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

Project: “Cultural Guide”

Giouli Gerasimou, Maria Kotlida
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' Kouveliiki Cave - Alepohori, Laconia

Academy of Athens

Acropolis at Pharsala

Acropolis at Platania

Acropolis fortification wall

Acropolis Museum

Acropolis of Athens

Acropolis of Haleis

Acropolis of Kazarma

Acropolis of Sparta
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Monument</th>
<th>Museum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological Site</td>
<td>Administrative Monuments</td>
<td>Archaeological Museums and Collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative centres</td>
<td>Commemorative - Decorative</td>
<td>Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Museums and Collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defensive</td>
<td>Defensive Monuments</td>
<td>Cinema Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devotional</td>
<td>Funerary places</td>
<td>Diachronic Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerary</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Historical and Folklore Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure works</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Music Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sites</td>
<td>Places of commerce - occupation</td>
<td>Nautical Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of Common benefit</td>
<td>Places of common benefit</td>
<td>Photography Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of Residence</td>
<td>Places of production</td>
<td>Special theme museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of various activities</td>
<td>Places of social contact and recreation</td>
<td>Theatre Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage places</td>
<td>Places of worship</td>
<td>Visual Art Museums</td>
</tr>
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Visitor Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reduced Entrance</th>
<th>Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Conference room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free Entrance</td>
<td>Cafe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Cloakroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Center for exhibition projects</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guided tours</td>
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<td>Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eras</td>
<td>Amenities for the physically challenged</td>
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<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
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<td>Toilets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Byzantium</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newest</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
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, stoa, treasuries, ancillary buildings)
**Description**

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 treasures, 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 bounded 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.

The Classical Temple of Zeus and the earlier Temple of Hera dominate the Altis. East of the Heraion is the Metopon, 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 Bouleutherion 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 gymnasion 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 Theokoleon 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.
Temple of Zeus at Olympia
The massive temple of Zeus, one of the most important buildings in the Altis, standing in its very centre, is the largest temple in the Peloponnesos, considered by many to be the perfect example of Doric architecture. It was built by the Eleans from the spoils of the Triphilian war and dedicated to Zeus. Construction began c. 470 and was completed before 456 BC, when an inscribed block was set into the east gable to support a gold shield dedicated by the Spartans in commemoration of their victory at Tanagra. ...

Temple of Hera at Olympia
The temple of Hera, one of the oldest monumental temples in Greece, stands on 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 Elis. 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, ...

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 Helenoidal 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. ...

Prytaeion of Olympia
The Prytaeion, one of the oldest and most important buildings at Olympia, was dedicated to the games starting at the Prytaneion of 730 BC.
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

Praxiteles Hermes
Information

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 Enviroment 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
Mobile browsers

• Link: [http://odysseus.culture.gr](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
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
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

Καββαδίως Π., Γλυπτά του Εθνικού Μουσείου, Αθήνα 1890-92, στλ. 9-40
Καββαδίως Σ., Εθνικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο. Τελευταία Γλυπτά προϊστορικού κατάλογος. Αθήνα 1967, στλ. κτ'-κ'

Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports
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 an 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:

Panagiota Gerasimou
pgerasimou@culture.gr

Maria Kotlida
mktlida@culture.gr