

Mitilene e-guide

Greetings from the Mayor

In the Municipality of Mytilene we express our visions Internet-wise. We improve the services we offer to our citizens and visitors by developing an e-guide of the Mytilene city in collaboration with the DETAM (Municipal Company for the Tourist Development), ETAL (Lesvos Local Development Company, S.A.) and the University of the Aegean.

Internet users may use the Mytilene e-guide to virtually navigate the Municipality of Mytilene, its monuments, museums and sightseeing and get to know the history and the culture of the region as well as create a personalized e-guide for their mobile devices tailored to their individual interests.

Along with the technology's alliance, the Municipality of Mytilene realizes one more dynamic move by establishing a new arrangement for the development of the city. The implementation of the e-guide aims at strengthening the cultural identity of our city and supporting the tourist and economic growth of the region.

Nasos Giakalis

Mayor of Mytilene

Greetings from the Vice mayor of Tourism

We welcome you to our new digital tourist guide. The e-guide offers tourists the opportunity to navigate at the quay, the districts, the villages of the municipality Mytilene and regions with cultural and tourist interest.

It is a digital cultural escort to the city of Mytilene that provides a description of the city and the villages supported by audiovisual content that informs about the historical spots, the cultural heritage, the sightseeing. It includes a city map and provides useful tips and information. The e-guide is a means of promoting tourism at Mytilene and aiding the exploration of the city and the municipal regions. The innovation of this project is the development of the personalized e-guide.

We live in a modern city, thus the Municipality of Mytilene and DETAM (Municipal Company for the Tourist Development), in collaboration with ETAL (Lesvos Local Development Company, S.A.) and the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean offer our visitors the opportunity to taste and enjoy everything that Mytilene, 'the Duchess of the Aegean', has to offer.

Vaso Chochlaka

President DETAM

Vice mayor of Cultural Affairs



1. The fortress of Mytilene was the largest and one of the most powerful in the Eastern Mediterranean. The area wherein the castle is built is called "Kioski" and used to be an islet until the early Byzantine times.

The original core of the fortress was formed in the Byzantine ages, during the reign of Justinian, and is believed to stand over the ancient Acropolis. The first important interventions on the castle took place during the Gatelouzi period, in 1373. Even nowadays, a square tower with a built-in plate is preserved, bearing the coat of arms of the Gatelouzi in relief; the tower was their palace. However, in the external main gate of the castle there exists

another built-in plate with the anterior coat of arms of the Paleologi, signalling a smooth transition between the two eras.

Later on, during the Ottoman period, further interventions and enhancements followed. Following the island's liberation from the Turks, in 1912, the fortress was used as a barracks.

The castle is comprised of three parts. The upper section (Epano Kastro) -wherein, according to tradition, the Acropolis was located - was used as a residence area by Byzantines and Genovese alike, each with their respective palace-towers. The middle section (Meseo Kastro) comprises the main enceinte of the fortress and was constructed by the Gatelouzi. Therein exist several buildings of the Ottoman period. And, finally, the lower section (Kato Kastro), namely the bottom enceinte of the building on its north-western side, which was an exclusively Turkish addition.

Access to the castle was gained through its three gates, the most important being the one in the south, bearing the coat of arms of the Paleologi. Small towers, watch posts, guard-houses and other similar defensive constructions are spread throughout the castle. In modern times, the castle of Mytilene is an archaeological site and hosts cultural events during the summer period.



2. The Ministry of the Aegean and Island Policy is housed in a stylish Mansion in the Kioski area of Mytilene, quite close and across the Municipal Courthouse.

The two-storied, oblong building complies with the standard style of grand, neo-classical buildings. One may enter its interior through a portico with four pillars, which support three high arcs. On top of these rises the second floor of the Ministry.

On this spot, the section of the forefront protrudes in the second floor of the building as well, crowned with an imposing gable.

The Ministry was erected in 1893 by the Ottomans, initially in order to be used as the island's command post and then as the command post of the whole Province (Vilayet) of the islands. Following the liberation of 1912, the building was used, for a short period, as the seat of the first political and military Command of Lesvos. Later on, it was converted to an Orphanage in order to house the orphans of the city – which were numerous, due to the 'first persecution'. Since 1989, just a few years after the establishment of the Ministry of the Aegean, the building has housed the Ministry.

Following its recent restoration, the building is among the finest in the Kioski area



3. The Courthouse of Mytilene (or "Hall of Themis") is housed in a neo-classical building in the Kioski area, close to the castle of Mytilene.

The building was built around 1895 by the Turks and used as the only seven-grade Ottoman High School or Entatie. The construction of that High School in the end of the 19th century was considered as the Ottoman rulers' response to the foundation of the Hellenic High School Hall by the prime benefactors of the island. The imposing two-level Courthouse

dominates the entire Kioski area. Its front side, with the ionic colonnettes and the many arch-shaped windows evokes similar neo-classical monumental buildings of that era. The whole building is surrounded by a large verdant yard.

Following the island's liberation, the building became the property of the Hellenic State and is used until nowadays as the seat of the Lesvos County court services.

4. The Municipal Gallery is housed in a three-storey mansion, which dominates the Epano Skala area. The building has been erected between 1850 and 1880 by the Koulaxides family.

The Gallery exhibits one of the most important collections of paintings, given to the Municipality of Mytilene by George Simos-Petris and his sister Elli Simos. George

Simos-Petris was one of the most important art critics in Greece, and had developed a personal friendship with distinguished Greek painters. After his death in 1998, the Simos-Petris collection was donated to the Municipal Gallery. The collection was completed with a new donation by his sister Elli Simos in 2001. Today, the overall collection comprises 138 paintings, engravings, books and gravures.

The Municipal Gallery exhibits –among others- works by the painters Tsarouxis, Gounaropoulos, Moralis, Fasianos, as well as works by important foreign artists such as Picasso and Matisse.

Apart from the particularly important Petris collection, the Municipal Gallery also includes a remarkable collection of the works of Lesvian painters, such as Axiotis, Perros, Moutzourelis, Athineos, Kallipolitis, Karapiperis and others.



5. Yali Camii is located on the inshore road of the port of Epano Skala, in Mytilene. Yali Camii, along with Vigla Mosque, was one of the two mosques built on the inshore road of the old port after the earthquake of 1867.

Yali Camii was the property of the Muslim community and was built around 1880. It was a single-level building and its roof was covered by tiles and reclining on all sides. Its building materials were taken from the Sarmusak area.

The entrance of the women's section was located on the north-eastern outer corner of the mosque, while on its north-western outer corner stood a pentagonal minaret that collapsed in 1939. The inside of the building was lit by multiple equilateral windows and lanterns, adding a flavour of elegance.

A two-sided marble staircase with two steps led to a marble landing and then to the double, wooden, arch-shaped door of the mosque. A built-in plate bearing an inscription in Arabic characters is located over the door; it praises the almightiness of God and gives evidence that the mosque replaced an earlier one, built on the same location around 1690.

In the interior of the mosque, the prayer hall appears to have had excellent decoration, as evidenced by the coloured decorative traces of the roof.



6 The northern port of Mytilene in the area of Epano Skala was called "Malois Limin" after the sanctuary of Maloen Apollo, which was found in the area. This port used to be the trade centre of the city. The remains of two breakwaters from the 5th century still stand on the site, in exceptionally good condition. The first eastern breakwater is 350m long and branches off from a tower of the ottoman section of the castle of Mytilene. On its northern side, in past times, there existed a lighthouse,

as illustrated in gravures of the 18th century. The second north-western breakwater is extended from the beach, close to the abandoned factory of Kalamaris, and stretches to the east in a distance of 150m.

