

LANDMARKS IN GREECE



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1. The Acropolis, dedicated primarily to its patron, the goddess Athena, was built on the fifth century BC is the most accurate reflection of the power and wealth of Athens at the golden age of Perikles. It was inhabited in the Early and Middle Bronze Age and the Mycenaean era. But it flourished under Peisistratos in the mid-sixth century BC, when the Panathinaia, the city's greatest religious festival, was established and the first monumental buildings of the Acropolis erected. The most important buildings visible on the Acropolis today - that is, the Parthenon, the Propylaia, the Erechtheion and the temple of Athena Nike.

2. Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It is located in the Olympus Range on the border between Thessaly and Macedonia about 80 km southwest from Thessaloniki. It has 52 peaks and deep gorges.] The highest peak, Mytikas, meaning "nose", rises to 2,917 metres. It is notable in Greek mythology as the home of the Greek gods, on Mytikas peak. It is also noted for its exceptional biodiversity and rich flora. It has been a National Park, the first in Greece, since 1938. It is also a World Biosphere Reserve.

3. Epidaurus is the most important ancient place of worship of the god Asclepius. It is located in the area of the current city of Ligourio in the Peloponnese. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1988. The name Epidaurus was given to her by her third lord in a row, who was also a hero of Epidaurus, Epidaurus. The ancient theater of Epidaurus was built in the 4th BC. century and is considered one of the most well-preserved ancient theaters in the world. Initially it had 34 series and then, during Roman times, it was expanded with an additional 21 series, with a total capacity of 15,000 spectators. The theater is known for its acoustics, providing all spectators, regardless of location, with perfect listening.

4. Vergina is a small town in Imathia, Central Macedonia, Greece. It is best known as the site of ancient Aegae, the first capital of Macedon. The most important recent finds were made in 1977 when the burial sites of several kings of Macedon were found, including the tomb of Philip II which had not been disturbed or looted, unlike so many of the other tombs there. It is also the site of an extensive royal palace. The archaeological museum of Vergina was built to house all the artifacts found at the site and is one of the most important museums in Greece. Aigai has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site.

5. Kasta tomb, an ancient Macedonian tomb placed near the village Amphipolis in Serres, is an ancient Macedonian tomb discovered inside the Kasta mound (or tumulus). In 1964 the perimeter wall and in the 1970s many other ancient remains were uncovered. In 2014 a tomb was discovered dated to the last quarter of the 4th century B.C. The tumulus is the largest ever discovered in Greece and by comparison dwarfs that of Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, in Vergina. The excavation team, based on findings unearthed at the site, argued that the tomb was a memorial dedicated to the close friend of Alexander the Great, Hephaestion.

6. The Meteora, included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, is a rock formation in central Greece hosting one of the largest and most precipitously built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries, second in importance only to Mount Athos. The six (of an original twenty four) monasteries are built on immense natural pillars and hill-like rounded boulders that dominate the local area. It is located near the town of Kalabaka at the northwestern edge of the Plain of Thessaly near the Pineios river and Pindus Mountains. The name means "lofty", "elevated", and is etymologically related to meteor.

7. Lake Kerkini is an artificial reservoir that was created in 1932, redeveloped in 1980, on the site of what was previously an extremely extensive marshland. It is safeguarded by the International Convention of Ramsar because there are thousands of birds, both rare and protected, riverside forests, water-lilies and a variety of fish. Actually, the lake hosts 227 kinds of birds, especially non-migrants, 76 of them are recorded in the National Red Catalogue, while at least 31 of them are protected by EEC's Directive concerning wild life. Moreover, there are the buffalo's herds in the area, plus the one of the jackalo in the area of Kerkini lake. In the surrounding area of Kerkini lake there are at least 10 amphibian species (frogs, salamanders, tritons), five snail species, 19 reptile species (lizards, snakes, turtles) and a great variety of insects which play an important part in the food chain and contribute towards the biological resources of the lake.

8. Mycenae 'Rich in Gold', the kingdom of mythical Agamemnon—first sung by Homer in his epics—is the most important and richest palatial centre of the Late Bronze Age in Greece. The archaeological site comprises the fortified acropolis and the surrounding funerary and habitation sites, which are located mainly to its west and southwest. Most of the visible monuments date to the centre's great prosperity period, from 1350 to 1200 BC. At the foot of the acropolis is situated the Archaeological Museum of Mycenae, a modern masterpiece for the area and an attraction point for thousands of tourists, who come to this sacred place to admire part of the findings of "Atrides' treasure". The exhibits (almost 2,500) are dated from the Middle Bronze Age to the Hellenistic Period and come from Mycenae and its surrounding area.

9. The Pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, which had the most famous oracle of ancient Greece. Delphi was regarded as the centre of the world. According to mythology, it is here that the two eagles sent out by Zeus from the ends of the universe to find the navel of the world met. It was for many centuries the cultural and religious centre and symbol of unity for the Hellenic world.