

# Activities

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## Discover Ancient Greece

The 'Ancient Greece' tour combines the two following UNESCO World Heritage Archaeological Sites, the Sanctuary and the Theatre of Asclepius in Epidaurus and the city of Mycenae. If you wish to visit both sites, then we suggest that you start at the site of Mycenae, approx. an hour and a half drive from Amanzoe. After the visit to Mycenae, a lunch stop can be arranged in the historical town of Nafplio. On the way back to Amanzoe we suggest a visit at the Sanctuary of Asclepius and a walk under the shaded trees of the site.

For a guided tour of the archeological sites a registered tour guide must be booked. This requires as much advance notice as possible. Should you wish to explore these sites without a guide, a guest assistant will be happy to accompany you on this excursion and ensure that you find your way comfortably to the site.

Good shoes, hats and sun cream are recommended for both sites.

Option #1 - approximately 8 hours  
Epidaurus & Mycenae  
Inclusive of private transfer & site fees (handled by your driver)

Additional charge for guest assistant to accompany you on your tour

Registered Tour Guide  
Additional fee for two sites

Option #2 - approximately 6 hours  
1 site only & lunch in Nafplio  
Inclusive of private transfer & site fee (handled by your driver)

Additional charge for guest assistant to accompany you on your tour

Registered Tour Guide  
Additional fee for one site

Option #3 - Discover Archeology on your own and plan your itinerary according to your wishes  
Car & driver only. No site fees included.

## Ancient Greece



### Archaeological site of Epidaurus

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Epidaurus is an ancient sanctuary which reflects not only the great history of Hellenistic and Roman periods, but also how powerful the 'Ancient Greek' spiritual beliefs were. Apart from the famous theatre, Epidaurus also includes the archaeological site and ruins of the sanctuary of Asclepius as well as a museum that exhibits findings from the site. Within these ruins are the remains of the Enkimitirion, where people would travel thousands of miles to slumber in the hopes of having Asclepius appear to them in their dreams with a cure for what ailed them.

The Sanctuary of Asclepius was the most renowned healing center in the ancient world. The oldest buildings, such as the healing center and the sanctuary of the site date back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. The god Asclepius is thought as one of the later gods in Hellenic mythology and the animal that represented him was the snake, hence the global symbol of modern medicine, the snakes entwined around the caduceus.

The theatre was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC by Polyclitus the Younger - an architectural masterpiece with perfect acoustics, the secret of which was not discovered until 2007. After the original construction, the Romans extended the features of the site and added 21 rows to the original 34. The theatre was considered a part of the healing sanctuary because the Greeks believed in the power of theatre to heal the mind and spirit. With a capacity of 15,000 people, Epidaurus nowadays hosts dramatic and musical performances every summer.



## Archaeological site of Mycenae

Mycenae, the “golden city” of ancient Greece is a UNESCO world heritage site that must not be missed. Mycenae was the epicenter of the Mycenaean world and gave its name to a period and a civilization that evolved throughout the entire Hellenic civilization and spread even further to the Mediterranean basin between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century BC.

The city, firstly founded by Perseus, was the kingdom of Agamemnon and a very well organized community, as well as an important commercial center. The site itself is exceptionally well maintained, giving you a clear picture of exactly what it would have been like to be dwelling inside the city walls. Mountains and fields stretch as far as the eye can see with glimpses of blue sea, and it is easy to imagine why it was such a formidable city, practically inaccessible if you were not welcome. The museum of the site is full of beautiful cultural handicrafts and many golden items that give you a glimpse into the everyday life of the Mycenaean's, beyond the stories left of their legacy.

Just down the road is the superbly well maintained tomb of Atreus, the largest “bee-hive” tomb outside the city walls, as remarkable as the remnants of the ancient citadel, which influenced the Mycenaean period and was the source of great dispute about where Priam's treasure went after it was excavated.

The colossal Cyclopean walls and the lion gate still stand there at the entrance of the city, almost intimidating but welcoming, as they have been for thousands of years.