The original construction of the harbour installations dates back to the end of the 5th century B.C., according to evidence provided by the historian Thucydides. However, there also exists a third underwater breakwater that follows the same trail with the eastern one and bends to the west, forming a small port-basin. Presumably, its construction represents an earlier harbour work.



7. Hellenistic Loggia Next to the coast road at the old north port of Mytilene which leads from the Epano Skala region to the Synoikismo, there is a large archaeological site. There, next to the buildings of the refugee market, a stoic building has been discovered, which is dated from the late 4th or early 3rd century B.C.

The arcade of the Hellenistic Agora, which is dated between

the late 4th or early 3rd century B.C. has been discovered. At the site, there are visible parts of the stylobate of the arcade and many sequential room areas, which are related to the functions of the Hellenistic market of that region.

The arcade was extended 150 meters to the east. Northwest to this arcade, another, smaller arcade has been discovered, and both were surrounded by the port wall.



8. Valide Camii is situated in Epano Skala, in the old part of the city, close to the sea, in contemporary Kornarou Str. The monument has been known with varying names, such as Balic, Valide or Vali Camii.

Valide Camii was probably built before 1791, as evidenced by its statement of foundation. As for its founding inscription, located over its front entrance and reporting 1615 as its year of foundation, it actually belonged to an older monument. Valide Camii has been built thanks to the donation of the assistant

governor's (Halil Aga) daughter, Hum Gulsum, who was involved in numerous charities. The building is made of stone and is single-leveled, with a gabled roof. A three-sided marble staircase with three levels led from the cobbled yard to the open-air outer narthex. In the middle of the front-side there is a double door, used to enter the inner part of the mosque. On either side of the entrance there are windows that ensure sufficient lighting for the room. At nights, the interior of mosque was lit by lamps and hanging candelabras, while the exterior by lights vertically placed on the circumferential loft of the minaret. The floor was paved with slabs and floor-boards and -as was typically the case with mosques- covered by carpets.

A multi-sided fountain made of white marble and decorated by graven arabesques was situated in the center of the mosque's yard, and is currently housed in the Archeological Museum of Mytilene.

A 15-meter-high minaret is located on the north-western corner of the mosque. Its basis is hexagonal and its body cylindrical. This is the only minaret still standing in the city of Mytilene.



9. The "Intermediate School of Mytilene", where the Experimental Lyceum of Mytilene is housed nowadays, was built between 1888 and 1890 in the centre of the city of Mytilene.

The building was built on a site donated by the city's benefactor Mitrelias with the financial assistance of other Lesvian benefactors.

The building was the work of the Lesvian architect Argyris Adalis, who served as an assistant of the German architects

Hansen and Ziller. The three-storey building is patterned after neo-classical architecture, while its floor plan is in the shape of the Greek letter "Σ". Sofocles Vournazos contributed a lot to the project's completion; his statue adorns the School's yard.

The building was used in 1912 by the Greek liberation army; in 1914 it housed refugees from the 'first persecution' while, in 1922, it also housed refugees from the Asia Minor disaster.

Several important literary figures and intellectuals taught in the 1st Intermediate School, while many of the teachers, such as the world famous academic Michael Stefanidis, also served as professors in the University of Athens.



10. Yeni Camii is located in the middle of the former Turkish market, in the modern area of Epano Skala, in Mytilene. A short distance away stands the Terse Hamam building, while the mosque's cemetery was also nearby.

Yeni Camii was the largest and latest among the mosques of the town in the 19th century; this is revealed by its name, since "yeni" means "new" in Turkish. The mosque was built by Nazere Mustafa Aga Kulaksede in 1825. After the Asia Minor disaster, many refugees were housed in the building, while its roof was demolished later in order to sell its building materials.

The Mosque is made of stone, covered by tiles, and built in the turkish-byzantine style with dome. Its ground plan is square, while its height reaches about 12 meters. The building forms a gallery on its northern side, while its outer narthex is attached on the same side. Inside, the niche of the sanctum, the mihrab and parts of the original wall decoration are still maintained. The house of the mufti, a marble fountain and auxiliary rooms were located in the building's parvis. Of special interest is the graven miniature representation of the mosque, located in the middle of the front side of the mosque, over the exit of the outer narthex.

The minaret used to stand on the north-western corner of the mosque; it was 30 meters high and stood higher than the bell tower of the Mytilene cathedral. Only the base of the minaret still exists.

Nowdays, Yeni Mosque, although not renovated, is occasionally used for cultural events.



11. The ottoman bath (hamam) of the city of Mytilene, or **Tarsi Hamam**, is located in the city centre, in a road adjoining Ermou street and in short distance from Geni Mosque. The name of the bath derives from the Turkish word "tarsi" which means market.

The existence of the ottoman bath is tied with the Turkish bourgeois architecture that uses the baths as the reception area for foreigners who come to the town. At the same time, this building conformed to the religious and social context of Islam.

The ottoman bath's design expresses the general tendency towards the revival of the classical models of the 16th century.

However, its generally strict design evokes the period of neo-ottoman art of the 19th century.

The building itself comprises many rooms that are arrayed linearly. The bath is comprised of halls wherein one gradually proceeds from the cold room to the hot one, following the morphology of ancient 'balneo' and roman thermal baths. The entrance of the bath is on its eastern side, wherefrom one enters the large square room of the "cold" with its imposing hemispheric dome, and then proceeds to hotter rooms.

Nowadays, Tarsi Hamam, especially after restoration works, is a monument of the ottoman period. The bath's premises host a variety of cultural events.



12. St. George is among the five oldest parish churches in the city of Mytilene. The contemporary church has been founded on the site of an older church, in 1792. as evidenced by the inscription found on the main entrance's lintel.

The church is a three-aisled basilica with a hemispherical engraved dome and double-pitched roof. The church's ceiling is flat and decorated with coffers. The dome, in the middle aisle, is internally decorated with an illustration of Jesus Christ, who emerges from the clouds with both hands raised in blessing. The church's floor is paved with white and grey slabs and appears to have a hypsometrical difference from the western to the eastern side of the church.

The icons screen of the church is made of white marble and was constructed in 1792 as well. Special attention should be paid to the magnificent relief decoration of the parapets, below the icons screen. The marble pulpit was constructed in the same period as the icons screen, and follows a similar style. The primatial throne of the church is carved; it was possibly made earlier, as part of the older church. The oldest among the icons that decorate the church date back to the 18th century. Among the church's relics there exist several holy objects, old mass books and an old archive.



13. The sacred temple of St. Apostles is located in the market area of Mytilene, on a road adjoining Ermou Str. Similarly to many other churches in Lesvos, St. Apostles is built according to the post-Byzantine basilica style and considered as one of the oldest in Mytilene.

The church was built around 1815, according to two inscriptions found on the main entrance's lintel and on a narthex's pillar. However, it is believed that the church was built on a site where an older church used to stand, as evidenced by

the old documents of the Diocese of Mytilene as well as the old icons of the icon screen, dated before 1815.

The church is a three-aisled basilica. It has a double-pitched roof, while its ceiling is dome-shaped on each aisle. The floor is covered with symmetrical slabs of marble, constructed by white marble.

The icon screen, made of carved wood, was constructed right after the temple's erection. Several remarkable icons may be found in the church, dated back to the end of the 17th century.

The church is maintained in good condition today; the guest house of the Mytilene's bishopric is housed right next to it.



