



MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments

THE TEMPLE OF APOLLO EPICURIUS AT BASSAE

*God
help us*



WHAT?

- Ancient outdoor sanctuary dedicated to Apollo “Epicurius”.

WHERE?

- Π.Ε. Regional District of Ilia, Prefecture of Western Greece.

WHEN?

- 7th–5th c. BC. Worship of Apollo. Construction of the first temples.
- 420–400 BC: Construction of the temple by Ictinus

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



CLASSICAL PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1986



Criterion i

Monument of unique artistic and architectural value. It combines traditional elements with bold innovations.

Criterion ii

The Corinthian style capital appears here for the first time, and since then it becomes a model for the monuments of that style.

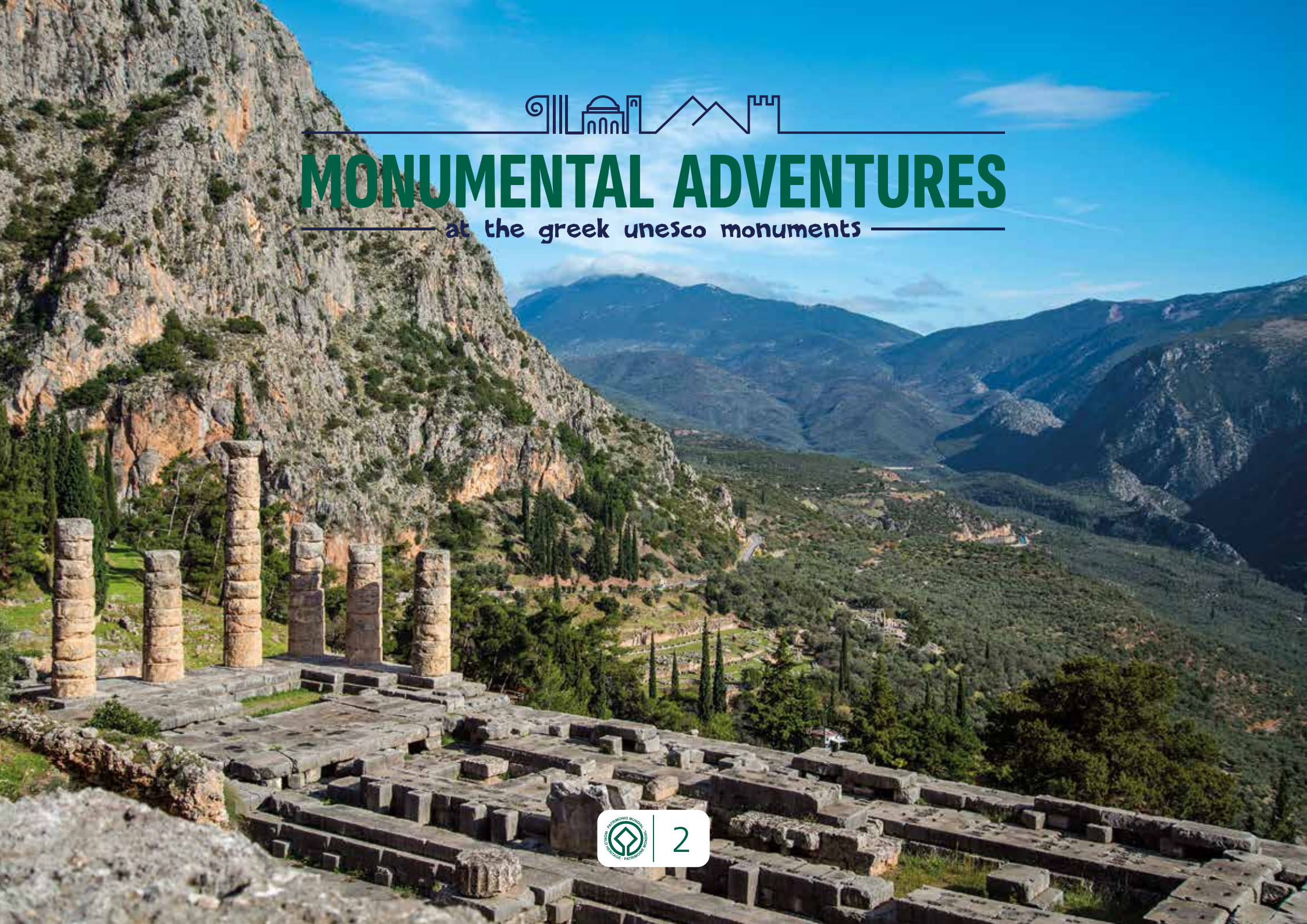
Criterion iii

It is a special example of a mountain sanctuary.



MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF DELPHI

“Earth’s Navel”

Kiki Dimoula,
poem in collection
Χαίρε Ποτέ, 1988.

WHAT?

- One of the largest Panhellenic sanctuaries.
- The most famous oracle of antiquity.

WHERE?

- Regional District of Fokida,
Prefecture of Central Greece.

WHEN?

- 8th c. BC: the earliest traces
of Apollo worship
- 6th–4th c. BC: Times of prosperity
and great fame

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



CLASSICAL PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1987

criterion i

The diverse and majestic monuments of
the sanctuary fit harmoniously into the
imposing natural landscape of Parnassus.

criterion ii

The radiance of the sanctuary
and the oracle spread
throughout the ancient world.

criterion iii

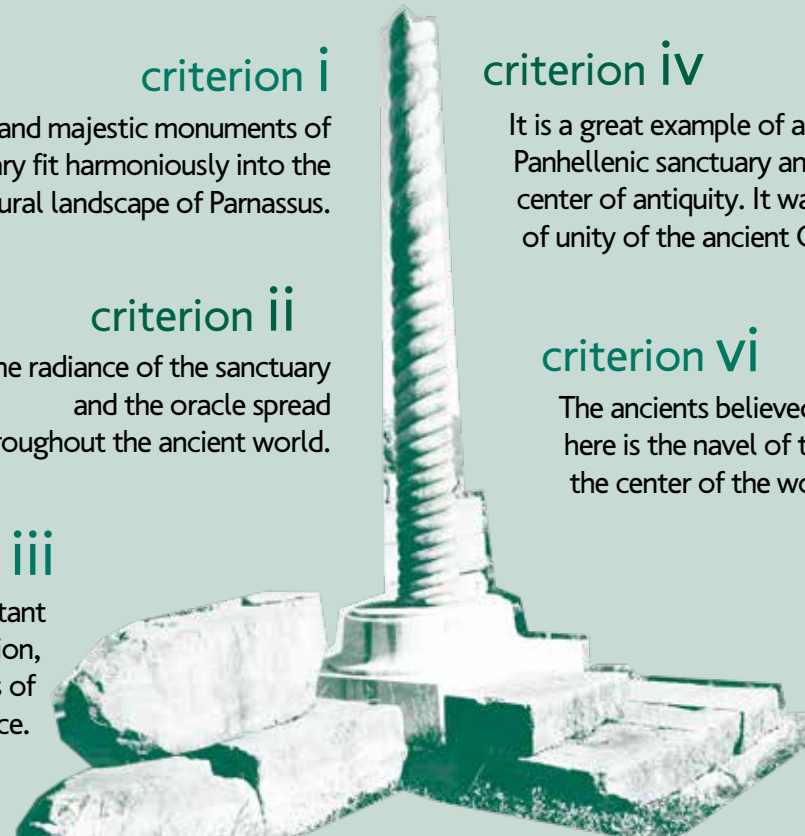
It is an important
testimony of the religion,
culture and politics of
ancient Greece.

criterion iv

It is a great example of a large
Panhellenic sanctuary and a religious
center of antiquity. It was a symbol
of unity of the ancient Greek world.

criterion vi

The ancients believed that
here is the navel of the earth,
the center of the world.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



THE ACROPOLIS OF ATHENS

The sacred rock



WHAT?

- The religious center of ancient Athens, dedicated to Athena, the city's patroness, with a nationwide radiance. Today it is a symbol of ancient Greek civilization with a global impact.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of the Central Sector of Athens, Attica Region.

WHEN?

- second half of 5th c. BC.: rebuilding of the Sanctuary of Athena and construction of monumental temples. Heyday of the Sanctuary and of the city of Athens.

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



CLASSICAL PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1987

criterion i

The Acropolis of Athens is the ultimate expression of architectural adaptation to the natural environment.

criterion iv

It is a model of an important architectural complex from the 16th c. BC onwards, culminating in the monuments of the 5th c. BC.

criterion ii

Its monuments significantly influenced Greco-Roman antiquity and modern neoclassical art.



criterion iii

It is a prominent testimony to ancient Greek religion. Here the fundamental myths of the city were born, and the goddess Athena was worshipped in her various attributes.

criterion vi

Its monuments symbolize the zenith of Athenian democracy and are linked to the universal values of Democracy, Philosophy and the Arts.



MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



MOUNT ATHOS

The arc of orthodoxy

WHAT?