## Nafplio Town

Nafplio is one of the most historic cities of the region, full of spectacular monuments and sights that have stories that span from the ancient times to the medieval. It played a major part in the history and creation of today's Greece, as it hosted the first Greek parliament after the Greek war of independence.

It was also the town where the first pharmacy was opened, the first military school was founded and the first governor of Greece, Ioannis Kapodistrias, was murdered. Between 1200 AD and 1822 AD when Greece was liberated, Nafplio has switched hands of great conquerors many times.

Over the centuries, the different occupying forces, such as the Venetians and the Ottomans, have left their marks through the architecture and the culture in Nafplio, giving it the unique and cosmopolitan atmosphere it has today.

Visitors can spend hours between the ancient castles that boast riveting legends to the many museums that paint a clear picture of the architectural, historical and cultural stories that Nafplio is founded upon. You also may simply stroll through the quaint streets of the old town, surrounded by bougainvillea and lined with restaurants and shops.

Tour - 6 hours

Inclusive of private transfer, walking tour of Nafplio town, fees for museums & Palamidi Castle

Additional charge for guest assistant to accompany you on your tour

Discover Nafplio on your own and wander at leisure

Inclusive of private transfer only



## Trekking in Ermionida

The area of Ermionida is full of beautiful hiking trails suitable for all ages.

There is minimal signage in the area so the use of a local trekker is essential in order to guide you through the paths. Most of the trails available are of an average difficulty level but our outsourced trekking expert is able to customize your selected trekking route and difficulty level according to your needs. In many routes the starting and finishing point may not be Amanzoe so on this occasion a chauffeured car will be driving you to and from these points.

### Iliokastro - Fourni Village

This linear route starts from the mountainous village of Iliokastro and follows dirt trails and riverbeds (depending on the season) through the pine forest of Ksiriza until Fourni village. Whilst you hike along the amazing nature of Ermionida you will pass by a Roman aqueduct, which still stands there after all these centuries and see all kind of wild flora native to the area.

Difficulty Level: It is a level 3 route that can become a level 4 route if you start from the valley village of Fourni to end up in Iliokastro.

Duration: 2.5 hours approximately (depending on fitness level/ time without stops)

Length: 12 kilometers

### Fourni Village - Katafiki Gorge

This circular route starts from the main square of Fourni village and continues with an uphill direction for approximately 10 kilometers through pine trees, towards the location Portes, which is the highest spot between two mountains overlooking Ermioni town. Then the downhill trek begins until you reach the small church of St. Nicholas, the entrance of the rocky Katafiki gorge which is shrouded in myths and legends. A path by a creek (the creek is dry during the hot months of the year) leads you to the dirt road towards St. Anargiri chapel in Papoulia. Tree shades, a water spring and picnic benches are available here. The route finishes after 2,5 km at the main square of Fourni village.

Difficulty Level: 3

Duration: 2 hours approximately (depending on fitness level/ time without stops)

Length: 10 kilometers

The cost is per hour of trekking for up to 2 people.

Inclusive of transfers to and from the starting point of the route and a professional trekking guide.



Dionysus

The Greek God of Wine, of Ritual Madness, of Fertility & Festivity

## The Vineyards of Nemea

Nemea is an ancient site in the northeastern part of the Peloponnese. In Greek mythology this is where Heracles overcame the Nemean lion of the goddess Hera and during antiquity, where the Nemean games took place.

The region was first put on the map for its winemaking by Homer, who called it "Ampeloessa" – 'full of vines'. Today the appellation of Nemea is the most important red wine AOC of southern Greece and arguably of all Greece. The indigenous Greek Agiorgitiko grape is cultivated here and produces the Agiorgitiko wines, famous for their deep red color with violet and blue hues, complex aroma and long, velvety palate.

Take a tasting journey to the Nemea wine region and explore the magical wines that Skouras winery has to offer.

The history of Domaine Skouras begins and progresses from 1986. The winery is very well maintained and visitors are given a very thorough and friendly tour around the vineyards, the cellar and the production facilities followed by a casual and informative wine tasting.