14. The temple of St. Symeon is one of the oldest in Mytilene and is ranked as part of the core of the city centre's churches. The church honors the name of the Lesvian pillar saint Symeon, who gained recognition during the fight against the iconoclasts. His name has been cited in the Council that took place in Constantinople in the year 843.

The contemporary temple of St. Symeon was built between 1885 and 1891, on the site where an older church used to stand. Regarding its architecture, the church is a cross-shaped,

three-aisled basilica with an engraved dome, which is not externally pronounced. On the northern part of the church, under the narthex, is located the chapel St. Anargyri, inside a protruding section.

The most remarkable decorative element of the church is its splendidly crafted carved icon screen, constructed in the beginning of the 19th century by artist Stavros Chiotis. The icon screen was part of the older church St. Symeon and was completed later on. The rest of the church's woodcrafts (e.g. the Chancel table and its ciborium, the bishopric throne and the pulpit) are of the same age and comparative aesthetic value as the icon screen.

The church was painted by Polychronis and decorated by Pergaminelis, two artists that worked in parallel in 1917.

The church St. Symeon celebrates each year on September 1st.



15. The temple of St. Theodore is located in Epano Skala, on the northern side of Mytilene's cathedral. The church was built in 1795, replacing an older one, which had been completely burnt. As for the older church, we only know its construction date; however, the icons of its icon screen, dated back to the beginning of the 17th century, still exist.

The church is a three-aisled basilica, whose middle aisle's roof is elevated. Several pillars have been integrated in the outer narthex; those pillars used to be part of a building from classical times, while similar structural material has been used in the forefront of the building, as well as in parts of the interior.

Parts of the church's old decoration -completed in 1799- still exist. The icon screen, made of carved wood, is particularly significant; it is covered by illustrations inspired by the Bible and was made by artist George Chiotis in 1812. There also exist portable icons rescued from the fire that burnt the older building. Among them, the Byzantine icon "Virgin Mary Agiotheodoritisa" is distinguished, since it was honoured in litanies all over the city of Mytilene.

The temple of St. Theodore celebrates on the Saturday of the 1st week of Fast, on March 25th and August 15th.



16. The cathedral of St. Athanasius is located in the junction of Ermou Str. and Mitropoleos Str. Although its exact construction date is not known, St. Athanasius is the oldest post-Byzantine basilica of the island of Lesbos.

The church is cruciform and domed, deviating from the Lesvian pattern. Inside, the three aisles of the church are divided by two rows of six pillars with golden capitals. On the upper part of the narthex and the upper side parts of the church there exists the gallery of the church.

The icon screen of the church, made in 1738, the bishopric throne, the lamps and the altar – possibly the oldest in Lesbos – are considered among the most remarkable carven works of the late baroque period still extant in the island.

Among the important icons of the church, that of Jesus Christ on the icon screen is of great importance. It was part of the heirlooms brought to Lesbos after the Asia Minor disaster and dates back to the 16th century.

In the middle aisle, below the double-headed eagle, there is a crypt where high priests used to be buried in, from 1707 to 1783. The city's inhabitants used to hide the holy relics of St. Theodore here. In 1832, when Mytilene was plagued by the Black Death, the habitants took the holy relics off the crypt and processed them around the cathedral. This is believed to have saved the city from the epidemic. Following that, the relics were placed in the carven larnax, where they still remain to this day.

Outside the church, bell-tower dominates, rising at a height of 33 meters; the basic rule for its erection licence (issued by the Ottoman authorities) was for it to be shorter than the minaret of the neighbouring Yeni Mosque.

17. The Epano Skala walk is a project undertaken by the Municipality of Mytilene, funded by the Regional Operational Program of the Northern Aegean. The aim of the project is to spotlight the historical area of "Epano Skala" in the centre of Mytilene. The course of the walk passes through diverse points of cultural interest in Epano Skala, where suitable sign boards have been placed to inform the public. In this way, the walk in the historical city centre will represent a complete work that will serve the integration of the monuments within the townscape and modern city life.



18. The building of the Old Port Authority is located in the centre of the city of Mytilene, in Sapfous square.

This building, with acute angles on its roof, was built between 1890 and 1900 to house the Turkish Port Authority of the town. However, following the island's liberation in 1912, it retained the same usage until the 1960s. Later on, the Land Service of the Greek State donated the old Port Authority to the Municipality of Mytilene, in order for it to be converted to a Folklore

Museum.

Nowadays, the building has been renovated and used as a Museum of Folk Art, while it also houses the Tourist Office of the Municipality of Mytilene.



19. The Old Archaeological Museum is housed in a three-storey, 19th century neo-classical building, opposite the port of Mytilene. The building was erected around 1912 by the Smyranean architect Vafeades in a refined style and represents a remarkable architectural specimen from the latter days of the Turkish occupation. The building was originally the property of the Achilleas Vournazos family, but it was sold in 1965 to the Greek State so as to house the Archaeological Museum.

All the rooms of the mansion have been used to exhibit the archaeological finds. Figurines, ceramics and jewellery from

the Pre-Historic to the Roman ages are exhibited in the central building. Heavy objects like the unique Aeolian capitals from the temples of Klopedi, the most important inscriptions, sepulchral columns, grand relieves, statues and coins from the Archaic to the Roman ages have been placed in the homestead and the yard.

The museum also houses exhibits donated by private citizens and associations.



20. The new building of the Archaeological Museum of Mytilene is situated in the Kioski area, where recent excavations revealed the sanctuary of Aphrodite. The museum's erection was completed in 1995 and its permanent exhibition inaugurated in 1999.

The permanent exhibition of the New Archaeological Museum, entitled "Lesvos from the Hellenistic to the Roman ages",

includes finds of the Hellenistic and Roman period from Lesvos.

Amongst the exhibits displayed in the Museum halls, the mosaic floors of the luxury Roman villas of the 2nd century B.C. are of special value. The epitaph grand relieves, the statues and the portraits of important figures of the Hellenistic and Roman ages in Lesvos are also outstanding.

Apart from the permanent exhibition, the New Archaeological Museum also hosts temporary exhibitions. In parallel, additional activities are held in the museum, including educational programmes, galas, conferences and events co-organized with various organizations.



21. The old lighthouse of Mytilene is situated below the castle of Mytilene, in the Fykiotrypa area. The Lighthouse is built upon a flat rock, under which there exists a cave and the small rocky beach of Fykiotrypa.

The lighthouse structure comprises the characteristic guard-house, which is shaped by successive rooms built upon

the rock. On the top of the building's roof, the metal part of the lighthouse emerges, signaling the navigation routes from the castle area to the entrance of the port of Mytilene.

The entire lighthouse structure was recently renovated by the Department of Recent Monuments and Technical Works of the Northern Aegean.



22. The Statue of Liberty, evoking the one in New York, is situated in the modern port of Mytilene, below the city castle and next to the beach "Tsamakia". The statue stands on the spot where -until 1922- stood the "Kastreli" or "Bourtzi"; the latter used to be the -possibly Byzantine - bastion of the castle of Mytilene.

The Statue of Liberty is made of bronze, stands on a marble base and was donated to the city by expatriates. The statue's sculptor, Gregorios Zevgolis crafted the statue from a design

by Lesvian painter Georgios Iakovides.

The statue was cast in Germany in the 1920's and devoted to the victims of the 1st World War; it was unveiled in 1930. In the yearly celebration of the Greek revolution on March 25th, the local authorities lay wreaths at the feet of the statue, in memory of national heroes.



23. St Therapon, with its imposing dome, is the largest temple dominating the city of Mytilene.

The church was built on the site of the chapel of the same name, which had served the needs of the Mytilene Charity Institution hospital's patients; the Institution is housed opposite the church.

