



A view of Poros from the mainland.

PHOTO/CAPT. JOHN CAMPBELL

Peloponnesus worth a stop on any voyage near Greece

By Capt. John Campbell

Greece has two well-known cruising areas: The Ionian on the west coast and the Aegean to the east, between Greece and Turkey.

The Ionian is favored with generally lighter winds. The Aegean is famous for the various islands that have Greece's most spectacular archaeological ruins. It can be good cruising, but it is – at least in the central area – subject to the Meltemi, the strong winds that sweep down periodically from the north.

There is a third area, however, that is comparatively little known and relatively rarely visited, and that is Peloponnesus.

Peloponnesus is actually an island, separated from the rest of Greece by the Gulf of Corinth and the canal. In summer, the prevailing winds at the southern end of Peloponnesus are westerlies, which can often be quite strong; 30 knots and more is not uncommon. Whilst such winds may not trouble a vessel passing eastward, they can prove daunting for those attempting to go west, when a passage through the Corinth canal looks ever more attractive.

Many vessels use the canal, as many folk seem intent on getting to Athens as quickly as possible and the eastern end of the canal is quite close to Athens. So the waters of Peloponnesus tend to be little visited by boats on

passage and few cruising boats see it as a destination.

It is a shame, because Peloponnesus offers some good cruising as well as interesting places to visit. Best of all, it is too far west to be much affected by the dreaded Meltemi.

Poros

If coming eastbound through the canal, instead of automatically turning north for Athens, think about going south to Poros. You can go stern-to off the west side of the town, or anchor out in one of the bays a mile or two to the west. Most basic supplies including fuel are available in Poros. There is a regular fast-ferry and hydrofoil service to Piraeus, from where it is a relatively short taxi-ride to view the sights of Athens.

If visiting Athens, then the Acropolis is, of course, worth a visit, but I was rather disappointed in the national museum, and the city itself is hot and dusty with terrible air pollution. It would be much nicer to return to the boat in Poros at the end of the day's sightseeing and go for a refreshing swim rather than spend the evening in one of the rather un-welcoming marinas close to Athens.

Epidhavros

A little north of Poros is the bay of

See GREECE, page B26

Bertling

Miami Houston London Dubai Sao Paulo Walter Ramirez	8120 NW 84 th Street Miami FL 33166 Ph: 281-774-2300 Fax: 281-449-7462 Email: yacht@Bertling.com John Mark	Singapore Tokyo Perth Shanghai Mumbai Talon Felts
--	--	--

Worldwide procurement & transport of spares and supplies
 Yacht transport management

Whenever. Wherever. 24/7/365

since 1865 www.bertling.com

SYS

SuperYacht Support Inc.

Customized Planned Maintenance Systems

- ◆ Save money on costly down time due to system failure
- ◆ Ensure that all equipment is serviced regularly
- ◆ Ensure that all safety equipment is inspected monthly
- ◆ Separate logs for engines and generators
- ◆ Easy to use system based on Royal Naval aircraft schedules
- ◆ This system comes with concise instructions & photos on how to service all your systems & equipment
- ◆ Computerized or in book form

P: 954.661.3749 • F: 954.467.2255 • www.superyachtsupport.com

Claire's Marine Outfitters

Est. 1988

Your Complete Chandler & Supply Source
 in Ft. Lauderdale for Worldwide Delivery
 Service - Service - Service

Captains, Engineers & Mates
 We Can Help!!

- Paints & Sealants
- Deck Supplies

- Anchors & Chains
- Parts & Rebuild Kits

• Electrical & Plumbing

ON SALE!

HOZELOCK

HOZELOCK TRICOFLEX S.A.S.

19mm - 25M

19mm Tricoflex Hose
Now Available in White!