- Monastic state which currently includes 20 monasteries, is governed by a special status and is a self-governing part of the Greek state.

WHERE?

- Autonomous Monastic State of Mount Athos. Central Macedonia.

WHEN?

- 9th c.: the first hermits settle on the Athos peninsula.
- 963: establishment of the first monastery on Mount Athos, the Megisti Lavra.
- 10th c.: establishment of the great monasteries and emergence of Mount Athos as an important center of Orthodox monachism.
- 15th c. onwards: Mount Athos remains an important Orthodox center, despite the Ottoman occupation.



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



BYZANTINE
POST BYZANTINE
& MODERN PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
1988

criterion i

It uniquely combines natural beauty with artistic and architectural creation.

criterion V

It preserves examples of folk architecture and many agricultural and craft traditions.

criterion ii

It has greatly influenced the development of the ecclesiastical architecture and of the monumental painting.

criterion vi

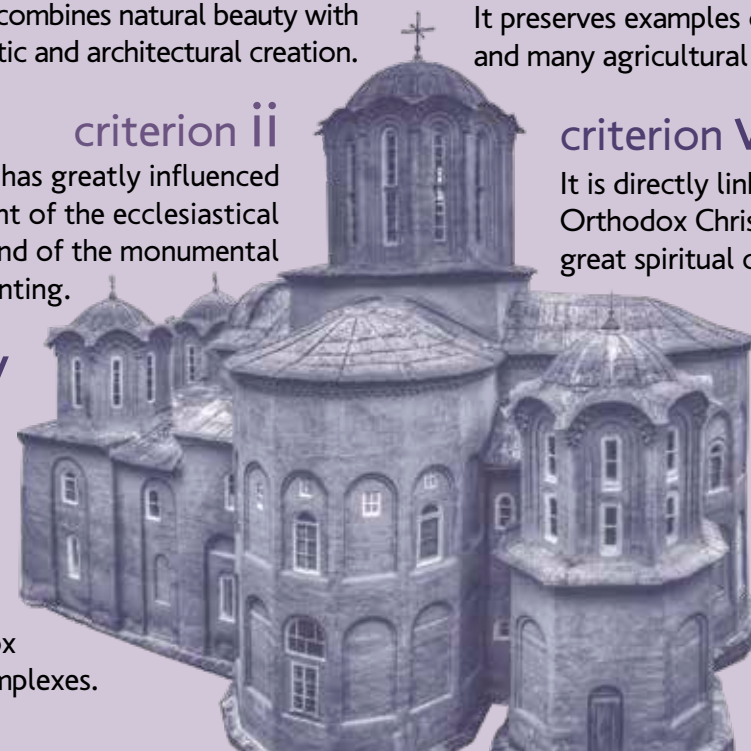
It is directly linked to the history of Orthodox Christianity and has been a great spiritual center since the 10th c.

criterion iv

The monasteries of Athos made a decisive contribution to shaping the formal layout of Orthodox monastic complexes.

criterion vii

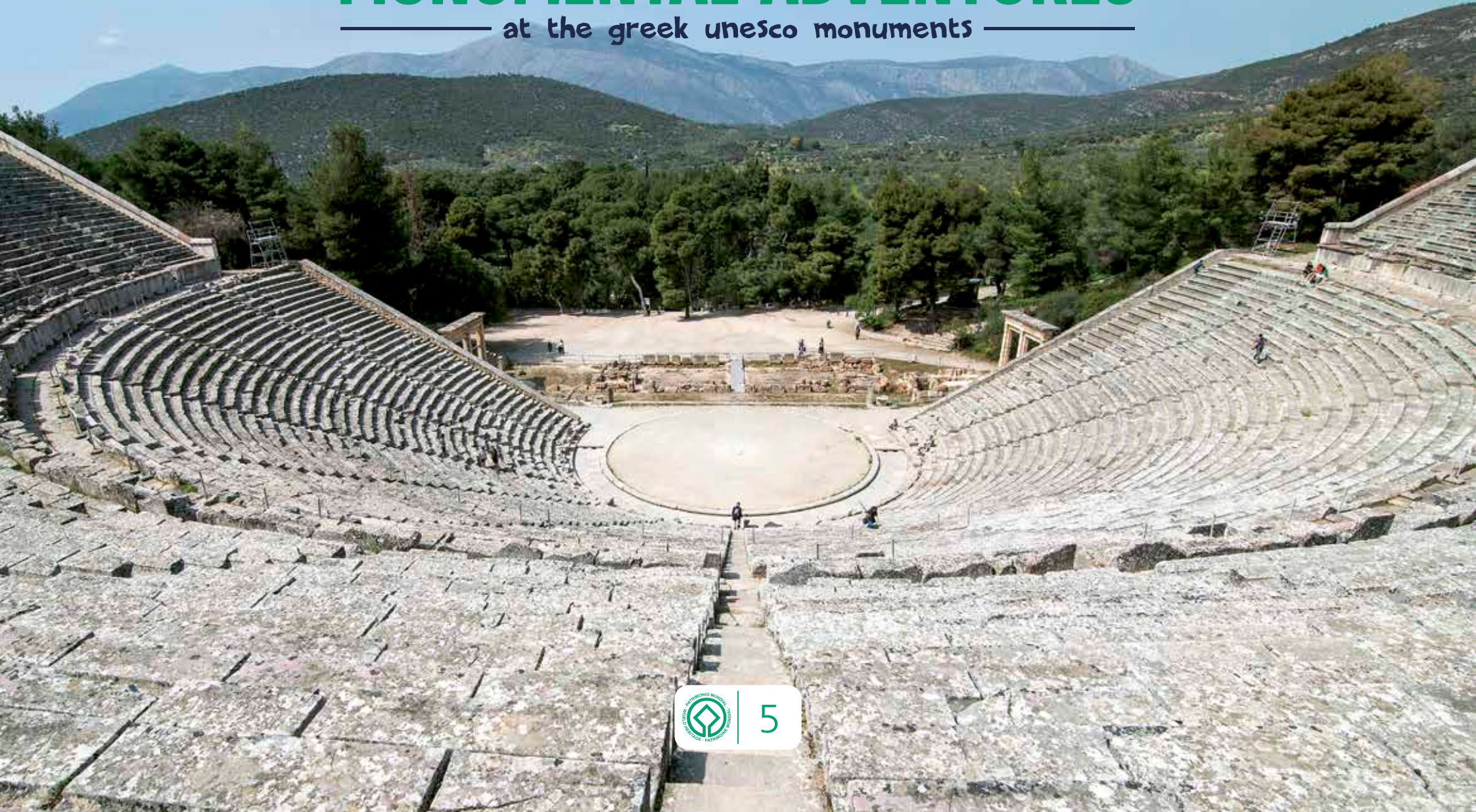
The outstanding preservation of Athos' natural resources is due to the continuation of applying traditional agricultural practices up to now.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



THE SANCTUARY OF ASKLEPIOS AT EPIDAUROS

The “Sanctuary of Apollo Maleatas and Asklepios” at Epidaurus...



WHAT?

- The sanctuary of the healing gods Apollo and Asklepios, the most important therapeutic center of antiquity.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Argolida, Peloponnese.

WHEN?

- 8th century BC: the worship of Apollo Maleatas as a healing god is introduced.
- 7th/6th century BC: parallel worship of Asklepios, also as a healer god, is introduced.
- 4th/3rd century BC: the golden era of the sanctuary of Asklepios.

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



CLASSICAL-HELLENISTIC-
ROMAN PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
1988

criterion i

The theatre of the sanctuary stands out for its unique design and perfect acoustics.

criterion ii

It was one of the most important healing centres in antiquity, which exerted great influence in the formation of the sanctuaries of Asklepios all around the Mediterranean.

criterion iii

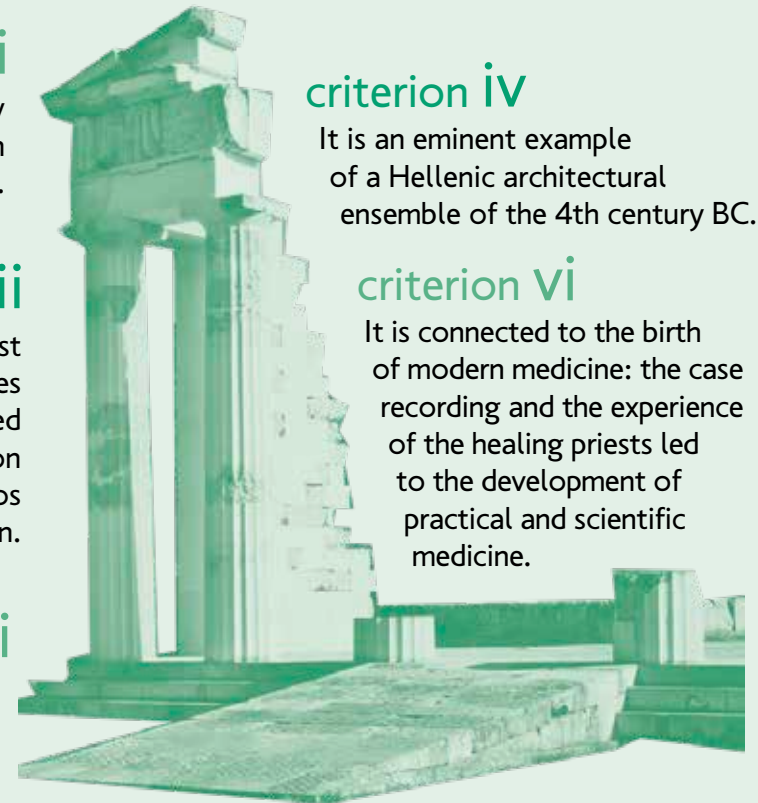
Bears exceptional testimony to the healing cults of the Hellenic and Roman worlds.

