AMANZOE

Experience Guide

Welcome to Greece, the cradle of Western civilisation, democracy, philosophy, medicine and theatre, and one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Perched atop Agios Panteleimonas, a hill named after 'the all-merciful saint' on the coast of the Peloponnese, Amanzoe enjoys a prime position in a fabled part of the country – full of ancient sites and charming villages.

We would like you to experience this region to the full – from the barren peaks of its mountains to the vivid blues of the Aegean Sea, with valleys of olive groves scented with wild thyme and oregano in between – and will do our utmost to help you achieve this. Read on to find our favourite activities in the region, and please ask us if we can assist you in any way.

Revist the Past

Amanzoe is ideally placed for exploring the region's historic islands and remarkable ruins. The wealth of nearby archaeological sites includes Epidaurus with its Unesco-protected amphitheatre and Sanctuary of Asklepios, the legendary citadel of Mycenae, the theatre of Miletus, Didyma's caves, the Temple of Hera close to Argos, the Byzantine monastery of St Dimitrios, and Nafplio, the first capital of modern Greece. Day trips can be arranged with a personal guide and driver and can include a picnic lunch. Alternatively, transport can be arranged between Amanzoe and multiple sites via private helicopter, allowing considerably more time at each site.

Spetses Island

The island of Spetses has a long and rich history, but the most interesting period is that of the Greek War of Independence and the Greek Revolution of 1821. Spetses was the first of the Greek islands to raise the flag of the Revolution on the morning of 3 April 1821 at the monastery of St Nicolas. Laskarina Bouboulina of Spetses, a very important and influential person in the Revolution, used her wealth to build and lead a navy after her husband's death. Today, Bouboulina's house is one of the most impressive places to visit in Spetses, among other mansions and museums.

Spetses offers not only an inspiring past, but also natural beauty. It is cosmopolitan yet traditional – an enchanting combination of quaint streets, pine forests and local charm with reminders of its rich history around every corner.

Nafplio town

Full of storied monuments dating from ancient and medieval times, the historic town of Nafplio is situated just 65km from Amanzoe. The town also played a major role in the history and creation of modern Greece, as it hosted the first Greek parliament after the Greek War of Independence and became the state's first capital in 1828. Before Independence, Nafplio was ruled by a host of conquerors including the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and the Venetians. Over the centuries, the different occupying forces left their mark on the architecture and culture of Nafplio, imbuing it with the unique and cosmopolitan atmosphere it has today.

Renowned for its neoclassical architecture, the imposing Palamidi Fortress overlooking the city and the Bourtzi Castle set on an island in the middle of the harbour, Nafplio is a charming town to wander. The quaint streets of the old town are shaded by bougainvillea and lined with restaurants and shops, while jazz bars provide entertainment in the evenings.

Hydra Island

Hydra is a picturesque town on a peaceful island. As you approach the port, the statue of Andreas Miaoulis, a local war hero, welcomes you as he stares out to sea. From the water, you can see the impressive clock tower of Hydra, and stately old mansions climbing the hillside. No motortransport is allowed anywhere on the island: donkeys and water taxis provide the only means of getting around.

Hydra is as welcoming in the morning as it is in the evening, whether you wish to browse the shops, dine in the atmospheric restaurants or explore the museums. You may choose your tour time according to your personal wishes, but please keep in mind that the heat of midday can be quite intense during the summer months.

The car journey from Amanzoe to the port of Metochi takes approximately 40 minutes, while the water taxi journey from Metochi to Hydra takes approximately 10 minutes.

Mycenae

Founded by Perseus, Mycenae was the golden city of ancient Greece, and is today a Unesco World Heritage Site 100km from Amanzoe. The epicentre of the Mycenaean world, the city gave its name to a period and a civilizationthat spread as far as the Mediterranean basin between the 16th and 12th centuries BCE. Mycenae is surrounded by mountains and fields offering glimpses of blue sea.

Situated about 300 metres away from the Mycenaean acropolis is the well-maintained Treasury of Atreus – also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon (son of Atreus and brother-in-law of Helen whose abduction by Paris started the Trojan War). Known as a tholos or 'bee-hive' tomb, it was built between 1350 and 1330 BCE. It is the largest and best preserved of the nine tholos tombs found in Mycenae. The colossal Cyclopean walls of Mycenae and the famous Lion Gate are other standout attractions – still impressive after more than 3,000 years.

