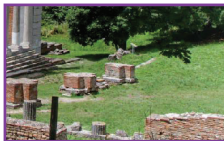


## Triumphal Arch

No.3 in Map

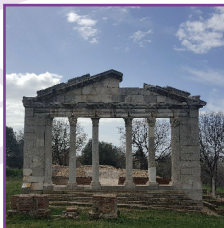
Four pillars of a Triumphal Arch are preserved in front of the Bouleuterion. It was constructed in bricks and formerly coated with white marble slabs cladding. Its length is estimated to have been around 14m and it would have risen to a height of 10m.



## Bouleuterion (Monument of Agonothetes)

No.5 in Map

The Bouleuterion, is the most prominent construction in the agora. It dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and served as the seat of the city council, called boulé. Its Corinthian-colonnaded facade fronts to the square. The capitals adorned with richly sculpted acanthus leaves, support a lintel bearing an inscription in greek, which informs that *"Quintus Villius Crispinus Furius Proculus, prytanis, agonothetus, architereus for life, erected the bouleuterion to the memory and in honour of Villius Valentius Furius Proculus, Prefect of the Cohort in Syria, Tribune of Gemina Legion in Pannonia, Agonothetus. Twenty-five gladiators pairs fought at its inauguration"*. It was discovered by Léon Rey's team in 1926-1927 and was restored in 1976, by the Albanian Institute of Cultural Monuments under the direction of Koço Zheku.



## Odeon

No.6 in Map

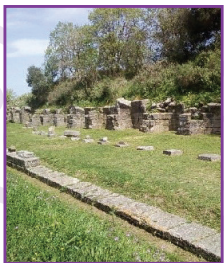
The Odeon dates back to the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. It hosted cultural and musical events as well as official meetings. The interior was akin to a small theatre, sufficient to accommodate an audience of 300 persons, with the 16 rows of seats of its Cavea, backing on to the hillside.



## Stoa B

No.10 in Map

*The Stoa B* (promenade) dates back to the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. 36 octagonal doric columns separate the promenade in two parallel routes. It might have had also a second floor constructed in ionic style. The niches (arched part of the wall) of the bottom part of the wall, that increase the stability of the monument, served for the placement of 14 sculptures, the heads of ancient philosophers. Some of them, dating back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, were discovered during excavations undertaken by Léon Rey.



## Acropolis

No.15 in Map

The Acropolis was the most fortified part of the city and it was the last shelter for residents in case of enemy attack. The single entrance to the Acropolis is located on the south side with a wide corridor and monumental views. A part of the wall that has been restored, visualizes the idea of the former fortification.



## Temenos

No.16 in Map

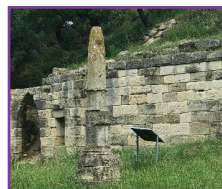
The sacred area (Temenos) includes all the city's temples and the main one, the temple of Apollo. Temenos area was surrounded by a decorative wall. The wall is well preserved in the southern side, where a monumental gateway with the typical apollonian arch is found. The earliest period of the wall is visible in left side of the gateway, dating back to the 5th century B.C. The gateway itself and the wall at its right dates to the middle of the 3rd century B.C. Two symbols: Alpha and Delta characters combined in a monogram, are clearly visible over the gateway. It is the abbreviation of the word *damoisios* – which means state.



## Obelisk

No.18 in Map

The Obelisk rises above a cylindrical pillar in front of the Temenos gate, as symbol of Apollon Agieus, the defender of colonizers. As symbol of Apollonia, the depiction of this obelisk, is often encountered in the city's coins.



## Nymphaeum

No.20 in Map

This great, decorative drinking fountain was fed by the underground water sources, which are still active, and is the biggest and the best preserved monument in Apollonia. The Nymphaeum lies in an area of approximately 1500 m<sup>2</sup>. On its highest part, a wall blocked the source water and sent it towards five escalating canal nozzles, 11 meters apart from each other. Through these nozzles the water was sent to the deposit. The construction of the Nymphaeum dates around the middle of the 3rd century BC. This monument was functional for only for one century, and was ruined because of a landslide. The Nymphaeum was discovered accidentally in 1962, when a tunnel was opened for military purposes, and was excavated during seven archaeological campaigns under the supervision of Hasan Ceka.



## Museum and Monastery

The Medieval monastery, the majority of which was built with materials taken from the ancient monuments of the city, includes in its area the Saint Mary Church that dates back to the 11th century. The archeological museum is located in the same area since 1985, that inherits a wealthy collection of findings coming from excavations of various periods in Illyrian Apollonia.



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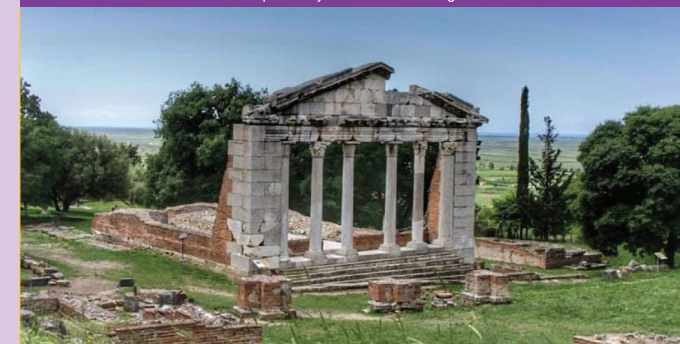


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# Apolonia

Apolonia was founded in the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC from Corinth colonizers in the lands of Taulantii Illyrian tribe. The city was named in honor of God Apollo. Among the 27 cities across the antique Mediterranean world holding the same name, Apollonia of Illyria was the most prominent and had a major role as a trade mediator between the Hellenes and the Illyrians. It is estimated that the city had about 60,000 inhabitants.

Jules Caesar's heir, Octavian Augustus who was studying oratory in Apollonia when he learned of Caesar's murder, returned from Apollonia to Rome by sea. After some time, when Octavian became Emperor, he expressed his gratitude for the city where he studied, by releasing Apollonia from all taxes. After an earthquake in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, Aaos (Vjosa) river changed its bed and caused the detachment of the city from the sea. The city gradually lost its economic significance and become a simple religious center. Archaeologist refer to Apollonia as the Pompeii of Albania, due to the fact that only 10% of the territory of the ancient city has been discovered up to date.

The vast territory rich in monuments, breathtaking views over the Myzeqe plain and the Adriatic sea, good accessibility, as well as favorable geographical position between main cities and beaches of southern Albania, make the Apollonia Archaeological Park a privileged destination for cultural tourism in Albania.



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