



NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
OF THE LESVOS
PETRIFIED FOREST

A WINDOW INTO THE GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE AEGEAN



EXHIBITIONS • INFORMATION • EVENTS



www.lesvosmuseum.gr

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest

A window into the geological history of the Aegean

The Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest was established in 1994 after years of effort to save, protect and promote the fossils which constitute the Lesvos Petrified Forest. Because of its great environmental, geological and palaeontological value, the Greek state declared the area a "Protected Natural Monument". The Museum, a legal public entity under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, aims to study, research, promote, exhibit, preserve, protect and manage any beneficial utilization of the Petrified Forest.

The creation of the Museum was co-financed by the Greek state and the European Union, through the Regional Operational Program of the Northern Aegean (ROP). The project "Completion of the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest" was financed by the 3rd Community Support Framework / ROP Northern Aegean (2000 - 2006) with a budget of 2,741,149 Euros. More specifically, the project included installation of a heating/cooling system, promotion and conservation work on fossils in the exhibition and outdoor areas of the Museum, special structures and equipment for the display of the fossil finds in and around the Museum, multimedia electronic equipment, construction and installation of a special permanent canopy in the Sigri Park for the protection and promotion of a fossilized root system, and special work on the protection of fossils in outdoor regions.

The Museum operates with the specifications of a modern museum of the 21st century, offering visitors up-to-date information and a variety of services. It constitutes the most complete collection of fossilized plants in Greece, revolving around the most important fossils of the Lesvos Petrified Forest. For the first time, the Museum offers a well organized and thorough operation that can fully oversee the responsibility of managing the unique fossils brought to light by the continuous excavations, and educate the world about the geological processes that led to the creation of the Petrified Forest as well as the geohistoric evolution of the Aegean of the last 20 million years. As always, the operations of the Museum are tightly connected to the outdoor area of the Petrified Forest to which it continuously refers.

The permanent exhibitions of the Museum offer an informative interpretation of the most important facts detailing the evolution of the landscape and life. They tell the story of the large and complex changes that led from the Aegiis landmass to the Aegean archipelago of today and allow visitors to travel back through time, inviting them to feel, contemplate and attempt to comprehend this amazing story... of this small but remarkable world.





The Museum Facilities

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, located in Sigrí on the west coast of Lesvos, sits at the top of the village overlooking the bay and the sea beyond. The promotional efforts of the unique natural monument of the Petrified Forest are expressed in a building that successfully addresses its demanding spatial requirements and specifications with a simple and spare architectural shape that respects the natural environment. The Museum is characterized by its functional building facilities, its informative, educational and geotouristic activities, the variety of temporary exhibits and cultural events it hosts, the high quality of services and the visitor-friendly environment which includes convenient opening hours. The exhibition program, designed to present the fossils of the Lesvos Petrified Forest with modern concepts in mind, appeals to various visiting groups and is accessible to students and visitors of all ages, including expert scientists.

The Museum Grounds

The entrance gate to the Museum leads visitors to the outdoor exhibition grounds of the Museum. These grounds, covering an area of 1 hectare, are characterized by bushes and trees of the Lesvian flora and modern descendants of the Petrified Forest plants found in the region. Large impressive fossilized trees are also on display here. These trees are ancestral forms of gigantic sequoias and other conifers, as well as of angiosperm trees which were discovered during excavations and brought to the Museum for purposes of protection. Various trails have been designed to connect the external and internal exhibition areas, one of which leads to the Sigrí Park, the neighbouring fossil-bearing region where impressive root systems have been excavated. A stairs starting from the entrance leads to the main Museum building. Covering an area of 1597 square meters, the stone structure of the Museum is built of the grey lava which abounds in the region. The Museum is fully wheelchair accessible.

The Museum Building

From the central entrance to the building, visitors enter the spacious atrium - an extension of the central courtyard - where the front desk ticket office and the Museum shop are located. Next to this is the pleasant snack bar with its local traditional products and a veranda with amazing views out over the Aegean sea. The interior spaces within the museum, diffused with natural light from the glass roofs and windows, are organized around a central courtyard in which impressive fossilized trunks side by side with their present day counterparts wonderfully depict the flora of the Aegean 20 million years ago. To one side of the building are the permanent exhibition areas (Petrified Forest Hall, Aegean Hall), while on the other side are the audio-visual centre, administration offices, temporary exhibit halls, library and well-equipped research labs for the preservation of fossils. The Museum also provides a 400 seat open-air amphitheatre, which is used for a variety of cultural events, theatrical shows and concerts, as well as a guesthouse to host visiting scientists and collaborators and support ongoing research.





