



Cultural Events

FESTIVALS . THEATRE . CONCERTS

GREECE



ARTA



INTRO- DUCTION

Arta is an ideal 365-day destination, offering its visitors a plethora of cultural events related to the traditions of the city.

Arta is a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered. When someone arrives here, the first thing to do is to explore the beauties of the area and try to “unlock” its secrets.

The locals are always willing to show and share their customs and traditions. This is the best way to witness the authenticity of the locals and the cultural uniqueness of the area.

Events are held throughout the year and include sport games, theater and dance performances, concerts, religious events, revival of old customs, food and local products festivals, carnival parades and much more, waiting for the visitor to experience them!

In late March, Arta hosts thousands of runners and walkers from all over Greece. Running in Arta's half marathon, is a challenge for every runner since this event provides a unique route alongside the most important sites of the area.

The Bridge of Arta, the most famous landmark all over Epirus, the city's medieval Castle and the byzantine churches of Panagia Parigoritissa, Panagia of Vlaherna and Agia Theodora are only a few of the monuments included in the route.

The event is upgraded every year and the number of participants increases continuously, a proof that "The road of the Bridge" has become very popular in Greece.

Even for those who won't participate to the race, it is a great opportunity to explore the area, visit the numerous sites or just do shopping therapy in the city's market.



"THE ROAD OF THE BRIDGE" (ARTA'S HALF MARATHON) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPORT EVENTS IN EPIRUS.

THE ROAD OF THE BRIDGE



CARNIVAL IN ARTA

The Municipality of Arta, the Informal Committee of the Carnival and the cultural associations of the area organize the best setting for a delirious and authentic carnival fun in Arta.



The Carnival of Arta, with a history of more than 35 years, highlights the city as one of the Greek carnival hotspots.

During the penultimate weekend of Meatfare a lot of people flock in the city in order to watch or take part in the carnival events, and to live in the Carnival Village!

The main parades are accompanied by events and representations of old customs, such as Bantidi (traditional folk songs), concerts, interactive workshops and clown performances. Meanwhile, children and adults have the opportunity to get acquainted with Arta by participating to the city's Treasure Hunt!

Besides the events inside the city, cultural associations carry out carnival events all over the wider area. The main ones are the traditional maypoles of Grammenitsa, Agioi Anargiri, Philothei, Aneza, Gavria, Vigla and other villages.

BYZANTINE WEEK OF ARTA

Easter is the ideal period for someone to see the Byzantine “treasures” of Arta.

Using as reference points the gorgeous Byzantine monuments of the area, the Municipality of Arta, in cooperation with the Metropolises of Arta and Nikopolis & Preveza and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Arta, organize dozens of cultural events consistent with the spirit of these days.

Hymns and psalms performed by chanter choirs, guided tours in the city’s Byzantines churches, vid-

eo projections about the Byzantine monuments of the area, revival of old customs in the neighborhoods of Arta, decoration of biers of Christ on Good Friday, Saturday of Lazarus carols, and the breaking of jugs and plates, are some of the activities taking place during the Byzantine Week.

During the entire Holy Week, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Arta goes around the main pedestrian areas of the city, thus giving a particular flavour to the celebration of such an important period for the Orthodox Christianity.





CULTURAL SUMMER



“Cultural Summer” - a festival with more than a hundred events, is held by the Municipality of Arta, local cultural associations and private producers, and lasts from June till September.

Theater and dance performances, traditional concerts and local festivals take place both in the city of Arta and the rest of the region, the most important being the “Rosemoon” and the “Arachthio” in the villages of Rodavgi and Skoupa.

Besides, on late June the “Eleftheria” events take place, to

ALTHOUGH ARTA IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A SUMMER HOLIDAYS DESTINATION, SUMMER IN ARTA IS VERY INTERESTING.

celebrate the liberation of Arta from the Ottoman rule in June 24, 1881.

Concerts, races, revival of old customs, bands and philharmonic orchestras, nights with music and dances, and reunions of cultural associations are some of the events held during “Eleftheria”, highlighting this way the special cultural features of the area.



AN EVENT WITH A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE PROTECTION OF AMVRACIAN GULF FROM THE CARELESS HUMAN INTERVENTION

THE SWIMMING CROSS OF THE AMVRACIAN GULF



Starting from Vonitsa, Aetoloacarnania and ending to the picturesque fishermen village of Koronisia, the Swimming Cross of the Amvracian Gulf is a special sports event that takes place in the beginning of August.

Top Greek swimmers participate in this 11 km swimming race, offering to athletes and spectators an unforgettable experience.

During the Cross lots of parallel activities such as kite surfing,

environmental walks, information one-day conferences, beach soccer, beach volley and triathlon are held by the Municipality of Arta.

