – only the more expensive of these items carry a surcharge. Although typically 'no frills' taverna fare, we believe the holiday prices here to be good value. If you have any dietary requirements please advise us at the time of booking.



Organic veg from their own garden!



## Miljes Apartments Olymbiada

- Self Catering
- Apartments for 2/4
- Swimming Pool

These excellent apartments are well-established and have the only swimming pool in the village. They are set in very quiet country surroundings a ten minute walk (800m) down the small lane from village centre and beach.

Surrounded by beautifully mature gardens, there are six 1-bedroom apartments here, all on the ground floor bungalow-style (3 steps up). Each has a double bedroom, open-plan living room with double sofa-bed (suitable for an adult or two younger children), kitchenette (note: the 3-ring mini-oven is located on the outside terrace), sat tv and very nice, newly renovated shower room. To the front is a lovely wide spacious covered private terrace, shaded by shrubs and trees and cooled by a ceiling fan. Furnishings are simple and comfortable in a traditional style.

The colourful gardens are extensive and hide a 50 sq m freshwater pool well away from the apartments (depth 1.50m-2.20m) with sunbeds dotted around in



shaded spots. There is an outdoor BBQ for guests' use.

The owners, Maria and Pavlos, cannot do enough for their guests and have built up a very loyal repeat clientele over the years, the best recommendation of all. This is a very beautiful natural spot, suitable for couples and families alike.



## Eagle's Palace Ouranoupolis

- 5 Stars
- Bed & Breakfast or Half Board
- Air Conditioning
- Swimming Pool
- Spa Facilities
- WiFi
- Family Friendly prices



This famous hotel stands in lush gardens above a white-sand beach 5kms before Ouranoupolis. With echoes of a monastic design, the hotel takes great pride in (and care of) its beautiful natural surroundings.

There are 164 rooms, a mix of double rooms and suites, contained in either the main building or garden bungalows. They possess all the facilities one would expect (a/c, minibar, room-safe, bath as well as shower, hairdryer, LCD sat tv) in addition to room service, WiFi (charged in the rooms, free in the suites and bungalows) and sea or garden views from the spacious furnished balcony. Junior Suites are open-plan with the addition of a living area.

The hotel offers a range of dining options in its four restaurants as well as a beachside snack bar. The filtered seawater pool measures c 350 sq m and stands above the most beautiful Blue Flag beach from which water sports, diving and boat hire are all on offer.

Boat excursions run, the hotel has a free minibus into town up to four times daily, and there are full spa facilities and a tennis court. For families there are free clubs for teenagers and younger children, a playground area and a freshwater children's pool.

The Eagle's Palace is still family owned, which is reflected in the willing and friendly service here.

**Half Board supplement:** £12 per week



HALKIDIKI		Price guide are in £'s per person departing on or between dates shown																
ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	07 May	14 May	21 May	28 May	04 Jun	11 Jun	18 Jun	25 Jun	02 Jul	09 Jul	16 Jul	23 Jul	27 Aug	03 Sep	10 Sep	17 Sep	24 Sep
		13 May	20 May	27 May	03 Jun	10 Jun	17 Jun	24 Jun	01 Jul	08 Jul	15 Jul	22 Jul	26 Aug	02 Sep	09 Sep	16 Sep	23 Sep	31 Oct
Akroyiالي Hotel	Sea View 2 HB	591 843	582 834	607 862	765 1031	823 1082	612 871	598 857	631 890	607 884	650 937	687 981	832 1126	713 979	645 911	645 911	628 887	621 843
Eagle's Palace	Garden View 2 BB	746 1083	773 1200	888 1315	1043 1484	1104 1531	886 1373	932 1569	1115 1759	1098 1742	1123 1843	1226 2136	1554 2431	1196 1854	1143 1770	1112 1553	909 1336	895 1083
	Sea View 2 BB	830 1275	881 1476	1056 1651	1211 1827	1279 1874	1054 1723	1114 1968	1332 2193	1315 2176	1340 2289	1455 2638	1827 2971	1420 2295	1360 2197	1322 1931	1077 1672	1063 1275
	Junior Suite Sea View 2 BB	998 1601	1039 1767	1189 1917	1344 2093	1412 2140	1187 2047	1305 2495	1668 2872	1658 2862	1683 2977	1800 3340	2184 3685	1770 2988	1703 2853	1635 2377	1210 1938	1196 1601
Liotopi Hotel	Sea View 2 HB	591 843	582 834	607 862	765 1031	823 1082	612 871	598 857	631 890	607 884	650 937	687 981	832 1126	713 979	645 911	645 911	628 887	621 843
Miljes Apartments	1 Bedroom 2 SC	528 717	519 708	544 742	708 925	774 984	563 773	549 759	582 792	558 774	589 841	652 915	801 1063	672 886	593 806	593 806	576 786	572 717
	3 SC	457 609	448 600	473 631	634 804	694 859	485 651	471 637	504 670	480 649	509 702	560 763	707 910	582 750	513 681	513 681	496 662	494 609
	4 SC	472 605	463 596	488 625	647 794	704 846	495 637	481 623	514 658	492 638	520 686	567 738	710 881	588 733	525 670	525 670	508 649	506 605

Payment by Credit or Charge Card will incur a 2% processing charge (note: should this change due to the credit card companies increasing their charges to us, you will be advised at the time of booking). Prices are subject to change as flight prices vary – prices shown are for guidance only. Prices are based on Gatwick flight costs as sourced from Easyjet on 11/11/10. Scheduled flights and regional charter prices on request. Departure date determines basic holiday cost. Prices include all airport/fuel charges & taxes known at the time of printing – for surcharge policy see booking conditions on page 179. To add: any room & board supplements (see text – single room prices on request), Travel Insurance (see page 172). An optional Carbon Offset charge will show on your invoice – if you do not wish to pay this simply deduct it from your final payment. Please reconfirm prices with us at the time of booking in case of errors or changes.