



Ancient Greece: our top 6 must-see archaeological sites

By Floriane

On our motorhome tour of Europe, we spent **three months criss-crossing the roads of Greece**, from the Peloponnese to the northern mountains, via Athens and Thessaly.

We loved **the omnipresent wealth of history**. Everywhere, between two coves or two hilltop villages, **spectacular archaeological sites** emerge, often in the middle of nature, and always imbued with a unique atmosphere.

Among all these marvels, we've fallen in love with six of them, which we share with you here, along with **our practical advice** on how to make the most of them.

1. The Acropolis of Athens: the sacred heart of classical Greece

It's impossible to miss. The Acropolis is more than an archaeological site: it's a symbol, an image engraved in the collective memory. It's **best to get there early in the morning**, to avoid the crowds and the heat. The southern entrance is less crowded and offers a pleasant, less steep route to the entire site.

Don't miss the **Parthenon**, of course, but also take the time to linger in front of the **Erechtheion's Caryatids**: these column statues are among the most moving on the entire site.

Practical tips:

- Make sure your shoes grip well, as polished marble slips easily.
- And don't forget to bring a water bottle: drinking fountains are dotted around the Acropolis.

→ **Tip** : If you like to alternate between ruins, beaches and hotel comfort, a package

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can save you time on logistics. **Voyage Privé** 's "all-inclusive stay in Greece" offer lets you [enjoy Greece with complete peace of mind](#): accommodation, catering and return airport transfer all included in the same booking, ideal when you want to focus your energy on discovery.

2. Delphi: meeting Apollo's oracle

Perched on a mountainside in an exceptional natural setting, [the sanctuary of Delphi](#) is one of Greece's most enchanting sites, a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) since 1987.

If you're coming from the coast, the road that winds through olive groves to the main entrance is splendid.

To take advantage of the calm and morning light, **you can arrive at the opening**. The best place to start is at the **Temple of Apollo**, then climb up to the theater and stadium, which overlook the entire valley.

The view from the stadium is breathtaking, with the mountains in the background and the sanctuary stretching out below. We also made numerous stops to take full advantage of the incredible panorama. **In our opinion, this makes it one of the most beautiful ancient sites in the country**. An audioguide is included in the ticket and is very useful for understanding the fascinating history of this site.

Practical tip: If you have time, spend the night in **Arachova**, just 10 minutes away: a mountain village full of charm and good addresses.

□ **Hotel overlooking the valley:** [Fedriades Delphi Hotel](#), a charming hotel right in the center of Delphi, where you can walk to the ruins, with breakfast.

3. Olympia: running where it all began

Just step onto the ancient track and you'll feel the energy of the place. In [Olympia](#), you' **ll walk in the footsteps of the first Greek athletes**, in a bucolic setting surrounded by olive trees and umbrella pines.

Start with the rich and well-designed archaeological museum, before exploring the site. The stadium is huge, the temple of Zeus impressive, and **you can even try a little sprint** on the 192-meter track... just for fun! For us, this is a place that mixes history, sport and nature very well: the kind of site that appeals to the whole family, even to those who aren't museum fans.

Practical tip: remember to keep your entrance ticket, as it also includes **access to the Olympic Games Museum**, which is interesting and fun with children.

□ *Our recommendation for a 10-minute walk from the ruins of Olympia: [Europa Olympia Hotel](#)*

4. Mycenae: in Agamemnon's footsteps

In Mycenae, **you enter a different time**, that of the Mycenaean era, with its Cyclopean walls and royal tombs. The famous Lioness Gate greets you as you enter, marking the start of a fascinating journey.

It's a fairly quick visit, but well worth the detour. Don't forget to visit the **Treasure of Atreus**, a little further down the road: its interior dome is spectacular and offers amazing acoustics.

□ We recommend staying in the charming coastal town of Nafplio, 25 minutes away, [*info and booking for **DownTown Hotel Nafplio***](#)

5. The theater of Epidaurus: perfect acoustics

It's one of the well-preserved masterpieces of Greek antiquity, and once again the setting is magnificent. If you arrive early, **you may be lucky enough to test the acoustics** with no one around: from the top of the bleachers, you'll hear a whisper or a coin falling on the stage perfectly.

Don't forget to visit the **sanctuary of Asclepius**, just next door. Less well known, it reveals the importance of the place in ancient medicine, with its baths, hospital and temples dedicated to healing.

□ *We also recommend a stay in Nafplio, 30 minutes from the archaeological site. [Information and booking for the **DownTown Hotel Nafplio**.](#)*

6. Ancienne Messène: the great forgotten must-see

It's perhaps **the least well-known archaeological site** on this list, and yet it's one of the biggest! Situated in a peaceful rural setting, between olive groves and mountains, ancient Messene is a virtually intact ancient city, with a monumental stadium, agora, temples and even well-preserved houses.

You can visit at your own pace, often **in absolute calm**, as the site is rarely crowded. In the late afternoon, the warm sunlight sublimates the stones, a magical moment.

Practical tip: set up for the night in the village of Mavromati, just above the site. Some guesthouses offer incredible views of the ruins and a delicious local breakfast.

Whether at the top of the Acropolis, on the track at Olympia or facing the panorama of Delphi, **ancient Greece offers a unique experience**. Each site has its own rhythm, atmosphere and history. And when you take the time to discover them, walking between the stones, reading the legends or simply observing the landscapes... **you feel you're touching on something profoundly human**.

Where to rent a car to explore Greece's archaeological sites?

After testing a number of comparators, [Discover Cars](#) has clearly become our **favorite site** for comparing car rental prices. The site aggregates offers from hundreds of rental companies, allowing you to quickly identify the best rate according to your criteria.

This filter lets you check at a glance :

- the amount of the security deposit
- type of bank card accepted (debit or credit)
- what's really included in insurance
- customer reviews for each rental company

For example, we found a car **from €30 per day** at [Athens airport](#).

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□ [Our complete guide to renting a car for your road trip in Greece](#)

For us, these six sites are **the must-sees on a cultural trip to mainland Greece**, whether you're traveling like us in a camper van, or in more comfortable mode with accommodation booked in advance. And if you have the time, don't hesitate to extend the route to [Meteora](#), **Thessaloniki** or even the **Ionian Islands**: Greece never stops revealing its treasures.

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