Claire's Marine Outfitters

2921 SW 2nd Ave. • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315

954.523.4301

clairesmarineoutfitters.com



smart move
Accommodating the Yachting Industry for over 12 years

Weekly – Monthly
Efficiencies – Studios – Apartments
2, 3, & 4 bedroomed homes

Fully Furnished, A/C, Cable TV,
Telephone and Internet

CREW HOUSES

- 2 per room
- Internet

REAL ESTATE SALES

Phone: 954-525-9559
Fax: 954-527-0595
www.smart-move.com



The amphitheater at Epidhavros.

PHOTO/CAPT. JOHN CAMPBELL

Space available, look for Ermioni's Northern Bay

GREECE, from page B25

Epidhavros. This is an OK anchorage, although there are restrictions about where you can anchor.

The attraction is that it is a short taxi ride to the amphitheatre of Epidhavros. This is well worth a visit if you have even the mildest interest in antiquities and a modicum of imagination.

It is also a fairly easy drive to Epidhavros from Ermioni or Porto Heli to the south. In both locations it is possible to rent cars.

Ermioni

Ermioni is a small village straddling a peninsula. You can go stern-to the village on the south side, where most of the restaurants are situated. There can be a problem there in the summer though, with smells from the overloaded drainage system. There is a lot of space to anchor out in the south bay.

The northern bay is prettier and better protected in bad weather, but the available space for anchoring is less. You have to leave room for the ferries to come and go and you may need to put a rope ashore to stop your boat swinging out into the fairway. Most basic supplies are available.

The northern side of the town has several small supermarkets, a few restaurants, and excellent fruit and vegetable shops as well as a basic chandlery. There are also a couple of banks on that side.

If you walk over the hill from south to north, following the start of the one-way traffic system, near the top of the

hill you will pass a very good bakery with the best cheese pies in town.

Porto Heli

A few miles to the south of Ermioni is Porto Heli. This is one of the more boat-orientated towns in the area and it has become our base while cruising in Peloponnesus. There is a regular fast-ferry and hydrofoil service to Athens, about three hours away. There is a large, well-sheltered bay, with lots of space to anchor, but be aware that the northeast side of the bay gets very shallow.

On the public dock there is space reserved for visiting yachts at the southern end. There is maybe a hundred meters of wall available where you can go stern-to. There is a tempting section of wall to the north, but that is reserved for the ferries, hydrofoils and the Port Police, not to mention the skippers of the ferries will get very grumpy if you try and berth there.

This is the best place in the area for provisioning. There is an excellent deli with a sign of a black cat almost over the road from where the boats dock. In the first small square are two fruit and vegetable shops, and just behind a small supermarket. This is not as well stocked as the bigger one at the head of the bay, but they speak some English there, are very helpful and will deliver your purchases to the yacht or dinghy. The large supermarket at the north end of the bay is well stocked with most things.

There is no water or shore power on the dock, but there is a water truck that passes regularly and can supply reasonable water for a small charge.

There is a basic chandlery in town,

near the fountain in the small plaza, beneath a somewhat incongruous yellow plastic palm tree. It is run by a chap called Fotis who speaks good English and is extraordinarily helpful. What he does not have he can get, usually quite quickly, from Athens. He has been happy for us to use him as a mail-drop and is much more reliable than the post office. He has yet to enter the electronic age, but his phone number is +30 6973054151.

Spetses

Facing the entrance to Porto Heli is the island of Spetses. Whilst not quite as well-known as nearby Hydra, it is still a popular island to visit, with some reasonably up-market shops and sophisticated restaurants. Do not try and find a berth in the old port; you will not find space. It is possible though to berth stern-to on the rough stone quay toward the western end of town. If there is space, then pick your side according to the wind and swell. Be careful about going on the windward side if there is any chance of the wind picking up.

The town is built around the small ferry-port, which is where all the water taxis as well as the larger ferries berth. It is a constant hive of activity. Overlooking this small harbor is a large terrace with several bars and restaurants. At the eastern end is a bar/café that arguably has the best cheese pies in the whole of Greece, or perhaps in all of the entire known universe.