The Evolution of Plants and the Petrified Forest

The first permanent exhibit hall of the Museum is dedicated to the Lesvos Petrified Forest. This hall displays rare plant fossils from the region of western Lesvos. Information is provided on the process of fossilization and the different types of fossils to be seen in nature. The wall screen shows visuals of the Petrified Forest Park with exceptional tree trunks, excavation work and the efforts involved in salvaging fossilized tree trunks from the sea west of Sigri. The hall is divided into 4 sections.

The evolution of life on earth

The first section of the Petrified Forest Hall exhibition narrates the fascinating story of the evolution of life, beginning with the appearance of the planet's first unicellular organisms 3.5 billion years ago up to the modern day ecosystems. Special attention is paid to the development of plants through a series of impressive fossilized plants which lived in different geological eras. Reconstructions of the palaeo-environments in each geological era depict the most characteristic plants and animals which have appeared on earth.

The plants of the Lesvos Petrified Forest

The second section displays the most important finds revealed during excavation work in the Lesvos Petrified Forest. A map of western Lesvos presents the sites of the largest concentrations of fossilized plants on the island and the most important volcanic centers connected with the creation of the Petrified Forest.

The display of the plants in the Lesvos Petrified Forest contains fascinating fossil remains of over 40 different species of conifers, angiosperms or pteridophytes, the main groups of the plant kingdom. The exhibit includes petrified trunks, branches, twigs, impressive leaf imprints, fruits and parts of tree roots. The anatomical characteristics of the plants, such as the growth rings visible in trunk cross-sections, the external part of the trunk and the internal wood structure, are well preserved. There are also large pictorial depictions of the vegetation of the Petrified Forest 20 million years ago. Palms, cinnamon trees, many species of laurel, lime, beech, yew, oak, walnut, alder, blackberry, hornbeam, pines and protopinaceae, yew, thuja, cypress, cunninghamia and giant sequoia are just some of the species presented in this exhibition.

The Sequoia Diorama depicts the modern sequoia trees from California, the fossils of ancestral sequoias of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and modern sequoia trunks, so that visitors are transported back in time to the subtropic forest which covered Lesvos 20 million years ago.

The Marine Petrified Forest

The sea to the west of Sigri contains many fossil-bearing sites. The results of the marine research are fascinating fossils which were pulled up out of the depths of the sea. These impressive petrified trunks have been cleaned of salt and marine organisms, conserved and put on display in a special area of the Petrified Forest Hall.





The Evolution of Plants and the Petrified Forest



The Petrified Forest Hall displays impressive fossils from the land and marine regions of western Lesvos (p.4-7) and important fossil-bearing sites in Greece (p.6), as well as reconstructions of plants and ecosystems of the past. Visitors are provided with scientific guidance during their visit.

The animals of the Lesvos Petrified Forest

The first evidence of the presence of life in the Petrified Forest is displayed in a specially constructed display case containing a fossilized lower jaw of a large mammal found in the region of Gavathas, Antissa.

The fossil belongs to a prehistoric form of a trunked animal (a proboscidean), which was identified by the researchers who studied it to be a representative of the Bavarian prodeinothere (species *Prodeinotherium bavaricum*). This animal was similar to today's elephants, but it had downward curving tusks located in the lower jawbone.

The fossil is one of the oldest fossils of a vertebrate animal found until now in Greece and it comes from one of the first trunked animals which migrated from Africa (place of origin) to Europe.

A reconstruction recreates the animal in the subtropical environment of western Lesvos 20 million years ago.

Fossilized plants of Greece

Besides the Lesvos Petrified Forest, fossilized plants have also been found in many other regions in Greece. Findings from the most important sites in Greece give us a picture of the evolution of vegetation in the Aegean region during the period from the creation of the Petrified Forest up until today.