The most important though is the fact that, the Cross offers children and adults a lesson of respect and love for the environment, through voluntary beach cleaning, parallel sport events and ecological messages conveyed by the cross.



These events take place simultaneously from 27/9 to 3/10 in the Exhibition Center of Arta.

The trade fair, the famous “Mouhousti”, was already taking place as a cattle trade fair since the early 19th c., and nowadays attracts traders from all over Greece and more than 80.000 visitors.

Meanwhile, the participation of exhibitors in the newly established Panhellenic Trade Exhibition rapidly increases. Even though the trade exhibition started only half a decade ago, it has become one of the biggest trade meetings of Epirus.

During a whole week the consumers have the opportunity to get in contact with new trade ideas and take advantage of the already existing ones in the most creative way.

Every year the fair creates a very positive impression and promises to be an event continuously upgraded through the years.

PANHELLENIC TRADE EXHIBITION OF ARTA / TRADITIONAL TRADE FAIR

THE TRADITIONAL TRADE
FAIR OF ARTA HAS A HIS-
TORY OF MORE THAN 200
YEARS

THE ORANGE, TANGERINE, KIWI AND OLIVE FESTIVAL



The Orange, Tangerine, Kiwi and Olive Festival is organized by the Municipality of Arta during the last weekend of November, with the help of the local cultural associations.

With the cooperation of the Chamber, the Farmer's Co-Operative of Arta, the Technological Educational Institute of Epirus, the Chef's Club of Greece and under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development, this Festival constitutes an important event for the whole area of Epirus.

It aims both at promoting the local products to all over Greece and abroad, and at connecting the scientific knowledge with the local production.

The festival is enriched every year, in order to cover the increasing needs of both visitors and producers. One-day conferences related to local products, guided tours and exhibitions of local products are only some of the parallel events during the Festival.



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

During Christmas Arta hosts the Santa Claus' Christmas Village.

People of all ages become a happy company meeting Santa Claus. Where else? In his home in the city center.

The jealous and tricksterous kalikantzaria (a kind of hobgoblins) sneak into the

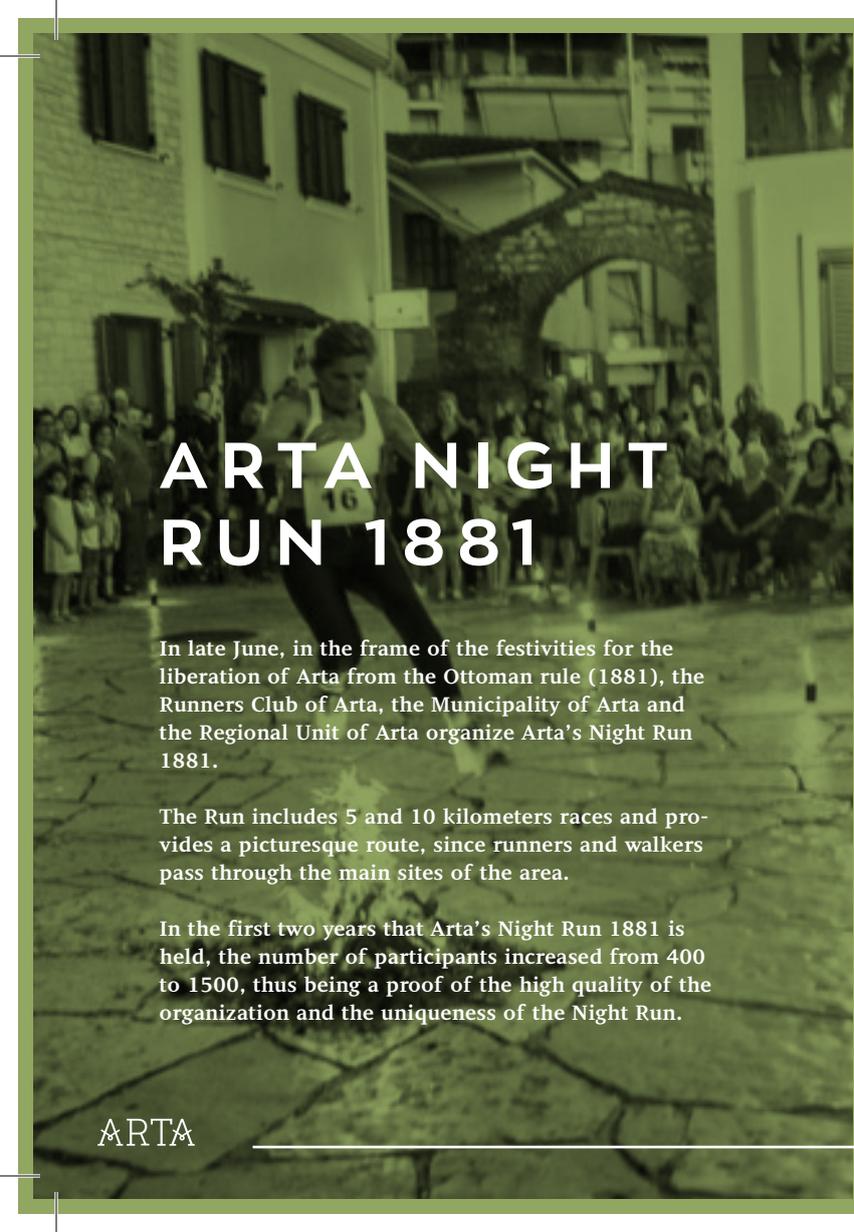
house together with the visitors and try to take away the sweets and gifts of the little children.

