

## CULTURAL ROUTES OF NAFPLIO

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this study is to examine the cultural routes of Nafplio. Initially, Nafplio is examined in terms of the origin of its name, geographical location, flora and fauna. Then, the history, the monuments, the churches, the cultural centers as well as some personalities of Antiquity, the Byzantine era and Frankish rule, the Venetian era and Ottoman rule, and the modern times are presented in detail. Finally, the chapters of the conclusions-proposals and the bibliography follow.*

**Keywords:** *Cultural, Route, Nafplio*

### **Introduction**

The purpose of the study is to highlight the cultural significance of Nafplio through the historical background of the tangible legacies of this city, which are the monuments, churches and busts - statues, cultural centers, and personalities linked to it. Then, Nafplio is examined in terms of the origin of its name, geographical location, flora and fauna. The following is the chapter which is associated with the historical background of the ancient times and the detailed recording of the monuments of the specific period. The next chapter analyzes the history of the Byzantine era and the Frankish occupation, as well as the churches that were built during these years. The study also describes the Venetian era and the Ottoman Empire, as well as the monuments and churches that were built during this period. Next is the chapter related to the Modern Age and the cultural buildings dating to this historical period. In addition, the last chapters refer respectively to the conclusions-proposals of the work and its bibliography.

### **1.Nafplio**

#### **1.1. Origin of name of the place**

According to Greek mythology, at the place where this city is today, Nafplio, son of Poseidon and Amymon, founded Nafplio. This fact testifies to the name of Nafplio (Mitoula & Kaldis, 2018).

#### **1.2. Geographical designation**

Nafplio is the capital of the Prefecture of Argolida, which is located in the eastern part of the Peloponnese, borders north with the prefecture of Corinth, southeast with Trizinia and southwest with the prefecture of Arcadia, and is located southeast of the Argolic Gulf and northeast (<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/294141419390916187/>).

#### **1.3. Flora**

The flora of Nafplio consists of various species. Some of them are "muscari comosum", "night flower", "medlar", "iris", "ladania", "chrysanthemum the coronation", "small prick", "aspalathos", " wild crocus of the mountain ", the" charming anemone ", the" veronica ", the"

poppy "and the" tobacco grass"  
(<https://argolisnature.gr/%CF%85%CE%B3%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%B2%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%82-%CE%BD%CE%B1%CF%85%CF%80%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%85/%CF%87%CE%BB%CF%89%CF%81%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B1-%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B1%CF%82>)

#### **1.4. Fauna**

As for the fauna of Nafplio, it consists of various species. Some are the "tsalapetinos", the "kitrinousourada", the "male blackbird", the "lizard", the "fighter" and the "skarthaki"  
(<https://argolisnature.gr/%CF%85%CE%B3%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%B2%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%82-%CE%BD%CE%B1%CF%85%CF%80%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%85/%CF%80%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B1-%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B1%CF%82>)

#### **1.5. Climate**

The climate of the city of Nafplio is temperate Mediterranean in the summer months and mild in the winter, with rare and light rains (<http://www.omorfipoli-pension.com/el/location-el>)

## **2. Antiquity**

### **2.1. History**

Regarding antiquity, there is little information about the history of Nafplio during this period. However, there is still a mention of this location from the classical era. Specifically, a text in Euripides' "Orestes" states that King Menelaus disembarked at the port of Nafplio, returning from Troy to go to Argos. Also, according to historical sources, the place was inhabited at the latest during the Neolithic Age, and in the same time phase, Nafplia must have been a port of prehistoric Tiryns. It is worth mentioning that the remains of the cyclopean Mycenaean wall in the southern corner of the castle of Toros testify to the existence of a fortified Mycenaean citadel (Charitonidou, 1955). Furthermore, the excavation of a large cemetery at the northern foot of Palamidi, in areas of Evangelistria and Pronoia, suggests the existence of a corresponding settlement of the Early Helladic and Mycenaean eras (Kardamitsi-Adam, 1995). During these periods, Nafplio developed into an administratively independent city, Argos. It is mentioned that the fact that this place was among the seven founding cities proves its importance during the 8th century BC. Suddenly, during the 7th century BC, the rapid progress of Nafplio is interrupted due to the fact that Damokratidas, as an ally of the Spartans, destroyed it (Lambrinidis, 1950). Moreover, during Hellenistic times, Nafplio again became an important city, as in 300 BC. the western part of Akronafplia was fortified with a polygonal wall for defensive reasons. Today, there are few examples of fortifications in houses of the Hellenistic era (Verdelis, 1964).

