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: 08:30 - 15:00

Voundeni archaeological site

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Visiting hours: 08:30 - 15:00



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Visitable mycenaean sites in western Achaia.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF CULTURE

VOUNDENI MYCENAEAN PARK



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(1500-1000 .).



Aerial view of the cemetery.



Aerial view of the settlement.

The mycenaean settlement at Voundeni is one of the most prominent sites in the periphery of the mycenaean world. Excavations in the cemetery and the settlement have established that human presence here for almost 500 years (1500-1000 B.C.).

The choice of this particular location has not been accidental. Control of the open horizon, towards the sea and land passages, the naturally fortified hill at Bortzi where the settlement was, , fertile soils, well irrigated by the natural springs of the region and the existence of the soft rock (locally called *kimilia*) in which the tombs were carved are some of the advantages that have led to the selection of this location, as well as for its effective protection, exploitation of the available resources and long term prosperity of its inhabitants.

The settlement at Bortzi was the nucleus of a number of smaller hamlets along the surrounding plains and the population's "refuge" in case of an emergency. Remains of these hamlets have come to light in various locations during rescue excavations.

The selection of Bortzi as an occupation site was further supported by the access provided to the sea through the harbor in present-day Ayia swamp, on the coast north of the mycenaean settlement. This harbor occupied the estuary formed by the deposits of river Meilichos.

Voundeni's cemetery lies southeast of the settlement, at the localities called Agrapidia and Amygdalia. It occupies an area of 1.8 hectares. N. Kyparissis was the first to investigate the site in 1923, having excavated a small number of tombs at Agrapidia. Research continued on a systematic basis by L. Kolonas during the periods 1988-1994 and 2004-2007, resulting in the excavation of 75 tombs at Amygdalia. The tombs date between the LH IIB and LH IIIC periods (1500-1050 B.C.), while some of them were still used into the succeeding sub-mycenaean period (ca. 1000 B.C.).

An interesting variety of chamber tomb shapes has been brought to light in Voundeni's cemetery. The largest ones are tombs 4 and 75, which, judging by their architectural details and their large dimensions, must have been used by members of the settlement's elite. Most of the burials were accompanied by grave offerings, usually every-day use objects, such as pots, jewelry, tools, weapons and various implements useful to the deceased in the journey to the underworld.

The study of these artifacts has revealed data that manifest the wealth and prosperity of the mycenaean population at Voundeni and their commercial and cultural contacts with neighboring as well as more distant regions, such as Messenia, Laconia, Argolid, Corinthia and further away to Crete, Italy, Syro-Palestine and Anatolia. Such evidence highlights the importance of the site and designates Voundeni as a most significant center in mycenaean Achaia.



Characteristic pottery jewelry and weapons from the cemetery.