

## ANCIENT CORINTH

Corinth, or Korinth was a city-state (polis) on the Isthmus of Corinth, the narrow stretch of land that joins the Peloponnese to the mainland of Greece (now a canal), roughly halfway between Athens and Sparta. The modern town of Corinth is located approximately 5 kilometers (3.1 mi) northeast of the ancient ruins. Since 1896, systematic archaeological investigations of the Corinth Excavations by the American School of Classical Studies in Athens have revealed large parts of the ancient city, and recent excavations conducted by the Greek Ministry of Culture have brought important new facets of antiquity to light.

Founded by Korinthos, a descendant of the god Helios (Sun), in accordance with the Hellenic myth, Corinth was inhabited from at least as early as 6500 BC.

In classical times, Corinth rivaled Athens and Thebes in wealth, based on the isthmian traffic and trade. Until the mid-6th century, was a major exporter of black-figure pottery to city-states around the Greek world. Athenian potters later came to dominate the market.

Corinth was also the host of the Isthmian Games. During this era, Corinthians developed the Corinthian order, the third order of the classical architecture after the Ionic and the Doric. The Corinthian order was the most complicated of the three, showing the accumulation of wealth and the luxurious lifestyle in the ancient city-state, while the Doric order was analogous to the strict and simplistic lifestyle of the older Dorians like the Spartans and the Ionic was a balance between those two, following the philosophy of harmony of Ionians like the Athenians.



