



Information about the mountain	
Name of the mountain	Olympus
Country	Greece
Region	Central Macedonia and Thessaly
Altitude	2.918 m
Surface area	approximately 600 Km ²
Surface of protected area	236,36 km ²
Name of local organization in charge of management	Management Agency of Olympus National Park
Number of municipalities	Four (Dion-Olympus, Katerini, Ellassona, Tempi)
Institutional recognition	National Park Establishment: <i>Royal Decree 20/09-06-1938</i> UNESCO, Declaration “Olympus a Biosphere Reserve”: 15-12-1981 National Park Declaration: Law 1650/1986 Declaration of Olympus as archaeological and historical site: 10-07-1985 Declaration of Pierian Olympus as archaeological and historical site: 28-12-2011 Declaration of Thessalian Olympus as archaeological and historical site: 24-06-1987 OLYMPUS SCI / SPA GR 1250001 - NATURA 2000 NETWORK OLYMPUS NATIONAL PARK GR 1250005 - NATURA 2000 NETWORK KATO OLYMPUS – KALLIPEYKI SCI GR 1420001 - NATURA 2000 NETWORK The European Community has included Olympus in the list of “The Most Important Bird areas (IBA) of the E.C.”
Contact details	
Website	www.pieriki-anaptixiaki.gr & www.olympusfd.gr
Address	16th Oktobriou 17b, Katerini, 60100, Greece
Telephone number	+30 23510 27541
E-mail	pieriki@otenet.gr
Project details	
Project web-site & social media	www.emblematic.interreg-med.eu & www.emblematic-med.eu @EMbleMatIc.MED @EMbleMatIc_MED @emblematic_med EMbleMatIc



Olympus

An emblematic place where the 12 gods oversee people’s respect for the environment.

The legendary and emblematic Mount Olympus, the most sacred of Greek mountains, is famous throughout the world for its history, its cultural significance and its ecological treasures as well as its place in mythology. Home to the 12 ancient Greek Gods, Olympus’ praises were signed from Homer’s time right up to the present days. Olympus is the highest mountain in the country, with an entire ecosystem lying within its preserved area. The proximity of the mountain to the sea, the picturesque co-existence between mountainous and sea landscape, the traditional villages of the surrounding area with exceptional architectural elements, create a potential tourist attraction. The massif of Mount Olympus forms a worldwide heritage. Citizens of Pieria, who live under its majestic shadow, feel fortunate that life in the region is so closely tied to this mythical mountain and make plans to develop the region, always with respect for man and the environment.



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



Proud Local People

"The gods have never gone away" you will hear people say at the foot of Olympus, making it clear that the prehistoric myth still overwhelms the inhabitants and is incorporated into their daily activities (culture, products, activities). The majesty of the mountain is brought to the conscience of inhabitants, since it has become a source of inspiration that has been expressed in fairy tales, proverbs, legends and folk songs that transferred from generation to generation, reciting the story, the prowess and the dynamic presence of the mountain. The mountain is completely tied to the soul of the inhabitants with their expression and daily activities, adding splendor to their experiences.

Reputation

Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece, the epicenter of Greek mythology and ancient Greek civilization, with international reputation, forms a worldwide attraction for visitors seeking to meet the Greek myth. Olympus distinguishes itself by its history dating back to prehistoric times (mythology) as residence of twelve gods and musician Orpheus. It was a symbol of great stature, embracing not only Greece but the world entirely; its universal symbolism has been preserved until today. Moreover, the variations in the relief, the rare flora and fauna and generally the rich aesthetic value of the landscape greatly contribute to spread the reputation of the mountain. It is not by chance that the 105 years' celebration of the 1st ascent in the highest peak had a dedicated Google Doodle in August 2018.

