

current appearance in the times of Ali Pasha. It is a strong inner fortress that surrounded the Pasha's residence as well as several other buildings. Today Its Kale functions as an archaeological site attracting many visitors, while a multitude of activities are hosted in many of its restored buildings.

Byzantine Museum (12)

The Museum displays finds, relics, icons from many sites, churches and monasteries of Epirus, dating from the Early Christian era up to and including the 19th century. It was built by the Greek army in the 1950s as a royal pavilion, on the site of Ali Pasha's Saray.

"Treasury" (13)

It makes up a part of the Byzantine Museum. Oral tradition has preserved its name. It is a building of Late Turkish rule that most probably belonged to the Saray of Ali Pasha. Since its restoration, it houses a collection of silversmith works.

Fethiye Mosque (14)

The Fethiye mosque built, according to tradition, on the site of a Byzantine church, was part of Ali Pasha's Saray complex. Today it functions as an exhibition space. The exhibition, restricted to the small arcade, left and right of the entrance, is about Ioannina during the Late Ottoman period and also includes engravings, texts and information material on Ali Pasha, his life and works in Epirus.

Ali Pasha's Tomb (15)

It is near the entrance of the Fethiye mosque and is covered by an impressive railing, a copy of the original. Under the railing two graves can be distinguished, in one of which the headless body of Ali was buried, after his murder on the Island.

Ruins of Ali Pasha's Saray (17)

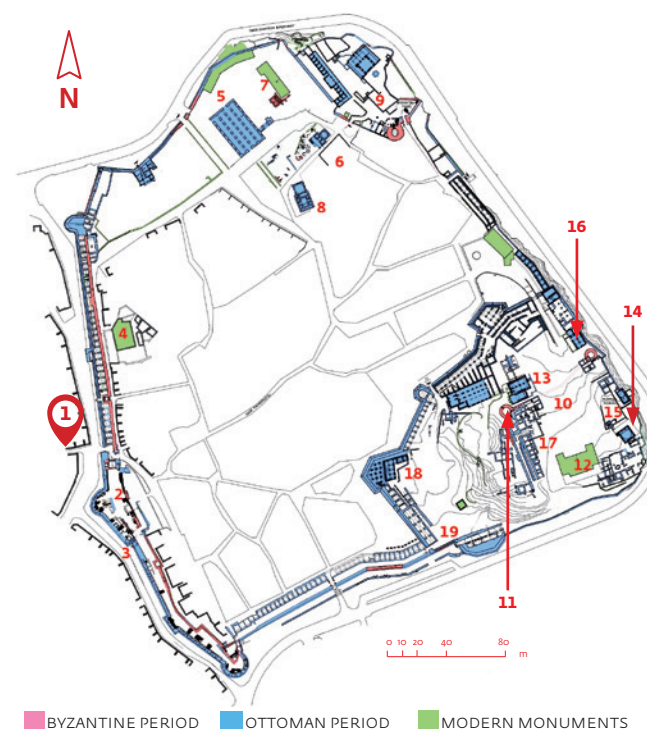
They are close to the "Treasury". Their state of preservation does not allow us to obtain information on the Saray's original appearance. Descriptions by foreign travellers do, however, complete our own knowledge. The Saray had incorporated the Tower of Bohemond on its west side (11).

The Silversmithing Museum (18)

The Silversmithing Museum was founded by the Cultural Foundation of the Piraeus Bank Group. It is housed in the west bastion of Its Kale. In its impressive pillared halls, the long history of silversmithing in the region unfolds through the masterpieces of great craftsmen of Epirus.

Front cover: Part of the North-East Citadel of the Castle of Ioannina. Photograph (detail) from the 1930s, by Vasilis Koutsavelis. © The Vasilis Koutsavelis family archive.

