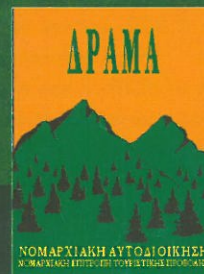
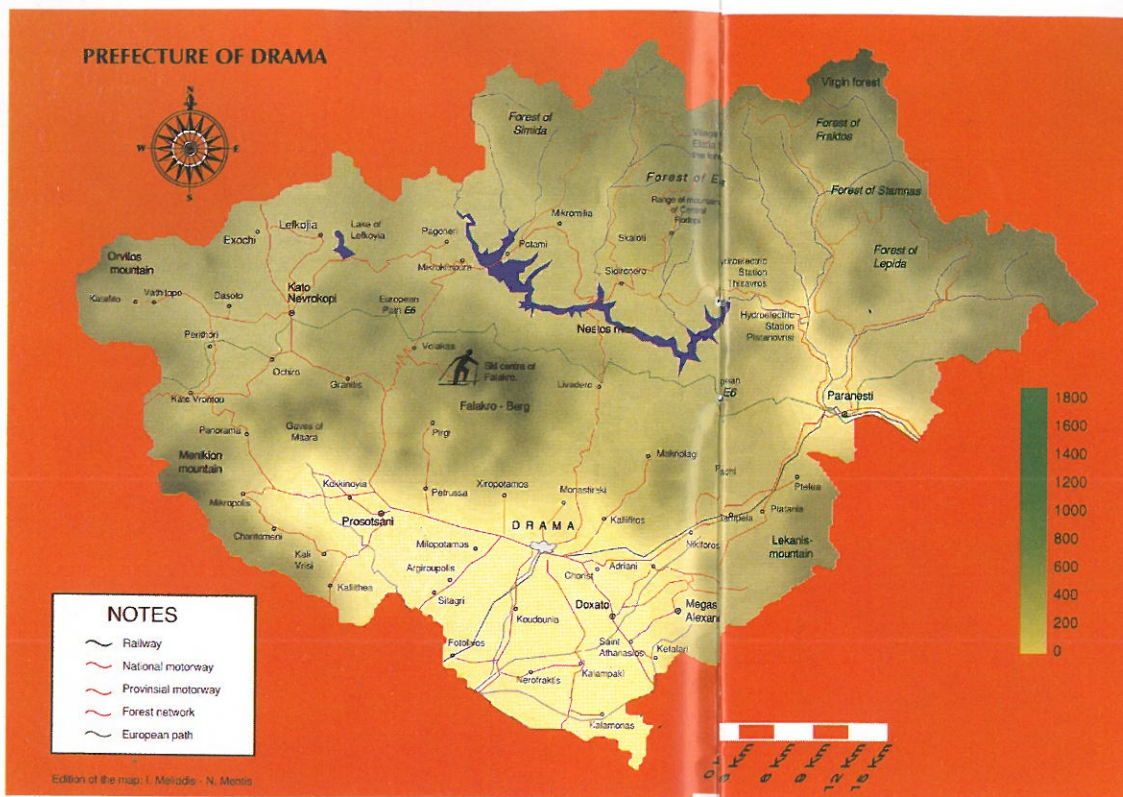


DRAMA'S FOREST
Elatia & Partheno

Nature at its best





How you can reach Drama

Access to Drama is very easily. It can be reached:

- By road:**
- From Thessaloniki's airport: 150kml
- From Kavala's airport: 60kml
- From Thessaloniki's sea port: 140 kml
- From Kavala's port: 34kml

By Rail:
Railway station is only 200 meters from downtown Drama city.

Bus connections are very frequent from the cities of Thessaloniki, Kavala, Serres, Xanthi and Athens.

