

Opening hours:

Winter hours: 8.30 – 15:30

Summer hours: 8:30 – 16:00

The Museum is closed every Tuesday and the following public holidays:

January 1st, March 25th, May 1st, Easter Sunday, December 25th and 26th

Admission fee: 4€

Reduced fee: 2€



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF ARTA



Reduced fee:

for children and youths 6-25 years old from non-EU countries, Greek citizens and EU citizens over 65 years of age, parents who accompany their children for school visits

Free admission days:

March 6th (in memory of Melina Mercouri)

April 18th (International Monuments' Day)

May 18th (International Museums' Day)

last weekend of September (European Cultural Heritage Days)

October 28th (National Holiday)

every first Sunday of the month (from November 1st until March 31st)

Free admission:

Children and youths up to 26 years old from EU countries, children up to 5 years old from non-EU countries, adults over 25 as trainees in 2nd grade Greek schools, schoolteachers accompanying school visits or other institutions of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd educational grade of all EU countries

The Museum provides access to visitors with disabilities

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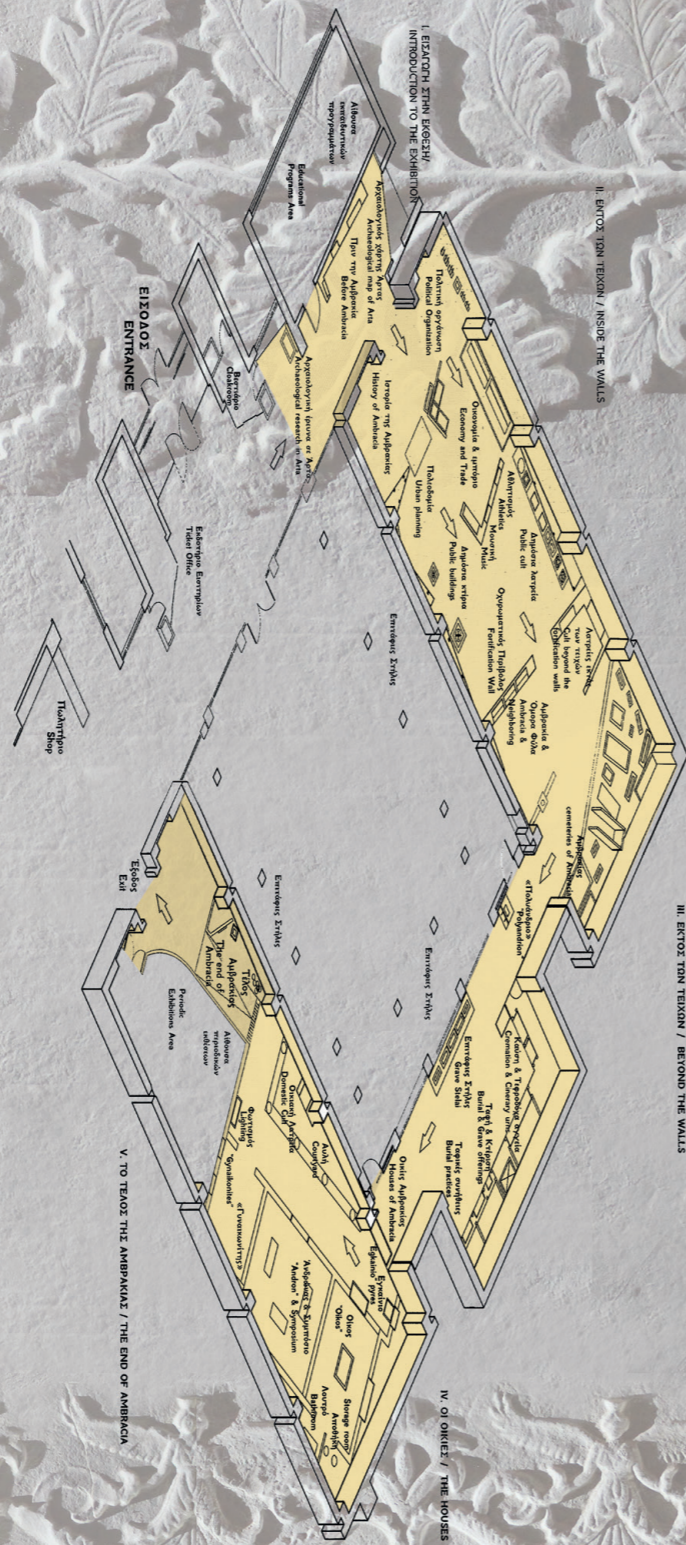
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The Archaeological Museum of Arta is situated on the eastern bank of Arachthos river in close proximity to the historic stone bridge. It is housed in a recently constructed complex, inaugurated in 2009.

