

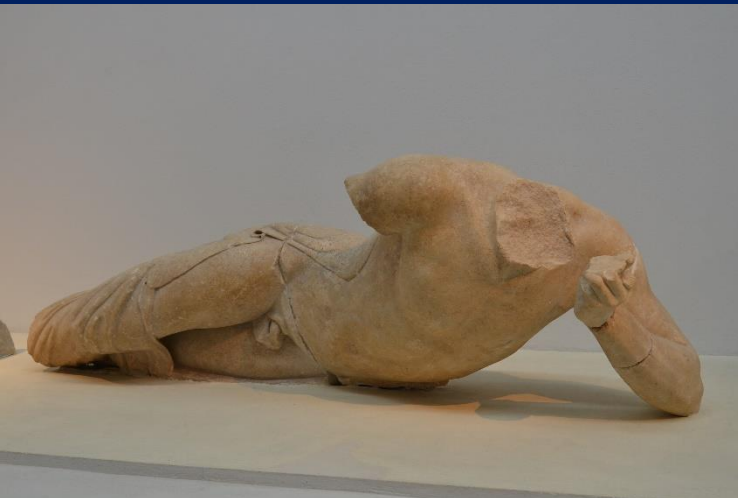
SAMPLE ITINERARY



CLASSICAL TOUR & THE SARONIC GULF

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR GREECE TOURS ARE COMPLETELY
BESPOKE AND DESIGNED INDIVIDUALLY FOR EACH GROUP.**

**** MINIMUM REQUIREMENT IS 6 PERSONS IN 3 CABINS.**



FROM THE BEGINNINGS OF CIVILISATION TO THE BEAUTY AND WONDER THAT IS GREECE TODAY

Experience the magic that is Greece and the Islands of the Saronic Gulf on this classical sailing adventure of a lifetime. Promising fascination, excitement and relaxation; this will be nothing short of the holiday of a lifetime.

Explore the beautiful scenery and natural wonders of the mainland, with treks and excursions, from national parks with picturesque lakes and pinewoods, to the beautifully cultivated meadows of Mediterranean vegetation and olive treed hillsides.

Classic Art and culture lovers will fall in love with the many historical sites, monuments, original architecture, monasteries, museums and art galleries.

If cultural heritage is your passion then you will bear witness to the place where the ancient world meets the modern as we sail into the historical core of Greece, visiting cities and towns that were once the centre of life in ancient times; now more than 5,000 years old.

Another Day...Another Bay

Let your hosts and support crew look after your needs while you relax and discover exotic beaches in the bays of tiny islands and explore secluded coves hidden in the sparkling blue of the Saronic Gulf.

Sail the breathtaking coast and islands from Athens to Peloponnesus and return, island hopping around some of the most spectacular coastlines in Europe. While docked at one of the many village or promenades take the chance to meander through the old cobbled streets of the seaside villages and stop in at a cosy café or taverna to soak up a Greek Coffee or Ouzo whilst watching the locals go about their day.

What captivating holiday would be complete without the culinary cuisine to match. The creators of this journey share the same passion for food as they do for sailing so rest assured you're in safe hands as you enjoy the culinary delights of local produce, great food and hospitality both aboard and ashore.

Our aim is to ensure that you experience and enjoy one of the most interesting, relaxing and eventful holidays; all at the same time.







CLASSICAL TOUR & SARONIC GULF ISLAND SAILING ADVENTURES

Day 1: Arrive Athens

Divani Palace Acropolis - Athens

Private arrival transfer from Airport to Athens Hotel

Afternoon: At leisure

Dinner: **Highlight Welcome Dinner**

Athens

Among European cities, **Athens** is the oldest one and the one with the longest history. Named for its patron goddess Athena, the historic city of Athens is famed for its wealth of classical temples and museums full of ancient art and artifacts. With a near perfect climate prevailing throughout the year, Athens is a city that attacks the senses and stirs the spirit of its visitors. The dawn of the 21st century found the ancient city with a vast new infrastructure system; a sparkling and continuously expanding new Metro, which displays the artifacts, found during its construction and a sorely needed beltway around the city that has eased the city's infamous traffic. The ancient sites have been linked together by a unique city boardwalk around classical Athens with antiquities on one side and modern-day sidewalk cafes, galleries, and rotating outdoor art. The capital's coastline has also been revived with a dizzying selection of cafes, restaurants, promenades, pristine beaches and open-air nightclubs by the sea -- all a mere tram ride from downtown.

