

## Sightseeing

It is difficult to make a selection for a short visit in Volos. There are dozens of museums, monuments, villages, galleries, churches and so many walking tours and other activities worth seeing and undertaking during your stay.

The most famous of those are summarized below:



The archaeological site of Dimini, 5 km west of Volos, next to the village of the same name, became known due to the relics of the Neolithic settlement on the hill. After the latest excavations, an important Mycenaean settlement has come to light, which, according to recent studies, is identified as ancient Iolkos. Of this significant Mycenaean settlement a palace complex has so far been unearthed, with workshop wings, warehouses and sites of worship, which are associated with two major dome tombs of the same period. A major road starts from this settlement and ends at the port of Pagasitikos Gulf. Part of the remaining city web has also been revealed, with well-constructed houses on either side of a second major street, which leads to the palace complex, which one enters through a monumental propylon. Tel: 24210-85960. Open every day 8:30-15:00 closed on Mondays. Automatic sightseeing tour guide system in Greek and English.



The second and older Neolithic settlement is Sesklo, 15 km west of Volos, along the same road, after Dimini, and very close to present-day Sesklo village. The prehistoric settlement of Sesklo grew over the hill "Kastraki" and at the area around current Sesklo. Sesklo was first inhabited in the middle of the 7th millennium. In the Middle Neolithic period (5th millennium) the settlement becomes a large, unprecedented, area. The area is still inhabited and with Dimini shows that in this place history never ends.

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Dimitriada lies 1.5km south of Volos, in the district of Nees Pagasses. It was named after its founder, Demetrius the Besieger, who united the small towns of the area in the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. and created a city at a strategic location, with economic and political power. Excavations unearthed the palace and the Macedonian market, the ancient theater and other important public buildings, private homes of the urban fabric of the city, but also large parts of its cemeteries. The area covered by this ancient city was first inhabited from the late Neolithic period. In the Mycenaean

period in magoula Peukakia the Mycenaean Nileia is founded. This city was the port of mythical Iolkos, where the renowned Argonautic expedition by Jason initiated from. Tel: 24210 88091. Open with appointment.



On the hill of Goritsa, on the northeastern outskirts of the city of Volos, lie the ruins of an ancient city of the 4th century B.C. The ancient wall with the 33 towers is visible as well as the battlement 14. The hill offers a panoramic view of the city of Volos and the surroundings.



The Archaeological Museum of Volos was built in 1909 and is one of the most old Greek Museums. The building is neoclassical and it was expanded in 2004. Both its wealth of various exhibits and their display are of particular interest, in the Neolithic artifact hall as well as the hall of tomb reconstructions. The most important exhibits of the Museum

collection come from the prehistoric Sesklo and Dimini settlements. They compose a comprehensive picture of the Neolithic Age in Thessaly and the Greek land in general. Museum exhibits include a collection of Paleolithic artifacts from the whole of Thessaly, a hall dedicated to the Neolithic Age as well as a collection of gold coins and sepulchral steles from Demetrias (3rd century B.C.). The way of exposure is of particular interest, as the visitors have a more direct contact with the cultural heritage of the region and understand easily the exhibits' operation.

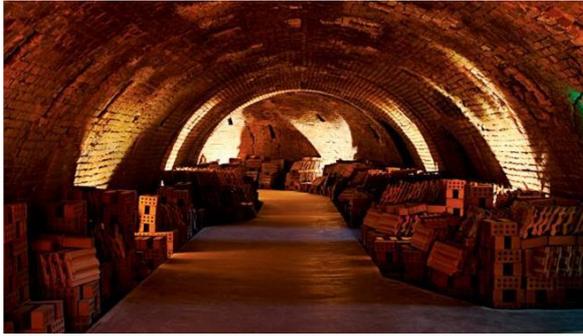
Tel: 24210-25285. Open every day 8:00 - 17:00 closed on Mondays.



The Natural History Museum of Volos was founded in 2012 and hosts exhibits from all over Greece, mainly from Thessaly. It consists of three parts, the Hall of Earth, the Hall of Life and the Hall of Human. The Hall of Earth includes processes of the creation of our planet, minerals and rocks. The Hall of Life includes the processes of the creation and evolution of life on Earth. It hosts fossils, such as ammonites, hippurites,

mastodons and other mammals that lived in the area of Greece, millions of years ago. Finally, in the Hall of Human the visitor can watch the evolution of human through time from Australopithecus to the current Homo sapiens.

Tel: 24210-36555. Opening hours 10:00-14:00 from Tuesday to Sunday and Saturday 11:00-14:00, closed on Mondays.



Situated at the conference venue, the Tsalapatas Brick-Ceramic Works Factory was founded in 1926. Since then and until 1978, when it stopped operating, it was an important productive famous plant throughout Greece. Today it is a rare sample of a preserved industrial complex of this sector. In 2004, the Pireaus Bank

Group Cultural Foundation (PIOP), in cooperation with the Municipality of Volos, undertook the project of turning the main premises of the factory into a Museum of Brick-Ceramic Works. The visitor can go through the process steps and get linked to a significant reserve of the industrial history of Volos.

Tel: 24210-29844. Open every day 10:00 - 18:00 closed on Tuesdays.



