



H.P.Tours
Hellenic Private Tours
Private Tours in Athens-Greece
Frank Kotsiopoulos
Taxi, Minivans & Minibus Tours
Shore Excursions

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Argolis, Sparta, Monemvasia, Olympia, Delphi & Meteora six days Tour

We will pick you up from your preferred location drive you back at the end of your tour.

The six days Argolis, Sparta, Monemvasia, Olympia, Delphi & Meteora tour starts with a 45-mile drive along the National highway to Peloponnese. We reach the well-known Corinthian canal or else Isthmus canal that connects the Saronic Sea and the Corinthian Sea.



Isthmus canal

After a short stop for pictures, we continue with a ten-minute drive through the orange and lemon tree fields and arrive at Ancient Corinth and its unique museum, the Temple of Apollo-the God of Oracles and the Sun, the Roman baths and finally the Vima (step) form where St. Paul preached to the Corinthians in 52 A.D.



Temple of Apollo

We leave Ancient Corinth and after a forty-minute drive along the scenic coastal road of Saronic Gulf, we reach ancient Epidaurus (3rd Century B.C), a spiritual place worth visiting for its sites such as the Sanctuary of Asclepius and the ancient Theatre with its unique acoustics. The Sanctuary of Asclepius was a healing and culture center of ancient times and the Theatre of Epidaurus is one of the very few that retains its original circular Orchestra and it is a rare aesthetic sight still used in our days.



Theatre of Epidaurus

Leaving ancient Epidaurus, we continue our tour with a thirty-minute drive to Nafplion, a picturesque seaport town near the north end of Argolis Gulf. Nafplion became the first capital of modern Greece from 1829 to 1834 by John Kapodistrias, few years after the beginning of the Greek War of Independence (1821) against the Turkish custody. Nowadays Nafplion attracts a great number of travelers from all over the world and has become a popular day or weekend road trip for Athenians.



Nafplion

During our visit in Nafplion, we visit the Palamidi Castle, which was the last construction of the Venetian Empire, and the Acrorafolia Castle, the walls of which

date back to pre-classical times. These two castles are located on a hill above the old town.

We conclude our visit to Nafplion by having lunch at picturesque restaurant by the sea enjoying the view of the Bourtzi Castle situated on a small islet in the Argolis Gulf at the entrance of the port.

Leaving Nafplion, we continue our tour with a thirty-minute drive through orange and lemon tree fields to an imposing site on the top of a rocky hill located in the Northeast part of Peloponnese in Argolis, the ancient citadel of Mycenae. Mycenae was the center of power in the Late Bronze age from 16th century B.C. to 11th century B.C. The Acropolis of Mycenae protected the royal families inside the famous Cyclopean walls. The Lion Gates, followed by a steep path through ancient buildings and pathways, will lead you to the Palace of the mighty leader of the Greeks against the Trojans, Agamemnon who was murdered by his wife Clytemnestra and her lover after he had returned victorious from the Trojan War.



Mycenae

Leaving the Acropolis of Mycenae, we make a short stop on another hill opposite the Palace visiting an impressive monument, the Treasury of Atreus also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon.

Finally we will drive back to Nafplion in order to spend the first night.

The next morning after breakfast, we continue driving through the mountains, in central Peloponnese, arriving at Sparta, a prominent city-state in Ancient Greece, situated on the banks of Eurotas River in Laconia, in southeaster Peloponnese and stay for the night. Sparta was unique for its social system and constitution, which was completely focused on military training and excellence. That is why Sparta was recognized as the leader of the Greek forces during the Greek-Persians wars.

We will visit the Acropolis of Sparta, the Archaeological Museum and the olive oil Museum followed by a scenic drive to Mystras, a fortified town that served as the capital of the Byzantine Despotate of Peloponnese in the 14th and 15th centuries, experiencing a period of prosperity and cultural flowering. The last Byzantine emperor, Constantine XI Palaiologos, was despot at Mystras before he came to the throne at Constantinoupolis.

We conclude our visit to Sparta and Mystras by having lunch at a local restaurant tasting the Greek cuisine.

After the conclusion of the Sparta tour, we arrive to Monemvasia, whose name derives from two Greek words, mone, and emvasi, meaning only entrance. Located in the southeastern Peloponnese and separated from the mainland by an earthquake in 375 A.D, called as the Gibraltar of Greece. The city was founded by the Byzantines in the 6th century and became an important port.



Monemvasia

We will spend the night at a hotel in either the old or the new town of Monemvasia. The next morning after breakfast, we visit the remains of Byzantine Churches such as St. Sofia, Byzantine houses and public buildings and a vast cistern that ensured a water supply at times of siege.

In the war of Independence, Monemvasia was a major Turkish fortress which fell after a four month siege in July 1821.

We continue our tour driving furthermore to the east south of Peloponnese arriving at Diros Caves, the most beautiful lake caves in the world. Located in Mani area, they have been systematically explored since 1949. In the ten thousand square meters

explored so far, Diros is comprised of chambers with a lot of stalactites and stalagmites that form imposing pillars. You explore them by small boats.



