

11 BEDS FOR BOOK LOVERS



Charles Dickens' former
Broadstairs is anything but
are named after his novels.
housebroadstairs.co.uk



Hotel: A six-bedroom Alice
land themed luxury rental in
dining room is set up for a Mad
party. wonderlandhouse.co.uk



Algonquin Hotel: Site of New York's
meetings involving the literary
Brothy Parker, George F Kaufman,
Anna Ferber. algonquinhotel.com

IN NUMBERS

546

number of kilometres
led by The Pioneer, a new
-day mountain bike race
gh New Zealand's remote
thern Alps (31 Jan-6 Feb).
n to all. thepioneer.co.nz

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF... Aristotle

Wax philosophical in northern Greece



Halkidiki, the scenic three-fingered peninsula that juts from the northern Greek mainland into the Aegean Sea, was the birthplace of Aristotle, and this year is the 2,400th anniversary of his birth. He may be half a millennia older than Christ, but Greece's prolific writer, polymath, philosopher and scientist will be celebrated with an array of festivities that includes the recently opened Aristotle Trail, as well as a dedicated 'theme park'.

Along with Socrates and Plato, Aristotle was the person responsible for laying out much of the groundwork for western philosophy. Teacher of Alexander the Great, he was credited for creating the peripatetic (wandering) school, so fond was he of lecturing on the hoof. You can follow in his footsteps along a magnificent mountain trail that rises up from the ruins of ancient Stagira, where the philosopher was born in 384BC, following a path across the Aristotelian Mountain overlooking the Aegean, concluding 22km later in the modern village of the same name. The Aristotle Trail can also be linked to a number of shorter satellite walks and mountain bike tracks.

Even if you're not wildly keen on visiting Aristotle's Park, the setting alone makes it worthwhile, surrounded as it is by fragrant pine and cypress forest on the southern slopes of Stratonikos Mountain, overlooking the gulf of Ierissos. Learn about Aristotle's laws in a display of instruments that includes a solar clock, lens, compass, pentaphone and pendulum.

Further details of the Aristotle festivities should be available in early 2016. visit-halkidiki.gr

HOW TO DO IT

Greek specialist tour operator, Sunvil, is working with local hotels to offer Aristotle tours. Stay at the Liotopi and Akroyiali hotels in Olymbiada and guests can book into various Aristotle-related activities, such as a guided tour of ancient Stagira, his birthplace, a two-hour trek from Aristotle's Park in Stagira to the village of Olymbiada through the mountains, tickets to a talk on the life and work of Aristotle by a professor from the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, and a cooking workshop with ancient recipes from Stagira. sunvil.co.uk

CULTURE SHOCK: In Japan, don't tip. Ever. It simply isn't part of the culture and can even cause offence. Instead, buy the bar person or waiter a drink to show your appreciation.