On display are representative fossilized plants of different geological eras, like the fossilized leaves, seeds and tree trunk segments from the regions of Evros, Limnos, Kymi and Aliveri on Evia, Vegora, Ellassona and Santorini.

The study of these fossils can give information on the evolution of vegetation and the climatic changes in the Western Mediterranean area over the last 30 million years.

Particularly impressive are the finds from Santorini: fossil leaves of palm and peanut trees, as well as of olive trees which is a most rare find in the Mediterranean region, have been found in volcanic ash from the Santorini volcanic eruption 50-60,000 years ago.





The Geohistorical Evolution of the Aegean

The second hall is dedicated to the geohistorical evolution of the Aegean area, highlighting geological phenomena and processes related to the system of the Earth's crust that helped create the Petrified Forest. The earth's structure, the causes and results of volcanic and seismic activity in Greece and the geological evolution of the Aegean basin during the last 65 million years are presented in six exhibit units.

The structure of the Earth - Tectonic plates

In the first exhibit unit, visitors are introduced to the living "Planet Earth", the planet's structure and, more specifically, to the structure of the fragile and evolving lithosphere on which life developed. The lithosphere consists of tectonic plates and their movement on the viscous asthenosphere creates volcanoes on a global scale. An impressive model portrays the process of the tectonic plate conjunction in the east Mediterranean area, the subduction of the African tectonic plate south of Crete, the transfiguration of the extended region and the creation of the active volcanic arc of the Aegean.

From the Tethys to the Aegiis

The second unit schematically presents the geotectonic evolution of Greece. It explains the mechanisms responsible for the rock compression in the area, the emergence of oceanic rocks from the ocean floor to the land surface and the creation of an extended landmass about 20 million years ago, which scientists today call the "Aegiis landmass". Characteristic samples of rocks found on Lesbos that represent the two kinds of Earth's crust, the continental and the oceanic crust, are also exhibited.

Silica minerals

Impressive minerals and rocks are presented in the next unit. Particular emphasis is given to the presentation of natural forms of quartz (SiO_2), the mineral that is related to the process of petrification of plants and the creation of the Petrified Forest. On display are transparent quartz crystals, smoky quartz, amethyst, chalcedony, pink quartz, the unique green prase of Serifos Island, yellow quartz and green quartz - minerals that form impressive crystals in a great variety of colors.

Volcanoes and volcanic rocks

This unit is dedicated to volcanic activity. A reconstruction of the volcano of Lepetymnos, the main volcanic center that was active 16.5 to 21.5 million years ago in Lesbos, dominates the room. The presentation also includes reconstructions of different types of volcanoes, information on volcanic eruptions and their products, as well as a rich collection of volcanic rocks from Greece.

Geological structure of Lesbos

A large geological map of Lesbos is on display, accompanied by impressive rock samples from all the geological units of the island. A cross-section shows the layering of rocks in Lesbos. The analytic stratigraphy of the pyroclastic rocks reveals the volcanic ash horizons where fossilized trunks, roots, fruits, leaves and seeds lie perfectly preserved.





The Geohistorical Evolution of the Aegean



Specially made structures, models and reconstructions tell the story of the geological phenomena which shaped the Aegean region and created minerals, rocks, and fossils (p.8-11). Proof of the geohis- toric evolution of the region and the life of the Aegean are presented by casts of impor- tant fossils which are kept in the Natural History Museum of Crete and the Palaeontological Museum of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (p.10).

From the Aegiis landmass to the Aegean Sea

Palaeogeographic maps of the Aegean area illustrate the devel- opment of the region over the last 25 million years. The map of the active volcanic faults of the Aegean details the current geo- dynamic situation and seismic activity. Screens connected to the seismological stations in Sigri and Thessaloniki display recordings of seismic waves in real time. An educational seis- mograph shows how seismic waves are recorded. This way, visitors can realize that the geological phenomena which creat- ed the Petrified Forest are still in action in the wider region of the Aegean.

Life in the Aegean

Geological phenomena affect and change the geography of a particular regional landscape and are decisive causes in the change and evolution of modern ecosystems. Proof of life in the Aegean and information about the animals which lived in Greece and the fossils they left behind are presented through reconstructions and fossil casts of the most representative finds of mammals in Greece, such as the gigantic deinothere from Crete [the original fossil is in the Natural History Museum of Crete] and the primitive elephant from Macedonia [the orig- inal fossil is kept in the Palaeontological Museum of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki].

