Cultural Route’s fares
On the Cultural Line Bus (No 50) you can use:

- Tickets
  (full price ticket at 2.00 € or a reduced price ticket at 1.00 €)
  Cultural line tickets are valid only on the cultural line buses and provide free passengers continual access (on the same day) to every cultural line bus (even if you just get off, you can board on the next one) until they reach the end of the route.
  Cultural line tickets are available only by the tour guides on the bus.
- Unlimited (Prepaid) Travel Cards
- Boarding Cards for people with disabilities

Thessaloniki on the go!
Welcome to the Cultural route of the Organisation of Urban Transportation of Thessaloniki.
The “History of Thessaloniki” route stops at many of the historical monuments which have created the city’s centuries of history from ancient, hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine times up until today.
Thessaloniki is a city with a multicultural character due to the many nationalities of people who have lived here as the centuries passed.

Timetable
Summer period (June – September)
1st Departure
08:00
Frequency
Every hour
Last departure
21:00

Winter period (October – May)
1st Departure
09:00
Frequency
Every hour
Last departure
16:00
Start and end point White Tower
Duration 50 – 60 minutes

For more information call 185 or visit www.oasth.gr
Stops

White Tower (STARTING POINT)
The White Tower is the monument symbol of Thessaloniki. Dating from 1525 AD, the 20m high tower is the sole survivor of the 24 towers looking out to sea which were part of the city's fortifications. Today it houses a museum exhibition on the History of Thessaloniki. Opposite the White Tower is the Society of Macedonian Studies (1951), which houses a permanent exhibition, the National Theatre of Northern Greece (1962), and nearby the route's departure stop, the Royal Theatre of Northern Greece, built in 1957 in the place of the original building dating from 1940.

1st Stop: Museums
The Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki (1892) houses archaeological treasures from the dawn of prehistory up to late antiquity. The museum also houses collections of ceramics, wall-paintings and mosaics, as well as stone objects, metalwork and handcrafts. At the junction of 3 September Street and Sitopodios Avenue is the Museum of Byzantine Culture (1954), with exhibits from the Early Christian to the Post-Byzantine era. At the junction of Trikoupi and Nikis Avenue the streets is the Thessaloniki YMCA building (1934) and opposite to it, covering an area of 15 hectares, is the Thessaloniki International Fair, which has been in operation since 1922. The OTT (Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation) Tower and the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, with a large collection of paintings, engravings, sculpture and photography.

2nd Stop: Palace of Galerius - Eperides
On Alexandru Snagov Street is the Ipocampoi Square with archaeological findings, from the Roman Hellenistic to the Byzantine era. Next to it is the Episkopi Square, with the Palace of the Empress Galeria, built in the early 4th century.

3rd Stop: Church of Agia Sofia
Next to the bus stop you will see one of the oldest and most important monuments of the Christian Orthodox faith, the Ierissos Island Church of Thessaloniki (Church of Agia Sofia), built in the early 5th century on the site of an older temple. A little to the north is the Palaioxristos Basilica of Agios Andreas, built in the mid-5th century.

5th Stop: Aristotelous Square
Aristotelous Square, with its view of the Thermi Gate, is the heart of Thessaloniki and the most important square in the city. This area is the commercial centre of the city, with the popular Ledra Square and the Mitropoleos market.

2nd suggested walking route: Aristotelous Square - Mitropoleos Market
This route is very popular and combines shopping and culture.

5th Stop: Old City Hall
On the north side of Aristotelous Square is the 11th century Church of Panagia Chalkeon and the 10th century Boy Hamam baths. At the junction of Egnatia and Venizelos streets are two 17th century buildings: the Hania Boy Hamam, also known as the Alacati and now a museum, and the Alacati Covered Market, which according to travellers in the 10th century was the most beautiful market in the Balkans. At the corner of Egnatia Street and Aristotelous Square are the Boy Hamam baths.

8th Stop: Dikilitzirio
The Dikilitzirio (Government House), a building of particular architectural interest, was constructed in 1901, formerly served as the government services and now houses the Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace. Directly opposite is Dikilitzirio Square with fountains from the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods.

