



THRACIAN FOLKLORE FESTIVALS

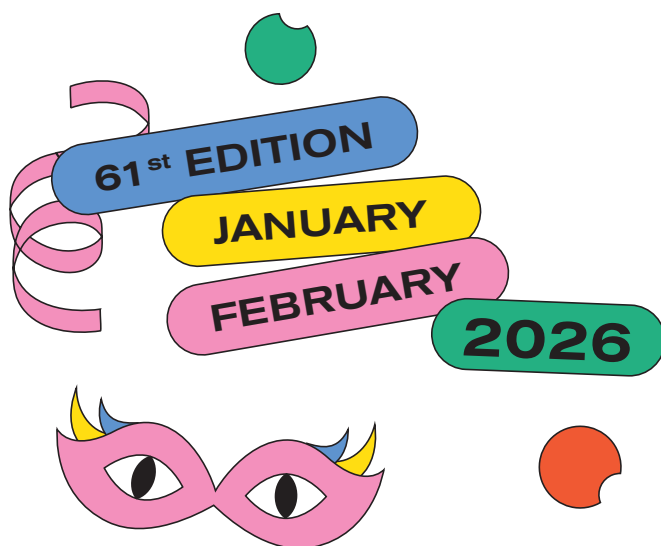
XANTHI CARNIVAL 2026



ΧΟΡΗΓΟΣ ΕΤΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ



**THRACIAN
FOLKLORE
FESTIVALS
XANTHI
CARNIVAL
2026**



The Municipality of Xanthi and the Organising Committee are organising the Thracian Folklore Festivals – Xanthi Carnival 2026.

Health coverage



Greek Red Cross – Xanthi Volunteer Corps of Samaritans, Rescuers and Lifeguards



Humanitarian Crisis Management and Rescue Team



**WEDNESDAY,
28 JANUARY**

**CONCERT WITH
ELENI FUREIRA**

Dimokratias Square, 7:30 p.m.



FRIDAY, 30 JANUARY

**MUSIC AND DANCE EVENING
WITH GUEST FOLKLORE
SOCIETIES**

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7:00 p.m. ♿

Participants: "Abrašević" Cultural and Artistic Society from Belgrade, Serbia, Dance Group of the Municipal District of Alambra, Municipality of South Nicosia – Idalion, Cyprus



THRACIAN FOLKLORE FESTIVALS



XANTHI CARNIVAL



SATURDAY, 31 JANUARY

"FOLKLORE PARADE"

Dimokratias Square, 11:30 a.m.

The audience will enjoy a unique traditional celebration, full of liveliness, authentic dances and carnival rites from every corner of Greece.

Participating societies:

Parish Society of Pigadia "Hatzigyriotes", Thracian Home of Drama, Cretan Brotherhood of Xanthi, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Drama, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Thessaloniki, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Kavala, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Orestiada, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Serres, Educational and Cultural Society of Monastiraki, Drama, Cultural Folklore Society "Thrace", Cultural Society of Eastern Romyliotes of Komotini, Cultural Society of Diomedea, Cultural Society of Evmoiro, Cultural Society of Kimmerii "Ampheraos", Cultural Society of Komninos, Xanthi, Cultural Society of Koutsou, Xanthi "Agios Georgios", Cretan Dancers Cultural Society of Xanthi "Aposperites", Evritan Society of Xanthi, Society of Thracians of the Province of Nestos, Society of Asia Minor Refugees of Xanthi "Alismonites patrides" Peloponnesian Society of Xanthi "Geros tou Moria", Pomak Society of Xanthi, Pontic Greek Society of Xanthi, Pontic Greek Dancers Society of Xanthi "Trantellenes" Philoproodos Union of Xanthi, Dance and Cultural Society of Avdira, Xanthi Dance Club

SUNDAY, 1 FEBRUARY

FOLK DANCE PRESENTATIONS

Dimokratias Square, 11:30 a.m.

Participating societies:

Parish Society of Pigadia "Hatzigyriotes", Society of Pontic Greek Dancers of Xanthi "Trantellenes", "Stavros Halioris" Social Centre, Cultural and Folklore Society "Thrace", Pontic Greek Society of Xanthi, Cultural Society of Evmoiro, Cypriot Society of Xanthi

CONTEMPORARY TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION

Dimokratias Square, 6:30 p.m.

Traditional clarinet rock band "Bucolic Disturbance".



MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE SOCIETIES MUSIC AND DANCE EVENING

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7:00 p.m. ♿

Participating societies:

Philoproodos Union of Xanthi, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi, Cultural Centre of Neo Erasmo, Xanthi "Georgios Vizyinos", Thamyris Cultural Society, Xanthi Dance Club Cultural Society of Chrysa, Xanthi



TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE SOCIETIES MUSIC AND DANCE EVENING

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. ♿

Participating societies:

Cultural Society of Avato, Xanthi, "Stavros Halioris" Social Centre, Women's Cultural Society of Mangana, Xanthi, Nea Kessani Educational and Cultural Society "Agia Paraskevi", Society of Thracians of the Province of Nestos





THRACIAN FOLKLORE FESTIVALS



XANTHI CARNIVAL



WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE SOCIETIES MUSIC AND DANCE EVENING

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. &

Participating societies:

Cretan Dancers Cultural Society of Xanthi "Aposperites"
Diomedea Cultural Society
Sarakatsani Society of Xanthi "O Lepeniotis"
"Thamyris" Cultural Society
Peloponnesians Society of Xanthi "O Geros tou Moria"
Cultural Association of Mandras



THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE SOCIETIES MUSIC AND DANCE EVENING

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. &

Participating societies:

Pontic Greek Society of Xanthi
Cultural and Naturalist Society of Toxotes, Xanthi
Koutsos - Xanthi Cultural Society "Agios Georgios"
Pontic Greek Dancers Society of Xanthi "Trantellenes"
Brotherhood of Epirotes of Xanthi
Evritan Society of Xanthi



FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE EVENING: "KALOGEROS", A TRADITION FROM BIZYE IN EASTERN THRACE, IS REVIVED IN XANTHI

Old Town Hall of Xanthi, 6 Mavromichali Street, 6 p.m.

The Municipality of Xanthi, in collaboration with the Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi, the Pontic Greek Society of Xanthi, the Xanthi Dance Club and the Philoproodos Union of Xanthi, are organising an evening event to inform the public about the revival of the Kalogeros event.

The history, symbolism, details and revival of the event will be presented by:

M. G. Varvounis

Professor of Folkloristics at Democritus University of Thrace

"The Kalogeros ritual and Greek Folklore: records, reflections, re-evaluations"

Thanasis V. Kougoulos, Assistant Professor of Semiotics, Literary Analysis and Cultural Interpretation, Department of Humanities, Democritus University of Thrace

"The birthplace in the short stories of G. M. Vyzinos"

Thanasis Mousopoulos, philologist, writer and historical researcher

"Vyzinos wanders the cobbled streets of Xanthi with his monk..."





FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE SOCIETIES MUSIC AND DANCE EVENING

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. &

Participating societies:

Kimmerii Cultural Society "O Amferaos"
Parish Society of Pigadia "Hatzigyriotes"
Cretan Brotherhood of Xanthi
Abdera Dance and Cultural Society
Society of Asia Minor Refugees of Xanthi "Alismonites Patrides"
Traditional Dance Workshop of Agios Athanasios, Municipality of Topeiros



SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY

THE "KALOGEROS OF BIZYE"

Dimokratias Square (starting point of the event), 6 p.m.

The "Kalogeri" is an important rite that was performed in Bizye, Thrace, every Cheesefare Monday. It was first described by G. Vizyinos in 1888, in a series of articles in the newspaper Evdomas, in the form of a folklore study entitled "The Kaloyeri and the worship of Dionysus in Thrace", which caused a sensation and became widely known in European scientific circles thanks to Richard Dawkins. The roles, played by men, include the the two Kalogeri (Good Old Men), the Girls, Babo (the Old Woman with her seven-month-old child), the Mountzourides (the Smudgers), the Zaptiedes (the Gendarmes), Kechagias (the Self-Proclaimed Leader), and others.

The following societies are participating in the revival of the event (in alphabetical order):

Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition

Cretan Brotherhood of Xanthi
Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Kilkis
Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi
Educational and Cultural Movement of Young People of Melissochori, Thessaloniki
Educational Society of Komotini
Cultural Society of Eastern Romyliotes of Komotini
Cultural Society of Diomedea
Cultural Society of Kimmerii "Ampheraos"
Cultural and Naturalist Society of Toxotes, Xanthi
Society of Friends of the Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition
Philoproodos Union of Xanthi
Xanthi Dance Club

The re-enactment route will end at Mitropoleos Square in Xanthi's Old Town, where the festivities will culminate

***In case of adverse weather conditions, the re-enactment will take place at the "Filippos Amoiridis" Indoor Sports Centre on the same day and at the same time.*





SUNDAY, 8 FEBRUARY

"GAITANAKI": YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE,
LET'S REVIVE THE CARNIVAL TRADITIONS
TOGETHER!

