

# MESSINIA THE 2016 HOT SPOT DESTINATION IN GREECE

## Pole of attraction

First the jet-set discovered Mykonos. Then, Santorini. Now the latest hot spot in Greece is Messinia. Previously known mainly for the epic Battle of Navarino, which was fought off the coast off its western coast, Messinia has retained its local identity while gently but inspirationally reaching out for- and achieving- much more. All kinds of accommodation can be found, from luxury boutique hotels to grand resorts to small and cozy rented rooms, which have respected the natural environment and have enabled the once-neglected Messinian coasts to emerge in all their splendour.

## Getting to Messinia

More and more people visit Messinia also in winter and enjoy the mild, healthy climate. The vast majority of visitors fly into Athens or directly into Kalamata International airport (KLX) which services flights\* from all over Europe, Athens and Thessaloniki.

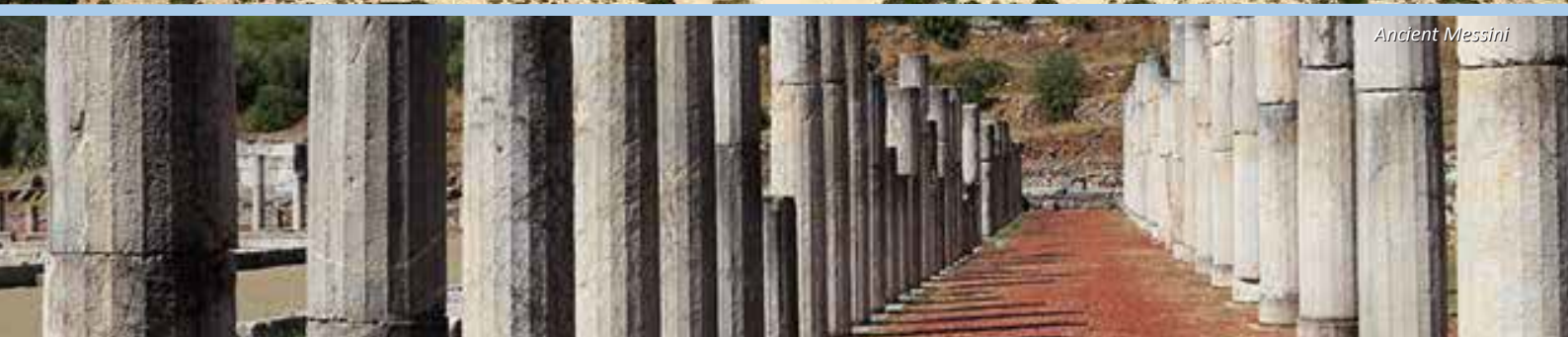
With the recently completed Moreas Highway it takes less than 2,5 hours to reach Kalamata from Athens. During summer, the harbour of Kalamata also hosts regular sailings from and to Kissamos (Crete) via the island of Kithyra.



*Methoni Castle*



*Voidokilia*



*Ancient Messini*

## \* 2014 destinations and air carriers:

AEGEAN: Paris, Dusseldorf, Moscow, Kiev,  
Saint Petersburg, Rostov, Stockholm, Athens  
ASTRA AIRLINES: Thessaloniki  
AUSTRIAN AIRLINES: Vienna  
BRITISH AIRWAYS: London (Heathrow)  
BLUE PANORAMA: Rome  
CONDOR AIRLINES: Munich, Dusseldorf,  
Frankfurt, Stuttgart

GERMANIA: London  
EASYJET: Hamburg, London  
NIKI FLY: Vienna  
TRAVEL SERVICE: Prague  
THOMAS COOK: Glasgow, London, Manchester  
TRANSavia: Amsterdam  
RYANAIR: Milan (Bergamo)  
SCANDINAVIAN AIRWAYS: Oslo  
URAL AIRLINES: Yekaterinburg





### WHERE TO STAY

Whether you are planning a family holiday, a romantic escape for two or a business meeting, Messinia offers a wide range of accommodation to suit your needs, from self catering rooms to apartment hotels and 5-star resorts with conference facilities, thalassotherapy / spa centres and signature golf courses, as well as a wide range of year-round activities for adults and children which are unique in the Mediterranean.



### MONUMENTS

Messinia has been continuously habited for thousands of years, with a great history as a background. Witnesses of its long history are the countless classical, byzantine and newer monuments in the prefecture. The monuments and cultural inheritance of Messinia, in combination with the beautiful landscape that surrounds them, give a 'magic' power to the region which captures and inspires even the most demanding visitor.

#### 1. Ancient Messini

Ancient Messini (or Messene) is a significant ancient city in terms of its size, form, and state of preservation and still has much to offer. It possesses not only sanctuaries and public buildings but also imposing fortifications, houses and tombs. Ancient Messini enjoys, amongst other things, the advantage of never having been destroyed or covered by later settlements and is located on an unspoiled and very extensive inland site.

#### 2. The Temple of Epikourios Apollon

This 5th-century BC temple is situated 14 kms south of the picturesque town of Andritsaina, near the summit of Mount Kotylio at an altitude of 1,131 m , on the border of Messinia, Arcadia and Ilia. This temple, which was the first site in Greece to be inscribed on the UN World Heritage List, was one of the largest in ancient Greece as well as one of the best-preserved monuments of classical antiquity as its nearly-inaccessible location protected it from marauders and invaders. Among all the temples in the Peloponnese and along with the Temple of Athena in Tegea, the Temple of Apollo Epicurius could be considered as the most beautiful one, thanks to its harmony of the whole. After all, it was designed by the great architect Iktinos, who is also credited with the Temple of Hephaestus and the Parthenon in Athens.