The contemporary church's construction was began in 1880 and completed in 1915, mainly funded by the Charity Institution. The church's erection was undertaken by Lesvian architect Argyris Adalis, who served as assistant of the architects Hansen and Ziller. The fundamental architectural style of the church is that of the engraved cruciform with dome.

However, the building's exterior bears intensely gothic characteristics, enriched by neo-classical, renaissance and baroque elements. The external decorations are creations of the famous Lesvian painter and sculptor Nikolaos Kesanlis.

Inside, the carven icon screen is a work dating from 1915, created by local craftsman Dimitrios Kovalas. The same craftsman made the primatial throne, the pulpit and the two large priedieu of the church.

The grave of the Archbishop of Hungarian-Wallachia, one of the protagonists of the Revolution of 1821, may be found in the main part of the church.

Among the church's relics there are two acclaimed Byzantine icons which used to compose, until 1960, a double-faced Byzantine icon. Jesus Christ Pantocrator appears on the first view and John the Theologian on the second. The illustrations date back to the end of the 14th and 15th century, respectively.



24. The Ecclesiastical Byzantine Museum of Mytilene is located opposite the temple of St. Therapon, on the ground floor of the Mytilene Charity Institution building.

The history of the Ecclesiastical Byzantine Museum is tied with the Archbishop of Mytilene Iakovos Kleomvrotos, who enriched the collection of his predecessor Archbishop Iakovos Nicolaos with additional Christian artefacts that ran the risk of damage and destruction.

The increasing number of artefacts gradually dictated the foundation of a museum. Thus, the Ecclesiastical Byzantine Museum was founded in 1978.

The museum houses and exhibits objects of Christian art, including a prominent collection of icons. The collection spans the period between the 13th and the 20th century.

Therefore, there are representative samples from the middle-Byzantine period as well as later-Byzantine art from the 15th to the 19th century.

Of special value among the icons are “The Second Advent”, with its remarkably large size, and the “Assumption of Virgin Mary”, a work of the naif artist Theofilos. Apart from the main icons collection, there are collections comprising other church objects, such as carven bema-doors, canonicals, scripts, etc.

The Byzantine Museum of Mytilene is open to the public daily except Sundays, while it also hosts a museum shop.



25. The Old Town Hall of Mytilene stands on the town’s waterfront and on a corner of the Public Garden. The Town Hall, together with the neighbouring Public Theatre and the Prefecture, comprise a building triangle, erected in the area that used to be occupied in its entirety by the Public garden of Mytilene.

The construction of the Town Hall was begun between 1890 and 1900 by mayor Fotios Simeonides. Next, from 1898 to

1906, the completion of the work was undertaken by mayor Constantinos Cavetsos. The building was finished during the tenure of Mayor Vasilius Vasiliou.

Architecturally, the two-storey building follows the neoclassical building style.

Characteristic of this style are the plethora of decorative elements.

Today, the first floor has been converted into a conference and ceremony hall, while the ground floor hosts the City Library and various municipal cultural activities.



26. Mytilene’s Public Theatre stands on the town’s waterfront, very close to the old Town Hall and the Prefecture building. The theatre is built in the location previously occupied by the town’s public garden. Before that, in the 18th century, this very spot hosted a “tarsanas” i.e. a boat yard.

The construction of the Public Theatre started during the tenure of mayor Apostolos Apostolou, based on designs of local architect Demetrakis Hadjiannou. Instrumental in the erection

of the building was the sponsorship, through his estate and after his death, of Gregorios Rousellis, a local businessman who was a passionate theatre lover.

In the following years, the theatre and its surroundings were refurbished extensively.

Today, the theatre’s main hall has a capacity of 500 people. Several performances, concerts, art exhibitions, gatherings, conferences and events take place in the main hall and other available areas of the theatre.



27. The Prefecture building stands on the edge of Mytilene’s waterfront, in Constantinoupoleos Square. The Prefecture, together with the neighbouring Public Theatre and the Old Town Hall, were built on the location previously occupied by the City’s Public Garden.

The Prefecture mansion was constructed in the middle of 1930s and is listed by the state as a “preserved historical monument and work of art”.

The architecture of the two-storey building follows the neoclassical building style. The building's entrance is very prominent and is characterised by a portico with four pillars which support the monumental pediment crown of the forefront.



28. The ancient theater of Mytilene is located at a high point of the city, over the area of "Synikismos", close to the church of St. Kyriaki.

The ancient theater, one of the most important of its age, has been a watershed for the later development of Roman theater architecture.

The current monument's condition gives evidence of several construction phases. Although the existence of a theater at the same location is reported since the 7th century BC, the first construction phase of the present theater dates back to the early Hellenistic period.

The theater was renowned in ancient times due to its considerable size, since it could accommodate up to 10,000 spectators. Its acoustics was equally famous, while its imposing position, with a spectacular view of the city's castle and ports, gave it enormous prestige.

The theater achieved its final shape in the late Roman era. Its cyclical orchestra is separated from the completely destroyed seating area (the koilon) by a wall, originally used to protect the spectators from the wild animals of the Roman shows. The wall bore marble slates covered by inscriptions. The theater's scene is divided by three aisles. It is reckoned that the impressive clay pipe in evidence was used to carry water to the orchestra, in order to illustrate battles at sea.

Today, the ancient theater functions as an archaeological site that admits visitors. It has been partially excavated, while its further exploitation as a place for staging theatrical plays is under consideration.



29. The temple of Panagia Chrysomallousa (honouring the Dormition of the Divine Mother) stands in the area of Mytilene called "Chrysomallousa". The church is said to have been built on the spot where, in ancient times, stood the temple of Malloentos Apollon.

The present church was built in 1887 on the site of two older churches. The second of the older churches was built in 1816, as is recorded on the two inscriptions engraved on the front wall of the present church. The architect Athanasios

Triantafylloy actually preserved the narthex from that church and extended its eastern part in order to build the present church.

Panagia Chrysomallousa is built in the three-aisled basilica architectural style. The chancel screen in the church's interior dates from the beginning of the 19th century and comes from the previous church. The screen is a piece of excellent woodcut artwork and it was complemented in 1887 by Mastrotheologos in order to fit in the new church. The bishop's throne was constructed in 1887 by artist Iosif Petrou.

In the church courtyard rises a bell tower, built between 1903 and 1904. Additionally, outside of the church and north of the altar there is a small, chapel-shaped mausoleum. This was constructed in 1905 by the marble sculptor Nikolaos Zervas. The mausoleum hosts the tomb of martyr Saint Theodoros of Byzantio, patron saint of Mytilene, who was hanged by the Turks in 1795. Today, the Saint's relic is kept in the cathedral of Mytilene.



30. At about 2 kms south of Mytilene, in a suburb called Akleidiou, stands the small temple of **Annuciason (Evangelistria)**, with its imposing dome.

The church was built in 1901, at the same location where stood the church of Panagia of Akleidiou. The present church was based on designs by the architect Kampanakis and on funding

collected by pious parishioners of the area.

The church's chancel screen was constructed in 1910 by sculptor Ioannis Hadjidiakos. The icons of the screen are the work of the Iosaphaeans, renowned church artists from Holy Mount of Athos (the Aghion Oros). Some of these icons have silver covers. The church's bell tower is one of the most impressive in Mytilene and was constructed with the sponsorship of Michael Bambouris.

The church does not have frescos, apart from the illustrations on the dome, on the triangles of the dome and on the arch of the altar. Of special interest are the icons of the chancel screen and several portable icons dating from the 18th century. Most noteworthy is a Byzantine-style icon of Aghios Demetrios holding a spear, probably dating from the 15th century.

