SIGHTS · CORINTHIA

The Nero Monument at the Isthmus

About

The idea of cutting through the Isthmus is far older than the canal we see today. Tyrants, kings and emperors all considered it — and the only one who actually began the work was **Nero**.

The attempt of AD 67

The Roman emperor came to the Isthmus in person and, according to the sources, struck the first blow with a golden pickaxe. Thousands of labourers began digging from both ends. The work stopped a few months later when Nero had to return to Rome — and he died soon after.

Traces of that effort were found during the cutting of the modern canal in the 19th century: the Romans had followed almost exactly the same line.

What you will see

A monument in the Isthmus area recalls the episode. It is small and easily missed, but it takes on meaning beside the canal that was finally completed **1,800 years later**.

Practical notes

- In the Canal area, near Poseidonia.
- See it together with the Canal and the Diolkos.

Useful information

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

Take it with you

Navigate with Google Maps

Open this page on your phone
visitcorinthia.com/en/sights/nero-monument-isthmus

Enjoy exploring Corinthia!