SIGHTS · CORINTHIA

The Diolkos



About

Long before the Canal existed, the ancients had their own way of crossing the Isthmus: they **dragged the ships overland**. The Diolkos was a paved trackway linking the Corinthian Gulf to the Saronic, along which vessels were hauled on wooden cradles.

Why it matters

It was built in the **6th century BC** and is traditionally credited to the tyrant **Periander**. Thanks to it, cargo and warships avoided the dangerous voyage around the Peloponnese — and Corinth grew rich controlling the crossing. It is, in effect, the ancestor of today Canal.

What you will see

Sections of the paving survive with the **wheel ruts** still visible, near the western end of the Canal. The monument is fragile and parts of it have suffered from erosion, so access is restricted in places.

Practical notes

- At the western end of the Canal, near Poseidonia.
- There are no visitor facilities — see it together with the Canal itself.
- Respect the fencing: the monument is under protection.

Useful information

Opening hours	Open-air monument, always accessible.

Admission	Free admission
Best time to visit	April–June & September–October (mild, uncrowded)

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Enjoy exploring Corinthia!