



## TOUR PROSPECTUS

This prospectus sets out the contents of the tour and together with the Booking Conditions and Booking Form is the basis of our contract with you.

# Greece – Peloponnese

## 3 - 17 May 2009

### Tour 0907

The Peloponnese is a region of outstanding natural beauty with snowcapped mountains, valleys of citrus groves and cypress trees, fine beaches and, of course, archaeological and architectural treasures. The tour starts and ends on the island of Zakynthos (Zante). After crossing by ferry to Kyllini on mainland Greece, the tour is a clockwise circuit of the Peloponnese, cycling through some of the most spectacular scenery in Greece. There will be time for optional visits to several ancient sites.

#### Itinerary

Sun 3 May	Meet at the hotel in Argasi, near Zakynthos, on the island of Zante, from 4 pm onwards. Assemble bikes. Stay 1 night.
Mon 4 May	Ferry from Zakynthos (Zante) to Kyllini (1¼ hours). Cycle to Olympia, site of the original Olympic Games. Stay 1 night.
Tues 5 May	Cycle from Olympia through beautiful mountain scenery to Dimitsana, a small medieval village overlooking the Loussios Gorge. A demanding day with several long climbs. Stay 2 nights.
Wed 6 May	Optional visit to the Water Power Museum, walking or independent cycling.
Thurs 7 May	Cycle from Dimitsana on quiet scenic roads to Tripoli, a vibrant town in the heart of the Peloponnese. After lunch, continue to Nafplio on the Argolic Gulf, one of the prettiest towns in Greece. Stay 2 nights.
Fri 8 May	Cycle to the ancient site of Mycenaee, take the bus to the ancient site of Epidavros, explore Nafplio's fortresses or relax on a nearby beach.
Sat 9 May	Cycle from Nafplio to Leonidio. The road hugs the coast for most of the route to Leonidio, offering fine views of the white pebble beaches and sparkling blue Argolic Gulf. Leonidio has a dramatic setting at the mouth of the Badron Gorge and is close to an excellent unspoilt beach. Stay 1 night.
Sun 10 May	From Leonidio there is a spectacular climb (33kms) up through the Badron Gorge to the peaceful mountain village of Kosmas. From Kosmas the road descends to Geraki where the route turns west to Sparta and the ruins at Mystras. Stay 2 nights.
Mon 11 May	A day off the bikes to visit the captivating ruins at Mystras or visit the excellent museum of olive oil in the nearby town of Sparta.
Tues 12 May	Cycle from Mystras to Messini via the spectacular Langada Pass, one of the most stunning roads in Greece. The highest point is at 1300 metres. Stay 1 night.
Wed 13 May	Cycle from Messini to the small seaside town of Kyparissia on the Peloponnese west coast. Stay 1 night.
Thurs 14 May	A tough day, starting at sea level and steadily climbing through wild mountain scenery to the Temple of Vasses, the highest temple in Greece (1,500 metres). From the temple the road descends to the medieval village of Andritsenia then undulates to Olympia. 120kms. There is the option of a more direct easier route if preferred. Stay 1 night.
Fri 15 May	Cycle from Olympia to Kyllini. Ferry to Zakynthos (Zante). Stay 2 nights.
Sat 16 May	Independent exploration of Zante by cycle, explore Zakynthos town or relax on the small sandy beach at Argasi. Time to prepare bikes if returning home next day.
Sun 17 May	Tour ends at Argasi after breakfast.
Distances	80 - 120kms per day

#### Luggage carrying

A vehicle will transfer all luggage to the next accommodation and provide support on moving on days. There will be space for two people and bikes if necessary.



### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you are adequately insured for this tour.

Whether you already hold a policy or will be taking out a new one, the cover it offers must be comparable to that stated in clause 8 of the Booking Conditions, and you must complete the enclosed Insurance Declaration Form and return it with your Booking Form.

CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours Ltd can accept no responsibility for any costs you may incur due to insufficient insurance cover.

### Accommodation and meals

Accommodation will be in 2-3 star hotels and pensions with en-suite facilities, two people sharing a room, on a bed and breakfast basis.