Day 2: Athens Sightseeing / Delphi

Amalia Hotel - Delphi / Arachova

Morning: Athens Sightseeing Tour

Afternoon: Drive from Athens to Delphi

Breakfast: Divani Acropolis Hotel

Lunch: In a local taverna

Dinner: **Amalia Hotel Delphi**

Arachova

Arachova is a mountain village situated at the foot of Parnassos Mountain at an altitude of 950m. Beautiful stone houses, narrow streets and fountains are the first things a visitor sees. The history of Arachova, dates back to antiquity, mentioned in Homer as Anemoreia. Later, a brilliant victory of the Greeks against the Ottoman Turks is still celebrated by the locals in the famous and Panigirakis at St George's church. In the 20th century and during WWII a battle between Greek partisans and the Germans took place, establishing the Greek Resistance as an important player against the Nazis, resulting to severe retaliations by destroying the village's clock tower. Today, and despite the growth due to winter tourism, the village maintains the traditional looks and the picturesque housing.

Delphi

With evocative ruins surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery, **Delphi** is surely the most beautiful ancient site in Greece. For the ancient Greeks, Delphi was quite literally the center of the world: Zeus released two eagles from opposite ends of the earth and they met in the sky above Delphi. Impaling one another with their beaks, they fell to the ground on the very center of the world. The site was marked by the sacred Omphalos, or "navel stone." Later, Apollo killed the serpent Python (son of Mother Earth), guardian of Delphi's sacred Castalian Spring. The sun god then established an oracle at the spring, promising to provide counsel to all who needed it. Located at the navel of the world and personally blessed by Apollo, Delphi was the holiest site in the world for the ancient Greeks. The ruins of Ancient Delphi range in date from Mycenaean times to the early Christian era and are one of the must-sees in Greece.



Day 3: Delphi to Meteora

Divani Hotel - Kalambaka

Morning: Visit the site of Ancient Delphi & the Delphi Museum

Afternoon: Drive from Delphi to Meteora

Breakfast: Amalia Hotel Delphi

Lunch: In a local taverna

Dinner: **Divani Hotel Kalambaka**

Meteora

*Meaning 'suspended in air' the name **Meteora** soon came to encompass the entire rock community of 24 monasteries, the biggest and most important group of monasteries in Greece after those in Mount Athos. Originally accessible only by bridle tracks, ladders and windlasses, the monasteries have now been brought within the reach of visitors by the construction of modern roads and flights of steps and by signposting; but it should not be forgotten that these are places of peace and prayer and meditation, and visitors should conduct themselves accordingly. Monks descended in the nets or on retractable wooden ladders up to 40m long to the fertile valleys below to grow grapes, corn and potatoes. Each community developed its own resources and by the end of the 14th century, the Grand Meteoron emerged as the dominant community. Together with the monasteries of Athos, they make an important contribution to our knowledge of the post-Byzantine painting of the 16th century. The rock monasteries have been characterized by UNESCO as a unique phenomenon of cultural heritage.*

