



The Greek Mainland

In our view, even if Greece had no islands the mainland alone would still place it as a top holiday destination. There is so much variety, interest and scenic splendour here it is difficult to know where to start!

Of course, all the well known attractions of the islands apply equally to the mainland - wonderful beaches, a clean sea, a relaxed atmosphere, pretty villages and strong local traditions - not to mention superb food and wine everywhere you go. And, because the mainland is so vast, the resort areas can feel less crowded than those on the islands, although of course the popular areas see plenty of visitors in season.

Much of the mainland is mountainous, the highest peak being legendary Mount Olympus, home of the gods, at 2917 metres. Mountains run the length of the country - there are forests, lakes and gorges too - which hold great appeal for walkers, trekkers and lovers of traditional mountain villages.

But it is the history here that sets the Greek mainland apart. From the Macedonian kingdom of Alexander the Great in the north to the famous classical sites of Delphi and Olympia further south, an archaeological site or museum never seems far away. Not just the big names, there are a myriad of lesser known sites to discover. And Greece's more recent past has left a legacy of wonderful Byzantine and medieval sites, such as the awe inspiring Meteora monasteries in central Greece and atmospheric Mystras in the far south.

The Peloponnese is home to the highest concentration of historical sites and, apart from Mount Olympus in the north, is the birthplace of much of Greece's mythology.

The mainland is also home to Greece's main cities and towns. Athens and Thessaloniki need no introduction and can be incorporated into many of our holidays. But lesser known gems such as Venetian Nafplion, one of the most beautiful small towns in Greece, cannot be ignored.

Our chosen resort areas of mainland Greece are easily reached via direct flights from the UK and there are no ferries involved to lengthen transfer times. But mainland Greece is perfect for explorers and to really do this fascinating area justice a fly drive may be the answer.

Whichever area or holiday you choose, prepare to be delighted by what you find.