

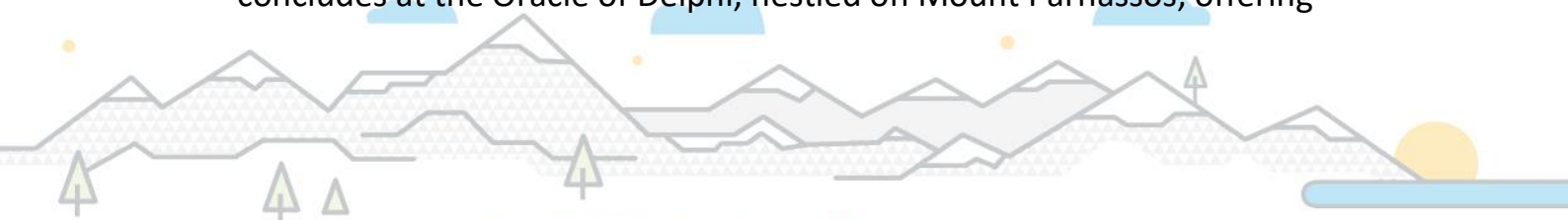
The Classic Expedition

Table of Contents

Trip Highlights, Map, Tour Details, Itinerary, What's included, Itinerary Changes, Terrain, Condition Grading, Starting point and getting there, Food, Weather, Gear checklist, Currency & Banking, Passports, Visas

Curious about living in a land where ancient history and mythical tales are part of daily life? Join us on the Classic Road, stepping into the world of ancient Greeks as we explore 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Acropolis of Athens, Mycenae, Epidaurus, Olympia, and Delphi. This journey aims to unveil the treasures of the ancient Greek world while infusing it with engaging activities for the entire family.

We'll kick off in Athens, exploring the Acropolis and the new Acropolis Museum before journeying towards the Peloponnese. The Peloponnese peninsula, adorned with ancient ruins and perched atop cliffs, also boasts charming guesthouses along some of the Mediterranean's most stunning beaches. Our first destination is Nafplio, once the capital of liberated Greece, which enchants with its narrow streets and graceful Venetian architecture. From this historical hub, we'll venture to two of Greece's most captivating archaeological sites: Mycenae and Epidaurus. Moving on to Kardamyli, our base for exploring the secluded Mani peninsula, a rugged expanse of mountains and windswept landscapes. During our three-night stay, we're invited to hike, kayak, and traverse the striking coastline, adorned with quiet fishing coves and fortified villages. Our journey unfolds further to Olympia, where, akin to the athletes who participated in the first Olympic Games in 776 BC, you can place your toe on the historic starting stone. Finally, our epic adventure concludes at the Oracle of Delphi, nestled on Mount Parnassos, offering



a fitting end to our expedition for the whole family!

Trip Highlights

- Explore the awe-inspiring UNESCO World Heritage sites including Acropolis, Mycenae, Epidaurus, Olympia, and Delphi
- Immerse yourself in the rich history and vibrant present of Venetian-influenced Nafplio
- Discover the concealed beauty of Mani, Greece's coastal gem
- Engage in family-friendly hiking and kayaking adventures amidst stunning landscapes





Tour Details

Days/Nights: 9 days / 8 nights

Single supplement: Cost based on request. Availability limited.

Condition grading: Easy Active



Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Athens and welcome dinner

Athens, often called the starting point of Western civilization, has been a bustling city for over 7,000 years. Everywhere you turn, you'll spot ancient ruins and buildings that bring to life the tales of Greek gods and the wisdom of philosophers.

In the afternoon, we'll gather at our hotel for a fun chat to kick things off. After a stroll through Plaka, Athens' oldest neighborhood, we'll share our first dinner at a cozy traditional restaurant. Get ready to dive into the world of Greek cuisine—we've dedicated hours to exploring and savoring the most delicious dishes for this special occasion!

Overnight in Athens in a 4* hotel

Dinner included

Day 2

Acropolis marvels and Naflpion bound

Imagine stepping into a real-life ancient city where gods and heroes roamed! At the Acropolis, a magical place that's stood for thousands of years, we'll have a tour with a guide who knows all the secrets. Ever wondered who built these amazing temples? Or what stories these ancient stones could tell? Get ready to explore and ask all the questions you want!

After our adventure at the Acropolis, we're off to the Acropolis Museum, where ancient treasures come to life. Then, we'll zip off to Nafplio, the town where Greece meets Italy. Built with stepped streets overhung with balconies dripping bougainvillea, handsome neoclassical buildings and enticing shops and restaurants, it is the most charming town in the Peloponnese.



