

# Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports General Secretariat for Culture

## Project: “Cultural Guide”

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**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs,  
Culture and Sports

General Secretariat for Culture  
Directorate of Information Technology and Telecommunications

# What is the “Cultural Guide”?

Cultural guide offers you the opportunity to navigate through the map of Greece, explore the area of your interest and discover museums, monuments and archaeological sites. The map's multiple functions allow you to view and collect cultural and administrative information in all the country prefectures.



# Access to “Cultural Guide”

Through national cultural portal “Odysseus”

- Web browsers
- Mobile browsers

On selected museums

- Touch screen on location



# Web Browser

- Link:

<http://odysseus.culture.gr/a/map/emap.jsp>

- Bilingual: el and en

- Search filters: type, visitor groups, eras, services

- The first 10 records in alphabet order appear





- 📍 A' Kouveleiki Cave - Alepohori, Laconia >

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- 📍 Academy of Athens >

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- 📍 Acropolis at Pharsala >

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- 📍 Acropolis at Platiana >

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- 📍 Acropolis fortification wall >

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- 📍 Acropolis Museum >

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- 📍 Acropolis of Athens >

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- 📍 Acropolis of Halleis >

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- 📍 Acropolis of Kazarma >

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- 📍 Acropolis of Sparta >



- [A' Kouveleiki Cave - Alepohori, Laconia](#) >
- [Academy of Athens](#) >
- [Acropolis at Pharsala](#) >
- [Acropolis at Platiana](#) >
- [Acropolis fortification wall](#) >
- [Acropolis Museum](#) >
- [Acropolis of Athens](#) >
- [Acropolis of Halleis](#) >
- [Acropolis of Kazarma](#) >
- [Acropolis of Sparta](#) >

## Type

- Archaeological Site
  - Administrative centres
  - Defensive
  - Devotional
  - Funerary
  - Infrastructure works
  - Other Sites
  - Places of Common benefit
  - Places of Residence
  - Places of various activities
  - Storage places

- Monument
  - Administrative Monuments
  - Commemorative - Decorative
  - Defensive Monuments
  - Funerary places
  - Infrastructure
  - Other
    - Places of commerce - occupation
  - Places of common benefit
  - Places of production
  - Places of social contact and recreation
  - Places of worship
  - Private Houses
  - Public Services
  - null

- Museum
  - Archaeological Museums and Collections
  - Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Museums and Collections
  - Cinema Museums
  - Diachronic Museums
  - Historical and Folklore Museums
  - Music Museums
  - Nautical Museums
  - Photography Museums
  - Special theme museums
  - Theatre Museums
  - Visual Art Museums

## Visitor Groups

Reduced Entrance

– Select –

Free Entrance

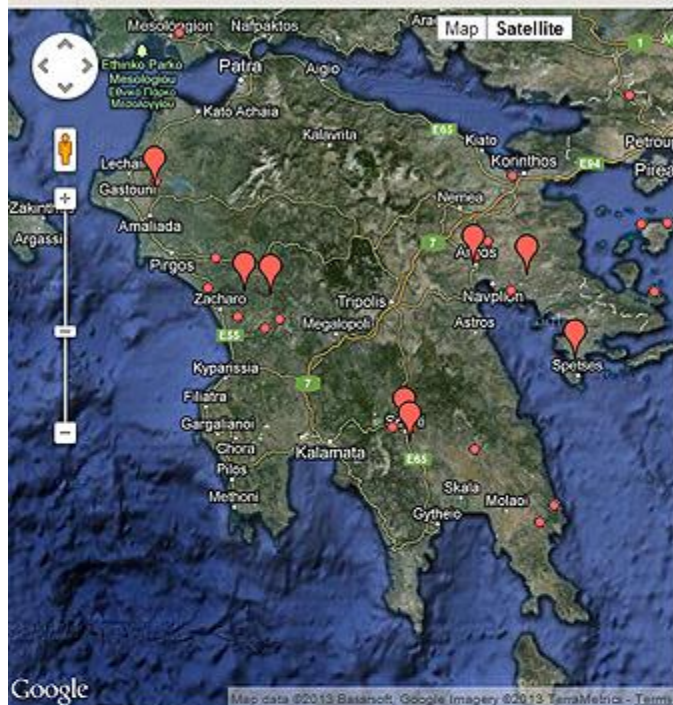
– Select –

## Eras

- Prehistoric
- Ancient
- Byzantium
- Newest

## Services

- Conference room
- Cafe
- Cloakroom
- Center for exhibition projects
- Guided tours
- Shop
  - Amenities for the physically challenged
- Tickets
- Toilets
- Parking