#### 3. Methoni Castle

The great Ottoman/Venetian fortress of Methoni lies on a peninsula that was already fortified from ancient times in a region also renowned for its natural harbour. The castle occupies the whole area of the cape and the south-western coast to the small islet that has also been fortified with an octagonal tower and is protected by the sea on its three sides. Its norther part, the one that looks to land, is covered by a heavily fortified acropolis. A deep moat separates the castle from the land and communication was achieved by a wooden bridge. The Venetians built on the ancient battlements and added on and repaired it during both periods that they occupied the castle.

#### 4. Koroni Castle

Erected in the 6th or 7th century A.D. and used throughout the Byzantine period, the castle is built on the ruins of the ancient Messenian town of Asine and occupies the headland to the east of the modern town.

#### 5. Pylos Castle - Niokastro

Two castles are built on the summits of the two hills at the ends of the Bay of Navarino, overlooking the town of Pylos: the older castle of Navarino, called Palaioastron or Palaionavarinon and the more recent castle, called Niokastron. Large-scale restoration work has been carried out for many years. The restored hexagonal Fortress on the top of the hill houses the Museum and the Underwater Archaeological Research Centre.

### KING NESTOR, PYLOS & MODERN PHYSICS

One of the greatest experiments in modern Physics is taking place near the deepest point (5,267 m / 17,280 ft) of the Mediterranean sea, off Pylos. There, a large array ('telescope') is used to detect the interaction of the elusive and mysterious neutrino particles with sea-water. This quest can, in turn, yield valuable information as to the past and future of the Universe. Fittingly, the experiment is named 'Nestor', after the ancient King of nearby Pylos.



### SOME HISTORY!

#### The Battle of Navarino, October 20, 1827



The Battle of Navarino was fought during the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829). It proved to be a one-sided victory for the allies (British, French, Russian). While several of the allies' ships were badly damaged, none were sunk. For Ibrahim Pasha the battle cost him his entire fleet. Also the Battle of Navarino is most noteworthy for being the last major naval battle to involve sailing warships. In 1829, after eight years of fighting, the Ottomans capitulated and Greece finally achieved its independence.



### NATURE

#### Neda river

At the northern end of Messinia, Neda, the only female-gender river of Greece, named after nymph Neda, goddess of the waters, flows towards the gulf of Kiparissia. The waters of Neda begin their journey from the numerous springs at the foot of Mt. Lycaeon, near the village of Petra, they follow an amazing, meandering course through narrow gorges, cool clearings and verdant ravines, under arched, stone bridges and through dark caves and falls, to the fertile meadows of the Kiparissia Gulf, covering a distance of 32 km. Neda and its villages- true gems of the Greek nature- maintain a rare, exotic beauty and give a new meaning to the words "recreation" and "relaxation".

#### Canyon of Polilimnio

In the municipality of Voufrada, 32 kms away from Kalamata on the road to Pylos, there is the canyon of Polilimnio with its lakes and waterfalls. Crossing a small path for 5 minutes and passing through dense vegetation and picturesque wooden bridges you will find yourselves in a secret paradise made of small lakes and waterfalls, surrounded by olive groves and vineyards.



### PURE GOLD

#### Olive oil & Kalamata olives



Messinia is one of the best-known olive production areas of Greece. The rich Messinian land offers a wealth of local products and natural ingredients, on which all local recipes are based. One of the best olive oil varieties in Greece (Koroneiki) is being produced here and it is a main ingredient for most- if not all- local dishes. Naturally, the original Kalamata olives are also included among the local delicacies, and they are served as a 'side dish' in almost all meals. Other popular products of the area are the famous figs of Messinia, honey, pastelli (sesame-and-honey bar), 'diples' (lightly-fried, thin pastries with honey, cinnamon and almonds) as well as 'talagani' cheese.



be  
inspired  
by the  
Peloponnese

## MESSINIA, THE FEELING OF AN ISLAND

With hundreds of kilometers of coastline, Messinia can feel more like an island. In addition to its coasts, it also has a number of small satellite islands, including Proti, Sfaktiria, Sapienza, Schiza, and Venetiko. The beaches of Messinia are countless and satisfy all preferences and tastes. White sand, big pebbles or steep rocks, all forms coexist side by side and make Messinia a heaven for sea lovers.



**Beaches to the east of Kalamata:** Kalamata, Almiros, Mikri Mantinea, Sadova, Ritsa, Foneas, Delphinia, Kalogria, Stoupa, Agios Dimitrios, Katafigio

**Beaches to the west of Kalamata:** Kalamata, Agios Nikolaos, Bouka, Analipsi, Velika, Karia Gonia, Tzane, Petalidi, Vrahakia, Barkaria, Makriamos, Chrani, Episkopi Agios Andreas, Kolonides, Peroulia, Gargarou, Koroni Castle, Zaga, Memi, Kalamaki, Finikounda, Anemomilos, Thines, Mavrovouni, Methoni, Gialova, Glossa, Chryssi Ammos, Voidokilia, Romanou, Mati, Vromoneri.

*Please contact us for more detailed information.*



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Greece is timeless...  
but now's the time!