criterion iv

It is an eminent example of a Hellenic architectural ensemble of the 4th century BC.

criterion vi

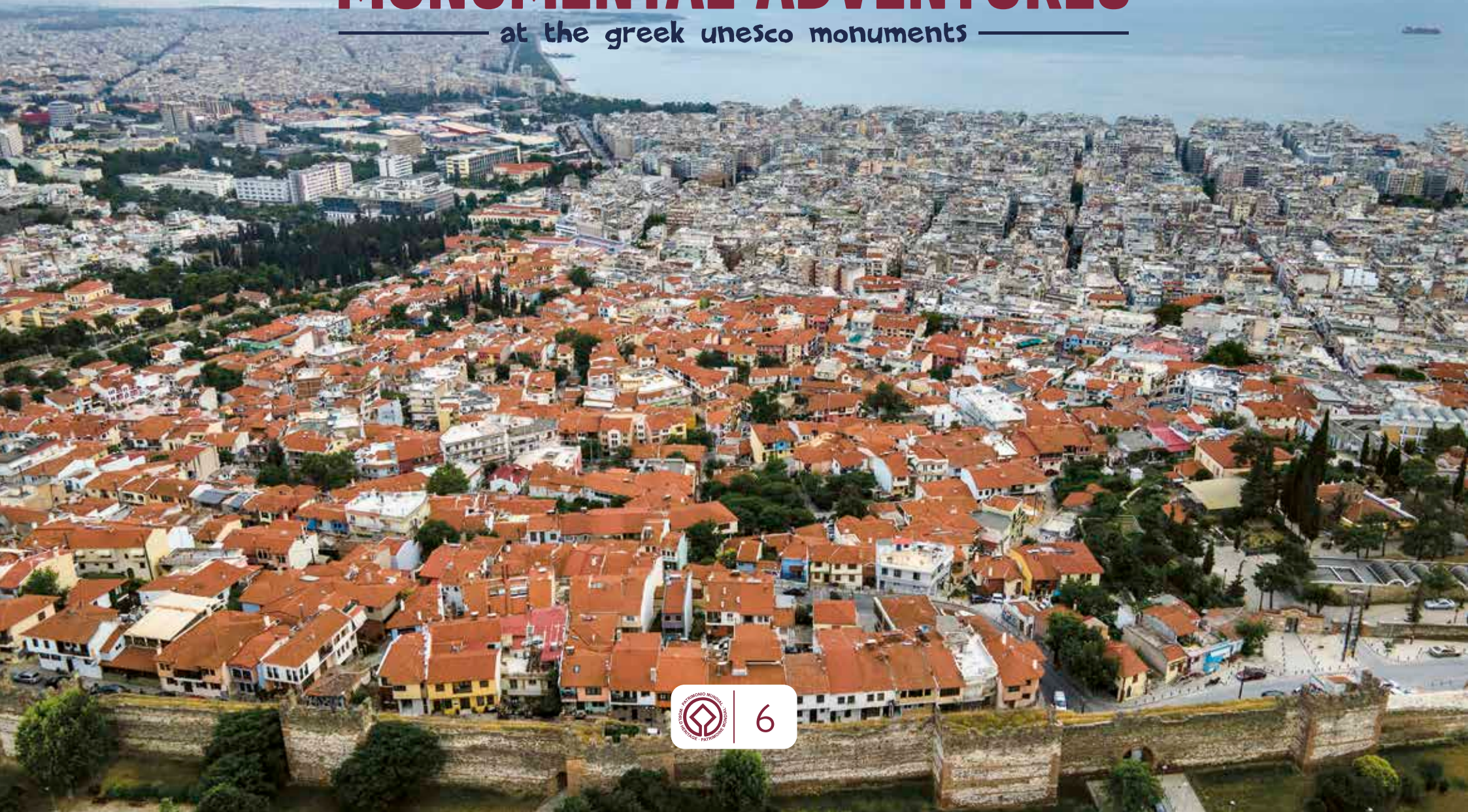
It is connected to the birth of modern medicine: the case recording and the experience of the healing priests led to the development of practical and scientific medicine.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



PALEOCHRISTIAN AND BYZANTINE MONUMENTS OF THESSALONIKI

The Co-reigning

WHAT?

- The second most important city of the Byzantine Empire after Constantinople.



WHERE?

- Metropolitan Municipality of Thessaloniki, Region of Central Macedonia.

WHEN?

- 316 BC: foundation of the city.
- 4th–6th c. AD.: construction of magnificent monuments.
- 9th–12th c. AD: great intellectual and economic growth.
- 14th c. AD: “Palaeologan Renaissance”, advances in sciences and the arts.

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



BYZANTINE
POST BYZANTINE
PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
1988

criterion i

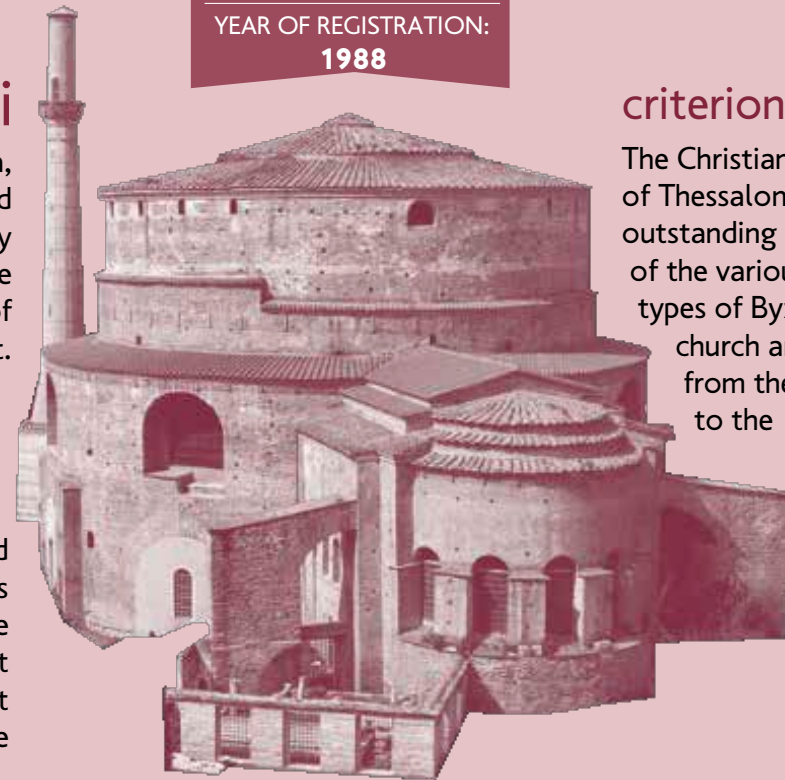
The mosaics of Rotonda, Saint Demetrios and Osios David (Monastery of Latomou) are masterpieces of paleochristian art.

criterion ii

The frescoes and mosaics of the churches posed great influence in the development of monumental art in the Byzantine and Slavic culture.

criterion iv

The Christian monuments of Thessaloniki are outstanding examples of the various architectural types of Byzantine church architecture from the 4th to the 15th c.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

— at the greek unesco monuments —



METEORA

*the rocks
of heaven...*



WHAT?

- The monastic community of Meteora.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Trikala, Region of Thessaly.

WHEN?

- late 11th–early 12th c.: settlement of the first monks in Meteora.
- mid-14th century: foundation of most of the monasteries.
- 16th century: a period of prosperity for the monasteries.

