

PELLANA AND TRAVELLERS IN THE PELOPONNESE



ΟΜΟΡΦΗ ΠΕΛΛΑΝΑ – BEAUTIFUL PELLANA

[PETER ADAMIS](#)

DEDICATION

DEDICATED TO PELLANIOTES WORLD WIDE

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PREFACE

The ancient site of Pellana has long held a captivating allure for scholars, archaeologists, and enthusiasts alike, drawing them to the heart of the Peloponnese region of Greece in search of its rich history and cultural significance. As a prominent Spartan settlement with roots stretching back to the classical era, Pellana has been the subject of intense study and exploration, yielding invaluable insights into the dynamics of this remarkable corner of the ancient Greek world.

This comprehensive work, "Pellana and Travellers in the Peloponnese," stands as a testament to the enduring fascination with this ancient site and the diverse array of individuals who have dedicated themselves to unravelling its mysteries over the centuries. From the earliest references by classical Greek writers such as Pausanias, Strabo, and Homer, to the pioneering work of 19th-century scholars like William Martin Leake and Friedrich Adler, the story of Pellana has been meticulously pieced together through a tapestry of primary sources, archaeological findings, and scholarly interpretations.

The significance of this work lies in its ability to synthesize and contextualize the wealth of information that has been accumulated on Pellana, providing a cohesive and accessible resource for researchers, students, and the general public alike. By tracing the site's history through the Frankish, Venetian, and Ottoman periods, as well as highlighting the contributions of modern scholars and archaeologists, the authors have woven a narrative that illuminates Pellana's pivotal role within the broader framework of Greek history and archaeology.

Moreover, the inclusion of digital and archival resources, along with recommendations for further research, underscores the ongoing nature of the scholarly endeavour surrounding Pellana. As new discoveries and interpretations continue to emerge, this document serves as a springboard for continued exploration, inviting readers to delve deeper into the mysteries that still linger around this remarkable ancient settlement.

In the pages that follow, the reader will be transported to the ancient Peloponnese, immersed in the rich tapestry of exploration, discovery, and scholarly debate that has surrounded the site of Pellana over the centuries. This preface serves as an invitation to embark on a journey of enlightenment, where the past and present converge to shed light on the enduring significance of this Spartan site and its place within the broader context of Greek history and archaeology.



MYCENAEAN KINGS ROYAL TOMB

ABSTRACT

This comprehensive work, "Pellana and Travellers in the Peloponnese," serves as a valuable resource for researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts seeking to expand their knowledge and understanding of the ancient Spartan settlement of Pellana. The document meticulously compiles and synthesizes a wealth of information from primary sources, scholarly publications, and archival materials to illuminate the rich history and significance of this captivating site.

Situated in the heart of the Peloponnese region of Greece, Pellana has long held a captivating allure for those drawn to the study of ancient Greek history and archaeology. As a prominent Spartan settlement with roots stretching back to the classical era, Pellana has been the subject of intense scholarly exploration, yielding invaluable insights into the dynamics of this remarkable corner of the ancient Greek world.

Through the comprehensive examination of sources ranging from classical Greek writers such as Pausanias, Strabo, and Homer, to the pioneering work of 19th-century scholars like William Martin Leake and Friedrich Adler, this document weaves a tapestry of knowledge that captures the enduring allure and scholarly importance of Pellana. By tracing the site's history through the Frankish, Venetian, and Ottoman periods, as well as highlighting the contributions of modern researchers, the authors provide a cohesive and accessible resource for readers.

One of the key objectives of this work is to address the disappointment often experienced by visitors to the ancient site of Pellana, as it is currently enclosed by security wire, limiting direct access and exploration. By offering a comprehensive overview of the site's history, the contributions of notable travellers and scholars, and the wealth of available resources, this document aims to empower and guide future researchers in their pursuit of a deeper understanding of Pellana, even in the face of physical obstacles.

Ultimately, this work serves as a springboard for continued exploration and discovery, inspiring new generations of scholars to delve deeper into the mysteries that still linger around this remarkable ancient Spartan settlement and its place within the broader context of Greek history and archaeology.



