



ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MUSEUM  
OF THESSALONIKI

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN GREECE

### A 10 DAY HANDS-ON EXPLORATION OF NORTHERN GREECE

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THESSALONIKI, in collaboration with the Municipality of Thessaloniki, is for the first time, offering to university departments of archaeology and to interested museums the unique opportunity to bring their own groups for an expertly guided introduction to the archaeology of Northern Greece and its most valued antiquities. This opportunity is offered through hands-on photography of these locations and items. This is not a tour, but a collaboration of professionals who will view firsthand the impressive sites and museums with those who have excavated, photographed, and worked to conserve these priceless finds.

Groups will be led by a museum archaeologist, meeting archaeologists at each location, often viewing recent finds not yet on display to the public. They will enter the workshops that work to restore this invaluable evidence of Greek culture and

history and will receive guidance from one of the most renowned archaeological photographers in how to best record such finds (in situ and in the studio).

#### Goals of the trip:

- Acquaintance with the most important archaeological sites of Central Macedonia.
- Basic information about the technical aspect of photography for personal/scientific use of archaeologists. Familiarization with the photographic equipment.
- Understanding of the requirements of a professional photographic shooting aiming at better collaboration between archaeologist and professional photographer.
- Practical exercise in many case studies

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THESSALONIKI

DAY 1 & 2



Established in 1912, this museum is the oldest in Macedonia, with important finds from throughout the area. The current building was completed in 1962 by renowned Greek architect Patroklos Karantinos and is considered a landmark, representing classic architectural modernism in Greece. The museum hosts 7 permanent exhibitions which cover the history and the archaeology of Macedonia, as well as the city of Thessaloniki, from the prehistoric era (10000 BC) through late antiquity (5th c. AD)

- Welcome by a representative of Municipality of Thessaloniki.
- Welcome – Introduction by the Director of Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki.
- Documentation and Conservation photography (in the laboratories of ΑΜΤΗ)
- Demonstration of basic studio equipment and demonstration of installation of non-professional photographic equipment for photographs during everyday work.
- Learning of the basic use of photographic lighting equipment.
- Learning of the use of scale, the importance of background color and point of view.
- Demonstration of professional shooting in studio conditions. Case studies: statues, metals, glass, ceramics etc.
- Specialized shootings (coins, macro photography).
- Demonstration of shooting outside studio, within the context of museum exhibitions, with and without artificial lighting. Case studies: mosaics, sarcophagus, altars (difficulties-solutions).

## DION

DAY 3



Built at the foot of mountain Olympus, the city of Dion was considered the sacred capital of the Macedonian kingdom and after Alexander the Great, of all of Greece. Still being actively excavated, the extensive site boasts well-conserved ancient walls surrounding the city, a central road bordered by a rich agora (administration center-marketplace), many important houses, two large public baths, two theaters, temples honoring Zeus Hypsistos (Mighty), Demeter, Persephone and Isis, as well as many other buildings of worship. A small, charming museum holds the hundreds of remarkable statues and items thus far uncovered here.

Introduction to Site Photography:

- Survey Photography
  - Photographs during active excavation
  - Photographs for publication
- Photographs for documentation of the site (as much information as is possible to reveal via film)
- Artistic Archaeological Photography
  - Shooting at the archaeological site (mount Olympus and survey photographs)
  - Attendance and shooting of the excavation (only in July)

## PELLA/EDESSA

DAY 4



Near the end of the 5th c. BC the capital of the Macedonian kingdom was transferred from Aegae to Pella, a well-planned urban city designed with horizontal and vertical roads and carefully designated building zones (system of Hippodamos) where luxurious houses were built with intricate mosaic floors. The agora complex is one of the most impressive of the ancient Greek world since Pella was the capital of all western civilization during the era of Philip II and Alexander the Great (5th–4th c. BC). Pella now has a lovely new museum (built in 2009) featuring representative items from the excavation.