A short walk to the east of the town is the old port. Although you are most unlikely to find a berth there, it is

See GREECE, page B27



KEMPLON MARINE
engineering services

- Machine shop capabilities
- Welding & Fabrication
- Hydraulic Repair & Maintenance
- Main Engine, Transmission & Generator
- Plumbing, Repairs & Installation
- Electrical Troubleshooting
- Licensed A/C Refrigeration
- Watermaker servicing
- Installation & Repair
- Viega Sea Press & ProPress Piping
- Servicing All Vessels - Both Private & Commercial
- Refits
- Laser Shaft Alignment

3200 S. Andrews Ave. #103
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Bringing "Quality" Work to Fort Lauderdale

(954) 522-6526
kemplonmarine.com
info@kemplonmarine.com

Count steps in Navplion

GREECE, from page B26

worth a walk; there are several small, basic shipyards there, catering mainly to the fishing fleet. You will always see a variety of craft pulled ashore on wooden skids and usually there are several traditional wooden boats being built on the beach.

Navplion

Navplion is 22 miles to the northwest of Porto Heli, at the head of the bay. This is a fairly large industrial town and port.

You can usually find space to go alongside or stern-to on the dock to the northwest of the town. The suburbs are not too attractive, but the old town is nice. There are several attractive streets and tree-shaded squares, with a profusion of bougainvillea. You can find most provisions and stores in Navplion.

For me the most interesting thing is the Venetian citadel on the top of the gigantic rock overlooking the town. There are reputed to be 999 steps, but we get a different number each time we try to count them, and it depends where in the citadel you stop counting.



Mate Cesar Handugan counts the steps up to the Citadel.

However many there are, it is worth the climb for the views and to see the citadel itself.

Monemvasia

This is my favorite place in Peloponnesus. Monemvasia is about 35 miles south of Porto Heli. It is an island, connected to the mainland by a causeway. On the southeast corner of the island is the old fortified village. It is Byzantine in origin, but was rebuilt and used by the Venetians. It has survived remarkably intact, complete with old wooden gates with iron studs at the entrance. No cars can enter, and

it does not need great imagination to picture life as it was for the Venetians.

Above the village are extensive ruins of what has been quite a large settlement. I really enjoy walking up there in the cool pre-dawn and watch the sun rise over the ruins. On the way back down you can stop for a cold drink or breakfast in one of the cafes that will be coming to life for the early morning trade.

The new town of Yefira on the mainland has basic provisions, and an office of the Port Police. They seem little interested in our visits when I go to see them.

You can anchor south of the causeway if a northerly wind is blowing. If there is a strong Meltemi



See GREECE, page B28

A view of Navplion and the port from the Citadel.

PHOTOS/CAPT. JOHN CAMPBELL

GRAN PENINSULA

YACHT CENTER

ENSENADA, MEXICO
50NM FROM SAN DIEGO

A NEW OPTION FOR
HAULING YACHTS
FROM 30 TO 300 FT

- Bottom paint
- Complete machine shop
- Mechanical
- L.P. paint
- Lloyd's & ABS inspections
- 2,500 Syncrolift Lloyd's certified
- Teak deck installation

Docking + electricity for vessels up to 300 ft
Diesel at \$2.50 aprox. Call for quote



GRANPENINSULA.COM

AZULETA 202, ENSENADA PUERTO
BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO
PH. 01152-646-178-8020





We are the strongest link
between the "perfect"
job and you

Northrop and Johnson
Worldwide Crew Placement

17 Rose Drive // Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 // +1 954 522 3344 // njyachts.com



In such a popular boating town, smaller craft make "marinas" however they can.

PHOTO/ CAPT. JOHN CAMPBELL

Elafonisos has a great beach

GREECE, from page B27

in the Aegean then you may have a bit of swell, but usually it is a good anchorage. In light winds or rare southerlies, anchor north of the causeway. You can moor at the pier at the eastern end of the north side, but make sure a ferry is not expected.