PELLANA FESTIVAL

FOREWORD

The ancient site of Pellana has long captivated the imagination of scholars, archaeologists, and enthusiasts alike, drawing them to the heart of the Peloponnese region of Greece in search of its rich history and cultural significance. This comprehensive document, "Pellana and Travellers in the Peloponnese," stands as a testament to the enduring allure of this remarkable Spartan settlement and the diverse array of individuals who have dedicated themselves to unravelling its mysteries over the centuries.

As the reader delves into the pages that follow, they will be transported to a world where the threads of history, archaeology, and cultural exploration intertwine to reveal the captivating story of Pellana. From the earliest references by classical Greek writers such as Pausanias, Strabo, and Homer, to the pioneering work of 19th-century scholars like William Martin Leake and Friedrich Adler, this document meticulously chronicles the scholarly journey that has unfolded around this ancient site.

The significance of this work lies in its ability to synthesize and contextualize the wealth of information that has been accumulated on Pellana, providing a comprehensive and accessible resource for researchers, students, and the general public alike. By tracing the site's history through the Frankish, Venetian, and Ottoman periods, as well as highlighting the contributions of modern scholars and archaeologists, the authors have woven a narrative that illuminates Pellana's pivotal role within the broader framework of Greek history and archaeology.

Moreover, the inclusion of digital and archival resources, along with recommendations for further research, underscores the ongoing nature of the scholarly endeavour surrounding Pellana. As new discoveries and interpretations continue to emerge, this document serves as a springboard for continued exploration, inviting readers to delve deeper into the mysteries that still linger around this remarkable ancient settlement.

In the pages that follow, the reader will be captivated by the rich tapestry of exploration, discovery, and scholarly debate that has surrounded Pellana over the centuries. This foreword serves as an invitation to embark on a journey of enlightenment, where the past and present converge to shed light on the enduring significance of this ancient Spartan site and its place within the broader context of Greek history and archaeology. Peter Adamis.



PELLANA TO THE NORTH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As the author, I cannot take credit for those who contributed to making this possible. I am merely an observer of history and credit must go to those travellers before me. Therefore, the authors of this comprehensive work on the ancient site of Pellana and the travellers who encountered it in the Peloponnese region of Greece would like to express their sincere gratitude to the numerous individuals and institutions whose contributions have made this document possible.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the scholars, archaeologists, and historians whose tireless efforts over the centuries have unearthed the rich history and significance of Pellana. From the pioneering work of classical Greek writers like Pausanias and Strabo, to the groundbreaking research of 19th-century figures such as William Martin Leake and Friedrich Adler, their dedication and insights have been instrumental in shaping our understanding of this remarkable Spartan settlement.

I am also deeply indebted to the curators, librarians, and archivists who have preserved and made accessible the invaluable primary sources, scholarly publications, and digital resources that have informed this work. The Perseus Digital Library, the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, and the various university libraries and archaeological journals have all played a vital role in ensuring the availability of these critical materials.

I would like to extend their gratitude to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Laconia and the British School at Athens for their assistance in navigating the wealth of archaeological reports and unpublished materials related to Pellana and the broader Peloponnese region. Their expertise and willingness to share their knowledge have been instrumental in enriching the content of this document.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the support and guidance provided by the editors, reviewers, and publishing team who have helped shape this work into a comprehensive and accessible resource. Their meticulous attention to detail and commitment to scholarly excellence have been invaluable.

Finally, I extend my deepest appreciation to the readers and researchers who will continue to engage with this document, building upon the foundations laid by the countless individuals who have dedicated themselves to unravelling the mysteries of Pellana and its place in the broader context of Greek history and archaeology. It is our hope that this work will serve as a springboard for further exploration and discovery, inspiring new generations of scholars to delve deeper into the enduring significance of this ancient Spartan settlement. Peter Adamis.



RASSIAS CASTLE

AIM

The overarching aim of this comprehensive work on "Pellana and Travellers in the Peloponnese" is to serve as a valuable resource for researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts seeking to expand their knowledge and understanding of this captivating ancient Spartan settlement. Through the meticulous compilation of primary sources, scholarly publications, and archival materials, this document seeks to illuminate the rich history and significance of Pellana, which has long captivated the imaginations of those drawn to the heart of the Peloponnese region.