The last minute

The most recent period of history saw the appearance of the most developed and most complete forms of organisms. The exhibit displays cranial casts and reconstructions of the most important representative findings from North Greece, two *Mesopithecus* species and *Duranopithecus macedoniensis*. Also on display is the cast and reconstruction of the "famous" human skull from the cave of Petralona, Halkidiki, which is one of the best preserved fossils in Europe representing an evolu- tionary stage between *Homo erectus* and the current day *Homo sapiens*.

The exhibition ends with tools made of flint from the Lesvian Paleolithic age, which remind us of the close link between the geological structures of a region and human behaviors.





Multimedia and Information Services



The audiovisual room in the Museum is the first stop for visitors. Here visitors are informed, via the use of visuals, about the Petrified Forest, its creation, its uniqueness, the types of plant fossils found in the area of West Lesvos, the parks and their important concentrations of petrified tree trunks, as well as the activities of the Museum. This room is also used for audiovisual presentations on natural history topics, documentary screenings and educational presentations in the context of the educational programs. Further uses include conferences, meetings, book presentations, talks and film and documentary showings.

Visitors to the Museum can also use the information services in the permanent exhibition halls and in the outdoor parks of the Petrified Forest.

Informative literature, guidebooks for the Petrified Forest, albums and educational publications for the Petrified Forest [also available in electronic form] are available at the Museum shop.

Interactive Applications

The Museum also provides interactive multimedia applications on: a. the Petrified Forest and the evolution of life, b. volcanic activity and the process of fossilization, c. the geohistorical evolution of the Aegean region and the geological monuments created through it..

The Museum has also installed various info-kiosks in the exhibition halls where visitors can explore the park using multimedia applications. These multimedia applications allow the visitor to access more information about the Petrified Forest, the evolution of life, the geological history of the Aegean and the geological heritage of Greece, via an impressive user-friendly environment that has been facilitated by modern technology.

Individual Guidance System

The wireless guidance system "GUIDE" provides visitors with a personal "tour guide" in the form of a palmtop which provides information on the exhibits.





Petrified Forest Parks

The Sigri Park

The Sigri Park, covering an area of 3 hectares, is located next to the Museum. The park is a very interesting "geotope" because of the rarity and the great scientific worth of its plant fossils and the volcanic rock which enclosed the remains. These rocks and fossils provide information about the region's vegetation 20 million years ago, as well as the geological development and volcanic activity of the region. While walking along the pathways which have been carved out of the hillside, visitors can admire the most valuable finds within the park which are the petrified tree root systems. These root systems are well-preserved and in a full stage of development, indicating that the fossil trees are still in their original growth positions.

The Plaka Sigri Park

The park, covering an area of 7 hectares, was created on the Plaka peninsula, 800 meters south of the village of Sigri. The park contains an important protected fossil-bearing region. In both sections of the park, Museum researchers have excavated significant petrified remains that will intrigue the visitor. Numerous standing trunks with intact root systems and lower trunk parts have been found on the site making it a rare geotope of great natural beauty. In the coastal area of the park, visitors can view impressive honeycomb geomorphs made due to the weathering of the volcanic rock. Trails throughout the park lead visitors to all the fossil sites and they can also take advantage of the three covered viewpoints with their vistas of Sigrí and the Nisiopi islet. Among the fossil finds at the park is a gigantic standing fossilized trunk with a circumference of 13.7m and a diameter of 3.70m, belonging to the laurel family. According to international bibliography, this fossil is the broadest standing petrified trunk in the world. The lower section of the trunk still has part of its root system, a fact which proves that the trunk is in its original growth position. In the marine zone of the park is an impressive laying petrified trunk of an angiosperm tree, 14 meters in length.







Educational Activities

Educational activities are one of the main undertakings of the Museum.

Educational school programs

The Museum offers educational programs on a wide range of subjects. These programs are aimed at all levels of education, with special multi-day educational programs for schools outside of Lesvos, and summer programs which attract the interest of students on Lesvos, in the rest of Greece and abroad.