Useful Telephone Numbers
Prefectural Local Administration
(0521) 34124, 32443
fax: 35013

Prefecture of Drama

Drama county is located in the North-east of Eastern Macedonia, in Northern Greece. At its North it borders Bulgaria, at its East the county of Xanthi, South the county of Kavala and West the county of Serres. Its area covers approximately 350,000 hectares . Sixteen percent of this area is agricultural land, 43% is grassland (pastures), 37% is forests and the rest of it is made up of urban areas, barren lands and bodies of surface waters. Its landscapes are characterised as 60% mountainous, 30% semi mountainous and the remaining 10% as flatlands. This high percentage of mountainous landscapes, coupled to the existence of low flatlands, results in relatively sudden alterations in altitude, as the presence of Falakro's mountaintop at over 2,000 meters, right next to Drama's main valley, indicates. This hypsometrical variation results in turn in the creation of distinct and altering microclimates, within the county's boundaries. It is here that one can find the coldest area in Greece, namely Kato Nevrokopi, where temperatures can plunge as low as minus 30 degrees Celsius. As a result, the area's climate is categorised as Transient,

lying between the Mediterranean and Continental types. One of Drama county's most attractive feature, amongst its many, are the Elatia and Fractos virgin forests.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (0521)

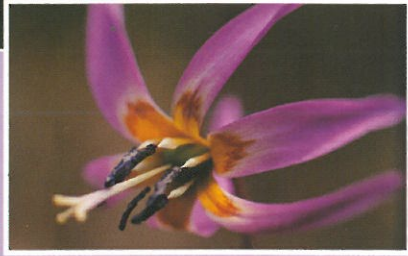
- Prefectural Committee of Touristic Promotion 34.124
- Prefectural Local Administration 32.443
- Forest Inspector 34.073
- Elatia's Forest Village 91.340

HOTELS:

DRAMA (0521)	XENIA 33.195 TASKO 24.000 EMPORIKO 37.925 MARIANA 31.520 ESPERIA 34.114 ANESIS 30.306	K. NEVROKOPI AKRITAS 22.319 (0523) ORVILOS 22.515
		PARANESTI PHILOXENIA 22.001 (0524)



Soldanella of Rodopi,
A perennial moss, native of
Rodopi, which recently has
been described as a new
species (Lab. Of Forest
Botany, Department of
Forests of Drama, Technical
Education Institution of
Kavala)



Erithronio,
One of the most rare and
beautiful flowers in the area.

The coming of Spring

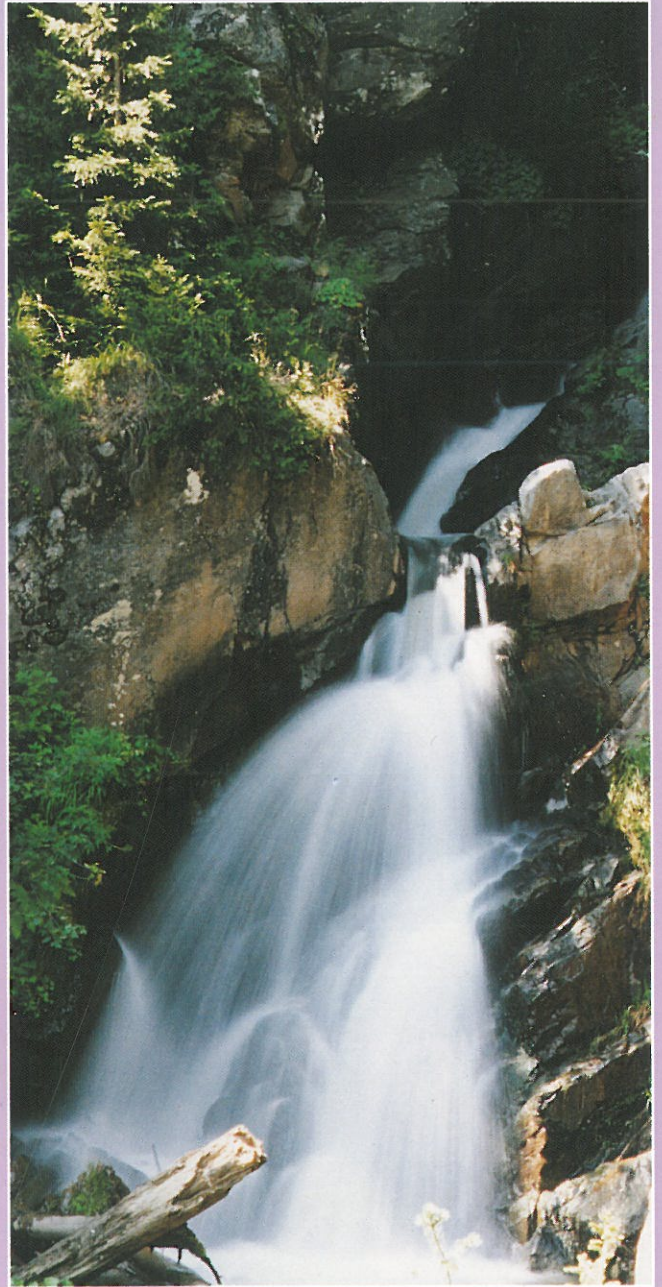
In the high altitudes of Elatia and Fractos forests (1,400 to 1,800 meters) Spring arrives late. As the last snows melt, and crystal clear streams start to emerge from nowhere and fearlessly leap over rocky mountainsides into the void, they form thin, slender waterfalls. Just by standing there you can almost sense the eminent coming of Spring in the air. Isolated wildflowers begin to emerge here and there, lonely splatters of vivid colours

