

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!



Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

By Floriane

The ancient site of **Delphi**, dedicated to Apollo, is one of our favorites of our 3 months in Greece. Located east of **Athens**, the ruins are set on the slopes of **Mount Parnassus**. The environment is simply sublime, mountainous and planted with olive trees with the sea, in the distance, in the background.

We invite you to come and explore the **UNESCO** site of Delphi with us. Below, we'll give you all the advice you need to make the most of this exceptional site: visit times, opening hours, what to see and do, and how to get to Delphi from Athens... We hope you enjoy your visit to this magical place!

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

Sommaire détaillé

- [What to see and do in Delphi?](#)
 - [Do you have to be an expert in Greek history to visit the archaeological site?](#)
 - [How long does it take to visit Delphi?](#)
 - [What are the hours to visit Delphi?](#)
 - [What are the different options for visiting Delphi?](#)
 - [What not to miss in Delphi?](#)
 - [Our essentials for visiting Delphi](#)
- [How to get to Delphi from Athens?](#)
- [Our hotel recommendation in Delphi](#)
- [What to do around Delphi?](#)
 - [Arachova](#)
 - [Athens](#)
 - [Olympia and the Peloponnese](#)

What to see and do in Delphi?

Do you have to be an expert in Greek history to visit the

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

archaeological site?

We'll reassure you right away that even if you're not an expert on ancient Greece, chances are you'll enjoy exploring Delphi for its incredible natural setting alone.

We advise you to visit the museum first (included in the price of the ticket) to better understand the ancient site. It is a beautiful and luminous museum, gathering objects (ofrondes, statues, vestiges of columns...) found on the sanctuary of Delphi. The little extra, for the French speakers, the explanatory panels are in French because the **archaeological excavations** were partly **organized by France**,

If you want to grasp the full dimension of the archaeological site, we also recommend that you watch a few **videos** beforehand to bring your knowledge up to date, such as this short video "[Comprendre la Grèce Antique](#)" ("[Understanding Ancient Greece](#)") by Arte, as well as taking along a printed guidebook or booking an audio-guide ticket.

→ Hotels in the center of Delphi: [Fedriades Delphi Hotel](#), for walking to the ruins.

A little history!

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

Delphi is one of the most important religious sites of antiquity. It is in this place that the **temple of Apollo** was built. The Greeks came to consult the gods before making important decisions, who answered them through the voice of a priestess named **Pythia**.

Many decisions such as wars were made according to this oracle. A priori his predictions were not always easy to interpret and therefore not always very accurate, this is not very reassuring. The Olympic Games were also held in **Delphi** every 4 years, as they were in [Olympia](#) (which is less well preserved).

Why is Delphi considered the **center of the world**? because, according to the legend, Zeus released two eagles at the two ends of the world, their trajectories crossed above Delphi. Note that at that time the known world was not as extensive as today, perhaps Delphi represented more or less the center of the ancient Greek world.

The sanctuary of Delphi is one of the best preserved ancient sites in Greece. A village has covered the ruins for many years, this protective layer has allowed to preserve some ancient elements, like [Herculaneum](#) and [Pompeii](#) in Italy.

How long does it take to visit Delphi?

It is a place that can be visited quickly, there is only one path that climbs, whose

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

points of interest are located on both sides.

We spent **30 minutes in the museum** and **1 hour visiting the ancient site**. Note that we were not able to see the entire sanctuary because the access road to the stadium was being renovated.

We also made many stops to enjoy the **incredible view**. This makes it one of the most beautiful ancient sites in our opinion.

Moreover, we were there with our 2 years old daughter, we try to respect a maximum visit time of 2 hours to keep it pleasant for the whole family.

What are the hours to visit Delphi?

We advise you **to arrive as soon as it opens** in order to enjoy the site without too many visitors. From mid-morning onwards, the tourist buses arrive at the site.

Don't forget that in **summer** it can get **very hot very** quickly, and the site is not planted with trees, so mornings are the best option. The end of the day is also a good option to enjoy the beautiful lights.

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

Delphi is open almost every day from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm in winter (November to March) and from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm in summer (April to October), we advise you to check the timetable and the days of closure on the [official website](#).

What are the different options for visiting Delphi?

- **Admission** (site + museum): €26 in summer, divided by 2 in winter. As for all the Greek sites, traveling in winter will allow you to save a lot of money and you will have the places all to yourself.
- **Guided tour**: if you wish to understand in depth the dimension of the archaeological site, you can opt for a [guided tour](#), in French, all expenses are included and your guide will wait for you at the entrance of the site.
- **Excursion from Athens**: if you want to visit the sanctuary of Delphi without taking care of the organization, you can [book an all-inclusive excursion](#)(pick-up from your hotel, tickets, lunch and guide on site) with driver from your Athens.
- **Two-day excursion to Delphi and Meteora from Athens**: If you want to see the two emblematic sites of Greece in two days, you can inquire about this [excursion](#).

What not to miss in Delphi?

To visit the ruins, you will not need to prepare an itinerary since there is only one passable path that climbs. All the visitors take the **sacred way** which leaves the agora (the entry of the site) to reach the temple of Apollo then the theater. The main things to see surround the sacred way.

