



MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF DELOS

► credits

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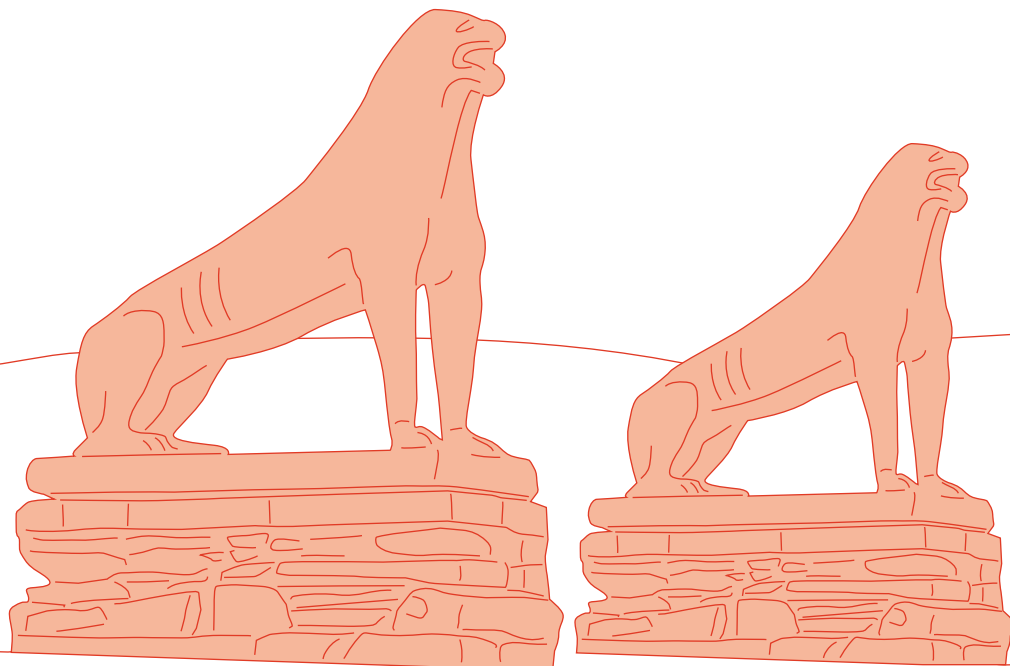


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Archaeological Site of Delos

Ten steps to...



According to legend, the king and seer Anios welcomed here the Achaeans traveling to Troy and later the defeated Trojans Aeneas and Anchises, on their way to the West.

Anios, son of Apollo, predicted that the Trojan War would last 10 years. The Achaeans took his daughters to Troy, the nymphs Spermo, Oeno and Elais, who each, according to her name produced cereal, wine and olive oil. To return to their island, the nymphs were transformed into doves.



Valuable tributes arrived here from the islands of the Cyclades, from Athens and the Ionian cities of Asia Minor.

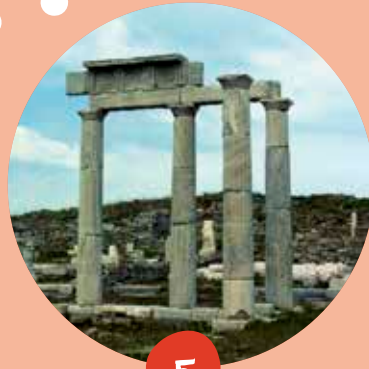
... Delos!



3

Here is located the best preserved ancient city of Greece.

At the same time, it is the smallest island on which a city-state was founded.



5

Near one of its markets, the association of merchants, bankers and shipowners from Beirut was housed.

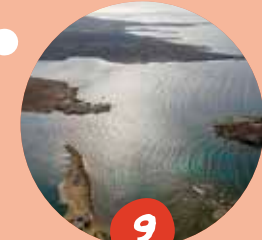
In antiquity, it was usual to found professional associations (clubs) to promote common goals and to protect the interests of the members.



7

Many luxurious mansions with impressive mosaic floors are preserved here.

The House with the Dolphins, the House with the Masks, the House with the Trident and the House with Dionysus.



9

It was a floating island wandering in the waves, until Poseidon “anchored” it with four chains in the centre of the Aegean and “revealed” it.

That is why it is called Delos, which means visible.



4

It was once a major commercial port where, apart from Greeks and Romans, people from all over the Mediterranean lived.



6

Apart from ancient Greek sanctuaries, here are also the Sanctuary of the Syrian Gods and the Sanctuary of the Egyptian Gods.



8

It is a rocky island located in the centre of the Cyclades. It is also said to be the reason they were named so.

The islands that form a circle around Delos were named Cyclades.



10

In antiquity it was considered sacred island, because here were born Apollo, the god of sun and his twin sister Artemis, the goddess of the moon.

Their mother Leto, took refuge in Delos to get away from the jealous Hera and gave birth under a palm tree.

Delos...

The wandering island

WHAT?

- The Panhellenic sanctuary of Apollo in Delos.
- The seat of the Delian League.
- A cosmopolitan commercial port and a rich city.



WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Cyclades, Region of South Aegean.

WHEN?

- 9th–8th c. BC: consolidation of the worship of Apollo.
- 7th–4th c. BC: heyday of the sanctuary.
- 3rd–2nd c. BC: flourishing of the port and the city.

what do the numbers say:



750,000
TONS

of goods were transported annually

250,000
SLAVES

were traded every year



30,000
POPULATION

during Roman times



7,500
SHIPS

docked every year

6.85 sqkm
THE AREA

of the island

... in the UNESCO List!