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



LATE BYZANTINE
POST BYZANTINE
PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
1988

criterion i

The “hanging in midair” monasteries represent the ingenious architectural transformation of an area into a retreat, a place of meditation and prayer.

criterion iv

The monasteries are excellent examples of monastic architecture.

criterion v

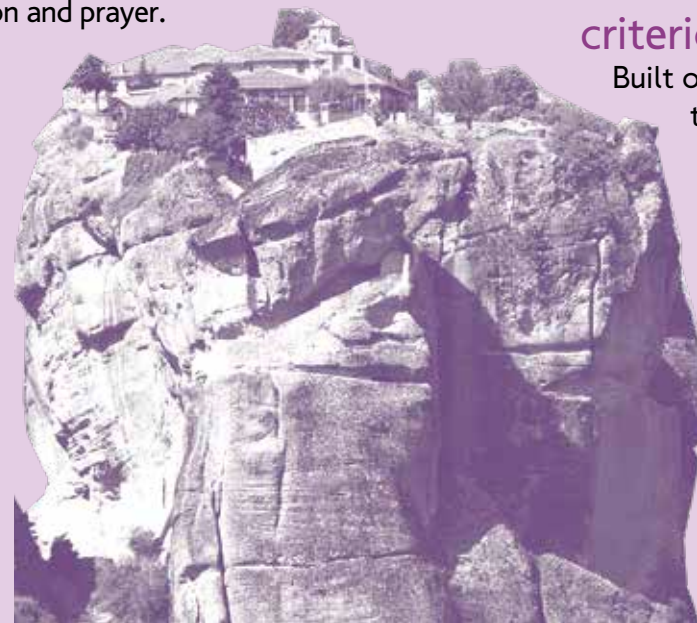
Built on inaccessible cliffs, the monasteries reflect the traditional simple and ascetic lifestyle of the monks.

criterion ii

The frescoes of the Cretan Theophanes had a strong influence on post-Byzantine painting.

criterion vii

The rocks of Meteora form a rare and uniquely beautiful landscape.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

— at the greek unesco monuments —



THE MEDIEVAL CITY OF RHODES

The City of Knights

WHAT?

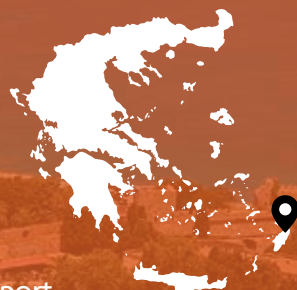
- Medieval fortified city-port of the Aegean.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Rhodes, Region of South Aegean.

WHEN?

- 1309: conquest by the Knights of St John.
- 1522: conquest by the Ottomans.



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



BYZANTINE
POST BYZANTINE
PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
1988

criteria ii

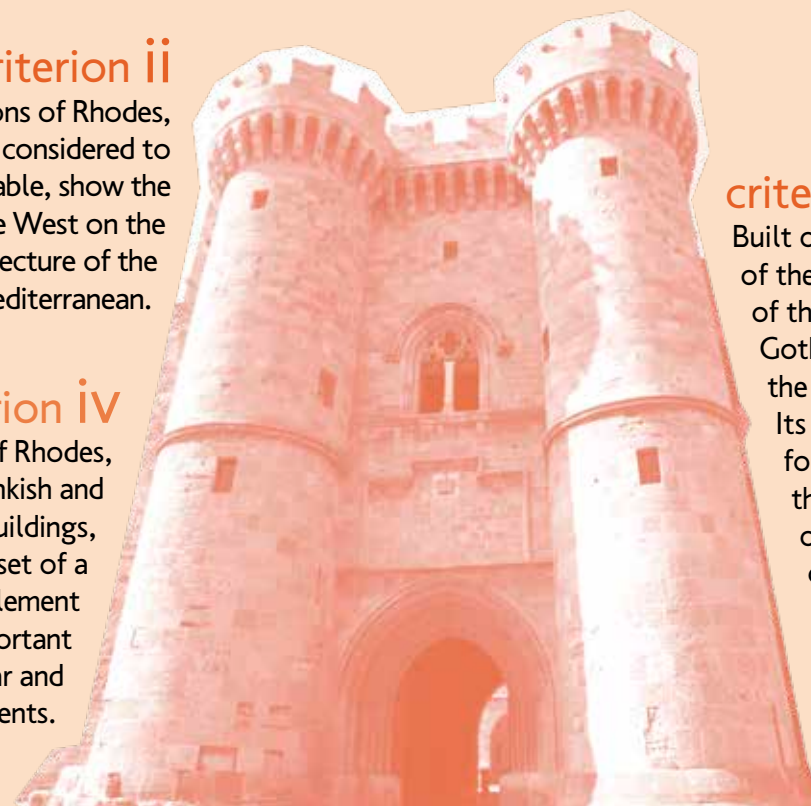
The fortifications of Rhodes, a city long considered to be impregnable, show the influence of the West on the military architecture of the Eastern Mediterranean.

criteria iv

The old city of Rhodes, with its Frankish and Ottoman buildings, is a unique set of a fortified settlement with important religious, secular and military monuments.

criteria V

Built on the northern tip of the island, Rhodes is one of the most beautiful Gothic-period cities in the Eastern Mediterranean. Its main harbour was formerly adorned by the Colossus, work of Chares of Lindos; one of the Seven Wonders of the World.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF OLYMPIA

*Ting-a-ling
victorious⁴!*



WHAT?

- The most important Panhellenic sanctuary of Zeus and the cradle of the Olympic Games.

WHERE?

- Prefecture of Ilia, Region of West Greece (Peloponnese).

WHEN?

- 10th c. BC: Olympia is established as a place of worship of Zeus.
- 7th c. BC-end of 4th c. BC: the peak of the Panhellenic sanctuary and games.

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

criterion i

The sanctuary contained many masterpieces of ancient sculpture, such as the gold and ivory statue of Zeus, one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.



CLASSICAL PERIOD
YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
1989

criterion iv

It is an outstanding example of a great Panhellenic sanctuary, with its multiple functions: religious, political and social.

criterion ii

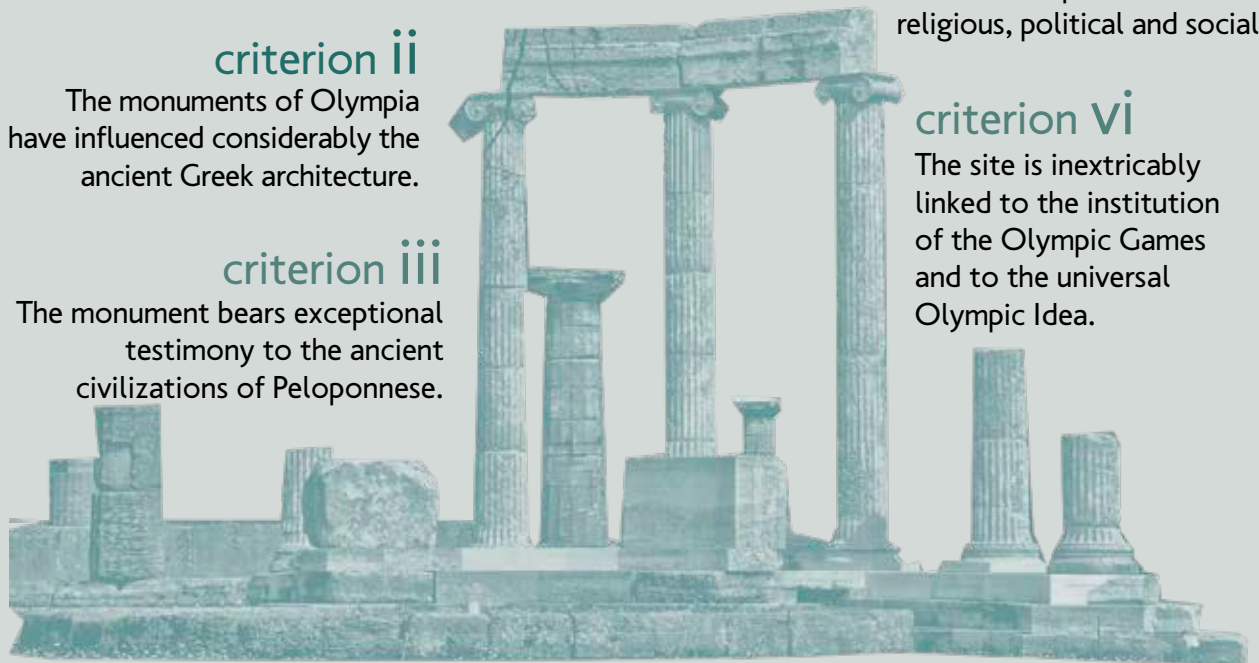
The monuments of Olympia have influenced considerably the ancient Greek architecture.

criterion iii

The monument bears exceptional testimony to the ancient civilizations of Peloponnese.

criterion vi

The site is inextricably linked to the institution of the Olympic Games and to the universal Olympic Idea.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF MYSTRAS

"I will tell a tale to thee rehearse, a tale of import mighty..."²



WHAT?

- The castle city of Mystras, capital of the Byzantine *Despotate of Morea*.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Laconia, Region of the Peloponnese.

WHEN?

- 1249: The castle was founded by the Franks.
- 1262: Mystras goes under the Byzantine rule and flourishes.
- 1460: under Ottoman rule.

