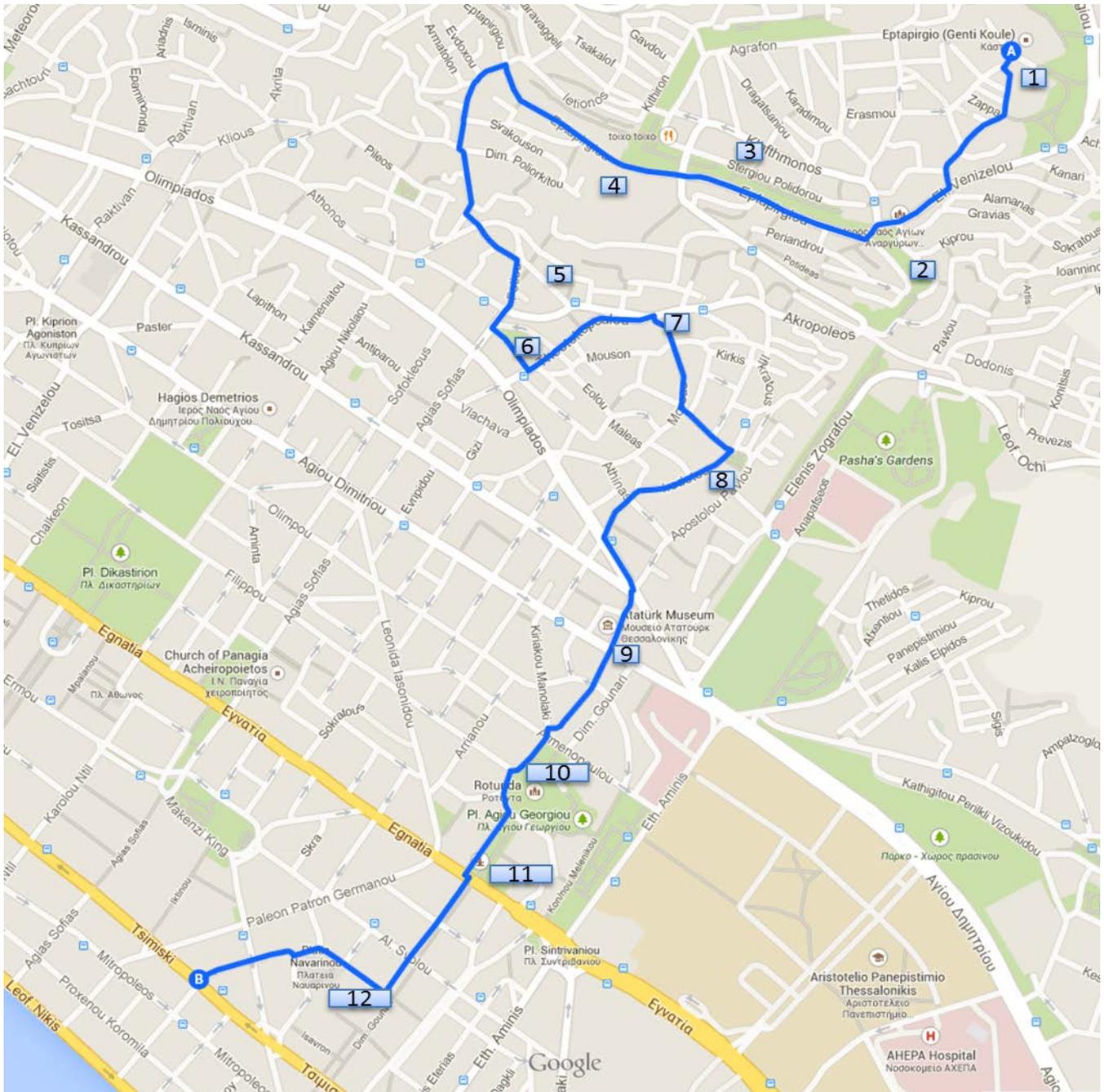


City Walk 4 “Upper Town: Eastern Walls”

(approximately 4 km’s).



1. Eptapyrgion (Seven Towers)	2. Pigos Trigoniu (Tower at Three Corners)
3. Byzantine Walls	4. Moni Vlatadon (Vlatadon Monastery)
5. Ossios David Church	6. Byzantine Bath (Koule Kafe)
7. Taxiarches Church	8. Agios Nickolaos Church
9. Kemal Atatourk House	10. Rotunda
11. Kamara (Galerius Arch)	12. Navarino & Galerius Palace

1. The Eptapyrgion (also popularly known as “Yedi Kule”) is a Byzantine and Ottoman fortress located on the north-eastern edge of the ancient acropolis of Thessaloniki. The literal meaning of the word in both Greek and Ottoman Turkish language is “Fortress of Seven Towers”. It was used in the past for military purposes until the 19th century and then as a prison until 1989. References to the infamous Yedi Kule prison abound in the Greek *rebetika* songs, a 1930’s Greek style of folk music similar to the Blues. Restoration and archaeological work began in the 1970s and continues to this day. Visitors are encouraged to walk on the guards paths and watch over the prison yards, where many archaeological findings are stored nearby.

To get to Eptapyrgion, go to bus stop “Agora” (bus stop # 1040) which is located on Venizelou street about one block south of Egnatia street, and take the bus route 23 towards Sikies, to get off at “Eptapirgiou” (bus stop # 5021).