The monument was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List based on the following criteria:



critterion ii

The monuments of Delos had a profound influence on the development of architecture and monumental arts during the greekroman times.

critterion iii

It is a unique testimony of the Aegean civilizations as early as the 3rd millennium BC.



critterion iv

It stood out as one of the most important Mediterranean ports, especially during the 3rd and 2nd c. B.C.

critterion v

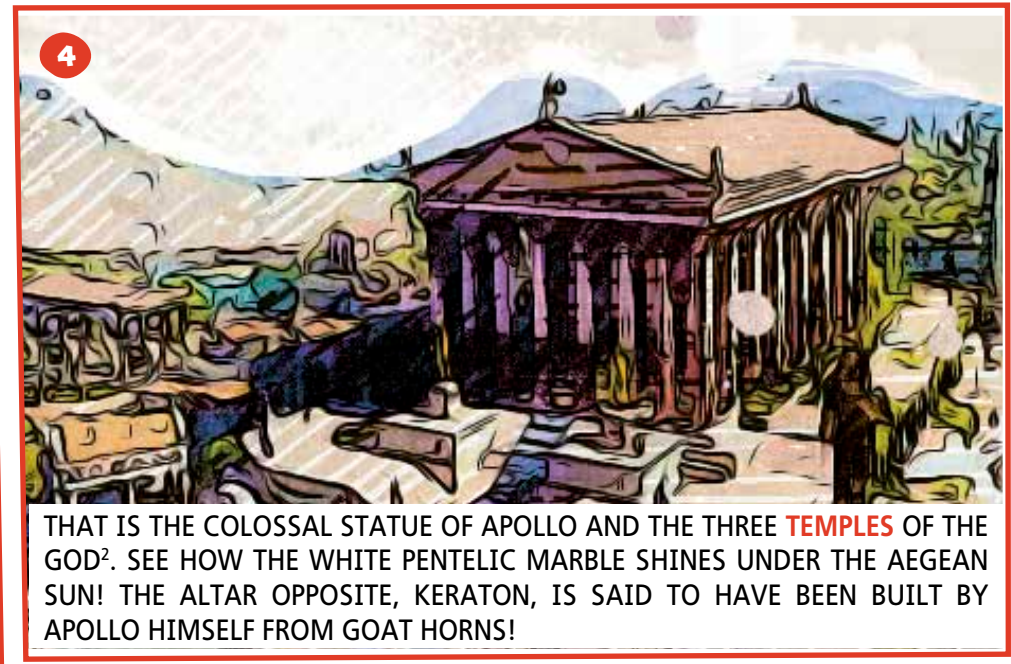
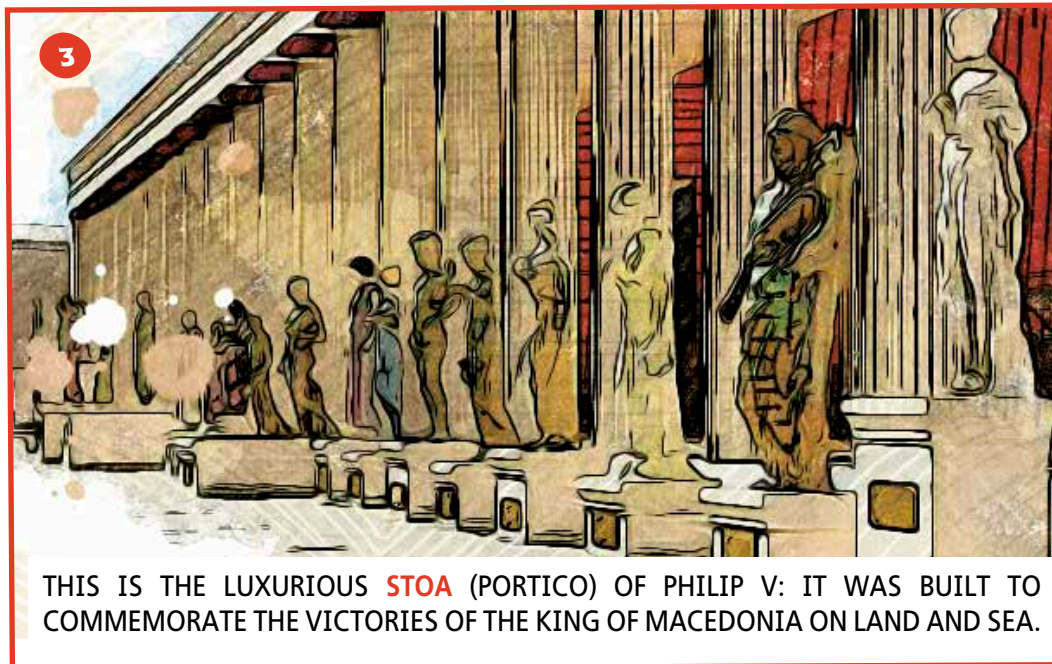
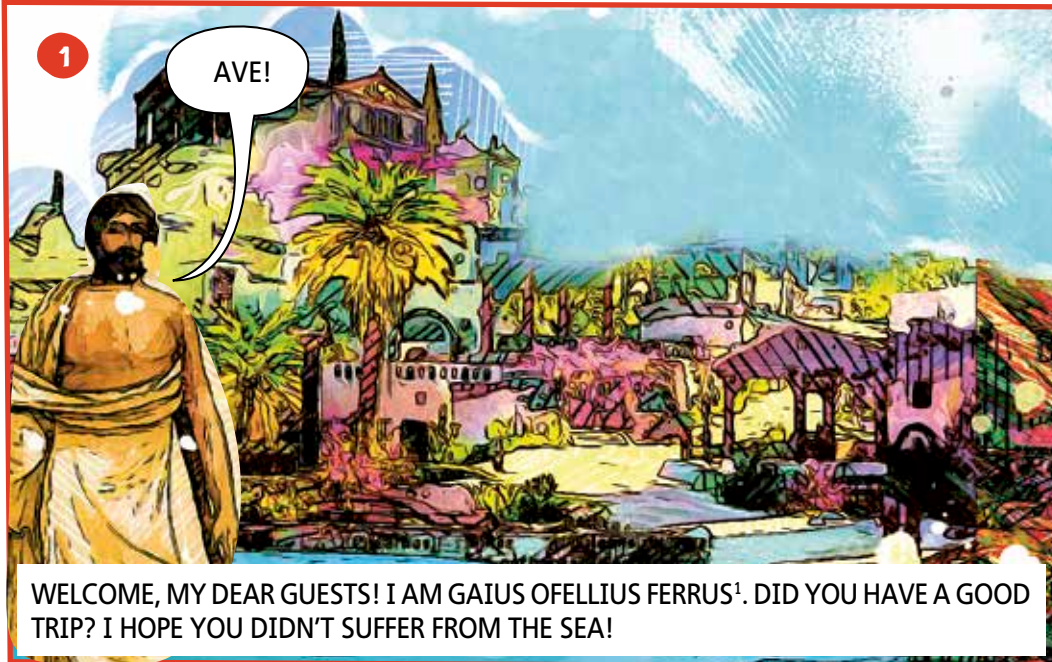
According to myth, Leto gave birth to the twin gods Apollo and Artemis here.