### **2.2. Monuments**

#### **2.2.1. Acronafplia**

Acronafplia is a rocky peninsula that was the acropolis of Nafplio in ancient times. Remnants at this site are minimal. Some of them are the so-called polygonal walls that were built in the highest and western part at the end of the 4th century BC. or the beginning of the 3rd century BC. Also, pieces of Hellenistic-era walls, found under the newer fortifications which testify to the course of construction of the single wall, start from its southwest, continue

along its northern side and close to its east, "forming a transverse wall to the south of a and the south side remains uncovered, as it is protected by the morphology of the soil ". Also, with the conquest of the Franks in 1212 AC, Akronafplia was divided into two castles, the "Roman" in the west and the "Frankish" in the east. The tower in the middle of the hill was used for security and defense against enemies. "Frangiko", the eastern side of Acronafplia, was surrounded by a wall with two round towers and a triangular fortress. Today, the remnants of the years of Frankish rule are few (Karpodini-Demitriadi, 1993)

### **2.3. Cultural centers**

#### **2.3.1. Archaeological Museum of Nafplio**

The Archaeological Museum of Nafplio is located west of Syntagma Square. The exhibits of this building, built by the Venetian fortune teller Augustino Sagredo and inaugurated by the royal family in 1713, date back to prehistoric times, mainly from the Mycenaean era. On the facade of the building is a marble slab, on which is designed a relief lion of Venetian rule. Also, outside the museum, there is a five-arched portico that rests on four pillars. The exhibits are located on the two floors and the offices of the 4th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities are located on the ground floor (Piteros, 1993). On the first floor, exhibits, such as pottery and tools collected from Kefalari, Dendra and Nafplio, date back to the Paleolithic and Mesolithic eras. Typical examples of archeological objects are a freezer that comes from Prosymni and Tiryns, the Early Helladic seals of Asini and the ceramics of Tiryns and Mycenae (Antoniadis, 2007). In addition, on the second floor of the Museum, the objects on display date mainly to the Sub-Mycenaean, Classical and Hellenistic periods. One of the most important findings are considered to be vessels and tombstones of the geometric period, as well as clay votive shields from Tiryns of the end of the 8th century BC. with depictions of war and mythological scenes, such as a shield inside which is painted a mythological scene of Achilles with Penthesilea and outside it is decorated with Centaurs and hunters (Antoniadis, 2007).

### **3. Byzantine era and Frankish rule**

#### **3.1. History**

During the 6th century AC, Christianity spread, not only in Nafplio, but also throughout the Peloponnese. At that time, for the first time, the rulers of Byzantium sent guards to the castles of Nafplio and Monemvasia. It is characteristic that during this period the populations of the central Peloponnese moved to its eastern side due to the constant movements and raids of the Slavic tribes. During the 9th and 12th centuries BC, Nafplio was an organized religious center with the central figures being Bishop Petros of Argos and the founder of Areia Leontas (Lambrinidis, 1950). Also, the strategic position of this place aroused the interest of the Byzantines, with the typical example of General Nikiforos Karantinos. Furthermore, thanks to the fortified position of Nafplio and its port, and its development into an administrative and commercial center, its inhabitants were able to face the enemy with great success. In later years (1180 AC), Theodoros Sgouros was appointed ruler of the place by the emperor Manuel Komnenos. The mission of the first was to turn Nafplio into an autonomous metropolis and to create a fleet to remove the pirates. It is also noted that during the 12th century this area progressed rapidly in the field of fortifications. Specifically, the Byzantines built strong walls not only in Acronafplia, but also throughout the city for defensive reasons (Lambrinidis, 1975). After the fall of Constantinople, Greece was occupied by Boniface Momferatikos who was the leader of the French, Lombard, Flemish and German armies. Then, around 1204 the first (Leontas Sgouros) could no longer resist and fell dead in front of the city walls and was buried in the narthex of the Diocese. In 1212 the Franks became the leaders of Nafplio. In

particular, Villehardouin ceded his leading position to the Burgundian "Great Lady of Athens" Otto de la Roche. In 1308 the de la Roche family bequeathed the castles of Nafplio to de Brienne and in 1356 the first family transferred them to d'Enghien, whose last heir married the Venetian Peter Cornaro. After his death, considering the dangers posed by Anjagioli and the despots of Mystras, she ceded her rights to the Doge of Venice, Andrea Dandolo. Thus, Venice acquired the most powerful castle in the region, which remained in its possession for over 150 years (Lambrinidis, 1975).