Volos Town Hall, inspired by the architecture of Pelion was built by Dimitris Pikionis designs, a top-ranking architect (1970). The Town Hall hosts permanent exhibitions: a) engravings, created by the famous engraver Tassos A. and other major Greek artists with subjects from the history of the city and b) photographs of the old Volos, works of Stephen Stournaras.



The former tobacco warehouses Papastratou (1935), located at Volos seaside are housing the headquarters and some of the departments of the University of Thessaly and also organized halls for conferences since 1985.



“Achilleion” (named after the hero Achilles) is a cinetheatre. It was designed by local architect K.I. Argyris (1925) and belongs to the municipality of Volos for cultural use.



The sculpture of the “Argo” is the symbol of the city, made by Pelion sculptor Nicholas in 1965. “Argo”: The myth of the Argonauts is Volos’ cultural heritage. On the initiative of Municipality of Volos, a realistic version of the ancient penteconter was reconstructed. The most famous ship in Greek mythology, “Argo”, today signals the

ancient Greek tradition of seamanship and culture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and brings the myth of Jason and the Argonauts back to life.



The Historical and Folk Museum of Portaria is housed in the two-storey mansion of D. Zoulias. The permanent exhibition presents aspects of the economic and cultural development of the area from the beginning of the 19th to the mid 20th century, highlighting the life style and activities of repatriated Greeks from Egypt in this locality. It includes training rooms ,of the Hotel “Theoxenia”, the

hall of oldest municipalities Orminiou Street and the community of Portaria, the "Egyptian's" room, the hall of privacy of Portariton , the hall of S. Purple, the cultural societies of Orminio-Portarias and the hallways on which is exhibited the works by Chryssoula Zogia . It has the historical and the folklore collection of municipality of Portaria, the history file , and various donations. The building is a listed by the Ministry of Culture , and in the yard there are cultural activities , especially during the summer months.

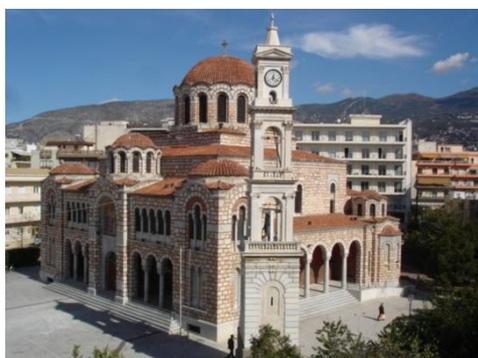
Tel: 24210-21664. Open every weekend 11:00 - 14:30 with appointment.



The Hatzianastassis Mansion, known as Kontos’ Mansion and Theophilos’ Museum, is in Anakassia, a village just outside Volos at the North-East on the way to Mount Pelion. In 1905 the mansion was bought by Yiannis Kontos, who adapted it to the neoclassical standards of his time. In 1912 Theophilos Hatzimichael, the great folk painter, started decorating the top floor

reception hall. Kontos’ Mansion is one of the major modern monuments of the area, since both the house and its painting decoration have been kept in excellent condition. It is a unique case of a Mt. Pelion mansion that has preserved the entire painting project as created by Theophilos.

Tel: 24210-47340. Open from Monday to Friday 07:00 - 14:30.



The Cathedral of St. Nikolaos, is one of the most important monuments of the city. Built in 1934 it is a cross Byzantine church designed by Aristotelis Zachos, an important architect of the 20th century. The paintings are of Agenor Asteriadis, while in the courtyard of the temple, the old steeple work of Previsan (1884) is being kept.



The church of the Saints Constantine & Helen was designed by A.Zachos in 1936. Due to its location at the seaside of Volos it is a landmark for the city. The temple is adorned with hagiographies, which are elaborated from golden and multicolored tesserae (mosaic) and most of the Saints' figures are in natural size. It is the only church in our city, and one of the few in the country, with so many artistic mosaic hagiographies

## Pelion



A place blessed by the Gods, an enchanted mountain, full of mysteries and beauty. Myths and traditions have described it in various manners. The mountain warmly welcomes visitors, but one has to put some effort in order to enjoy it. Images keep changing. Colours alter with the seasons and evoke various feelings. Stone houses, cobblestone lanes, fountains hiding in the green of the mountains, fresh dew on every leaf. People familiar with the elements, villages sheltered on the forested slopes, plane trees shading village squares with their wide canopies. One can leave their past behind and discover and remember who they really are. This place, first discovered by the Centaurs, is where one would choose to live. The skiing centre with its pistes awaits visitors for winter sports; there are also mountain activities, such as horse-riding, trekking, a ride on the local train, an exciting night life and wonderful traditional gastronomy, local customs, festivals and cultural events, all of which make the area a favourite destination.

## Portaria



This used to be the most important commercial centre among the twenty-four villages of Mt. Pelion. Today Portaria is the "Welcoming Lady" of the mountain. Its neoclassical mansions are particularly interesting and some of them are used as hostels. The small chapel of Panagia Portaria, which gave its name to the village, is also worth a visit, as well as the Historical and Folk Museum. Portaria is situated between the beautiful beaches of Pagasitikos Gulf and the snowy peaks of Mt. Pelion with their excellent skiing routes. Every year, around the end of August, the local custom of Mt. Pelion wedding is revived.