

NEMEA

As we are heading to Nemea, I would like to ask if you have ever heard this name before.

Let me help you. Do you know Hercules? The superhero?

Well, according to Greek mythology, one of his achievements was slaying the Nemean lion, a vicious monster that lived in a cave in Nemea.

Anyway, our visit is not related to Hercules.

Today we will visit the Nemea archaeological site where we will see the Sanctuary of Zeus developed at the beginning of the 6th century B.C., with the institution of the Panhellenic Nemean Games. The most significant monuments of Nemea are the temple of Zeus and the stadium. The stadium was built in the late 4th century, and it hosted the Nemean games every two years. The Nemean Games are the second most important games after the Olympic games in the ancient world. As Olympia is a bit further from here, we thought that this visit to Nemea would get you acquainted with the spirit of ancient games and give you the chance to compete in a stadium that athletes competed for centuries!

The stadium has a capacity of 40.000, and to enter as an athlete, you pass through a vaulted tunnel.

An interesting information about how the ancient Greeks checked that athletes competed fairly and did not cheat at the starting line can be found at the museum. Look out for **Hysplex**, the mechanism working as a starting gate for athletes to spring onto the track.