Participants in the educational programs of the Museum can use scientific equipment for the research and study of the fossils, the thematic museum kits, specially made educational material and interactive multimedia applications. These tools help students to learn about the creation of the Petrified Forest, the process of fossilization, geodynamic phenomena- earthquakes and volcanoes, the geohistoric development of the Aegean, the history of the evolution of life on earth and modern ecosystems. The educational seismograph and the models of different types of volcanoes familiarize children with active geodynamic phenomena, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Earthquake movements and volcanic eruptions are simulated with special equipment, educating participants in educational programs about the geological phenomena which they can not directly observe.

The Museum has also created an educational excavation area, called "Georama", where children can become familiar with scientific research while using excavation tools and equipment to excavate plant fossils and to clean and identify them.

Summer educational programs

During the holidays, young friends of the Museum can get creative with some hands-on experience while participating in the summer educational programs. The "Small Paleontologists" program allows children to get to know fossils and experience the excitement of excavating them themselves.

Scientific tours and fieldwork

The Museum organizes educational visits and special informative programs and tours on the subject of the Petrified Forest, its geotopes and the geological history of Lesvos, and makes arrangements for organized visits of universities, scientific teams, and participants in Greek and international conferences. Every year, the Museum also organizes and hosts international conferences, scientific meetings, international post-graduate schools and other scientific activities.

Summer student practicums

In cooperation with the "Friends of the Petrified Forest" Association, the Museum organizes summer volunteer programs for youth and summer practicums for university students which are well attended by students from Greece and abroad.

Center of Professional Training

The Museum operates a Center of Professional Training to train youth from the region in matters related to the promotion, protection and management of the protected region of the Petrified Forest.





Temporary Exhibitions and Events

Temporary exhibitions and cultural events take place in the temporary exhibitions hall and in the Museum's outdoor amphitheatre throughout the year. Through these cultural activities, which use the natural history of the region as a starting point to inspire many forms of cultural creativity, the Museum is a lever of cultural development in western Lesvos.

Temporary Exhibits

The temporary exhibits which are hosted by the Museum feature interesting chapters of natural history which are not covered by its permanent exhibitions. Exhibitions are often invited from various European Natural History Museums with which the Museum collaborates closely. The following exhibitions were particularly successful: Crystals - Minerals of Silica (2003), The Plants of the Ancient Games (2004), The Dinosaurs of Provence (2005), The Birds of the Petrified Forest (2006), From Trilobites to Man (2006), Earthquake Risk in the Northern Aegean (2008), Plants and Tradition (2008).

Summer Cultural Events

Every year, during the summer months, the Museum hosts a festival with a variety of cultural events entitled "Celebrating Earth" which includes sculpture, art, pottery and craft exhibitions, book presentations, theatrical and musical shows, and film screenings. These events open the Museum to new uses and attract visitors, local and foreign.

European Geoparks Week

Near the end of Spring a series of events are organized which include guided tours through the Parks of the Petrified Forest, educational programs, outdoor activities involving nature observation, seminars, presentations and screenings on themes of protection and promotion of the geological and natural heritage in the Petrified Forest region. Similar events are organized simultaneously in all members of the European Geoparks Network.

Agrotourism Festival

Since 2000 an "Agrotourism Festival" has been held every summer highlighting the local products and the rich folk traditions of Lesvos. Recent years have seen the proliferation of women's agrotouristic cooperatives which make sweets and food products using traditional recipes and know-how, resulting in very high quality goods. Young people are also creating new businesses based on the uniqueness of traditional Lesvian products. Artistic creativity, rooted in the rich local traditions, is reviving traditional occupations such as woodcarving and pottery. The Agrotourism Festival, a fest of the fruits of the Lesvian soil, promotes initiatives that contribute to the local economy and tourism.

Museum Nights

As a participant in the international "Museum Nights" celebrations, the Museum remains open late into the night every Friday throughout August and selected films and documentaries are shown.





Cooperations

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest has developed collaborations with universities, museums, research centers and organizations managing protected regions in Greece and abroad, in order to cooperate in the realization of research and development programs. The Museum has signed program collaboration agreements with the University of the Aegean and the Environmental Education Center of Evergetoula, Lesvos. The Museum also collaborates with the universities of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Natural History Museum of Crete, the Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration of Greece, the National Technical University of Athens, the National Observatory of Athens, the Foundation of the Hellenic World etc.