Tour - 5 hours

Inclusive of private transfer, winery tour and wine tastings.

Additional charge for guest assistant

Should you wish to finish your day in the town of Nafplio for sunset drinks or dinner additional hours will be charged accordingly.



### Melisseus

*A Cretan 'honey man' remembered as a King of Crete. Fermented honey was the gift of this god and preceded the knowledge of wine in Aegean culture.*

*The bee found in ancient new east and Aegean cultures, was believed to be the sacred insect that bridged the natural world to the underworld. Appearing in tomb decorations, Mycenaean tombs were even shaped as beehives.*

*The Greeks believe that a baby whose lips were touched by a bee would become a great poet or speaker.*

## Generations of Beekeeping

Since 1914 the Bairaktaris family has handed down the traditions of beekeeping, keeping the art alive from generation to generation. Located in the valley below Amanzoe, only a short ten minute drive away, you will find fields of beehives, surrounded by trees and mountains. The family has created a 'Bee Museum' housed in a traditional stone building which displays many of the original bee-keeping tools used by their ancestors. They have installed plexi glass 'bee boxes' so that you may have a rare opportunity to observe the hive activity.

Apart from the bee museum, you will also have the chance to visit also the modern production facility, stroll around the property and enjoy an Amanzoe "Honey Bee Picnic" under the shade of a beautiful, old carob tree.

For a more extensive tour, and depending on availability, Mr. Bairaktaris can demonstrate the rituals of beekeeping that have been passed down from his grandfather using all of the traditional equipment. You will have the opportunity to be a part of the process, and make your own little jar of *Ermionis* honey.

The extensive honey extraction demonstration can be arranged on weekends from the morning until 6pm, however this requires advance booking in order to allow the family to collect the honeycomb. At the Bairaktaris property, besides honey you can also purchase various aromatic herbs, wax candles and skin creams.

Short tour & picnic - 2 hours

Additional entrance fee per person (handled by your guest assistant)

Extensive tour & picnic - 3 ½ hours

Additional entrance fee per couple (handled by your guest assistant)

A guest assistant will accompany you on your tour.





## The Monastery of Avgo & the Didyma Caves

### St. Dimitrios Monastery of Avgo

Behind the mountains of Didyma, on a mountain called "Avgo", stands the monastery of St. Dimitrios. Most people know this monastery by the name of Avgo, which is the Greek word for 'egg'. This two level monastery is literally built into the rock face of Avgo mountain, about 850 meters high, overlooking the gorge of river Rados which leads down to the sea. The monastery is half dedicated to St. Dimitrios and half to St. Theodoros, which is why the little church on the second floor has two altars. After the Greek revolution in 1825, the Ottomans burnt the monastery. However, the murals that adorn the walls of some chambers and the church and date from the 11<sup>th</sup> century until the 18<sup>th</sup> century are still intact. The monastery continues to hold humble ceremonies during the celebration days of the saints. Once you arrive, the breathtaking view, the unique Byzantine building in the rock and the spectacular surrounding nature makes the somewhat rocky journey well worth it.

### Didyma

The village of Didyma lies in a small valley surrounded by a mountain range. One of the most impressive sights of the area are the Small and Big Caves, two geological crater shaped formations created thousands of years ago and shrouded in myths and local stories. The Big Cave is a wild place, a rocky home to many different species of birds. To reach the Small Cave you have to descend some steps into a cave, cutting directly through the rock. A lovely 10 minute stroll takes you around the inside of the crater where you will come across two tiny churches that are built directly into the rock and dedicated to St. George and St. Sotira.

Tour - 3 hours

Inclusive of private transfers

Additional charge for guest assistant to accompany you on your tour



## Hydra Island

For much of the past, Hydra has stayed on the margins of history. The population was very small in ancient times, and except for the brief mentions in Herodotus and Pausanias, has left little or no record in the history of those times. Between the years 1204 to 1566 it belonged to Venice and from 1566 to 1821, it was part of the Ottoman Empire. Its naval and commercial development did not begin until the 17th century, and its first school for mariners was established in 1645.

