Welcome to Monemvasia

Activity information

⇒ Leave by the coastal road along the Saronic Golf to the Corinth Canal – short stop

⇒ Continue driving on for the seaside village of Monemvasia. Visit the castle town. A fairy tale scene in the Peloponnese: Vaulted alleys, Byzantine churches and Venetian mansions. Monemvasia means “one entrance” and in fact the only access to this castle is via a causeway. This uniquely preserved mediaeval town is carved into the majestic grey rock like a sculpture. The “Gibraltar of the East”. Wander around the vaulted alleyways, churches and aristocratic mansions. Take a swim in its crystal-clear waters and sample its delicious cuisine and legendary wine. Follow in the footsteps of knights, pirates, crusaders and emperors, who all fell under the spell of this mythical place in the Peloponnese. Here time stands still, and you’ll become one with history.

⇒ Free time for strolling in the beautiful promenade, lunch and swimming.

⇒ Afternoon departure for Athens.

ENTER THE CAUSEWAY AND SAIL TO ANOTHER TIME

A fairy tale scene in the Peloponnese: Vaulted alleys, **Byzantine churches** and Venetian mansions. **Monemvasia** means “one entrance” and in fact the only access to this castle is via a causeway. This uniquely preserved mediaeval town is carved into the majestic grey rock like a sculpture. The “Gibraltar of the East” or a “stone ship” about to set sail, as the famous Greek poet **Yannis Ritsos** described his birthplace, is calling you for immediate boarding for a journey through time. Wander around the vaulted alleyways, churches and aristocratic mansions. Take a swim in its crystal-clear waters and sample its delicious cuisine and legendary wine. Follow in the footsteps of knights, pirates, crusaders and emperors, who all fell under the spell of this mythical place in the **Peloponnese**. Here time stands still, and you’ll become one with history.

What to do in **Monemvasia**

Open sesame: **the mediaeval castle**

As soon as you walk through the gate, you’ll begin to uncover the secrets of this mediaeval castle. First have a coffee in the Agora, on the main cobblestone street in the Lower Town. This was the Byzantines’ Central Avenue, the Venetians’ Market and the Ottomans’ Bazaar, the commercial artery and cultural hub for so many civilisations. Today you’ll see cafes, tavernas, shops and artisans’ workshops. Duck in and out of arched alleyways of **Monemvasia** until you reach the sea wall, where you’ll pass quaint homes and crumbling churches. Look up and see the grand mansions of the Upper Town, where the nobility lived. At twilight, the stones turn lavender (hence its nickname, the Violet City) and the streets fill with mysterious shapes, sounds and shadows. By now you’re no longer a visitor but a resident, as were the Byzantines, Ottomans, Venetians before you. In the evening you’ll have your choice of elegant restaurants, traditional tavernas, charming cafes and chic wine bars.

A culinary journey in **Monemvasia**

Try the local homemade pasta called goges (like gnocci, but flour-based) or saitia (fried cheesepies with fresh herbs). Oenophiles should sample the regional sweet wine called **Malvasia**, the authentic flavor of **Monemvasia**, dubbed the “nectar of the nobles”.

Up, up and away: The Upper Town

The Upper Town was home to the Venetian aristocracy and, although it’s a steep climb to reach the beautiful mansions (in the 17th century travellers once counted 500), you’ll be rewarded with panoramic views of the whole area. The half-Byzantine, half-Venetian church of Saint Sofia clings to the side of the cliff, and is one of the most significant attractions in **Monemvasia**. Once inside, you’ll be awe-struck by its magnificent octagonal dome.

Information: Price (without lunch) is **105 euro per person**.

Every Day

Dep.:**08:00** – Ret.::**20:00**

- **INCLUDING**
  - 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
- **NOT INCLUDING**

× Gratuities (optional)

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

GALLERY