

Con'f on religious tourism opens in NW Greece city of Arta



The fourth national conference on religious tourism and pilgrimage commenced on Friday in the northwest Greek city of Arta, in the wake of a recent “travel advisory” by the Moscow Patriarchate informing the Russian Orthodox faithful which Holy Metropolises in Greece have the blessing of the Russian Patriarch for such a pilgrimage.

The conference also comes two days after Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias was received in Moscow by his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, with both men more-or-less concluding that the issue of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church’s autocephaly will not affect bilateral relations between Greece and Russia.

The national conference is being co-organized by the Church of Greece’s synodical office for pilgrimage tours, the Epirus regional government and the Metropolises of Arta, Nikopolis & Preveza, and Ioannina.

The main theme of the conference is “Epirus: An Approach to Religious Monuments and their Civilization – New Paths towards its Unique Pilgrimage Destinations”.