One of the key objectives of this work is to address the disappointment that many visitors have experienced when encountering the ancient site of Pellana, as it is currently enclosed by security wire, limiting direct access and exploration. By providing a comprehensive overview of the site's history, the contributions of notable travellers and scholars, and the wealth of available resources, this document aims to empower and guide future researchers in their pursuit of a deeper understanding of Pellana, even in the face of physical obstacles.

Through the synthesis of a diverse array of sources, from classical Greek writings to modern archaeological studies, this work seeks to weave a tapestry of knowledge that captures the enduring allure and scholarly importance of Pellana. By tracing the site's history through the Frankish, Venetian, and Ottoman periods, as well as highlighting the groundbreaking work of pioneering researchers, this document aims to serve as a springboard for continued exploration and discovery, inspiring new generations of scholars to delve deeper into the mysteries that still linger around this remarkable ancient Spartan settlement.

Ultimately, the primary goal of this work is to equip researchers with the necessary tools and information to enhance their understanding of Pellana, even in the face of physical limitations. By providing a comprehensive and accessible resource, this document hopes to foster a renewed sense of scholarly interest and excitement surrounding this site, ultimately contributing to the ongoing quest to uncover the secrets of Pellana and its place within the broader context of Greek history and archaeology. Peter Adamis



ARCHEOLOGIST SPYROPOULOS

INTRODUCTION

The ancient site of Pellana has long held a captivating allure for scholars, archaeologists, and enthusiasts alike, drawing them to the heart of the Peloponnese region of Greece in search of its rich history and cultural significance. As a prominent Spartan settlement with roots stretching back to the classical era, Pellana has been the subject of intense study and exploration, yielding invaluable insights into the dynamics of this remarkable corner of the ancient Greek world.

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CHAPTER 1 – ANCIENT SOURCES

The Enduring Legacy of Pellana: Tracing the Ancient Settlement through Classical Sources.

As the sun cast its warm glow over the Peloponnese, the ancient Greek traveller and geographer Pausanias embarked on a journey to uncover the rich history of this storied region. In the 2nd century CE, Pausanias penned his influential work, the "Description of Greece," which would become a touchstone for scholars and archaeologists for centuries to come.

Within the pages of this seminal text, Pausanias made a crucial observation that would shape our understanding of the ancient settlement of Pellana. Situated in the heart of the Laconia region, Pausanias noted that by his time, Pellana had fallen into a diminished state, its former grandeur faded. Yet, this fleeting reference would prove to be an invaluable historical marker, providing a crucial point of reference for later researchers seeking to unravel the mysteries of this remarkable Spartan site.

Pausanias' account did not stand alone in its recognition of Pellana's significance. Centuries earlier, the renowned Greek poet Homer had hinted at the settlement's importance, weaving it into the tapestry of the Iliad as part of the Spartan kingdom of Menelaus. These tantalizing allusions from the classical era served to pique the curiosity of scholars, setting the stage for further exploration and discovery. The strategic location of Pellana, nestled near the Eurotas River, did not escape the keen eye of the celebrated geographer Strabo. In his Geographica, written in the 1st century BCE or CE, Strabo recognized Pellana's strategic value, underscoring its prominence within the broader Laconian landscape.

But the significance of Pellana extended far beyond the observations of these ancient luminaries. A 1917 publication, the "Traité entre Delphes et Pellana," uncovered a remarkable discovery – an ancient treaty or agreement between the renowned religious site of Delphi and the settlement of Pellana. This document served as a testament to Pellana's standing as a Spartan stronghold, with ties that reached beyond the boundaries of the Peloponnese.

Early Historical Significance and Mycenaean Prosperity: During the Mycenaean era, Pellana was part of an extensive network of settlements that thrived on trade and agriculture. The presence of chamber tombs, adorned with luxury goods like Baltic amber and intricately carved seals, suggested a society that engaged in long-distance trade and had access to wealth. These artifacts indicate connections with the Adriatic and Aegean regions, making Pellana a node in the extensive Mycenaean trade network.