The sacred way was lined with offerings, offered by the different Greek cities, in the form of temples, treasures, and columns.

- **The Athenian Treasure:** a **small Doric temple** built in honor of **Athenian** victories, one of the few monuments to have been restored. Imagine that the sacred way was surrounded by small temples of this type.
- **The temple of Apollo:** it is in this temple that **the Pythia**, the sacred priestess, worked. At the level of the temple, the view is incredible !
- **The theater:** it could accommodate 5,000 spectators, it is one of the largest ancient theaters in Greece with that of Epidaurus, located in the Peloponnese that we strongly recommend.
- **The stadium:** it is one of the best preserved in Greece, 180 meters long, it hosted every four years the Pythian games, both sports and intellectual games. For information, it is usually closed for restoration in winter.

At the **museum**, don't miss the replica of the **omphalos**, the sacred stone marking the center of the world and the status of the charioteer **of Delphi**, a life-size chariot driver.

Our essentials for visiting Delphi

This is a small site that is quick and easy to visit. We give you some tips to facilitate your exploration:

- Comfortable **shoes**, because the path climbs a little.
- A camera or your phone charged, because the place is extremely photogenic, it would be a shame to run out of battery.
- Enough **water and food**, there is only one snack bar on site.
- A **small bag**, because it is forbidden to enter the site with a bulky bag.
- **During summer, take your hat and your sun cream**, because Greek

summer could be very hot !

That's it, you're ready to enjoy.

How to get to Delphi from Athens?

The site of Delphi is located about 180 kilometers northwest from Athens. It is one of the most visited ancient sites in Greece, so it is easily accessible from Athens. To visit Delphi from Athens, you have several options:

- **By vehicle:** we opted for this option, count 2h15 of road to reach Delphi from Athens, half of the journey is done on the highway then you will use mountain roads. We advise you to stop in **Arachova**, which you will cross. This small mountain village is located 10 minutes from Delphi on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. You can park along the road near the site.

The road before arriving at the sanctuary is incredible, you will go along fields of olive trees and you will have a magnificent view on the whole valley. We even rescued a bold land turtle that was trying to cross the road.

To compare rental prices, we recommend the [Discovers Cars](#) website, which compares the prices of hundreds of car rental companies to find the best price. To give you an idea of prices, you can rent a car from €30 per day at Athens airport.

□ [Compare Athens airport deals on Discover Cars](#)

The quickest and easiest option

- **Organized tour:** to visit the site of Delphi with no organization required, you can [book an all-inclusive tour](#) (pick-up from your hotel, tickets, lunch and guide on site) with driver from your Athens hotel.

→ [See prices and availability for pick-up from Athens](#)

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

- **By public transport:** several **buses** make the journey daily, count 3 hours of journey so if you wish to make the round trip in the day we advise you to take the first bus which leaves around 8 am. You can find all the information on the schedule and prices on the [website of the company](#) KTEL.

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

Our hotel recommendation in Delphi

We advise you to sleep in the village of Delphi located a few minutes walk from the ruins and to take an accommodation with a view on the valley, it would be a pity to miss it.

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

[Top rated accommodation in Delphi](#)

Where to eat in Delphi?

We recommend the tavern “**To Patriko Mas**”, a 10-minute walk from the site, which offers a **breathtaking view** of the valley and the sea in the distance, both from the interior and from the patio with trees.

The food is delicious, everything is **home made**. We took the local dessert, obviously with a lot of honey, a killer even if it sticks to the teeth and fingers. The prices are slightly higher than average but still reasonable. We were delighted to find this small authentic address in such a touristy place. By the way, it is one of the best restaurants of our stay.

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

What to do around Delphi?

Delphi is at the center of mainland Greece, so you can either choose to explore the north, [visiting the Meteora site](#) (geological formations housing monasteries) and **Thessaloniki** with its magnificent beaches, or explore its capital **Athens** or head south to visit the **Peloponnese** region.

Arachova

It's a small and lovely mountain village only 10 minutes away from Delphi. It is a famous ski resort in winter.

Athens

The Greek capital is a must-see during your stay in Greece, with the **Acropolis** the most visited ancient site in Greece. We will quickly devote a series of articles to Athens.

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

Olympia and the Peloponnese

Olympia is the other must-see ancient Greek site, located further south in the Peloponnese. The setting is still less nice than in Delphi. It is also a good gateway to visit the Peloponnese region. We will also dedicate a series of articles to this region that we have loved.

Visit Delphi from Athens: everything you need to know!

Delphi is an ancient site nestled in a sublime natural environment, we loved writing this article to immerse ourselves in this visit and in our photos.

Feel free to leave us a **note** below to tell us if you are planning this trip, **ask** any questions or **share** on social media, [our Instagram](#), we will answer you with great pleasure! If you liked this article, feel free to drop 5 stars below.

Donnez une note à cet article :
0 avis (0/5)

Merci de partager notre article :

- [Share on X \(Opens in new window\) X](#)
- [Share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\) Facebook](#)
- [Share on Pinterest \(Opens in new window\) Pinterest](#)
- [Share on WhatsApp \(Opens in new window\) WhatsApp](#)
- [More](#)