

5-Day Journey from Athens: Argolis, Olympia, Delphi & Meteora

One of the most popular and interesting excursions! Visit some of the most beautiful parts of **Greece** and the most important archaeological sites in **Argolis, Olympia, Delphi** and **Meteora**.

Itinerary

Day 1

Leaving Athens behind we drive on the coastal road towards the West. Our first stop (after approximately one hour) is the **Corinth Canal**. There we'll make a short stop, enough to see the Canal, (approximately 6 km long connecting the **Aegean** with the **Ionian Sea**), take photos and visit the local cafeteria. Twenty minutes later we'll arrive at the small town of **Ancient Corinth** where we'll visit the archaeological site with the unique monolithic **Temple of Apollo** (one of the oldest in Greece, 585 B.C.), and the **Bema** from where **St. Paul** preached and the museum.



Ruins Of Temple In Corinth



Ruins Of Temple In Corinth



Corinth Canal

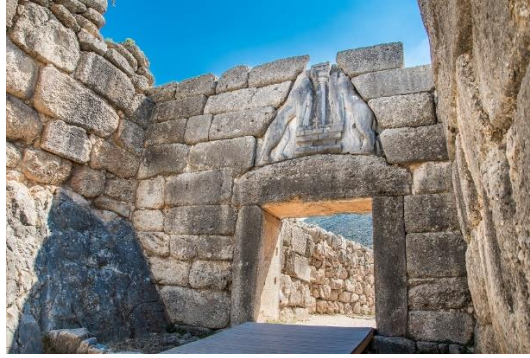
Driving afterwards through the hills of Corinth, among thousands of olive trees and vineyards, we'll arrive at the prefecture of **Argolis** where we'll visit the archaeological site of **Mycenae**.

Mycenae, 'Rich in Gold', was the kingdom of mythical **Agamemnon** who dominated the **Aegean Sea** after the distraction of the **Minoan Empire**. The city looks out across the plain of **Argos** to the sea. Its elevated position and its huge **Cyclopean Walls** offered protection from surprise attacks by pirates and enemies. At the peak of its power (1300 B.C.) the population resided around the fortress where the Royal Family resided. The Palace, symbol of power of the Mycenaean rulers, was reached by a large ramp beginning at the **Lions Gate**.

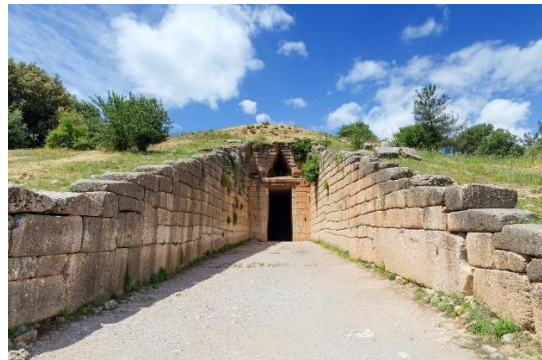
Outside the fortress lie the impressive beehive tombs including that ascribed to Agamemnon known also as the **Treasury of Atreus**.



Lion Gate In Mycenae



The Citadel Of Mycenae



Treasury Of Atreus

After concluding our visit to Mycenae we'll drive through the plain of **Argos** among endless farms of orange trees and forty minutes later we'll arrive at the picturesque town of **Nafplion** (First capital of modern Greece from 1829 to 1834). Nafplion is the most ancient city in Greece. According to the myth it was founded by **Theseas** who first conceived the idea of organized cities where people could live together. The city lies under the imposing rocks of **Palamide** the most formidable Venetian Castle in the Eastern Mediterranean. The smaller Castle of **Acronafplia** (where the ancient city was founded) crowns Nafplion and at the entrance of the harbor, in the **Argolic Gulf**, there is yet another, third castle, **Bourtzi**, situated on a small islet.



City of Nafplio



The fortress of Nafplio



Nafplio Bourtzi

Whether you decide to have lunch in the old medieval quarter, with the narrow, stoned paved streets, or by the port, with the view of **Bourtzi, Nafplion** is the best choice for lunch in this trip.

After the conclusion of Argolis tour and lunch in Nafplion we'll depart for **Olympia** through the mountains of **Arcadia** in central Peloponnesse (a very scenic drive) and we'll pass from various towns and villages, (**Tripolis, Vytina, Lagadia**). Finally we'll arrive in Olympia where we'll have diner and spend the night.

Day 2

After breakfast we are going to visit the archaeological site with the **Temple of Zeus** (where the gold and ivory statue of the god was placed -one of the seven wonders of the ancient world – work of the master sculptor **Fedias**) the **Temple of Hera** (where the lighting of the Olympic Flame takes place every four years) the original ancient **Olympic Stadium** and many more monuments. After the archaeological site we will visit the Museum.



