# Epidaurus

Peloponnese // Epidaurus by Greeka.com



















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# **Map of Epidaurus**



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## **About Epidaurus**

Epidaurus is a modern town about 3 hours drive from Athens. It belongs to Argolida area and it is situated on the eastern part of Peloponnese. The historical legacy is related to mythology, as it is said to be the birthplace of Asklepios, the god of healing, son of Apollo. In fact, Epidaurus has the most popular health centre of the ancient times, called the Asklepieion.

During the 4th and 3rd century BC, this building was enlarged and reconstructed, as part of a Roman demanding program destined to monumental buildings. The project was successful and its benefits extended over the Hellenistic times.

Epidaurus counts on some other characteristic monuments that also make it very unique. One of them is the Ancient Theatre, a monument whose magnificence remains until today. Just like the Asclepieion, the theatre owes part of its splendour to the Romans, since during their domination it received 21 more rows in addition to the 34 that already had.

Another advantage of this place is its acoustics, to the point that the voices of the actors do not need to be amplified, in spite of a 15.000 spectator capacity. No matter the location within the amphitheatre, all spectators can hear the play perfectly.

Apart from the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus, there is also another theatre in the area, the Epidaurus Little Theatre, which was is also used today to host musical and theatrical performances. However, the area of Epidaurus is not only famous for its ancient monuments, but also for its greenery and natural beauty. The traditional villages of Ancient and Nea Epidaurus, the beautiful monasteries, the impressive gorges and the lovely beaches dot the landscape.

Ancient Epidaurus is a relaxing place that attracts a few tourists in summer. In winter, it is quiet and its inhabitants make their living from fishing and agriculture. Nea Epidavros is a historical place for the Greeks, as this is where the First Institutional Meeting of the Greek State took place there in 1822. Above this village, there stands a ruined Medieval Castle.



## Villages of Epidaurus



## **Ancient Epidaurus**

**Location:** About 2 hours drive from Athens

**Description:** Ancient Epidaurus is among the most important archaeological sites in Greece, famous for the impressive theatre that still hosts performances in summer.

Sightseeing: Ancient Theatre, Archaeological Museum, Sanctuary Of Asklepios











## **Ancient Epidaurus Village**

**Location:** 15 km from the ancient site of Epidaurus

**Description:** Ancient (or Palia) Epidaurus is a nice seaside village that gradually develops into a lovely tourist destination. The region has many picturesque coves for swimming and it is surrounded by beautiful pine forests.

Sightseeing: Church Of Agios Nikolaos, Little Theatre











# **Beaches of Epidaurus**



## Palia Epidaurus beach

**Location:** In a walking distance from the village of Ancient Epidaurus **Description:** The lovely beach of Palia Epidaurus has sandy and pebbled paths, but the water is clear.









## Sightseeing in Epidaurus



#### **Ancient Theatre**

**Location: Ancient Epidaurus** 

This is the most famous ancient theatre of Greece. With amazing harmony and acoustics, this theatre was built in phases from the 4th till the 2nd century BC. In summer, many theatrical performances take place there.









Archaeological Museum

**Location: Ancient Epidaurus** 

The Archaeological Museum of Epidaurus is located next to the Ancient Theatre. Small in size, it hosts interesting findings from excavations in the site.



**Sanctuary Of Asklepios** 

**Location: Ancient Epidaurus** 

The Sanctuary of Asklepios, also called Asklepieion, was a healing centre in the ancient times. People would go there to be cured from illnesses and diseases. It is located next to the Ancient Theatre.









#### **Little Theatre**

# **Location: Ancient Epidaurus Village**

The Little Theatre of Ancient Epidaurus is located amidst many fruit trees close to the village of Palia Epidaurus. It was built in different stages from the 4th century BC till the Hellenistic times. Some theatre and musical performances take place there in summer.



# **Credits**

Greeka.com would like to thank the following members for their valuable contribution, as some of the photos included in this guide belong to them.

Migeli, Olympias, blueplanet, davides, milos58, stefan, vasia, zwitserw



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