



Roman Monuments in Thessaloniki

Rotunda

- The Rotunda of Agios Georgios in Thessaloniki is one of the oldest and most imposing monuments of Thessaloniki.
- The Rotunda was part of a large building complex that included the palaces, an octagonal building and the hippodrome built by Caesar Galerius, when in the years of the first Roman tetrarchy (around 300 AD) he made Thessaloniki his seat. This monument was built in the first decade of the 4th AD. century by Galerius and according to one view it was intended by him as his mausoleum. It never served this purpose, because Galerius died and was buried far from Thessaloniki.



Kamara

The Arch of Galerius, also known as Kamara, is together with the White Tower, the most characteristic monument of Thessaloniki, and is located in Egnatia in the center of Thessaloniki.

The Kamara is a building from the time of the Roman "Tetrarchy" (beginning of the 4th century AD) and is the western leg of a covered portico, which was formed by arches and arches. It was built in honor of the Roman Emperor Galerius, when he returned victorious to Thessaloniki (about 306 AD) after his wars against the Persians.



The Eptapyrgio Fortress

- The Eptapyrgio Fortress, also known by the Ottoman name of Gendi Koule, is located at the northeastern end of the walls of Thessaloniki. It consists of two sections: the Byzantine fortress, which consists of ten towers and the perimeter, as well as the newer prison buildings, which have been built inside and outside the fortress. The towers of the north side are parts of the early Christian wall of the Acropolis, while those of the south were probably added during the middle Byzantine times. There they were kept prisoners regardless of gender or crime.



Ancient Agora (the Forum of Romans) (2nd-3rd c. A.C.)

- The main point of reference in the city of Thessaloniki was the area of the Ancient Agora in both the Hellenistic and Roman eras. Especially during the Roman years, the area of the Agora (Forum) was the social and religious center of the whole city and the place where the most imposing and majestic public buildings were located.
- The Romans, a primarily martial people, preserved and used many elements from Greek architecture and urban planning. But their works were also distinguished by the "rectangular" Etruscan concept of organizing spaces, which gives architectural solutions to Roman buildings with a complex functional variety.





Roman Baths (Crypt of Saint Demetrius) discovered after the fire of 1917

- The entrance to the crypt is located next to the right foot of the sacred step and leads to the area where, according to tradition, Saint Demetrius was imprisoned, martyred and buried. the service of athletes. Saint Demetrius, the miraculous patron of Thessaloniki, was honored immediately after the establishment of Christianity. In his Temple, since its foundation (in the middle of the 5th century), there were three main places of honor: the cruciform Inauguration in the sanctuary of the Temple, the hexagonal Kivorio in the central aisle and the Crypt with the fountain.
- The entrance to the crypt is located next to the right foot of the sacred step and leads to the area where, according to tradition, Saint Demetrius was imprisoned, martyred and buried. the service of athletes. Saint Demetrius, the miraculous patron of Thessaloniki, was honored immediately after the establishment of Christianity. In his Temple, since its foundation (in the middle of the 5th century), there were three main places of honor: the cruciform Inauguration in the sanctuary of the Temple, the hexagonal Kivorio in the central aisle and the Crypt with the fountain.
- The entrance to the crypt is located next to the right foot of the sacred step and leads to the area where, according to tradition, Saint Demetrius was imprisoned, martyred and buried. the service of athletes. Saint Demetrius, the miraculous patron of Thessaloniki, was honored immediately after the establishment of Christianity. In his Temple, since its foundation (in the middle of the 5th century), there were three main places of honor: the cruciform Inauguration in the sanctuary of the Temple, the hexagonal Kivorio in the central aisle and the Crypt with the fountain.