



Lia Papadragana

The Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas Estuaries Management Authority has the following basic objectives: to manage the protected area and preserve its flora and fauna, to promote eco-tourism and sustainable development, to inform and raise the awareness of the local community and visitors alike. The Authority is a legal entity of private law acting for the public benefit and is overseen by the Ministry of Productive Reconstruction, Environment and Energy. The Management Authority is based in Chalastra, Thessaloniki.



Operational Programme Macedonia - Thrace 2007-2013
Supporting the operation of Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas Delta Management Body,
aiming at the management of its area of responsibility



The project is co-financed by Greece and the European Union

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Nea Agathoupoli Wetland A gem on the Thermaikos gulf



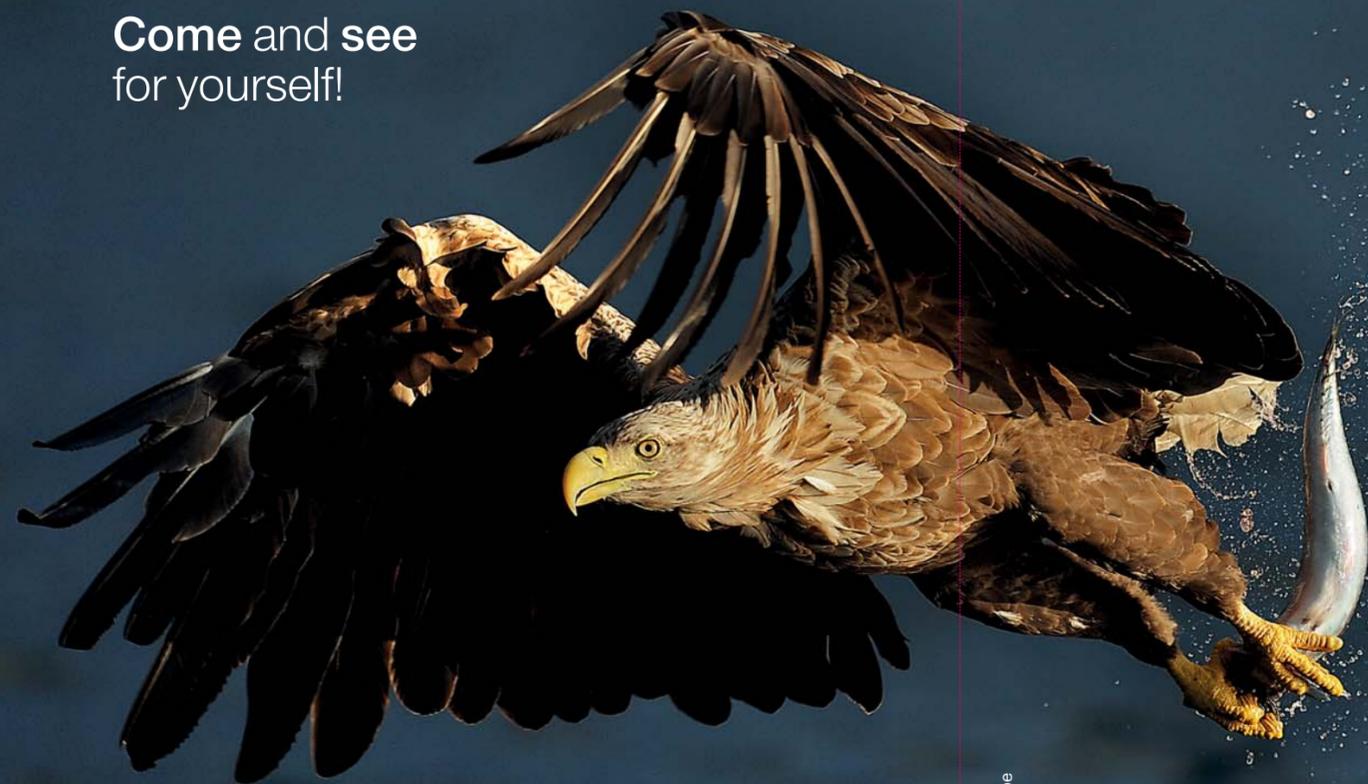
Agorastos Papatseanis

South of the Aliakmonas delta lies a lovely coastal wetland, an expanse of halophytes, tamarisks and reed beds alive with birds. Purple herons, glossy ibis, shelducks, Kentish plovers and Dalmatian pelicans are just some of the rare and important species that may be seen in this area. But Nea Agathoupoli is best known for the thousands of ducks that overwinter here, mostly teals, pochards, wigeons, mallards, gadwalls, pintails and shovelers. Garganeys pass through on their migrations, gadwalls and mallards can be seen all year round, whilst the rare ferruginous duck visits in the summer.

And then there are the raptors. The wetland is home to the marsh harrier, while the spotted eagle, an endangered species on a European level, is an important winter visitor. Most impressive of all, though, is the majestic white-tailed sea eagle that soars over the wetland searching for food - one of the few breeding pairs in Greece lives in the Aliakmon delta.

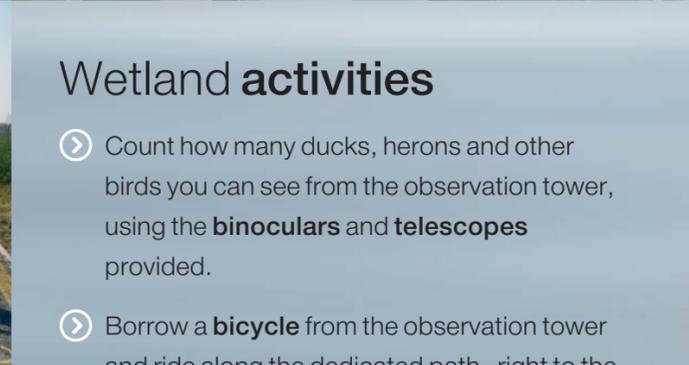
The wetland and coastal zone are of course also home to many other creatures, including Greek tortoises, water snakes, newts and dragonflies.

Come and see
for yourself!



The Nea Agathoupoli wetland is a great place for an outing. From the stone observation tower (operated by the Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas Management Authority) there is a splendid view towards the Aliakmonas Delta and the Thermaikos gulf. And with such large numbers of birds congregating in a relatively small area, your chances of seeing an eagle or a harrier soaring over the wetland are pretty good.

Statfán Widstrand / Wild Wonders of Europe



Wetland activities

- Count how many ducks, herons and other birds you can see from the observation tower, using the **binoculars** and **telescopes** provided.
- Borrow a **bicycle** from the observation tower and ride along the dedicated path - right to the coast at Methoni, if you want!
- Walk the **trail** leading away from the observation tower for a closer look at the creatures that live in the wetland. But be careful not to disturb them!
- Join the **events** organised by the Management Authority at the observation tower - check our website to find out what's on.
- School classes can learn about the world of **insects** through our **Microcosmos** programme at the theme kiosk in the village of Nea Agathoupoli.
- Enjoy the **delicious local** food in the tavernas by the sea in nearby Methoni.

Observation tower hours

Wednesday - Sunday: 10:00 - 14:00
July - August
Wednesday - Friday: 10:00 - 14:00
Saturday - Sunday: 17:00 - 21:00

Getting there

Nea Agathoupoli is roughly 50 km from Thessaloniki and 25 km from Katerini. Turn off the Athens - Thessaloniki highway at Methoni and follow the signs.

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