Epidaurus

Situated in the East Peloponnese, just 51km from Amanzoe, Epidaurus is home to the Sanctuary of Asklepios, a Unesco World Heritage Site. The site – which includes a renowned amphitheatre – is surrounded by forest and has the ambience and seclusion of a retreat.

The Sanctuary of Asklepios was the most renowned healing centre of the ancient world. The God of Medicine to the Ancient Greeks, Asklepios was considered a son of the god Apollo, given the gift of healing after his mother died giving birth to him. Represented by the snake (hence the global symbol of modern medicine – a snake entwined around a rod), Asklepios was one of the later additions to the Hellenic gods. Consisting of temples, hospitals and other facilities dedicated to health, the Sanctuary was visited by those looking for a cure from as far afield as Rome.

The oldest buildings date back to the sixth century BC, and within the ruins are the remains of the Enkoimitirion. Here people would sleep in the hopes of having Asklepios appear to them in their dreams with a cure for what ailed them. Treatments included 'licks' from snakes, as well as entertainment, as the Greeks believed in the power of theatre to heal the mind and spirit. Built in the fourth century BCE, the amphitheatre is remarkably well preserved. With capacity for 15,000, it is still host to live performances every summer.

Didyma

Didyma lies in a small valley surrounded by a mountain range. Two of the most impressive sights in the vicinity are the Small and Big Caves, crater-shaped formations created thousands of years ago and shrouded in myths. The Big Cave is a wild place, a rocky home to many different species of birds. To reach the Small Cave you have to descend some steps cutting directly through the rock. A 10-minute stroll takes you around the inside of the crater where you come across two tiny churches dedicated to St. George and St. Sotira built directly into the rock.

Monemvasia

Nicknamed 'the Gibraltar of the East' or 'The Rock', Monemvasia is situated on a small peninsula off the east coast of the Peloponnese. The peninsula is linked to the mainland by a 200-metre causeway and consists mostly of a large plateau – 100 metres high, 300 metres long and one kilometre wide. The town and its famous fortress were founded in 583 by Greek refugees fleeing Slavic and Avaric invasions. The town became an important trade and maritime centre in the 10th century and was controlled in turn by the Byzantines, the Venetians and the Ottomans over the next few centuries. Today the town's walls and many of its Byzantine churches remain from the medieval period, and walking its cobbled streets is like strolling back in time.

Active Adventures on Land

The Peloponnese is renowned for its beautiful hiking trails, all boasting remarkable views. There is minimal official signage, so it is best to trek with a local guide who knows the paths well and can tailor routes to suit your fitness level and interests. When the start and end point is not Amanzoe, a car and driver will either drop you off or collect you. A picnic lunch can be enjoyed en route.

The Monastery of Avgo

In the mountains close to Didyma stands the monastery of St. Demetrios, also known as the monastery of Avgo, the Greek word for 'egg'. There are many myths as to how it got this name. Today, this historic 11th-century monastery is an uninhabited haven with beautiful views, reached after an easy hike through rolling hills. Built into the rock face about 850 metres above sea level, the three-storey stone building overlooks the gorge through which the Rados River plunges to the sea. The monastery is also dedicated to St Theodore, which is why the little church on the second floor has two altars. Despite being burnt by the Ottomans in 1825, the monastery's murals remain intact.

Iliokastro – Fourni Village

This picturesque route starts from the mountainous village of Iliokastro and follows dirt trails and riverbeds (depending on the season) through Ksiriza Forest via an ancient Roman aqueduct to Fourni Village. Enjoy a picnic on the way and end with spectacular sea and coastal views.

Franchthi Cave

A famous archaeological site overlooking Kiladha Bay, Franchthi was first occupied by humans during the Upper Paleolithic period, around 38,000 BCE. Occupied almost continuously throughout the Mesolithic and Neolithic eras but abandoned around 3,000 years ago, it is one of only a handful of sites in the world with such a long record of human settlement. Home to hunters, fishermen and their families over the ages, the cave was extensively excavated between 1967 and 1976, with the artefacts found now on display at Nafplio Archaeological Museum. Today the cave is a peaceful site where one can ponder the origins of humankind while enjoying the view.