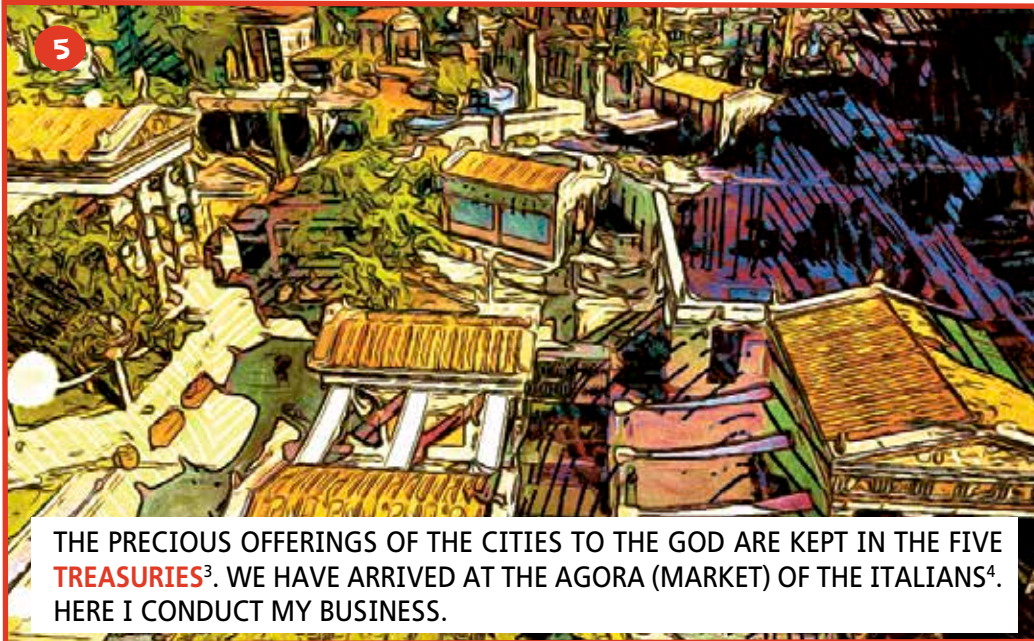
6,500
SPECTATORS
the capacity
of the theatre

1. The archaeological site of Delos from above.

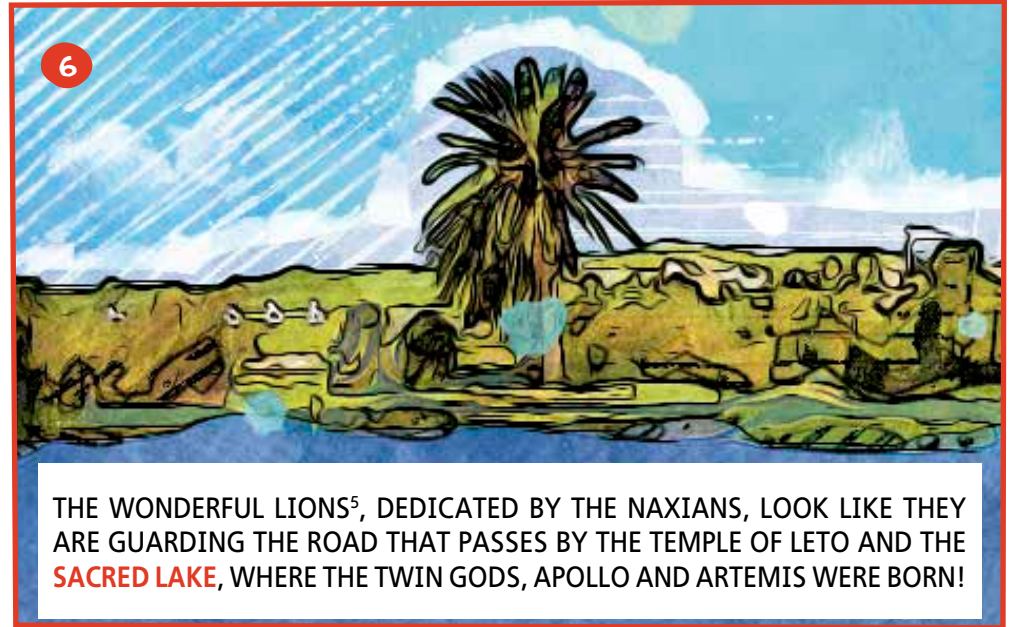
Walking around Delos with...



... the wealthy merchant Gaius Ofellius Ferus



THE PRECIOUS OFFERINGS OF THE CITIES TO THE GOD ARE KEPT IN THE FIVE **TREASURIES**³. WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE AGORA (MARKET) OF THE ITALIANS⁴. HERE I CONDUCT MY BUSINESS.



THE WONDERFUL LIONS⁵, DEDICATED BY THE NAXIANS, LOOK LIKE THEY ARE GUARDING THE ROAD THAT PASSES BY THE TEMPLE OF LETO AND THE **SACRED LAKE**, WHERE THE TWIN GODS, APOLLO AND ARTEMIS WERE BORN!



MY **MANSION** IS LOCATED IN THE THEATRE QUARTER⁶. COME INTO THE HALL WITH THE MOSAIC FLOORS, TO TREAT YOU TO SOME FINE WINE FROM SAMOS BEFORE YOU RETIRE TO THE GUESTHOUSE TO REST.



LATER, WE COULD TRAIN AT THE PALESTRAE OR THE GYMNASIUM⁷, NEAR THE STADIUM. THAT'S ALSO WHERE MY FRIENDS HANG OUT,

TOMORROW LET' S GO TO THE **THEATRE**⁸! TO WATCH THE PLAY "AMPHITRYON" BY PLAUTUS !

The environment...