In the north part of the church courtyard stretches the parish cemetery, where are found many family tombs from the area of Akleidiou.

The church of Evaggelistria celebrates on the 25th of March, the day the Annunciation, and on the 15th of August, the day of the Dormition of the Divine Mother.



31. The church of Saint Georgios stands in the area of Kato Chalikas in the southeastern part of Mytilene.

As indicated on the inscription found in the narthex, the church was built in 1817 at the site of an older chapel dedicated to St. George. The church's erection was funded by the Bishop of Mytilene Kallinikos and other dignitaries of the island. Much later, in 1978, further works were conducted to strengthen the structure of the church as several cracks had occurred on the outside of the building.

The building has a rectangular shape and follows the architectural style of the second-period Lesvian-type basilicas, with an arch on the ceiling of the central aisle and cross-vaults on the ceiling of the two transversal aisles.

The church's interior is decorated with very interesting icons. The chancel screen is made of marble and preserves the simple structure of the old screens. The throne is woodcut and bears a ciborium. The pulpit is also woodcut, rests on its own pillar and has the standard pulpit shape. The church has several portable icons, some of which originate from the older chapel.

There are two monuments in the church courtyard, one belonging to the Petrellis family and the other to Demetrios Lalelis. Both monuments are adorned with busts.



32. The Baths of Kourtzi are found close to the north exit of Mytilene and the factory of DEI (the Greek Electric Company). The deserted building of the Baths used to be part of a complex erected here by the Kourtzi family in the beginning of the 20th century.

The Baths were built around three hot springs and two cool water springs, with a recorded temperature of up to 35.5 Celcius.

The springs must have been well-known in antiquity, as finds have been discovered indicating the use of the baths in the roman era.



33. Close to the north exit of Mytilene and next to the local factory of DEI (the Greek Electric Company) there is a temple called **Metamorphosis Sotiros**, honouring the Lord's Transfiguration. The church was built by the Kourtzi family, who owned several buildings in the area.

The church follows the architectural style of the one-aisled basilica with an inscribed dome. The dome was painted by artists Eystratides and Polychronis. The structure is fitted with

an embedded bell tower. There are also two chapels, dedicated to saints Georgios and Demetrios, on the north and south side of the church, respectively. The church has a wooden portico and on its pediment it is inscribed that the church was erected in 1889. In the church's courtyard lie the tombs of the Kourtzi family.



34. Behind the cathedral church of Aghios Athanasios in Mytilene is a **building of the roman era**, which probably was of a public nature, as its architecture proclaims. Here stands a semi-circular buttress, which upheld large sheer pillars with an Ionian base. Several large pieces lie next to it, most likely from its epistyle, which rested on the pillars. These pieces are decorated in the Ionian style and feature themes from nature. Several scenarios have been conceived about the use of this building.

The most probable scenario, though, claims that the building was used as the as the Parliament Assembly or Senate House of the city.

The building dates from the late roman years and it indicates, together with the numerous manors discovered around Mytilene, the climax the region reached during the roman era.



35. The Parthenagogeion, or Girls' School, is located on Pittakou Road, in the centre of Mytilene. The original school building was erected in 1861, while the present one was built on the same location in 1898. The school's construction was sponsored by Zafiris Bournazos.

The building follows the monumental architectural style of the neoclassical era. The central building is surrounded by wings forming a closed complex with a courtyard. The decoration is focused on the building's front, which is fitted with a Doric

portico, while the central entrance is crowned with a pediment bearing the bust of school's benefactor. The school's architect was probably Argyris Adalis, although there are references to another architect, Demetrios Meimaris.

In the 19th century, the school's study syllabus followed the general educational system of the Greek state, albeit with a conservative inclination. The school put heavy stress on the importance of educating future wives and mothers on daily housekeeping topics. It did, however, also care for the development of skills for girls wanting to continue their education or to earn a living.

Today, the Girls' School continues its educational tradition by functioning as a Primary and Secondary School for the city of Mytilene.



36. The northern port of Mytilene in the area of Epano Skala was called "Malois Limin" after the sanctuary of Maloen Apollo, which was found in the area. This port used to be the trade centre of the city. The remains of two breakwaters from the 5th century still stand on the site, in exceptionally good condition. The first eastern breakwater is 350m long and branches off from a tower of the ottoman section of the castle of Mytilene. On its northern side, in past times, there existed a

lighthouse, as illustrated in gravures of the 18th century. The second north-western breakwater is extended from the beach, close to the abandoned factory of Kalamaris, and stretches to the east in a distance of 150m.

The original construction of the harbour installations dates back to the end of the 5th century B.C., according to evidence provided by the historian Thucydides. However, there also exists a third underwater breakwater that follows the same trail with the eastern one and bends to the west, forming a small port-basin. Presumably, its construction represents an earlier harbour work.

37. The walking path of the Kioski region of Mytilene passes by the Argiri Eftalioti Street, the ring-road around castle, MiKras Asias, 8th Noembriou, Katsakouli, Skra and James Arisarchi Streets. The manors that can be seen on the walking path are the following: (1) Achillea Vournazou Manor, (2) Trantafillidou – Paradelli Manor, (3) Vasileou House, (4) Fourtana House, (5) Katsakouli Manor, (6) Manola Mansion, (7) Kritikou House, (8) Turkish House, (9) Michael Katsani Manor, (10) Vasileou Goutou Manor, (11) James Aristarchi Manor, (12) Terpandou Papadopoulou House, (13) George Kapsimali twin residence, (14) George Kapsimali residence.

38. The walking path that passes by the city centre of Mytilene, the area around the football ground and the area of tarsana, it in succession passes by the following streets Kountourioti, St Therapontos, Alkaiou, Vournazon, Kavetsou, Karapanagioti, Vostani and El. Venizelou. The most important manors that can be seen on this walking path are the following: (1) Great Britannia Mansion, (2) Bank of Greece Mansion, (3) Theodorou Iliadi – I. Vouliouri House, (4) Nikolaou Voukarelli Manor, (5) Kabouri Manor, (6) Alexandrou Vostani Manor, (7) Giannikou Christofidi Manor, (8) Christofidi – Efstratiou Manor, (9) Leonti House, (10) Louka Goutou Manor, (11) A. Fourtouna Manor, (12) Themistokli Paradelli – Vostani House, (13) Konstantinou Kavetsou Manor, (14) Stavrou Stathopoulou Manor, (15) Olga Lalelli – Perikli Antoniou House, (16) Apostolou House, (17) Efstratias Sourlaga and Amatzydelli House, (18) Apostolou Chatzichristofa Manor, (19) Paraskeva Vostani Manor.

39. The walking path that passes by the areas of Makri Gialos, Sourada, and Aklediou and Varea includes the following manors that can be found on the Eleftheriou Venozelou Street: (1) Themistikli Noulelli House, (2) Fideli House, (3) Giannipoulou – Triantafillidou Residence, (4) Panagioti Vamvouri Manor, (5) Nikolaou Kouma Residence, (6) Doukaki Koukleli Residence, (7) kapsimali House, (8) Iliia Sourlaga House, (9) Charilaou Aggeletou Manor, (10) Georgiou Domeniko Residence, (11) Chatzichristofa house, (12) Christofidi – Touliatou House, (13) Konsantikou Chatzichristofa Tower, (14) Antoniou Goutou Manor, (15) Odyssea Koukleli House, (16) Georgi House, (17) Tzeortzidi House, (18) Spyridona Tzeortzidi Manor, (19) Lalelli House, (20) Alamanelli House, (21) Asimaki Koutzouki House, (22) Koutzouki – Arguriou House, (23) Apostolou Efstratiou Tower, (24) Nikolaou Ralli Manor, (25) Thrasivoulou Alepoudelli Manor Villa, (26) Koupa House, (27) Kondoni Tower, (28) Koutsoukidi Tower, (29) Fotiadi Tower, (30) Artemidi House, (31) Zografia Parioura's Manor, (32) Protopatsi – Molinou House, (33) Elpida Sifnaiou – Manouel House, (34) Zannou Sifnaiou Country House, (35) Panagioti Sifniou Country House.

