

The Monasteries of Meteora

Meteora is located in north-central Greece, on the northwestern edge of the Plain of Thessaly. It overlooks the town of Kalambaka below.

Meteora means 'suspended rocks,' and is one of the most stunningly beautiful and other-worldly places on earth. It is reported that over a millennium ago, monks traveled throughout Greece in search of a place where they could build a monastery. Ultimately, twenty-four monasteries were established at Meteora, though today only six remain. All but one of these is perched atop sandstone pillars rising hundreds of feet above the plain below.

Access to these monasteries for centuries was by rope. If someone wanted to visit the monastery, they would be pulled up hundreds of feet by a pulley system operated by the monks. The ropes were replaced, so the story goes, only when they broke. Today, access to the monasteries is along stone paths from adjoining hills.

This photograph is numbered ____ of 200.