*“ There is a tiny island wandering over the seas.
Its feet abide not in one place, but on the side, it swims like an asphodel, where the South
wind or the East wind blows, wherever the sea carries it. Carry me there, and they will
welcome your coming. [...] and Leto found the desired end to her cruel wanderings ”*

Callimachus, Hymn to Delos, 4:190 onwards. 2nd c. BC?

Delos, one of the smaller islands in the centre of the Cyclades, is located between the islet of Rheneia and Mykonos. The visit to the currently uninhabited island of Delos takes place via Mykonos, as the distance between the ports of the two islands is only 1.5 nautical miles. Rheneia, also uninhabited today, although twice as large, in ancient times it was the necropolis of Delos. The two islets are known as Deles (plural of Delos) and are distinguished from each other as Mikri Delos (the main Delos) and Megali Delos (Rheneia).



2. View of the port of Delos. In the background are Rheneia and Paros. As depicted by C. F. T. C. de Aligny in 1843.



3. View of the archaeological site. The Heraion can be seen.

... and the landscape

- The sanctuary of Apollo was built in the small and only valley in the NW of the island, surrounded by low hills and by Cynthus hill, with altitude only 112.6 m, where the smaller sanctuary of the goddess Artemis lies.
- On the arid island, a small river called Inopos is formed in winter by the rainwater, as well as the famous Sacred Lake, the birthplace of the twin gods.
- The great sunshine of Delos, in combination with the light reflected by the granite rocks perhaps explain its correlation in ancient times with the god of light.
- With the sanctuary being a great attraction for believers and pilgrims, the port of Delos soon developed into an important commercial hub. In Roman times the city expanded with a dense and irregular structure, as evidenced by the luxurious, but haphazardly built architectural remains.

Green details

In the rough and rocky terrain of Delos trees no longer grow, however, there are endemic characteristic herbaceous plants of the Cyclades and Aegean reptiles, such as the Mediterranean cat snake and the large lizard *agama stellio*, known as “crocodile of the Aegean”.

Delos through time



8th c. BC

The first historical evidence of the existence of a sanctuary of Apollo on the island, which is inhabited since the 3rd millennium BC.



end 7th–beginning 6th c. BC

The sanctuaries of Apollo and Artemis flourish. The Ionian cities dedicate impressive votives and organize brilliant celebrations.



end 6th c. BC

Athens emerges as a regulator of the region and imposes the first “purification” of the island. Building the first temple of Apollo (Porinos Naos)



478 BC

Establishment of the Delian League based in Delos. In 476 BC began the construction of the second Temple of Apollo (Great Temple or Temple of the Delians).



454 BC

Transfer of the treasury of the League to Athens. The Autonomy of the Greek cities of the League is abolished and the Athenian hegemony is imposed.



426 BC

The Athenians impose new “purification” on the island and move the bones and the funeral offerings in neighboring Rhineia. The inhabitants of Delos are exiled and return in 422 BC after an oracle of the Oracle of Delphi.



314 BC

Delian Independence: the Macedonians free Delos from the Athenians. A confederation of the islands of Cyclades is established (*Commonwealth of the Islands*) with its religious centre in Delos.



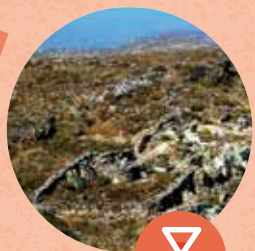
417 BC

The third temple of Apollo (Temple of Athenians) is inaugurated and the *Delia* festival is reorganised.



3rd–2nd c. BC

Intense building activity and construction of the theatre, the stadium etc. The Hellenistic rulers dedicate brilliant edifices in the Sanctuary of Apollo.



167 BC

The Romans granted Delos to the Athenians, but by declaring it a taxfree port, they contribute to the prominence of the island in one of the largest commercial Mediterranean ports.



88 BC

Destruction of Delos by the king of Pontus Mithridates VI, during the Mithridatic Wars.



69 BC

Second greater disaster of the island by the pirate Athenodorus, ally of Mithridates.



1579

With the establishment of the Ottomans in the Cyclades, piracy intensifies and Delos is often a refuge for pirates.



1204

With the fall of the Byzantine Empire by the forces of the Fourth Crusade, Tinos, Mykonos and Delos come under the jurisdiction of the Venetian family of Gizi, while in 1390 they are granted to Venice.



5th–6th c. AD

A small Christian community is established and at least seven basilica churches are erected. Delos is referred to as the seat of bishops.



1873

Systematic archaeological research is initiated by the French School of Archaeology at Athens supervised by J. Lebègue and P. Stamatakis.



1904

Construction of the Archaeological Museum of Delos.



1990

Inclusion of the monument in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Historical figures through the ages

Many pilgrims arrived on the island to visit one of the most famous Panhellenic sanctuaries.

Delegations and foreign ambassadors visited the sanctuary and the settlement, they were hosted in the Prytaneion, where they were provided with honorary meals. During the Delia festival, thousands of spectators attended the events.



GREAT MEN



**The mythical hero
Theseus**

danced for the first time in Delos, with the teenage Athenians he rescued from the Minotaur in Crete, the victory dance "geranos", which imitates cranes flying.

**The tyrant of Samos
Polycrates**

dedicated the island of Rheneia to Apollo, by tying it to Delos with an impressive chain (530 BC).



**The tyrant of Athens
Peisistratus**

and his sons built the first temple of Apollo (Porinos Naos) (6th c. BC.)

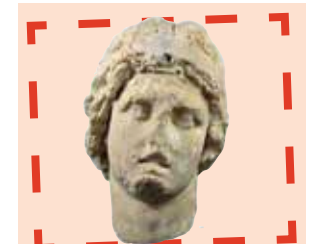


**The Athenian general
Nicias**

inaugurated the third temple (417 BC) and dedicated a colossal bronze palm tree to the sanctuary.

**The commander-in-chief
of the Persian Satrap Artaphernes,
Datis**

campaigned against the Greeks in the early 5th c. BC. Not only did he not attack Delos, but he also burned three hundred talents worth of frankincense in the temple of Apollo Delios!



