

Greece

The Peloponnese

September 24 - October 1st, 2023



What to expect

This is a new trip, taking in the wines, food, history and culture of one of the earliest and most advanced civilisations on Earth. From Athens, the birthplace of democracy, over the Gulf of Corinth and through the Peloponnese, this trip takes in a huge spectrum of Greek life.

Get used to new varietals like Roditis, Moscofilero, Malagousia, Mavrodaphne, Assyrtiko and Agiorgitiko. These local wines are astonishing, interesting and novel. Sometimes blended with international varietals like Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon they are often better when left to express their native terroir. But that's for you to decide on your own Greek Odyssey.

As well as some of the some of the country's best wine regions there are great historical sites to savour as well. We visit Mycenae and Epidaurus, famed throughout the world since ancient times.

Along the way the food is delicious; fresh fish brought in daily by the little fishing boats that chug along the coast are grilled over flames, while the quality lamb, souvlaki, stuffed vines and moussaka, all are scented by the ubiquitous fresh mountain herbs. From rural and rustic to Michelin star, the standard is always high.

In addition, there is the beguiling scenery from fabled Arcadia to the mountains of Nemea and the romantic neo-classical seaside city of Nafplio.

Highlights

- Visits and long lunches at the best wineries in Nemea, Mantinia and Patras
- Guided visits to the ancient sites at Mycenae and Epidaurus
- Michelin star dinner in Athens
- Spectacular train ride in Kalavrita
- 4WD through the vineyards in Arcadia
- Wine tasting in Athens best wine bar

Winery visits

Achai Clauss, Skouras, Palivos, Semeli, Tselepos, Tetramythos



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Trip Itinerary

Start in Athens.

Day 1. Sunday 24th September We meet at 1900 in the NJV Plaza Hotel, set in Athens' top location, before taking the luxury coach to Paleo wine bar, considered by locals as being the best in the city. Set in Piraeus, the docks of Athens, we enjoy dinner to include a tasting of wines from the regions of Greece that we will not be visiting. **D**

Day 2. Monday 25th September Travel over the Gulf of Corinth and up the mountain to Kalavrita, a village that became synonymous with Nazi brutality during the 2nd World War. We visit the memorial and museum, before a light lunch. What follows is one of Europe's most spectacular rail journeys back down the mountain through some amazing scenery. Our bus meets us at the bottom and we visit Tetramythos winery, one of the region's (Patras) best organic producers, where we enjoy a picturesque dinner with owner Aristos. Check in to our hotel the boutique hotel Byzantino in Patras for next 2 nights. **B/L/D**

Day 3. Tuesday 26th September Visit and tasting to Greece's oldest and most historic winery, Achai Clauss. With wines dating back to 1873 and favoured by Bismarck, this winery has a wonderful barrel room with vats made from Russian oak. Also on site is a vast archive of memorabilia relating to its interesting past, including occupation by the Nazis in WWII. Lunch at local restaurant Mouries. Free evening. **B/L**

Day 4. Wednesday 27th September Leaving the Patras region for Nemea there is a fascinating journey into the past with a visit to Mycenae. Dating from 2000BC and home to King Agamemnon, this has been an inspiration for many Homeric epics. We enjoy a guided stroll around the well preserved ruins before visit and lunch at one of the Nemea wine region's top estates, Skouras. George Skouras has been one of the Peloponnese pioneers of fine wines.

Head to the coast to the city of Nafplion, renowned as the most beautiful in all of Greece, and check in to the 3Sixty/ Castellano hotel for the next 3 nights. Free evening.

Day 5. Thursday 28th September Morning wine visit to Palivos in the heart of Ancient Nemea, one of the best family run wineries in the region. Fully organic since 1995 the old farm has now been replaced by a small winery with over 30 hectares planted, Agiorigitiko being predominant. Visit and lunch at Semeli, a high altitude winery set in in one the 'cru' regions of Nemea. Back in Nafplio for an evening dinner in the town.

Day 6. Friday 29th September Morning visit to Tselepos in the Mantinia wine region. Set in the rural countryside of Arcadia is this is home to one of the finest winemakers in Greece. Gianni Tselepos studied oenology in Burgundy and brought back techniques learned there to this beautiful estate. We will travel by 4WD through the vineyards and have lunch al fresco by the old mill, all of course accompanied by some wonderful wines from the region and maybe also some from their Santorini vineyards. After lunch the rest of the afternoon and evening is free to shop or maybe visit the majestic Palamidi castle which looks over the city.

Day 7. Saturday 30th September Morning visit to the impressive ancient site of Epidaurus, dating from the 4th century BC. Famed for the well-preserved theatre, this was a large sanctuary dedicated to the Greek god of medicine, Asclepius. Much more than just a theatre, there are many temples, stadia, hospitals and other ruins to explore with our guide. We follow the spectacular coastal road back to Athens enjoying lunch with a view over the sea at Old Epidavros. Check in to the NJV Plaza. Dinner in Michelin star restaurant, Hytra.

Day 8. Sunday 1st October End of tour.

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\$4750 per person double occupancy

\$850 single supplement

\$500 deposit per person

Included

- 2 nights NJV Plaza, Athens
- 2 Byzantino Hotel, Patras
- 3 nights 3Sixty/ Castellano hotel, Nafplion
- Private transport by luxury coach
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 6 lunches/ 4 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides



Contact us to sign up for this trip

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