### **3.2. Churches**

#### **3.2.1. Holy monastery**

This church, which is a well-preserved building, was built according to the standards of a Byzantine church by the bishop of Argos and Nafplio Leontas Atza in 1143. During the Frankish period (1212-1389) and the Venetian period (1385-1540), this monastery received many privileges by the Latin Bishop of Argos, Secundos Nani, and was administered by Greek Orthodox monks. Also, during the next period of Ottoman rule, it was granted by deed of the notary (notary) of Nafplio (1679) to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, as a share of the Holy Sepulcher. In addition, the Holy Monastery remained an important spiritual center of the region and a beloved place of residence of learned men - copiers of manuscripts (Choras, 1995).

#### **3.2.2. Catholic Church**

This church, which functioned as a sanctuary of the catholic nuns of Nafplio, was built during the Frankish period. This fact is evidenced by the complex building structure of the church (cells, warehouses, galleries, cistern, presbytery) and its construction technique (isodomic masonry, careful carving of the four-sided stones), which are features of the Frankish technique. However, a few years before the uprising, this church was transformed into a mosque, whose technical characteristics are the very low and large dome, the round shape (trunk) near the temple-base of the minaret (Korombokis, 2000).

#### **3.3.3. Hagia Sophia**

This church, located on Konstantinoupoleos Street, is still in good condition. Its main architectural features are the small tiled basilica with an octagonal dome, the plastered west two-storey side and the bell tower. From this building, a capital with embossed jewelry has been transferred to the Archaeological Museum of Nafplio (Choras, 1995).

## **4. Venetian era and Ottoman rule**

### **4.1. History**

#### **4.1.1. 1st period of the Venetian era**

The first period of the Venetian era lasted from 1389 to 1540. In 1389, the Most Peaceful Republic of Venice exercised administrative activity in Nafplio, aiming at the expansion of its sovereignty with the ultimate goal of ensuring the existence of appropriate strategies for the protection of Peloponnese trading posts. From the day of the signing of the Sapienza Treaty, the Republic of Venice took two centuries to occupy Nafplio, whose port had a large naval power in the Mediterranean. The predators ("preditori"), commandators ("commandatori"), and commissioners ("rettori") were officials of the Venetian Republic who were either in conflict with the Azagioli of Athens or allied with them and the Byzantines in order to annex them. Turks who were preparing to enter Argolid Corinth. Then, in 1396, Yuk-Pasha, by order of Sultan Bayezid, arrived in front of the city walls of Nafplio, whose action was prevented by the locals. Also, in 1537, Sultan Suleiman I asked Vezyris Kasim-Pasha to place large-caliber cannons on the hill of Palamidi. It is noted, however, that Acronafplia and the lower part of the city were completely destroyed by the fire of the Turkish troops. After a

three-year siege, Venice signed a peace treaty and the guard of Nafplio, Alexandros Kontaris, handed over the keys to the castle to Kasim-Pasha. In addition, in 1540, the Turks invaded Nafplio and many Greeks and Venetians left for Venice, the Ionian Islands and Crete (Kouria, n.d.).

#### *4.1.2. 1<sup>st</sup> period of Ottoman rule*

The period of the first period of Ottoman rule lasts from 1540 to 1686. During these years Nafplio becomes the capital of the Santzaki of Moria and the seat of the General Commander, Mora - Valesis. After some years of peace between the people of Nafplio and the Turks, in 1655, the New Martyr Anastasios of Nafplio, who refused to convert to Islam, was killed by the latter. In 1686, 8,000 locals and 3,000 Turkish soldiers lived in the city. At that time, although there were no architectural remains, some damaged houses were erected and mosques, fountains and baths were built in Akronafplia. It is worth mentioning that the 17th century marked the decline of Venice. The gradual loss of its possessions in the Mediterranean, as well as the failed attempt of the Venetian military operations in Dalmatia, forces them to turn again to the idea of the recovery of Greece, and specifically of the Peloponnese immediately after the conquest of Crete by the Turks (1669). It is worth noting that at the end of the 16th century (namely the first period of Ottoman rule) the first travelers arrived at the place, who thoroughly studied its culture. In addition, the small mosque on the east side of today's Syntagma Square is the only monument that marks the era of Ottoman rule (Traganou, 1974).

#### *4.1.3. 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the Venetian era*

The second period of Venetian rule, which lasted from 1686 to 1715, although lasting only 28 years, played a particularly decisive role for Nafplio. It is worth noting that in such a short time so many important projects were implemented. Also, during this time period, Nafplio became an "all-European city" and "the most beautiful of the cities of the East, the first fortress of the flourishing kingdom of Morea". Characteristically, in 1713 the church of Agios Spyridon and the monastery of Agios Georgios were built, the decoration of which contains elements of the Italian technique of the 17th century (Lambrinidis, 1975).