**The Macedonian king
Demetrius Poliorcetes**

built the *Neorion* (c. 300 BC), a huge building to house a trireme (warship) dedicated to Apollo.

**The Macedonian king
Antigonos Gonatas**

built as an offering to the sanctuary of Apollo a Stoa (Portico) 120 m long (c. 250 BC)!

Cosmopolitan Delos was home to people from all over the known world.

Merchants and craftsmen of all trades set up shops in the settlement and were active in the bustling commercial port. Sanctuaries of foreign gods testify to the multicultural character of the island, while the luxurious mansions reflect the wealth of the inhabitants of the island.

EPONYMOUS...



Cleopatra and Dioscorides

from Athens decorated their mansion with their statues (137 BC).



The Athenian athlete Menodorus

A honorary statue of the great athlete in wrestling and pancratium was placed in the Agora (market) of the Delians (150–130 BC). The wreaths at the base of the statue correspond to his victories at Olympia, Pythia, Heracleia and Nemea Games.



Dionysius from Beirut

dedicated the playful complex of Aphrodite with Pan and little Eros (100 BC).

... AND ANONYMOUS



The women of Delos are elegant, depicted with fine garments, elaborate hairstyles and precious jewelry.

Hundreds of slaves

worked in the workshops: in a work accident 19 slaves died, coming from the Black Sea, Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Cyrene and Arabia.

FROM THE PIRATE ATHENODORUS TO MARMELEQ



Athenodorus, an ally of King Mithridates, pillages Delos in 69 BC.

Later the island becomes a haven for pirates, such as the notorious Marmeleq, who appears in 1732. His descendant is believed to be the Mykonian Manolis Mermelechas, the “Robin Hood of the Seas,” who also participated in the Greek War of Independence!

DEDICATED RESEARCHERS



The French Archaeological School at Athens began excavations in Delos in 1873. The excavations continue up to now, although in a smaller scale.

A monument is born

FROM THE “ELUSIVE DELOS” TO “DELOS THE NONEXISTENT”

The ancient city of Delos prospered as long as the port gathered the transit trade between East and West. After its second destruction (69 BC) the city was fortified with a wall and turned into a military base, losing the commercial character it had until then.



4. Cristoforo Buondelmonti, *Map of Delos and Rheneia*, c. 1420.

The theologian and ecclesiastical writer Tertullian (160–240 AD) gloats about the sad state in which Delos had fallen: “even Samos will become dust, and Delos will become non-existent”.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Delos after a relatively prosperous period in the 5th and 6th c. A.D. was permanently deserted and turned into a pirate haven.



5. J. P. de Tournefort, *Map of Delos*, first quarter of 18th c.

In the following centuries, the surrounding islands used ruins as building materials.

The church of Panagia of Tinos was built largely from Delos marbles, while statues, inscriptions and architectural elements are still inlaid in houses in Mykonos, Syros and Paros.

UTTERLY ABANDONED

However, Delos was never forgotten, like other sites of antiquity.

Some imagined the splendor of the sanctuary of Apollo, without ever having visited Delos!



6. *The temple of Apollo as imagined by Widman, Archipelago*, c. 1750.

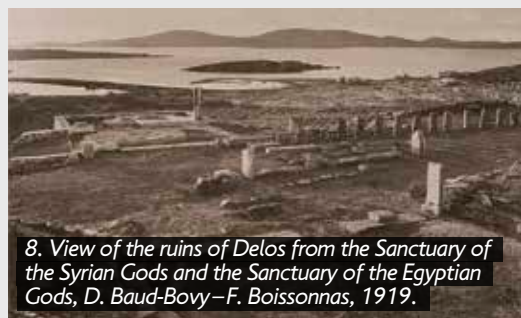
The Arab geographer Muhammad al-Idrisi (12th c. AD) includes it in the Routes of the pilgrims, although he mentions it as uninhabited. A lot of travellers from 16th century and onwards visit Delos and express their dismay at the ruins they face until the middle of the 19th c.¹⁰

WORK AND STRIKE!

In 1873, the great systematic excavation of Delos begins by the French Archaeological School at Athens, while in 1904 the Archaeological Museum is built at the expense of the Archaeological Society at Athens.



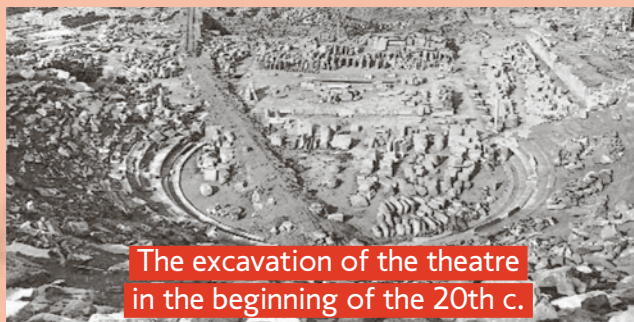
7. Snapshot of "excavation work" in the Theatre Quarter under the House of Cleopatra, W. Deonna, 1905.



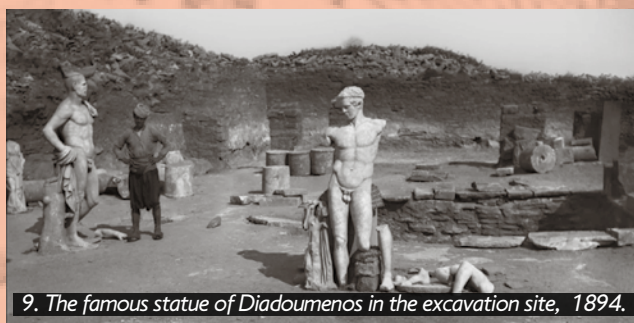
8. View of the ruins of Delos from the Sanctuary of the Syrian Gods and the Sanctuary of the Egyptian Gods, D. Baud-Bovy-F. Boissonnas, 1919.

With the start of excavations, hundreds of residents of neighboring Mykonos are employed as laborers in Delos. In 1906 they even went on strike demanding better working conditions, which they afterwards managed to secure.

THE HIDDEN CITY



The excavation of the theatre in the beginning of the 20th c.