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



BYZANTINE PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1989

criterion ii

The architecture and the frescoes of its monuments influenced the art of the period. Here lived distinguished scholars who spread Greek culture to the West, contributing to the development of the European Renaissance.

criterion iii

It is a unique example of a late Byzantine urban centre.

criterion iv

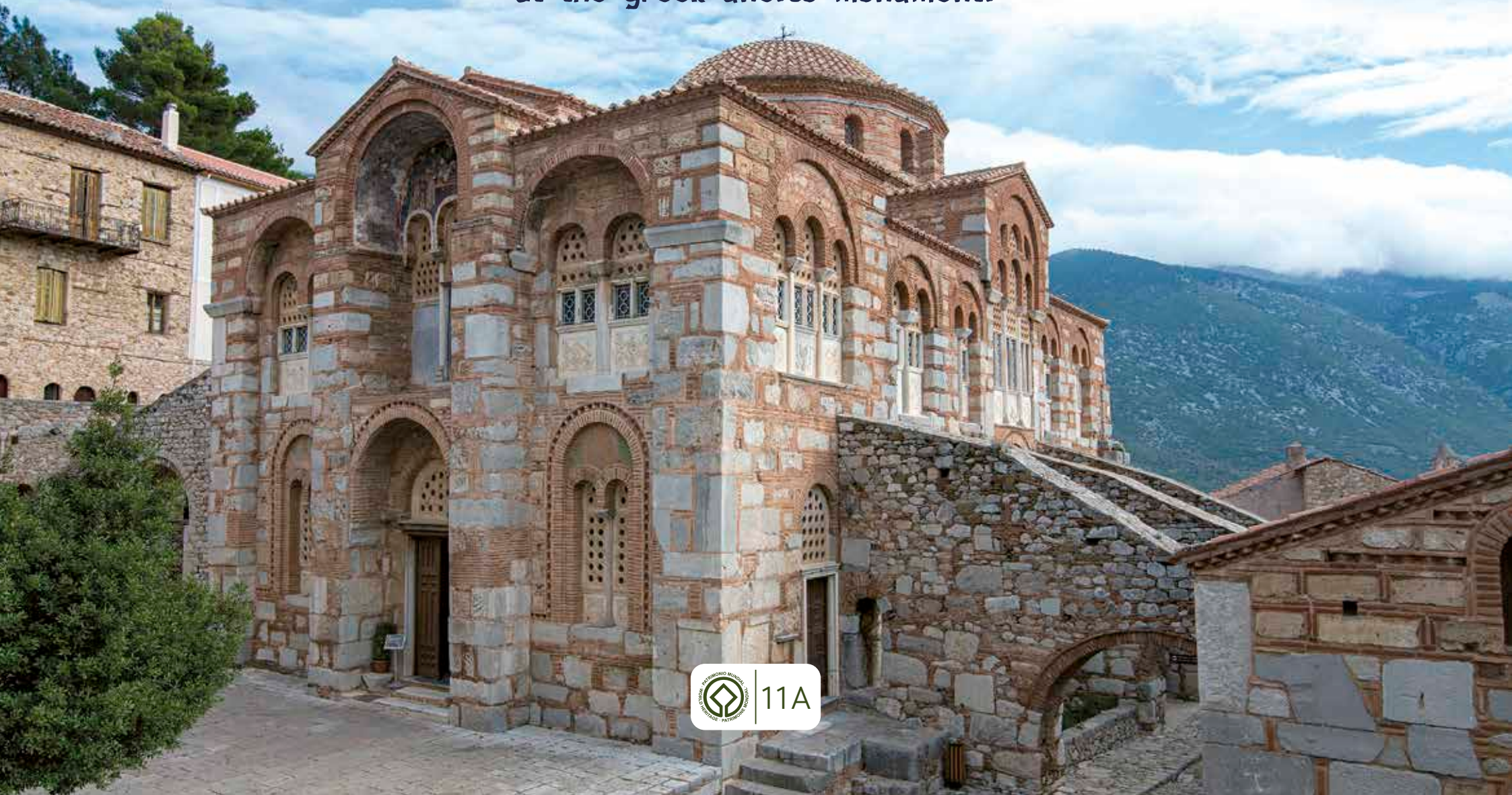
It is one of the best-preserved castle cities, with fortifications, urban design and outstanding secular and ecclesiastical buildings.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



MONASTERY OF HOSIOS LOUKAS IN BOEOTIA

Imperial gifts

WHAT?

- Three important Byzantine monastic complexes.



WHERE?

- Monastery of Hosios Loukas: Regional Unit of Boeotia, Region of Sterea Ellada.
- Nea Moni: Regional Unit of Chios, Region of North Aegean.
- Monastery of Daphni: Region of Attica.

WHEN?

- 10th–11th century.

The monuments were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List based on the following criteria:



BYZANTINE PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

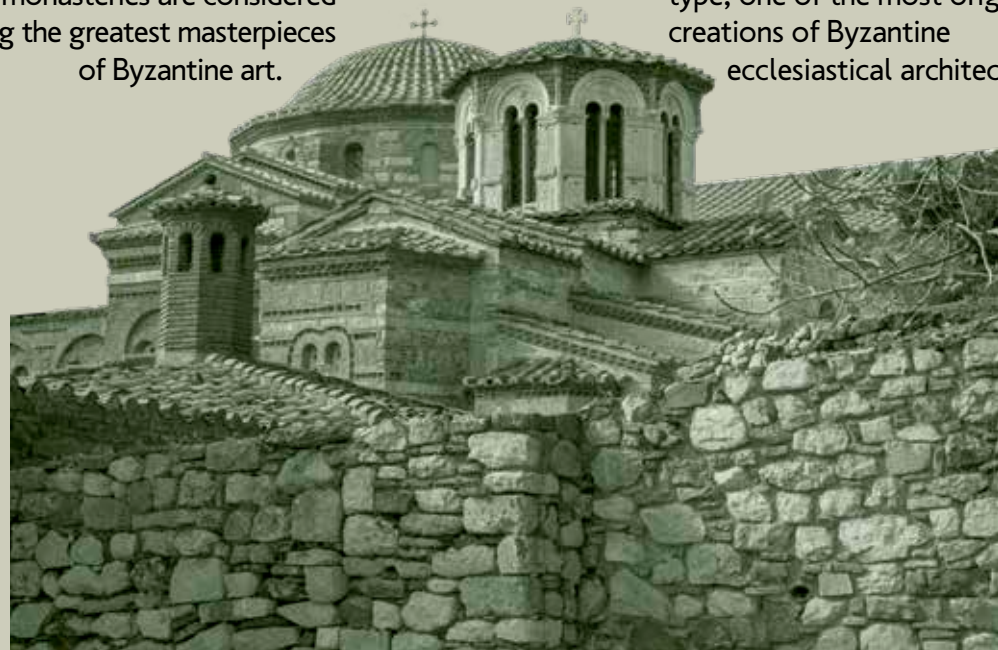
1990

criterion i

The mosaics of exceptional quality that adorn the walls of the katholika in these three monasteries are considered among the greatest masterpieces of Byzantine art.

criterion iv

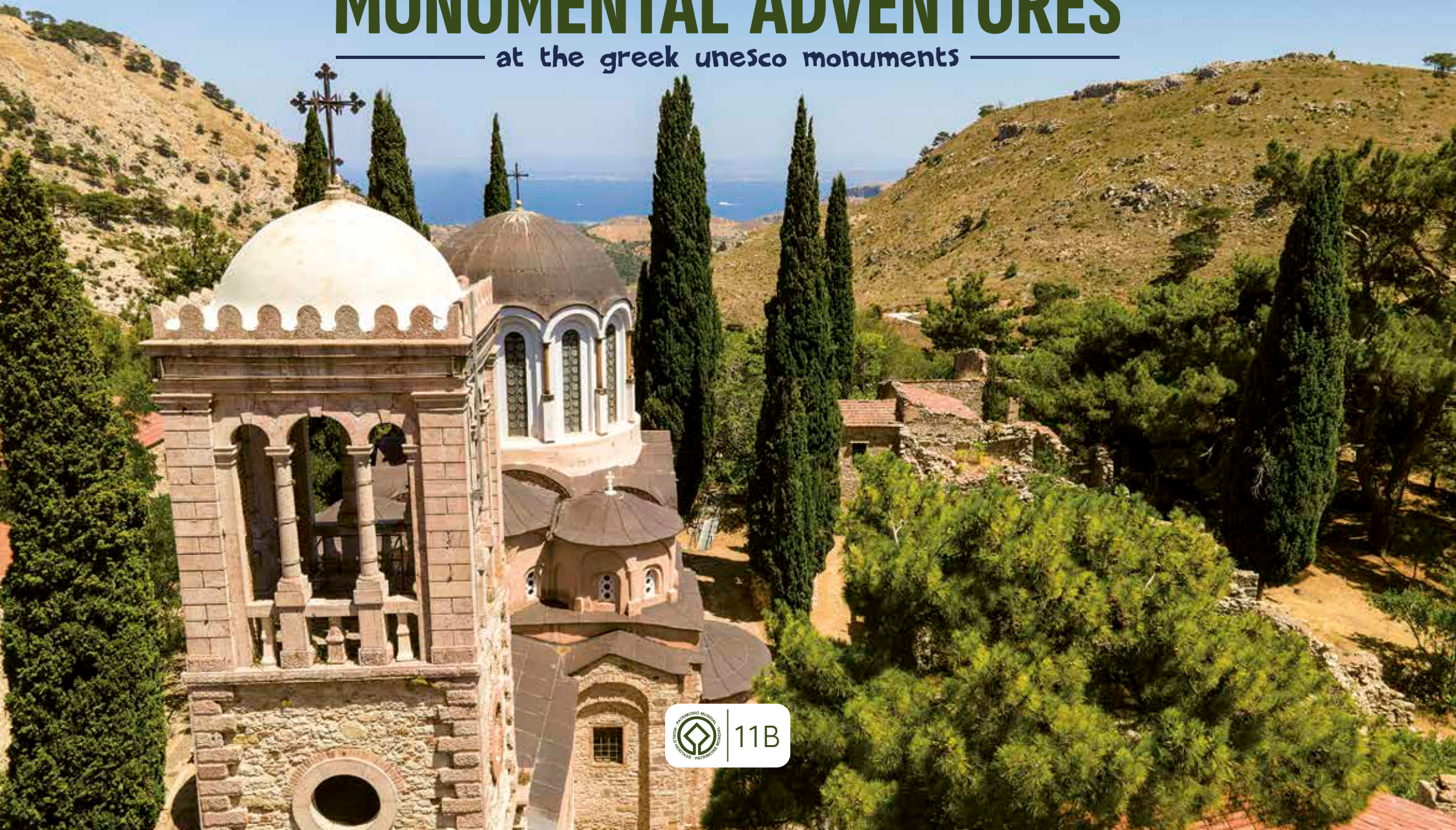
The katholika of the three monasteries are prime examples of the octagonal architectural type, one of the most original creations of Byzantine ecclesiastical architecture.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



