

Finally returned to Greece late September 2022 after not being able to go since 2019 due to Covid.

Arrived at Airport Sept. 25 and was greeted by transfer driver to take me straight on to Nafplio. A bit pricey but it was the quickest and easiest way after a long day & flight. Didn't rent a car until after arriving in Nafplio.

Got to my AirBnB accommodations in the New Town, just a few minutes from Old Town. Was in Nafplio Old Town way back in 2011 and while nice wanted a more "Greek" neighborhood.

Spend 2 ½ days exploring area I didn't get to on first trip but this time was in a rental car.

Went to Tiryns first thing next morning. While the outer walls were impressive interior was pretty much skimpy. Some of the area was closed due to archeological work and/or safety concerns. Not bad but nothing as extensive or impressive as Mycenae.

Headed next to Nemea. It's split between two sites, one has the stadium with a unique tunnel for athletes to enter and a few remains of structures. Other site was a short distance away with remains of Temple and other assorted ruins.

Returned late afternoon, freshened up with glass of wine, Feta Cheese, Cukes, Olives & Tomatoes then hung out on Balcony enjoying the views of Palamidi Caste. Went out to Mesta tavern later in the evening just a short walk from studio in New Town. Excellent food and very reasonable price.

Next day headed around the Argolis Peninsula enjoying the scenery, small villages and coast line.

My next destination was Gythio in the Mani. Lovely working class town not solely dependent on tourism. Beautiful waterfront with a nice mix of neoclassical buildings, shops, markets and tavernas.

Stayed at Studio Gelly's a short walk from waterfront. Nice basic studio, welcoming owner who spoke perfect English and couldn't beat the price of 25 euros a night! Best part of studio was ample size balcony with unobstructed view of Aegean, part of town, small islet connected by causeway (where supposedly Helen of Troy and Paris spent their first night together before heading to Troy) and other side of the Peloponnese.

Lots to see in town, many backstreets, wonderful Greek atmosphere and got real daring and went to backstreet taverna and tried Kokoretsi (Sheep's Entrails!) It was delicious. If you ever have a chance to find something like this give it a try. You'll be pleasantly surprised and feel like a Real Greek!

Spent 5 days exploring the Mani including Mystras, Monemvasia, Tower Houses, mountains, coastline and small out of the way villages. Mani is a wild, mountainous and beautiful area of Greece.

Next destination was Petalidi over in Messenia District. Another working class town, much smaller than Gythio but with ample number of services. Not really a tourist destination but more of a place to experience Greece and the locals.

First trip was to the amazing archeological site of Messini. Very impressive and a lot of what was originally there is still standing. Beautiful rural location, hills and mountains all around and just a wonderful site. Some say it's better than Olympia!

Took a "tour" on my own of Korini, Methoni and Pylos with Korini my favorite. A bit more Greek character. Went to Methoni mostly for the Castle which is impressive. Methoni is not your typical Greek Town as it was "redesigned" by the French after the Ottoman War and designed it more like a European Town with straight streets in a grid-like pattern. No narrow, curving lanes like most villages but still not bad.

Pylos was larger, more crowded, nice waterfront and town square.

Went to Nestor's Palace and was a bit disappointed. Mostly cleaned out floor, low walls indicated where rooms were and not much else. Very interesting bathtub was one of the few highlights. Best thing was the huge canopy built over the site to protect it from the elements. Lovely views helped with the disappointment. There is a neat, small Tholos Tomb just outside the site and a number of ancient Olive Trees.

Also headed to Mountain Villages further north with Karytaina very impressive. Easy access in a rural area, beautiful stone houses, remains of Castle on high promontory and great views. Other villages in area just as nice.

Final three days were spent in Athens going to my favorite areas and tavernas.

All in all the Peloponnese is spectacular with just about anything one would want in a Greek Holiday and probably more as it's a large area.

Spent 13 days there and just scratched the surface as there is so much to see.

The only down side is the amount of driving I did. Far more than what I would have liked. Slow going along coasts and in mountains with curves, switchbacks, hairpin turns and more time one would think to get from Point A to Point B. If you want to see what you want then you have to drive. Bus service was limited especially to areas I wanted to go. I would highly recommend some type of Navigation System. I used Google Maps and for the most part was pretty good but occasionally got confused in some areas.

Check out my photos. If you want a description you'll have to open the photo(s) to see what the caption is.

There's more to Greece than just the islands, which obviously are beautiful, but if you have been to a few islands and want a mainland experience then you won't be disappointed by the Peloponnese!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/2RwHoj4NAxBD7VcZA>