9. The famous statue of Diadoumenos in the excavation site, 1894.

In the first decades of the 20th century the sanctuaries of Apollo and Artemis, as well as a large part of the ancient city had already been revealed.

The archaeological site that has been uncovered today is impressive, even though a great part of the ancient city is still buried under a filling approximately 2 meters thick!

PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT



Mosaic floor in the "House of Dionysus", end 2th c. BC.



In recent years, the competent Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades designs and implements modern projects for the protection and highlighting of the monuments of Delos, so that the island will turn into an exemplary open museum.

A unique monument...

Apollo's homeland

Leto, chased by Hera, fled to Delos, which had been floating until then. There, under a palm tree she gave birth to the children of Zeus, the twins Artemis and Apollo. Her labor lasted nine days and nine nights.

According to the ancient writers, the birth of the twins took place either on Mount Cynthus or near the island's only lake, both of which have since been considered sacred.



10. The Lake Quarter.

Near the Sacred Lake the so-called "Lake Quarter", was developed, where many temples were founded, production and trade areas and the great "Agora (Market) of the Italians". The lake was drained in 1925.

In the island where no one dies

In 426 BC, during the Peloponnesian War and during the Plague of Athens, the Athenians, who remained for a long time the administrators of the property of the sanctuary, wanted to purify the island and ordered a "general purification": on the holy island it was forbidden to give birth or to have people dying. The inhabitants of Delos were exiled, but returned later, after a new oracle of the Oracle of Delphi.

“ My sacred soul, what time and when will thou sing of Delos, Apollo's nurse? All the Cyclades, most holy of the islands of the sea, have been well-sung. But Delos wishes to hold the first prizes from the Muses, since Phoebus, the teacher of the songs, it bathed and swaddled and was the first to praise him as a God. [...] Now my hymn to Delos I dedicate, Apollo the Cynthian to praise my zeal to his beloved nurse. ”

Callimachus, *Hymn to Delos*, 4:1–10, 2nd c. BC.



11. The birth of Apollo and Artemis. Red-figure pyxis (circular jewellery box), c. 370 BC. National Archaeological Museum.

... with timeless radiance ★1

“Until the venerable Leto arrived on Delos and asked with winged words: “Delos, wouldn’t you like to be the home of my son, Phoebus Apollo and a great temple to build for him? Since no one else will ever notice or approach you, [...] But if you bear the temple of the far-shooting Apollo, all the people will hurry with hecatombs and gather here the aroma from the fat will incessantly rise and your inhabitants will be fed by foreign hands even though your soil is barren”

Homeric Hymn to Apollo, 49–60, end 7th c. BC

Delos with the sanctuary of Apollo was a source of inspiration for many creators and artists since ancient times. The legend of the birth of Apollo and Artemis on the island is recorded in the so-called Homeric Hymns (σημείωση 11 εκθέτης), which is then further adapted with variations by well-known poets, such as Pindar (4th c. BC) and Callimachus (2nd c. BC).



12. Nikolaos Cheimonas, Delos, 1927.

“The meditations that had long occupied me and concerned the truth, the reports of revelation and concealment found the desired verification during my stay in Delos. [...] It was only with the experience of Delos that the Greek journey became a stay, an ‘unenlightened’ stay close to what is truth”.

Martin Heidegger, *Aufenthalte*, 1962¹².

The Greek archaeologist D. Pippas, who in 1923 became the Director of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades, planted a palm tree in 1933 near the Sacred Lake, in memory of the palm tree under which Leto gave birth to the twin gods.



13. W. H. Rinehart, Leto and her children, 1870.

A unique monument...

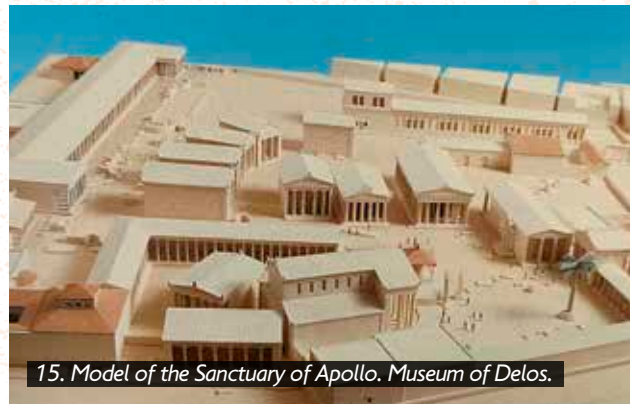
A powerful alliance

The Sanctuary of Apollo began to emerge as a Panhellenic sanctuary from the 7th c. BC, when Delos became the seat of the homonymous Amphictyony, i.e., the union of the approximately 150 ancient Greek Ionian cities¹³.

After the Persian wars, the Athenians founded the Delian League, based on the old Delos Amphictyony, with the aim to confront the Persians and build a powerful fleet. However, in 454 BC the treasury of the League was moved to Athens and the League ended up to be the hegemony of Athens. At the end of the 4th century, the disintegrated Delian Amphictyony was replaced by the *Commonwealth of the islands*, under the protection of the Ptolemies¹⁴.

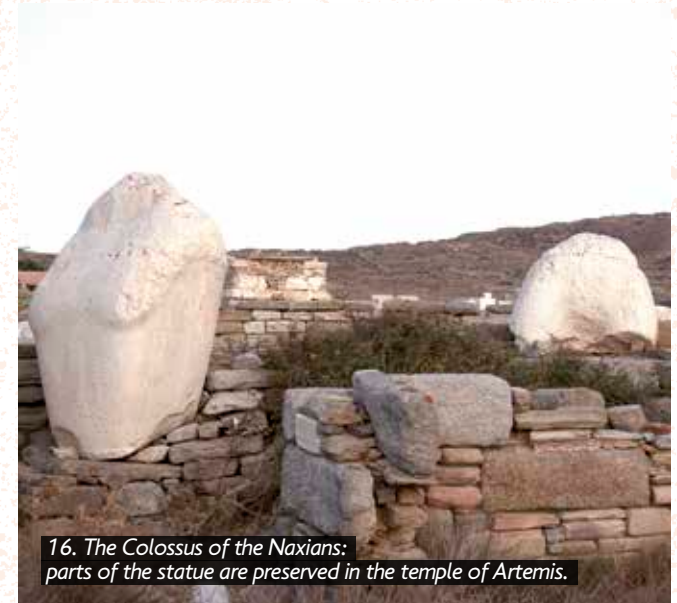


14. The Sanctuary of Apollo and the Agora of Delians from above.



15. Model of the Sanctuary of Apollo. Museum of Delos.

The vast complex included a monumental Gate (propylaea), the three temples of Apollo, the Keraton Altar, at least five treasuries, stoas (porticos), administrative buildings, the Pythion i.e. a temple dedicated to the Delphian Apollo, and the Sema of Laodice and Hyperoche i.e. the mythical tomb of the two Hyperborean virgin maidens, attendants of Apollo. The Sanctuary was full of hundreds of votives, the most distinguished among them being the Colossus of the Naxians, a kouros statue of 9.6 m height.



