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18-27 MAY 2019 Mythical Peloponnese: Fortresses & Legendary Sanctuaries

be
inspired
by
Greece

Greece is a treasure-trove of architectural and historical sites. Specialist tour operator **Eternal Greece Ltd** offers an inspiring and illuminating ten-day guided tour of the southern and eastern Peloponnese to FSG members. The tour will start on 18 May 2019 and will mainly look at Venetian fortifications but will also include Turkish, medieval and some celebrated sites of Classical antiquity, in the splendid Spring countryside of Greece.

Greece has been a strategic crossroads since time immemorial and the legacy of its rich history is visible in the castles and archaeological sites with which adorn every corner of this magnificent country. This well-researched and rewarding tour provides a deeply informative and expert introduction to specially-selected castles, fortresses and archaeological wonders in the land of legends and heroes - the Peloponnese. The organiser, Eternal Greece Ltd, is a UK specialist tour operating company which designs and runs thematic tours exclusively in Greece.

The typical audience of this programme would include avid admirers and discerning connoisseurs of castles and fortresses, Classical Greek archaeology, history (Classical Greek, Byzantine, Frankish, Venetian and Ottoman) and also of natural beauty, who would relish the experience of seeing some of the most evocative sites and monuments in combination with the splendid nature of Greece.

At a glance:

EUR 1,095

The price is per participant basis double room sharing and includes the following:

- 50-seater air-conditioned coach for 10 days, with free WiFi
- Hotel accommodation for nine nights basis double sharing, including breakfast. Single room occupation available at a supplement of EUR 190. Price excludes accommodation tax, typically EUR 0.50 to EUR 3 / night, which is payable upon check out.
 - Licenced guide(s)
- Group leader throughout the tour
 - One main meal per day
 - Entry tickets to archaeological/historical sites and museums
- Free WiFi during the visits to the sites

Please note that a deposit of GBP 300 will be required upon booking, balance payable by 15 April.





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Provisional programme:

18 May: The coach will depart from our central Athens meeting point for the drive to Acrocorinthos, the acropolis of ancient Corinth. This is a 575 m (1,886 ft) - high rock overlooking Corinth that was continuously occupied from archaic times to the early 19th century. Prior to arriving at Acrocorinthos, we make a short stop at the Corinth Canal, which cuts through the narrow Isthmus of Corinth and separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland, thus effectively making the former peninsula an island. Onwards to our first base in the vicinity of Pylos.

19 May: Visit to Niokastro, the castle of Pylos, and to the Monument of the Admirals which commemorates the sea battle of Navarino and the resulting destruction of the Turkish fleet by the joint British, French and Russian fleets in 1827, during the Greek War of Independence. Overnight in the vicinity of Pylos.

20 May: Visit to illustrious Ancient Olympia, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and its wonderful museum and to Kyparissia castle on the way back. Short walk at Yalova lagoon and Voidikoilia cove, both beautiful scenic spots. Overnight in the vicinity of Pylos.

21 May: Visit to the impressive castles of Methoni and Koroni. Overnight at Kalamata.

22 May: Visits to Kalamata and Androussa castles and, time permitting, to the wonderful archaeological site of Ancient Messene. Overnight at Kalamata.

23 May: Drive to the remarkable castle-town of Monemvasia via a visit to the citadel of Mystras, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a short stop at Sparta, the birthplace of fabled Leonidas and his 300 fierce warriors of Thermopylae fame. Overnight at Monemvasia.

24 May: Exploration of Monemvasia - and of the famous Malvasia wine at a local winery. Overnight at Monemvasia.

25 May: Drive to the picturesque sea-side town of Nafplio and visit of Palamidi fortress and the sea-fort of Bourtzi. Overnight at Nafplio.

26 May: Full day and overnight at Nafplio.

27 May: Return to our central Athens dispersal point via Ancient Tiryns and illustrious Ancient Mycenae, both being UNESCO World Heritage sites.



Accommodation is at specially-selected, European standard city and country hotels. Transportation is by modern, air-conditioned coach whilst the venues for lunch and dinner have been carefully chosen, not least with the hungry explorer in mind - but also to reflect the ancient Greek tradition where eating is central to social interaction and happy bonding.

