

# Something old, something new

Ancient meets uber-modern in the thousand-year-old city of Nafplio, home to two of the most luxurious hotels in Greece

There are few places in the world so synonymous with history and legend as Greece. And the ancient town of Nafplio, just one and a half hours from Athens, stands out as one of the country's most evocative regions of all.

At its heart rises the Palamide castle, the ancient protector of the city, perched at the top of its 999 steps. Off to one side, the harbour gleams, lined with restaurants and fish tavernas and dominated by the island castle of Bourtzi. Far below, stone-paved streets wind away, lined with traditional cafes, designer stores and neo-classical houses and leading to the piazza-style Syntagma Square – the perfect place to watch the modern world go by against this evocative ancient backdrop. And beyond the city walls, you can wander through the village of Tiryns, founded according to legend by Cyclops;

***This page:*** Private pool in an Ambassador Villa, Nafplia Palace



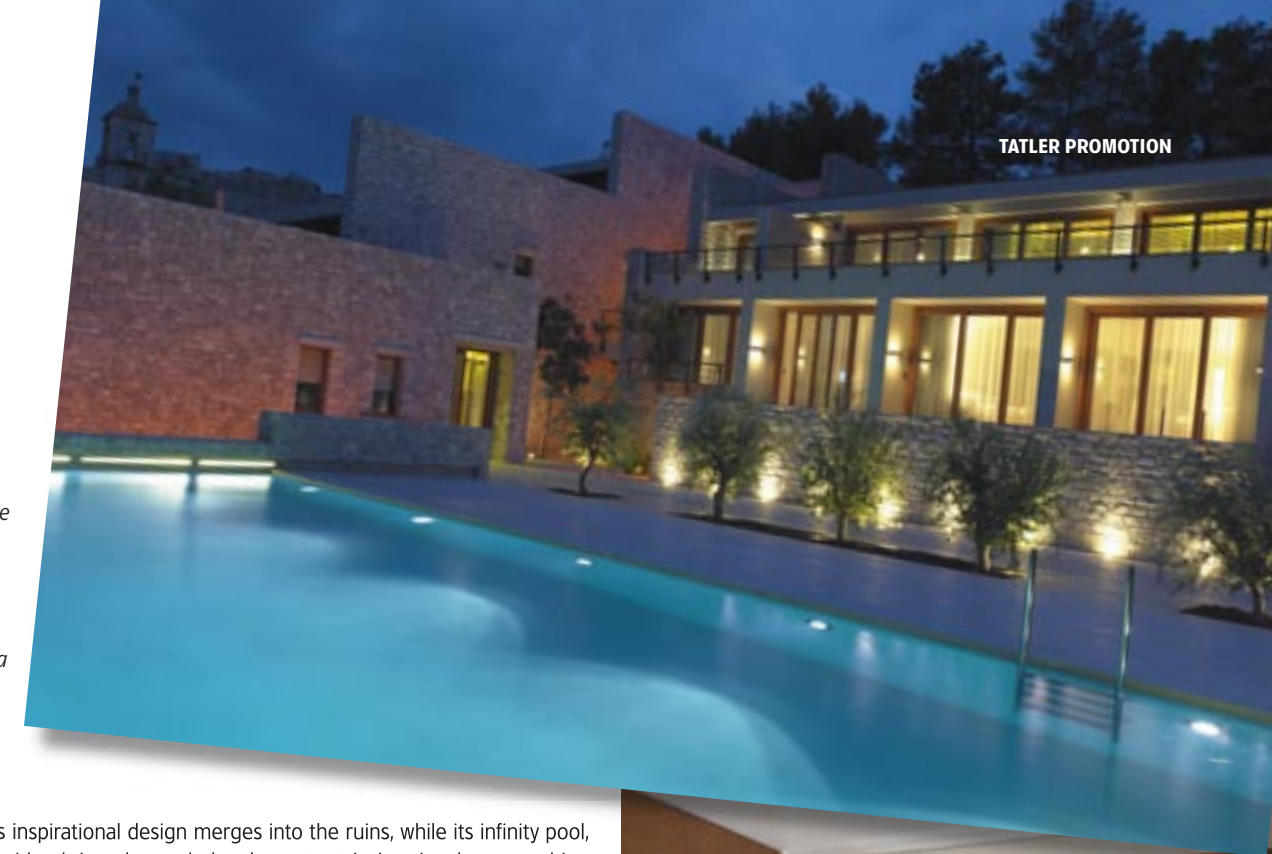


sample the delights of Nemea's historic vineyards; explore the islands of Spetses or Hydra nearby; or watch a play in the ancient theatre of Epidauros (its acoustics still astounding 2,400 years on), with classic scenes played out here almost every summer weekend. And after all the sightseeing, head to Tolo – a seaside village set in a sea of citrus trees – to sip ouzo in a taverna by the sea, and watch the water turn from green to blue to purple in the ensuing dusk.

The scene is set: now all that's needed is somewhere equally memorable to stay while in town. And the name on everyone's lips here is, naturally, Nafplia Luxury Hotels. For intimate luxury, it is difficult to rival the Amphytrion – a member of the Small Leading Hotels of the World, perched near the legendary castle of Akronafplia, just five minutes' walk from the city centre. Awarded for its impeccable service and unique design, at this sophisticated boutique hotel luxury is defined by detail, resulting in a warm, home-from-home atmosphere – although at home you are unlikely to have Hermès spa treatments lining your Jacuzzi, wake up to idyllic harbour (and Bourtzis castle) views, or have a beautiful beach within a five-minute walk.

Alternatively, nestled between the third century BC ruins of Akronafplia (and as such the only hotel in Greece within a historical site) is the one and only Nafplia Palace. With such a setting comes a truly unique atmosphere – and of course spectacular views over the sea, the coastline of Nafplio, the Old Town and the castle of Palamide. Huge suites add to its air of exclusivity, while the likes of wooden crafted ceilings, stone lined walls and marble bathrooms apply the luxurious finishing touches. But it's the new Bungalow Wing – 33 individual bungalows, suites and villas with private pool – that really demands attention. At least, that is, once inside.