16. The Colossus of the Naxians: parts of the statue are preserved in the temple of Artemis.

Delia

As long as the Athenian hegemony lasted, in Delos every five years, for the birthday of Apollo at early March, the festival of Delia was celebrated. The Athenians sent *theoroi* and *choroi*¹⁵. After the sacrifices, *gymnikoi*¹⁶, equestrian and musical games followed. The festival ended with drama performances and banquets. Delia was so revered that, while the *theoroi* were absent from Athens, executions on death row were suspended.

... with timeless radiance

“ And then, the return of Theseus, triumphant. At Delos, he stopped, and there around Keraton (the famous altar, made entirely of animal horns –only left horns), Theseus danced, with the Athenian youths his companions, a new and astonishing dance, with cross steps, which may resemble, in the strong midday light, the dark turns of the Labyrinth [...] a really glorious dance. [...] The dance, however, spread quickly and stayed. We still dance it. And it has been ever since that the palm branch was introduced as a prize in the Delian sports games.”

Yannis Ritsos, *The new dance*, 1968.



17. Nikos Engonopoulos, *Delos*, 1939.

Modern Amphictyonies

Today, the idea of unity and cooperation aiming at the harmonious coexistence and development of different societies is expressed by respective transnational organisations and associations, such as the UN, UNESCO, the European Union, the European Group for Territorial Cooperation «E.O.E.Σ. ΑΜΦΙΚΤΥΟΝΙΑ»¹⁷, etc.



The so called Theatre Quarter starts from the port and goes all the way to the theatre. It has commercial buildings, luxurius residences and a public water reservoir, the Minoan Fountain.

Reading of Aeschylus' "Persians" in Delos

In 2019, the Ephorate of Cyclades Antiquities organized a reading of Aeschylus' tragedy "The Persians" in Delos, with the participation of immigrants-refugees: "This is a universal text, an apology for the suffering of war and in a place of great symbolic and universal importance, the archaeological site of Delos. An island with multiple meanings over the course of time, sacred but also free for its multicultural habitation in antiquity, today in a state of absolute desertion, but at the center of the Aegean, an archipelago-bridge of the current refugee crisis"¹⁸.

A unique monument...

“The largest centre of commerce in the world”

Delos developed into a bustling Mediterranean port¹⁹, which began to prosper from 314 BC and peaked in the 2nd and 1st c. BC. Port facilities, public buildings, markets, shops, workshops, warehouses as well as associations and clubs of merchants and bankers served the commercial needs of the island.



Peaceful coexistence

Apart from the Athenians and Romans, who formed the majority of the population, people from all over the then known world flocked to Delos.

All these populations coexist peacefully and build shrines where they worship their own gods: thus, in Delos, besides the sanctuaries of the Greek gods, there were sanctuaries of the Egyptian gods, Sarapis, Isis and Anubis, of the Syrian deities Atargatis and Aadad, as well as a Jewish Synagogue.



... with timeless radiance ★ 3

“If the ruins of Delos disappeared,
they would leave a void
that nothing could fill”

Léon Adrien Terrier,
Mémoire sur l'île de Délos, 1864/1907,
Archives of the French Archaeological School
at Athens

«Anamnesis» from Delos



People made of iron in Delos

The archaeological site of Delos, with its spirituality, often hosts and ideally frames selected works of contemporary art and dance or musical performances. In 2019 Delos hosted Anthony Gormley's exhibition "SIGHT", bringing the site "to life" with 29 human figures sculpted in iron²⁰.



The “unseen” neighbor of Mykonos

The cosmopolitan Delos has given way today to the cosmopolitan Mykonos, which aspires to highlight the archaeological site of Delos! In 2015 the lyrical documentary “Delos 2015” by the Mykonian film director Antonis-Theocharis Kioukas was screened there²¹.

Monumental dialogues



GREECE

Corfu

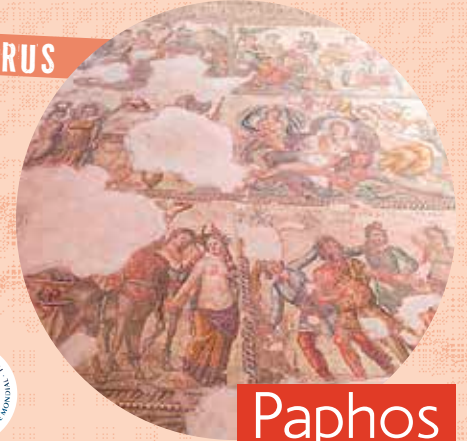
In the medieval and cosmopolitan town of Corfu operated one of the most important ports of the Mediterranean Sea.



IN GREECE
& ALL OVER
THE WORLD!



CYPRUS



Paphos

One of the most important port cities of Cyprus, with great commercial prosperity mainly during the Roman times. Among the numerous monuments that make it a large, open museum, the rich mansions with impressive mosaic floor stand out.



GREECE



Despotikon

In Antiparos the second largest sanctuary of Apollo in the Cyclades is preserved, after that of Delos.

NEPAL



Lumbini

One of the greatest pilgrimage centres in the world, as, according to tradition, the queen Maya Devi gave birth here in the 6th c. BC under a tree, while crossing a garden on her way to visit her parents, to Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the later Buddha of the Buddhist religion.



A message today...