Geoparks

Geoparks are areas that comprise a certain number of protected geological monuments and geotopes of particular importance, as well as sites of ecological, cultural or aesthetic appeal, which are managed and developed for scientific research, education and recreation. The etymology of the word "geopark" refers to Gaia - the mother Earth - and to the interactive relationship among humans, the planet and the natural environment.

A geopark incorporates a holistic approach for the living and abiotic environment of a region by connecting the protection and the promotion of particular features with a sustainable development strategy on a local scale. Thus, a geopark plays an active role in the economic development of its territory through the promotion of its geological heritage and the development of geotourism.

European Geoparks Network

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest is active internationally as a member of the European Geoparks Network and the Global Geoparks Network of UNESCO with which a great deal of collaboration occurs.

The European Geoparks Network was created in 2000 with the assistance of the E.U. and the participation of four organizations from France, Germany, Greece, and Spain. The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest is a founding member of the Network. In September 2008 there were 33 members in the European Geoparks Network situated in 13 European countries.

Global Geoparks Network

The Global Geoparks Network was established in 2004 under the aegis of UNESCO, which, thereby recognized the importance of geological formations and landscapes for the advancement of society and human civilization, and for cultural diversity on the planet. Consequently, a number of Chinese Geoparks and the European Geoparks, among them the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark and the Psiloritis Geopark in Crete, were included in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network following a positive evaluation of their park operations and management. In September 2008 there were 57 members in the Global Geoparks Network, situated in Europe, Asia, South America, and Australia.

With its induction into the Global Geoparks Network, the Lesvos Petrified Forest has gained recognition from the international community as a priceless monument of natural heritage for all humankind.



Museum Access

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest is located in Sigri, 96 km from Mytilene. Visitors can get to the Museum via the local bus service (KTEL), organized tours arranged by tourist offices during the summer, and by taxi.

Information

The Museum informs the public of its activities through the press, its “Sequoia” magazine which is published four times a year, informative brochures and mainly through its website.

Website: www.lesvosmuseum.gr

Available in three languages, the Museum's website was designed to satisfy the demands of the end user. Through the provision of information and services, the website represents an essential tool of direct communication between the Museum and the user. Attractive and user-friendly, the website provides access to a wide variety of pages concerning the Petrified Forest and the Museum. A significant part of the website is the database which was created to include the information on the fossils and geotopes in western Lesvos and the exhibits at the Museum.

Publications

The Museum has put together a series of publications, print and electronic, which include books, albums, exhibit guides, park guides of the Petrified Forest, educational publications, maps, informative magazines, brochures, promotional material and CD-ROMs. Publications are available in the Museum shop.

Conference Center

The Museum facilities (including the amphitheatre) are available to scientific authorities for the organization of conferences, seminars, scientific congresses and exhibitions. The conference center is equipped with up to date audio-visual facilities as well as automatic translation in two languages.

Snack bar

From the verandah of the Museum snack bar, visitors can enjoy the most beautiful sunset on the island! With a view of the western coastline of Lesvos and the islet of Nisiopi, the snack bar is a popular place to meet and talk. Here visitors can relax while enjoying a Greek coffee prepared on charcoal and a spoon sweet made by a Women's Agrotouristic Cooperative of Lesvos.

Museum Shop

At the Museum shop, visitors can find various Museum publications, fossil casts and souvenirs of the Petrified Forest. There is also a wide range of books on topics such as geology, flora and fauna, natural monuments, the environment and protected regions and publications about Lesvos. For young visitors, there are children's books, puzzles, crafts, educational material and games. Artwork from local artists are also available, along with ceramics, jewelry, sweets, olive oil, ouzo, and other products produced by the Women's Agrotouristic Cooperatives and industries of the island.



The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, situated in Sigri, Lesvos, is a legal public entity under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture. The aims of the Museum are the study, research, promotion, exhibition, preservation, safeguarding and any beneficial utilization of the Petrified Forest, a protected natural monument. The Museum is governed by a seven-member Administrative Council and the Museum Director who are appointed by the Ministry of Culture. The Lesvos Petrified Forest is a member of the European and the Global Geoparks Network of UNESCO.



