



**OLIVE OIL HARVEST EXPERIENCE – PELOPONNESSE, GREECE**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

**9 Days/8 Nights**

**Land Only Package: \$2100 US / \$2450 CAD**

***The Tour is accompanied in English and French by your Nextep Tours Representative***

*A wonderful way to learn about Greek local culture is through an olive oil harvest experience.*

*The wild olive tree first appeared in the eastern Mediterranean but it was in Greece that it was first cultivated in the pre-historic times. Olive oil production held a prominent position in the Mycenaean society and economy. The olive tree was worshipped as sacred and its oil, besides being offered to the Gods was also used in the production of perfumes, medicine and in daily life as a basic product in diet. Until today the presence of the Olive Tree has been uninterrupted and closely connected with the culture of the Greek people and has evolved into a product of great gastronomic value worldwide.*

***At Nextep Tours we have created a unique opportunity to participate in the autumnal ritual that is essential in Greece’s agrarian and culinary interests. We will visit the Eastern Peloponnese whose region offers splendid landscapes and climate that allow some of the best olive trees to grow around picturesque, undiscovered villages. Our Tour winds up on the estate of a historical mansion with stunning history dated since the Byzantine period.***

*On the same tour we have combined visits to archaeological sites whose histories are intertwined with the olive traditions. Quality accommodations, culinary delights, interactive activities and excursions are included in order to make this an unforgettable, uplifting experience.*

**ITINERARY FOR 9 DAYS:**

- Day 1.** Athens
- Day 2.** Athens
- Day 3.** Mycenae, Epidaurus
- Day 4.** Nafplion, Sparta
- Day 5.** Laconia
- Day 6.** Laconia
- Day 7.** Laconia
- Day 8.** Monemvasia
- Day 9.** Athens



**INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY**



**Carefully selected Hotel Accommodations  
(8 nights)**



**Our Hotel Room in Laconia**





*All Greek Breakfasts*

*All Traditional Greek Dinners with Wine*

- *Transfers and transportation by private motor coach*
- *Accommodations at preferred 3, 4 and 5\*hotels*
- *Entrances to archaeological, historical sites: Acropolis, Mycenae, Epidaurus, Nafplion Castle, Monemvasia Castle*
- *Entrance to the Sparta Olive Oil Museum*
- *Harvest Picking of the Olive Tree*
- *Production Process of the Extra Virgin Olive Oil*
- *Wine and Olive Oil Tasting and Cooking Class*
- *Traditional Dancing Presentation with participation*
- *Adopt an Olive Tree and follow*

*Not included: Insurance and Personal Expenses, Gratuities, anything not indicated in “Included in your Journey”*

**YOUR DAILY EXPERIENCES**

**Day 1. ATHENS Arrival**



*Early morning landing or meeting at the Athens International Airport.*

*Arrival in the capital city of Greece. Its progressive urban lifestyle remains grounded in the familiarity of Greek traditions and values surrounded by priceless ancient sites. With your Nextep Tour guides by your side you will be intrigued by the everyday magic and fascinating historical narratives. Athens is the cradle of democracy in the western civilization from where the fundamentals of art, literature, philosophy and medicine are still present in our everyday modern life.*

*Transfer to our hotel. Enjoy a welcome Greek meze (snack) with ouzo and settle into a thematic start to our journey. After a short rest we meet for a presentation. A Greek welcome dinner awaits us with wine. (D)*

**Day 2. ATHENS**



*After our breakfast, departure for our morning tour of Athens, the historical capital of Europe. We meet our expert guide to visit the Acropolis. The sacred rock is the site of some of the most important masterpieces of worldwide architecture and art, the most renowned of which is the Parthenon temple.*

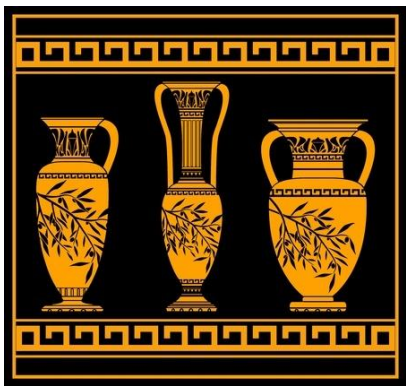
*The statue of Goddess Athena was housed at the Parthenon when in ancient times she had offered the Athenians the olive tree as a gift to them. We leave you some leisure time here for your personal shopping (\$) or visit to the Acropolis Museum.*

