

# MUSEUM OF PREHISTORIC THERA SANTORINI







**I**t hosts findings of excavations made on the island by the En Athinais Archaeological Company (Akrotiri), the German Archaeological Institute and the 21st Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classic Antiquities. It offers a summary of the history of Thera from the Neolithic period (5th millennium BC) to the development of the large rural center of Akrotiri (18th – 17th century BC). It is worth noting that many findings from the Akrotiri that were at the National Archaeological Museum of Athens returned to the island to be exhibited here.

The first floor houses periodical exhibitions organized by the museum, while the permanent exhibition spreads over 600 sq.m. on the second floor. There are photographs and texts in the lobby related to the 19th century excavations in Thirassia, the French school excavations and the German









Archaeological Institute, as well as the discovery and the research at Akrotiri.

Next, a small section presents a summary of the geological history of Thira, the volcanic eruptions, the creation of the Caldera and the island of Palaia Kammeni and Nea Kammeni. Here there are also fossilized parts of trees (palm trees, olives etc.).

Akrotiri was covered by lava at a time when it had developed into an important financial center, and so the excavations found countless items in the houses and on the streets of the town, just like they had been left. The displays are full of luxurious vessels, bronze utensils, jewelry, weapons and tools. One must not miss the impressive murals of Akrotiri and the plaster furniture molds.