

Cithaeron

Cithaeron or **Kithairon** is a mountain and mountain range about 10 mi (16 km) long, in central [Greece](#). The range is the physical boundary between [Boeotia](#) in the north and [Attica](#) in the south. It is mainly composed of [limestone](#) and rises to 4,623 ft (1,409 m). The range was the scene of many events in [Greek mythology](#) and was especially sacred to [Dionysus](#). In Euripides's [Bacchae](#), Dionysus carries out his dances and rites with his bacchantes, his priestesses, on Cithaeron. Oedipus was exposed on the mountain, while [Actaeon](#) and [Pentheus](#) were both dismembered on its slopes. It was also the place where [Heracles](#) hunted and killed the [Lion of Cithaeron](#).

In historic times, the mountain acted as a backdrop to the [Battle of Plataea](#) of 479 BC and was the scene of much skirmishing before the battle itself. In later times fortifications were built both at [Plataea](#) and [Erythrai](#) as the mountain formed the disputed natural border between Athens and [Thebes](#).

The people of Plataea also personified the mountain as their primal king: "But the Plataeans know of no king except [Asopus](#) and Cithaeron before him, holding that the latter gave his name to the mountain, the former to the river".

