



Starting from Dapia, which means 'fortified place', with many cannons still decorating its walls, we first come to the noisy beach of Aghios Mammias, departure point of the buses, but also a meeting point for coffee, lunch or dinner. Walking towards the church of St. Nicholas, we come to the beach of Aghios Nikolaos and the renowned mansions, some of them built in the 18th century, which are a sample of the cultural and economic development of the island at that time.

The cathedral church of St. Nicholas also bears the Monument to the Heroes in its pebble mosaic courtyard. This monument was sculpted by Byron Kesses. The cathedral is one of the oldest churches in Spetses, built in the post-Byzantine style, with a cross and an outstanding bell tower where the revolutionary flag was raised in 1821. Near the cathedral, there is the restored Primary school of Kapodistriaki, which today houses the historical archive office. Here there is also a large convention hall and an exhibition hall with a permanent display of historical photographs (donated by Stephan Alexandrides). Continuing our journey, we enter the Old Harbour (Baltiza), passing by the traditional shipyards which are preserved today, transmitting the secrets of the caulking of the ships from generation to generation. We can admire beautiful buildings, old and new, which keep up the architectural traditions of the island, but Baltiza is also famous for the multitude of nightspots.

This route comes to an end at Fanari, where one of the oldest working lighthouses in Greece dominates the area. Here we also find the church of the Panagia Armata (Virgin Mary). The church was built in honour of the Virgin Mary, who helped the Spetsiots on her birthday, September 8th in the naval battle with the Ottomans in 1822. Inside the church we can admire a beautiful painting of the sea battle by I. Koutsis. Near the church there are two tombstones which honour the Admiral I.G. Koutsis and the historian Anargyros Hadzi-Anargyrou.

Further along we have a small park of cannon stations, with the restored cannon batteries of Mexis and a park decorated with the copper sculptures by Natalia Mela. At the far end of the Fanari, the copper statue of the fire raiser Cosmas Barbatsis dominates.

Starting from the scenic and bustling coffee shops and snack bars (ouzeri) of Dapia, we take the road inland in order to admire the marvellous architecture of the mansion of the benefactor Sotirios Anargyros, which is at present under restoration.

## Sights & Walks

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