

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF DILOS





**B**uilt in 1904 by the Athenian Archaeological Company, it hosts the findings from excavations on the island, which was one of the most important sanctuaries of the ancient world and a great financial center of the Mediterranean in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC. Today, it takes up an area of about 2,500 sq.m. and houses over 40,000 findings.

The exhibition includes sculptures from the sanctuary, the public buildings and private residences of the island, vessels and small everyday items. Exhibits extend from archaic sculptures dedicated to Apollo and Artemis to early Roman portraits of the rich merchants of the island. The lion statues stand out; these were dedicated to the sanctuary of Apollo by the residents of Naxos at the end of



the 7th century BC and placed along the road that led from the northern port to the sanctuary, the marble sculpture complex from the temple of Athenians portraying the abduction of Athenian princess Oreithyia by Voreas (a personification of the northern wind), the statue of Apollo standing on three Gallic shields and reminding of the Galatians' defeat outside the sanctuary of the God at Delfi and, finally, the well-known reliefs with the animal-like winged phalluses that protected the residents from spite and the evil eye.

A large part of the exhibition is dedicated to aspects of everyday life in antiquity, with tools, household utensils, jewelry, vessels, removed murals and mosaics etc. from rich private residences on the island and the era of its grand financial prosperity, in the 2nd and 1st century BC.