

Greece advances restoration of southeast temple in Ancient Agora of Athens



The Hellenic Culture Ministry is moving ahead with the restoration and enhancement of the southeast temple in the Ancient Agora archaeological site in Athens, as part of broader efforts to improve visitor access and upgrade infrastructure across key heritage sites in the capital, the ministry said on Monday.

The intervention forms part of a wider project aimed at highlighting the archaeological site and improving accessibility, and includes works both on the temple itself and on the Panathenaic Way, the ancient processional route linking the Agora with the Acropolis.

According to the ministry, the project seeks to restore the historical continuity of the monument and improve its readability within the wider archaeological landscape.

Hellenic Culture Minister Lina Mendoni said the temple, dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD, was an important element of the southeastern sector of the Ancient Agora and originally had a strong visual presence due to its location along the Panathenaic Way.

She noted that the monument is of particular interest due to the reuse of architectural elements from the Temple of Athena at Sounion, reflecting material recycling practices during the Roman period.

Despite significant damage, particularly following the Herulian sack of Athens in 267 AD, sufficient remains survive to allow for a well-documented reconstruction of its ground plan, she added.

The proposed intervention aims to restore parts of the pronaos and cella, integrate scattered architectural members, and reconnect the temple with the Panathenaic Way and adjacent monuments, improving its legibility within the site.

It also seeks to enhance sustainable site management and ensure equal visitor access, contributing to an overall upgrade of the visitor experience, Mendoni said.

The southeast temple was uncovered in 1959 during works to shape the southern entrance of the archaeological site, intended to connect the Agora with the Acropolis via the ancient Panathenaic Way.

In the later Roman period, a nymphaeum was constructed west of the temple. Despite later damage from subsequent constructions, surviving foundations allow for a reliable reconstruction of its layout, while architectural fragments found on site provide key information about its superstructure.

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