

The Royal Tombs of Vergina

Duration: 4 ½ hours

By air-conditioned Motorcoach and Professional Guide

The tour begins by bus from Thessaloniki following the National Road to reach the **Royal Tombs of Vergina**. The small village where refugees from Asia Minor settled down in 1923, became very famous due to the discovery of the Royal Tombs by **Professor and Archaeologist Andronicos**. It was known with the name **Aigais**, was the **first capital of Ancient Macedonia** and was supposed to be the burial place of all Macedonian Kings.

The Ancient Macedonian Tumulus has been completely excavated and for the preservation of the Royal Tombs themselves a subterranean structure, having the appearance of an earth mound, was built in 1993 to encase and protect the ancient monuments by maintaining a constant temperature and humidity, both inseparable for the preservation of the wall paintings.

The tour includes visit of the newly completed exhibition bearing the finds of all 3 Tombs, one of them famous as **the Tomb of King Philip the II, Father of Alexander the Great**. Make your way inside the subterranean structure, accompanied by your guide and feast your eyes on some of the most important objects, which once belonged to Philip II – the King's shield adorned with ivory and gold the King's gold- trimmed iron breast plate, **Gold Diadems** of unparalleled craftsmanship, **the Golden Wreath of oak leaves**, the gold plated collar and the **Silver Burial Ums**. Listen carefully, as your guide explains how inside the tomb of King Philip, **a Golden Chest was discovered**, containing the King's bones, washed with wine and wrapped in purple cloth. After a sort coffee break, we will drive back to Thessaloniki.

