

PARSIFAL
YACHTING

PYLOS

itinerary





Pylos

Coastal Pylos (pee-loss), 51km southwest of Kalamata, presides over the southern end of an immense bay. With its huge natural harbour that's almost enclosed by the Staktiria Islet, its castle and surrounding pine-covered hills, Pylos is not just picturesque, but is also one of the most historically significant towns in the Peloponnese.

'Sandy Pylos', the Mycenaean kingdom mentioned by Homer, lay a short distance from here, near Gialova Lagoon, and was one of the few places where the Spartans suffered an ignoble defeat at the hands of the Athenians. Also, from this very bay on 20 October 1827, the British, French and Russian fleets, under the command of Admiral Codrington, fired at point-blank range on Ibrahim Pasha's combined Turkish, Egyptian and Tunisian fleet, sinking 53 ships and killing 6000 men, with negligible losses on the Allies' side. The attack was known as the Battle of Navarino (Navarino being the town's former name) and was a decisive moment in the War of Independence.



Methoni Castle

The more intact and accessible of two castles that lie on either side of Navarino Bay, this was built by the Turks in 1573 on the hilltop at the southern edge of town, off the road to Methoni. Within its formidable walls is an excellent little museum with exhibits on underwater archaeology, a citadel, a mosque converted into a church (under renovation) and a courtyard surrounded by dungeons (used as a prison to contain warring Maniots until the 1900s).



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