Forest Village in Elatia.



in the monotony of the still sleeping land. Slowly the animal kingdom also springs into life, as bees and hovering insects emerge from nowhere, to gather the precious nectar of life. Following them eventually, as the cycle of life spins into full power, will be the larger forest animals such as wild turkeys, deer or wild goats. And if one is lucky enough he might catch an eluding glimpse of a wild bore, a wolf, a wild cat or a bear.

A spectacular water fall. Approximately at a distance of 1500 m. from Stravorema



Summer Wonderings

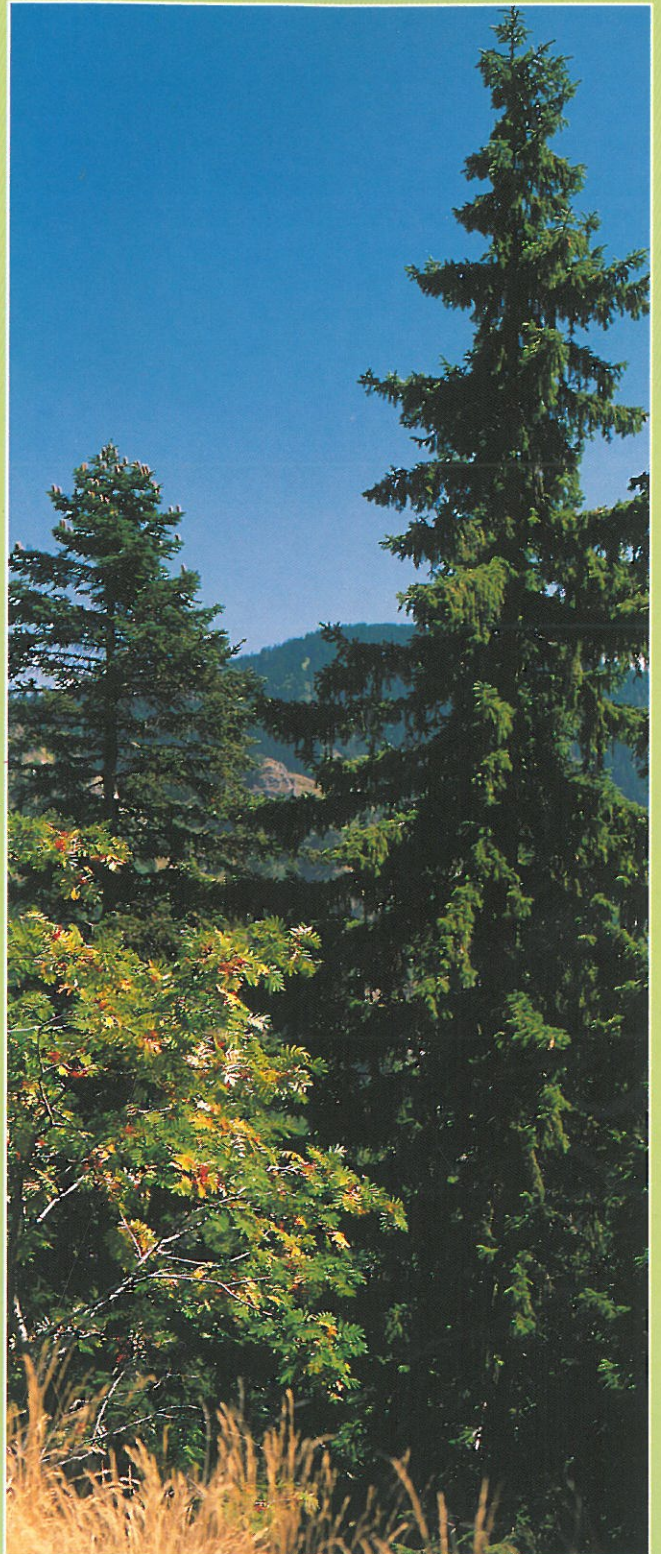


Raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*) are bushes that can reach a height of about 2 meters. They are well known for their sweet aroma and their excellent tasting berries.

To escape for a while from the city's heat and noise one can seek shelter in Elatia and Fractos forests. Here summers are cool and pleasant. Waters never stop to flow and beech, oak and birch branches hang heavy with green leaves. The forest's bright colours intermix with the sky's deep blue. In the calm atmosphere of these settings, one can spend endless hours wondering through the forest's shadowy paths, stopping every now and then to pick a wild flower or a wild fruit such as a raspberry a blackberry or a wild strawberry. Summer is the time of high logging activity in the oak, birch and pine forests. Alongside them, loggers also cut red spruce and beeches that have reached the minimum allowable size. Logging is carried out based on a long-term management program, aimed at the preservation of the natural form of the forests.



The area of "Stravorema" in Elatia forest is the perfect place for relaxing walks, daytrips and camping, as it combines delicious vegetation of Red-spruce with level grounds and crystal clear running waters.