But Santa Claus' housewife and the elves are there to save the sweets and the gifts, and lead young and adults in the most beautiful places of their village. The walk lasts until late night, but nobody needs to be afraid of the dark, since Rudolph is there, with its bright red nose to "light" the walk of

the little children. Because Christmas is a special feast, deserving to be celebrated by all people together.

Thus, the next time you would like to meet Santa Claus, you don't need to travel to the North Pole . . . just come to Arta!





ARTA NIGHT RUN 1881

In late June, in the frame of the festivities for the liberation of Arta from the Ottoman rule (1881), the Runners Club of Arta, the Municipality of Arta and the Regional Unit of Arta organize Arta's Night Run 1881.

The Run includes 5 and 10 kilometers races and provides a picturesque route, since runners and walkers pass through the main sites of the area.

In the first two years that Arta's Night Run 1881 is held, the number of participants increased from 400 to 1500, thus being a proof of the high quality of the organization and the uniqueness of the Night Run.

THE SARDINE FESTIVAL

In August, at Aneza village, the Sardine Festival is held by the local cultural association and the Municipality of Arta.

Sardines are offered for free to the public as a token of appreciation to the Ambracian Gulf, that has given us one of the most recognizable specialities, the Ambracian sardine, aka "papalina", with a taste that is not similar to anything else of this kind in the whole world.

Visitors from all over Epirus are gathered here, in order to spend a memorable evening with traditional songs, dances and local food.

Every year the Festival hosts thousands of visitors seeking the opportunity to taste local products and enjoy the famous local hospitality.



CHESTNUT AND TSIPOURO FESTIVAL



In the mountainous villages of Rodavgi and Pistiana, the local cultural associations and the Municipality of Arta organize the Chestnut and Tsipouro Festival. In mid October thousands of people gather in these villages in order to enjoy a traditional party with dancing, songs and dance groups from associations from all over Greece. Roasted and boiled chestnuts, chestnut soup, pancakes and tsipouro have a field day.

Tsipouro, pancakes and chestnut soup are offered for free to every visitor. Tsipouro of Arta is a very special product, since it is distilled from one and only local variety of grapes, namely “zambela”.

On the eve of the Festival, the locals organize the “Path of the Chestnut” - a trekking from the primary school of Pistiana to the square of Rodavgi.

Besides, during the day before the Festival the inhabitants of the village gather in the square in order to prepare the chestnuts, while singing folk songs.



ARACHTHIO THEATER

Arachthio is an open-air theater, built in 2007, with a capacity of about 400 people. It is a private initiative in an impressive site, aiming at the enrichment of the cultural produce of the area..

Every year, with the co-operation of the Municipality of Arta, a festival is organized, where free-of-entrance theater and music performances are presented to the public.

The continuously increasing attendance of the performances is proof that the effort of the organizers to provide shows of high quality has been recognized by the public. As a result, the performances in the Arachthio Theater are considered to be some of the best in the whole area.



ZERO FESTIVAL



Zero Festival is organized in early August at Ziros Lake by the Youth Association of Philippiada and the Municipality of Ziros. It is a two-day festival with famous bands from the Greek and the international music stage.

Besides, during the two days of the Festival, the attendees have the opportunity to get familiar with the surrounding area through various activities such as running, cycling, kayaking and camping.

The enchanting landscape and the excellent organization, highlight Zero Festival as one of the most popular in Western Greece, attracting attendants from all over Greece.



ARTA

connecting seasons

MUNICIPALITY OF ARTA
Periferiaki Odos & Afxentiou



+30 26813 62101
+30 26813 62115 (DEP. OF TOURISM)
FAX: +30 26813 62253



dimos@arta.gr
gr_tourismou@arta.gr

www.discoverarta.gr