Legends and Myths

The Olympus in whole has been declared as an archaeological and historical place in order to preserve its monumental and historical physiognomy. The shape and the colour of the mountain, its rare beauty and the awe it aroused in the first inhabitants of the area when it appeared through the mist and the clouds led them to call Olympus the home of the gods. Thus Zeus and Hera, their siblings Hestia, Dimitra, Poseidon and their seven children (Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Hermes, Ares, Aphrodite and Hephaestus) the famous 12 Gods where honoured particularly in the city of Dias, ancient Dion, the holy city of the Macedonians, which is located in the foothills of Mount Olympus.

Power of Inspiration

The history and majesty of Olympus imposed it not only on the conscience of the Greeks but also of the entire world. Sculptures, paintings, decorations related with the Olympus Gods can be found as masterpieces in several museums and exhibitions within Greece and worldwide. The magnificent mountain inspired the works of many people; poets (as Odysseas Elytis and Aggelos Sikelianos), writers, engravers and painters (as Vasilis Ithakisios) composers (as Vaggelis Papathanasiou with "Mythodia") but also the folk songs of the anonymous people. Moreover, symbolism of Olympus as a "peak" has inspired much of cinema and television (i.e. film "Olympus Has Fallen").

Mediterranean Cultural Identity

The cultural identity of the wider Olympus region is highlighted by a series of cultural and local religious events that visitors can experience throughout the year, completing the contemporary cultural face of the region. The most outstanding cultural activity is Olympus Festival which has been organized since 1972, during the summer season, hosting important cultural events. All its events take place in sites of great historical and archaeological importance, such as the Ancient Theater of Dion and the Castle of Platamonas. Important sports events as "Olympus Marathon" are also organized in the area, with the participation of athletes from all over the country and abroad.

Picturesque Landscape

Olympus Mountain starts from the sea providing a scenic mountainous landscape. High peaks Mytikas and Thronos ridge combined with the sheer ravines, imposing crests, the verdant Enipeas gorge and the view of the Aegean (Thermaikos Gulf) create scenes of unique beauty. Impressive slopes, dense vegetation with verdant mountain peaks, mountaineering paths, wildflowers, beeches, plane trees, clear waters forming small waterfalls, wooden bridges to facilitate the passage over the river make up a wonderful natural environment. Olympus National Park vibrates with life and offers a terrain of infinite variety which fascinates lovers of mountain routes.

Sustainability and Anthropogenic Environment

Olympus is characterized as a National Park and special legislation forbids any kind of exploitation on the eastern side of the mountain, on an area of approximately 40,000 acres (the Park core). A wider area around the core was designated as a "peripheral zone" which management and exploitation were re-organised to prevent any negative impact to its protected core area. Olympus National Park Management Agency is the body responsible of the systematic monitoring of the environmental parameters of the protected area. The continuous efforts for urban development along with the preservation of the Olympus tradition and the satisfactory environmental infrastructure of the area, compose an overall image of integrated operational space, which offers all necessary conditions for development of the area and of the local economy in a sustainable way.

Particular Ecosystem

National Park of Olympus is considered one of the richest flora regions in Greece, with about 1,700 species and subspecies that represent some 25% of Greek flora. Out of them, 187 are characterized as significant, 56 are Greek endemic and of them 23 are local endemic and 16 are rare in Greece having mainly their spread limits within Northern Greece. Jankaeheldreichii, a plant relic of the Ice Age, is of particular interest for the botanists. Moreover, 32 species of mammals have been recorded, including wild goat (Rupicapra rupicapra), 108 species of birds, some amphibians and a vast number of butterflies.

Historic Places

Significant historic places could be found in Olympus' area. Dion, a sacred Macedonian city dedicated to Dias, at the foot of the mountain, flourished between the 5th century B.C. and the 5th century A.C. There the visitor can find an extended archaeological park, the ancient theater in the south of the city and the Archaeological Museum. In addition, Piblia and Leivithra are two more ancient cities near Olympus which are closely related to the legend of Orpheus and the Orphic Secret ceremonies. Moreover, in Olympus' area there is the Castle of Platamonas, a castle city of the mid-byzantine period (10th century), along with several Christian monuments, monasteries and chapels.