Overnight in Nafplion in a boutique hotel

Breakfast and dinner included

Driving distance: Athens to Nafplion 138 km / 1 hr 47 min

Day 3

Visit Epidaurus and Mycenae and relax by the beach

World heritage-listed Mycenae is one of the most ancient places in Europe. As you walk through the 13th-century BC Lion Gate -the oldest coat of arms in the world – it's easy to sense that the ancient Greek myths have a strong connection with reality. Epidaurus is the best-preserved theater of Ancient Greece, and the place where Aeschylus, Euripides and Sophocles presented their tragic poets. Every single summer people still return to see the same plays, a genuine testimony of the Greek culture that it is still alive.

Our morning will be dedicated to exploring these archaeological wonders. After lunch, we will drive back to Nafplion, leaving you with free time. Don't miss the chance to take a stroll to the nearby beaches and dip into the Aegean waters for the very first time. Tonight's dinner is at your leisure, providing time to explore the charming Venetian town and peruse its local shops.

Overnight in Nafplion in a boutique hotel

Breakfast and lunch included

Driving distance:

Nafplion to Mycenae, 24 km / 30 min

Mycenae to Epidaurus, 46 km / 45 min

Epidaurus to Nafplion, 27 km/ 30 min



Day 4

Drive to Mani peninsula and hike in medieval Kardamyli village

This morning, we will drive to Kardamyli, a tiny village situated in one of the most picturesque settings in the Peloponnese, nestled between the blue waters of the Messinian Gulf and the Taygetos Mountains. After settling in, you can hop on the beach for a refreshing swim.

In the afternoon, we'll embark on a hike around Kardamyli. The hills behind the village are crisscrossed with an extensive network of cobblestone paths, hidden among the coastal flora. Our path will lead us to the old, medieval Kardamyli village and the abandoned fortified tower houses, following the route that was once part of the ancient 'Royal Road' connecting Kardamyli with Sparta. The breathtaking views from this vantage point overlooking Kardamyli more than justify the effort. Traverse stunning landscapes of villages, olive groves, and wildflower fields, descending all the way down to the gulf where a delightful dinner by the sea awaits.

Overnight in Kardamyli in a 4* hotel

Breakfast and dinner included

Hiking distance: 8 km / Hiking Duration: 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 372 m & 372 m

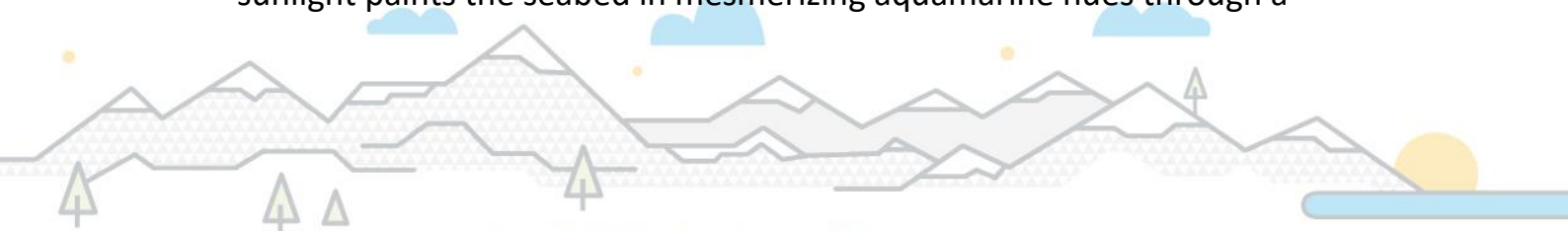
Driving distance:

Nafpio to Kardamyli: 180 km / 2 hr 30 min

Day 5

Sea Kayaking exploration: Family Adventures in Kayaks

Today's all about embracing the sea! We're diving into a sea kayaking adventure from Kardamyli, unraveling the stunning, picture-perfect coastline inch by inch. Glide through warm, crystal-clear waters, uncovering secret coves, mysterious sea caves, and breathtaking rock formations. We'll hop onto serene beaches tucked away along the shoreline and explore the famed Blue Cave—a natural wonder where sunlight paints the seabed in mesmerizing aquamarine hues through a



cave's fissure. Keep an eye out for those intriguing rock pyramids rising from the sea! And for the adventurous souls, there's a chance to experience cliff diving. Midway through, we'll pause for a relaxing break. Dive into the waters for a swim or snorkel, and savor a homemade picnic filled with delightful local treats. The rest of the day is yours to unwind and cherish family time!