**Search**

**Type**

- Archaeological Site
- Administrative centres
- Defensive
- Devotional
- Funerary
- Infrastructure works
- Other Sites
- Places of Common benefit
- Places of Residence
- Places of various activities
- Storage places
- Monument
- Museum

**Visitor Groups**

Reduced Entrance  
-- Select --

Free Entrance  
-- Select --

- Acropolis at Platiana >
- Acropolis of Athens >
- Acropolis of Halieis >
- Acropolis of Kazarma >
- Acropolis of Sparta >
- Agora of Ancient Elis >
- Alipheira >
- Amphiareio, Oropos >
- Amyklaiion and Sanctuary of Apollo Amyklaios >
- Ancient Agora of Argos >







Olympia

History

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In western Peloponnese, in the beautiful valley of the Alpheios river, lies the most celebrated sanctuary of ancient Greece. Dedicated to Zeus, the father of the gods, it sprawls over the southwest foot of Mount Kronios, at the confluence of the Alpheios and the Kladeos rivers, in a lush, green landscape. Although secluded near the west coast of the Peloponnese, Olympia became the most important religious and athletic centre in Greece. Its fame rests upon the Olympic Games, the greatest national festival and a highly prestigious one world-wide, which was held every four years to honour Zeus. The origin of the cult and of the festival went back many centuries. Local myths concerning the famous Pelops, the first ruler of the region, and the river Alpheios, betray the close ties between the sanctuary and both the East and West.



The earliest finds in Olympia are located on the southern foot of Mount Kronios, where the first sanctuaries and prehistoric cults were established. A large number of pottery sherds of the Final Neolithic period (fourth millennium BC) were found on the north bank of the stadium. Traces of occupation of the three periods of the Bronze Age were identified in the greater area of the Altis and new museum. A great tumulus of the Early Helladic II period (2800-2300 BC) was discovered in the lower strata of the Pelopion, while several apsidal structures belong to the Early Helladic III period (2150-2000 BC). It is traditionally believed that in approximately 1200 BC the region of Olympia was settled by Aetolians under the leadership of Oxylos, who founded the state of Elis. The first planned sanctuary dedicated to local and Pan-Hellenic deities was probably established towards the end of the Mycenaean period. The Altis, the sacred enclosure with its shady oaks, planes, pines, poplars and olive-trees, was first formed during the tenth and ninth centuries BC, when the cult of Zeus was probably established. Olympia was subsequently devoted exclusively to worship and for many centuries had no other structures except for the Altis, a walled precinct containing sacrificial altars and the tumulus of the Pelopion. The numerous votive offerings, mostly figurines, bronze cauldrons and tripods were placed outdoors, on trees and altars. The first figurines representing Zeus, the master of the sanctuary, date to the Geometric period.

In 776 BC, Iphitos, king of Elis, Kleosthenes of Pisa and Lykourgos of Sparta reorganized the Olympic Games in honour of Zeus and instituted the sacred ekecheiria, or truce. Soon the quadrennial festival acquired a national character. The great development of the sanctuary began in the Archaic period as shown by the thousands of votive offerings - weapons, figurines, cauldrons etc - dating from this period. This is when the first monumental buildings were constructed - the temple of Hera, the Prytaneion, the Bouleuterion, the treasuries and the first stadium. The sanctuary continued to flourish into the Classical period, when the enormous temple of Zeus (470-456 BC) and several other buildings (baths, stoas, treasuries, ancillary buildings)



Olympia

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The archaeological site of Olympia includes the sanctuary of Zeus and the many buildings erected around it, such as athletic premises used for the preparation and celebration of the Olympic Games, administrative buildings and other lay buildings and monuments. The Altis, the sacred enclosure and core of the sanctuary, with its temples, cult buildings and treasuries, occupies the centre of the site. It is surrounded by a peribolos, or enclosure wall, which in the late fourth century BC had three gates on its west side and two on the south, and is bordered on the east by the Echo Stoa, which separates the sacred precinct from the stadium. The enclosure wall was extended in Roman times and two monumental entrances were created on its west side.



General view of the Stadium entrance

The Classical Temple of Zeus and the earlier Temple of Hera dominate the Altis. East of the Heraion is the Metroon, a temple dedicated to Cybele, the mother of the gods, and behind this, on the foot of Mount Kronios, a row of treasuries dedicated by Greek cities and colonies. To their west lies the Nymphaion, a splendid fountain dedicated by Herodes Atticus. South of the Heraion and over the remains of the prehistoric settlement of Olympia is the Pelopion, a funerary monument commemorating the hero Pelops. Also within the Altis are the Prytaneion, the see of the sanctuary officials, and the Philippeion, an elegant circular building dedicated by Philip II, king of Macedon. Southeast of the Heraion was the great altar of Zeus, a most important monument entirely made of ashes and therefore now completely lost. The remaining space inside the Altis was filled with numerous altars and statues of gods, heroes and Olympic winners dedicated by Greek cities or wealthy individuals, such as the Nike of Paionios.