Day 4: Meteora to Ioannina

Du Lac Hotel - Ionnina

Morning: Visit the Monasteries of Meteora

Afternoon: Drive from Meteora to Ioannina

Breakfast: Divani Hotel Kalambaka

Lunch: In a local taverna

Dinner: Du Lac Hotel Ionnina

Ioannina

*A quiet medieval town, **Ioannina** changed in 1204, when Greeks fleeing Constantinople, after its capture by the Crusaders, arrived and made it the capital of the Despotate of Epirus, developing into a crossroad of the trade routes in Europe. The first despot, Michael I, started building the walls that over the next centuries would be enlarged and strengthened by various conquerors -- Greeks, Italians, Serbs, and Turks -- to become the magnificent walled old town and the lively contemporary city that appeals to many of us today. One of the most notable attractions of Ioannina is the islet on Lake Pamvotis, referred to as "Nisaki" by everyone, including its inhabitants. Travelers can visit the monastery of Agios Panteleimon which has been converted into a museum containing information and paintings, as well as re-creations of Ali Pasha's lounging and living quarters. Other important sites are, the Byzantine Museum, once the palace of Ali Pasha and the old bazaar able to see vestiges of the past in the workshops of the traditional artisans of copper, tin and silver products.*



Day 5: Ioannina to Olympia

Amalia Hotel - Olympia

Morning: Walk around the lake and the medieval town of Ioannina

Afternoon: Drive South to Nafpaktos

Breakfast: Du Lac Hotel Ionina

Lunch: In a local taverna - Nafpaktos

Dinner: **Amalia Hotel Olympia**

Nafpaktos

*Nafpaktos spreads out from a handsome circular-walled harbour, dotted with plane trees, trendy cafés, a good swimming beach (Psani) and a well preserved fortress and Venetian castle, the latter protected by a series of terraced stone walls built by a succession of conquerors (Doric, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Turk). Nafpaktos was known as Lepanto in medieval times, and it was here on 7 October 1571 that the naval battle of Lepanto took place between the Ottoman Empire and the combined navies of the Vatican, Spain and Venice. The overwhelming victory over the Turks temporarily ended their naval domination of the Mediterranean. Look for a small bronze statue of battle hero **Miguel de Cervantes**, below the harbour wall.*

Olympia

*The site of **Olympia**, in a valley in the Peloponnese, has been inhabited since prehistoric times. In the 10th century B.C., Olympia became a centre for the worship of Zeus. The Altis – the sanctuary to the gods – has one of the highest concentrations of masterpieces from the ancient Greek world. In addition to temples, there are the remains of all the sports structures erected for the Olympic Games, which were held in Olympia every four years beginning in 776 B.C. Olympia is directly and tangibly associated with an event of universal significance. The Olympiad - the four-year period between two successive celebrations falling every fifth year - became a chronological measurement and system of dating used in the Greek world. The significance of the Olympic Games demonstrates the lofty ideals of Hellenic humanism: peaceful and loyal competition between free and equal men, who are prepared to surpass their physical strength in a supreme effort, with their only ambition being the symbolic reward of an olive wreath.*

Day 6: Olympia to Mani

Porto Vitilo Hotel - Mani

Morning: Visit the ancient Olympic stadium & museum

Afternoon: Drive South East to the rocky Mani Area (Areopoli)

Breakfast: Amalia Hotel Olympia

Lunch: *At a traditional Greek farm – Olympia (Demonstration of olive oil production & wine making)*

Dinner: Porto Vitilo Hotel Mani

Mani

Mani, the southernmost and middle peninsula of the Peloponnese or Morea, straddling the districts of Lakonia and Messenia in southern Greece, is a treasure trove of Byzantine and post Byzantine churches, Frankish castles and stunning scenery. The isolated aspect of this beautiful area, combined with the independent nature of its inhabitants meant that some traditions developed separately from the rest of the Peloponnese and Greece so that a distinct society made its mark on the landscape. To this day the architecture of the area is famed for the tower houses and fortified family dwellings from the period of the Ottoman occupation of Greece. Severe, tall stone towers of Mani as symbols of guard and freedom stay against the limestone landscape of Mani. They guard the family's honor, traditions, hospitality as well as the customs of Mani. Today about 800 towers are scattered all over Mani, they are found everywhere in villages, mountains, on seashores. These monuments of folk architecture reflect the social and historical conditions of the Maniot life.