Overnight in Kardamyli in a 4* hotel

Breakfast and lunch included

Kayaking tour: 4hr

Day 6

Explore Laconian Mani and hike to Diros caves

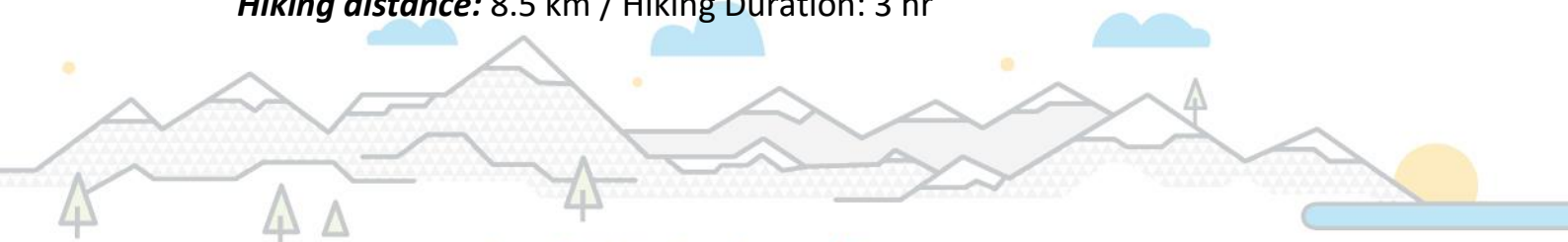
This morning, we will embark on an exploration of eastern Mani, a rugged and mountainous landscape adorned with villages boasting Byzantine churches and ancient stone towers reminiscent of mini-fortresses, each telling stories of defense against invaders and local conflicts. Our hike begins from Areopoli, Mani's historic capital, meticulously preserved and steeped in rich history. Named after the ancient god of war, Aris, this settlement is the cherished homeland of the Mavromichalis family and marks the pivotal site where the Greek Revolution began, proudly symbolizing independence.

During our trek, we'll encounter numerous iconic Maniot Towers, symbolic of a glorious era in military history. Our hike will lead us to the Diros Caves, counted among Greece's most extraordinary natural wonders. Inside, crystal-studded stalactites and stalagmites, adorned in vibrant hues, stand as silent witnesses to the passage of time. Later, we'll pause at the seaside village of Limeni for a well-deserved lunch and a revitalizing swim before returning to our base.

Overnight in Kardamyli in a 4* hotel

Breakfast and lunch included

Hiking distance: 8.5 km / Hiking Duration: 3 hr



Elevation gain & loss 133 m & 387 m

Driving distance:

Kardamyli to Caves of Diros 55 km/ 1 hr 15 min

Caves of Diros to Aeropoli 15 min

Aeropoli to Kardamyli 47 km / 1 hr

Day 7

Discovering Olympia's Riches: From Honey Bees to History

We leave Mani to drive toward ancient Olympia, but before we dive into its history, we're immersing ourselves in the charm of a local honey farm. This place, once the heartbeat of Klio's grandparents' livelihood and now the foundation of her own agricultural journey, embodies the essence of Greek hospitality. Klio will unveil the secrets of honey production, showcasing a variety of agricultural treasures spanning generations. And to top it off, we'll indulge in the flavors of Klio's small farm, treating ourselves to traditional sweets infused with honey straight from her bees.

As the afternoon unfolds, guided by a specialist, we'll explore the ruins of Ancient Olympia. It's where the Olympic Games began in 776 BC, recurring every four years. Wander through the impressive remains where athletes once trained and competed in the ancient stadium. Our exploration will extend to the Olympia Museum, home to priceless pieces of Classical art, including the sculpted marvels from the temple of Zeus—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—and the famous Hermes of Praxiteles.

Overnight in Olympia in a 4* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

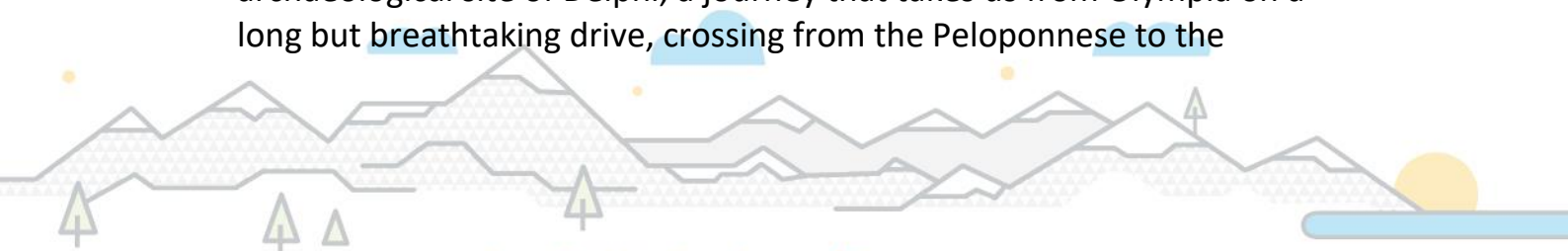
Driving distance:

Kardamyli to Olympia: 148 km / 2 hr 18 min

Day 8

Visit the Archeological site of Delphi and the naval town of Galaxidi

We're continuing our historical exploration with a visit to the archaeological site of Delphi, a journey that takes us from Olympia on a long but breathtaking drive, crossing from the Peloponnese to the



mainland. Along the way to Delphi, we'll stop by the charming town of Galaxidi, once a thriving naval port and home to some of the nation's most influential shipping families. With its beautiful neoclassical houses, historic captains' mansions, idyllic ports, and unspoiled ambiance, it's an ideal spot for a leisurely lunch and some refreshing swimming.

In the late afternoon, we'll arrive at the pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, where the oracle of Apollo once prophesied—the very site known as the "navel of the earth." Seamlessly blending into the magnificent landscape and laden with sacred significance, Delphi held profound religious importance and symbolized unity in the ancient Greek world during the 6th century B.C. Accompanied by your guide, you'll delve into the archaeological site and explore the acclaimed archaeological museum, a pivotal repository of Greece's cultural treasures.

Overnight in Delphi in a boutique hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Driving distance:

Olympia to Delphi: 241 km / 3 hr 22 min **Day 9**

Say farewell to Greece or continue on your own

Farewell, families! Today, we'll assist with your morning transfer to Athens International Airport, where you'll have the choice to head back home or continue your exploration of Athens, a city with an illustrious past as one of Europe's ancient treasures.

Breakfast included

Driving distance:

Delphi to Athens International airport: 201 km/ 2 hr 30 min

What's included

Price includes:

All accommodations based on double occupancy

Hotel taxes and service charges

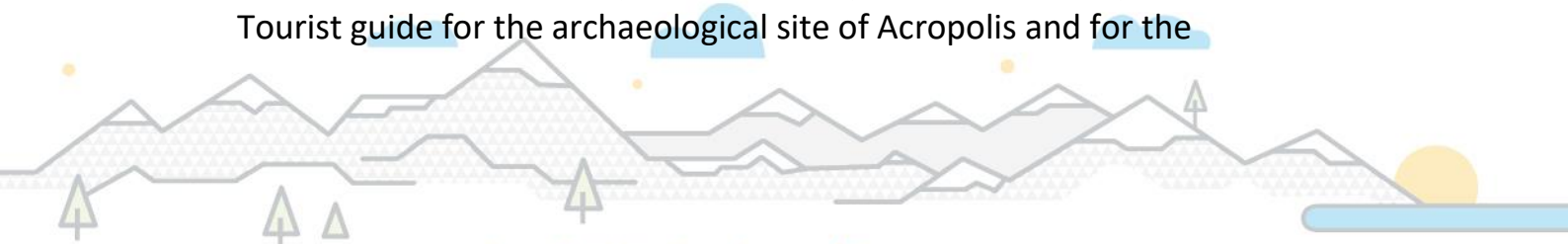
All transportation during the trip

All activities mentioned in the program

Ferry tickets

Entrance fees to the Acropolis archaeological site and Acropolis museum

Tourist guide for the archaeological site of Acropolis and for the



Acropolis museum

Services of a guide throughout the tour

Transport and handling of one reasonably sized suitcase and one carry-on per person

Included meals: Breakfasts, lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary

Not Included:

Domestic and/or international air fare

Medical expenses

Travel or emergency evacuation insurance

Gratuities for leader/guide or driver

Alcoholic beverages and meals other than outlined in itinerary

Visas if needed

Transfer to and from the airport/port

Other items of a personal nature

Anything not mentioned in above program

Itinerary Changes

We are constantly updating our unique itineraries based on new information and experiences available. The walks, accommodations, and visits listed may be adjusted. The itineraries presented are subject to modification and change by Tripin Adventures. We reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in our judgment, conditions warrant, or if we deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.

Terrain

This trip level is, Easy Active and is suitable for most people that are in fairly good physical condition. In some days we hike; others involve exploring ruins, villages, and towns on foot. It includes walking tours in cities and villages, and two days with hikes of 2 hours.

