

# Archaeological Museum of Patras – Key Exhibits (for students)

The **Archaeological Museum of Patras** is one of the largest and most modern museums in Greece. It presents the history of the wider region of **Achaia** from prehistoric times to the Roman period. The museum is especially famous for its **Roman mosaics**, sculptures, and finds from ancient cemeteries.

Here are some **important exhibits and sections** that students can understand easily in English.

## 1. Roman Mosaics

One of the most impressive collections in the museum is the **Roman mosaic floors**.

These mosaics decorated the houses of wealthy citizens of Roman Patras (1st–4th century AD). They were made from thousands of small colored stones called **tesserae**.

The mosaics show:

- Scenes from **Greek mythology**
- **Theatre masks**
- **Animals and nature**
- **Geometric patterns**

They help us understand the **daily life and artistic taste** of the Roman period in Patras.

## 2. Sculptures and Statues

The museum also displays many **marble statues and portrait busts**.

These sculptures usually represent:

- **Roman citizens**
- **Important officials**
- **Mythological figures**

Portrait busts are especially interesting because they show **real faces of people who lived in Patras nearly 2,000 years ago.**

### 3. Pottery and Everyday Objects

Another important part of the museum includes **pottery, tools, and jewelry.**

These objects tell us about **everyday life** in ancient times.

Visitors can see:

- **Amphorae** used to store wine and oil
- **Cooking pots**
- **Jewelry and personal items**
- **Glass objects from the Roman period**

These artifacts show how people **worked, ate, and lived.**

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## The Necropolis Hall (Important Section)

One of the most interesting sections of the museum is the **Necropolis Hall.**

A **necropolis** means “**city of the dead.**” It was a large cemetery outside the ancient city.

In this hall, visitors can see objects that were placed in graves during ancient times.

Important exhibits include:

- **Grave offerings** such as pottery, jewelry, and coins
- **Funerary sculptures and monuments**
- **Objects buried with children and adults**
- **Glass vessels and perfumes placed in tombs**

These objects show the **beliefs of ancient people about death and the afterlife.** Families placed personal items in graves because they believed the dead might need them in the next world.

The necropolis section also helps archaeologists understand:

- **Ancient burial customs**
- **Social status of the dead**
- **Family traditions**

## Archaeological Museum of Patras

### Student Worksheet – Discover Ancient Patras

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Observation Questions

##### 1. Roman Mosaics

Find a Roman mosaic.

What scene or design can you see?

- animals
- mythological figures
- geometric patterns
- theatre masks

Write the name or describe it:

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##### 2. Ancient Pottery

Find an ancient **amphora** or pottery object.

What do you think it was used for?

- storing wine
- storing oil
- cooking
- decoration

##### 3. Statues and Sculptures

Look at a marble statue or bust.

What does it represent?

- a god or goddess
- a Roman citizen
- an emperor
- a mythological figure

##### 4. Necropolis Hall

In the **Necropolis Hall**, find an object that was placed in a grave.

What object did you see?

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Why do you think it was buried with the person?

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### 5. Your Favourite Exhibit

Which object impressed you the most?

Name or describe it:

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Why did you choose it?

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### Mini Challenges

#### Challenge 1 - Museum Photo

Take a photo with **your team next to your favourite exhibit**.

Give your photo a title:

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#### Challenge 2 - Find the Myth

Find an object connected with **Greek mythology**.

What mythological character did you find?

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What story is it connected with?

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#### ★ Reflection Question (optional)

What did you learn today about **life in ancient Patras**?

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