Transition to the Spartan Era: As the Mycenaean civilization waned, Pellana transitioned into a Perioic community under Spartan dominance. This status allowed Pellana to retain some local autonomy while contributing to Spartan military and economic objectives. The settlement became a northern defensive outpost, essential for protecting Sparta from incursions by neighbouring Arkadian forces. Its claim as the birthplace of the Dioscuri further embedded it in Spartan cultural and religious life, symbolizing its integration and importance within the Spartan sphere.

Geographical and Strategic Significance: Pellana's geographic location was not only picturesque but strategically invaluable. Situated in the fertile plains of the northern Eurotas Valley, between the imposing Taygetos Mountains and Skiritis, the settlement was blessed with rich Neogen soil deposits, ideal for agriculture. The perennial springs ensured a consistent water supply, supporting both agriculture and the settlement's inhabitants. Its position on the main route to the central Peloponnese made it a crucial military and trade corridor, controlling access to the Spartan heartland.

Economic and Military Role in the Classical Period: Pellana's economic role was cemented by its fertile plains, which supported double annual harvests of wheat and barley, vital for feeding Sparta's population and army. Its strategic position on trade routes facilitated the movement of goods and resources, such as the prized lapis Lazuli from the nearby Krokeai quarries. Militarily, Pellana was fortified and garrisoned, playing a crucial role in Spartan defence strategies during conflicts with Arkadian forces.

Historical Decline and Roman Transformation: With the onset of Roman rule, Pellana experienced a shift in its political and economic status. It transformed from a prominent polis to a smaller village reflecting broader changes in the region's administrative and economic landscape. Despite its reduced prominence, Pellana remained a site of refuge and strategic importance during periods of turmoil and conflict, to more prosperous areas like Kalamata or Tripoli in search of better opportunities.

As the pages of history turned, these early references to Pellana would prove to be invaluable guideposts for later scholars and archaeologists, who would piece together the intricate tapestry of this ancient site. Pausanias' account, with its tantalizing glimpse into Pellana's diminished state, would spark a renewed interest in unravelling the settlement's past, while the allusions of Homer and Strabo would provide crucial context for understanding its broader significance within the ancient Greek world.

Through the enduring legacy of these classical sources, the story of Pellana would continue to unfold, drawing in new generations of researcher's intent on uncovering the secrets of this remarkable Spartan settlement. Its strategic location, its ties to the Spartan kingdom, and its interactions with other influential city-states – all these elements would come to light, illuminating the pivotal role that Pellana played in the rich history of the Peloponnese.

Pausanias (c. 110 - c. 180 CE): Pausanias was a Greek traveller and geographer who wrote the influential work "Description of Greece" in the 2nd century CE. In his description of Laconia, Pausanias mentioned the town of Pellana, noting its diminished status by the 2nd century CE. This provided an important historical reference point for the settlement. Pausanias' account helped later scholars and archaeologists locate the site of ancient Pellana and understand its historical significance. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#) [Source 11](#) [Source 13](#)

Strabo (1st century BCE/CE): Strabo mentioned Pellana in his *Geographica* as a strategic location near the Eurotas River. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#)

Homer (circa 8th century BCE): Homer implied references to Pellana in the *Iliad* as part of the Spartan kingdom of Menelaus. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#)

Treaty between Delphi and Pellana A 1917 publication (*Traité entre Delphes et Pellana*) documents an ancient treaty or agreement between Delphi (a major religious site in ancient Greece) and Pellana. This confirms Pellana's significance as a Spartan settlement and its interactions with other Greek city-states. [Source 1](#)



Palaeokastro

CHAPTER 2 - FRANKISH, VENETIAN, AND OTTOMAN PERIODS

Unravelling the Peloponnese: Foreign Travellers and the Changing Tides of the Morea.

As the Peloponnese, or the Morea as it was known, passed through the hands of various foreign powers, a diverse array of travellers, scholars, and artists made their way to this storied region, each leaving behind a unique perspective on its rich history and cultural tapestry. In the 13th century, the Frankish knight William of Tripoli ventured into the Peloponnese, providing firsthand accounts of the region under Frankish rule. His observations offered a glimpse into the shifting political and social dynamics that swept across the Morea during this tumultuous period. Centuries later, in the 1430s, the Burgundian diplomat Bertrandon de la Broquière followed in William's footsteps, traversing the Peloponnese and leaving behind a trove of accounts that shed light on the region's evolving landscape.