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Opening hours:

Summer

July 1 to September 30
Daily 09:00 to 20:00
Friday 09:00 to 22:00

Winter

October 1 to June 30
Daily 08:30 to 16:30



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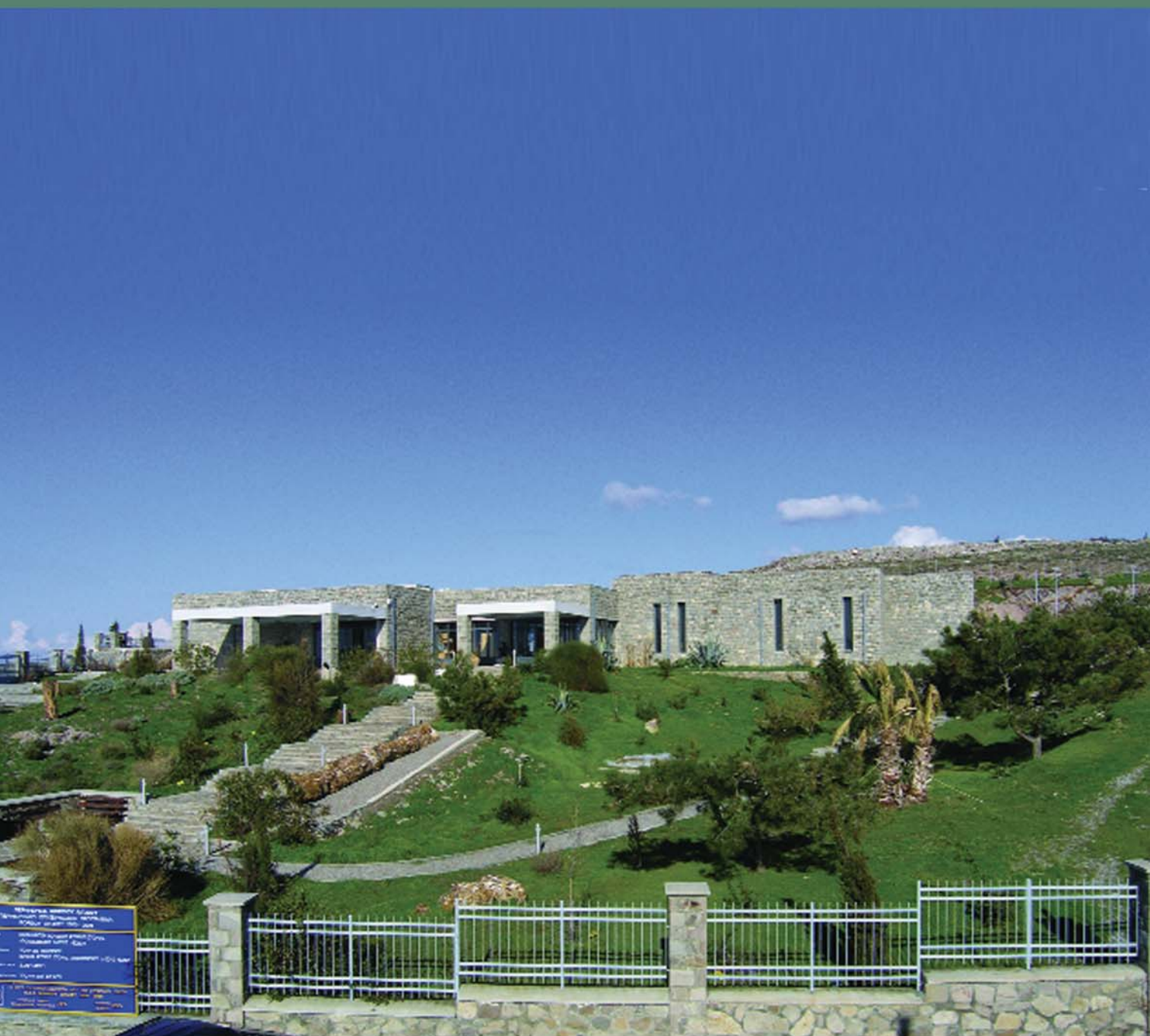
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NATURAL
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A NATURAL MONUMENT TELLS THE STORY OF PLANET EARTH



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