

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

CREATED IN 1925. MOVED TO CURRENT LOCATION IN 1946.

Take Me There: Greece

In *Take Me There:® Greece*, an exhibit at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, visitors leave Indianapolis far behind and "travel" aboard Take Me There Airways to explore modern life in Greece, a country where the past is always present.

The 10,000-square-foot Take Me There gallery features a different world culture approximately every four years, with Greece being the third



in the exhibit series. The first was the highly popular *Take Me There: Egypt*, which was open from 2009 to 2013; its opening was accompanied by the blockbuster special exhibit *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and The Great Pharaohs*. The second in the series was the equally popular *Take Me There: China*, featured from 2014 to 2018; its opening was accompanied by *Terra Cotta Warriors: The Emperor's Painted Army*, featuring eight real Terra Cotta Warriors and other artifacts from the tomb of China's first emperor.

Take Me There: Greece was created after years of in-depth research and planning, and it provides an encounter so immersive that many visitors feel like they've experienced the country firsthand. It provides an invaluable opportunity for families to feel that they have left Indianapolis and are participating in the daily life of Greece, fostering understanding in a way that surpasses knowledge gleaned from textbooks, television, or the Internet. Its opening was accompanied by *Treasures of Ancient Greece*, an immersive family exhibit featuring art and artifacts reflecting the Golden Age of ancient Greece, including a replica of the Antikythera mechanism, considered the world's first computer.

Authentic Experiences

Visitors to *Take Me There: Greece* experience life in modern Greece with its unique balance of ancient cultural traditions and modern activities. Visitors can explore re-creations of the homes of the Kotopoulos family of Athens and the Herbst family of Ancient Corinth, and learn about their lives. In addition, children and families can discover:

- **The Plateia.** In every city and village, children and families gather in the *plateia*—a traditional Greek town square surrounded by restaurants, shops, and bakeries. Here people come together to enjoy a meal, discuss the news of the day, and more. Special programs on the *plateia* focus on Greek wedding traditions and traditional Greek dances.
- **The Taverna.** By following authentic Greek recipes, children can "prepare" and serve traditional Greek foods such as *gyros*, *dolmades*, *moussaka*, and *pastitsio*. Families can enjoy their pretend meals at outdoor tables on the *plateia*.

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- **The Bakery.** Here children can “bake” favorite Greek breads and pastries, including baklava, and serve them to passersby.
 - **The Pharmacy.** Children and families get a glimpse of the types of Greek products people purchase to take care of common ailments like allergies or a cold.
 - **The Olive Oil Shop.** Visitors can try their hands at making olive oil, from washing, milling, and malaxing (mixing) the olives to pressing and packaging the oil.
 - **The Fish Market.** Greece has more than 8,000 miles of coastline and the lives of many Greeks are tied to the sea. Children can get behind the wheel of a fishing boat, catch fish, and return to the market to weigh their catch.
 - **The Periptero.** These kiosks are a disappearing Greek tradition. Located in cities and towns throughout the country, these small street shops are often the heart of a neighborhood—a place to pick up a snack, drink, newspaper, magazine, bottle of aspirin, or ice cream, and talk sports or politics with neighbors. Visitors can check out the types of products available at the exhibit’s *periptero*.
 - **The Cultural Center.** Here children and families can explore the cultural contributions of ancient Greece, such as architecture, design, fashion, and the visual arts, and also learn about the Eastern Orthodox Church and the importance it places on iconography. Visitors can also discover the

unique sounds made by iconic Greek musical instruments such as the *bouzouki*, and see traditional costumes from several regions of Greece.

- **ARCHELON Turtle Rescue Center.** The sea is an important part of the environment of Greece and ARCHELON is The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, which works to safeguard turtles and their nests along the vast Greek coastline. Within the exhibit, children and families can help sea turtles by counting, measuring, and protecting “eggs” in turtle nests and by feeding and caring for pretend turtles in the rescue center.

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