### Travel

Since there is no travel included in this tour, it is very important that you note that neither your leader nor CTC Holidays & Tours are responsible for you in any way until the appointed time at the designated meeting point. Should you fail to arrive at the appointed time for whatever reason, we will not be responsible for any additional expenses you may incur in order to meet up with the tour group. Before finalising travel arrangements to meet the tour, you should ensure that you have read and understood our booking conditions. Should this tour not attract sufficient bookings to reach the minimum operating size, we may cancel the tour at any time up to 10 weeks before departure. It is therefore recommended that you book fully flexible and refundable transport and accommodation as, in the event of the tour being cancelled, we will not be responsible for any losses incurred.

### Price - £750

The price is based on a minimum number of 12 participants taking part in the tour and is calculated at a rate of 1.18 Euros to £1 sterling (based on exchange rates published in the National Press on 30 August 2008; please note Booking Conditions, clause 4). If there are insufficient bookings by the closing date of 1 March 2009 we will contact you and return all monies paid, though in certain circumstances the tour may still run at below minimum numbers but at the same price.

#### Price includes:

- 14 nights hotel/pension accommodation, breakfast only, sharing rooms
- Support vehicle for luggage transfer between hotels
- Return ferry Zakynthos (Zante) / Kyllini
- Maps and route sheets
- CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours costs

#### Price does not include:

- Travel to and from Zakynthos (Zante)
- Transfers between Zakynthos (Zante) airport and hotel
- Any meals or refreshments other than breakfasts
- Entry fees at any attractions (budget £20)
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance

### Payment schedule

A deposit of £150 per person must accompany the Booking Form, with the final balance of £600 per person to be paid ten weeks prior to departure, by 23 February 2009. Cheques should be made payable to **CTC Tours** or complete the credit/debit card slip in the booking pack.

### Cancellations

Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

Written notice received:	Cancellation charge:
Before 22 February 2009	Deposit (£150)
23 February 2009 through to departure	100% (£750)

### Passports, Visas and Health

EU citizens must hold a passport that is still valid on the date of their return to their home country. Holders of non-EU passports are advised to check whether they require a visa.

There are no compulsory health-related requirements for UK residents, but you are strongly advised to check that your tetanus protection has not expired.

### To make a booking

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form together with your deposit and the relevant part of the Travel Insurance Declaration Form **directly to the leader** (address on Booking Form).

## LEADER'S INFORMATION SHEET

The information below is given by the tour leader to help enquirers decide if the tour is suitable for them.

# Greece – Peloponnese

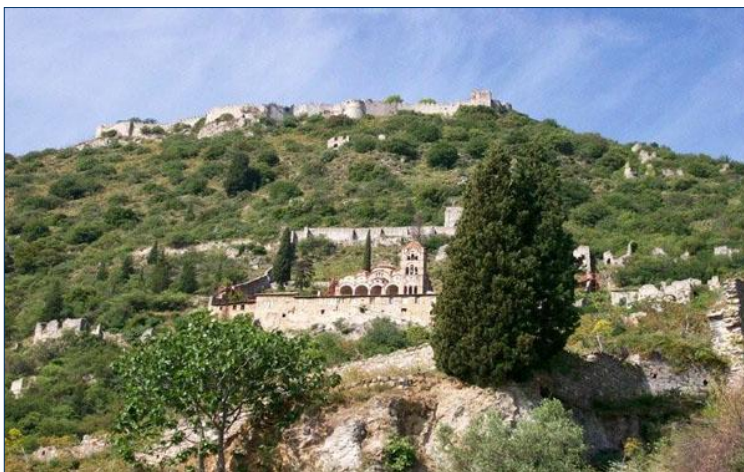
## 3 - 17 May 2009

### Tour 0907

#### The area covered by the Tour

The Peloponnese takes its name, meaning 'island of Pelops' from the mythical hero Pelops and from the Greek word for island, 'nisos'. The Peloponnese is not truly an island as it is joined to mainland Greece by a narrow causeway. Our tour will start on the tiny Greek Island of Zakynthos (Zante) in the Ionian Sea. We will cross to Kyllini in the Peloponnese via ferry. Our itinerary will take us south east to ancient Olympia then through beautiful mountain scenery to the tiny village of Dimitsana, perched high on the hillside overlooking the Loussios Gorge. Leaving the mountains behind us we'll head east to Nafplio, on the Argolic Gulf, where we spend two nights. Nafplio is one of Greece's prettiest towns. The setting is dominated by the towering Palamidi Fortress and there are several beaches close by. The ancient site of Epidavros is a short bus ride from here.

