



#### Information

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**visiting days and hours**

Wednesday to Monday 8:30 - 15:30, Tuesday closed

**Free entrance**

**Access:** By intercity bus (KTEL) or car

**Facilities**

Ambulant WC

**Nearby points of interest**

Flogita "Center of Byzantine Civilization of Chalcidice" (31,6 km)

Archaeological site of ancient Olynthus (30,7 km)

Archaeological Museum of Polygyros (50 km)

Nikiti, Basilica of Sofronios (60,4 km)

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*Fragment of gutter with relief and painted decoration  
4th century BC*



*7. The balneum (small bath) from the northwest*

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS  
EPHORATE OF ANTIQUITIES OF  
CHALCIDICE AND MOUNT ATHOS

# SANCTUARY OF ZEUS AMMON

DIONYSOS AND ASCLEPIOS  
KALLITHEA OF CHALCIDICE



With the support of:



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## SANCTUARY OF ZEUS AMMON, DIONYSOS AND ASCLEPIOS

The area of the sanctuary was first used in the Early Bronze Age. Later, after colonization of Chalcidice by the Greeks of the south and the founding of the Eretrian colony, Aphytis, the area was incorporated in the chora (territory) of the city. The beauty of the nature, the water springs, the vegetation and the cave that existed there, attracted the inhabitants of Aphytis to found a sanctuary of Dionysos – probably of the Nymphs, as well – by the end of the 8th century BC. This sanctuary was recorded by Xenophon (Xen., Hellenica, 5, 3, 13 ff.). The god was worshipped near the cave and the whole area was organized with terraces connected by a stone staircase (photo 1).

In the first half of the 4th century BC, probably after the interference of Zeus Ammon during the siege of Aphytis by the Lacedaimonians, when he commanded the Lacedaimonian king, Lysander, to raise the siege (Plutarch, Lysander 299 a-b), the inhabitants of the Aphytis built a temple of the god near the sanctuary of Dionysos. The cult of Zeus Ammon was closely related to the water and a cistern with water existed in all sanctuaries of the god. Therefore, a fountain house was built near the cave (photo 2) and the water springs and from there, through a clay pipe, water reached the sanctuary of Zeus Ammon.

Only small parts of the buildings of the first half of the 4th century BC have survived (photo 3).



1. Sanctuary of Dionysos.  
The entrance to the cave



2. Built stone pipe, which brought water to a fountain house. 4th century BC. To the left, a destroyed cistern of the 2nd century AD



3. A wall running E-W from the east. It probably belonged to a building of the first half of the 4th century BC



4. The temple of Zeus Ammon from northwest. Second half of the 4th century BC

In the second half of the same century, after the incorporation of Chalcidice in the Macedonian kingdom, an impressive Doric temple was built (photo 4 & 5) and east of it, two parallel rows of monumental bases, which supported sculpture. The two rows of bases (photo 6), an unusual characteristic in Greek architecture, owe their existence to the Egyptian origin of Zeus Ammon. Such corridors and bases were popular in Egyptian architecture.

An inscription in honour of Asclepios on a small, votive altar dating to late 3rd – first half of the 2nd century BC was found in the sanctuary (nowadays it is housed in the Library of the monastery of Pantel-eemon on Mt. Athos) and implied the existence of the cult of the god in the area.

The sanctuary reached a peak in the 2nd century AD. Two constructions with seats, which accommodated the spectators, and an altar were built in front of the temple of Zeus Ammon and furthermore, a balneum (small bath), related to the cult of Asclepios and healing, was also built north from the temple (photo 7).

The sanctuary was destroyed in the beginning of the 4th century AD. However, the use of the balneum did not stop before the middle or end of the century. In those years, or in the 5th century AD, a watermill was built near the cave and the water springs.



5. The temple of Zeus Ammon. Foundation



6. Bases from the south and a wall running E-W, which probably belonged to an earlier building dating to the first half of the 4th century BC

