

## LEVADIA



Levadia is the capital of the prefecture of Boeotia built on the west end of Lafystion Mountain at the endpoint of Helicon Mountain.

The history of Levadia is rich and goes back to the ancient years. Levadia built before the Trojan War and is mentioned by our great epic poet Homer, in the list of the cities with its initial name “Mideia”, which offered ten ships in the Trojan War. The Homeric Mideia renamed in Levadia by the name of Athenean Levados.

Pausanias visited the city at the 2<sup>nd</sup> AD century and the famous ancient traveler tells us that he found a city “at all embellished as the wealthiest cities of Greeks” and describes the marvelous temples, shrines and numerous great statues of the city, which adorned the Sanctuary of Grove. Pausanias was the only one who gives us detailed information for the most mystic oracle of antiquity, the Oracle of Trofonios Zeus.

The post byzantine history of Levadia is also unique. The Catalans used the city as their military capital and gave to the city great privileges. They built one of the strongest castles of Duchy, which survives until today.

Levadia was one of the most notable cities during the Turkish occupation, was the capital of the whole Roumeli, while Turks called the city “Giaour Levadia” which means “Greek Levadia” because the city was inhabited exclusively by Greeks with an exception of few Jews and Turks.

Today, the city of Levadia is a modern city with approximately 25.000 dwellers with many natural beauties and offers to the inhabitants and visitors great spots of relaxation and many places of mountain walking. Levadia has also a rich cultural tradition as the unique Easter Festivities which take place in the city every year and is well - known throughout Greece.

The present Municipality of Levadia which is emerged from the act “New Architecture of Government and Decentralized Administration - Program Kallikratis” is a combination of the Municipalities of Chaeronea, Davlia, Koronea and the Community of Kyriaki and its population is about 35,000 inhabitants.

### Main Places of Interest

#### Herkyina or Krya



The river Herkyina springs out from Levadia’s south section and travels through the city centre. The area around the river springs – Krya as it is called – is a

natural park lying at a canyon's exit. During the ancient times, Krya is said to be the location of the Oracle of Trofonios Zeus which included the springs of "Oblivion" and "Remembrance". Krya itself, is a major recreation and free-walking location used very frequently by the inhabitants of the city. It is a site of unique natural splendor filled with luxuriant vegetation grown among over-century plane trees, plenty of water, many small waterfalls, cascades and an abundance of architectural and cultural inheritance elements.

In the same area a Medieval Castle is lying, as well as traditional industrial buildings dated from the first period of the city's industrial development (19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century). Along the river Herkyna, there are stone-made arched-bridges of remarkable aesthetic value and amazing craftsmanship dated from the times of the Turkish occupation till the start of the century.

### **The Medieval Castle**



Initial construction of Levadia's Medieval Castle, dates back to the late ancient times or the early Middle Age. The Castle was a significant base and rampart of the Catalans. The Castle grounds encircle a rocky summit, which – on the one side – ends at the canyon.

Nowadays the tower of the Castle has been restored and excavations revealed a spring of water, which was served as a means of supply to the be seized and it is at the bottom of the tower. From the top of the tower, the visitor enjoys a panoramic view of the area as well as of

Levadia.

On the higher tower of the Castle, the flag of Levadia's revolution was raised in 1821. In the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1821, people of Levadia, who were beseized in the Castle by Turks, escaped along with the non-combatants to the mountain, leaving 60 dead people behind.

On the northwestern side of the Castle, stone steps have been constructed and the surrounding area has been reshaped. One can walk from there, through pines and half-demolished catalan walls, to reach the small church of st. Sophia, a spot of an impressive view of the canyon.

### **Historical and Ethnological Museum of Levadia**



The creation of the Historical and Ethnological Museum of Levadia, which is located on the ground floor of the building of "Water-friction Factory" or "Nerotrivi", brings to completion the intervention in the area of Krya that aims to the reestablishment of the use of these historical industrial buildings.

The Historical and Ethnological Museum hosts items concerning history, textile, industry, agriculture household as well as items used in everyday life.

Furthermore at the Museum is hosted the Hall of Virtual Reality of the Oracle of Trophonios Zeus.

### **The Water Mill**

Walking along the picturesque cobbled road next to Herkyna river and in a small distance from Nerotrivi, there is the impressive restored building of Water Mill. A stone – made canal which supplied the mill with water and by the help of a big old propeller creates a small waterfall outside the building. In the interior of the mill, on the first floor there are two different spaces, the first one operates as a Congress room of 130 people and the second as a restaurant. The ground floor of the building functions as an exhibition center.

### **Touristic Pavilion “XENIA”**

Two steps above the small lake of Herkyna’s river there is the touristic pavilion “XENIA” with a great view to the river and the old plane trees.

### **The Canyon**



The unique natural beauty of the area continues to the impressive entrance to the Canyon of Kryas. A small artificial lake was created at the stream of the canyon, so as to save water for the periods of drought. The lake is supplied by recycling the water from Krya’s springs.

