



ALEXANDER THE GREAT: 2000 YEARS OF TREASURES

Setting summer attendance record at Australian Museum

Australian Museum's blockbuster exhibition Alexander the Great: 2000 Years of treasures must close its doors on Sunday 28 April after setting attendance records for the museum over summer.

"I urge people to take the opportunity to see these treasures for 28 April as they will not travel to Australia again in our lifetime," says Frank Howarth, Director of the Australian Museum.

The Alexander the Great exhibition is principal attraction for the State Hermitage during the summer tourist season so the objects must be returned to their home in St Petersburg.

"As we close the doors, a team of

Russian curators and couriers will begin to prepare and pack the objects for passage back to the State Hermitage," says Elizabeth Cowell, the exhibition's Project Manager.

"While we'll be pleased to see our friends from St Petersburg again it will be very sad to say goodbye to Alexander and to this exquisite collection."

Anticipating a busy final month – which includes Easter and school holidays – Frank Howarth has a word of advice as to the best time to view the exhibition: "Mornings are most popular, so anyone keen to avoid the crowds should try the afternoon, between 2 and 5pm."

SYRIZA leading New Democracy conservatives, two polls show

Greece's left SYRIZA opposition is leading New Democracy conservatives according to two opinion polls published Saturday.

One poll, by Kappa research for To Vima on Sunday newspaper, puts support for SYRIZA at 26.6 percent ahead of ND's 25.7 percent. Extreme right Golden Dawn is third in line with 13 percent, followed by PASOK socialists with 8.8 percent, Independent Greeks with 5.7 percent, the KKE Communist Party with 6.4 percent and Democratic Left with 4.8 percent.

PASOK and Democratic Left are junior partners in the country's conservative-led coalition government.

On the issue of who would be the most suitable political leader for the position of prime minister, coalition leader and current Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, who also heads the conservative party, was voted by 44.1 percent of those participating in the opinion poll, followed

by SYRIZA chief Alexis Tsipras with 31.8 percent. Twenty-three percent said they trust neither.

Meanwhile, slightly more than 70 percent of respondents said they are in favor of Greece's eurozone membership, according to the same survey. Almost 59 percent said the current government should be given more time.

A separate poll by Metron Analysis for Eleftherotypia on Sunday shows SYRIZA in first place with 25.8 percent, pushing ND into second place at 25.2 percent. The Metron survey also puts Golden Dawn at third place with 11.7 percent, followed by PASOK with 9 percent and Independent Greeks with 8.5 percent. Democratic Left is backed by 6.3 percent, less than a percentage point ahead of KKE's 5.5 percent.

At 29 percent, Samaras features as the most suitable leader for premier against Tsipras's 13 percent.



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