



Our heritage: where
past meets the future

Why Cultural Heritage?

Cultural heritage has a universal value for us as individuals, communities and societies. It is important to preserve and pass on to future generations. You may think of heritage as being 'from the past' or static, but it actually evolves through our engagement with it. What is more, our heritage has a big role to play in building the future of Europe. That is one reason why we want to reach out to young people in particular during the European Year. Cultural heritage comes in many shapes and forms.

- **tangible** - for example buildings, monuments, artefacts, clothing, artwork, books, machines, historic towns, archaeological sites.
- **intangible** - practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills - and the associated instruments, objects and cultural spaces - that people value. This includes language and oral traditions, performing arts, social practices and traditional craftsmanship.
- **natural** - landscapes, flora and fauna.

the

- **digital** - resources that were created in digital form (for example digital art or animation) or that have been digitalised as a way to preserve them (including text, images, video, records).

Through cherishing our cultural heritage, we can discover our diversity and start an inter-cultural conversation about what we have in common. So what better way to enrich our lives than by interacting with something so central to who we are?

Cultural heritage should not be left to decay, deterioration or destruction. This is why in 2018, we search for ways to celebrate and preserve it.

<https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/about>

UNESCO Trail in THESSALONIKI

The historical profile of Thessaloniki, began in the Hellenistic era and has continued uninterrupted to the present day, it is mainly linked to its Byzantine life. The walled city and its monuments can reasonably be called an open Byzantine Museum. All city monuments, Byzantine, Post-Byzantine and Ottoman - have been declared historical landmark monuments. *Fifteen (15) of the Early Christian-Byzantine monuments were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1988.*

A strong fortification wall, trapezoid in shape, with alternating triangular redans and square towers, as well as a rampart surrounds the city. Its construction, which incorporated remnants from the previous Hellenistic and Roman fortifications, dates back to the late 4th century.

Every neighborhood features one of its Byzantine or Post-Byzantine monuments, remnants of a bygone era, when the city was the Symvassilevousa (co-reigning city) of a sometime mighty and

sometime declining Byzantine Empire or, later on, the center of the Ottoman-occupied Balkan peninsula.

The Byzantine metropolis has preserved a large number of its devotional monuments. The only exception, that is secular architecture, is the small Byzantine baths that are preserved in the densely populated urban web on the edge of the Ano Poli (Upper City). The churches of the city follow the variety of architectural styles of Byzantine architecture. <https://thessaloniki.gr/i-want-to-know-the-city/discover/unesco-monuments/?lang=en>

1. Pyrgos Trigoniu or Alyseos

Cache 1: Pyrgos Trigoniu : N 40° 38.442' E 022° 57.595'

https://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=GC7HHB6



We start our trail from **Pyrgos Trigoniu** (Triangle Tower). This is the balcony of Thessaloniki, haughty and imposing while a panoramic image of the city hugging the sea will remain to you unforgettable. On

a clear day you'll be able to see Olympus Mountain located 150km away, without any difficulty.

It is a great fortification project that was raised by the Turkish authorities after the occupation of Thessaloniki at 1430. Their purpose was to reinforce with an artillery tower, the sensitive point in which most invasions were accounted for.

The name Trigonion Tower is due to the text of Ioannis Anagnostou, which refers to the stairs that the enemies touched on the Trigonio and thus invaded the city. There is also the view that the triangle was called the triangular cantilever of the northern city walls on which the gate of Anna Palaiologina had been opened.

<https://thessaloniki.gr/i-want-to-know-the-city/discover/ano-poli/?lang=en>

Cache 2: Toixo-Toixo : N 40° 38.602' E 022° 57.299'

https://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=GC45QFD

2. The monastery of Vlatadon



The monastery of Vlatadon is one of the oldest and most important Byzantine monuments of Thessaloniki. It is located in the Northern

Με σχόλια [ES1]: Κάτι να κρατήσουμε

part of Ano Poli, next to the imposing Byzantine "Portara" (Great Gate). Its importance lies to the fact that despite the various challenges and significant disasters the monastery suffered throughout the centuries, it never stopped being active!

It was founded somewhere between 1351 to 1371 AD by the empress Anna Palaiologina while it was named after two monks, Dorotheos and Markos Vlattis. Apart from the Christian tradition, Byzantine scripts and other documents dated back to 14th century AD also refer to it as the "Monastery of Pantokratoros" or "Vlateon Monastery".

Out of the original temple only a few architectural elements are being preserved until today, including curved arches, pediments and semi-columns. The Katholikon of the monastery, the building of the main temple also had numerous modifications and additions throughout the centuries.

The monastery preserves religious and historic relics that include several scripts and manuscripts, codexes and Turkish firmans, imperial golden bulls (imperial golden seals) and patriarchal sigilliums. A huge collection of portable Byzantine religious icons of great historic and artistic value is also kept and preserved within the Vlatadon monastery.

<http://www.inthessaloniki.com/en/monastery-of-vlatades-vlatadon-thessaloniki-ano-poli>

3a. The Byzantine bath



On the outskirts of Upper Town, at Theotokopoulou Street, there is the only public Byzantine bath, male and female, that is currently preserved in Thessaloniki. Its value as a monument is great and its urban planning is significant. It is a rectangular ground plan, small in size, probably dating to the 13th century and maintains all necessary for a bath area: vestibule, warm and hot room and tank. It continued to function during the Ottoman domination, during which it underwent some modifications and took the name Koule Hamam, which owes it to the district where it is built. Its use was interrupted in the 1940s.