Eleftherias Square, 12:00

Pupils from kindergartens, nurseries and primary schools, along with their parents, teachers and members of societies and cultural organisations, will celebrate the Carnival customs and dance around maypoles. During Carnival, the gaitanakia fill Xanthi with colour as they parade from Eleftherias Square to Dimokratias Square. At the end of the celebrations, all the maypoles will gather in Dimokratias Square, where there will be a traditional feast accompanied by the musical group "Banda Tetia".



CONCERT WITH PAGAN

Dimokratias Square, 7:30 p.m.



MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE EVENING, CHILDREN'S DANCES

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7:00 p.m. ♿

Participating societies:

Cultural Centre of Neo Erasmio, Xanthi "Georgios Vizyinos" and Women's Association of Mangana, Xanthi, Philoproodos Union of Xanthi, Cultural and Naturalist Society of Toxotes, Xanthi, Cultural Society of Chrysa, Xanthi Cultural Society of Avato, Xanthi



TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY

FOLKLORE EVENING, CHILDREN'S DANCES

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. ♿

Participating societies:

Thamyris Cultural Society, Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi, "Stavros Halioris" Social Centre, "Thraki" Cultural Folklore Society, Xanthi Dance Club, Cultural Society of Diomedea, Cultural Society "Ampheraos" of Kimmerii

Children in action... in carnival Visual Expression:

"MASKS... MAKING A
CARNIVAL MASK"

Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition, Tobacco Warehouse "P",
Kapnergaton 9, 6 p.m. ♿

Curated by: Kyriaki Kyrrou, Visual Artist - Educator - Head of the Painting and Visual Arts Workshop at the Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition
Free admission



WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

SHADOW PLAY "THE TALES OF KARAGIOZIS"

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. &

"Karagiozis in the Madhouse"

*Free admission



Children in action... in carnival Creative Activity:

"COLOURS, SMILES, GAMES AND DANCING!"

Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition, Tobacco Warehouse «P», Kapnergaton 9, 6:00 p.m. &

Curated by: Thania Paraskevopoulou, Kindergarten Teacher - Head of the Creative Activity Workshop at the Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition

*Free admission



TSIKNOPEMPTI, 12 FEBRUARY

CREATIVE WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

"ALICE IN CARNIVAL LAND"

Old Town Hall of Xanthi, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

A magical journey into the land of imagination! "Alice in Carnival Land" transforms the well-known story of Alice in Wonderland into a colourful, playful experience for children and families.

Workshops:

Masks and Hats of Wonders , DIY Carnival Costume Making , Making my own flower, Making my own badge, Face painting , Story time

**The event will be repeated on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 February, with the same themes and at the same times.*

Free admission

TRADITIONAL FLAVOURS EVENING

Filippos Amoiridis Indoor Sports Centre, 8 p.m.

Cultural societies prepare traditional recipes and organise a feast accompanied by live music and sounds from all over Greece. The evening will be accompanied by the traditional band "Banda Tetia". As Tsiknopempti is such a special occasion, the venue will be open from 8 p.m. until midnight, and will offer a rich buffet of delicious appetisers, fresh salads, a variety of meats and homemade desserts. The Municipality of Xanthi, as host, will offer free wine to all visitors.

A.O.X. Stadium, meeting place of the "Vistonas" society, 7:30 p.m.

Come and join us for a barbecue, with good company, music and fun.





FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY

PUPPET SHOW "THE CARNIVAL OF LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD, SUPERMAN! THE WOLF IS COMING"

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 7:00 p.m. ♿

The JINX puppet theatre group presents their adaptation of the well-known children's fairy tale. It is a comedic performance in keeping with the carnival spirit, with the puppets dressed up for the occasion. Particular emphasis is placed on the choice of puppets, dialogue and sets, so that even very young children can enjoy it.. *Free admission



Children in action... in carnival dance expression:

"DANCE AND CARNIVAL"

Foundation for Thracian Art and Tradition, 12 Apostolon 45, 6 p.m. ♿

Workshop leader and curator Elena Bougaeva

CONCERT OF COCONAUT ROCKERS

Dimokratias Square, 7 p.m.



SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

"THE TREASURE HUNT"

Xanthi Municipal Art Gallery (starting point), 11:00

A unique treasure hunt. Solve riddles and have fun in various "hidden spots" in the Old Town of Xanthi while learning creatively. Supported by American Space, the Municipality of Xanthi, and the "Vatrachi" Cultural Society
To register, follow the link: <https://forms.gle/fFDW3pREnTywYwb98>



PHOTOGRAPHIC TREASURE HUNT

Xanthi Student Cultural Society "The Bridge"

Old Town, 12:00

The Xanthi Student Photography Group invites you to join them on a unique adventure! Discover hidden treasures and capture the beauty of traditional houses, cobbled streets and historic corners of Xanthi.

CONCERT WITH SIDARTA AND MENTE FUERTE

Dimokratias Square, 7 p.m.



CHORAL EVENING

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 6:30 p.m.

Participants

Mixed Choir of the Municipality of Kalamaria
"Ligeia" Choir of the Association of Letters and Arts of Grevena
Society of Friend of Komotini Choral Music "Eumolpos"
Melizona Choir of the Municipality of Paralimni, Cyprus
Friends of the Mixed Choir of the Municipality of Xanthi



SUNDAY, 15 FEBRUARY

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL PARADE

Dimokratias Square, 12:00

Children from nursery and primary school, as well as older children from middle and high school, will participate in the most exuberant festive parade of the Carnival!

**In case of bad weather, the children's carnival parade will take place on Friday 20 at 15:00.*



CONCERT WITH KATERINA LIOLIOU

Dimokratias Square, 7:30 p.m.



CARNIVAL BALL

Union of Multi-Child Families of the Regional Unit of Xanthi.

"Aeriko" (Antika Square), 8:00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENING

Xanthi Municipal Amphitheatre, 6:30 p.m. ♿

Participants:

Mixed choir of the Municipal Open Protection Centre for the Elderly, Abdera, Xanthi
Choir of the Society of Thracians of the Province of Nestos
Choir of the Municipal Open Protection Centre for the Elderly, Xanthi
Mixed Choir of the Church of St. Eleftherios, Xanthi

MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY

Municipal Amphitheatre of Xanthi, 8 p.m. ♿

Musical performance by the Xanthi music and vocal ensemble "Arion"

"AROUND THE WORLD IN 80... MINUTES"



TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

Park opposite the societies offices at the AOX stadium, 5:00 p.m.

Traditional Games Revival Festival: 2nd

«ENI MENI DOUDOU MENI»

The cultural societies "Aparadektoi," "Atithasoi," "Vistonai," "Kaveiroi," "Kataskinotes" and "Xenitemenoi" are joining forces and waiting for you to turn back time and have fun together!

WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY

BALL FOR CHILDREN

Museum of Balkan Dance Costumes in Genisea, 5:30 p.m.

The Regional Branch of the Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi, in collaboration with the Women's Association of Genisea, invites children to have fun with animator Dina Mavridou. There will be music, dancing and homemade delicacies.



Traditional Games Revival Festival: 2nd

«ENI MENI DOUDOU MENI»

Park opposite the societies offices at the AOX stadium, 5 p.m.

The cultural societies "Aparadektoi," "Atithasoi," "Vistonai," "Kaveiroi," "Kataskinotes" and "Xenitemenoi" are joining forces and waiting for you to turn back time and have fun together!

THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

PANOS VLACHOS CONCERT

Dimokratias Square, 7:00 p.m.



Traditional Games Revival Festival: 2nd

«ENI MENI DOUDOU MENI»

Πάρκο απέναντι από τα γραφεία των συλλόγων στο γήπεδο του ΑΟΞ, ώρα 17:00

The cultural societies "Aparadektoi," "Atithasoi," "Vistonai," "Kaveiroi," "Kataskinotes" and "Xenitemenoi" are joining forces and waiting for you to turn back time and have fun together!

BALL FOR CHILDREN

Building of the Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi, Ag. Georgios 1, 5:30 p.m.

Come and have fun with animator Dina Mavridou and taste handmade delicacies. *Admission €3

FRIDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

CONCERT WITH STAVENTO AND
DAPHNE LAWRENCE

Dimokratias Square, 12:00



DRAWING OF THE ORDER OF THE CREWS
FOR THE GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE.

Dimokratias Square, 6:30 p.m.

"PARTY OF FIRE"

Building of the Lykeion ton Ellinidon of Xanthi, 1 Ag. Georgios Street, 9:30 p.m.

Come and have fun and party to the music of DJ Andreas Pap
*Admission €8 with drink.



FRIDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

CONCERT WITH MARINA SATTI

Dimokratias Square, 7:30 p.m.



SATURDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

CONCERT WITH CHRYSEIDA GAGOUTI

Dimokratias Square, 12:30 p.m.



