

Gythion, Peloponnese, Greece

The ancient port of Sparta sits at the edge of the wild Mani Peninsula — pastel neoclassical mansions line the harbor where legend says Paris and Helen spent their first night together before sailing to Troy.

⚓ Tender (large ships); some smaller vessels dock

🕒 Typical call: 7–9 hrs

💶 Currency: Euro (€)

🗣️ Language: Greek (English widely spoken waterfront)

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender for large ships; vessels up to ~200 m may berth at quay

Walk to center: Tender drops at harbor — town is immediately at hand

Best For: History, scenic strolls, Byzantine ruins, day trips

Don't Miss: Marathonisi islet & Mystras UNESCO ghost city

🚗 Getting around: 🚖 Taxi ✅ €5–€15

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Mystras Byzantine Ghost City** — A UNESCO World Heritage hilltop city that was once the second capital of the late Byzantine Empire.
- **Diros Caves (Vlychada)** — One of Europe's most spectacular water caves.
- **Sparta & Archaeological Museum** — Modern Sparta sits atop the ancient city.
- **Mavrovouni Beach** — A 5 km arc of golden sand and fine pebbles just south of town, with crystal-clear Laconian Gulf water.
- **Marathonisi Islet & Mani Museum** — Walk the 150-meter causeway to the pine-covered islet of Cranae — where myth says Paris and Helen of Troy spent their first night.

BEST WALKS

- **Harbor Promenade to Marathonisi** 2.5 km round-trip · Flat · 40–60 min — Stroll the neoclassical waterfront past tavernas drying octopus in the sun, then cross the stone causeway to Marathonisi islet.
- **Town & Roman Theater Walk** 2 km loop · Mostly flat, some gentle hills · 30–45 min — Head north along the waterfront and climb gently to the small but well-preserved 2nd-century Roman theater.

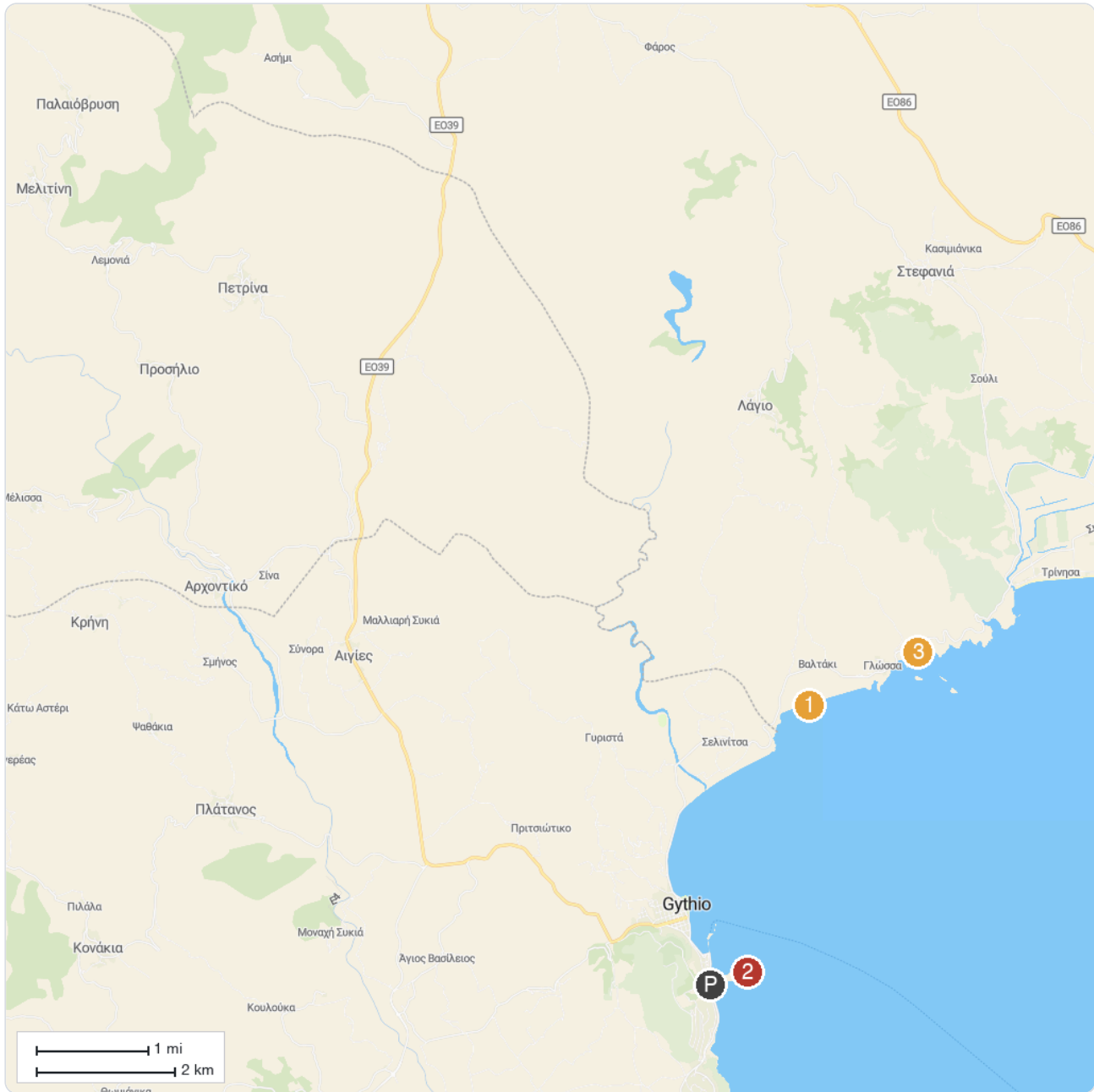
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- **Tender timing:** Pick up tender tickets early on board — call-day crowds can mean 30-min waits for the boat back. Aim to be back at the tender dock 90 min before all-aboard.
- **Taxis fill up fast:** The taxi stand is steps from the tender pier. Agree on a round-trip price before you go — for Mystras or Diros, expect €60–90 for the car (not per person). Book private tours in advance on busy call days.
- **Car rental books out:** Local agencies (e.g., near the harbor) have small fleets. Reserve weeks ahead if you want to self-drive to the Mani or Diros Caves.
- **Eat on the water:** Any taverna with octopus drying outside is a good sign. Try grilled octopus, sygklino (smoked Mani pork), and local Laconian olive oil — this region grows some of Greece's best.
- **Pack for heat and hills:** Summer days can top 35 °C. Bring water, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes if you plan Mystras — its cobblestones are steep and can be slick.
- **Mystras vs. Sparta:** If you only have time for one, choose Mystras — the ruins are far more dramatic than modern Sparta's scattered ancient remains.

Gythion, Peloponnese, Greece — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Dimitrios Shipwreck | An iconic shipwreck resting on the sandy shore. | 2 Gythio Lighthouse | Historic lighthouse on a small island, linked by causeway. |
| 3 Afroditi Beach | A lovely sandy beach ideal for swimming and relaxation. | P Cruise port / terminal | |