Elafonisos

The best beach is in the bay on the south side of Elafonisos Island, at the southern end of Peloponnesus. In Ornos Sarakiniko there is a beach about a mile long, and as yet it is unexploited by hotels, or indeed too many people. The bay gives good shelter from the Meltemi and reasonable shelter from the winds blowing down the Ionian.

In a strong westerly, swell does come into the bay. At those times, it is best to move to Ornos Levki on the east coast, or to anchor off the town of Elafonisos at the north end of the island. Elafonisos is a cute little town and most basic provisions can be found there.

About 3 miles to the east of Elafonisos town is the larger town of Neapolis. There are bigger supermarkets and a fish market there, but otherwise it has little to recommend it. If you are hanging out in or around Elafonisos, and have a large enough tender, it is a handy place to send the chef for shopping.

Methoni

The west side of Peloponnesus can be a bit wild and windy in summer. It is not unusual for the wind to be above 30 knots for weeks at a time. We have found a good forecast Web site at www.poseidon.ncmr.gr/weather_forecast.html. It is updated regularly and gives a forecast for Greek waters at 6-hour intervals. Another good one is www.passageweather.com.

If you do find yourself on the west side, one handy stopping point is Methoni. It offers excellent shelter in northerly, or indeed northwest winds. The entrance is guarded by a well-preserved Venetian fort. Cervantes, the author of Don Quixote, was a prisoner there for a while. Most provisions are available in the town.

These are just a few of the many possibilities for Peloponnesus. There are many more bays, villages and towns that can be visited, depending on the wind, weather and interest of the guests and crew.

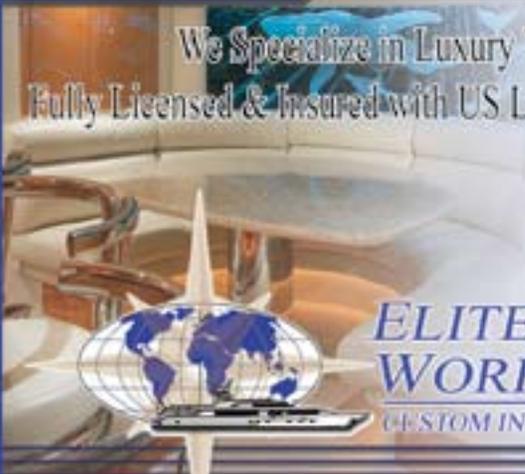
Capt. John Campbell has been yacht captain for more than 20 years and a sailor all life. He is currently in command of the 35m Codecasa M/Y Laymar II. Comments on this story are welcome at editorial@the-triton.com.



WE'LL FLOOR YOU!
Elite Carpet Workroom, Inc. will meet all of your custom carpet and specialty flooring needs. Consistently providing excellent service and high quality workmanship with competitive pricing.

Mike Bouchard - President

We Specialize in Luxury Yacht - Home - Aircraft Installation
 Fully Licensed & Insured with US Longshoresman - Servicing Clients Worldwide!






ELITE CARPET WORKROOM INC.
CUSTOM INSTALLATION SPECIALISTS

Office: 954-946-9800 Toll-free: 888-654-ELITE www.eliteworkroom.com





THE MRS. G TEAM

INSURED TO WORK IN ANY MARINA & BOAT YARD



Full Service Prop Shop
 New and Used Prop Sales
 Two-Plane Dynamic Balancing



Machine & Welding Services



Thousands of Propellers Changed Underwater
 Out of Town Emergencies

- Monthly Hull Maintenance**
- Underwater Video Inspections**
- In Business for 35 Years**

5911 Rodman Street • Hollywood, FL 33023
 Tel. 954.964.4804 • Fax: 954.964.4805
 E-Mail: MRSGOPROP@BELLSOUTH.NET