After following the scenic coast road south to Leonidio, we'll take the route over the Parnonas Mountains. The road snakes up the Badron Gorge through a series of hairpin bends to the peaceful village of Kosmas. From there, the road descends to the village of Geraki then onto Sparta and the captivating ruins at Mystras. We spend two nights here and there will be ample time to explore the ruins and relax by the small pool at the hotel. From Mystras our route will take us west on one of the most stunning roads in Greece via the spectacular Langada Pass (1,300 metres) to Messini near Kalamata. The next night is spent at the quiet seaside resort of Kyparissia on the west coast. Our penultimate ride is challenging. We start at sea level and climb to the Temple of Vasses, the highest temple in Greece at 1,300 metres. From there the road descends from the mountains and undulates back to Olympia. The scenery is some of the wildest in the Peloponnese. Our final ride is relatively easy, taking us from Olympia back to the ferry at Kyllini, and Zakynthos. The tour finishes with a full day on the island of Zakynthos for independent exploration by bike, visiting Zakynthos town or relaxing by the hotel pool or small sandy beach.



#### Getting There

This is a land only tour. There are flights with Thomas Cook ([www.thomascook.com](http://www.thomascook.com)) and Thomson Fly ([www.thomsonfly.com](http://www.thomsonfly.com)) to Zakynthos (Zante) from London Gatwick, Newcastle, Manchester, Glasgow, Birmingham and Stansted. Please make sure you have read the section on Travel in the Prospectus. Details of how to reach the hotel in Argasi from the airport (6kms) will be provided.

#### Rides and rest days

We have carried out a thorough reconnaissance of the route and classified this tour as enthusiast. Luggage will be transferred, but you should be cycling fit and capable of cycling daily distances of between 80-120kms. The terrain is mountainous and there are several long climbs. Cycling conditions, i.e. surface, traffic and the availability of refreshments, are generally good. The route is mainly on quiet roads with little traffic. There are some isolated stretches and you will need to carry some snacks and plenty of water. The support vehicle will be on call if the need arises.

It is not practical to ride as one group. Riding in smaller groups of similar speed and ability is recommended, re-grouping occasionally. You will be supplied with route information.

#### Accommodation / Meals

The chosen accommodation is of a reasonable standard, a mix of hotels and pensions. Breakfast is included. In the evenings we will eat at local tavernas. Budget £20 per day for meals/snacks.

#### Group information

The maximum group size will be 18 including the leaders.

## **Weather and clothing**

Spring is the best time to visit Greece. The weather should be warm. Some of the route is through mountainous scenery where the weather is more unpredictable. Sunscreen is advisable, though be sure to bring waterproof/windproof cycling gear.

## **Cycles / Equipment**

Touring cycles, hybrid bikes or MTBs with semi-slick tyres will be suitable. You should ensure your cycle is well maintained, paying particular attention to wheels, tyres and brakes. It is advisable to fit a calibrated cycle computer, as this will aid navigation. Lights will not be necessary. Each participant will be expected to carry sufficient spares and tools to deal with punctures and minor repairs. You will not need to carry luggage, but a rack top pack or bar bag will be useful for carrying wet weather gear, camera, snacks and your map. Road surfaces are generally good. Helmets are not mandatory but if you do not intend to wear one, please check that your insurance will cover you in the event of claim.

## **Maps**

The complete route is covered by the Road Editions Map of the Peloponnese - ISBN 960-8481-15-5. A daily map and route sheet will be provided.

Lonely Planet's guide to Greece (ISBN 1-74059-470-3) is a useful source of information.

## **Travel Insurance**

Information on CTC Cyclecover Travel Insurance is available from CTC (0870 873 0068) or can be found at [www.cyclecover.co.uk](http://www.cyclecover.co.uk).

In addition to travel insurance, EU nationals should carry a European Health Insurance Card. This enables you to take advantage of emergency medical services free or at a discount under a reciprocal provision that exists between EU member states. Your travel insurer may refuse to meet the extra costs of medical treatment if you do not carry this card.

## **About the leaders**

We are both enthusiastic cyclists and have been CTC members for 17 years. We have led tours to many worldwide destinations, and each year we look forward to the reunion with regular travelling companions but also get great satisfaction from introducing new members to the unique camaraderie of CTC holidays. We do not have a set style of leadership but adapt to suit the needs of the group. We encourage all prospective participants to contact us to talk through the tour prior to booking.

**John and Pat Ashwell**

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