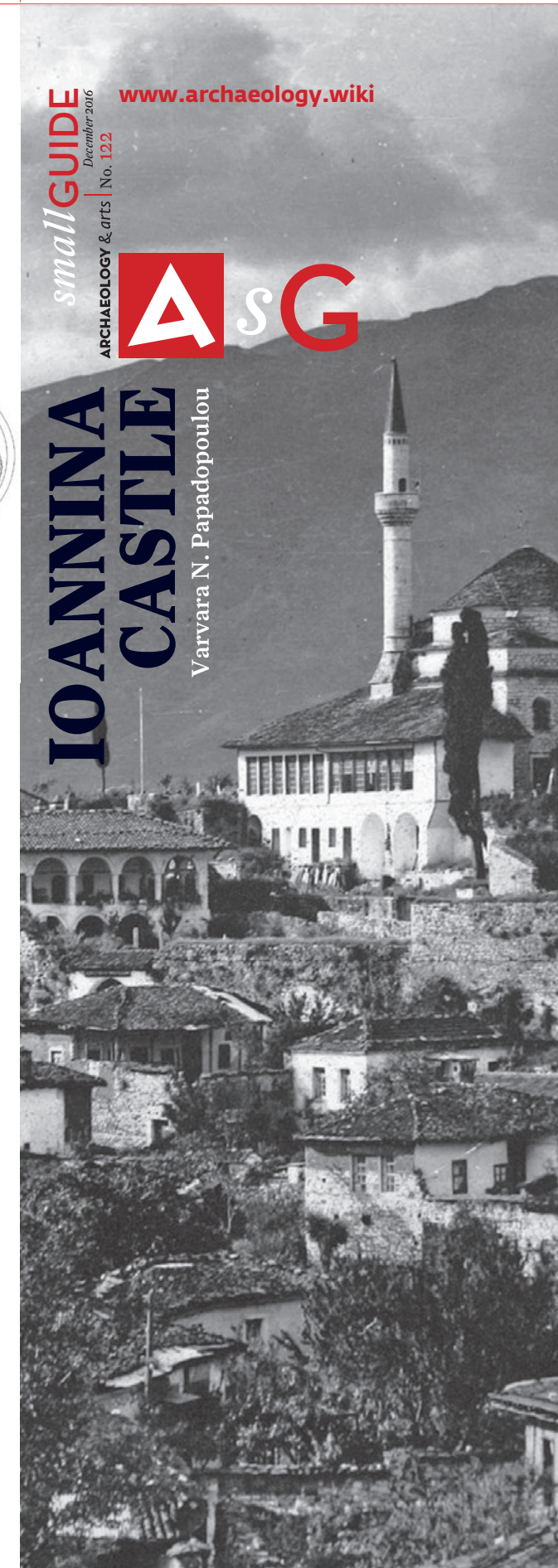
Below: Arcade in the Castle of Ioannina.



1. Main Gate
2. "Tower" of Thomas
3. Gate on Ethnikis Antistaseos St.
4. Synagogue
5. Safari Saray
6. Turkish Library
7. Byzantine Baths
8. Turkish Baths (Hamam)
9. North-East Citadel
10. South-East Citadel
11. Tower of Bohemond
12. Byzantine Museum
13. "Treasury"
14. Fethiye Mosque
15. Tomb of Ali Pasha
16. Building of the old Ottoman Kitchens
17. Ruins of the Ali Pasha Saray (Palace)
18. The Silversmithing Museum
19. South Gate



You can tour the site by using the ground plan. To listen to or download the file of the audio-guide, scan with your cell phone the QR code on the left or type in the link: https://www.archaeology.wiki/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Yannena_Castle_english_guide.mp3



The Castle, an emblematic symbol of the town of Ioannina, is built on a small promontory that juts out into Lake Pamvotis. Despite the modern history of Ioannina being associated with the infamous Ali Pasha and his era, the beginnings of the town can be traced back to the Late Classical and Hellenistic periods, according to recent excavation finds inside the Castle.

