

NATIONAL  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MUSEUM





The Museum building, a protected historical monument, was founded in 1866 on a plot donated by Eleni Tositsa. Its construction was based on designs by the architects L. Lange and P. Kalkos. The final form of its façade was the work of E. Ziller, who also supervised the work until 1889, when the west wing was completed. The present building took form gradually in the 20th century with a series of additions on the east side.

The long evolution of ancient Greek culture can be traced in its galleries. The Museum's Collections – Prehistoric and Egyptian Antiquities, Sculpture, Vases and the Minor Arts, Bronze –, are amongst the most comprehensive in the world.





## The Prehistoric Collection

The Collection consists of unique works of art representing the major civilisations that flourished in the Aegean from the 7th millennium to about 1050 BC. It includes objects from the Neolithic period and the Bronze Age, from mainland Greece, the Aegean islands and Troy. The most important exhibits are the treasures from the royal tombs at Mycenae, the famous Cycladic marble figurines, and the superbly preserved wall-paintings from Thera with their large-scale compositions. These objects are on display in rooms 3-6 on the ground floor and room 48 on the first floor.



## The Sculpture Collection

The Collection presents the development of ancient Greek sculpture from the 8th c. BC to the end of the 4th c. AD. The sculptures comprising it, many of which are masterpieces and landmarks in the history of art, come from Athens and other parts of Greece – Thessaly, central Greece, Peloponnese, Crete, and the Aegean islands – and enable visitors to form a satisfactory idea both of the development of sculpture and of the particular features of the various local workshops. The Collection contains some of the largest groups of original sculptures in the world.

Amongst these are the groups from the Archaic period, the most important of which are the series of Kouroi, and those of Classical grave reliefs, unparalleled in terms of





number and quality, which include the famous gravestone of Hegeso and those from Salamis and the river Ilissos. This veritable treasury of large-scale sculpture occupies 30 rooms on the ground floor. The visit begins in room 7, with the earliest pieces, and ends in room 33, with the works of Late Antiquity.

### **The Collection of Vases and the Minor Arts**

The Collection is to be found in rooms 49-63 on the first floor. The great quantity and quality of the Geometric pottery, the early black-figure vases from Vari, the white-ground lekythoi and the red-figure vases of the 4th c. BC make this Collection one of the richest in the world.

The exhibits come from excavations in cemeteries, such as the Kerameikos and that at Vari, and in sanctuaries like





those of Hera at Argos and Perachora, of Artemis Orthia at Sparta, the sanctuaries on the Athenian Acropolis and the Kabeirion at Thebes, or are chance finds and donations. They are displayed in chronological order and illustrate the evolution of Greek pottery from the 11th c. BC to the Hellenistic period.

### Terracotta Figurines

The exhibition of the National Archaeological Museum is unique for the variety of types covering all the main local workshops of the Hellenic world from the Geometric to the Late Hellenistic period (9th c. BC to 1st c. AD).

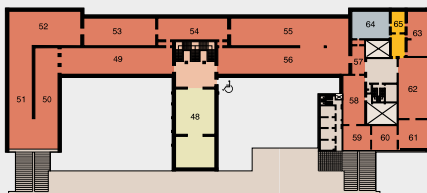


### Vlastos-Serpieris Collection

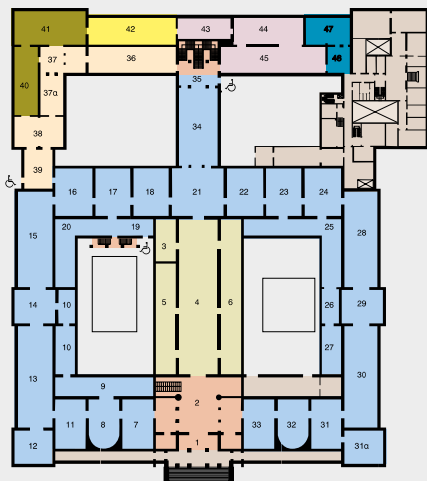
The Collection comprises ancient Greek and Tarantine artefacts, donated by the Vlastos-Serpieris family.



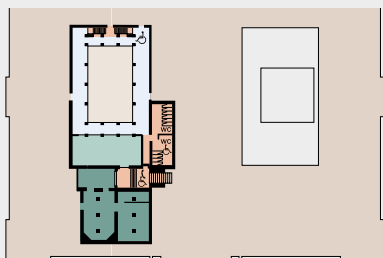




1st FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



BASEMENT

- |  |  |                                  |  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Prehistoric Collection                 |  | Entrance - Vestibule - Staircase |  |
| Sculpture Collection                   |  | Temporary Exhibitions            |  |
| Bronze Collection                      |  | Conference Room                  |  |
| Collection of Vases and the Minor Arts |  | Inner Garden                     |  |
| Stathatos Collection                   |  | Café                             |  |
| Egyptian Collection                    |  | Museum Shop                      |  |
| Cypriote Collection                    |  |                                  |  |
| Educational Programmes                 |  |                                  |  |



## Gold Jewellery and Silver Vessels

The art of the ancient Greek goldsmith is featured by a wealth of gold jewels as well as elaborate silver vessels from various parts of Greece. More than 600 pieces of exquisite art will intrigue the visitor with their beauty, inventiveness and polychromy, from the Geometric period to the Roman era (9th c. BC to 4th c. AD).



## Glass Vessels

The exhibition presents a selection of rare glass vessels from various regions of mainland Greece and the islands. They are grouped by place of origin or chronologically, illustrating the different manufacturing techniques, as well as a variety of shapes and types. The exhibits date from the Archaic period to the Middle Ages (late 8th c. BC to 14th c. AD).





## The Bronze Collection

The Collection is one of the largest in the world. It is famous mainly for its unique, large-scale original statues, such as the Poseidon or Zeus from Artemision, the Marathon youth, the Antikythera youth, and the jockey from Artemision, and also for smaller pieces such as the mechanism from Antikythera, figurines and vases. The majority of the bronzes were dedications in the major Greek sanctuaries (of Zeus at Dodona, of Athena on the Acropolis, of Zeus at Olympia, of Apollo at Ptoon in Boeotia, of Zeus Thaulios in Thessaly, and others). These small artefacts, displayed in rooms 36-39 on the ground floor, illustrate the development of Greek art from Geometric to Roman times.



## The Egyptian Collection

The Collection is renowned throughout the world for the importance of its objects. Representative items are on dis-





play in rooms 40-41 on the ground floor. These are arranged in chronological order and cover the full spectrum of Egyptian civilisation from the early Predynastic period (5000 BC) to the time of the Roman empire (30 BC-AD 395). Examples of every art form are included: statues, reliefs, stelai, pottery, sarcophagi, mummies, Fayum portraits, miniature art and jewellery.

### **The Stathatos Collection**

The Collection is exhibited in room 42 of the ground floor. The 970 objects comprising it, mainly works of the minor arts in a variety of materials, cover the period from the Middle Bronze Age to the Post-Byzantine period.



### **Collection of Cypriot Antiquities**

The exhibition (room 64 on the first floor) displays 180 artefacts of the Museum's Cypriot Collection, which represent the main periods of Cypriot culture from the Early Bronze Age (c. 2500 BC) to the Roman period (4th c. AD), with exhibits illustrating religion, art and commerce.







# NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

ATTICA



**T**he National Archaeological Museum of Athens is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art. It was founded at the end of the 19th century to house and protect antiquities from all over Greece, thus displaying their historical, cultural and artistic value.

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Archaeological Resources Fund  
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