As the Venetian influence grew in the 15th and 16th centuries, scholars and cartographers like Cristoforo Buondelmonti and Giacomo Gastaldi turned their attention to the Morea, meticulously mapping its contours and documenting its features. Their works would prove invaluable in piecing together the complex history of this dynamic region. The 16th century also saw the arrival of the French naturalist Pierre Belon, who explored the Peloponnese under Ottoman rule, offering a naturalist's perspective on the land and its people. His detailed observations provided a unique lens through which to view the region's evolving cultural tapestry.

In the 17th century, the Ottoman traveller and writer Evliya Çelebi embarked on a journey through the Morea, leaving behind a captivating account of his experiences. His narrative, infused with vivid descriptions and personal insights, offered a rare glimpse into the Peloponnese through the eyes of an Ottoman subject. The 19th century witnessed a renewed surge of interest in the Peloponnese, as the British military officer and topographer William Martin Leake and the French diplomat and scholar François Pouqueville conducted extensive surveys and explorations in the region. Their meticulous documentation and mapping efforts would prove invaluable to future researchers.

Alongside these foreign visitors, the Peloponnese also witnessed the rise of local figures, such as the Greek revolutionary leader Theodoros Kolokotronis, whose actions were supported by the northern Lakonia villages. The interplay between these local and foreign narratives underscored the complex and ever-changing nature of the Morea. From knights and diplomats to scholars, artists, and naturalists, the foreign travellers who traversed the Peloponnese over the centuries left an indelible mark on our understanding of this captivating region. Their accounts, maps, and descriptions, imbued with unique perspectives and personal experiences, have become an invaluable tapestry of knowledge, shedding light on the Morea's evolving fortunes and the diverse cultural influences that shaped its history.

As the Peloponnese transitioned through the Frankish, Venetian, and Ottoman periods, these travellers' narratives have become a testament to the region's resilience and the enduring allure that has drawn generations of scholars and enthusiasts to its shores, each seeking to unravel the mysteries that lie within. **Impact of the Greek War of Independence:** When Ibrahim Pasha and his Egyptian-Albanian troops invaded the Peloponnese between 1825 and 1828, as part of the Greek War of Independence, the region experienced significant devastation, including Pellana and its surroundings. Ibrahim Pasha's campaign employed scorched-earth tactics, aiming to suppress the Greek rebellion by targeting agricultural infrastructure, which was crucial for the survival of Greek guerrillas and civilians.

IMPACT ON PELLANA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS:

Destruction of Crops and Land:

- Ibrahim's forces systematically burned olive groves, vineyards, and cereal fields across Laconia. Pellana's fertile plains, once vital for Sparta's grain supply, were likely severely damaged.
- The olive trees around Pellana and its surrounding regions were destroyed, with only some trees near the stream Xerilla to the South escaping the devastation.

- The "Neogen" soil that supported Pellana's double annual harvests was degraded by the fires, leading to long-term agricultural decline.

Depopulation and Forced Labor:

- The invasion resulted in the killing, enslavement, or displacement of many villagers. Settlements like Lucena and Kotitsia were left uninhabited.
- Thousands of Greeks were enslaved and taken to Egypt, disrupting the agricultural labor force.
- Residents fled to mountainous strongholds or neighbouring regions, abandoning their farms.

Economic Collapse:

- Pellana's role as a trade node between Sparta and Megalopolis collapsed as roads were destroyed and villages depopulated.
- Traditional water management systems fell into disrepair, compounding the agricultural decline and leading to long-term economic stagnation.

Post-Invasion Recovery: After the withdrawal of Ibrahim's forces in 1828, the region struggled to recover under Ottoman rule, with little investment in Pellana's recovery. The nearby village of Georgitsi, connected to ancient Pellana, experienced significant population decline in the following decades.

Legacy: Pellana's experience during Ibrahim Pasha's invasion highlights the brutality and long-lasting scars of scorched-earth warfare on agrarian communities. The agricultural collapse contributed to rural depopulation that is still visible in modern Laconia. The site's post-1820s decline left few records, with much knowledge pieced together from regional accounts and archaeological research.