Outside the sacred precinct of the Altis, to its south, are the Bouleuterion and the South Stoa, the southernmost building of the greater sanctuary and its main entrance from the south. West of the Altis and separated from it by the Sacred Road is a series of buildings for the sanctuary personnel, the athletes and the distinguished visitors: the gymnasium and palaestra, exercise grounds, the Workshop of Pheidias which in Late Antiquity was transformed into a Christian church, the Greek baths with their swimming pool, the Roman hot baths, the Theokoleion or priests' residence, the Leonidaion or officials' quarters, and the Roman hostels.

East of the Altis lies the stadium where the Olympic Games were held. South of the stadium was the hippodrome, of which no trace remains as it was swept away by the Alpheios. South of the hippodrome is a group of mansions and baths, including the famous House of Nero, built by the emperor for his stay at Olympia during his participation in the games.



Olympia

Site Monuments

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View of Zeus temple

Temple of Zeus at Olympia

The massive temple of Zeus, the most important building in the Altis, standing in its very centre, is the largest temple in the Peloponnese, considered by many to be the perfect example of Doric architecture. It was built by the Eleans from the spoils of the Triphylian war and dedicated to Zeus. Construction began c. 470 and was completed before 456 BC, when an inscribed block was let into the east gable to support a gold shield dedicated by the Spartans in commemoration of their victory at Tanagra. ...

[more](#)



East view of Hera temple

Temple of Hera at Olympia

The temple of Hera, one of the oldest monumental temples in Greece, stands in the north-west corner of the sacred precinct of the Altis, on the south slopes of Kronios hill, protected by a powerful terrace wall. It was dedicated to the Olympian sanctuary by the inhabitants of Skillous, an ancient city of Eleia. Pausanias relates that the temple was built approximately eight years after Oxylos ascended to the throne of Elis, that is c. 1096 BC, but in reality it is much later. According to some scholars, ...

[more](#)



South west view of Bouleuterion with the oblong apsidal buildings

Bouleuterion of Olympia

The bouleuterion, or Council House, one of the most ancient and important buildings of the sanctuary of Olympia, was the seat both of the Elean Senate, whose members were responsible for the organisation of the games, and possibly of the hellanodikai, or umpires. This is where the athletes registered and drew lots, and where their names and the program of events were announced. It was also where any offences and pleas were tried, and where penalties were decided. Situated south of the temple of Zeus, ...

[more](#)



Prytaneion of Olympia

The Prytaneion, one of the oldest and most important buildings at Olympia, was the administrative center of the sanctuary. It was built in the 7th century BC, during the reign of the tyrant Cleisthenes. ...



Temple of Zeus at Olympia

Description

- DESCRIPTION
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- INFORMATION
- PHOTOGALLERY



The massive temple of Zeus, the most important building in the Altis, standing in its very centre, is the largest temple in the Peloponnese, considered by many to be the perfect example of Doric architecture. It was built by the Eleans from the spoils of the Triphylian war and dedicated to Zeus. Construction began c. 470 and was completed before 456 BC, when an inscribed block was let into the east gable to support a gold shield dedicated by the Spartans in commemoration of their victory at Tanagra. The architect was Libon of Elis; the sculptor of the pediments is unknown.



View of Zeus temple

The temple, a peripteral hexastyle with thirteen columns at the sides, has an east-west orientation. The columns, 10,43 metres high and 2,25 metres in diameter at the base, were of local shell-limestone, covered with white stucco. Only the pedimental sculptures, roof tiles and lion's head water spouts were of marble. The temple comprised a pronaos, cella and opisthodomos; both the pronaos and opisthodomos were distyle in antis. On the floor of the pronaos are the remains of a Hellenistic mosaic with representations of tritons. In front of the pronaos is a small rectangular space paved with hexagonal marble slabs where the victors were crowned. The cella was divided into three naves by two double rows of seven columns. At the far end stood the chryselephantine statue of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, created by Pheidias c. 430 BC. The statue, believed to have been over twelve metres high, is described by Pausanias (V, 11) and depicted on ancient coins. It portrayed Zeus enthroned, holding a sceptre in his left hand and a winged Victory in his right. The undraped parts of the statue were of ivory, while the robe and throne, the latter decorated with relief mythological scenes, were of gold. After the abolition of the Olympic Games, the statue was carried off to Constantinople where it perished in a fire c. AD 475.