#### *4.1.4. 2<sup>nd</sup> period of Ottoman rule*

During the second period of Ottoman rule, which lasted from 1715 to 1822, Nafplio declined. Specifically, after the fall of Nafplio, it was visited by Sultan Ahmet III to offer privileges to the victors of the war. Thus, the specific place was again defined as the capital of the Vilaeti of the Peloponnese. However, in 1786, Mora-Pasha moved his headquarters to Tripoli for military reasons. It is also reported that in the city, the Turks outnumbered the Greek inhabitants. To the former, the Sultan gave the properties of Greeks who had left their place. Few of them lived in Psaromachala. Their total number reached four thousand. Over time, Nafplio was more like an oriental town than an area with a European "air", as it was full of mosques, Turkish baths and tall narrow houses adorned with roofs. Travelers who arrived in the area in the 19th century described the deep atmosphere that prevailed due to the suspicious behavior of the Turks. In addition, at the end of November 1822, D. Moschonisiotis climbed the bastion of "Achilles" and Staikos Staikopoulos climbed the bastion of Agios Andreas. Three days later, the Turks handed over the keys of Nafplio to Theodoros Kolokotronis. The struggles of the locals and the rest of the Greeks ended gloriously, as Nafplio was finally liberated from the yoke of the conquerors (Traganou, 1974).

## **4.2. Monuments**

### *4.2.1. Sights*

- Palamidi : This fortress was built during the second period of Venetian rule (1686 - 1715) and is located at the top of the eastern side of the hill of Palamidi. It is worth mentioning that the Venetians carried out restoration and fortification works of this fortress (Hatzipolakis,

1992). Characteristically, the fortune teller (title of senior officer of the Venetian Republic) Iakovos Corner acted significantly in the area of the castle of Palamidi, protecting it from the dangers of invasion by the enemy. Also, the original design of the fortress complex is attributed to the Dalmatian Giaxich and the French engineer La Salle. It is noted, however, that in a very short time such a complex project was completed. Regarding the technical characteristics of the castle of Palamidi, in it are built eight bastions, which have a strong protective wall, are placed in different unequal levels and shaped in such a way as to form a "ladder" from the west to the east. hill. These bastions were places for the accommodation of soldiers, as well as for the collection of ammunition and food, and for tanks for rain water, and were named after the Venetian fortune tellers. The coats of arms of these names are stamped on the facades of the gates of the bastions. For example, when the Turks looted Palamidi, the bastions took Turkish names and when the Greeks recaptured the castle, they gave them Greek names, which are preserved to this day. It is also noted that the ascent to Palamidi can be done through two accesses. Specifically, on foot from the west side, but also from an asphalt road, which reaches the east gate of the castle. Going up, the visitor, from the west side of the castle, namely its entrance, meets the small bastion "Rober" which is located in the middle of the hill and was named after the heroic French major who was killed during the siege of the Acropolis of Athens. It is worth mentioning that, reaching the top, one can see the first large Bastion "Agios Andreas", whose initial name is "Augustinos Sagredos", as shown by a relevant inscription (embossed winged lion of Venice) on slab of the monument (Spathari, 2000).

- *Bourtzi* : At the entrance of the gulf of Nafplio one can see Bourtzi. This is a fortress which during the first period of Venetian rule (1389 - 1540) was a fortress. This castle, built in 1473 on a rocky island, was originally named "Agioi Theodoroi" due to the existence of a small church of the same name inside it. Later, it acquired other names, such as "Scoglio di S. Theodoro", "Bourdzi", "Passage", "Castel del Mar", "Thalassopyrgos" and "Castelli". Finally, the name that prevailed is the Turkish word "Bourtzi", which means "fortress in the sea". It is worth mentioning that during the first period of Venetian rule, and specifically in 1470, the foreman Pasqualigo commissioned fortification works to the architect Antonio Cambello, who had made the plans for the castle of the Tories in Acronafplia. Also, the Venetians, during the second period of Venetian rule, erected the tall central tower of the castle and built a chain that connected Bourtzi with the western side of the port of Akronafplia, in order to control the entry of passers-by (Spathari, 2000).

