

**Salamis - Ambelaki**

The remains of the Classical / Hellenistic capital of Salamis are located at the area of Ambelaki bay, on the Pounta promontory, at the east side of the island. Submerged structural features of harbour-works in the inner bay indicate the site of the harbour. In this small bay the Athenian fleet was gathered before the famous naval battle in 480 BC.

The existence of the harbour is witnessed from the middle of 4th c. BC by Skylax who laconically notes: "Salamis is an island, a city and a port" (Periplus, 57).

Figures **Main features**

Region	Saronic Gulf
Use	Naval Base
Prosperity period (centuries)	5th B.C. - 3rd B.C.
Existence of contemporary port	No
Findings on site	Yes

**General description**

The harbour-works of the Ambelaki bay consist of remains of ashlar masonry including moles and other structures, whose function can not be determined without further underwater investigation and excavation.

A partly submerged row of blocks running E-W is located on the west side of the bay that probably dates to Classical / Hellenistic period.

On the east side of the bay there is yet another oblong structure (mole?), running NE-SW for 37.30m.

A third structure exists on the north side of the bay, made of blocks (1.2 to 1.30m. long), probably in second use. It runs N-S for 54.50m, having a width of 1.4 to 1.6m. Furthermore structures such as foundations, wall segments etc seem to be related with the harbour and its function. Meanwhile, the oral tradition attest to the existence of underwater stone-paved platforms or corridors, which could resemble ship-shed ramps (?).

**Technical features**

Construction period (centuries)	5th B.C. - 3rd B.C.
Port configuration	Artificial Harbour, Outer Harbour
Port basin size	m <sup>2</sup>
Main wind direction	W
Port land area	km <sup>2</sup>
Port entrance	
Change of sea surface elevation	1.5 m
Sedimentation	

Outer port structures	Moles
Inner port structures	
Land facilities	Defence Structures, Other
Construction method	
Neotectonic history	Sink
Shore line displacement	

### Function and operations

The harbour installations at the Ambelaki bay were obviously the seaward gate of the Classical and Hellenistic city of Salamis, as it is evident from the pottery collected from the wider area. Not only the merchantile transactions, well expected for an island with heavy interdependence with a nearby large urban center, but also naval installations could had served the needs of the Athenian fleet due to its proximity and its pivotal position on the straits controlling navigation from south.

### Sources

References in ancient literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curtius E. - Kaupert J. A., 1881, <i>Karten von Attika</i>, Berlin</li> <li>• Hammond N.G.L., 1976, "Salamis, Attica, Greece" in Stillwell R. (ed.) <i>The Princeton Encyclopedia of Classical Sites</i>, N.J. Princeton University Press, Princeton [<a href="http://icarus.umkc.edu/sandbox/perseus/pecs/page.4012.a.php">http://icarus.umkc.edu/sandbox/perseus/pecs/page.4012.a.php</a>]</li> <li>• Lolos Y., 1995, "Notes on Salaminian harbours", <i>Tropis III</i>, 3rd International symposium on ship construction in antiquity, Athens, 1989, pp. 283-308</li> <li>• Πάλλας Δ., 1949, "Σαλαμινιακά", <i>Αρχαιολογική Εφημερίς</i>, Αρχαιολογική Εταιρεία, Αθήνα, σσ. 112-134</li> <li>• Πάλλας Δ., 1987, "Αρχαιολογικές επισημάνσεις στη Σαλαμίνα", <i>Αρχαιολογικόν Δελτίον</i> 42, ΥΠΠΟ, Αθήνα, σσ. 168-230</li> <li>• Παπαχατζής Ν., 1974, <i>Παυσανίου Ελλάδος Περιήγησις. Αττικά, Αθήνα</i></li> </ul>
Related researches	
Findings in museums	No
Other references	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skylax, <i>Periplus</i>, 57</li> <li>• Pausanias, <i>Description of Greece</i>, I.53.3</li> <li>• Strabo, <i>Geography</i>, IX.1.9</li> </ul>
Protection regime	
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