



Central Greece

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Apollonia (p210)
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- » Lost Unicorn Hotel (p233)

Why Go?

To journey to the 'centre' of the Earth – according to the oracles of ancient Delphi, these days among Greece's most visited places for the archaeological site, ancient footpaths and vistas of the Corinthian Gulf. Delphi is rivalled in popularity only by Meteora, the breathtaking outcroppings of rocky towers topped by teetering monasteries (and rock climbers).

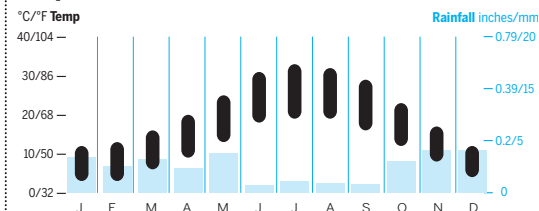
The central Greece (κεντρική Ελλάδα) region, too, holds many underrated surprises. Alpine meadows and valleys comprise the South Pindos mountain range, perfect for river-rafting and breezy summer hikes. And it doesn't get much better than the beautiful Pelion Peninsula, home to Jason and the Argonauts, and criss-crossed with historic cobblestone paths linking lush mountain hamlets with coves and beaches that rival the best islands (yes! sssshhhh!).

And speaking of 'good, better, best'? The region's good-natured people serve up hospitality, superb experiences and great cuisine.

There's no better place to navel gaze.

When to Go

Delphi



Apr & May Wild herbs and flowers mingle in alpine meadows.

Sep Stable, sunny weather and fewer crowds.

Orthodox Easter Villages show off traditional customs with religious parades and copious food.

DELPHI & STEREA ELLADA

Greek mythology and history seem to mingle in the rugged and scenic landscape of Sterea Ellada (Στερεά Ελλάδα). On the slopes of Mt Parnassos, overlooking the Gulf of Corinth, sits Delphi, regarded by the ancient Greeks as the centre of the world. Beyond Delphi, the land stretches east to Attica, where legen-

dary King Oedipus met his fate, and west to Messolongi, where British bard Lord Byron died of fever during the Greek War of Independence. In fact, the region acquired the name Sterea Ellada (Mainland Greece) in 1827, as part of the newly formed Greek state.

Sterea Ellada is bordered by the narrow gulfs of Corinth and Patra in the south, and Epiros to the north. Much of this mountainous region is known as the Agrafo or 'Unre-



Central Greece Highlights

- 1 Try a *tsipouro* or three with the locals in **Volos** (p227)
- 2 Feast on fresh trout from mountain streams near **Karpensisi** (p220)
- 3 Plunge down a white-water river on a raft in the **Tria Potamia area** (p238)
- 4 Wander along cobblestone trails to the sea on the **Pelion Peninsula** (p229)
- 5 Climb the monastery-topped rock pinnacles at **Meteora** (p241), following ancient footpaths to hidden caves
- 6 Meditate over the last light of day at the **Sanctuary of Athena Pronea** (p208), in Ancient Delphi
- 7 Photograph fishermen's huts and the pelicans as they glide over **Klisova Lagoon** (p216)