FRANKISH PERIOD (13TH-15TH CENTURIES)

William of Tripoli (13th century): A Frankish knight who provided descriptions of the Peloponnese under Frankish rule.

Bertrandon de la Broquière (1432-1433): A Burgundian diplomat who travelled through the Peloponnese and left accounts of his journey.

VENETIAN PERIOD (15TH-18TH CENTURIES)

Cristoforo Buondelmonti (1420s): A Florentine scholar who created maps and descriptions of the Peloponnese.

Giacomo Gastaldi (16th century): A Venetian cartographer who produced maps of the Peloponnese.

Francesco Barozzi (1570s): A Venetian nobleman who travelled through the Peloponnese and wrote about his experiences.

Jacob Spon and George Wheler (1676-1678): French and English scholars who explored the Peloponnese and published their observations.

OTTOMAN PERIOD (15TH-19TH CENTURIES)

Byzantine Monks: Founded monasteries in Mystras; records describe northern Lakonia villages.

[Source 2](#) [Source 9](#)

Greek Orthodox Clergy: Preserved medieval traditions in villages like Kastri and Perivolia.

[Source 2](#)

Pierre Belon (1546-1549): A French naturalist who travelled through the Peloponnese under Ottoman rule.

Evliya Çelebi (1670s): An Ottoman Turkish traveller and writer who documented his journey through the Peloponnese. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#)

William Martin Leake (1805-1806): A British military officer and topographer who conducted extensive surveys and explorations in the Peloponnese. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#) [Source 6](#)

Edward Dodwell (1805-1806): A British artist and archaeologist who travelled through the Peloponnese and produced detailed drawings and descriptions.

François Pouqueville (1806-1816): A French diplomat and scholar who travelled extensively in the Peloponnese during the Ottoman period.

Theodoros Kolokotronis (1770–1843): Greek revolutionary leader supported by northern Lakonia villages. [Source 1](#) [Source 11](#)

Ottoman Administrators: Documented villages in tax records during Ottoman rule. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#)



HANZAC OLIVE TREE

CHAPTER 3 - POST WAR OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

Unravelling the Mysteries of Pellana: The Scholarly Journeys of Müller, Leake, and Adler.

As the 19th century dawned, a new generation of scholars and archaeologists turned their attention to the ancient Peloponnese, determined to uncover the secrets that lay buried within its storied landscapes. Among them were three men whose contributions would prove instrumental in shaping our understanding of the ancient Spartan settlement of Pellana.

In the 1830s, the German classical scholar and archaeologist Carl Otfried Müller embarked on a journey to Greece, driven by a desire to delve into the history and antiquities of the Laconia and Messenia regions. During his travels, Müller encountered the enigmatic site of Pellana, and in his work "Investigations into the History and Antiquities of Laconia and Messenia," he discussed the settlement, though he did not conclusively identify it as the ancient site. Müller's observations, however, would prove to be a crucial stepping stone in the scholarly pursuit of Pellana. His analysis of the region, coupled with his keen interest in uncovering its past, contributed to the growing fascination with this elusive Spartan settlement and its potential archaeological significance.

A decade later, another intrepid explorer would set his sights on the Peloponnese. William Martin Leake, a British military officer and topographer, conducted extensive travels and surveys throughout Greece, meticulously documenting his findings. In his work "Travels in the Morea," Leake described passing through the village of Georgitsi, which he noted was located near the site of ancient Pellana. However, Leake did not explicitly identify the ancient settlement at the time.



PELLANA LOCATED IN THE NORTH.

Yet, Leake's observations and detailed mapping of the region would prove invaluable to future scholars, providing crucial data points that would eventually help pinpoint the location of Pellana. His work laid the groundwork for a deeper understanding of the Peloponnese's ancient geography and the tantalizing clues it held.

It was not until the late 19th century that the ancient site of Pellana would finally be identified with certainty. Enter Friedrich Adler, a prominent German architect and archaeologist who conducted extensive surveys and excavations in Greece. Adler's work in the Eurotas Valley, where Pellana was situated, proved to be a pivotal moment in the scholarly pursuit of this ancient Spartan settlement.