"LONG SKATEBOARDING" SESSION WITH
"CHALCOMANIACS"

Main streets of the city, 12:00 p.m.

COLOUR MILONGA - CARNIVAL BALL OF
TANGOAIRES

FEX Cultural Centre, 9:00 p.m.

CARNIVAL BALL OF "DIONYSUS"

Diogenes Event Hall, 9:00 p.m.

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL

Eirini Papadopoulou is one of the most recognisable figures on the contemporary Greek music scene. She rose to fame through her participation in X-Factor, subsequently establishing herself musically with hit songs and dynamic collaborations with other Greek artists. At the same time, she tried her hand at television, participating in popular programmes such as Survivor and Dancing with the Stars, revealing a multifaceted personality beyond singing.



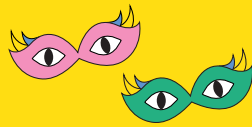
SATURDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

EVENING CARNIVAL PARADE

7:30 p.m.

A spectacular carnival journey begins at the intersection of 28th October and Fidiou streets! Carnival-goers and spectators dance together in a huge, colourful celebration that lasts until dawn in the city's streets, shops and clubs!





SUNDAY, 22 FEBRUARY

GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE

1:30 p.m.

The impressive and satirical King Carnival makes his triumphant appearance and gives the signal: Let's get started! Young and old carnival-goers flood the main streets with imagination, liveliness and crazy fun, ready to excite the thousands of spectators who will applaud, laugh and join in the fun! Colours, music, satire and smiles everywhere! The heart of the city beats loudly... because it's carnival!

**Music by DJs Ilias Katerzis, Fotis Iltos, Dimitris Stavridis (Dinosaur)*

The parade ends at the large park of the A.O. Xanthi stadium, where the clubs' party continues to the sounds of DJ Tori Papadima.

Ilias Meletis01 presents the parade, and is joined by Panagiotis Bardakis.



LATIN PARTY

FEX Cultural Centre, 5:30 p.m.

"THE BURNING OF TZAROS,"

CLOSING CEREMONY

Kosynthos River Bridge, 6:00 p.m.

In front of thousands of visitors, the "Tzaros" custom on the Kosynthos River is revived for the sixty-first year, after the grand carnival parade has finished.. According to the inhabitants of Eastern Thrace, the "Tzaros" or "Tzarous" was a human effigy placed on top of a pile of oak branches. On the last Sunday of Carnival, it was burned in the centre of a field, square or hill, to ward off fleas in the summer. This tradition was brought to Xanthi by refugees from Samakov in Eastern Thrace and is revived every year by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of the same name, located near the Kosynthos River bridge in the old town.



CLEAN MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY

Municipal Unit of Stavroupoli, Stavroupoli Square, 11:00 a.m.

In collaboration with the Stavroupoli cultural society "Orpheus", the Municipality of Xanthi is organising events in the Municipal Unit of Stavroupoli. Starting in the morning, there will be traditional music and dances performed by Christos Bartzopoulos's traditional orchestra, accompanied by free Lenten dishes and plenty of wine.

CARNIVAL CUSTOM OF THE "CAMEL"

In the village square of Stavroupoli, residents and visitors, dressed in costumes and making various sounds, will participate in a colourful and joyful parade led by a camel effigy and an adult impersonating an Arab camel driver. The custom of the camel was originally pagan in nature, performed to symbolise the residents' prayers for the fertility of the land, as it coincided with the arrival of spring and the start of agricultural work. Later, as it became associated with the Orthodox religion, which marks this day as the beginning of Lent, the custom took on a new meaning for the inhabitants, symbolising the end of the Carnival celebrations and the start of the fasting period.



"KOMNINOS CULTURAL SOCIETY,"

TRADITIONAL FEAST

Komninos settlement, time: 12:00

In the Komninos square, accompanied by Pontian lyre music and plenty of wine, residents and visitors can dance at a celebration based on local tradition. During the feast, members of the society distribute free traditional bean soup, accompanied by pickles, olives, halva and lagana, to those present. The Babis loakeimidis band will provide music for the event.

Panagiotis Bardakis will be presenting the events.



MUNICIPALITY OF XANTHI

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www.cultureofxanthi.gr

Photographs and videos will be taken for promotional purposes.

·ΜΠΥΡΑ·

ΜΑΜΟΣ

ΕΖΥΜΩΘΗΚΕ ΜΕ ΠΑΘΟΣ

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Απολαύστε υπεύθυνα