

Greek bars peg drink prices

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MORE than 100 hotels and bars of Halkidiki — a peninsula on the Greek mainland, which is visited by about 80,000 British tourists each year — have agreed to offer fixed prices for drinks and snacks throughout next summer in an attempt to attract cost-conscious tourists.

Many prices now routinely charged in hotel bars in the area will be cut by up to 40 per cent in the move which follows growing concern throughout the country over the 24 per cent slump in

visitors this year compared with last year.

Halkidiki has not suffered as badly as the rest of the country — this year there were only 5 per cent fewer tourists. Already bookings for next year show a marked improvement on last summer but members of the Halkidiki Hotel Association have agreed to offer stable prices on a range of popular products so that tourists can budget in advance.

A glass of local wine, a litre of mineral water or a cup of

Greek coffee will all cost 300 drachmas or about 65p. Local brandy will be priced at 450 drachmas (£1.15) a glass, a portion of *horiatiki* or Greek salad will cost 650 drachmas (£1.65) and *moussaka* 850 drachmas (£2.15).

Halkidiki is in the northern area known as Macedonia. It has 500 kilometres of coastline and is used by 19 British tour operators with flights from ten airports. Next year Salonika, where charter flights land, is designated the European City of Culture.

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