### **4.3. Churches**

#### **4.3.1. Agios Georgios**

The church "Agios Georgios", which is also the metropolis of Nafplio, has the appearance of a palace and two floors. with a second floor and its windows corresponding to the arched lower openings of the narthex. In the southwest corner is the four-storey bell tower, a testimony of the same century ". During the first period of Ottoman rule, this temple was converted into a mosque. Later, when the Venetian Morosini arrived on the site in 1686, the decoration of the church was more characteristic of Byzantine technique. Specifically, the frescoes of the decoration strongly imprint the "spirit" of the classicism of the time, the painting mobility and the style of the 17th century. Also, it is mentioned that at the top of the temple is painted Jesus Christ, in the corners the four Evangelists with their symbols, and in the other smaller domes are depicted allegorical scenes with many angels around the "secret lamp". In addition, the technical features of the monastery of Agios Georgios were the naked decoration on the dome and the spherical triangles in the Rococo style. It is worth mentioning a copy of the Last Supper, a "gift" as they say of King Louis - father of Otto -, which emphasizes the interior architecture of the temple. Some areas of the church are connected

with various events of the past. Relevant examples are the reception of Morozini, the funeral of Germanos of Old Patras, Dimitrios Ypsilantis and Ioannis Kapodistrias (Choras, 1995).

#### *4.3.2. Agios Spyridonas*

The church "Agios Spyridonas", built during the first period of Venetian rule, was opened in 1702 (Second Venetian rule) at the expense of the Nafplio Brotherhood of Orthodox Greeks. This church, which has the shape of an inscribed cross, has an octagonal dome at the top and a semi-hexagonal niche. It is worth mentioning that in front of the main entrance of the church, Ioannis Kapodistrias was murdered by the Mavromichales on September 27, 1831 (<https://discovernafplio.gr/el/articles/thriskytikos-toyrismos/agios-spyridonas>)

#### *4.3.3. Agios Antonios*

The church "Agios Antonios", built during the first period of Ottoman rule, is known as "Trianon" and is located on the north side of Syntagma Square (<https://cityofnafplio.net/el/points-of-interest/trianon>)

#### *4.3.4. Agios Nikitas*

The church "Agios Nikitas" was built during the second period of Venetian rule and was architecturally formed during the Second Ottoman Empire. The opening of a road from the Governor's Office to Syntagma Square in 1829 led to the demolition of the church (Drakopoulou & Hatzidakis, 1997).

#### *4.3.5. Agios Nikolaos*

The church "Agios Nikolaos", located in the central square of the city of Nafplio, was built by the fortune teller Augustinos Sagredos in 1713 (Drakopoulou & Hatzidakis, 1997).

#### *4.3.6. Panagia*

The church "Panagia" was built in the 15th century and is located on Farmakopoulon Street, that is, just behind the Archaeological Museum of Nafplio. It is worth mentioning that next to the temple is the olive tree where Saint Anastasios, who is also the patron saint of the city, martyred (Drakopoulou, Hatzidakis, 1997).

### **4.4. Personalities**

#### *4.4.1. Marinos Kakavas*

Marinos Kakavas from Nafplio, who was a distinguished painter, has created several frescoes, such as the Monastery of Panagia Melinitzi in Malesina in 1599, the church of the Assumption of the Virgin in Roino, Messinia in 1592, the churches of Agios Nikolaos in Koleinos and Kote, the monastery of Agia Marina and the church of Faneromeni in Chiliomodi, Corinth in 1607, the church of Agios Dimitrios in Athikia, Corinth in 1611, the Katholikon of the Monastery of Agioi Anargyroi in Polydroso, Laconia in 1621, of the monastery of Agios Vlasios in Polydroso of Laconia in 1621, of the church of Agios Nikolaos in Anavryti, Laconia in 1625, of the Katholikon of the monastery of Gola in Laconia in 1632, of the Katholikon of the monastery in the village of Messinia in 1635 and the church of Agios Nikolaos in Vytina, Messinia (Drakopoulou & Hatzidakis, 1997).

#### *4.4.2. Dimitrios Moschos*

Dimitrios Moschos, who came from Nafplio, was a painter. Some of the frescoes he has painted are in the church of Agios Dimitrios in Agrambela, Ilia, in the Katholikon of the church of Panagia Aimyalon in Dimitsana, as well as in the Katholikon of the monastery of the Assumption of the Virgin Vulkanos in Ithomi, Messinia (Drakopoulou & Hatzidakis, 1997).