Anna Komnene informs us that in 1082, the Norman sovereign Bohemond seized the town, enclosed it with a large moat, repaired the walls and erected a second citadel. An impressive circular tower on the hill on the southeastern side of the Castle, bears his name. In the early 13th century, Ioannina came under the jurisdiction of the Komnenos Doukas dynasty, rulers of the Despotate of Epirus. In the mid-14th century, the inhabitants of the Castle of Ioannina surrendered their town to the Serbs. The town's Byzantine fortifications of the 13th and 14th centuries still largely survive. In 1430, Ioannina surrendered to the Ottomans who in 1611 would drive out all Christian inhabitants from the Castle. Ali Pasha is the one who gave the Castle its present form by extensively renovating the walls. Ottoman fortifications retained and, in many spots, incorporated the Byzantine walls still standing.

The Castle's two citadels were also preserved during the Ottoman period. That of the northeast was converted into a religious centre in 1618, when a mosque was erected there by Aslan Pasha, the governor of Ioannina. The southeastern citadel (Its Kale) was a separate fort protecting the Saray (Palace) of Ali Pasha, which was a building complex conspicuously situated in the area. The Saray was the administration seat of the Pashalic of Ioannina. The Fethiye mosque, adjacent to the Saray, was also repaired by Ali, with some other barrack buildings, many of which are preserved.

In 1913, Ioannina and the Castle surrendered to the Greek army which remained there till 1978, when Its Kale and various parts of it were granted to the Ministry of Culture.

Main Gate (1)

The Castle's main gate features a large double stone arch on its exterior and is decorated symmetrically with two stone animal figures in relief. An inscription in Arabic bears the date 1259 according to the Islamic Calendar (1843, according to the Gregorian) and the name of Osman Nuri Pasha. The gate was protected by the western



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03



04



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01 Tower of Bohemond.

02 Turkish Library.

03 Saray of Ali Pasha and his tomb. Steel engraving by W. Leitch and H. Adlard, 1843.

04 Ruins of Ali Pasha's Saray.

rampart, whose elevated northern point was the clock tower. Upon entering the Castle, the visitor encounters an arcade, on his left, that houses a permanent exhibition of photographs called "Ioannina: from Byzantine castle town to Ottoman metropolis".

The "Tower" of Thomas (2)

The "Tower" of Thomas, which is a later addition, is situated near the main gate and to its right. On its façade, a large, arched, brick opening is formed. To its left are the remains of a brick inscription with the name ΘΩΜΑC. Its construction is attributed to Thomas Preljubovic, Serb ruler of the town (1367–1384). He and particularly his wife Angelina Palaiologina played a significant part in Ioannina.

Sufari Saray (5)

An imposing stone building from the late period of Turkish rule, with a vaulted ground floor. The Sufari that may have housed the cavalry "school" of Ali Pasha, is today home to the Historical Archives of Ioannina.

Turkish Library (6)

It is situated at the foot of the north-east citadel and most probably functioned as an auxiliary building of the madrasa (religious school) near the Aslan Pasha mosque. It has a large vaulted hall and two smaller side ones. On its façade, a stone stairway leads to a portico supported by columns.

North-East Citadel: Aslan Pasha Mosque, Madrasa, Turbe (9)

The citadel dates to the Mid-Byzantine period. It is believed that here were the palaces of the town's occasional rulers. Today, it is largely taken up by the complex of the Aslan Pasha mosque that also includes the large madrasa. The mosque, an exceptional example of 17th century architecture, features decoration both written and in relief, mainly on the large dome. A large gallery with its three sides surrounds a smaller, pillared one which was its original. The mosque was a big religious complex, a külliye, since a seminary functioned in the madrasa. Very near the mosque is the turbe, i.e. the tomb of Aslan Pasha, an octagonal domed monument with walls decorated on the interior with a variety of ornamentation.

South-East Citadel (10)

The South-East Citadel or Its Kale acquired its