Diros Caves

We conclude our visit by having lunch at a local restaurant by the sea tasting the Greek cuisine.

After the conclusion of the Monemvasia tour, we arrive at Olympia via picturesque towns and villages through olive and vineyards fields and stay for the night. Olympia is well known for the Olympic Games, held every four years to honor God Zeus, beginning in 776 B.C. The next day, after breakfast, we visit the Temple of Zeus, where the gold and ivory statue of God Zeus stood, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Hera, where the Olympic Flame lights every four years, the workshop of Phidias, the ancient Olympic stadium and the Archaeological Museum.



Olympia

The Archaeological Museum exhibition contains findings from the prehistoric era. Among them, you can admire the well-known statues of Praxiteles Hermes and the Nike of Paionios.



We conclude our visit to Olympia by having lunch at a local restaurant tasting the Greek cuisine followed by a drive to Delphi via Patra, Rio and the largest bridge in Europe, connecting the Peloponnese with Central Greece. We continue driving via picturesque seaport towns of Central Greece such as Nafpaktos and Itea arriving at Delphi in the afternoon and stay for the night.

Delphi is both an archaeological site and a modern town on the southwestern slope of Mount Parnassus in the valley of Phocis. In Greek mythology, it was the navel of the earth, the site of the Delphic Oracle and a major site for the worship of god Apollo after he slew the Python, a dragon who protected the navel of the earth. Apollo spoke through his oracle. The priestess of the oracle known as the Pythia had to be an older woman and sat on a tripod seat over an opening in the earth. Apollo possessed Pythia and she prophesied. People consulted the Delphic Oracle on everything from important matters of public policy to personal affairs. The Oracle exerted considerable influence throughout the Greek world and consulted before all major events.

The ancient Stadium held the Python Games, which were one of the four Pan-Hellenic Games held every four years.

The next day, after breakfast, we visit Castalia spring, the ancient Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasury of the Athenians, the ancient Stadium, and the ancient Theatre, the unique bronze Charioteer, and the Museum.



Ancient Theatre

We will conclude our visit to Delphi by a visit to the Temple of Athena Pronaia and the Gymnasium.



Tholos

We continue driving through the mountains of central Greece, arriving at Kalambaka, an important town well known due to the second largest and most important complexes of Eastern Orthodox Monasteries in Greece, after Mount Athos, Meteora. We will spend the night in a hotel either at Kalambaka or at Kastraki village.



Kalambaka

The next morning, after breakfast, we visit three from the six suspended in the air Monasteries built on natural sandstone rock pillars. The Meteora Monasteries date back to the 11th century and are included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites. The James Bond movie *For Your Eyes Only* was filmed at the Monastery of Holy Trinity.



Meteora

We conclude our visit to Meteora by having lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a drive back to Athens through picturesque towns of Central Greece and a short stop at Thermopylae, the Hot Gates. An important town well known for the battle among the Greek forces including the 300 Spartans and their leader King Leonidas and the Persians in 480 BC.



Monument of King Leonidas

The monument of King Leonidas was erected by the battlefield reminding all of us of the sacrifice of those patriots for a free country.

Finally, we arrive at Athens driving along the National highway.

Entrance fee required per person

8 Euros for Ancient Corinth and the Museum
12 Euros for Ancient Epidaurus
12 Euros for the Acropolis of Mycenae and the Treasury of Atreus
12 Euros for the Acropolis of Sparta, the Museum and Mystras
4 Euros for the Olive Oil museum
15 Euros for Diros Caves
12 Euros for Olympia and the Museum
12 Euros for Delphi and the Museum
3 Euros for each Monastery
3 Euros for Thermopylae Historical Information Center

Free entrance:

- For students from E.U (student id is required)
- Free entrance: For children up to 5 years old
- Free entrance: For children up to 25 years old from E.U Countries
- Reduced entrance fee for students outside the E.U
- Reduced entrance fee for children from 6 up to 25 years old outside the E.U
- Reduced entrance fee for citizens over 65 years old from E.U Countries

Sites Opening Hours

- Winter: From November 1 to March 31 08:30 until 15:00
- Summer: From April 1 to October 31 08:00 until 19:30
- January 1st: closed
- January 6th: 08:30 until 15:00
- Shrove Monday: 08:30 until 15:00
- March 25th: closed
- Good Friday: 12:00 until 15:00
- Holy Saturday: 08:30 until 15:00
- Easter Sunday: closed
- Easter Monday: closed
- May 1st: closed
- Holy Spirit day: 08:30 until 15:00
- August 15th: 08:30 until 15:00
- October 28th: 08:00 until 15:00
- December 25th: closed
- December 26th: closed

Please note that in order visitors to be allowed to enter the monasteries at Meteora, they are obliged to conform to the corresponding dress code:

A) Long trousers for men.

B) Overcoats that cover the shoulders and skirts up to the knee for women.