## **5. Modern Era**

### **5.1. History**

The recent years of Nafplio are characterized by many problems, such as epidemic diseases and civil wars. The period from 1825 to 1827 was full of tension. In 1826 Mesolongites arrived in Nafplio who escaped from catastrophes caused by the Turkish Ibrahim. Bloodshed occurred among Greeks. Characteristically, Theodoros Grivas, guard of Palamidi, was beaten by Fotomaras, guard of Akronafplia. Also, on March 13, 1827, Ioannis Kapodistrias was elected diplomat of Nafplio, where he landed on January 8, 1828. He was dear to the people of Nafplio, as can be understood from the following text in the "General Gazette": "On January 8, His Excellency the landing of the ship in Nafplion was preceded by the inhabitants with the most passive signs of joy". On September 27, 1831, the governor was killed by Constantine and George Mavromichalis outside the church of St. Spyridon. Later, on January 18, 1833, a 17-year-old boy arrived in Nafplio on the ships "Anna" of Russia and "Cornelia" of France and the English frigate "Madagascar". Also, on January 25 of the same year, "the state welcomes - the crowds from all over Greece - a new hope. Along with Otto comes the three-member initiative. Their governance causes unrest and disorder. Meanwhile, Kolokotronis is imprisoned in Palamidi on the charge of a traitor. He states: "On the night of September 7, I was captured by Cleopas, a lieutenant colonel with 40 gendarmes, and taken to Its Kale. for three days I did not know where I was, it seemed like a dream to me, I was asking myself if I was myself or someone else, I did not understand why I was closed" (Kardamitsi - Adam, 2000). Apart from all the above, at the Great Fifth National Assembly held on November 30, 1843 and March 30, 1844, in which Nafplio participated very actively, it was decided to erect a statue of Governor Kapodistrias in the place where he was a diplomat and loved by its inhabitants. This decision was implemented in 1932, namely 89 years after the fifth National Assembly (Dorovinis, 1985).

### **5.2. Cultural centers**

#### **5.2.1. War Museum**

The War Museum of Nafplio has been housed since 1988 on the two floors of a neoclassical building located at the corner of Terzaki and Amalias streets. In the same area pre-existed the building of the first school of Evelpidon (1828 - 1834), which was founded by the first governor of Greece, Ioannis Kapodistrias. The Museum's exhibition includes exhibits dating from the modern Greek era. It is worth noting that photographs of the Fighters of the Greek Revolution, engravings of Nafplio, as well as weapons, cannons and relics of the war games of all periods of Greek History are in rooms on both floors of the War Museum. It also contains photographs from the Macedonian Games, the Balkan Wars, the Asia Minor campaign, World War II and the Liberation (Spathari, 2000).

#### **5.2.2. Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation**

The Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation was established in July 1974. It took the form of a Legal Entity under Private Law and its activities are controlled by the Ministries of Finance and Culture. It is worth mentioning that the fact that this institution developed into a model museum unit, allowed it to cooperate "on equal terms" with relevant institutions abroad and to achieve the creation of a decentralized cultural function in the region. The Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation, which has organized more than twenty thematic exhibitions in many parts of Greece and abroad, is the first museum in the country to be modernized in new technologies in a very short time thanks to the support of the Ministry of Culture. Also, the Foundation is a member of all relevant bodies abroad and participates in many interdisciplinary conferences. In 1989 he implemented the creation of the Children's Museum "Station" in the warehouse of the old railway station of Nafplio. In this museum is



implemented a series of educational programs by people of arts and letters, which due to their originality from time to time become objects of interest in conferences in many regions of Greece. Finally, the intense social and scientific activity of the Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation made it a very important body in the World Museum Community, which in 1981 awarded it the European Museum of the Year Award (Papaioannou, 2007).

#### *5.2.3. Municipal Library "O Palamidis"*

The specific library, which is housed in a neoclassical building next to the old primary school of Nafplio, at the end of Amalias Street, was founded by the association "O Palamidis". Today, it contains 15,000 volumes of books, books of the 18th and 19th centuries from the old library of Nafplio High School, as well as some manuscript antiquities of teachers of the Genos, such as Voulgaris, Theotokis and Korais. It is worth mentioning that in the Public Library of Nafplio there is a lecture and conference room, in which every year a series of speeches by members of the "Palamidis" association is held. It is worth mentioning that in the main hall of the library are the busts of Kalliopi Papalexopoulou, who took part in the Nafplio Revolution of 1862 for the expulsion of Otto, as well as Dimitrios Sagias who served as mayor of Nafplio from 1946 to 1966 and as a shaper of the city during that particular twenty years. In addition, the bust of Aleko Lekopoulos - Anapliotis (1886 - 1951) is placed at the entrance of the library (Karouzou, 1979).

#### *5.2.4. Children's Museum "Stathmos"*

The collections of the Children's Museum include everything related to the birth, the baptism, the toy, the puppet show and Karagiozis. It is worth mentioning that it organizes all those educational programs of the Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation which have as their central theme the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage, not only of Nafplio, but also of the rest of Greece. Also, this museum has the name "Stathmos", because it is housed in areas of the old railway station of the city (Papaioannou, 2007).