Autumn Colours

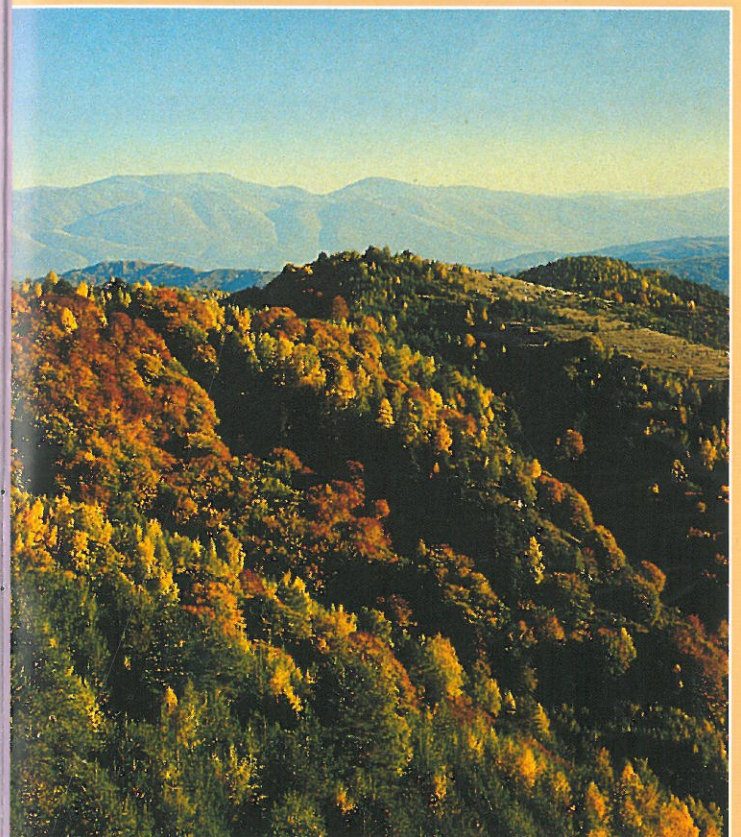
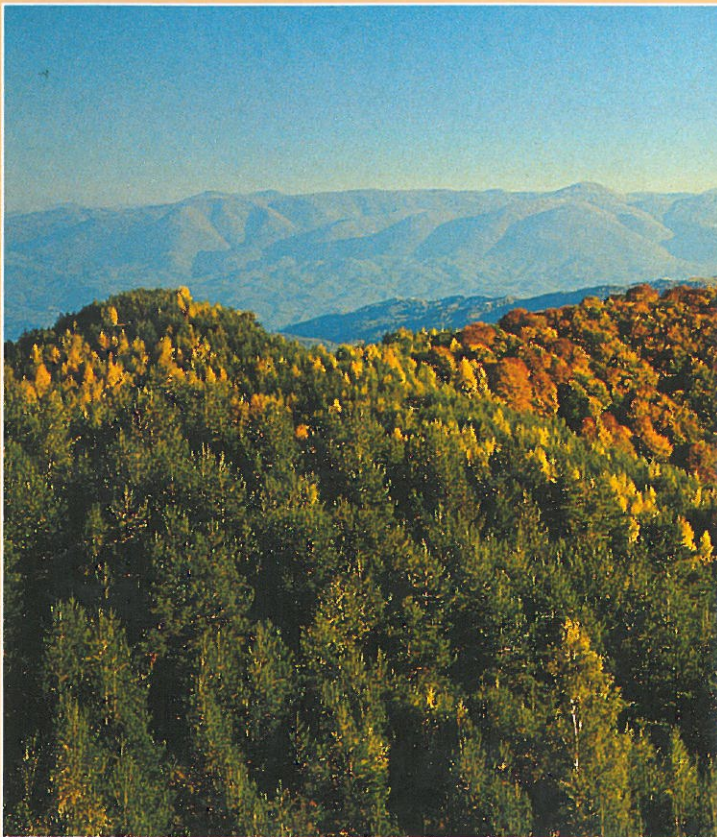
As Autumn draws near, its calmness and richness of colours slowly takes over the scenery. Every tree and bush in Elatia and Partheno takes its place in Nature's magnificent drawing. Beeches, oaks and chestnut-trees sink in pale yellows to dark reds, accompanying the deep greens of the red spruces and pines, the reds of cherry trees and the golden yellows of birches.



During Autumn in Elatia the forest floor is full of mushrooms, a wonderful gift for the wondering walker.

The woods' paths fill with a colourful puzzle of dead leaves and the footsteps of hikers sink softly in this lush forest carpet. Those who know, pick mushrooms and the romantics take long strolls through the forest.

Autumn in Elatia and Partheno is a breath-taking season, a parade of colours that exceed any imagination.





Winter *The white silence*



Krokos in snow

Winter is long in Elatia and Partheno. Each year it steals a bit of Spring and a little of Autumn, keeping for itself the title of the longest season. Harsh and sometimes cruel, winter time in this far northern side of Greece can break in a night and before dawn arrives, it has taken over everything, making its presence well known throughout the forest. As the new day comes, it rises over a different world, one that will last for months to come. Some starry nights or clear mornings, the temperature sinks unbelievably low, making one wonder if this place is still Greece

Autum birch covert with snow.



or he has somehow been transferred overnight in a far away, northern country. In the white cloak of Winter, every activity in the forest ceases. Time stops. Only a few scarce tracks on the snow sometimes reveal that there is still a struggle going on, as animals seek food and shelter in this cold kingdom.



arktos editions