GUIDE · CORINTHIA

5 Weekend Getaways in Corinthia: Crystal Waters and Mountain Escapes



About

Corinthia sits just 80 km from Athens, yet feels a world away. These five short getaways offer the perfect balance between sea, mountain, and history — ideal for a long weekend or a last-minute escape.

Loutraki — The Classic Coastal Choice

Loutraki is Corinthia's most famous seaside resort, known for its thermal spa waters and the long, palm-lined promenade. Swim at Kalamia beach, try the famous Loutraki spring water, and take an evening walk to the casino district. The drive from Athens takes under an hour on the highway.

Out of season, Loutraki is a different place — quiet streets, open cafés, hotel prices that halve. The thermal spa (Loutraki Hydrotherapy Centre) is particularly good in autumn and winter, when the contrast between cold air and warm mineral water feels genuinely restorative. It's also your base for the Heraion of Perachora, 20 minutes up a coastal road that gets better the further you go.

Lake Doxa — Mountain Serenity

At 900 m altitude in the northern Corinthian mountains, Lake Doxa is a beautiful artificial lake surrounded by dense fir forests. The stone bridge at the water's edge is one of the most photographed spots in the Peloponnese. Go in spring for the wildflowers, or in autumn for the golden foliage.

The drive from Corinth takes about an hour, climbing steadily through the foothills before the road opens onto the lake basin. Walk the 10-km perimeter path at an easy pace or just sit on the bridge and watch the water. In the village of Feneos below the lake, a cooperative shop sells excellent mountain honey, dried herbs

and the local Sideritis mountain tea.

Stymphalos — Myth and Wetlands

The ancient lake of Stymphalos, home in myth to the carnivorous birds defeated by Heracles as his sixth labour, is today a Natura 2000 protected wetland. Bring binoculars — over 150 bird species have been recorded here. The ruins of ancient Stymphalos and a partially restored 13th-century Cistercian monastery add history to the birdwatching.

The lake sits at 600 m in a mountain basin ringed by the Ziria and Oligyrtos ranges. Mornings are best: arrive early, park at the northern end near the monastery ruins, and walk the reedy shore as the light comes up. It's one of the few spots in the Peloponnese that feels genuinely remote even though you're only 50 km from Corinth.

Nemea — Wine Country

Nemea produces some of Greece's finest red wine from the Agiorgitiko grape. Visit a winery, tour the ancient stadium and sanctuary of Zeus, and end the day with local cheese and sausages at a village taverna. A full day trip from Corinth or Athens.

The ancient stadium at Nemea has its original starting blocks intact and a vaulted tunnel entrance through which athletes ran out onto the track — it's one of the more evocative sporting sites in Greece. Wineries open for walk-in visits include Gaia, Skouras and Papaioannou; the quality is high and prices remain very reasonable by European standards. Skip the big tourist buses and go on a weekday morning.

Trikala Corinthias — The Mountain Village

One of the prettiest villages in the Peloponnese, Trikala sits at 850 m surrounded by fir trees. In winter it transforms into a small ski destination; in summer it offers hiking trails and temperatures that can be 10 degrees cooler than the coast. Stay overnight at one of the traditional stone guesthouses for the full mountain experience.

The village itself is compact and unhurried — stone houses, a central square with old water fountains, the smell of wood smoke in winter. The ski centre above operates in January and February when conditions allow; the Ziria peak at 2,374 m is a serious hiking objective in summer. Combine Trikala with Lake Doxa (30 km) for a full mountain day.

Planning Your Trip

None of these destinations requires more than 90 minutes from central Athens, and most are under an hour from each other. A long weekend works well: base yourself in Loutraki for the coast and the Heraion, drive inland for Stymphalos and Nemea, and finish with a night in Trikala before heading home. A rental car is essential — public transport covers the coast but misses everything inland.

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