#### *5.2.5. Rosary Museum*

The Kombologi Museum, located on Staikopoulou Street, was founded in 1998 by the Evangelinos couple who started collecting rosaries in 1958. It is mentioned that it is the only museum in the world and that it has received over 45,000 visitors. As its name suggests, its purpose is to spread the traditional rosary, which is made of materials such as amber - mastic, futuran, yusuri, red coral, ivory, horn and ebony. As for the museum, the hall "A" exhibits rosaries of Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims. In room "B" there are rosaries of catholics and rosaries from monasteries. Also, in rooms "C" and "D" there are exclusively Greek rosaries. Also, on the ground floor is housed the workshop of the Museum, where free family heirlooms are preserved and copies are made. In addition, in this area of the Museum is housed the shop of the laboratory constructions (Krippas, 1976).

#### *5.2.6. National Gallery - Museum of Alexandros Soutzos - Nafplio Branch*

The Alexandros Soutzos Museum in Nafplio, which is a branch of the National Gallery, is housed in a neoclassical building on Sidiras Merarchias Street and is donated by the "Alexandros S. Onassis" Public Benefit Foundation. The museum exhibits works that are inextricably linked to the Struggle for Greek Independence of 1821. Regarding the exhibition of paintings, it is structured in three sections. The first section, entitled "Scenes of the Struggle. Battles - Hero ", includes depictions of historical personalities and events. Also, the second section, the "Mortal Hero" symbolizes the supreme value of universal struggles. Also, in works of the third section, the almost always victorious Struggle at Sea is emphasized, which raised the spirits of the struggling Greeks. Still, some other exhibits of the museum have as central theme the sufferings and hardships of the fighting and the civilian population. In addition to the above paintings, sculptures, objects of daily use and weapons of fighters, which complete the exhibition, prove the wide range of the spread of the illustrated themes of the Struggle (Belia, 1976).

### *5.2.7. University of Nafplio*

The only school located at the University of Nafplio is the Department of Theatrical Studies. This building is located at the intersection of 21 Vas. Konstantinou and Terzaki streets. The aim of the department is to provide knowledge in the science of teatrology. It is reported that it houses not only classrooms and libraries, but also screening, rehearsal and meeting areas, as well as computer, audiovisual and digitization workshops (Belia, 1976).

## **5.3. Busts – Statues**

### *5.3.1. Bust of Terzakis*

The Terzaki bust is located a few meters away from the church "Agios Spyridonas", at the entrance of which the governor and diplomat of Nafplio Ioannis Kapodistrias was killed. This bronze monument was made by the sculptor Theodoros Papagiannis and represents Terzakis as a man with thin hair, a shirt, a jacket and a tie. In recent years he has acted as a novelist, playwright, essayist and journalist. It is worth mentioning that an exact copy of this bust is in the Cultural Center of the Municipality of Athens (<https://greece.terrabook.com/el/argolis/page/protomi-terzaki/>).

### *5.3.2. Bust of Bouboulina*

This metal bust, located in the homonymous square of Nafplio, was made by the sculptor Antonis Karachalios. As its name suggests, it represents Laskarina Bouboulina at a young age. This woman was born in 1771 in Constantinople and was one of the most important personalities of the Greek Revolution. Also, in 1819 he acted in the Friendly Society and after the fall of Nafplio he temporarily settled in the place (<https://greece.terrabook.com/el/argolis/page/protomi-mpoumpoulinas/>).

### *5.3.3. Bust of Manto Mavrogenous*

The metal bust of Mantos Mavrogenous, located on the northwest side of the central square of Filellinon, was made by the sculptor Takis Parlavantza and placed at the site in 2003. It represents a young woman with long, thick hair and dressed in a military uniform. It is noted that this heroine of the Greek Revolution stayed in Nafplio from 1824 to 1831 and acted in the Friendly Society at the age of 24 (<https://greece.terrabook.com/el/argolis/page/protomi-mantous-maurogenous/>).

### *5.3.4. Bust of Theodoros Kostouros*

The marble bust of Theodoros Kostouros, located in the courtyard of the Municipal Library "Palamidis", is made by the sculptor Theodoros Papagiannis. Theodoros Kostouros was a pharmacist and a poet (<https://greece.terrabook.com/el/argolis/page/protomi-theodorou-kostourou/>).

### *5.3.5. Statue of Kapodistrias*

The Kapodistria marble statue, located in the central square of the city of Nafplio, was made by the sculptor Michalis Tombros and placed on the site in 1933. It represents the man as a figure with thick hair and formal clothes with a pin on the side of the heart. a badge. It is worth mentioning that the main architectural feature of this monument is the symbolism that is strongly highlighted by the combination of ancient Greek tradition with art during the newly formed Greek state (<https://greece.terrabook.com/el/argolis/page/andriantas-kapodistria/>).

