



Municipality of Soufli

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**ΔΗΜΟΣΥΝΕΤΑΙΡΙΣΤΙΚΗ
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Cover: Panoramic view of the natural landscape • Back cover: Dadia



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Blending in with the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

GREECE



Soufli, Greece
Officially recognized as a Best Tourism Village by UNWTO in 2021



Within the boundaries of the municipality of Soufli lie four protected areas of the **Natura 2000 network** that cover about 70% of its total area. Among them, the **Dadia-Lefkimmi-Soufli National Forest Park** holds a special place, as it is located at the crossroad between Asia, Europe and Africa, on the eastern migration route of migratory birds. In 1980, the Park was declared a protected area, in 2003 the Management Body was established and since 2006 it has been designated as a National Park.

There is an impressive number of plants and animals in the area, with more than **360 species of plants** and **410 representatives of fauna**. However, what renders this habitat unique are the **birds of prey**, as **36 of the 38 species of diurnal predators** in Europe have been traced here: one can see the chrysaetos ('gold eagle'), the vasiltaetos ('king eagle'), the kravgaetos, the stiktaetos ('spotted eagle'), the thalassaetos ('sea eagle') and the fidaetos ('snake eagle'). Moreover, three of the four species of vultures in Europe breed here. These are the vulture, the white vulture and mainly the black vulture, whose only Balkan colony lies in this wood, with a population of 30-35 breeding pairs and 120-130 individual birds. The number of black storks nesting in the area is also extremely important.

The Municipality's eastern and more flat area is **dominated by Evros river**. The longest of the rivers flowing entirely in the Balkans forms a landscape of high aesthetic value. For centuries the life-giving river that brought culture and economic prosperity was highly worshiped in Thrace, while even today it affects its economic life; at the same time, it constitutes the border that separates Greece and the European Union from Turkey.

1. Erythropotamos (the "Red River"), 2-3. The National Park of Dadia-Lefkimmi-Soufli: birds of prey, 4. The forest of Dadia, 5. The lake of the dam of Lyra, 6. Sunflowers, 7. The Evros River, at the vicinity of Soufli