Trekking in Ermionida

Less than 15km from Amanzoe lies the coastal town of Ermioni in the municipality of Ermionida. Discover Ermioni's verdant Bisti Peninsula by hiking through its beautiful pine forests, stopping to enjoy serene views or for a swim in the crystal clear sea. At the peninsula's highest point you can spot the ruins of temples dedicated to Athena and Poseidon. The route can also bypass a photogenic white windmill.

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Active Adventures At Sea

Explore the islands, pristine beaches and ancient towns along this famous stretch of coastline in privacy and consummate luxury aboard one of Amanzoe's highspeed watercraft. Half- and full-day charters leave from Amanzoe's beach on Amanzoe One, a sleek Wally One Powerboat, while customised full-day charters can be arranged aboard Aquazoe, a Pershing 62, for up to 12 guests.

Beach Club

Amanzoe's Beach Club is situated on the resort's private beach, offering a spacious restaurant and a number of swimming pools surrounded by terraces with beautiful views. A range of watersports equipment is available for Amanzoe guests to use on a complimentary basis, including windsurfers, paddleboards, kayaks and snorkelling gear.

Island Hopping

Amanzoe's two motorboats are available for private charter with 24-hour notice, with customised itineraries offered through an experienced local yacht charter company, usually departing from Porto Heli. These enable the exploration of nearby islands, coastal towns and uninhabited coves. Amanzoe's chefs can prepare a picnic to be enjoyed onboard or on a deserted beach, and meals can also be enjoyed in seaside tavernas.

If you are in the mood for an adventure on the water with Amanzoe One, a Wally One power boat, or Aquazoe, a Pershing 62, you may choose from a number of customized charters offered through a specially selected yacht charter company.

These enable you to explore the island, inlets and coastal towns along this famous stretch of coastline and are designed to provide the shortest possible transfer times from destination to destination. Even so there are charming tavernas at several destinations, our chef is happy to create an Amanzoe picnic or snack to take with you. Magnificence of a Greek sunset, during which the mountains and the sea are painted a beautiful, dusky pink.

Boatm**tours are available from 11am to 7pm (flexible) embarking from Porto Heli and prices are inclusive of boat skipper, diesel,snorkeling equipment, coffee, Greek wine, bottled water and soft drinks. Should you wish for a member of the Amanzoe team to accompany you and assist with service, an additional charge of 25 EUR per hour will be added.**

Customized charters can be arranged with a 24-hour advance notice and priced depending on requested itinerary.

Amanzoe One – Wally One Powerboat
Available for half- or full-day (8-hour) adventures for up to 8 guests

Spetses Island (Dapia Village, Zogeria Beach, Xilokeriza Beach) to Spetsopoula Island
Nafplio to Bourtzi Castle to Spetses Island
Kyparissi Village to Vathi Avlaki Beach to Spetses Island
Spetsopoula Island
Nafplio to Bourtzi Castle
Hydra Island to Dokos Island

Aquazoe – A Pershing 62
Only available for full-day (8 hour) adventures for up to 10 guests

Hinitsa Bay to Spetses Island (Xilokeriza / Zogeria Beach) to Spetsopoula Island
Nafplio to Bourtzi Castle to Spetses Island
Kyparissi Village to Vathi Avlaki Beach to Spetses Island
Hinitsa Bay to Spetses Island (Xilokeriza / Zogeria Beach) to Spetsopoula Island to Dokos Island to Hydra Island to Kyparissi Village to Monemvasia

Youth Activities

Amanzoe is ideal for families, with activities to suit all ages. Babysitters are available for younger children, and a regular calendar of organised activities is offered for older children ranging from arts and crafts and storytelling to games and sports. Many activities are tailored to include references to Greek history and culture, such as creating mosaics or learning various sports from the ancient Olympic Games. Teenagers are also catered for. While spa treatments are reserved for those aged 18 and older, younger guests can still enjoy the Spa's facilities in a number of ways, including yoga classes.

Yoga
Yoga is an enjoyable way for children to build strength and flexibility, while increasing awareness of themselves, others and the world around them. Encouraging confidence and easing tension, yoga engages a child's natural, boundless energy and conveys valuable lessons in positive thinking.

