



Sample Pages- Day 2- Peloponnese Peninsula

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Palamidi, Walking Tour of Nafplio, Bourtzi, and Coastal Path to Karathona

The Plan

- ❖ Tour the fortress of Palamidi. Start early as it gets hot climbing all those stairs.
- ❖ Explore the Old Town of Nafplio and take a boat out to see Bourtzi in the harbour.
- ❖ Walk/ bike 2.5 miles to Karathona Beach. You can swim at Karathona Beach, Arvanitia Beach, and at the old lido (pool) on the Arvanitia Promenade along the way.
- ❖ Optional Activity- Drive to the nearby Mycenaean ruins of Tiryns and its Tholos, then stop in Nea Kios for lunch at Tsakiris taverna.



Map of Day 2



Morning Day 2

Palamidi, Nafplio Walking Tour, Bourtzi

8am Palamidi Fortress

Plan on 2- 2.5 hours total, including 20 min to climb up and 10 min to climb down

Make sure your camera or cell phone has plenty of room in its memory because the panoramic view from Palamidi is breathtaking. The fortress is divided into eight bastions (all named for Greek heroes) but there aren't actually too many sights to check off. That doesn't mean it's not lots of fun to wander around the ruins of the different bastions and explore. And the views are killer.

A Very Brief History

Palamidi was built by the Venetians between 1711-1714, a very short time in those days, and is considered a military marvel because the separate bastions were designed to hold even if the surrounding ones fell.

Despite their engineering prowess, the Venetians promptly lost the fortress to the Turks in 1715 as the they left it woefully undermanned. Turns out you do need actual soldiers to defend the walls even if they are superiorly designed. Palamidi then changed hands several times over the next 100 years.



View from near the top of the stairs up to Palamidi

What To See In Palamidi

Look for **Achilles Bastion**, appropriately named as it was the first bastion overrun by the Turks in 1715. The Greeks also used this bastion as an entry point in 1822 when Independence hero, Staikos Staikopoulos, led some rebels up the cliffs in a surprise attack on the Turks. Definitely the weak point of this fortress.

Inside **St. Andreas Bastion**, look up and behind the small church in the courtyard that gives its name to the bastion. You'll find a tiny passageway leading to a cell/ store room??? No one could tell us but it was fun to climb in there.



Miltiades Bastion, the one nearest to the entrance from the parking lot, was used as a prison. One of the leaders of Greek Independence, General Kolokotronis, was kept here from 1834-1835 after opposing the new King Otto's rule.



Pathway around one of the bastions. It really is built right up to the edge of the cliff.

To Get To Palamidi

Drive Follow 25 Martiou as it winds out of town and climbs the big hill. You will see the clearly marked turnoff to the right for Palamidi at the top. It takes about 10 min to drive there and there is free parking by the entrance gate. See *Map for Coastal Walk to Karathona* on the following pages for the turn-off.

Walk Legend says that there are 1000 steps up to Palamidi (spoiler alert- there aren't but it definitely feels like it is 1000). Follow Polizoidi/ Π ο λ υ ζ ω ι δ ο υ towards Arvanitia Beach from Kapodistrias Square and you will see the sign for the stairs on your left before you get to the top of the hill.

The Details

Entrance fee is €8 adults and €4 for kids. (Nov- March, it is €4 for everyone.) You can pay at the entrance by the car park or by the stairs. There may or may not be concessions but the bathrooms will be open.

The fortress is open May- Aug 8am-8pm, Nov- March 830am-330pm, October 8am-6pm, and April and Sept 8am-7pm. Times frequently change though, especially in the off season. Double check the [official website](#) right before you go. There are a few holidays listed on the website when it is closed or free admission- avoid both.

Some of the walls on the upper bastions are crumbling and lead to straight drop-offs, so hold onto younger kiddos if you venture close to the edges. It is easy to stay away from the edge though, so we didn't find it particularly dangerous.

More Information About Palamidi: [The Municipality of Nafplio](#)



After you descend back down the stairs, cross Polizoidi Street and walk down the hill a very short distance. Go down some stairs on your left to a small park and the restaurant Propolis. You will see the Land Gate by the statue in front of you.

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