Day 7: Mani to Sparta

Menelaion Hotel - Sparta

Morning: Drive to Mystras, the old Byzantine town and a UNESCO World heritage site

Afternoon: Arrive Sparta

Breakfast: Porto Vitilo Hotel Mani

Lunch: *In a local seafood (Fish) taverna – Near Areopoli*

Dinner: In a local taverna

Sparta

*Located in a fertile, mountain-walled valley, **Sparta** had been described as a natural fortress. A rich history of raising heroes and the unique Spartan way of life, was one of the reasons that modern Sparta was re-founded by King Otto at the same place where ancient Sparta was found. The modern town of Sparta was designed with the intention of creating one of the most beautiful cities in Greece through the use of tree-lined boulevards and parklands, above Ancient Sparta found on the north tip of the town. For centuries Sparta was overshadowed by Mystras, a very important medieval Greek settlement nearby, found by the Byzantine Emperors, recognized as a World Heritage site protected by UNESCO. A site worth of visiting is the Museum of Olive tree & Olive Oil production, a one of a kind museum paying attributes to the product that sustained financially the region through the ages.*



Day 8: Sparta to Kalamaki Athens / Moni Island / Poros Island

Yacht

Morning: Drive to Kalamaki Marina Athens to embark yacht

Afternoon: Sail to Moni Island & then to Poros Island

Breakfast: Menelaion Hotel

Lunch: On board

Dinner: In a local taverna

Moni Island

Moni lies at south from Aegina island and only 2.5 miles away from Perdika. A good anchorage protected by south east-north- north east winds provides the comfort for boats to stay here. A beautiful forest stretches out beyond the beach with its turquoise waters, clambering up the slope of a steep mountain and covering almost the whole of the northern area of Moni. The colours of the sea at Moni are magic and the water is crystal clear. There are no inhabitants but instead different species of animals are found, such as the Chamois Cretan goat-antelope, deer and peacocks.

Poros Island

Poros located further south in the Saronic gulf, is separated from the Peloponnese mainland by a 200 meter wide channel of water. Among its natural beauties, there are many interesting, picturesque and quiet spots to enjoy. It's very attractive capital, called Poros Town, where two-story houses with coloured windows, doors and walls are standing next to fine neoclassical buildings, surrounded by narrow stone-paved streets and alleys. Along the pier, there are many little tavernas, cafeterias, restaurants, tourist shops and many bars.

Day 9: Dhokos Island / Spetses Island

Yacht

Morning: Sail to Dhokos Island

Afternoon: Sail to Spetses Island

Breakfast & Lunch: On board

Dinner: In a local taverna

Dhokos Island

Dhokos is a small island of the Saronic Gulf, between Hydra, Spetses 13 miles south west from Poros. The landscape of the island is rocky and mountainous, while the highest peak is 308m. About 50 permanent inhabitants live today in Dhokos and they occupy mostly with agriculture and fishing. Organized tourism is not developed here, but the island is known among nature lovers, hikers and free campers. Beaches in Dhokos are small and clean, while the remote landscape is idea for camping. In 1975 the founding of some ancient pottery by a diver, led to the discovery of the most ancient shipwreck of the world, a merchant ship that was sunk in 2500 BC full of ceramics.

Spetses island

Spetses is a hilly and well-wooded island off the south-west coast of the Argolida. The island's capital, is built on the gentle slopes above the wide bay containing its harbour. The present town, with a number of handsome mansions and three interesting churches in Kastelli, the upper town, dates from the 19th c. The island is small and gives a relaxing atmosphere to visitors. The architecture is traditional and the streets are narrow and paved. Many buildings are Venetian and depict a wealthy past.

Day 10: Leonidion / Astros

Yacht

Morning: Sail to Leonidion

Afternoon: Sail to Astros

Breakfast & Lunch: On board

Dinner: In a local taverna

Leonidion

Located in the eastern Peloponnese, Leonidio, emerges from a spectacular landscape, bound by two abrupt mountainsides enclosing the town from the north and south. Plaka is the picturesque port of Leonidio, situated 4 km from the town. It functions mainly with the help of tourism, but a small fishing fleet is also to be found; a well-regarded beach lies 4 km across the shore.