In 1892, Adler published his findings in a report titled "Untersuchungen im Eurotas-Thale" (Investigations in the Eurotas Valley), and within this work, he specifically addressed the site of Pellana. Adler's meticulous analysis of the architectural remains, pottery, and other artifacts led him to the definitive conclusion that this was indeed the location of the ancient Spartan settlement.

Adler's groundbreaking work built upon the earlier observations of scholars like Leake and the classical geographer Pausanias, who had hinted at the potential location of Pellana but had not pinpointed it with such certainty. Adler's 1892 publication and his subsequent investigations in the Eurotas Valley laid the foundation for more comprehensive exploration and research into this ancient Spartan site.

The contributions of Müller, Leake, and Adler, each in their own way, had a profound impact on our understanding of Pellana and its place within the broader context of Greek history and archaeology. Their scholarly journeys, marked by keen observation, painstaking research, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge, have become an integral part of the enduring legacy of this captivating ancient settlement. As the 20th and 21st centuries unfolded, the work of these pioneering scholars would continue to inspire new generations of researchers, who would build upon their foundations and uncover ever-deeper insights into the secrets of Pellana and the Peloponnese.

After the Greek War of Independence: After the Greek War of Independence, which concluded with Greece gaining its independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1830, the region around Pellana, like much of Greece, faced significant challenges in the recovery and rebuilding process. The area struggled to recover economically from the devastation inflicted during Ibrahim Pasha's invasion, with the destruction of agricultural infrastructure impacting local food supplies and economic stability. This resulted in a continued population decline in Pellana and nearby areas, as many inhabitants did not return or settled in other regions.

Despite the economic and demographic challenges, the historical legacy of Pellana remained. Archaeological interest in the region eventually grew, leading to explorations that uncovered its rich Mycenaean and Spartan past. This archaeological significance has contributed to a growing recognition of Pellana's historical importance, although it has not translated into a significant revival of the local economy or population.

Pellana's Recovery: Pellana's recovery after the Greek War of Independence was a gradual process, influenced by both internal efforts and broader regional developments. Over time, efforts were made to restore the agricultural lands that had been devastated by the war, with local farmers slowly rebuilding irrigation systems and re-cultivating fields. The population stabilized gradually as the descendants of returning families settled and began to reestablish community life. The historical significance of Pellana as an ancient settlement also sparked interest among historians and archaeologists, leading to investigations that unearthed its Mycenaean and Spartan past. This academic and cultural interest helped preserve Pellana's heritage and identity, even if it did not directly translate into economic prosperity.



PELLANA LOOKING NORTH

CHAPTER 4 - MODERN SCHOLARS

Unravelling the Spartan Stronghold: Modern Scholars Illuminate the Legacy of Pellana.

As the 20th century dawned, a new generation of scholars and archaeologists turned their attention to the ancient Peloponnese, determined to uncover the secrets that lay buried within its storied landscapes. Among them were a cadre of researchers whose contributions would prove instrumental in shedding light on the ancient Spartan settlement of Pellana and its significance within the broader context of Greek history and archaeology.

One of the pioneering figures in this endeavour was Christos Tsountas, a Greek archaeologist who, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, excavated Mycenaean sites throughout the Laconia region, including the renowned site of Vaphio. Tsountas's meticulous work not only unearthed invaluable artifacts but also laid the groundwork for a deeper understanding of the Mycenaean presence in this corner of the Peloponnese.

Building upon this foundation, Spyridon Marinatos, a renowned Greek archaeologist, would go on to link Pellana to the Mycenaean trade networks that once flourished in the region through his excavations in Laconia. Marinatos's findings shed new light on the economic and cultural connections that tied Pellana to the broader Mycenaean world, adding depth to the scholarly understanding of this ancient Spartan stronghold.

As the 20th century progressed, the British historian Paul Cartledge, a specialist in Sparta, would turn his attention to the significance of Pellana within the Spartan sphere of influence. In his seminal work "Sparta and Lakonia," published in 2002, Cartledge analysed the archaeological evidence and historical records to elucidate Pellana's role as a key administrative and strategic center for the Spartan kingdom.

