

Argolic Gulf and East Peloponese 2 week Flotilla Route



The sailing area of the eastern Peloponnese described here extends from the southern end of the Argolic Gulf down to the south western tip of the Peloponnese at Cape Malea and on around to the island of Elafonisos and south to the island of Kíthera. This is a slightly artificial division, but we have to describe it some way!

Our Eastern Peloponnese two-week flotilla sails much of this region as well as the Argolic Gulf area, so if you are considering this flotilla it is worth reading the details for both areas.

The winds & sailing

The eastern Peloponnese sailing area includes the Argolic Gulf to the north and extends down the eastern shore of the Peloponnese to Cape Malea in the far south.

The northern part of the sailing area is therefore the Argolic Gulf which is well protected from the summer 'Meltemi' wind that blows from the north/north easterly.

As you head south towards Monemvasia, so you gradually leave the shelter of the Argolic Gulf and enter the more exposed south eastern Peloponnese which can experience more of the 'Meltemi' wind. That said, it's also possible to sail (well, motor!) to Monemvasia in a flat calm, so it is more a case that if the 'Meltemi' blows, then you can be more exposed, but by heading north again you can tuck back into the shelter of the Argolic Gulf, Hydra and Spetses.



Ports & places of interest

The eastern Peloponnese coast is a place of quiet unspoilt villages and anchorages. You will find waterside tavernas but you will be well away from large towns and the noise of all-nights bars and discos. If you look for peace and natural beauty, this is the area for you.

Please note that waypoints are provided for identification purposes only and represent good 'stand-off' locations. However, they are not intended to be used for navigation.

Hydra (Ídhra) 37° 21'.02N 23° 27'.91E (WGS84)



Hydra is one of the most beautiful islands in Greece. There are massive stone merchants' houses nestling in a rocky landscape.

The harbour is very small and space is at a premium and so it is always important to get into harbour early.

There are countless restaurants and bars and the whole effect is enhanced by the absence of motorised transport.

Ermioni 37° 23'.21N 23° 15'.50E (WGS84)

It is really worthwhile finding the time to visit this beautiful village sat on a pine-clad peninsula. Choose the north or south quay according to the wind direction and enjoy magnificent sunsets from the many fine tavernas.

An impressive farmers' market is held every Thursday morning where you can buy fresh local produce.



Port Heli (Porto Kheli) 37° 18'.83N 23° 08'.13E (WGS84)

While there are several beautiful anchorages in the approach to the main bay, Porto Heli itself is busy and crowded and is best kept as a safe anchorage in bad weather. It is also a good spot for provisioning from one of the many large shops.

Spetsai (Spetses / Spétsai) 37° 15'.85N 23° 09'.85E (WGS84)

Spetsai is a beautiful historical island that should be visited so as to not miss its magnificent houses, traditional boatyards and the house of the Greek heroine of the War of Independence, Bouboulina.

While it may not be easy to find a place in the old harbour, there are several delightful bays to choose from depending upon the prevailing wind direction and strength. Transport around the island by water taxi is available.

Koiladhia (Koiládhia) 37° 25'.54N 23° 06'.78E (WGS84)



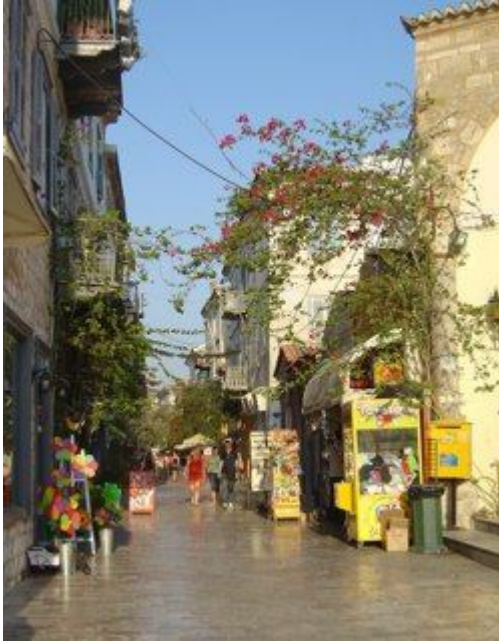
While Koiladhia is not a beautiful village, the bay affords totally safe anchoring. Eating out is for the fish lover as Koiladhia is a working fishing port.

On the eastern side of the bay, opposite the village, you can visit the Francithi cave which has been the source of numerous prehistoric remains including the skeleton of a stone-age inhabitant, believed to be the oldest human remains found in Greece.

Vivari (Khaïdhari) 37° 31'.38N 22° 55'.84E (WGS84)

This stunning landlocked inlet has the remains of a small Venetian fort on its Northern entrance.

