PANHELLAS S.A.
International Travel & Tourism

Welcome to Argolis (One day)

Activity information

⇒ Leave by the coastal road along the Saronic Gulf to the Corinth Canal – short stop.
⇒ Drive to Mycenae, Visit the Lion's Gate, the Cyclopean Walls, and the Royal Tombs e.t.c
⇒ Lunch in Myceane
⇒ Leave for Epidauros, to visit the Theatre
⇒ Return to Athens by the National road

Mycenae – Epidaurus

MYCENAE

A JOURNEY TO THE MYTHICAL BRONZE AGE

"One of the most significant archaeological destinations in Greece and a Unesco World Heritage site. The most important, and lavish, palatial center of the Late Bronze Age in Greece: Homer's "**gold-rich Mycenae**". According to the mythology of Ancient Greece, its founder was Perseus, son of Zeus and Danae. The myth of the Cyclops and the story of Heinrich Schliemann's discovery of the so-called Mask of **Agamemnon** is fascinating, as is a tour of the archaeological site in the **Peloponnese**.

What to do in Mycenae

The Cyclopean Walls.According to myth, Perseus, the founder of Mycenae, commissioned Cyclopses – huge, one-eyed mythical creatures from Asia Minor – to build the walls. Hence their name.

Lion Gate.A symbol of the power of the **Mycenaean Kingdom**, it's perfectly symmetrical and unique in Europe. The main entrance to the citadel of **Mycenae** dates from about 1250 BC. The monument is named after the relief sculpture of two lionesses that stands above the entrance. As yet, nobody has discovered how it was constructed. So why not stick with the Cyclopses theory?

The Mask of **Agamemnon**. Five gold-plated masks were discovered in **Mycenae** by the renowned archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who excavated this citadel because he believed Homer's stories. He was convinced he'd discovered the remains of King **Agamemnon** and named his historical findings after the famous king. More recent studies revealed that the masks were from 1500 – 1550 BC, nearly three centuries before Agamemnon supposedly lived. However, the name remained and the findings can now be viewed in the National Archaeological Museum of Athens.

Tomb of the House of **Atreus**. One of the largest and best preserved of the famous vaulted beehive tombs found in **Mycenae**. Since the time of the traveller and geographer Pausanias, the inhabitants of the area knew that this monument was the "treasure" of King **Atreus**, and today it is still known as the Treasury of **Atreus**, or Tomb of **Agamemnon**. It was looted before Pausanias got to it and for centuries before that, shepherds used it as a refuge. The Archaeological Museum of **Mycenae**. The exhibition is divided into four distinct sections. You'll learn about the history, life and activities of the Mycenaes, their burial customs and their use of space.

ANCIENT EPIDAURUS

HARMONIOUSLY HEALING THE MIND, BODY AND SOUL

A living **ancient theatre**, a one-of-a-kind archaeological site and the famous Asclepius of antiquity – all within a natural landscape that makes for an ideal beach and culture holiday.You are in the **Peloponnese**, in the concave of the ancient theatre of **Epidaurus**. On the upper tier of the ancient theatre you'll gaze, entranced, at the horizon. Peace, tranquility. You'll understand immediately why the ancients chose this place to construct the most famous **Asclepion**, or holistic healing center. Take a deep breath and look around at the grandstand, the seats, the place where the musicians play and the stage from which you can hear the proverbial pin drop and where all eyes are fixed.You're in the most beautiful open-air, **ancient theatre** in the world. In the birthplace of **Psychagogia**, meaning entertainment, in the fullest sense of the word. The **theatre** was built with the intention of being a place for patients to have therapeutic fun. And it is an **ancient theatre** that is still alive today. Since 1955, sensational performances of ancient tragedies have found their natural home here. A Unesco World Heritage Site, it is still a therapy for the body and soul, whether you attend a play or not.

What to do in Ancient Epidaurus

The ancient theatre of Epidaurus: A Unesco World Heritage Site.The famous **theatre** at **Asclepius** of **Epidaurus** is one of the most important monuments of ancient Greece and a world-class attraction. It combines perfect acoustics, elegance and symmetrical proportions. It was built around 340-33 BC, so that the patients of the **Asclepion** could watch theatrical performances and was in use until the 3rd century AD. Imagine it how it once was, when musicians, singers and actors performed here every four years in the spring. Imagine the dramatic performances and rituals that honoured the god of medicine, **Asclepius**, and be transported to another time. A living theatre and modern myth.An institution from 1955 onwards, the **ancient theatre** of **Epidaurus** once again holds a prominent position in modern Greek culture. It has hosted acclaimed ancient dramas, operas, symphonies and dance performances, featuring top Greek and foreign actors, directors, set designers, choreographers, musicians and composers. The most famous of all the performances were those of the Greek National Opera in 1960 and 61 when the legendary diva Maria Callas sang Bellini's 'Norma' and Cherubini's 'Medea' respectively.

The **Epidaurus Asclepion**: the 'mother' of medicine in the Peloponnese.This lush green landscape in the **Peloponnese**, with its sunny climate and numerous thermal springs was the perfect location in which to build the **Asclepion** – the headquarters of antiquity's god-physician and the most important healing center in the Greek and Roman world. Its fame travelled beyond the borders of the **Argolid** and it is known as the birthplace of medicine. Its monuments are renowned masterpieces of ancient Greek art and have borne witness to the practice of medicine in **ancient Greece**. The worship of the god **Asclepius** was established here in the 6th century BC.

Coastal and cosmopolitan Old **Epidaurus**. This seaside settlement in the Peloponnese, with its latticework of beaches took life thanks to the performances in the **ancient theatre**. Every summer dozens of yachts and sailboats moor at its harbour. Actors and theatre aficionados have chosen it as their 'hangout' and many celebrities have built their villas here, among the citrus and olive groves.

New **Epidavros**: a picturesque settlement in the heart of the **Peloponnese**. This picturesque settlement spreads across the rocky slopes. The sheltered little harbour has a marina and from the Venetian castle you can admire the Vothylas gorge.

Daily service:

Price (without lunch) is **115 euro per person**

Dep.:**08:00**-Ret.:**19:00**
Every Day

√ Advice: Comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat and loose fitted clothing, sun cream are strongly recommended

Including

- Entrance fees
- Transport by luxury A/C bus
- Hotel Pick up and drop off service
- Services of a Professional – licensed guide
- Free wi-fi on coaches
- All taxes
- lunch

Not including

- Gratuities (optional)
- Drinks and beverages