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Kleonai and Phlius: two ancient cities around Nemea



About

Around Nemea lie two ancient cities that few people visit: Kleonai and Phlius. Neither is an organised site, and that is exactly why they have a calm you rarely find at an archaeological site.

Ancient Kleonai

Kleonai stood on the ancient road between Corinth and Argos. It was a small city, but its position next to Nemea gave it an important role: at times it was Kleonai that organised the Nemean Games. According to myth, Heracles passed this way on his journey to the Nemean lion.

On the site you can see the remains of the Temple of Heracles, a farmhouse, an ancient quarry and traces of the city walls. The remains are spread across the landscape, so allow time to wander.

Ancient Phlius

In the Asopos valley, between Nemea and Sikyon, lay Phlius, an independent city-state that held its own between far more powerful neighbours. The site preserves remains of the agora, a theatre cut into the hillside, the fortifications and the acropolis. Vineyards surround it, just as in antiquity.

Practical tips

- Both sites are open-air with no facilities: bring water and wear closed shoes.
- Kleonai lies between Corinth and Nemea, near the village of Archaies Kleones. Phlius is close to modern Nemea.
- Combine them with the ancient stadium of Nemea and one of the local wineries.

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