Tennis
Whether your child is an absolute beginner or an advanced junior tennis player, Amanzoe's tennis coach will tailor a private session to his or her level. Individual and group sessions can be arranged, and Amanzoe provides racquets, balls and playing partners.

Games room
Amanzoe's games room appeals to the young and the young at heart with its extensive collection of books, puzzles, boardgames and other forms of entertainment. The screening room alongside offers a broad range of movies, TV series and documentaries for those wishing to escape the sun (or their parents!).

Watersports
A range of watersports equipment including kayaks, paddleboards, Hobie Cats and snorkelling gear is available at the Amanzoe Beach Club. Our experienced, professional RYA-qualified team is available to assist those of all ages wishing to get out on the water, from 11am to 6pm daily.

Daily activities
An enthusiastic and experienced children's host coordinates daily activities for younger guests during the summer months. Based at the pool and Beach Club, games hone motor skills, while crafts reveal the history and cultural traditions of Ancient Greece – whether threading shell necklaces, making mosaics or creating myth-inspired masks.

Culinary Journeys

Renowned for its natural produce – from its olives and honey to its cheese and herbs – the Peloponnese offers gourmands a plethora of culinary experiences. These can be hands on such as cooking classes, or educational, such as learning more about the art of beekeeping. Amanzoe has special relationships with a number of local farmers and producers, as well as with local fishermen, allowing guests the chance to experience unique culinary journeys as authentic as they are illuminating.

Generations of Beekeeping
In the valley below Amanzoe, only a 10-minute drive away, the Bairaktaris family has been keeping bees since 1914. The farm supplies all of Amanzoe's honey, and offers a detailed tasting, including the farm's renowned clove and thyme honeys. They also make a range of natural propolis moisturisers infused with local herbs.

A specially curated outing to their family apiary reveals both age-old and more modern methods of beekeeping. The family has created a 'Bee Museum' in a traditional stone building on the property, with many of the original bee-keeping tools used by their ancestors on display. A number of Plexiglass 'bee boxes' allow you to observe hive activity.

After visiting the Bee Museum and the farm's modern production facility, stroll around the property and enjoy an Amanzoe 'Honey Bee Picnic' in the shade of a beautiful old carob tree.

For a more extensive tour (depending on availability), Mr Bairaktaris can demonstrate the rituals of the beekeeper passed down from his grandfather, using traditional equipment. You will be invited to be a part of the process and fill your own jars of honey.

Farmhouse Visit
Close to Amanzoe, a traditional farmhouse rests in a picturesque valley, surrounded by orchards, groves and fields tilled as they have been for centuries. Children can collect eggs and feed the farm animals, while the adults learn more about farm life. Then sit down at the old wooden table on the sunlit veranda to enjoy an authentic Greek farmhouse breakfast with the farmer and his family..

The Vineyards of Nemea

Nemea is an ancient site in the northeast of the Peloponnese, not far from the town of Nafplio. It was here in Greek mythology that Heracles (Hercules) overcame the Nemean Lion of the Goddess Hera, and the Nemean Games took place.

The region was first put on the map for its winemaking by Homer, who called it Ampeloessa, meaning 'full of vines'. Today the appellation of Nemea is the most important red wine AOC of southern Greece.

The indigenous Greek Agiorgitiko grape produces wines famous for their deep red colour with violet and blue hues, their complex aromas and their long, velvety finishes. Amanzoe guests can take a tasting journey through the Nemea wine region and explore the superb wines of Domaine Skouras. Established in 1986, Skouras offers beautifully maintained vineyards and informative tours and tasting experiences.

Culinary Classes

A hands-on activity for the whole family, cooking classes begin at the local market where you can sample the region's fruit, honey, olives and other delicacies when choosing your ingredients with Amanzoe's chef. Back at the resort, pick fresh herbs from our organic gardens, then prepare a Greek feast for lunch at our Pool Restaurant or in your Villa, learning to cook famous local dishes of your choice from recipes passed down through generations. Your meal can be paired with delicious local wines for the adults, and healthy mocktails or smoothies curated by our head barman for the children.