- Shooting of the archaeological site in relation to waterfalls
- Shooting of the traditional settlement Varosi in Edessa
- Shooting at the archaeological site Loggos in Edessa

## AEGAE (VERGINA)

DAY 5

Dating from 7th c. BC, Aegae was the birthplace of the Macedonian royal family before seaside Pella was selected so the Macedonian kings could build a fleet to defeat the Athenians who were then dominant in the southeast Mediterranean. The palace of Philip II (father of Alexander the Great) has been excavated, revealing the remains of a spectacular building larger than the Parthenon, an Acropolis, city wall, agora, temple of Eycleia, seven Macedonian tombs, the renowned tomb of Philip II, and the theatre where this great king was murdered.

- Briefing by the archaeologists regarding the site and restoration of the palace (the significance of the site and its photographic needs)
- Visit the grave of Philip II and other royal graves
- Attendance and shooting of the excavation (only in July)



## OLYNTHOS

DAY 6



Olynthos is considered the center of the ancient League of Chalkidiki, a coalition of cities in central and coastal Chalkidiki. Olynthos was an expansive city built in an orderly fashion with designated building zones hosting striking houses typical of Greek antiquity. The city was excavated at the beginning of the 20th century by the American Archaeological School and their finds published by Professor David Moore Robinson in a series of fourteen books. The city has been recently reconstructed.

- Visit and shooting of the archaeological site in relation to the surroundings

## SANI

DAY 7



- Basic principles of underwater archaeological photography
- Demonstration of underwater photography and acquaintance with SCUBA diving in collaboration with a certified diving centre (optional)

## THESSALONIKI

DAY 8 & 9

Thessaloniki was founded in 316/315 BC by King Kassander, who named it for his wife, the half-sister of Alexander the Great. It was a Roman base after 168 BC when Macedonia fell under Roman rule. From the 2nd to 4th c. AD it developed into the most highly celebrated city in the eastern Roman Empire, basis for one of the tetrarchies and, therefore, it remained important through the Byzantine Empire. It has numerous exceptionally notable Byzantine churches, second only to Constantinople (Istanbul). A beautiful coastal city, Thessaloniki hosts an old city with well-preserved ancient walls and remains from the Roman and Byzantine periods throughout the downtown area. The city also houses lovely modern art museums, as well as the impressive Byzantine and Archaeological museums.

- Shooting of archaeological sites around the city (Rotonda, Arch and Palace of Galerius, Forum Romanum, Byzantine churches).
- Social Photography in relation to the antiquities- attention to the manipulation of the surrounding space-interaction between the archaeological site and the city.
- Staged photography for the needs of an exhibition- documentary (Forum Romanum/ Documentary "Imperishable Kalindoia", produced by Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki).



## STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

DAY 10

- Practical exercise of the students/participants photographing antiquities (sometimes with use of exact replicants) in studio conditions.
- Demonstration of the post- production procedure-steps till publication.

Farewell party, including closing comments and presentation of the participants' photographs.



### The trip offers:

- Guaranteed permission to enter and take photos at all archaeological sites
- Escort by an archaeologist at all archaeological sites
- Printed information for all archaeological sites
- Certificate of Participation awarded by a representative of Municipality of Thessaloniki and Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki

A one day "Behind the Scene Visit to the Thessaloniki Archaeological Museum" is also available to selected groups who are traveling in Greece who want to have a "one of a kind" look into the real work accomplished in such established museums.

You may contact us at [photography@amth.gr](mailto:photography@amth.gr) for details regarding your own group (available dates, costs, the one-day option, etc) and how you can offer this unique experience to your students/alums/donors.

Necessary equipment:  
Any digital camera

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[www.amth.gr](http://www.amth.gr)

6, M. Andronikou str.  
GR 546 21, Thessaloniki  
T +30 2310 830538  
F +30 2310 861306  
E [info.amth@culture.gr](mailto:info.amth@culture.gr)



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