2\textsuperscript{nd} EPAL of Trikala

Reading my town

TRIKALA
People

Population
Trikala is a town situated in the Northwest part of the vast Thessalian plain in Central Greece. It is the capital of Trikala Prefecture and its population comes up to 80,000 people.

Profile
People here live mainly in nice neighborhoods and as much as it is possible, keep their families united. They also try to keep their traditions especially those of religious character such as weddings, baptisms, celebrations devoted to Saints e.t.c. They are open-hearted and extrovert characters. They like going out and enjoy their coffee or meal.
Employment

The Prefecture of Trikala is one of the most fertile lands in Greece producing big quantities of wheat, corn, cotton, lentils and other products. A great number of animals are also bred. People are mainly occupied with farming and animal breeding while another part of the population deals with manufacture and tourism activities.

History, Archeological Sites and Monuments

(History)

In ancient times, the city was called Triikki and it is said that it was the birthplace of Aesculapius, the god of healing.

The city of Triikki was surrendered to the Romans in 168 B.C. while in the 4th century A.D. Christianity is prevailing. In 1393, it was occupied by the Turks while people gained freedom in 1881.

(Historical sites)

- **Fortress and Aesculapius Temple**: Trikala is crowned by its Byzantine castle (Fortress), at the top of a wooden hill, built on the site of the ancient Acropolis. It is not far from the temple of Aesculapius, and it underwent many changes under Ottoman rule.
- **Varoussi**: Varoussi district is a traditional area at the north of the town under the Fortress. Quite a few houses from the Ottoman era with an interesting architectural style can be found here.
- **Mosque**: Not far, downriver you can find Koursoum Tzami a recently restored sixteenth century mosque and one of the most beautiful in all Greece, built by the great architect Sinan. It is used today for cultural exhibitions.
- **Meteora**: The site of Meteora is only a 15-minute drive from Trikala. It is a unique place of 1,000 rocks with Byzantine monasteries on top of them.
(Museums)

Folklore Museum
In Trikala, there is a municipal folklore museum where one can see household objects of everyday life, tools like wool weaving tools, family tokens, clothing, photographs e.t.c.

Katsikogiannis Museum
The museum of Katsikogiannis’ paintings is also very important. It contains 1136 paintings and 114 sculptures deriving their themes from the “recent” national and international political history and represent fighters’ figures as well as peace symbols.

Athletic Museum – Tsitsanis Museum
An athletic museum as well as the Tsitsanis museum devoted to the great musician named Tsitsanis, are being reconstructed. Additionally, archaeological and Byzantine collections have been kept in order to be housed in a museum.

Municipal gallery and Markellos gallery
The Municipal gallery and the Markellos gallery are also places of special interest. Yet, they are not open to the public.
Way of living

- View of my town
Trikala is a well known city in Greece and famous for many sights. It is a relatively big town with 70,000 residents but it is clean and quiet. It is also very beautiful and many people call it a miniature version of Paris. It has a river that crosses the city, more than 10 squares the largest being in the centre of city and a lot of green areas. Many parks with trees and playgrounds “decorate” the city of Trikala. Another impressive place is the fortress at the top of the hill of town. Many people go to the restaurant there to eat traditional food and local wine. Generally, there are many places to drink coffee and relax.
• **Transport**

People in Trikala use various means of transportation: buses, motorbikes, cars, and train. But the most characteristic and widely used means of transport is bicycle. It is really very convenient as the land of Trikala is flat, it is also economical and environmental! People love biking in Trikala.

• **Environment**

My town is generally a clean town and people are becoming more and more sensitive to recycling. You can find recycling bins in every neighborhood. Unfortunately, there is a lot of contamination around. We mean the use of fertilizers and chemicals in farming and the water supplies polluted by the factory wastes. That is a really great problem!
• **Education**

Three levels of education are offered to people here. Primary, including baby-nursing and kindergartens, secondary and post-secondary and Tertiary Education. Tertiary Education includes a University of Physical Education and School of Restoring antiquities.

There’s also an Army School in our town. Municipal theatre and music schools as well as municipal choirs and painting-photography classes take place for every citizen who is interested. Besides, private schools exist for foreign languages mainly.

• **Sports**

Sports are one of the favorite activities for people in Trikala. Many years ago people decided to establish a “Gymnastics Association” to organize such matters better. So, today a variety of sports are practiced in Trikala. Football, Basketball, Swimming, Running, High and long jump and other interesting sports.

• **Entertainment and Culture**

Trikala is considered to be the 2nd most beautiful city in Greece. There are plenty of sights to visit, but also there are many things to do to have fun. Many years ago, the lifestyle in Trikala was quite traditional, thus the citizens used to take part in events with traditional dances and music and the younger people enjoyed themselves at night clubs. Nowadays, things have changed; young people go to cafes which become bars at night. Of course, there are many other clubs in the whole city, but especially in the center. If someone prefers something lighter, he should definitely go to “Manavika”. “Manavika” is a place where there are many restaurants and taverns together. Everyone, young or old, goes there to taste the delicious, traditional food. What is more, Trikala is famous for its mountainous places. If you have the opportunity to come to Trikala and it’s winter, you shouldn’t miss the chance to visit Pertouli, which is known for its ski resort. Pertouli is accessible and it is very popular at winter where the snow and the chalets make it an ideal place to go and have fun with your family or friends, by doing trekking, snowboarding, skiing or horse riding. To sum up, Trikala is a wonderful town and there are always many things to do for all tastes and ages.

From time to time, theatre and other performances take place in Trikala. A lot of people love watching them. There are also cinemas, dance clubs especially traditional and other cultural activities in my town.
From the present to the past

- Central Bridge
• Lithaios River
• People