

## Motorcycling in Greece

by Len Potts – Team Leader South

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I have just returned from holiday in Greece, where I have been exploring the Peloponnese on a BMW R1150R. Let me first of all explain that this was not an organised motorcycling holiday, but when you arrive at an hotel situated in a beautiful position and find a motorcycle, with all the clothing, helmet and boots, left for your use, it is hard not to take advantage.

The bike and everything else was loaned to me by Vasilios (Billy) Rallis, who, with his wife, Vicky run an organisation called Greek Moto Adventures, which is initially set up to organise biking tours for bikers from the USA. Billy and Vicky have become close friends of Christine and I. Not, I must state, because of any involvement with the tour business. In the summer, Billy works at the hotel I have been going to for holidays for many years and naturally motorcycling has cropped up in our conversation.

The Peloponnese is part of mainland Greece that starts at the Corinth Canal and south to the very tip of mainland Greece. It is a very ancient area and is steeped in history having places such as Sparta, Tiryns, Mycenae, Nafplion (the original capitol of Greece). The site of the first Olympic games is there, as is the tomb of Agamemnon who, as you history buffs will know, laid siege to Troy. The ships, which took the army to Troy, left from the bay over which the hotel I mentioned above is situated. This bay is at Tolon or Tolo in the Argos district.

The scenery in this area is stunning to say the least and for motorcyclists it is paradise. Apart from the main highways, all the roads are twisty, up and down with lots of hairpins and views to take your breath away. It is a very mountainous region and in some parts is like the Alps. It even has ski resorts! On Saturday I was riding along a coastal road with cliffs on one side and a lovely sweeping road to keep your mind focussed. Most of the drivers will even move right into the roadside to let you pass.

It is refreshing to see that even in a hot place like Greece, well certainly on the mainland, bikers are wearing sensible clothing and wearing helmets. You still get the odd macho man who will blast about on a sports bike in shorts and holding his helmet, but fortunately the police are starting to clamp down on this. (Probably more for the fines they levy than for safety.) I say that because a local biker told me that they (the police) don't try to educate, but want to punish for that sort of thing.

On a lighter note, the bike I was riding had no number plate. It was registered, but the authorities had run out of plates!

To conclude let me tell you that if you are considering trying a motorcycling holiday in Greece, go for it. The people are great, they speak English, which is just as well as Greek is just a bit difficult. The views and roads are fabulous. I only managed to get a couple of pictures, but if you want to have a look at some visit

HYPERLINK "<http://www.greekmotoadventures.com>" [www.greekmotoadventures.com](http://www.greekmotoadventures.com)

If any of you decide to go there don't tell me 'cos I'll be jealous!

Kalles Voltes (Good Riding)

Len Potts