



LOCAL GUIDE

History

Seafaring ancient **Corinthians**, in the 7th century, BC, seeking a place to found a colony, picked Nea Potidea's site, recognizing its critical location in controlling traffic on the Gulf of Thermi, Toroneas Bay, and the land route down into Kassandra. Its patron was **Poseidon**, god of the sea, hence the name "Potidaea." The colony sent ships to help defend Athens from the Persians in the famous naval battle of **Salamis**, near Athens, in September of 480 BC. The following year Potidea sent troops to help fight the Persians at **Plataea**, 40km northwest of Athens, in the final and decisive battle of the Persian Wars, resulting in a Greek victory and the permanent expulsion of the Persian invaders from Greek soil. Potidea was the only Macedonian city to send troops.

After their defeat, the Persians, on their way back north, besieged Potidea unsuccessfully. This siege is mentioned in Herodotus, along with topographical descriptions of the town. After that Potidea became a member of the Athenian-led **Delian League**, an alliance of Greek city-states formed to prevent further Persian aggression. Potidea left the league at the outbreak of hostilities between Athens and **Sparta** during the **Peloponnesian War**, which earned her the hostility of Athens, and a two-year siege against her which ended in 429 BC with an Athenian victory. The Potideans were forced to leave their city-state with only the clothes they wore. The philosopher **Socrates** was a soldier for Athens during the siege.

The Athenians resettled their own people at Potidaea, changing it from a Corinthian to an Athenian colony, which was conquered and razed by **Philip II** of Macedon in 357 BC. In 317 BC, Kassandros, successor king to Alexander in Macedon (and for whom Kassandra is named), rebuilt Potidea, re-named it Kassandraia, populated it with descendants of the original inhabitants, and dug the canal.

The Romans came, and developed the town, which became a Roman colony in 43 BC by virtue of many Roman soldiers retiring there, and was one of the few places in Macedonia minting its own currency.

In 540 AD it was destroyed by invading Huns, but almost as quickly rebuilt by the **Byzantine Emperor Justinian** (482-564 AD), who built a wall across the neck of land, commanding access to and from

Kassandra. Remains of the fortifications, known as the **Justinian Wall**, are visible, especially at the western end of the canal.

The attack of the Huns did long-lasting damage, however, leading to a slow decline in the fortunes of Potidaea, culminating in it being deserted by the 14th century, AD. In 1407 extensive fortifications repairs were conducted in the re-populated city under the auspices of Byzantine ruler **Ioannis VII Palaiologos**, and in 1430 the Ottoman Turks took Potidea.

In 1821, the opening year of the Greek War of Independence, Greek partisans took refuge in the city's Byzantine-era castle, and were eventually slaughtered, in an event known locally as the "**Holocaust of Kassandra**" when the canal "ran red with blood." The November 14 anniversary of this massacre is commemorated yearly in Potidaea which was finally reclaimed by Greece from Turkey fairly recently, in the early 20th century.

In 1922 the village took on its present form, and its present name of "New Potidea," with the influx of refugees from Eastern Thrace following the Greko-Turkish war, known in Greece as the **Asia Minor Catastrophe**.

There was no bridge over the canal until 1967. Before that traffic and goods had to be rafted back and forth. The opening of the bridge led to significant development of Kassandra as a tourist and vacation home destination.



Battle of Potidaea.

Athenians against Corinthians, 431 BCE; Socrates saves Alcibiades

What to visit

1. **Church of Saint George** in Nea Potidea
2. **Byzantine tower** in Nea Fokea next to a small harbor (11km)
3. **Archaeological Site of Olynthus** in Polygyros (17km)
4. **Holy water of Saint Paul** in Nea Fokea
5. **Afytos** village where you will find many souvenir shops (16km)
6. **Mount Cholomon** in Polygyros (17km)
7. **Thermal spa Agia Paraskevi**, Kassandra Halkidiki (49km)
8. **Diaporos island** , 3rd finger of Halkidiki, great choice for a cruise (57km)
9. **Sani beach** (17km)
10. **Anthropological museum & cave of Petralona** (31km)

Where to eat

- **Parko Restaurant:** Situated in the upper part of the Village, next to the Main Square and offers fish and meat. It is highly rated on tripadvisor and we recommend it as well.
- **Ta Kastrá:** Where the history meets the present. Here you can enjoy a lovely lunch behind the ancient walls with the view in the port.
- **Marina Fish Restaurant:** Situated in the port. It is the perfect place for fish lovers. It is one of the best fish restaurants in Greece. Known for excellent seafood dishes and a high level of service. If you love fish, you will not regret it.
- **Dream Gyros:** It is located in the main square. If you would like to taste the traditional street food, we recommend you this place. Delivery is also available and free of charge.

Also, on the sea side you will find many local beach bars, pizzerias and souvenir shops. It is a very nice spot for a walk.

Super Markets

Jimmys Super Market is the nearest super market. Another option is the “Express market villazeria petro”. If you are Lidl’s fan, you can go by car in Nea Moudania (7km) and do your shopping. Open Market takes place every Wednesday and the address is Kanelloupolou 19, Nea Moudania 632 00, Greece.

Activities

Diving center: "Blue" Diving Center, next to "Germanos" Taverna, opposite from Jimmys Super Market

Water Parks: Wet Wet and Magic Bloom on the east side of the village

Boat trips: <https://www.getwet.gr/> for day cruise trips around peninsula of Chalkidiki



Emergency Numbers and Addresses

Police 100

Police Station Kassandras, 28is Oktovriou, Nea Moudania 632 00, +302373 065580

Fire Department 199

Emergency medical service 166

Medical health center +3023733 50000, Panagias Korifinis 54, Nea Moudania 632 00

****Do not forget country code +30**

If you would like to be informed about more places you could visit www.visit-chalkidiki.gr, a local guide where you will find every information.



WE WISH YOU A MEMORABLE STAY. ENJOY YOUR MOMENTS
HERE AND FORGET EVERYTHING.

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