MONASTERY OF NEA MONI IN CHIOS

Imperial gifts

WHAT?

- Three important Byzantine monastic complexes.

WHERE?

- Monastery of Hosios Loukas: Regional Unit of Boeotia, Region of Sterea Ellada.
- Nea Moni: Regional Unit of Chios, Region of North Aegean.
- Monastery of Daphni: Region of Attica.

WHEN?

- 10th–11th century.



The monuments were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List based on the following criteria:



BYZANTINE PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

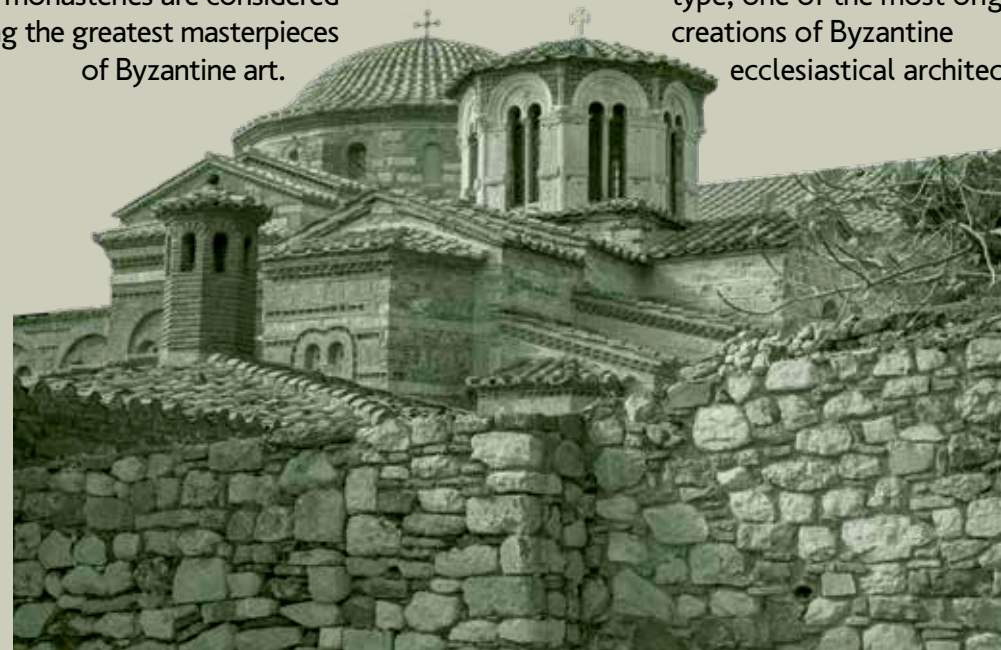
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criterion iv

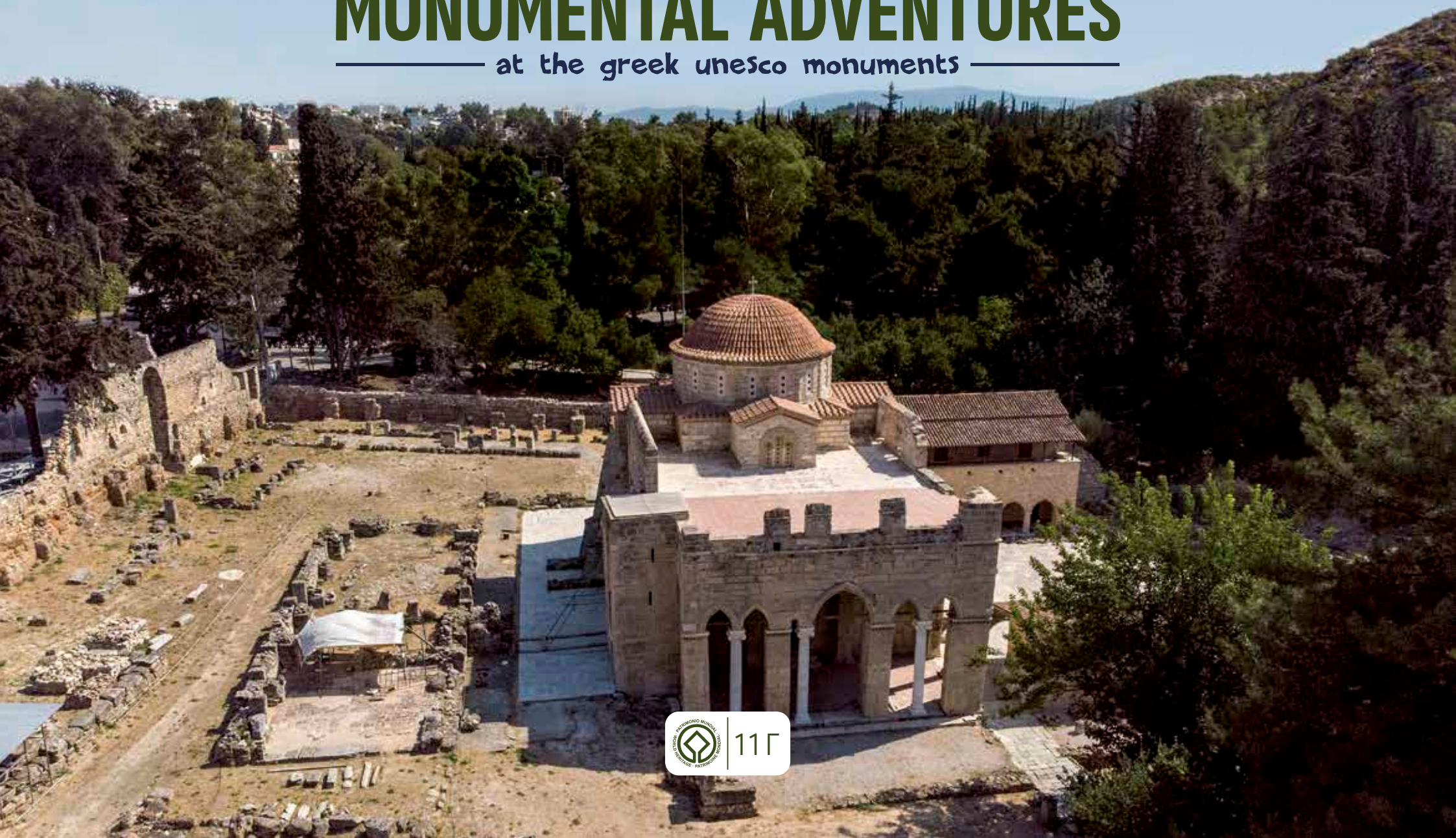
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MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



MONASTERY OF DAPHNI IN ATTICA

Imperial gifts

WHAT?

- Three important Byzantine monastic complexes.



WHERE?

- Monastery of Hosios Loukas: Regional Unit of Boeotia, Region of Sterea Ellada.
- Nea Moni: Regional Unit of Chios, Region of North Aegean.
- Monastery of Daphni: Region of Attica.

WHEN?

- 10th–11th century.

