

PARSIFAL
YACHTING

MONEMVASIA

itinerary



Monemvasia

Surrounded by the teal waters of the Aegean Sea, vast, imposing, Monemvasia (moh-nem-vah-sia) is an iceberg-like slab of rock, with sheer cliffs rising hundreds of metres from the sea, linked to the mainland by a single, highly defensible causeway.



Monemvasia Castle

These days Monemvasia incorporates both the rock, with its medieval village enclosed within the walls of its kastro (fort) , plus the modern mainland village of Getyra, just across the causeway. 'You can find everything you want in this city - except water', observed an 18th-century Turkish traveller. Remarkably - given that for most of its existence Monemvasia's only source of drinking water came from the sky - unlike its Byzantine contemporary, Mystras, Monemvasia has remained inhabited to this day.



Monemvasia Castle

Only 12 people live in the kastro permanently, however; the rest go home to Geyra after a day's work. In spite of Monemvasia's immense popularity, the extraordinary visual impact of the medieval village – and the delights of exploring it – override the effects of mass tourism in summer. Cross the causeway and follow the curving road that skirts the cliff to the official entrance, a narrow tunnel in a massive fortifying wall. The tunnel is L-shaped, so the magical town is concealed until you emerge on the other side.



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