In the vestibule of the main building, the history of archaeological research is presented, as well as prehistoric and historic findings from Arta and the wider area. In the first three halls archaeological artifacts dated from the archaic until the roman periods, show the historical course of Ambracia, a Corinthian colony founded on the same area where the modern city of Arta stands today. These findings are organized in three sections: Public Life in the city of Ambracia; The Cemeteries of Ambracia; Everyday Life in Ambracia.



Introduction

The human presence and activities before the foundation of Ambracia is proved by various findings of the prehistoric and early historic eras up until the Geometric period, found in Arta and in the wider area.

The public sphere in the city of Ambracia (Hall A)

Short historical account from the foundation of the city until its decline during the Roman period.

State Institutions. A number of testimonies, such as stamped roof-tiles from public buildings and a pedimental stelae inscribed with a decree between Ambracia and Charadros stating the borders between the two cities, offer information for the institutions and the public offices.

Economy and Trade. The financial and commercial activity of the city can be sketched through the coins of Ambracia and other cities, products of local pottery workshops as well as imported vases.

Urban planning. Illustrative material and architectural pieces from public buildings testify for Ambracia's very well organised urban planning.

Public cult. Statues, statuettes and pedimental inscribed stelae offer information for the deities worshiped in the city's sanctuaries.

Music. The music tradition of Ambracia, mentioned in the ancient texts, is revealed through a lyre made of turtle shell, a flute made of bone, bronze cymbals and sistrums.

Sports. The citizens liked athletic activities, as is shown by clay vessels for oils used for coating the body, and bronze stlegidai used for removing oil and dirt after training.

Rural cult. The god-river Arachthos (or Poseidon) and other chthonic deities were worshiped in sanctuaries outside the city, as bronze bull figurines, clay busts and relief plaques testify. Moreover, the clay offerings in the Kouounotrypa cave refer to a cult of the Nymphs.

Ambracia's land and its neighbours. Different tribes inhabited the areas outside Ambracia's borders. Various findings testify for the Athamans' regions, as well as the presence of the Molossians in the fortified settlement of Orraon.

Ambracia's cemeteries (Halls A-B)

A cemetery's schematic representation of the burial types, the funerary stelae and the grave offerings, found in the two cemeteries of Ambracia.

«Polyandrion». Representation of a public tomb for the fallen warriors. The inscription of the facade mentions the name of the city: ΑΥΤΡΑΚΙΑ.

Burial practices. Funerary urns, grave offerings from the archaic until the roman periods, various offerings outside the tombs and funerary stelae offer testimony for the burials and the funerary practices.

The houses and every-day life of the citizens of Ambracia (Hall C)

Represented on human scale the main rooms of an ancient house and in them the most common and important activities of the inhabitants.

«Egkainion». Miniature vessels and figurines inside a pit along with liquid offerings and small animal sacrifices were used for the groundbreaking ceremony of a new house. Showcased here are vessels of archaic, classical and hellenistic chronology.

«Oikos». In the room where the family used to gather around the hearth, clay vessels, millstones and mortars are shown.

Bath. A clay bathtub and vessels containing water and perfumed oils usually found in a bath.

«Andron». The most special room of the house was used for *symposia* (banquets). It was decorated with a pebbled floor bearing floral and geometric patterns. The use of the room is presented by a drawing and showcased clay vessels related with banquets.

Female quarters. The ladies were spending most of their day on the upper floor of the house. Vases, jewellery, toiletry, small objects and toys indicate their every-day occupation.

Domestic cult. Figurines and statuettes found inside the houses show the family cults.

Lighting. The main source of lighting was diachronically the clay lamp, as proved by such artifacts of different periods.

The end of Ambracia. Stone sling bullets and catapults, a headless statue and photographic documentation of archaeological data as evidence of Ambracia's siege from the Romans and its surrender which lead to the immigration of the city's population to a newly founded city, Nicopolis.

Atrium

A selection of inscribed funerary stone stelae found in the cemeteries of Ambracia, are displayed in the museum's atrium.

Courtyard

Reconstruction of a street pavement with parts of houses as well as a cist tombs' cluster and an ancient oil press.