40. The walking path that passes by the area of Aklediou and Varea includes the following 9 manors that can be found on the Eleftheriou Venozelou and A. Apostolou Streets: (1) Panagioti Paradelli House, (2) Alexandrou House, (3) Ioanni Gianneli Tower, (4) Apostolou Paradelli Country House, (5) Grimani Villa, (6) Vanio traditional House, (7) Vasileou Country House, (8) Panagioti Igglezeli House, (9) Achilea Vournazou Country Villa.



41. The temple of Genesiou Theotokou, honouring The Nativity of the Virgin Mary, stands north of Mytilene, in the village of Panagiouda. The church was built in 1896 with funding granted by locals and the sponsorship of Greek dignitaries in Egypt.

The church was built on the site of a chapel dedicated to the Birthday of the Divine Mother. That chapel was preserved until the Asia Minor Disaster, when it was used to house refugees arriving at the island.

The present church follows the architectural style of the cross-domed, three-aisled basilica. It is said that the church was architected by Demetrios Meimaris, also known as “Calfas”. The outside view of the church bears elements of gothic influence, similarly to St Therapon of Mytilene and the church of Taxiarches in Kagiani.

Inside, the church is decorated with very interesting paintings, most noteworthy being those of church painter P. Polychronis.

The chancel screen, the throne and the pulpit of the church are woodcut. There are also several icons, the majority of which were made in the 19th century. Most remarkable are the brassware and books of the holy liturgy, also dating from the 19th century.



42. Panagiouda is a village about 6 kms north of Mytilene.

On the coast of Panagiouda, off its picturesque port, stretches an industrial complex, with a number of buildings that speak of the area’s role in economic development in the 20th century.

On the complex there is a warehouse, a soap-making factory, a tan yard and an olive oil press, all owned by local dignitary Kapsimalis. A little farther off stands the old olive oil-press of local dignitary Metrelias.

All these buildings are referenced in the area in 1909, while the Kapsimalis olive oil-press operated until the last decades of the 20th century. The square chimney, which is still standing, constitutes a very characteristic feature.

Today, some of the buildings have been regenerated and are used for other purposes, while others are still deserted and unexploited.



43. The temple of Saint Barbara is found about 7kms from Mytilene, in the village of Pamphila. Saint Barbara is one of the most impressive churches on Lesbos.

The present church is built on the site of an older church,, which in turn replaced a previous church at the same location in the 18th century. The church was built between 1859 and 1881 and follows the architectural style of the three-aisled basilica with an inscribed dome. The church’s architecture and decoration are telling of the western influences that inspired the

designs of local master-builder Demetris Meimaris and marble sculptor Petros Bekios, who came from the island of Tenos.

The marble chancel screen of the church is quite remarkable, as it is the work of acclaimed sculptor Giannoulis Halepas. The screen was constructed in 1878, as indicated by the inscription next to the altar doorway. The throne and the pulpit are woodcut, constructed in 1786 and originating from the older church. The holy relic of Saint Barbara is kept in a reliquary positioned in the left part of the central aisle.

Several of the church icons are noteworthy, but of particular importance is the icon of St Theodoros of Byzantio, which is located on the north wall of the church. The icon has vast historical value, as it is the oldest known icon of the saint. It was made in 1798, just three years after the saint’s martyrdom. It portrays the saint standing and, on each corner of the icon, four scenes from the saint’s martyrdom.

The ambry holds many objects of ecclesiastical art and old book editions. Furthermore, the church has a remarkable archive, which includes fifty documents from the period between 1767 and 1866.

44. The “Katsakoulio” is a neo-classical building, donated by Andreas Katsakoulis, located in the village of Pamphila. Pamphila is the northernmost village of the municipality of Mytilene, 7 kilometers away from the city.

The Katsakoulio is on the eastern side of the temple of St. Barbara and is strongly connected to the village’s history. The building was constructed in 1911, with a donation from benefactor Andreas Katsakoulis, to house the area’s school.

The imposing school building adopts the neo-classical architectural style of early 20th

century buildings. The school's entrance is characteristic, decorated by two Ionic pillars and a marble gate. In the building's courtyard there is an embedded plate with a graven cross and the initials of the phrase "Jesus Christ Vanquishes", bearing the date 1784. It appears that this plate belonged to an earlier building; however, we have no knowledge of what that building was.

The Katsakoulio school in Pamphila was renovated quite a few years ago and today hosts the area's day-care nursery.



45. The "Bostaneio" primary school is a very prominent building in the village of Pamphila. Pamphila lies about 7kms from Mytilene and is the northernmost village of the municipality.

The "Bostaneio" primary school, standing at the village entrance, was built in 1928 with the sponsorship of Panagiotis and Georgios Bostanis. The "Bostaneio" was a worthy successor to the area's humble primary school, referenced in sources since 1840.

This primary school of Pamphila is still operational today, continuing its educational activity.



46. Afalonas is a village approximately 7 kms north of Mytilene. In a prominent position of the village stands the temple of the **Dormition of the Divine Mother**.

The church was built in 1914, just after the ending of the Turkish occupation, in the place of the older temple of the Dormition, which was in a very bad state. The church designs were laid out by the renowned architect of Mytilene, Argyris Adalis. The funding for the construction was mainly collected through donations from the locals.

In terms of its architecture, the church is a three-aisled, cross-domed basilica with Byzantine and Gothic elements.

The chancel screen, pulpit, throne and alms chest of the church are some of the most remarkable artworks of wood-sculpture of the beginning of the 19th century. These pieces were removed from the older church before its demolition and were later placed in the new church. Most noteworthy are the icons of the chancel screen, which also originate from the old church. Most special amongst the icons is that of the Holy Mother, dating from before the 18th century.



47. The Roman aqueduct is located 5 kilometres away from the city of Mytilene, in the village of Moria. The building is part of a monumental water-supply network used to transfer water from mount Olympus to the city of Mytilene. The overall length of the water pipes and construction works was over 26 kilometres.

The aqueduct is shaped in a row of arcs, which covered a valley 170 meters long and 27 meters high, approximately. The row of arcs comprises 17 arcs which appear to gradually penetrate the valley's banks. Regarding the monument's architecture, it follows sophisticated models. This is because the openings of the row of arcs are not simply supported by bases, but separated into three running arcs, supported by vertical pillars. Marble cornerstones have been used for the arcs, while the upper brickwork section belongs to a later period.

There are differing views regarding the monument's dating. Initially, the aqueduct was considered to be dating back to the times of Emperor Hadrian. However, the possibility of it dating back to the times of Agrippa seems more accurate; Agrippa was a competent engineer who sojourned in Mytilene for long periods between the years 23 and 13 B.C.

Nowadays, the aqueduct is under restoration and represents one of the most important monuments of the Roman era in Lesvos.



48. The village of Moria is about 5kms from Mytilene. **The church of St. Demetrios** lies within a woodland teeming with pines, just above the village.

The temple of St. Demetrios was built in the 19th century, as is shown on the faded inscription over the church entrance. After all, the church is referenced in written sources since 1850.