As you approach the port of Hydra, the magnificent little town opens its arms to you. The statue of Andreas Miaoulis, a local war hero, welcomes you as he stares out to sea. Spanning from the port up the hills, you can see the impressive clock tower of Hydra and beautiful old mansions as far as the eye can see. There is no motor transport allowed anywhere on the island, only donkeys and water taxis provide a means of getting around. Hydra is as impressive in the morning as it is in the evening. There are a number of things that you can do, from relaxed shopping and dining to visiting museums and historical archives. The picturesque island of Hydra will stir a lot of positive emotions, and the photos and memories you will take away with you will never be forgotten.

Although you may choose your tour time according to your personal wishes, please keep in mind that the heat of mid-day can be quite intense through the summer months.

### Tour in Hydra - at leisure

We would be delighted to meet you and design a morning tour around the islands attractions or a relaxed evening out, according to your wishes. You may also simply book a car and driver to take you to the port of Metochi to catch a water taxi or the local ferry and explore the island of Hydra on your own. Please see our guest assistants and they will be happy to assist you with these arrangements.

Additional charge for guest assistant to accompany you on your tour

Water taxis run till early in the morning, so you may return at your leisure.

Private transfers to and from Metochi Port will be charged each way.

Water taxis are charged per trip (double fare after midnight) payable in cash to the captains of the water taxis.



## Spetses Island

The island of Spetses has a long and rich history, but the most interesting period is that of the Greek War of Independence (the revolution of 1821). Spetses was the first of the Greek islands to raise the flag of the Revolution on the morning of 3 April, 1821 at the monastery of St. Nicolas. Laskarina Bouboulina of Spetses, a very important and influential person in the revolution, used her wealth to build and lead a navy after her husband's death. Today, Bouboulina's house is one of the most impressive places to visit in Spetses amongst other mansions and museums. Spetses is not just about the inspiring history, but also the beauty of the island. It is cosmopolitan yet traditional, a charming combination of quaint streets, pine forests and local charm, where reminders of the rich history of the island are around every corner.

Though the island suffered greatly after the two world wars and a large part of the population moved away, thanks to the growth of tourism, Spetses recovered quickly. Sotirios Anargyros, a Spetsiote who made his fortune in America, returned home to help rebuild the island and its inimitable spirit. He built a road and reservoir, a prestigious boarding school, the first luxury hotel in the area, and started a reforestation and conservation program that replaced all of the greenery lost due to years of war and neglect. While tourism is one of the island's main resources, the local traditions and customs of Spetses remain untouched and the locals proudly maintain them despite changing times.

Visit the museums, the churches, the traditional harbors and enjoy the many shops and quaint tavernas along the way. Also, Spetses has a very vibrant night life and the buzz continues to the very early morning hours, which makes it a great destination for a night out.

### Tour in Spetses - at leisure

We would be delighted to meet you and design a morning tour around the islands attractions or a relaxed evening out, according to your wishes. You may also simply book a car and driver to take you to the port of Kosta to catch a water taxi or the local ferry and explore the island of Spetses on your own. Please see our guest assistants and they will be happy to assist you with these arrangements.

Additional charge for guest assistant to accompany you on your tour

Water taxis run till early in the morning, so you may return at your leisure.

Private transfers from Amanzoe to and from Kosta port will be charged each way.

Water taxis are charged per trip (double fare after midnight) payable in cash to the captains of the water taxis.



## Amanzoe Water Sports Activities

### Beach Club

The Amanzoe Beach Club is situated adjacent to Korakia beach and is the ideal spot to while away the day and enjoy the sea breezes. At our Beach Club you will find equipment for windsurfing, kayaking and snorkeling as well as sailing options:

#### Option #1

Twixxy boat

4,5 meter boat made of polyethylene for one or two persons

#### Option #2

Hobie cat 15

5 meter boat made of polyester for two or three persons

#### Option #3

Fun boat

3,9 meter boat for one person and recommended for beginners

Shuttle transfer to and from Beach Club. No charge applies for the use of the equipment.