### *5.3.6. Statue of Kolokotronis*

The bronze statue of Kolokotroni, located in the central square of Nafplio, was created by the sculptor Lazaro Sohos in 1894 at the foundry of Tiembo in Paris and transported to Greece in 1895. It represents the specific hero of the Greek Revolution as a mounted man on horseback holds the reins of the horse and with his right hand points forward. It is worth mentioning that the pedestal of the monument, which is a donation of the appellant Nikolaos Kotsakis, was designed in Paris by the Tiero brothers and was built in the marble sculpture of

Ioannis Haldoupis in Athens in 1901. Also, the same monument exists in Athens since 1904. Finally, the statue of Kolokotroni has been awarded by the Greek section of the 1900 Paris International Exhibition, as well as by the Roman Academy (<https://greece.terrabook.com/el/argolis/page/agalma-kolokotroni/>).

#### **5.4. Personalities**

##### *5.4.1. Andreas Nikoularas*

Andreas Nikoularas, born in Nafplio in 1850, worked in Athens as a romantic poet and playwright. The poetic collection "Fthogoi kai flogera" and the romance "I Haidemeni" are his two main works. He passed away in 1931 (Antonopoulos, 1984).

##### *5.4.2. Stefanos Dafnis*

His real name was Thrasylvoulos Zoiopoulos. Stefanos Dafnis was born in Nafplio in 1882 and settled permanently in Athens in 1907. Many of his short stories with Argolic content have been published in various Athenian literary books and magazines. Examples of such works are "Xenos", "Fryktoia" and "Aima sto kipo". Also, "Flowered Road" and "Open Window" are two of the poetry collections of Stefanos Dafnis. This author passed away in 1947 (Lialiatsis, 1994).

##### *5.4.3. Ntiana Antonakatou*

Diana Antonakatou was not born in Nafplio, but in Kefalonia. Nevertheless, she is considered one of its most important personalities, due to her remarkable artistic activities in the place. Characteristically, in the albums of "Argolida", "Nafplio", "Monasteries of Argolida" and "Nafplio '88" the element of theatricality is strongly visible (Lialiatsis, 1994).

##### *5.4.4. Petros Petris*

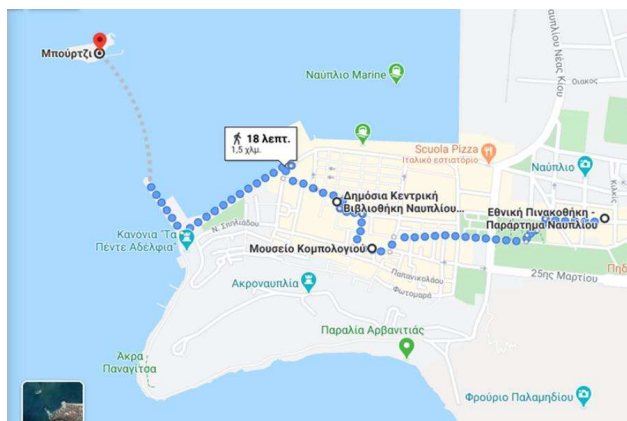
Petros Petris, born in Nafplio in 1912, wrote two studies on his first pope, Nikolaos Malaxos. The works of this author, such as the poetic collections "Fiery Lyre" and "Unheard Singing", have as their main feature the contemplative tenderness and the erotic diffusion. This poet passed away in 1979 (Antonopoulos, 1984).

### **6. Conclusions – Recommendations**

From the analysis of all the above elements of Nafplio it is observed that, over the centuries, in the city more and more progress has been made in the field of tangible culture. Typical examples of this, which were analyzed in the work, are Akronafplia, Palamidi, Bourtzi, the church of Agios Spyridon, the bust of Bouboulinas and Andrianas Kapodistrias. Also, regarding the intangible heritage of Nafplio, which is also equally remarkable, examples are personalities who are inextricably linked to the place.

Based on the theoretical research conducted, it is concluded that Nafplio, in addition to rich flora and fauna, has a remarkable history and culture. However, it is necessary for these two elements, which are inextricably linked to the place from a social and economic point of view, to become more and more at the center of strategies and individual tactics of rendering a specific spatial identity, through the use of city's projection tools. Typical examples of such media are television, the Internet and social media. The purpose of these practices is not only to further highlight the historical and cultural significance of Nafplio, which are a major category of comparative advantages, but also the environmental, social and economic development of the place.

The relevant culture route map, designed by me, is below:



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