*In the early afternoon we leave behind the mainland and cross the Corinth canal for the Peloponnese to reach Nafplion city. A quaint seaside town, which is considered one of the most beautiful in the eastern Peloponnese and reflects the legacy of Venetian, Turkish and Frankish conquerors. Overnight at our hotel in Nafplion. (B, D)*





**Day 3. MYCENAE, EPIDAUROS**



Morning departure to visit the mighty kingdom of ancient Mycenae. The olive oil production was very important in the economy of Mycenaen society. The olive tree was a symbol in ancient Greece and the olive oil was used not only for its valuable nutritional quality but also for medical purposes. Our local expert guide awaits us to visit the Lion Gate and the remains of Agamemnon's Royal Palace, the Treasury of Atreus and the Beehive Tombs.

Our journey continues through the olive grove routes on our way to Epidauros where we visit the ancient theatre and view the Sanctuary of Asclepius, who was the god of Medecine. We return to the vibrant city of Nafplion for our Mediterranean dinner prepared with extra virgin olive oil. (B,D)



**Day 4. NAFPLION, SPARTA**



In the morning right after our breakfast, we visit the fortress. It commands an impressive view over the Argolic Gulf, and a backdrop of Nafplion City which was the first capital of the newly born Greek State. We say good bye to one of the most beautiful and romantic cities in Greece and depart for Sparta.

We visit the Olive Oil and Olive production Museum in the afternoon. In the evening we have reached our 18<sup>th</sup> century Historical Mansion Estate surrounded by the wild olive oil grove fields. A warm welcome embraces us with our traditional Greek dinner and wine. (B, D)



**Day 5. LACONIA**



Today after breakfast we explore the unspoiled countryside with its beautiful and natural surroundings. With our host at the Historical Mansion Estate we visit the olive groves and discover the secrets of their cultivation.

Through every step of this unique historical path we observe the amazing color shades, unique aromas and exquisite tastes that are a prelude to this evening's meal. The dishes are full of local flavors of the Peloponnese cuisine. (B,D)



**Day 6. LACONIA**



After our breakfast today, we focus on learning about the production process of the extra virgin olive oil under the tutelage of our host. We visit the neighboring oil mill and indulge in some olive oil tasting. With us we take some extra virgin olive oil to be used in our cooking class later this afternoon.



*We participate in the preparation of the fluffy bread and learn about cooking techniques that conform to the standards of our Greek dinner tonight. The healthy meal does not owe its title only to the olive oil but also to the consumption of the fresh produce, rich with nutritious value found in our host’s garden.*

*The fresh ingredients, simple use of flavorings (herbs) and spices, the famous Greek olive oil, vegetables that are cultivated in natural ways allow our senses to experience the rich taste and their aroma.*

*Greek gastronomy has recorded a history of around 4,000 years, with special characteristics based on pure and unique quality goods produced on the Greek land.*

*(B,D)*



**Day 7. LACONIA**



*After our authentic Laconian breakfast we embark on a hands-on experience in olive picking. Having learned the about the techniques and practices, today we put them to use. In Greece, little has changed over time, olives are picked by hand and little machinery is used.*

*In the olive grove you will have the opportunity to adopt an olive tree of your choice. From the artisanal producers you will receive your adoption certificate and have the chance to monitor the productivity of your tree. In the afternoon we can either participate in a trekking walk to a nearby church or take the path to visit Harakia Beach. In the evening, we raise our spirits with a program of traditional dancing by a trained group of Greek dancers with the option of our participation during our dinner with wine. (B,D)*



**Day 8. MONEMVASIA**



*Right after our breakfast we depart for a visit to Monemvasia.*

*We will walk the narrow strait of land, and only causeway, to reach the Medieval Castle and its magnificent views of the*

*endless sea. Its vaulted alleyways and stone fortresses were originally constructed in the Medieval Ages and have been continuously inhabited since.*

*A tour is arranged at a local winery estate, wine tasting included. We leave behind the Peloponnese of unique, authentic beauty and return to Athens tonight. A warm farewell dinner with wine awaits us at our Attica seaside hotel. (B,D)*

**Day 9. ATHENS**

*Right after our breakfast in Athens we depart for the airport or have the opportunity to extend your stay in Greece. (B)*



***Land Only Escorted Package Price: \$ 2100 US/\$2450 CAD  
9 Days / 8 Nights***

***DEPOSIT \$500 per person***

WELCOME TO