**Clockwise from top right,**  
bungalow wing and the infinity pool; executive bungalow suite with pool; Jacuzzi bathtub for two all at Nafplia Palace; Arvanitia Beach with views of Palamide Castle; Ambassador Villa suite interior; suite pool; Amphytrion Hotel Veranda restaurant with view of Bourtzis isle; Ambassador Villa with private pool, offering views of Nafplia Palace



From the outside, the Wing's inspirational design merges into the ruins, while its infinity pool, solely for the use of its guests, blends into the sea below. In contrast, its interiors boast anything but uniformity. Luxury, comfort and state-of-the-art technology take on new meaning throughout the four levels of accommodation (Comfort VIP Club, Premium Club, Exclusive Club and Platinum Club), with the likes of VIP reception areas, heated floors, touch screen electronics, sound-proof walls, remote-controlled mattresses, aerospa and jacuzzi bathtubs, private terraces with panoramic views and outdoor pools within reach of the castle walls. Take an Exclusive Club Ambassador Spa Villa Sea View and you can take a relaxing bath, light the pivoting fireplace (the other side is in the bedroom) and watch the fish in the adjacent aquarium glide through the water – then enjoy your favorite movie on your home cinema while sipping a drink at your private bar. Take it one step further with the Platinum Club Presidential Villa Sea View, and you can also regulate the temperature of the pool via your in-room touch screen, and enjoy 100sqm to yourself. Here, ancient history meets the very ultimate in 21st century hospitality.

By day, the hotel's main pool provides for hours of relaxation with a breathtaking view of the Bay of Argolis; an elevator carries guests from the Nafplia Palace directly to the centre of Nafplio's old town, while the nearby Arvanitia Beach can be found within easy walking distance of the hotel and under its care (so yes, sunlounger service comes as standard). Lunch is served at the Kafenia, a traditional taverna offering an array of classic Greek dishes including fish fresh from the sea. Come evening, opt for an a la carte dinner in the main restaurant, or head for the Five-Star-Diamond awarded Amimoni, for the finest Mediterranean cuisine under the moon, with the town's lights twinkling far below.

**Call Nafplia Luxury Hotels on +3027520 70800, email: [reservations@nafplionhotels.gr](mailto:reservations@nafplionhotels.gr) or visit [www.helioshotels.gr](http://www.helioshotels.gr)**

