There are elements showing that Patras was firstly inhabited around the 3rd   millenium BC. However Patras under that name was founded by the Achaeans of   Sparta who, headed by Preugenes and his son Patreus, came here after being   forced out by the Dorians. But similarly the Achaeans of Argos, also forced   out by the Dorians, headed by Tisamenos, occupied the eastern Achaia, after   besieging Eliki. Up to then, the whole of Achaia was named after the Ions   and was called Ionia but was also called Aegialos, either because it was named   after the king of Sikyon, Aegialus, either because the whole region spread   all along the coast (aegialos). The Ions firstly took to Athens and from there   to Asia Minor where they founded twelve cities, the Ionian Dodecapolis, in   remembrance of the twelve cities they had left behind.

Preugenes and Patreus made three Ionian market towns into one. Those three   were Aroe, Mesatis and Antheia and having as center Aroe they founded a new   city that they called Patrae after Patreus. The city's name was in the plural   because of the unification of many settlements. So you can see Patras written   as "Patrae", "Patra" (modern Greek), "Patras" (English), "Patrasso" (Italian) etc.

 Patras has developed thanks to its port and the commerce that takes place   through it. Beautiful neo-classic buildings embellish the city whose roads   all end up to the sea so that its bracing force is not cut. Artistic and spiritual   life is very intense. Today, Patras is one of the most significant cities   in Greece and its port is still playing that important role that it had during   all its long history. It's the third greater city of Greece (after Athens   and Thessalonica) with aproximately 300.000 inhabidants. Patra is also famous   as a student city since the 35.000 students are a big percentage to the total   population.