7th Stop: Church of Agia Dimitrios
The Church of Agia Dimitrios, patron saint and protector of Thessaloniki, is one of the grandest Christian Churches still standing. The site was used as a Christian church as early as the 5th century and became a UNESCO World Heritage Monument. To the right, heading towards the sea, you will find the Ancient Agora. This was the social, religious and commercial centre of the city during Roman times. Heading from Agia Dimitrios, via Agios Nikolaos and Kassandros streets, you will see the Yeni Hamam (late 15th century) and the Altun Imaret (1484), distinctive examples of ottoman architecture.

3rd suggested walking route: Old City Hall (Byzantine sightseeing tour): Church of Agia Dimitrios - Byzantine Church of Profitis Ilias - Church of Agia Alakouri - Dodeca Apostolic Church.

8th Stop: Koule Kafe
The Church of Panagia Lagoudiani, on Ioannina Str, is the casket of a famous female monk dating back to 1302. As the bus continues to climb towards the Ano Poli (Upper Town), a different era comes to life before you. Besides the monuments, you will see many parts of the traditional city grid with narrow cobblestone streets and buildings with the unique elegance and simplicity of Traditional Macedonian Architecture. Take a walk around the area known as the Koule Kafe, which literally means “Café Cafe”. The same area is also home to the 13th century Byzantine Bathers, as well as the Church of Agios Desos (Dioses) and the casket of Liatou Monastery and the oldest architectural example of its kind preserved in Europe.

9th Stop: Taxiarchon
The Church of the Taxiarchon (Archangels) was built in the 14th century but was converted into a mosque during Ottoman rule. The church is in the Old Town, which was built on higher ground than the modern city and is still partly enclosed by the old citadel walls. With numerous Byzantine churches and monasteries, the Old Town exudes the atmosphere of an earlier era.

5th suggested walking route: Church of St. Demetrios - Monastery of Agios Georgios.

10th Stop: Ano Poli (Upper Town) - Kozanis
This area of the town was inhabited during the late years of the 19th century, when successive waves of refugees found a safe home in Thessaloniki.

11th Stop: Trigonio Tower - Agios Anargyros
From Eglisseio Str you can see the Byzantine fortification walls constructed by Theodotios the Great in the 14th century, and one of the most important sights in the city. The walls end at Trigonio Tower, where you can enjoy an amazing view. To the north is the Ekatopedion (also called Yeidi Kuklides), named after the name of the soverign towers that once stood here. Over the past few centuries the Ekatopedion has been used as a government building and as a prison while today it houses the office of the archaeological service.

12th Stop: Moni Vlatadon - Plateanen
Paying through the 3rd Pertai (Gate) will you come across Moni Vlatadon, a monastery dating back to the 14th century and the sole survivor among dozens of Byzantine monasteries that formerly existed in Thessaloniki. The monastery offers a magnificent view of the city and the Old Town. 6th suggested walking route: Moni Vlatadon - Plateanen.

13th Stop: Pasha Gardens - Agios Pavlos
According to the legend this is the site where St Paul the Apostle taught when he visited Thessaloniki and the area carries the name of the church which was dedicated to him. The Pasha gardens belong to the adjacent hospital complex, which was built in 1903.

14th Stop: Eastern Walls - Hospital
The route here is downhill and runs parallel to the impressive Eastern Walls of the Old Town. These 4th century walls formerly extended all the way to the sea.

15th Stop: Rotonda - University
To the left of Erotikon Amaryllis street is the University Campus and its oldest building, the Old School of Philosophy. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki was founded in 1926 by national intrepid and it is the second-largest institution in the country. For your right is the Church of Rotonda, a monumental building dating back to the early 19th century and stately during the times of the Roman Empire. South of Rotonda is his Diakritio Str, and exiting back to the same path, you can see the monumental Arch of Galerius (Kameni), the Church of Profitis Ilias - Rotonda (Bogomila) - Arch of Galerius (Kameni) - Palace of Galerius - Roman Agora.

16th Stop: White Tower (END POINT)
At the end of the route, we suggest a walk along the city's waterfront to see the Statue of Alexander the Great. Late afternoon is particularly a good time as you may also enjoy a table of sunset. Finally, from the White Tower, you can view the city from a different angle, from the sea point of view.