The Philippeion



The Ruins Of Ancient Olympia



The Ruins Of Ancient Olympia



Olympia Archaeological Site



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Olympia Archaeological Site

The Archaeological Museum of **Olympia** is one of the most important museums in Greece. The museum's permanent exhibition contains finds from the sacred precinct of **Altis** and the rest archaeological site dating from the prehistoric era. Among the many precious exhibits you will also see the famous marble statues of **Hermes of Praxiteles** and the **Nike** (Victory) of **Paionios**.

After the conclusion of our tour we can have lunch in the town of Olympia and then start our trip to **Delphi**, where we'll arrive in the evening. In Delphi we can have dinner in a local Greek restaurant and stay overnight.

Day 3

After breakfast we will visit the famous **Oracle of Delphi**. We will see the **Castalia Spring** and the main archaeological site (the **Temple of Apollo**, the **Treasury of the Athenians**, the **Theatre**, the **Stadium**, etc.) and the Museum with the famous statue of **Antinoos** and the unique bronze statue of the **Charioteer** dated from 475 B.C.



After our visit to the Museum we'll drive down the slope for about a mile to visit the ruins of the **Temple of Athena Pronaia** and the **Tholos**.





After the conclusion of our Delphi Tour we can have lunch in a traditional Greek restaurant in town and then we'll depart for **Meteora**. We will enjoy our drive through the mountains of central Greece and we will pass by various towns and villages, (**Lamia, Domokos, Trikala**) After our drive we will arrive at **Kalambaka** (the town right below the rocks of Meteora) where we'll have diner and can spend night. We can also stay overnight in the nearby village of **Kastraki**.





Day 4

After breakfast we'll start our tour to the **Monasteries** until lunch time in the afternoon. After lunch we'll start our return trip to Athens. Almost half the distance to Athens we can stop at **Thermopylae** to see the statue of **Leonidas**, the **King of the Spartans**, who fell in the battle with all his 300 warriors fighting the **Persians of Xerxes** in 480 B.C.



Leonidas Statue Thermopylae



Leonidas Statue Thermopylae



Thermal Springs

After lunch in **Nafplion** (the first day) we can continue with the tour of **Argolis**, visiting **Epidaurus**. (extended Argolis tour). Epidaurus is famous for its ancient Theatre and the sanctuary of Asclepius.

The sanctuary of **Asclepius** was a healing centre as well as a cultural centre in ancient times. Epidaurus was built around the 4th Century B.C. and has a multitude of buildings most famous of which is the ancient **Theatre of Epidaurus**. The Theatre of Epidaurus has reached our days almost intact. The view, aesthetics and acoustics of the theatre are breathtaking. It's still in use today and hosts carefully selected theatrical plays, concerts, and festivals during the summer. For an actor to perform in the Theatre of Epidaurus is considered the greatest honour and the ultimate acknowledgement of his or her talent, if he wins over the tough audience.



Epidaurus Theater



Epidaurus Theater



Epidaurus Theater

After concluding our visit to Epidaurus we'll return to Nafplion and the afternoon will be free to explore the old medieval quarter with the traditional restaurants hidden in the narrow, stone paved streets and the port with all the modern cafeterias with view to the **Bourtzi Castle**.

Next morning, after breakfast, we are going to visit **Palamide** fortress. Here you will have a choice of either climbing the authentic stairway of 999 steps to the entrance of the castle or driving directly to the top!

After visiting Palamide we are going to drive over the mountains of **Arcadia** to **Bassae**. In Bassae we will visit the imposing **Temple of Epikourios Apollo**. We can have lunch in any of the towns we will drive through during our trip. (**Megalolpoli, Karytaina, Andritsena**).



Village Of Karytaina



Village Of Dimitsana



Village Of Karytaina

The **Temple of Epikourios Apollo**, one of the most important and imposing ancient Temples, stands in the bare and rocky landscape of **Bassae** 1.100 m above the sea level. Attributed to **Iktinos**, one of the master architects of the **Parthenon**, in Athens, the Temple dates back to 420-400 BC. Excavations have revealed that this surviving Temple was the third to have been erected on the site. The remains of the two previous Temples date back to 600 and 500 BC. It is very interesting that some of the architectural elements of these two previous Temples can still be seen today.



Temple Of Apollo

After concluding our visit to **Bassae** we will continue to **Olympia** where we will have dinner and stay overnight.

All our private tours are flexible. It is always up to you to change the itinerary according to your wishes.