The monuments were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List based on the following criteria:



BYZANTINE PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

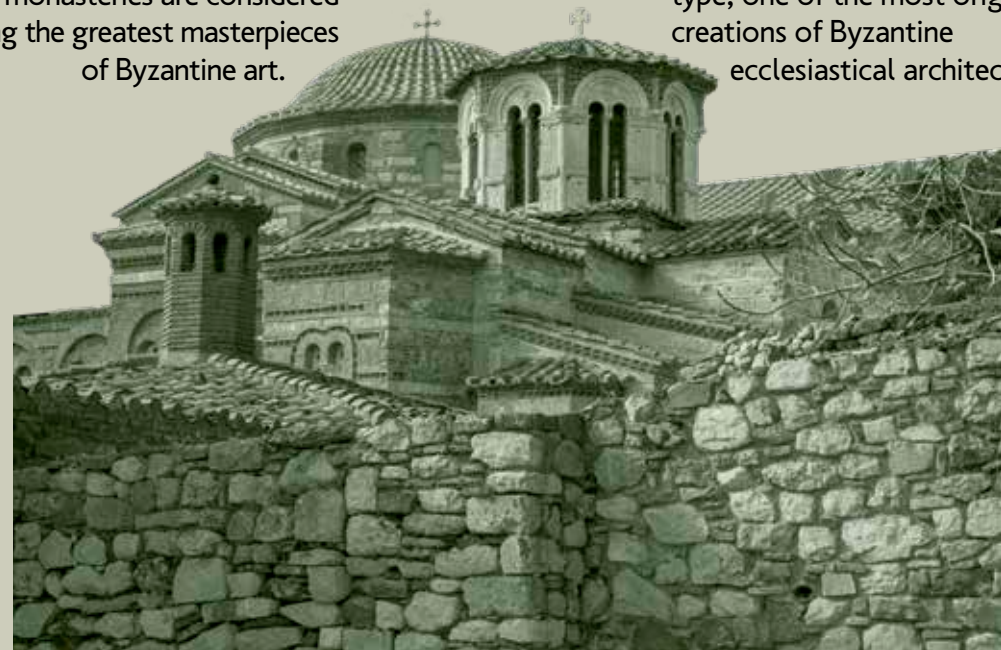
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criterion iv

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MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

— at the greek unesco monuments —



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF 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.

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



CLASSICAL PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1990

criterion ii

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

criterion iii

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



criterion iv

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

criterion v

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



MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments

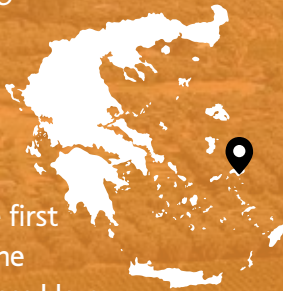


PYTHAGOREION AND HERAION OF SAMOS

“the greatest of all city-states, Greek or barbarian»⁶

WHAT?

- The ancient city of Samos (today's Pythagoreion) with the first artificial harbour and the Sanctuary of the goddess Hera with its grand temple.



WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Samos, Region of North Aegean.

WHEN?

- 6th c. BC: times of prosperity.
- 391/392 AD: the cult of Hera at Heraion ceases.

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



CLASSICAL PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1992

criterion ii

The Heraion was a model for temples and public buildings all over the Greek world. The technological achievement of the Eupalinian aqueduct served as a model for other engineering projects.



criterion iii

Samos was the leading maritime and mercantile power in the Greek world in the 6th c. BC. The surviving monuments are a testament to a prosperous city with strong cultural presence and an enviable urban organization.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF AIGAI (VERGINA)

“The Macedonian land”⁵

WHAT?

- The ancient city and cemetery of Aigai, which is the oldest and one of the most important centres of ancient Macedonia.



WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Imathia, Region of Central Macedonia.

WHEN?

- c. 1100 BC: first traces of habitation in the area.
- 6th–4th c. BC: the heyday of the city.

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



CLASSICAL PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1996

criterion i

The cemetery and the ancient city preserve unique masterpieces of architecture, miniature art, metallurgy and painting of the 4th c. BC.



criterion iii

Aigai is an excellent testimony to the transition from the classical *city-state* to the city of the Hellenistic and Roman period.



MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments

THE HISTORIC CENTRE (CHORA) OF PATMOS WITH THE MONASTERY OF SAINT JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN AND THE CAVE OF THE APOCALYPSE

A sacred place



WHAT?

- The historic preserved settlement of Chora with the Monastery of St John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse in Patmos.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Dodecanese, South Aegean Region.

WHEN?

- Late 1st c. AD: the Book of Revelation is written.
- 1088: establishment of the Monastery of St John the Theologian.

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



BYZANTINE
POST BYZANTINE
MODERN PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
1999

criterion iii

The settlement of Chora is uninterruptedly evolved since the 12th c. There are still religious ceremonies that remain unchanged since the Byzantine years.

criterion iv

The Monastery, together with the Cave and the settlement make an excellent example of a traditional Greek Orthodox pilgrimage centre of great architectural interest.



criterion vi

The Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse commemorate the evangelist and beloved disciple of Jesus, John, who composed two of the most sacred works of Christianity (Fourth Gospel and the Revelation).



MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF MYCENAE

Rich in gold Mycenae¹

WHAT?

- Mycenae: the seat of the legendary King Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War, and the largest palatial center of the Mycenaean period.
- Tiryns: important fortified acropolis and urban centre of the Mycenaean period.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Argolis, Region of the Peloponnese.

WHEN?

- 16th–15th c. BC: beginnings of the Mycenaean civilisation.
- 14th–13th c. BC: heyday of the Mycenaean civilisation.



The monuments were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List based on the following criteria:



MYCENAEAN PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1999

criterion i

The Mycenaean citadels are of excellent architectural and planning conception.

criterion ii

The Mycenaean buildings impacted the development of classical Greek architecture.

criterion iii

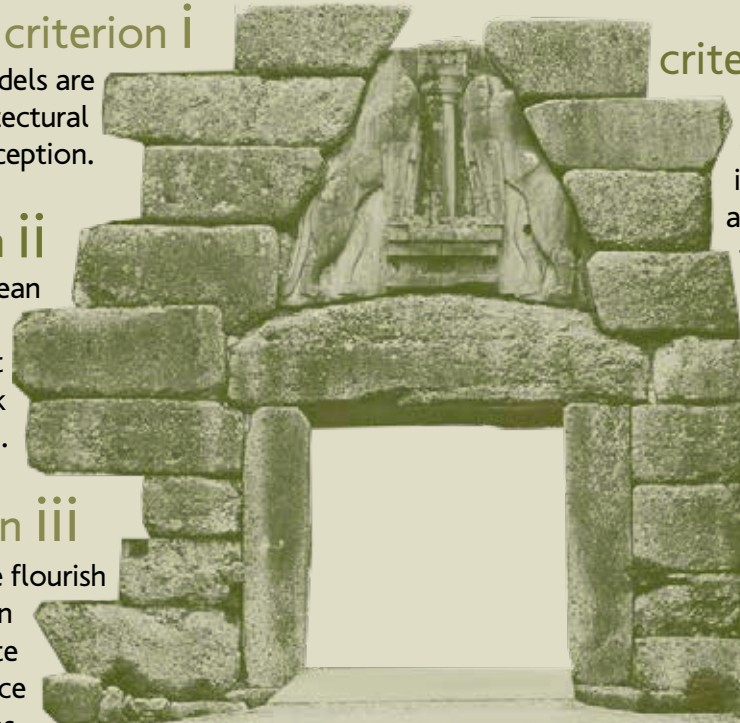
They reveal the flourish of the Mycenaean world and constitute unique evidence for the early stages of Greek civilization.

criterion iv

The achievements of the Mycenaeans in the arts, architecture and technology laid the foundations of European civilization.

criterion vi

The spirit of the Mycenaean world is contained in Homer's work, which had a catalytic influence on European literature and art.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF TIRYNS

Rich in gold Mycenae¹

WHAT?

- Mycenae: the seat of the legendary King Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War, and the largest palatial center of the Mycenaean period.
- Tiryns: important fortified acropolis and urban centre of the Mycenaean period.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Argolis, Region of the Peloponnese.

WHEN?