A thriving city

Delos experienced a rapid economic and commercial development and emerged as one of the largest ports in the Aegean.

In 167 BC the Roman Senate in order to support the island in the competition with Rhodes and the other economic centres of the Mediterranean, exempts it from duties and taxes so that Delos turns into a “tax heaven” of the time. Dozens of ships are loading and unloading tons of goods every day. Markets, shops, warehouses and workshops, trade associations and banks, extend all over the island, which develops into a prosperous commercial and financial centre.



22. Delos from the sea. The Cave -Sanctuary of Heracles- is preserved on the peak of the Cynthus hill, 3rd c. BC.

... for a better tomorrow!

Goals 2030 >



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth,
employment and decent work for all

1. The guide is inspired by the wealthy merchant Gaius Ofellius Ferus from Campania, who, among other things, paid for the construction of the Agora of the Italians. To honor him, the Italians dedicated his statue to Apollo, c. 125–100 BC. The statue stood in a niche of the Agora of the Italians with the inscription: The Italians dedicated the statue of Gaius Ofellius Ferus, son of Marco, to Apollo, because of the justice and kindness he showed towards them. The Athenians Dionysius son of Timarchides and Timarchides son of Polyclus made it (IG XI.4.1688).

2. The first temple of Apollo (Porinos Naos) was built during the rule of Peisistratus or sometime later (late 6th c. BC) and housed the worship statue of the god. The construction of the second temple (Great Temple or Temple of the Delians) began in 476 BC, but was interrupted when the treasury of the Delian League was moved to Athens. It was continued later, during the period of Delian Independence, in 314 BC. The construction of the third temple (Temple of the Athenians) began during the Peloponnesian War (425–420 BC) and was inaugurated in 417 BC by the Athenian general Nicias.

3. These are five small temple-shaped buildings to the NE of the temples of Apollo, which are considered Treasuries, that is buildings offered by various cities, used to keep their precious offerings to the Sanctuary. According to the sources, Treasuries were dedicated to the Sanctuary by the islands Delos, Mykonos, Andros and the city of Karystos in Eyboea.

4. The so called Agora of the Italians is the largest building in Delos, covering an area of 8,000 sqm. It was built appr. in 110 BC and was the meeting and trading centre for Italian merchants and their community.

5. The marble statues of Lions, a tribute from the Naxians, line in order on a terrace at the west of the Sacred Lake. Nowadays, only nine lions are preserved.

6. The so called Theatre Quarter is the oldest district of the city. It was named by the theatre that was constructed at its SW part. Here are some of the most expensive mansions of Delos, decorated with impressive mosaic floors.

7. North and east of the Sacred Lake were the sports facilities of the city. The *palaestrae* and the *gymnasiums* were places for training, philosophical discussions and daily meetings. The Stadium of the city was formed at the beginning of the 3rd c. BC.

8. The theatre of Delos's construction began shortly at the end of the 4th c. BC and was completed in 240 BC. It had a capacity of 6,500 spectators.

9. The scholar Callimachus of Cyrene, a Greek colony in Libya, was a prominent poet of the Hellenistic era (2nd c. BC). He grew up in Athens and lived in Alexandria, where he founded a grammar school.

10. See also Rizou Ragavis, I., «Τα Ελληνικά», vol. C', 1854: "and it is altogether deserted, uninhabited, and the haunt of robbers and pirates ... and beasts and fowls there are many armadillos, quails, snipes, vipers, and land crocodiles". See also the words of the French Hellenist Charles Benoit

Hase in 1847: "This annihilation surpasses all imagination and tightens the heart (...) on this sullen rock where not a single ruin is left standing, and every stone is overturned, broken and crushed".

11. This is the oldest preserved collection of Hymns. It is consisted by 33 poems dedicated to important gods. They are written in a six-fingered meter, like the Iliad and the Odyssey. In antiquity, they were attributed to Homer. The oldest were considered to have been written in the 8th–7th c. BC.

12. The philosopher Martin Heidegger (1889–1976) traveled to Greece in 1962 and recorded his impressions in the text "Aufenthalte", in which he philosophically approaches landscapes. See M. Heidegger, *Aufenthalte. The Journey to Greece*, Athens 2014 (transl. Giorgos Faraklas).

13. Amphictyony in antiquity was the union of several city-states of a region centered on an important temple, which evolved to a political institution. The best known was the Amphictyony of Delphi in central Greece, but there was also one in Delos.

14. The *Commonwealth of the Islanders* was a federal state of the Hellenistic period, which included the Cyclades. It was founded in 314 BC and remained under the hegemony of the Ptolemies until the mid 3rd c. BC. It was re-established around 200 BC under the rule of Rhodes and was finally abolished around 168 BC.

15. *Theories* were the official delegations of the city-states to the Delia festival. *Choroi* were the groups of actors who recited by making rhythmic movements. The members of the *choroi* had rehearsed and prepared in Athens under the care of specialists, the *Deliaest*.

16. The athletic competitions were called *gymnikoi* because the athletes competed in the nude. This is where the word "gymnastics" comes from.

17. For the modern organisation "Ε.Ο.Ε.Σ ΑΜΦΙΚΤΥΟΝΙΑ (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Amphictyony)", that promotes cooperation between the people of the Mediterranean and Europe, respecting the principles of freedom, democracy, justice and environmental protection, see <https://www.amphictyony.gr/>

18. From the press release in the newspaper «Κοινή Γνώμη», September 19, 2019: <https://www.koinignomi.gr/news/politismos/2019/09/19/anagnosi-ton-person-toy-aishyloy-sti-dilo.html>

19. Delos is characterised as "the greatest commercial center of the world" (maximum emporium totius orbis terrarum) by the Roman writer Postumius Rufius Festus Avienius of the 4th c. AD.

20. The impressive iron sculptures of the important contemporary British sculptor Antony Gormley often "visit" important cultural sites. For more information about the exhibition SIGHT, 2 May–31 October 2019, see <https://neon.org.gr/en/exhibition/sightantonygormleydelosisland/>

21. See the newspaper "Kathimerini", October 11, 2015 <https://www.kathimerini.gr/834010/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/hadhlosgeitonissaths-mykonoy>

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