2. The Trigonion Tower (literal meaning “Tower with three corners) is a unique monument inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list. It was constructed in the 15th century, incorporating an old square tower that stood at that location, forming part of the Byzantine fortifications. The tower was built in order to deal with the then new war technique of using firearms. Therefore, its entire design serves this purpose, for example the considerable thickness of its masonry and its round shape were dictated by the need to rebound the bullets fired at it and to ensure surveillance of the surrounding areas. This is the corner of the old city where the Ottomans managed to invade in 1430. The site offers an amazing view over the whole city and its harbour, from the north-east corner of its walls.

3. The City Walls (Fortress) of Thessaloniki are the result of a long construction process and continuous maintenance that dates back to the foundation of the city by King Cassander in 316 BC. The fortress was built with the purpose of protecting the city from numerous sieges that took place throughout its history, such as those by the Celts in 279 BC, the Goths in the 4th century, the Slavs in the 6th century, the Saracen pirates in 904, and the Normans in 1185. The parts that have been better preserved belong to the Byzantine period, particularly the time of the Emperor Theodosius dating back at the 4th century AD. Overall, 4,300 metres of Byzantine walls survive nowadays out of out of approximately 8,000 metres.

4. Moni Vlatadon (Vlatadon Monastery) is an utterly beautiful monastery, the only one that has survived from Byzantine Thessaloniki. It is located in the foothills and on the slopes of Mount Hortiatis and offers magnificent views of the city, reaching in the far distance the peaks of Mount Olympus. It was founded in the mid-14th century by the Vlataioi brother monks, possibly with the support of Anna Palaiologue, who was in Thessaloniki at that time. The church inside the monastery was built on the place where the Apostle Paul preached and lived during his stay in the city. The site is inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

5. Osios David church was built in the 5th century and it has a great architectural significance because it is a precursor of the domed cruciform containing brilliant interior decoration, mosaics and frescoes. It was built by Theodora, the daughter of the Emperor Maximian, and used to be the chancery church of the Monastery of the Saviour Christ. The original structure underwent a number of interventions due to damages brought about by repeated disasters and the Ottomans, who turned it into a mosque. The treasure of wonderful mosaics, which date back to the 5th, 12th and 14th

centuries, were revealed in 1921; subsequently the church was re-sanctified as a Christian place of worship. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

6. This is the only **Byzantine bath** that has survived in Thessaloniki nowadays. It was probably founded in the late 13th-early 14th century in an area that was later named as 'Kule Kafe' by the Ottomans. Structures of this kind were common in the city during the Byzantine era, but this is the only one that has remained almost intact until today. It is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

7. Taxiarches is a beautiful Byzantine church that was built in the 14th century and was part of an unknown monastery. The crypt on the lower level was used as a burial chapel for the monks. Some parts of murals from the original decoration have been preserved.

8. Agios Nikolaos Orfanos Church is a small wooden-roofed basilica dating from the early 14th century. It was built as part of a monastery, and probably owes its name to the orphanage that was run by the monastery back in those days. The church is most notable for its frescoes, which are an example of the Thessalonican school at the height of the "Palaiologan Renaissance". Their creator might be the same one who decorated the Hilandar monastery in Mount Athos in 1314.

9. Atatürk Museum is housed in the building where Kemal Atatürk, the "father of Modern Turkey", was born and is located behind the Turkish Consulate. In 1935 the house was donated by the municipal council of Thessaloniki to the Turkish State and became a museum.

10. The Rotunda is an impressive ancient Roman monument built in the early 4th century. It was erected by Emperor Galerius as a temple, either of Cabeiros, or Zeus. It was later converted into a Christian church, and was decorated with marvellous mosaics. The figure of Christ was depicted in the centre of the cupola in a shining sphere using the colours of the rainbow. When Thessaloniki was conquered by the Ottomans it became a mosque. Its minaret, built in 1591, is the only one surviving in the city today. After the liberation of the city in 1912 the building was re-transformed into a Christian church under the name of Saint George (Agios Georgios). Nowadays the Rotunda is used as an exhibition space. It is inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

11. The Arch of Galerius, better known as the Kamara, was part of a large complex that included the Galerius Palace, the Hippodrome and the Rotunda. It was built at the end of the 3rd century or early 4th to honour the victories of the Emperor Galerius against the Sassanid Persians in Asia Minor and in Syria. The central arch was about 9.7 metres wide and 12.5 metres high and spanned the portion of the *Via Egnatia*, the major east-west Roman road that connected Dyrrhacium to Byzantium. Only two of the four columns remain of this impressive structure today. One can see scenes of war, mounted battles and victories, triumphs, ceremonies and sacrifices in four bands, separated by relief flowers and branches.

12. Navarino square and Galerius' Palace. This is a vibrant area and one of the most historic districts in Thessaloniki. Therein lay the ruins of Galerius' Palace, a large complex built by Roman Emperor Galerius in the 4th century, containing huge buildings, an octagon, a large Hippodrome, arcades, triumphal arches and others. A significant part has been excavated nowadays, bringing into the light beautiful peristyles, a large internal courtyard, corridors and rooms with stunning mosaic floors.

Just a few meters away you may also locate Zefxidos and Iktinou streets, two of the most crowded pedestrian streets of the city centre. Don't miss the chance to taste the famous crepes of Thessaloniki from the several creperies located in Navarino square.