Private Dining

Amanzoe offers a number of beautiful settings in which to dine in blissful seclusion. Travel back in time in the atmospheric open-air setting of the Amphitheatre, or enjoy feet-in-the-sand dining at its best on the beach. Whether you are seeking an intimate meal for two or a group celebration, we will tailor the menu to your individual preferences and ensure a dining experience to remember.

Private Barbecue
This can be enjoyed on your Pavilion terrace or in a Beach Cabana. We recommend including freshly caught lobster, king prawns, wild sea bass, calamari, octopus, lamb chops and various pork cuts.

Amphitheatre
Take centrestage in a setting reminiscent of Ancient Greece while enjoying a personally tailored five-course menu.

Beach
Dine on a tailored five-course menu just metres from the sea, in the glow of candlelight and tiki torches. Barbecue items can be included in the menu if desired

Booking Information

Revisit the Past

Spetses

Tour - at leisure
Private transfers between Amanzoe and Kosta will be charged at €50 each way for a sedan or SUV.
Water taxis are available 24/7 and start from €23 per trip (double fare after midnight).

Nafplio town

Option 1 – approx. 8 hours
Epidaurus and Mycenae with lunch in Nafplio
Inclusive of private transfer and site fees (handled by driver)
€560 per couple, additional person €50
Registered Tour Guide €250 for both sites

Option 2 – approx. 6 hours
One site only with lunch in Nafplio
Inclusive of private transfer and site fee (handled by driver)
€420 per couple, additional person €50
Registered Tour Guide €170 for one site

Option 3 – unaccompanied exploration
Car and driver only: €90 per hour for a sedan or SUV
No site fees included

Hydra

Tour – at leisure
Private transfers between Amanzoe and Metochi will be charged at €80 each way for a sedan or SUV
Water taxis are available 24/7 and start from €68 per trip (double fare after midnight)

Franchthi Cave

Tour – 2 hours
€160 per couple, additional person €30
Inclusive of private transfers.

The Monastery of Avgo

Tour - 3 Hours
€230 per couple, additional person €30 inclusive of private transfers.

Trekking in Ermionida

Iliokastro – Fourni Village
Difficulty level: A Level 3 route that can be Level 4 if done in reverse
Duration: approx. 2.5 hours (depending on fitness level/ stopping time)
Length: 12 kilometres

Fourni Village – Katafiki Gorge
Difficulty level: 3
Duration: approx. 2 hours (depending on fitness level/ stopping time) Length: 10 kilometres

€110 per hour of trekking per couple, additional person €40 per hour.
Includes a professional guide and transfers to and from the start/finish point

Booking Information

Culinary Journeys

Generations of Beekeepers

The extensive honey extraction demonstration can be arranged on weekends, from the morning until 6pm. This requires advance booking.

Short tour – 2 hours
€190 per couple, additional person €40
Inclusive of private transfer and entrance fees

Extended tour – 3 hours
€240 per couple, additional person €50
Inclusive of private transfer and entrance fees

Additional charge of €50 per couple for Honey Bee Picnic

Farmhouse Experience

€240 per couple, additional person €50
Inclusive of farmhouse breakfast, tour and private transfers

The Vineyards of Nemea

Tour – 5 hours
€400 per couple, additional person €70
Inclusive of private transfer, winery tour and wine tasting

Additional hours
€90 per hour
Should you wish to end your day in Nafplio for sunset drinks and/or dinner, additional hours will be charged accordingly

Culinary Classes

Departure time – 9am
€180 per person, including all ingredients, cooking class and transfers

Private Dining

Private Barbecue
€340 per couple, includes set-up and a private chef
€125 per additional guest

Amphitheatre
Tailored five-course menu
€700 per couple, €125 per additional guest
Additional €850 for live Greek music

Beach
Tailored five-course menu €700 per couple, €125 per additional guest

Adventures at Sea

Watersports

Seabob – 30min/1hr €90/180
Kayak lesson – 1hr €60
Paddleboard lesson – 1hr €65
Pedal board – 1hr €65
Guided paddleboard tour – 2hr €95
Windsurf lesson – 1.5hrs€85
Sailing ride with instructor on board €95
(up to three guests) 45min
Sailing lesson
(up to three guests) 1.5hr 140

The above prices are per person

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Amanzoe

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