

## PYTHIAN PANHELLENIC GAMES - DELPHI

With its evocative ruins surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery, Delphi, perched on the sides of Mt. Parnassos, is surely the most beautiful ancient site in Greece.

For the ancient Greeks, Delphi was quite literally the center of the world. Zeus released two eagles from opposite ends of the earth and they met in the sky above Delphi. Impaling one another with their beaks, they fell to the ground on the very center of the world. The site was marked by their sacred "Omphalos", or navel stone. Later, Apollo killed the serpent Python (son of Mother Earth) guardian of Delphi's sacred "Castalian Spring". Having done so, the sun god (Apollo) established an oracle at the spring, promising to provide counsel to all in need.

Located at the navel of the world and personally blessed by Apollo, Delphi was the holiest site on earth for the ancient Greeks and one of the four sites where Panhellenic Games were taking place every four years. The ruins of Ancient Delphi range in date from Mycenaean times to the early Christian era and are one of the must-sees in Greece.