- 16th–15th c. BC: beginnings of the Mycenaean civilisation.
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MYCENAEAN PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:

1999

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criterion iii

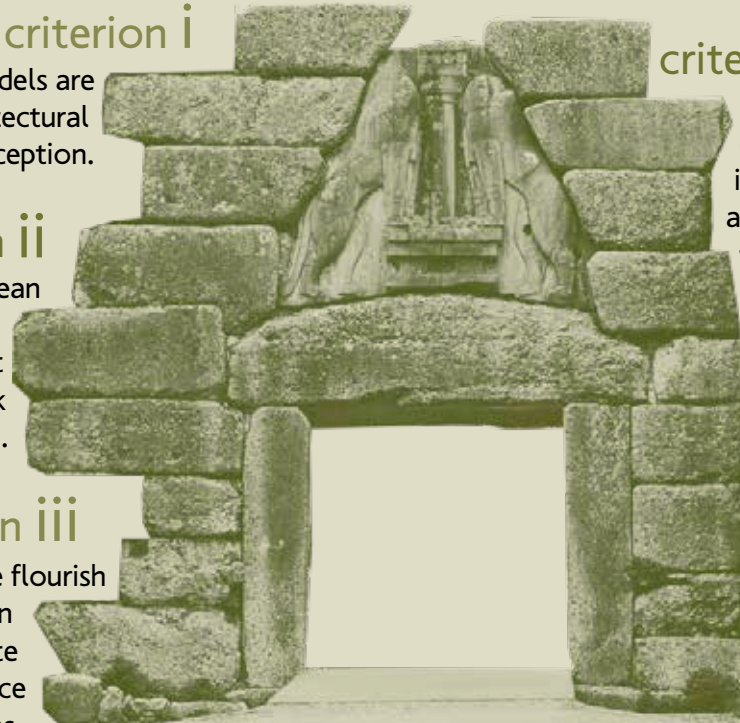
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MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

at the greek unesco monuments



OLD TOWN OF CORFU

*The gateway
to Venice*



WHAT?

- One of the most important fortified port cities of the Mediterranean.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Corfu, Region of Ionian Islands.

WHEN?

- 1386 – 1797: For about 400 years, Corfu was the most important possession of the Most Serene Republic of Venice in the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas.

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

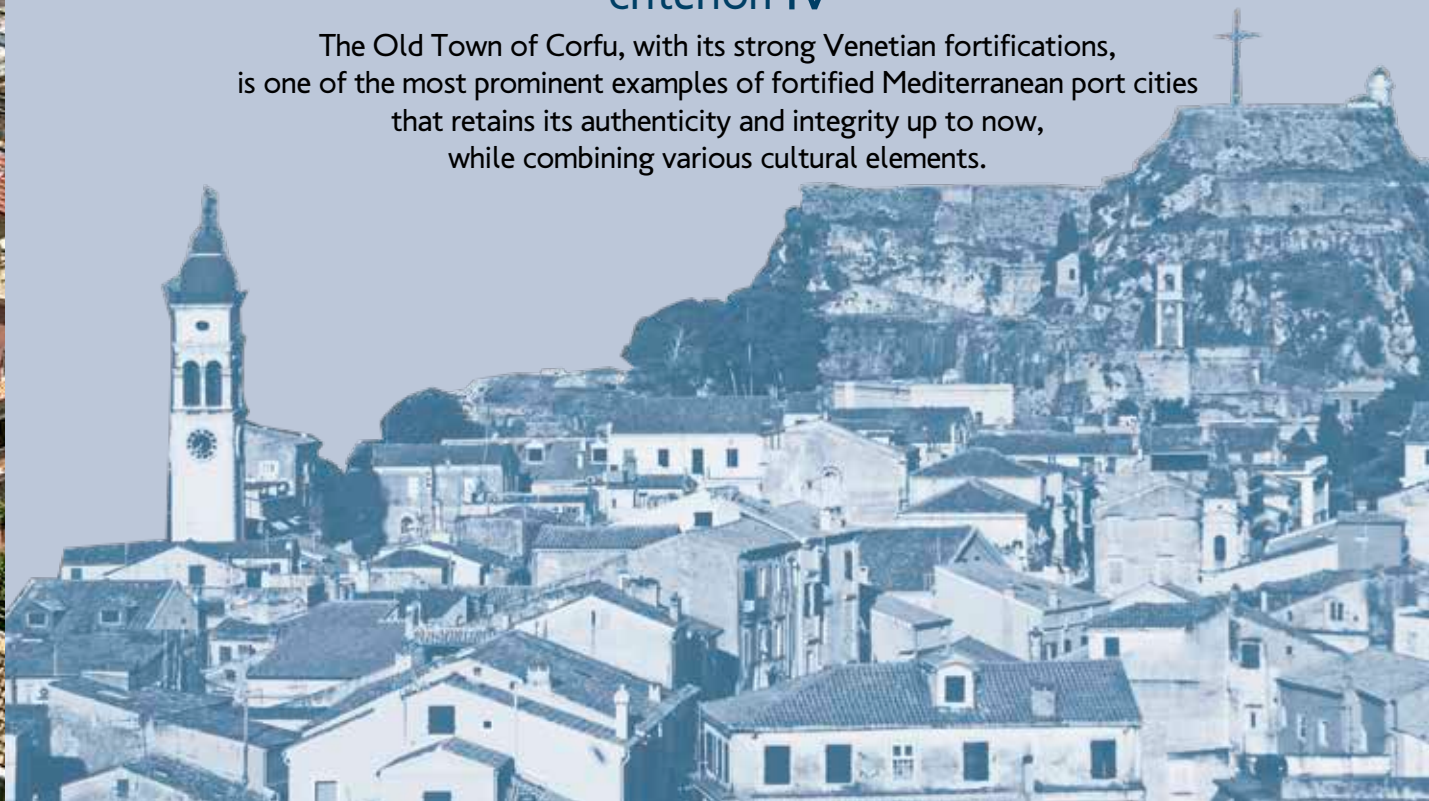


BYZANTINE
POST BYZANTINE
MODERN PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
2007

criterion iv

The Old Town of Corfu, with its strong Venetian fortifications, is one of the most prominent examples of fortified Mediterranean port cities that retains its authenticity and integrity up to now, while combining various cultural elements.





MONUMENTAL ADVENTURES

— at the greek unesco monuments —



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF PHILIPPI

*“We shall
see you
in Philippi⁵”*



WHAT?

- A flourishing urban centre of the Roman and early Christian period.

WHERE?

- Regional Unit of Kavala, Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.

WHEN?

- 357/6 BC: Philip II founds the city.
- second half of the 1st c. BC to 6th c. AD: The city flourishes

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



ROMAN
EARLY CHRISTIAN
PERIOD

YEAR OF REGISTRATION:
2016



criterion iii

It is an exceptional testimony to the incorporation of regions into the Roman Empire and to the development of the Roman city after the establishment of Christianity.

criterion iv

The imposing monuments of Philippi are typical examples of Roman and early Christian architecture.

The ten points of excellence!

Which monuments are of “Outstanding Universal Value”?

Every monument that is inscribed on the World Heritage List meets one or more of the following criteria:

Criterion i

It is a masterpiece of human creative genius.

Criterion ii

It exhibits an important interchange of human values over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in **architecture** or **technology**, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

Criterion iii

It bears a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a **civilization that is living or that has disappeared**.

Criterion iv

It is an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) **significant stages in human history and creation**.

Criterion v

It is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use, which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or **human interaction with the environment**, especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

Criterion vi

It is directly or tangibly associated with **events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs**, or with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

Criterion vii

It contains superlative **natural phenomena** or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

Criterion viii

It is an outstanding example representing **major stages of earth's history**, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.

Criterion ix

It is an outstanding example representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, water ecosystems and **communities of plants and animals**.

Criterion x

It contains the most significant and **representative natural habitats** for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.



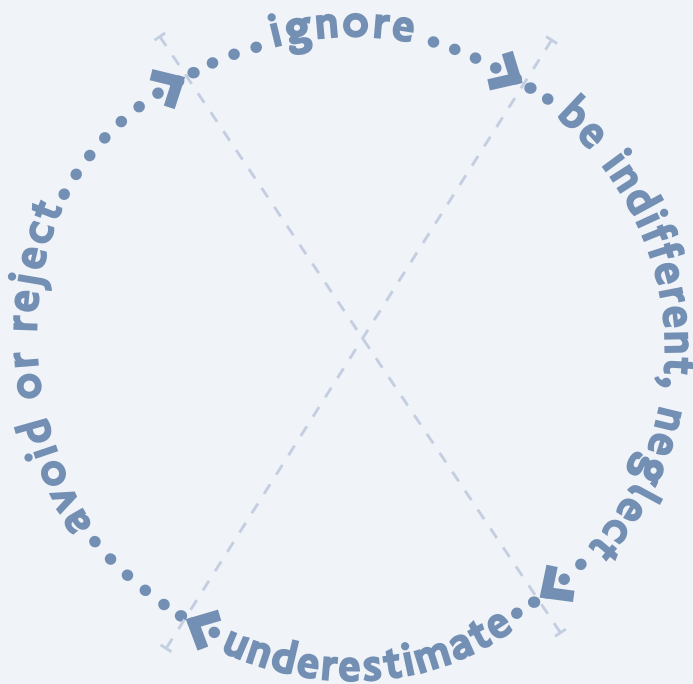
The World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Monuments contributes in the acceptance and respect of the cultures of the entire planet and is constantly enriched.



There is no inheritance without heirs!

The vicious circle

At the opposite end of the “virtuous circle” is the “vicious circle”, which is activated when...



The virtuous circle of cultural heritage

Natural and cultural heritage is in our hands. We all have a responsibility to protect it, to pass it on to future generations. The cultural heritage circle depicts in a simple way how one positive action leads to the next, so that the past and the present become part of the future⁵.