The temple's opulent sculptural decoration is a fine example of the Severe Style. The east pediment depicted the chariot race between Pelops and Oinomaos, presided by Zeus, master of the sanctuary, whose figure dominated the composition. The west pediment depicted the battle of the Lapiths and Centaurs, arranged round the central figure of Apollo. The twelve metopes, six at each end over the entrance to the pronaos and the opisthodomos, depicted the Labours of Hercules, mythical son of Zeus. In the Roman period, the undecorated metopes of the façades were hung with twenty-one gilded bronze shields dedicated by the consul Mummius to commemorate his victory over the Greeks in the Isthmus (146 BC). At the apex of the east pediment was a gilt victory by the sculptor Paionios, while the corner-acroteria were in the form of gilded cauldrons.

The temple was burnt by order of Theodosius II in AD 426. Badly damaged by the fire, it was finally thrown down by the earthquakes of AD 551 and 552. Excavations at the temple began by



Olympia

The Museum

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Praxiteles Hermes

**Archaeological Museum of Olympia**  
 The Archaeological Museum of Olympia, one of the most important museums in Greece, presents the long history of the most celebrated sanctuary of antiquity, the sanctuary of Zeus, father of both gods and men, where the Olympic games were born. The museum's permanent exhibition contains finds from the excavations in the sacred precinct of the Altis dating from prehistoric times to the Early Christian period. Among the many precious exhibits the sculpture collection, for which the museum is most famous, ...

[visit the museum](#)



Olympia

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Administrative Information

Official Unit:  
[7th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities](#)

Ancient Olympia, Olympia (Prefecture of Ilia)

Telephone: +30 26240 22517  
Fax: +30 26240 22529



Tickets

Full: €6, Reduced: €3  
Special ticket package: Full: €9, Reduced: €5  
Valid for: [Archaeological Museum of Olympia, Olympia](#)

Free admission days

- 6 March (in memory of Melina Mercouri)
- 5 June (International Environment Day)
- 18 April (International Monuments Day)
- 18 May (International Museums Day)
- The last weekend of September annually (European Heritage Days)
- Every first Sunday from November 1st to March 31st
- National Holidays
- 27 September, International Tourism Day

Reduced admission for:

- Greek citizens and citizens of other Member - States of the European Union aged over 65 years old by showing their ID card or passport.
- Students of Higher Education Institutes and equivalent Schools from countries outside the EU by showing their student ID
- The accompanying parents on educational visits of elementary schools.

Free admission for:

- Journalists with a journalist identity card
- Members of Societies and Associations of Friends of Museums and Archaeological Sites throughout Greece with the demonstration of certified membership card
- Members of the ICOM-ICOMOS
- Persons accompanying blind and disabled
- Persons possessing a free admission card
- The escorting teachers of schools and institutions of elementary, middle school, high school, university and graduate level education during their visits



Olympia

Photogallery

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previous   next

[Select picture for enlargement](#)

# Mobile browsers

- Link: <http://odysseus.culture.gr>
- Bilingual: el and en
- Appears the portal “Odysseus” adjusted for mobiles
- Search filters: type, visitor groups, eras, services
- The first 10 records of the same prefecture in alphabet order appear





SAMSUNG

http://odysseus.culture....

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ

Museums

Monuments

Archaeological Sites

Links

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SAMSUNG

http://odysseus.culture....

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ

Cultural Guide



Results

Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports

SAMSUNG

http://odysseus.culture....