## Water Skiing

Just 7 kilometers away from Amanzoe, you will find Mario water sports, the best water skiing school in Porto Heli. A place of unrivalled beauty for learning water skiing with highly qualified instructors. The quality and the status of the water is always ideal.

Slalom for all levels, from beginners to professionals, tricks, water hover board, wake board and for families a fun inflatable mattress.

The school offers training and full equipment for all ages and levels.

Option #1 - approximately 15 minutes

Water skiing

Option #2 - approximately 15 minutes

Wake board

Option #3 - approximately 20 minutes

Water hover board

Option #4 - approximately 15 minutes

Inflatable mattress

Private transfers to and from Porto Heli are excluded from the rates above.



## Diving

The Small island of Kapari – just a mile away from Ermioni’s shore – hosts the Kallianos family diving center. The island itself is a natural reef with some of the finest examples in the area of marine life and this is where most of the dives take place. You will dive in crystal clear blue water with visibility up to 20 meters which is ideal for both experienced and inexperienced divers. Enjoy the sun and the sea before and after your dive or while your companions discover the magic of Saronic sea.

Join qualified Dive masters and instructors on a guided tour of a fascinating terrain with rocky compositions, home to many exotic underwater species.

Option #1 – approximately 2 hours

Snorkeling trip to Kapari Island

Snorkelling in the sheltered bay is fun, safe and easy for all the family members

Option #2 – approximately 45 minutes

Discover Scuba Diving

Introduction to the sea. When you discover scuba diving, you discover excitement, adventure, freedom and serenity. Nothing compares to the magical ‘weightless’ exhilaration of breathing below the water’s surface whilst under the close supervision of a professional instructor. The dive will be at a maximum depth of 6 meters.

Minimum age ten years old

Option #3 – approximately 5 hours

Bubblemaker

An incredible experience for children aged 8-10. One day introduction session to the use of diving equipment and actual diving. The program is conducted by experienced Instructors and will go to a maximum depth of two meters.

Private transfer to and from Ermioni are excluded from the rates above.



## Amanzoe Culinary Activities

### Local market visit followed by a cooking class at the Pool Restaurant

Join us for a visit to Ermioni every Thursday at 7am to experience the delicacies of the food market. Escorted by a senior member of our Food & Beverage team, you will be guided through the local produce and will see a range of products Argolida has to offer. After you have chosen your favorite vegetables, seafood, fish or meat our head chef will go through with you the stages of preparation and cooking of a traditional Greek meal at our Pool restaurant.

Departure time: 7am

Includes all food, cooking class and transfers

### Greek wine experience

In recent years, the Greek wine industry has undergone tremendous improvements with serious investments in wine making. What makes Greek wine so unique, is the 300 indigenous grape varieties grown, some of which have been grown since ancient times. Join us for a journey through Greece's most prestigious wines and you will see how many of those have come to be highly rated and recognized in the wine world.

Option #1 - approximately 1 hour

Tasting of 8 wines

Option #2 - approximately 3 ½ hours

Tasting of 12 wines



### Private BBQ at your Pavilion or Cabana

Arrange a private BBQ at the comfort your pavilion or cabana where you can enjoy magnificent views while watching our chefs preparing your favorite BBQ specialties. Some of the finest local produce recommended for barbecuing are lobster, king prawns, wild sea bass, calamari, octopus, lamb chops and various pork cuts.

Including menu, setup and private chef

### Sunrise Breakfast

Begin your day with an intimate sunrise breakfast at the south-facing location of Amanzoe, overlooking the stunning landscape and olive groves surrounding the resort. Our dedicated team will be in hand to energize you with a variety of local delicacies such as honey, fresh fruit, traditional Greek pies and of course local organic eggs cooked to your liking.

Including a glass of sparkling wine