The paths are quite well-kept and the terrain in Greece tends to be very stony and rocky, especially during the gorge-walking. You will mostly be walking on footpaths, mountain trails and on some tarmac roads.



Condition Grading

Easy active

Trips designated “Easy Active” are perfect for first-timers, or travelers looking for a mild physical challenge. A typical day will consist of 1-3.5 hours of activity.

Starting point and getting there

Starting point is: Athens

Getting There & Away: Athens airport Eleftherios Venizelos, is about 27km east of Athens. Athens is connected with direct flights with various cities in Europe, North America and Asia.

Getting around: We can arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel. If you want to come by yourself, the metro and the suburban rail provide quick connections to central Athens (1 hour / 10 euro’ ticket). The bus option is cheaper though it takes longer (1h 30 min / 5 euro’ ticket). You can also take a taxi (1 hour / 35-50 euro’).

Food

Simple, nutritious and flavorsome, the food is one of the pleasures of travel through Greece. Rustic Greek Cuisine reflects the history and bounty of its diverse regions and relies in the fresh, seasonal home-grown produce and generally simple, unfussy cooking that brings out the rich flavors of the Mediterranean.

Greece’s relaxed and hospitable dinning culture makes it easy to get into the local spirit. Greeks love to eat out and share impossibly big meals family style. Given the long summers and mild winters, alfresco dining is central to the dining experience. Service could be slow by Western standards, but why being in rush either way.

As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other’s company. There's no obligation to do this though. Wherever possible we will cater for dietary needs for any included meals, but there may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own. Note that alcohol and soda are not included.



Weather

Spring, summer and fall in Greece are sunny and warm. The daytime temperatures average 25-30 C though temperatures in the 35s are possible in the summer months. Nighttime temperatures cool off slightly to 20° C. Rain showers are rare in the islands, but it's often breezy and rainy on the coast.

Gear Checklist

Greece has a temperate climate. Base your clothing on the “layering system”, if it is hot you can “peel off” layers quickly, if it is cooler and windy you can quickly “dress up”. The lighter you travel, the easier you travel. Use your best judgement and pack as lightly as possible. You will appreciate light luggage towards the end of your trip. Please consider taking along the following items on your trip.

Official Papers

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Airline tickets

Luggage

- ✓ Duffel bag or rolling luggage
- ✓ Daypack to carry camera, water bottle and snacks etc.
- ✓ Luggage locks and tags

Outerwear

- ✓ Midweight polar fleece sweater
- ✓ Rain jacket and rain pants, or poncho

Clothing

- ✓ Hiking shorts
- ✓ Casual clothing made of light-weight fabrics
- ✓ T-shirts
- ✓ Long-sleeve shirt
- ✓ Hiking pants, loose and easy to move in
- ✓ Underwear



- ✓ Swimsuit

Clothing Accessories

- ✓ Sun hat or baseball cap

Footwear

- ✓ Lightweight and supportive hiking boots, broken-in with good ankle support
- ✓ Beach sandals
- ✓ Casual, comfortable shoes for evening

Accessories

- ✓ Sunscreen and lip protection
- ✓ Sunglasses and retainer strap
- ✓ Beach towel

Optional Accessories

- ✓ Security pouch or money belt
- ✓ Trekking poles or walking staff
- ✓ Camera, memory and batteries
- ✓ Reading and writing materials
- ✓ Watch with alarm or travel alarm
- ✓ Travel pillow
- ✓ Motion sickness remedies
- ✓ Personal first-aid kit
- ✓ Insect repellent (low risk)
- ✓ Electric adapter plug/converter

This is not a fixed list, but more of a guideline, so feel free to add and remove items as you see fit.

Currency & Banking

Greece has adopted the Euro as its currency. The easiest way to obtain local cash is from an ATM. Greek ATMs accept cards bearing the Cirrus, EC, Euro card, Visa and Plus symbols. If you take cash, US or Canadian Dollars can be easily exchanged at banks. Most major credit cards, Visa,



MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

It is advisable to have some Euros with you upon arrival to be used for a taxi if necessary.

You may want to check the website www.xe.com for current exchange rates.

Passports

You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the conclusion of your trip. Please make sure that you have blank pages in your passport for your visa (if required), entry and exit stamps (one for each). Please make a copy to take with you in the event yours is lost or stolen and keep it separate from your actual passport.

Visas

Currently a Greek Tourist Visa is not required for citizens of Canada, United States, Britain and Australia. If you hold another passport, please check online <http://visacentral.com/visas.php>