You can moor at the head of the inlet and there are excellent tavernas on the shore. It's also possible to take a taxi into Navplion a few miles to the north.

Navplion (Naphlion) 37° 34'.05N 22° 47'.50E (WGS84)

This city is unmissable and worth staying for a day. The picturesque old town is a mixture of Venetian, Turkish and neo-classical buildings and a stroll through the narrow streets and open squares overhung with bougainvillea, clematis and jasmine is a delightful experience.

There are countless excellent tavernas and bars and probably the best ice-cream parlour in Greece!

Perched above the city is the huge [Venetian Citadel of the Palamidi](#) and about twenty minutes north by taxi are the remains of [the Citadel of Mycenae](#), and [Tiryns](#), both of which are a world heritage sites.

The harbour is more commercial than many you may visit, but the town, Palamidi and general ambiance of the place more than makes up for it!

Astros (Ástros) 37° 24'.82N 22° 45'.98E (WGS84)

Astros harbour gives good shelter in the summer and is clean enough to swim in. A short walk above the town you can visit a ruined Venetian castle. There are numerous tavernas and bars and restaurants around the sandy bay and a few kilometres of beach.

Tiros (Paralia Tirou/Tíros / Tyros) 37° 14'.72N 22° 52'.10E (WGS84)

This has become a new stop since the mole has been extended providing good shelter. It is worth the visit for the friendly restaurants and the charming village on the hill.



Sambatiki 37° 11'.32N 22° 54'.45E (WGS84)

A new baby harbour with limited facilities, but peaceful and useful in high season when other harbours are full.

Taverna choice is very limited, but the food is simple and wholesome. Tables are laid out after sunset quite literally on the beach!

Plaka / Leonidio (Leonídhion Plaka) 37° 08'.68N 22° 53'.60E (WGS84)

This is a must; Plaka harbour is situated under impressive rocky slopes and boasts a mile long beach with tavernas selling dishes sourced from the local market gardens.

It is the port for Leonidhion which is situated four kilometres inland on the floor of the valley and is the capital of the region.



Leonidhion is an untouched Arcadian town and worth a visit to see the beautiful traditional stone houses and the spectacular landscape that surrounds it. Nearby is the spectacular convent of Mount Elonis.

Leonidhion Plaka counts as one of Rob Heikell's top six favourite spots in Greece (Sailing Today, issue 136, August 2008).

**Kiparissi (Kiparíssi) 36° 58'.60N 23° 00'.30E (WGS84)**

Kiparissi is situated in a spectacular bay surrounded by steep mountains that provide good sheltered mooring from all but north easterly winds. There are three quays; town quay, chapel cove and the north west quay, each appropriate for sheltering from a different wind direction.

The village has several tavernas and basic provisions can be found.

Between Kipirissi and Yerakas there are some wonderful anchorages providing the weather is calm.



Yerakas (Yérakas / Ieraka) 36° 47'.35N 23° 05'.61E (WGS84)

Yerakas is something really different; a totally protected fjord opening out into a (very) shallow inland salt water lagoon. It is an enchanting little place with a couple of excellent tavernas along the water's edge.

There is a small shop under one of the tavernas. It has limited opening hours and even more limited stock, but does sell Kojac lollipops!

On the northern point of the entrance are the ruins of an acropolis dating from Mycenaean times which sit above ÁK Kástro (Castle Point).



Monemvasia (Monemvasía) 36° 40'.90N 23° 03'.30E (WGS84)



Monemvasia is unique and should be visited at all costs. It will leave you remembering it as one of the most impressive places you have ever visited. Leave a day for exploration and relaxing in the excellent restaurants and wandering the streets and shops.

The colossal rock has the remains of a Byzantine town spread across the top and a medieval village tucked onto its southern side. To enter the village is to take a step back in time. A causeway joins it to the mainland town of Yefira where the harbour is situated.



Cape Malea (Ák Maléas) 36° 28'.00N 22° 57'.60E (WGS84)

It is a considerable distance from Monemvasia to the next stopping points of Elafonisos or the harbours of Kithera. Cape Malea and the Kithera-Elafonisos strait have a reputation for strong winds and confused seas making it difficult to return north. If you intend to visit these two islands, make sure you have ample time to return and check the weather forecast before putting to sea.

About these notes

These notes are a general guide and appetiser to this sailing area. For more in-depth information we strongly advise you consult the 'Greek Waters Pilot' and 'West Aegean' pilot guides by Rod Heikell. These unique publications are available from Amazon and are indispensable for those wishing to get the best from sailing these waters. Copies of these guides are provided on board, but if you want to consider and pre-plan your route you may wish to purchase copies before you arrive.