3b. Osios David or Moni Latomou

The temple was built on the site of a Roman building in the late 5th and early 6th centuries. At the same time, a mosaic was created in the arch with the sponsorship of an anonymous woman, who according to the tradition was Theodora, the daughter of Emperor Maximianus, who had embraced Christianity. In 1430, with the occupation of the city by the Ottomans, the temple changed into a mosque called Suitze or Keramedin Mosque, while another view is that this change was to

take place in the 16th century. In 1921 the temple returned to Christian worship.

Cache 3: Agios Nikolaos Orphanos : N 40°38.274' E 022° 57.356'
https://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=GC7HHBD

3g. St. Nicholas the Orphan



The Church of St. Nicholas the Orphan is an old Byzantine orthodox monastery in Thessaloniki and a World Heritage Site, built in the early 14th century. It is located at the northeast corner of the old town. The monastery continued to operate throughout the Ottoman domination. The particularly rich mural painting is one of the most representative examples of the painting of the Palaiologian Renaissance. The monastery continued to function even during the Turkish domination. The frescoes were cleansed from the plaster that had been thrown by the Ottomans between 1957 and 1960 during renovation works.

4. Rotonda and Galerius Complex

Cache 4 : Rotunda : N 40° 37.957' E 022° 57.219'
https://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=GC6G4ZJ



We are in the heart of the Roman Thessaloniki, at the Palace complex of the Caesar Galerius Valerius Maximianus. Its construction began in the late 3rd - early 4th century AD. It is one of the most important monuments of Late Antiquity, the only one of its kind preserved in Greece.

The Galerius Complex was built on a straight axis ranging from the North to the South including buildings like the Rotonda, the Triumphant Arch (Kamara), the Palace, the Octagon and the Hippodrome. Thessaloniki existed as an important commercial and political center throughout many phases of its 23 centuries old history. One of the key factors that kept this privilege unaffected was the unique, strategic location of the city!

Με σχόλια [ES2]: Η Ροτόντα είναι μέρος του Γαλεριανού Ανακτόρου

The Roman period was not an exception to this rule. Having in mind the prosperity of "Thessalonica" during these centuries we can easily understand that Roman rulers like Emperor Galerius soon realized the potential this city had and tried to take advantage of it. Having risen in power as one of the Tetrarchy rulers and after his successful campaign against the Persians in 299 AD, Galerius chose Thessaloniki as one of the capitals of the province.

He made extended efforts to further enhance the importance of the city in order to emerge as an administrative center by constructing several buildings some of which were impressively luxurious and decorated in great detail! His ambitious plan was aiming at transforming Thessaloniki into a well-organized administrative center in order to meet the needs of the newly created Roman province! The most impressive construction of all was the imposing Palatial Complex that included several different areas and buildings.

The Rotonda of Galerius is 125m northeast of the Arch of Galerius. It is also known (by its consecration and use) as the Greek Orthodox Church of Agios Georgios. The cylindrical structure was built in 306 AD on the orders of the tetrarch Galerius, who was thought to have intended it to be his mausoleum. It was more likely intended as a temple; it is not known to what god it would have been dedicated. It never happened. Due to the death of Galerius in 311 AD, the Rotonda stood empty for several years. After that the building was used as a church for over 1,200 years until the city fell to the Ottomans.

The Rotonda has a diameter of 24.5 m. Its walls are more than 6 m thick, which is why it has withstood Thessaloniki's earthquakes.

Rotonda is similar to the Pantheon of Rome and is considered to be his "twin".

5. Galerius' Triumphal Arch - Camara



The Triumphal Arch or Camara was constructed in 305 AD to commemorate the victory of Galerius over the Persians. Its intricate relief scenes depict battles and victories in that war, expressing the omnipotence and unity of the Tetrarchy leaders.

6. The palace of Galerius



The main palace was discovered in the 1960s excavation and is located in the area of today's Navarino square. The main entrance of the palace was on the south side, while rooms were separated by corridors.

The palace, apart from the Galerios apartments, had rooms for the palace guard and court and administration rooms.

The walls were richly decorated with frescoes, while the floor was decorated with mosaics with geometric and vegetal representations.

In the 5th c. a great earthquake destroyed the south and west portico and the floors were rebuilt with marble slabs and a thick mosaic. Subsequent earthquake in Thessaloniki around the 8th c. destroyed the palace and remained only what the archaeological excavation revealed.

Visitors can see what remains of the palace, walking along Demetriou Gounari Street, as the venue operates as an open-air museum without a ticket.



Information for the Geocaching Inspector:

Cache 1:Pyrgos Trigoniu: N40°38.442' E 022° 57.595'

GC7HHB6

The cache is a small cylinder box in a wall stone

Cache 2: Toixo-Toixo : N 40° 38.602' E 022° 57.299'

GC45QFD

The cache is a small cylinder box in a wall stone

Cache 3:Agios Nikolaos Orphanos : N 40°38.274'E022° 57.356'

GC7HHBD

The cache is a small box behind a marble plaque on the wall

Cache 4 : Rotunda : N 40° 37.957' E 022° 57.219'

GC6G4ZJ

The cache is a magnetic box and contains the geocaching declaration sheet and the logbook