Inside the church there are multiple plaques baring the names of donors. Also noteworthy is a fluted pillar with taenia and a flywheel made of red trachyte.



49. The village of Moria is situated around 5 km away from the city of Mytilene. **St Vasilios** was erected in 1769, on the site of an earlier church, according to the inscription on a plaque baring a two-headed eagle and located on the main entrance's lintel.

The church is a three-aisled basilica of Lesvian type; however, a closed narthex has been attached to its western body, disfeaturing its architectural character.

The church's icon screen, created by craftsman Stavros Chios, is particularly remarkable. Chios was also responsible for the creation of other icon screens in the broader area of Mytilene. The style and aesthetic value of the primatial throne and the alms chest's carven lining are similar to that of the chancel screen; the pulpit and the faldstool are later artefacts.

During the recent icon screen's maintenance works by the 14th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, two mural fragments were revealed, parts of the older wall-painting used to decorate the church a few years after its erection.



50. The temple of St Georgios Tropaiphoros is in **Alyfanta** about 2 kms from Mytilene. The church was built in the place of an older chapel that was destroyed due to fire in 1912.

The church was designed by Ioannis Kokkinos or Malis and follows the architectural style of the cross-domed basilica with a small cupola.

Inside the church, there is a simple wooden chancel screen.

Five pieces of the old woodcut chancel screen have been placed on the new screen and above the altar doorway. These pieces together, with two old screen icons, probably originate from the older chapel. The icons picture Jesus Christ and St John the Baptist.

The throne, pulpit and priedieu of the church are also woodcut and of similar artistic style to the chancel screen. Additionally, St Georgios has several portable icons and books of the holy liturgy from the 18th and 19th century.

A cemetery and a small chapel exist in the church courtyard.



51. Alyfanta is a village almost 3.5km from Mytilene, near the bay of Gera. Alyfanta used to be the primary summer holiday resort of the inhabitants of Mytilene.

Near the village and inshore of the bay of Gera bay we find Pyrgi with its small port. There stands the temple of the Dormition of the Divine Mother, built in 1864. Several building relics from ancient times may be found in the church.



52. The temple of St Georgios Tropaiphoros is in Loutra about 8kms from Mytilene.

The church was founded in 1815, at the site of an older church, which was made of wood. Later in 1840, the west

side of the building was expanded with the addition of a narthex. Today, the main church and the narthex are integrated

and constitute a three-aisled basilica.

The interior decoration of St Georgios is simple and was completed in 1920. Noteworthy are the two marble priedieus of the church. The first priedieu is made by Zervas, a sculptor from Mytilene, and is adorned with an icon picturing Holy Martyr Theodoros of Byzantio. The second priedieu is the work of sculptor Hadjidiakos and is adorned with an icon of the Holy Trinity.

The chancel screen, throne and pulpit of the church are woodcut with decorations that imitate marble. The church has several portable icons and brassware from the 18th and the 19th century.

Outside of the church, there is a bell tower. One of the bells therein was donated to the church by the Russian Consul of Mytilene in 1855.



53. Loutra is approximately 9 kms from Mytilene. The village is situated on two hill slopes west of Amali among fully-grown olive groves.

Like most places on the island, Loutra has 2 olive oil-press factories, since olive oil production is a very important element of the island's economy.

In Loutra there are two neighbouring olive oil-presses, namely, Kiviklis and Baliadis. Both are characterised by their magnificent architecture.

The first one, the property of the Kiviklis brothers, used to belong to the Xatziandreas family and was built at about the end of 19th century. It consists of a complex of buildings, the central one being the main olive processing unit, and many warehouses in the perimeter that surround and ring-fence the factory. There are additional auxiliary spaces, such as a weighing balance building, oil warehouses, olive-seed warehouses etc. The factory has also got a characteristic polygon-shaped chimney which is about 20m high. Next to Kiviklis stands the Baliadis olive oil-press, which initially belonged to the Vasiliou family. It was built in 1891 and has a similar layout as its neighbouring factory, with a round chimney. Today both olive oil presses are centrifugal.

54. Teriade Museum

The Stratis Eleytheriadis – Teriade Museum and Library stands next to the Theofilos Museum in the Bareia area, just outside Mytilene, in a verdant piece of land selected by Eleytheriadis himself. The Museum opened to the public in 1979 and is a grant of Eleytheriadis to the city of Mytilene.

The Teriade Museum manages and exhibits the life's work of collector, publisher and artist Stratis Eleytheriadis. Issues of Verve, the illustrated periodical of art published by Eleytheriadis, are exhibited in the rooms of the Museum. Display windows exhibit the

issues of Verve, while on the Museum walls hang copies of pages containing illustrations by very important artists such as Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

The rest of the Museum exhibits issues of the Big Little Books published by Teriade, including lithographs by Picasso (we show works from *Le chant des morts*, 1950), Matisse (we show works from *Jazz*, 1950), Chagall (we show works from *Daphnis et Cloe*, 1961), Leger (we show works from *Circe*, 1950) etc. These are pieces representing the dialectic relationship between painting and poetry, combining the work of the greatest representatives of modern art with the writings of great authors and intellectuals.

Additionally, the Museum displays copies of manuscripts from the Middle Ages (we show *Saint Sebastien*, 1946), 40 paintings of naif painter Theofilos (we show "Brave military chieftain of Macedonia Theodoros Karapatis, pursuing Turks and Bulgarians in 1879", 1932), works of Giannis Tsarouhis (we show "4 seasons", 1970) and other important Greek artists, such as Orestis Kanellis (we show "Olive trees", 1975) and Manolis Kalligianis (we show "Great White Cypress", 1956). The museum organises visual art exhibitions, publications and other cultural activities befitting its character.

Theofilos Museum

The Theofilos Museum is a donation to the city of Mytilene by Stratis Eleytheriadis. It was founded in 1965 in the area of Bareia, on the estate that also houses the Teriade Museum and Library. The Theofilos Museum is housed in a building of local traditional architecture, where 86 of Theofilos's artworks are exhibited.

The promotion of the painter's work is all attributed to Stratis Eleytheriadis. Eleytheriadis, who met Theofilos in Mytilene in 1829, bought all of his paintings available at the time and even ordered as many as the artist could produce in order to exhibit them in Paris.

The subject matter of Theofilos's paintings includes representations of scenes from history, allegories, real or imaginary landscapes etc. The artist's inspiration frequently originates in mythology, as well as in the Bible, and he manages to combine elements such as simplicity, natural harmony and creative imagination.

According to Teriade, Theofilos's work recreates and highlights the Byzantine tradition of frescos and the simplicity and creative imagination of the popular intellect, representing Greek tradition and Greek nature in harmonious fashion.



55. The village of Aghia Marina is about 5 kms away from Mytilene. Here is also the homonymous temple of St. Marina. The church was built on the spot where, according to tradition, an icon of the Saint appeared several times below a pomegranate tree.

The exact date the church was built is not known. The year 1797 is referenced in an inscription in the front of the church, but it probably refers to either the start of its construction or to repairs

undertaken.

The church is a basilica. Outside, on the west side where the narthex is, there are two wall-fitted Byzantine marble shields and a plaque bearing the emblem of the two-headed eagle. The parapets were transferred there from the area of Amali, where are found traces of a Byzantine or proto-Christian church.

