Megalos Valtos: History, Nature & Tradition in Sikyonia



In the heart of the Municipality of Sikyonia, just a few kilometres southwest of Kiato, lies Megalos Valtos, nestled at an altitude. This village retains its authenticity, offering visitors a rare opportunity to experience the harmony of nature, discover traces of a rich history, and savor the tranquillity of rural life. With approximately 450 inhabitants, Megalos Valtos is a living example of Corinthia's agricultural tradition, with its residents primarily engaged in farming and animal husbandry, preserving unchanged customs and a way of life deeply connected to the land.

A visit to Megalos Valtos is a journey back in time, as well as an immersion into a lush landscape that soothes the soul. Here, history meets nature in the most captivating way, inviting travellers to explore every hidden corner.

A Historical Journey Through Ancient Land

Megalos Valtos is not just a beautiful mountain village; it is a place with deep historical roots, testifying to continuous human presence since ancient times. The archaeological finds in the wider area are irrefutable evidence of the place's significance through the ages, offering a fascinating glimpse into the past.

The Secrets of Limniko and Ancient Heritage

In the Limniko area, near the Selliandros River, interesting archaeological remains have been unearthed, shedding light on aspects of daily life and ancient infrastructure. Here, visitors can see:

- **Ancient wells:** Structures indicating the need for water supply and management of water resources in antiquity, showcasing the organisation of early communities.
- **Part of a chariot road:** A section of an ancient road testifying to the development of transportation and communication with other areas.
- **Old aqueduct:** An infrastructure project demonstrating the ancient inhabitants' commitment to securing drinking water and their expertise in constructing public works.

Strategic Location at Ktirio

A little further away, at the Ktirio site, remains of buildings have been discovered, suggesting the existence of a settlement. The most impressive find is a **watchtower from the Classical period**. Watchtowers were ancient communication posts, used to transmit messages (e.g., impending attack) via fire or smoke. The presence of such a watchtower in Megalos Valtos underscores the strategic importance of the area. These traces of the past offer a fascinating opportunity for history enthusiasts to delve into the region's heritage.

Nature, Relaxation, and Recreation

Beyond its rich history, Megalos Valtos is renowned for its unparalleled natural beauty, offering ample opportunities for relaxation and environmental engagement.

To Sie: The Green Heart of the Village

On the edge of the village lies 'To Sie', a true natural jewel and a focal point for Megalos Valtos. It is a lush area dominated by **enormous plane trees**, generously offering their shade. The **running waters** create a melody of relaxation, while nature's colours shift enchantingly through all seasons, from the vibrant green of spring to the golden-red hues of autumn.

The 'To Sie' area has been revitalized with respect for the natural environment, making it an ideal destination for families, groups, and anyone seeking moments of peace. It attracts many visitors, especially during the warm summer months, thanks to the abundant coolness it provides. It is the perfect place for:

- Leisurely walks among the plane trees.
- Picnics by the running waters.
- Refreshment and play for children.
- Photographing the landscape, which offers unique opportunities for stunning shots.

Life and Tradition: The Rural Character

Megalos Valtos strongly preserves its rural character, reflected both in the residents' occupations and the rhythm of daily life. Agriculture and animal husbandry form the core of the local economy and culture. Visitors have the opportunity to witness authentic rural life up close, observe the crops that thrive in the fertile land of Sikyonia, and get acquainted with the animals that are an integral part of the local landscape.

The productive identity of the Municipality of Sikyonia, with its olive groves and vineyards, gives a taste of the region's agricultural tradition. The experience in Megalos Valtos is an immersion into a way of life that honours the land and its fruits, offering an authentic picture of the Greek countryside.

When to Visit Megalos Valtos

Megalos Valtos is a destination that offers something different each season of the year:

- **Spring:** Nature awakens, the landscape fills with flowers, and the greenery is intense. An ideal season for hiking and exploration.
- **Summer:** The coolness of 'To Sie' is invaluable, offering respite from the heat. It is the season when the village buzzes with life and local activities.
- **Autumn:** The plane trees of 'To Sie' turn golden, creating a fairytale setting. An ideal season for photography and leisurely walks.
- **Winter:** The village offers a sense of peace and tranquillity, with an atmosphere ideal for those seeking absolute relaxation away from the city bustle.

How to Get to Megalos Valtos

Access to Megalos Valtos is easy and pleasant. The village is located a short distance, approximately 15 kilometres, southwest of Kiato, making it an ideal choice for a day trip or a weekend getaway from the city. The drive by car is short and scenic, offering beautiful views of the Corinthian countryside. Following the signs from Kiato towards the inland, you will easily reach Megalos Valtos, which awaits you to discover its beauties.

Megalos Valtos in the Municipality of Sikyonia is more than just a village; it is a destination that combines rich history, pristine nature, and authentic tradition, offering a complete experience to the visitor. Whether you seek tranquillity, exploration, or connection with rural life, Megalos Valtos will reward you with its beauty and serenity.

See the full village page for **Megalos Valtos** — location, map and directions from Kiato.

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