

**History  
of Kolymbethra Garden**

## History of Kolymbethra Garden



Kolymbethra Garden is in Agrigento.

This Garden is called Kolymbethra because it was a pool.

Kolymbethra is a Greek word that means pool.

Greek is the spoken language of people living in Greece.

A long time ago many Greeks came to Sicily and built cities and buildings.

Greeks made also many artworks.

This Garden is located inside the Valley of Temples.

The name of this valley comes from the many Greek temples finds near Agrigento.

The finds are parts of buildings and temples recently found.

A temple is a place where people go for praying.

Greeks built these temples a long time ago when they were living in Sicily.

Some parts of buildings and temples that Greek people built are now destroyed.

If you want to know more about the Valley of Temples you can read the text in the box at page 29.

A long time ago Greeks built a big tub to collect water.

The water passed through many canals carved in the rocks and reached the tub.

A canal is a long tunnel carved in soil or rock.



People that lived in the city and in the close areas used this water.

Next to this Garden there was an important Greek city called Akragas.

You can see the most important finds of Akragas in the Valley of Temples.

In Sicily it doesn't rain much and there is always a little water.

For this reason it is important for people living here

Having a water reserve to use for drinking, watering plants and feeding animals.

A long time ago people used to build tubs to collect water to use during the times when it did not rain or there was a little water.

These tubs were used also as a fish hatchery.

A hatchery is a big tub were fish grow and people can catch them.

After a long time people of Akragas stopped using the hatchery and covered the tub with soil, creating a vegetable garden and an orchard.

An orchard is a field with many fruit trees.

Plum tree, orange tree and almond tree are fruit trees because you can pick up their fruits like plums, oranges and almonds.



The Garden then became even more beautiful and full of trees, flowers and plants. In fact, the water passing in the underground canals made the plants grow very well.

Many people loved this Garden and came to visit it from faraway countries.

After a long time people abandoned this Garden.

A few years ago FAI cleaned the Garden and took care of the plants.

FAI cleaned the paths up in the Garden and put the signs that tell you which plants you can see.

FAI means Fondo Ambiente Italiano (National Trust for Italy).

FAI is a group of persons who take care of a number of Properties.

FAI Properties are villas, castles, woods and gardens.

FAI wants people to visit those special Properties.

Nowadays people can visit Kolymbethra Garden thanks to FAI.

**What is Kolymbethra Garden  
composed of**



What is Kolymbethra Garden composed of



Kolymbethra Garden is huge.

Inside the Garden there are many trees and flowers:

- olive trees
- almond trees
- mulberry plants
- medlar plants
- plum trees
- a citrus grove.

A citrus grove is a group of trees that make citruses:

- oranges
- lemons
- chinottos
- grapefruits
- tangerins.

Here you can see also many other plants that grow in areas around the Mediterranean Sea.



In the Garden you can see plants of:

- mastic
- myrtle
- caper
- rosemary
- dwarf palm.

A dwarf palm is a small palm.

In the very sunny areas carob trees grow.

The laurel trees make a big shadow on the pic-nic area.

During spring you can see:

- the white and rose flowers of almond trees
- the yellow flowers of the broom plant
- the zagare.

The zagare are the citrus flowers and are very scented.

All the plants and trees you see in the Garden have been growing there for a long time.

Inside the Garden you can see the canals built by ancient Greeks to collect water and a little tub filled with water.



People built this tub a little time ago to collect water for the Garden plants.

In the Garden you can also walk on a small bridge.



Here you can hear the sound of water.

It will be very nice visiting the Garden because here you can see and smell plants that do not grow in the house yards.

Walking in the middle of the Garden is quiet, so that you will be able to hear the sounds of the moving leaves or the birds singing.



## The Valley of Temples

Kolybethra Garden is located in the Valley of Temples.

This valley is called after the finds of the Temples that Greeks built a long time ago.

Nowadays there are only some parts of these temples because the others fell down and broke.

You can see the finds of some Greek temples also from the Garden: some high columns and a piece of wall.



These are the finds of the temple built to remember two brothers: Castor and Pollux. Castor and Pollux were two Greek heroes, sons of the most important Greek god: Zeus. A hero is a strong and brave person who fears nothing.

These temples are beautiful and very famous, many people coming from all over the world visit them.

**The Hypogea  
of Kolymbethra Garden**

## The Hypogea of Kolymbethra Garden.



At Kolymbethra Garden you can see big holes that people dug in stone a long time ago. These holes are the hypogea.

Hypogea means that they are underground.

These holes are the entrance of long and narrow galleries.

You have to climb an iron stair to get to the entrance of the hypogea.

The galleries path starts from the top of the stairs.



People created the hypogea to make the water reach the tub in the Garden for the city of Akragas.

These galleries are also called Feace's aqueducts because an architect called Feace built them.

An aqueduct is the whole of buildings like bridges, galleries and tubes that take water to the houses of people and cultivated fields.

An architect is a person that builds houses, buildings, churches and all the things that make a city run, like aqueducts.

These hypogea are made of a stone called calcarenite.

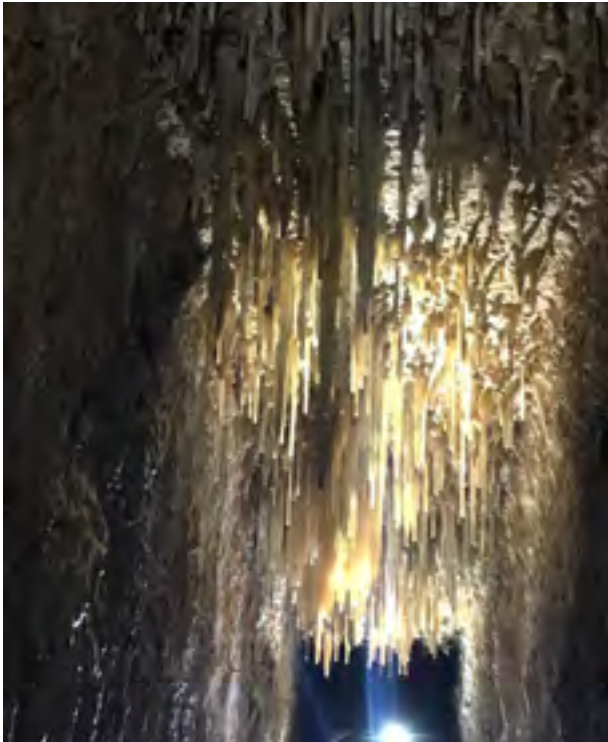
Calcarenite is hardened sand.

If you touch it, you can feel it is rough.

In the calcarenite you can see shells of a very long time ago.

You can see stalactites inside the hypogea.

Stalactites are like stone columns hanging from the ceiling of a grotto.





You might see bats and insects inside the hypogea.

You have to wear a helmet with the light to visit the hypogea.

The helmet protects your head and the light helps you in the galleries.

It is dark in the hypogea, watch out when you walk.

Inside the hypogea the air is fresh.

People's voice might sound very loud there.

Don't get scared. It will be very nice to walk inside these galleries and discover a new thing you have never seen before.

These are the only hypogea you can visit in the Valley of Temples.

If you want to visit the hypogea you have to book the entrance by calling the FAI ticket office at +39 335 122 9042.