Today, Leonidio is a lively and colourful town, especially in summer months, as a result of newly developing tourism. Agriculture, nevertheless, remains a main source of income for its residents, and the benefits of the exploitation of the plain are irreplaceable.

Day 11: Nafplion

Yacht

Morning: Sail to Nafplion
Afternoon: Free in Nafplion
Breakfast & Lunch: On board
Dinner: In a local taverna

Nafplion

A seaport town in the north-east Peloponnese that has been built up the hillsides near the north end of the Argolic Gulf. Nafplion is far and away the most charming town in the Peloponnese, with stepped streets overhung with balconies dripping with bougainvillea, handsome neoclassical buildings, enticing shops, restaurants, cafes, and two fine museums. It has played an important role throughout history, with numerous conquerors, and especially after the War of Independence, when it became the first capital of Independent Greece. Elements of Venetian, Neo-Classical and Islamic architecture can be found in the churches, mosques, museums and buildings located in the area of the Old town. The Venetian architecture is also visible in the two famous fortresses of Nafplion, Palamidi and Bourtzi.

Day 12: Kounoupi Islet / Ermioni

Yacht

Morning: Sail to Kounoupi Bay for a swim
Afternoon: Sail to Ermioni
Breakfast & Lunch: On board
Dinner: In a local taverna

Kounoupi Islet

This tiny islet opposite of Spetses and just 10 miles from Ermioni, is considered as a must stop for all yachters sailing the area. The turquoise crystal clear waters of this islet are ideal for swimming.

Ermioni

*Little is written about **Ermioni** in the guide books, yet it is a beautiful coastal town, situated in the Argolida region of the Peloponnese. Its name comes from the Greek Mythology, as Hermione was the only daughter of Helen and Menelaus, King of Sparta. Ermioni town is split into three sections. The **Limania** port side is located on the northern side of the peninsula, with the lively **Mandrakia** on the southern side of the peninsula. At the far end of the town, at the eastern point, is the pine-clad wooded area called the **Bisti**. Ermioni still remains authentically Greek, charming, hospitable and friendly.*

Day 13:

Hydra Island

Yacht

Morning: Sail to Hydra
Afternoon: At leisure
Breakfast & Lunch: On board
Dinner: In a local taverna

Hydra

***Hydra** is one of the Saronic Islands located in the Aegean Sea between the Saronic Gulf and the Argolic Gulf. It is separated from the Peloponnese by narrow strip of water. Consisting of a crescent shaped harbor, around which is centered a strand of restaurants, shops, markets, and galleries that cater to tourists and locals. Steep stone streets lead up and outwards from the harbor area. From the 17th Century on, Hydra began to take on a greater importance due to its trading strength and its ship building capabilities.*

Day 14: Aegina Island (Perdika)

Yacht

Morning: Sail to Perdika / Aegina Island
Afternoon: At leisure
Breakfast & Lunch: On board
Dinner: In a local taverna

Aegina Island (Perdika)

Perdika is a beautiful small fishing village, with traditional scenery, 9 km south of the town of Aegina. It was built on top of a hill, with fantastic views of the blue waters of the sea, and the small island Moni. Perdika is an old traditional settlement, build around the port. In the old times its townsfolk were occupied exclusively with fishing. Main characteristic of the settlement of Perdika is the small houses with their yards to connect with each other. The marina in Perdika offers excellent facilities and can host the boats and yachts of the visitors to Perdika. Perdika is extremely picturesque and has maintained its traditional look and characteristics. The fishing port makes a truly relaxing setting for holidays in this part of Aegina, and offers moments of peace and beauty. Many of the visitors to Perdika love this village with great passion and become regulars.

Day 15: Athens

Divani Palace Acropolis Morning: Sail to Kalamaki Marina Athens

Group Transfer to Athens Hotel
Afternoon: At leisure
Breakfast: On board
Lunch: Athens Restaurant / Taverna
Dinner: **Farewell Highlight dinner**

Day 16: Depart Athens

Private departure transfer Athens Hotel to Airport
Breakfast: Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel

LE PARD CATAMARANS









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