The chancel screen and the throne inside the church are magnificent artworks of wood-sculpture and were constructed in 1839, as indicated by the date engraved on the throne. The portable icons date of the 18th and 19th century. Particularly remarkable are two Byzantine icons, one representing Christ as the King of Kings and the other the Holy Mother holding baby Jesus, which used to be positioned in the church's holy altar but were later transferred in the Cathedral's museum



56. The temple of Pammegiston Taxiarchon is in the Taxiarches village, also known as “Kagiani”, almost 6km from Mytilene. The temple is dedicated to the Archangels Michael and Gabriel.

The temple was built in 1903, the third one to be built on the same spot. The building is of a cross-domed type and presents several gothic influences. Its monumental cupola is very characteristic and resembles that of St Therapon in Mytilene.

This is due to the fact that both churches were based on designs laid out by the same architect, Argyris Adalis.

The temple has a remarkable interior decoration. The fresco of the Archangel Michael painted on a section of the southern wall is of special interest. The fresco originates from the second or first monastery of Taxiarches and has been preserved together with the section of the wall it is painted on. Equally remarkable are works of wood-sculpture, such as the chancel screen and the throne that were constructed at the beginning of the 18th century and originate from the older temple. The pulpit is of similar style and origin.

Additionally, the temple has some portable icons from the 17th century, which probably come from the older church. One of the most outstanding heirlooms of the temple is an exceptionally crafted Cross of benediction.

57. The 1922 Museum of Refugee Remembrance is accommodated since August 2006 at the building of the ex-Primary School of Loutra. The Museum exhibits the collection of refugee families’ belongings that have been established at Skala Loutron after the Asia Minor Catastrophe in 1922. Despite the short period of operation the Museum has become widely known, it accepts daily satisfactory number of visitors, included school visits and has extracted most excellent criticism. The Museum is open to public daily between 17:00 to 20:00



100. In the wider area of Alyfanta, the chapel of St. Melani sits on shore of the bay of Gera.

The chapel is built on the rocks of Gera’s coast, south of the port of Pyrgi.



101. The small chapel of Christ is south of the chapel of St Melani on the shore of the bay of Gera.

The chapel was built on the spot known as Lakerda, between Vigla and Loutra, just before the road that leads to

Loutra. In the same area where the chapel of Christ is, the remains of ancient architectural structures have been found. Among these are inscribed stones and parts of an old Christian building structure.



102. Panagiouda is 6 kms outside of Mytilene and, with its small port, is considered the city’s foremost onshore outskirts. Slightly north of Panagiouda, by the sea, we find the area of Phoenicodasos (or Palm tree forest). This area is next to the beach and full of palm trees, which is the reason the area is named “Phoenicodasos”.



103. Pyrgi is a small village in the wider area of Alyfanta on the bay of Gera. The area was first inhabited in ancient times and is referenced in sources of the Roman age. In 1864, the church of Dormition of the Divine Mother was founded in Pyrgi. Next to the coast lie the remains of an ancient ceramics workshop and further south are the remains of a settlement, possibly from the Roman age. Today, Pyrgi is mainly known for its picturesque port and tourist facilities. From Pyrgi's port the visitor may enjoy the beautiful sunset in the bay of Gera.



104. The small chapel of St Nikolaos stands on the coast north of Pamphila village. With its bright white colour, it stands out within the all-green landscape below the hillside of olive trees that descending from the peak of Vigla all the way to the sea. The chapel has a balcony overhanging the sheer coast. A narthex was added to the chapel of Ai Nicholas after it was built. Within the chapel, there is a woodcut chancel screen and icons belonging to the old temple of St Barbara of Pamphila. In

the chapel's courtyard stand parts of two fluted pillars.



105. Skala Loutron is the name of the port of Loutra, on the bay of Gera. It is a picturesque port, full of life, especially during the summer.

Here is the old olive oil-press factory of Irene Vasiliou, built in 1909, which now operates as a hotel. Next to this and on the port of Skala, there is the fishermen's union of Loutra as well as the renowned "tarsanas" of the area. The old "Tarsanas", or boat yard, is now a maintenance establishment for boats and other shipping vessels.

A bit farther to the east and at the root of the rocky hill of Skala Loutron lies an olive-seed processing factory, initially owned by local businessman Mouzalas and operating up until the mid-1980s. The factory is said to be the first that was established on the island of Lesbos, in 1909.

Finally, an ancient fort exists on the picturesque hill of Panagia Skalas Loutron, where several ancient tombs have been discovered from the classic age, indicating the presence of an ancient settlement by the coast. thereon. Surface finds have been revealed in the area, providing evidence of the existence of a fishing settlement during archaic and classical times.



106. Kountouroudia is a port accommodating the wider area of Loutra in the bay of Gera. From here sail small boats travelling between Kountouroudia and Perama, the location directly opposite Kountouroudia within the bay of Gera. Along the port, visitors may enjoy a number of tourist facilities, including several tavernas offering traditional seafood

delicacies.

About 300m west of Kountouroudia is the small rocky islet of Aghios Isidoros, with a small chapel, the remains of an older chapel and some fort walls from the Byzantine era. Further remains of old buildings can also be found opposite Aghios Isidoros.



107. The Aghia Marina – Panagia Amali trail is a hiking route of about 12 kms south of Mytilene and is exceptional due to its beautiful landscapes.

The route is ideal for nature lovers, hikers and mountain-bikers. It lasts about 4 hours and passes through Aghia Marina – Amali – Portes – Tsekouria – Lagkadas – Aghia Marina Football

Ground and Aghia Marina.

The route has three signs with information including maps, descriptions of the route and the wider terrain. It is signposted all through, providing the hiker useful local information regarding current position and direction. Visitors can relax at any time sitting at tables and benches scattered alongside the trail. An information kiosk is also available, with a unique bird's eye view of the southeast side of the island.

The construction of the Aghia Marina – Panagia Amali trail was funded by the Agency for the Local Development of Lesvos a part of the EU initiative “Leader Plus – Local Programme of Lesvos”.



108. The Haramida bay is about 10 kms from Mytilene, past Mytilene's airport. In the past few years, it has been a fast-developing tourist area.

Haramida is a valley bordered in the west by a line of hills and in the east by Amalis Mountain. The “Lahaneri” stream runs through the valley and pours into the bay. Ancient ruins have been discovered in the wider area signifying that it has been constantly inhabited from ancient times.

Today, Haramida benefits from numerous cafes, restaurants and hotels lying alongside the beach and providing visitors with high quality comforts.

The beach of Haramida is one of the most renowned spots on the island, attracting a significant number of tourists due to its close distance to Mytilene and its natural beauty.



109. In the wider area of Loutra and near the coast of Haramida lies the bay and picturesque beach of **Aghios Ermogenis**. On a rock at the edge of the bay stands the small chapel of St Ermogenis, with its characteristic cupola. According to local legend, the chapel was built on the site of an older building. The coast of Aghios Ermogenis is distinguished for its transparent, crystal-blue sea waters and its all-green

landscape, filled with pines that reach as far as the beach. Within this idyllic scene, visitors can enjoy a nice swim and find all the necessary amenities in the established local tourist facilities.

110. Following the inshore route south of Mytilene city, after Kratigos and before the acumination of the cape of Agrilias or Maleas, there is the area of **Agios Georgios**. The site has been named after the newly-built chapel of St. Georgios, which is situated



111. Skala Loutron is the port of the village of Loutra, on the bay of Gera.

Inside an olive grove, on a hill bordering Skala Loutron, is the picturesque chapel of Panagia Ipsili.

A small, stone-built path leading to a flight of stairs, grants access to the chapel. Both the path and the chapel are fully-lit at night, facilitating visitor access. The small chapel of Panagia Ipsili overhangs the hill and stands out due to its white and purple colour, while providing a magnificent view of the port

below.

