


Mount Olympus

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This article is about the mountain range in Greece. For the volcano on the planet Mars, see [Olympus Mons](#). For other uses, see [Olympus](#).



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Mount Olympus	
	
Mount Olympus	
Highest point	
 Elevation	2,918 m (9,573 ft) ^[1]
 Prominence	2,355 m (7,726 ft) ^[2]
 Isolation	254 kilometres (158 mi)
 Listing	<div><div><div><div></div><div>Country high point</div></div><div><div></div><div>Ultra</div></div></div></div>
 Coordinates	<div><div><div><div></div><div>40°05′08″N 22°21′31″E</div></div></div><div><div></div><div>Coordinates:</div><div>40°05′08″N 22°21′31″E</div></div></div>



Mount Olympus

Location of Mount Olympus in Greece

Location [Greece](#)

Parent range Macedonia and Thessaly, near the Gulf of Salonika

Climbing

2 August 1913

First ascent Christos Kakalos, [Frederic Boissonnas](#) and Daniel Baud-Bovy



Olympus' highest peak, Mytikas

Mount Olympus (/oʊˈlɪmpəs, ə-/^[3] Greek: Όλυμπος; also transliterated as **Olympos**, and on Greek maps, **Oros Olympus**) is the highest mountain in [Greece](#) and the second highest mountain in the [Balkans](#). It is located in the Olympus Range on the border between [Thessaly](#) and [Macedonia](#), between the regional units of [Pieria](#) and [Larissa](#), about 80 km (50 mi) southwest from [Thessaloniki](#). Mount Olympus has 52 peaks, deep gorges, and exceptional biodiversity.^[4] The highest peak *Mytikas*, meaning "nose", rises to 2,918 metres (9,573 ft).^[1] It is one of the highest peaks in [Europe](#) in terms of topographic prominence.^[2]

Olympus was notable in [Greek mythology](#) as the home of the [Greek gods](#), on the Mytikas peak. Mount Olympus is also noted for its very rich flora with several species. It has been a [National Park](#), the first in [Greece](#), since 1938. It is also a [World's Biosphere Reserve](#).^[1]

Every year thousands of people visit Olympus to admire its fauna and flora, to tour its slopes, and reach its peaks. Organized mountain refuges and various mountaineering and climbing routes are available to visitors who want to explore it. The usual starting point is the town of [Litochoro](#), on the eastern foothills of the mountain, 100 km from Thessaloniki, where, in the beginning of every summer, the Olympus Marathon terminates.^{[[s](#)]}

There are multiple theories for the origin of the name Olympus. It has been suggested that it means "sky", "bright", "high" or "rock". One theory holds that Olympus is a [prehellenictoponym](#) that simply means "mountain".^{[*[citation needed](#)*]} In [Turkish](#), the mountain is known as "Semavatevi", meaning "heavens' house".

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