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ

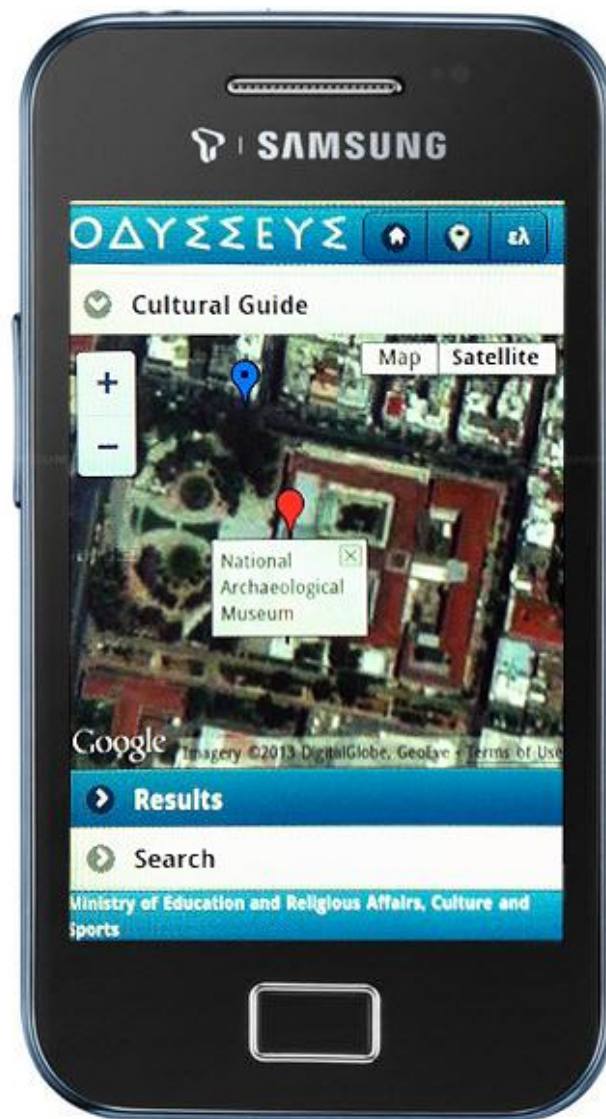
Cultural Guide

Results

- Archaeological Site at Kotzia Square
- Archaeological site on Aioulou Street
- Athens City Hall
- Athens Municipal Gallery
- Cartoon Museum
- Epigraphical Museum

Search

Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports



# Touch screen

- In museums (pilot at National Archaeological Museum)
- Bilingual: el and en
- Search filters: type, visitor groups, eras, services
- Initially it does not offer all the information (only administrative information)
- The first 10 records of the same prefecture in alphabet order appear



Cultural Guide



Map | Satellite

Search [x] Reset

Type

- Archaeological Site
- Monument
- Museum

Visitor Groups

- Reduced Entrance
- Select -
- Free Entrance
- Select -

Eras

- Prehistoric
- Ancient
- Byzantium
- Newest

Services

- Conference room
- Cafe
- Cloakroom
- Center for exhibition projects
- Guided tours
- Shop
- Amenities for the physically challenged
- Tickets
- Toilets

Information

## National Archaeological Museum

### Administrative Information

National Archaeological Museum

44 Patission St., T.K. 10682, Athens (Prefecture of Αττικής)

**Telephone:** +30 213 214 4800

**Fax:** +30 210 8213573, 8230800

**Email:** eam@culture.gr



### Tickets

**Full:** €7, **Reduced:** €3



### Opening Hours

Monday: 13.00-20.00

Tuesday-Sunday: 08.00-15.00

#### Holidays

1 January: closed

1 May: closed

Easter Sunday: closed

25 December: closed

26 December: closed



### Access

Metro - Omonia, bus No. 224, 226



### Suggestive Bibliography

Καβαβιδιάς Π., Γλυπτά του Εθνικού Μουσείου, Αθήνα 1890-92, σελ. 9-40

Κραούζου Σ. Εθνικό Αρχαιολογικών Μουσείων. Συλλογή Γλυπτών: περιληπτικός κατάλογος. Αθήνα 1987, σελ. 107-κ'

# Technical Information

for the application's development:

- Google Maps Api
- jQuery Mobile

for the data retrieval:

- through Oracle data base of node 'Odysseus'



# Future development

Prerequisite: Upgrade of portal “Odysseus”

- 2000 records have been entered, another 1500 soon
- Redesign of the front page of “Odysseus”
- Enrichment of the ‘types’ (not only museums, monuments and archaeological sites) and redesign of their pages

Redesign of the information that appears in the three accesses in order to include all the tabs of “Odysseus” information (description, history, exhibitions, information, photogallery)



# Future development

- After a trial period of use the users' needs and requirements will be evaluated for further development.
- Map's enrichment with more information, such as:
  - Accommodation
  - Public transportation
  - Traditional products





# Future applications

## Design a route:

- The user will be able to create his own touristic routes in the area of his choice and add the sights of his interest in a folder or separate them in a programm per day and create agenda of visits.
- With drag'n'drop he will have the ability to change the number of visits on the same day or between days and view the results on the map.
- Suggested routes of different duration will be available. The user will be able to use them directly or to modify them.



# Future applications

## Run the tour:

- The user will select a tour that he has created or has chosen from the suggested tours of the system.
- The application will follow the progress of the tour using the gps of the mobile.
- The application will suggest the next visit, providing relevant cultural information and the route as well.
- The application will control the progress of the route, warning for possible delays.



# Thank you!

## Contacts:

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