History



History

Sikyon was a city in ancient Greece with a rich historical and mythological tradition. It reached its peak during the period of antiquity, particularly in the Archaic period and the 4th century BC. It is believed that the first ancient drama was performed here in Greece. Notable artists such as Lysippos, the personal sculptor of Alexander the Great, developed great schools of sculpture and painting. In history, Sikyon is known for the poet Praxilla and important politicians such as the tyrant Kleisthenes and Aratus. Visitors have the opportunity to admire the history of the region at the archaeological site of Sikyon, just 5 km away from Kiato. Excavations from 1885 to 1895 and from 1920 to 1988 brought to light ruins such as the ancient theatre, the Bouleuterion, the Gymnasium-Palaestra, and the Long Stoa. The complex of Roman baths excavated in the area has been converted into an Archaeological Museum, where visitors can admire vessels, sculptures, mosaics, coins, and other findings that reflect the artistic wealth of the past. The ancient mosaic floors that depict mythical and animal representations are of particular interest. The ancient theatre of Sikyon, one of the largest in ancient Greece, dominates the archaeological site, and the view from here towards the Corinthian Gulf and the mountain ranges of Central Greece is magical.
The Byzantine Monastery of Panagia Lechova, in the mountain village of Kryoneri, is another gem well worth a visit. Other important monuments include the Acropolis of Ancient Titane — home to one of the oldest Asklepieia (healing sanctuaries) in Greece — and the early-Christian Basilica built in the early 5th century, which served the religious needs of travellers arriving at the port, before it was abandoned and turned into a cemetery.

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