

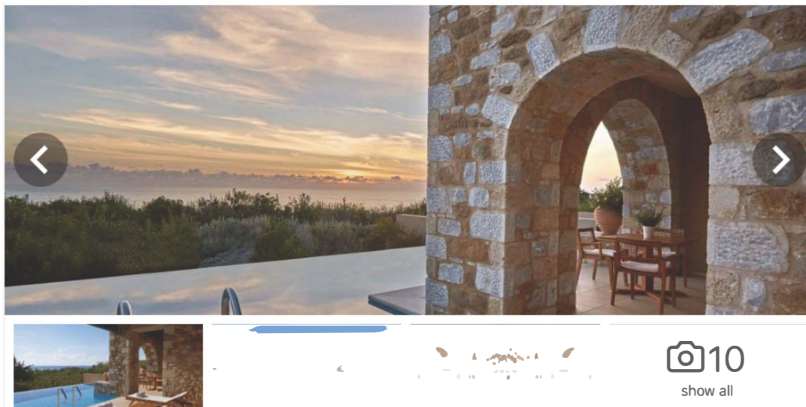
Lifestyle › Travel

Westin Resort, Costa Navarino - hotel review

A family friendly resort that's as luxe as it is eco. Deborah Rosenegk visits...

DEBORAH ROSENEGK 15 hours ago 0 comments

Costa Navarino - in pictures



Where is it?

The Westin Resort, Costa Navarino, is nestled in an unspoilt and stunning sea-facing landscape in Southwest Peloponnese in Greece. A model for sustainable tourism, this eco-friendly destination put the region of Messinia on the map. It's accessible both from Athens (3hr drive) and from Kalamata airport which takes you down picturesque mountainous roads lined with olive trees in under an hour.

Style

This family-owned resort invests heavily in conserving the area and it shows. It's respectful of its natural environment whilst promoting this breathtaking region's natural beauty and heritage. A model for sustainable tourism, this was the vision of its founder, Captain Vassilis Constantakopoulos, a local businessman and shipping merchant who wanted to create something sustainable and authentically Messinian. The result is impressive, with low rise buildings in the native stone designed to blend harmoniously with the stunning long sandy beach and natural surroundings. Lush landscaped gardens and calming water features provide a beautiful serene and calming backdrop. Its eco credentials are impressive; from the sea turtle rescue centre (the turtles come to lay their eggs at certain times each year) to the preservation of the 100-year-old olive trees.



(Costa Navarino)

Which room?

The rooms are impressive, spacious and all have a terrace or balcony with comfy sofas and chairs. The deluxe rooms have garden or sea views and the infinity rooms have their own private pool if you fancy a dip. The family suites are an excellent choice if you are a larger family as they feature a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom plus a spacious lounge area with second bathroom. If you really want to break the budget, opt for one of the luxury villas which offer the most stunning sea views in the Med alongside your own personal butler, gym, treatment room and private chef service for those special family experiences.

Facilities

This place is geared up for you to have the ultimate family experience and if sports are your thing then this is the place for you. There are two stunning golf courses renowned as the best in Greece, every type of watersport you can imagine and there is even a dedicated hiking and biking outdoor centre. If that's not enough, and you want to burn off the delicious and extensive buffet breakfast, you can try out bowling, squash, a cutting edge sports centre, basketball, go karting (open during the summer months) plus meditation and yoga pilates.

There's also lots of activities to ensure you make the most of the rich culture of the region like the traditional Messinian cooking experience in a local home in the pretty town of nearby Pylos. If Socrates is more your thing, take a walk amongst the olive groves for one of the hotel's organised philosophy walks, pondering the great works of ancient Greek scholars.



(Costa Navarino)

Good for children?

This is designed for children. In fact, your kids will probably say this is the best place they've ever been to. There's a vast amount of entertaining and educational activities for the kids to choose from. The cocoon crèche and the Sandcastle for kids aged 4-12 is a purpose built mini kids' kingdom which offers a fun filled weekly programme guaranteed to keep even the most boisterous of youngsters happy and entertained. There are even miniature sleep pods in which your little ones can have a snooze which gives parents the chance to make the most of the many beautiful pools around the resort.

There's also an exhilarating water park with slides and water shoots, Natura Hall - an interactive exhibition teaching kids about Messina's unique environment in a fun way - and Navarino Speed - a race track in which instructors teach the thrill of driving a CRG kart. What's not to love?

Food & drink

This resort is guaranteed to satisfy even the fussiest of eaters with plenty of dining options throughout the village from Mediterranean classics to traditional Greek dishes and gourmet dining. Kids will love the American diner serving milkshakes and hosting games of ten-pin bowling as well as an indoor cinema. The agora village centre is where you can find a family-friendly Italian alongside cafes and bars. And it's here that you can watch a movie or a live performance, or even do a little shopping if it takes your fancy at the 14 stores selling everything from designer brands to local handicrafts.



(Costa Navarino)

Extracurricular

Hire a bike and take the beautiful trek through the sleepy village of Romanos winding down the citrus and olive groves as you enter the stunning beach of Voidokillia, rumoured to be the place where Odysseus son was greeted by King Nestor. Take a picnic (as this really is an unspoilt area with no cafe or shops nearby) and you can hang here for a day, easily dipping in and out of the translucent water of a beautiful sheltered bay. Next to the beach is Gialova lagoon, a protected nature reserve where you can spot migrating birds such as flamingoes. I'd recommend a trip to the ancient castle ruins of Methoni Castle which is well-preserved and well worth an explore. Built originally by the Venetians in the 13th century, you'll experience the ruins of an impressive medieval town, a fortress, bridges, a church and the most stunning cliff drop sea views I think I've ever seen.

Best for?

Great for families or couples who want affordable luxury with an enviable location and excellent facilities.

Details

A family suite at The Westin resort, Costa Navarino, during the summer season is from £1,981 including breakfast.

westincostanavarino.com ■