On one of the steep rocky sides there is a small church of Jerusalem, which can be reached by climbing onto 700 stone steps.

The walkway into the canyon ends up to a wide space. One can walk along in a rather rough path which leads to the “Capillary Bridge”.

## **CHAERONEA**

Chaeronea is an ancient city of Boeotia which establishment goes back to the prehistoric times (6th BC century).

In ancient Chaeronea, in 338 BC took place the famous battle between Phillip of Macedonia and the united forces of the Athenians, Boeotians, Thebes, Megara, Evia etc., which ended in a crushing defeat of the allies. After the battle of Chaeronea, Philip became chief of Greece. The dead Macedonians were buried in a mass grave (polyandron), which was covered with artificial mound. The Thebans also buried the dead of the Sacred Band at the point where they fell fighting and at polyandron (massive tomb) they placed a huge marble lion.

### **Archeological Museum of Chaeronia**



The Archeological Museum of Chaeroneia hosts very important archeological items, among others includes sculptures from Levadia and Chaeroneia (Cybele , Demeter, Portrait of Emperor Hadrian, Athens Kranaos, stone ball with relief figures of the Sun and Moon), pottery from prehistoric and historic sites of the area, wall pieces from Orchomenus, coins and

weapons from the Macedonians and Thebans polyandrion at Chaeroneia.

In recent years the museum's collections have been enriched by the finds of excavations of Inspectorate in Orchomenus, Levadia, the Boeotian Kifiso (Extended cemetery Archaic) and Chaeroneia.

In the yard of the museum there are accumulated many inscriptions and gravestones, architectural members from large ecclesiastical buildings and piers of Chaeroneia, Levadia, Elatia, Koroneia, Davlia, Saint Blaise and Distomo.

### **Ancient Theater of Chaeroneia**

Chaeroneia had a theater which is preserved until today at the foot of Petrachou. It is a remarkable ancient theater because the entire hollow is carved on the rock of Petrachou. With two horizontal corridors the theater is divided into three parts. The lower section has three rows of seats, the middle ten and the top four. In the area of the theater found a dedicatory inscription to Apollo and Artemis and the throne of Plutarch, which is now located inside the Church of the



Assumption.

### **KORONEIA**



Koroneia is located southeast of Levadia, at the foothills and slopes of Helicon mountain. The ancient Koroneia existed since the Homeric era and even Homer mentions that the city took part in the Trojan war.

Koroneia founded by Thessalians who fled to Boeotia. The high reputation of the ancient Koroneia due to the great feast of the Boeotians, the Pamvoiotia , which celebrated in the temple of

Athena Itonias at the entrance of the city. All the hostilities among the state – cities stopped during the celebration.

The ancient Koroneia destroyed by the Romans in 171 BC.



## DAVLIA



The history of Davlia lost in the mists of time. The truth is that it has continuous presence since prehistoric times until today. First appeared as Anakria but very quickly renamed in Davlida. First inhabitants of Davlia must have been Pelasgians, then the region of Davlia inhabited by Thracians. Davlida and the other cities of the region took part in the famous Trojan War. In 480 BC Davlia burnt by the army of Xerxes, who was directed to Delphi.

According to the testimony of the Latin writer Livio, when the Romans came to conquer the area, they faced much difficulty, however, they managed to conquer and destroy the city.

In 1444 AD the area occupied by the despot of Mystras, Constantine Palaeologus, and two years later was conquered by the Ottoman Sultan Murad II, while in 1460 AD fell entirely into the hands of the Turks. During the Turkish occupation Davlia served as headquarters of the Orthodox Bishopric and between 1653-1655 AD was seat of the Archdiocese. The inhabitants of Davlia shown unparalleled courage in 1821 when they fought under the guidance of Athanasios Diakos in the battle for the liberation of Levadia.

On 5 May 1943 the Italians managed to burn down the village, but not to break the resistance and the vigor of the inhabitants of Davlia.

## KYRIAKI



Kyriaki is located on the western slopes of Helicon, at an altitude of 780 meters, surrounded by a lush and beautiful landscape. In this beautiful village inhabited 2,470 people who love their land and they are very proud of its beauty.

There are many places in and outside the village, which can be admired by the visitor as the central square with the church of John the Baptist and the old plane tree, the square with the church of St. Nicholas, just above the main square, the old church of the Virgin Mary with the theater, the Great Fountain, which in previous years supplied the inhabitants with water. At the north end of Kyriaki village, there is the chapel of St. John the Baptist with the green surroundings and with a great view to Paliokastro (Old Castle).

Paliokastro was built on the ancient city Flygonion whose ruins coexist with the chapel of St. Nektarios. From there, one can see the village from above and admire Lakka, the Corinthian Gulf and Parnassos Mountain.

## Arvanitsa (a place of special natural beauty)



Arvanitsa is a place on the Helicon Mountain full of cedars, pine trees and wild flowers. It's the perfect location for small excursions to the nature.

