



Local Currency

The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.



Office/Telephone Facilities

The main post office is located along Katakolon's main street, Archaia Olympias. International telephone calls can be made from street kiosks equipped with meters and from public phone card booths. Telephone cards can be purchased directly from kiosks and the local post office. Some phones may require a telephone card or coin to access the following numbers:

AT&T: 00-800-1311 / MCI: 00-800-1211 / SPRINT: 00-800-1411



Tourist Information

There is no official tourist information office in Katakolon.



Transportation

Transportation in Katakolon is limited to a few taxis, which are located on the pier when the ship arrives.



Useful Words

Yes • Nai No • Ochi
Hello • Yeia sas
Good Bye • Antio
Thank You • Efcharisto
You're Welcome • Parakalo

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Katakolon

Port Explorer

General Information

The small, relaxed seaside village of Katakolon is situated on the western coast of the Peloponnese, Greece's largest peninsula. Best known for its dock-side tavernas and small souvenir shops, Katakolon also serves as the gateway to one of ancient Greece's most notable historic landmarks, ancient Olympia.

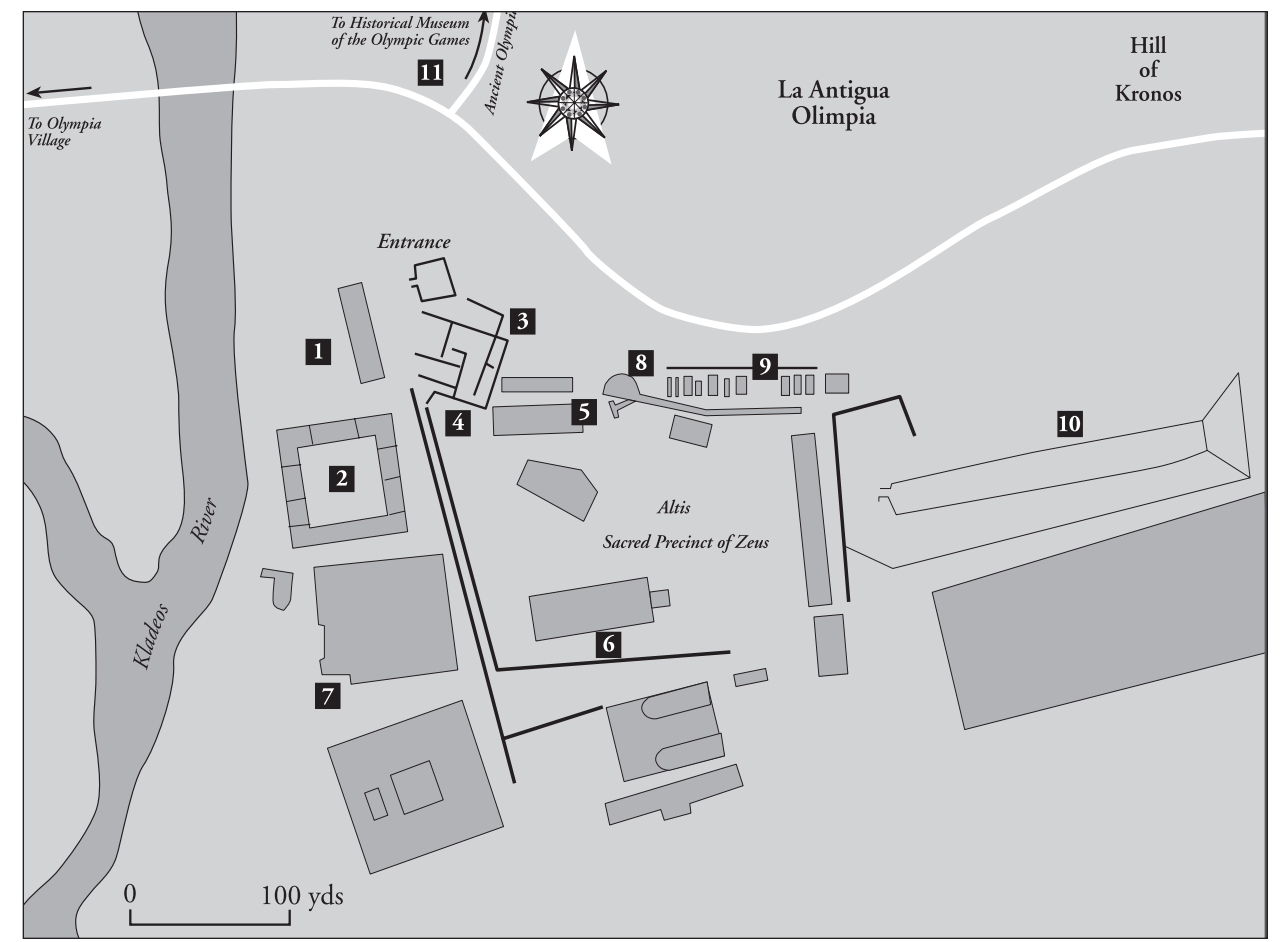


Archeologists theorize that the first Olympiad took place at the site in 776 BC; afterwards every four years panhellenic contests were held attracting athletes from all the Greek city-states. The Games also inspired the Olympic Truce, a time period when all hostilities were temporarily suspended in honor of the games.

The festivities lasted five days and early competitions included wrestling, running, chariot racing, horse racing, and the pentathlon (wrestling, discus and javelin throwing, long jump, and running). Only Greek-born males were allowed to participate, but Romans were later permitted. The event inspired writers and poets to read their works to the large audiences, while businessmen used the games as a networking platform.

Located in a lush green valley the 5,000-acre archeological site was revived as a national park in the 1970's. Also known as the "Grove of the Sacred Altis", the landmark is the kick-off point of today's modern Olympic games, where the Olympic flame is lit and carried by a series of runners to the hosting city.

Places of Interest



Ancient Olympia is one of the best-known archeological sites of ancient Greece. Although famous as the location of the first Olympiad, legend dictates that the Pisians, led by King Oinomaus, began the games around 1000 BC in honor of his daughter Hippodameia and her husband Pelops.

King Iphitos of Elis declared the opening of the first official Olympic Games in 776 BC, in honor of Zeus. The games reached their pinnacle of prestige during the 6th-century BC but were later prohibited in 394 AD under the edict of Theodosios I, in an attempt to purge all pagan festivities.

Fifteen centuries later French historian Pier de Coubertin revived the games, again in Greece. Since 1896 a torchbearer starts out from Olympia bearing the sacred flame every four years, and takes it to the place where the Games are held.

Although mostly in ruins, ancient Olympia was once a complex gathering of temples, workshops, training facilities, and statues.