Alongside these scholars, a diverse array of researchers made invaluable contributions to the study of Pellana and the broader Peloponnese. Gina Salapata, for instance, explored the rich tradition of Lakonian votive plaques, uncovering insights into the religious and cultural practices that were woven into the fabric of this ancient region. The collaborative efforts of scholars like Carl Blegen, Alan Wace, Oscar Broneer, John Kraft, and George Rapp further contextualized the Bronze Age history of northern Lakonia, providing crucial chronological and environmental data that enriched our understanding of Pellana's place within the broader Peloponnesian landscape.

In the digital age, the work of scholars like Richard J.A. Talbert, who edited the Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World, and Michael Loy, who analysed Mycenaean trade patterns in the adjacent region of Messenia, have continued to expand the scholarly discourse surrounding Pellana and its connections to the wider ancient Greek world.

More recently, the contributions of scholars like Elena Korka, who directed excavations at the site of Tenea, have further illuminated the archaeological significance of the Peloponnese, providing new insights that can inform our understanding of Pellana and its role within this dynamic region.

Alongside these academic luminaries, the work of independent researchers, such as Peter Adamis, has also added valuable perspectives to the ongoing study of Pellana, offering historical narratives and resource materials that complement the scholarly discourse.

Through the tireless efforts of this diverse array of researchers, the ancient Spartan settlement of Pellana has been gradually reclaimed from the mists of time, its significance and legacy woven into the broader tapestry of Greek history and archaeology. Each scholar's contribution, whether through excavation, analysis, or interpretative work, has helped to illuminate the multifaceted story of this remarkable site, ensuring that its secrets continue to captivate and inspire new generations of students and enthusiasts alike.

Integration into Modern Greece: With the establishment of the modern Greek state, Pellana became integrated into national administrative and economic structures, benefiting from broader policies aimed at rural development, even if indirectly. Infrastructure improvements, such as roads and utilities, gradually reached the region, linking it more closely with larger economic centres.

Tourism and Archaeological Value: Although not a major tourist destination, Pellana's archaeological sites have attracted scholars and history enthusiasts, contributing to a modest increase in visitors interested in exploring its historical ruins. This trickle of tourism has provided some economic benefits, albeit limited, by creating opportunities for local services and hospitality businesses.

Pellana's Cultural Landscape and Religious Traditions: Pellana's cultural landscape was shaped by its religious traditions and mythological affiliations. The assertion that it was the birthplace of the Dioscuri—Castor and Pollux—played a significant role in its cultural identity. These divine twins were central figures in Spartan mythology, symbolizing bravery, protection, and brotherhood. The local cults and religious practices, likely centred around these figures, would have been integral to the community's spiritual life and social cohesion.

Religious processions and rituals might have been common, reinforcing Pellana's cultural ties to Sparta. The settlement's religious architecture, such as temples and votive areas, would have served as focal points for worship and community gatherings. These sacred spaces not only reinforced social bonds but also attracted pilgrims and visitors, potentially contributing to economic activities through offerings and exchanges.

Archaeological Discoveries and Insights: Ongoing archaeological work at Pellana continues to shed light on its historical significance. Excavations have revealed a wealth of artifacts, from pottery and metal objects to architectural remnants, that illustrate the settlement's evolution over time. The discovery of high-quality pottery sequences and metalworking tools highlights Pellana's role as a center of craft production and trade. The architectural remains, including fortifications and residential structures, provide insights into the settlement's urban planning and defensive strategies. These findings underscore Pellana's adaptability in response to external threats and its capacity to maintain social and economic stability.

Environmental Management and Adaptation: Pellana's inhabitants demonstrated a keen understanding of environmental management, utilizing the fertile plains and water resources to sustain agricultural production. Advanced irrigation systems and soil conservation techniques would have been essential for optimizing crop yields and supporting a stable food supply. The settlement's ability to adapt to environmental changes, such as climate fluctuations and resource depletion, reflects a sophisticated approach to sustainability.

Legacy and Modern Relevance: Today, Pellana's legacy is preserved not only in its archaeological remains but also in the cultural memory of the region. As scholars continue to uncover its past, Pellana serves as a valuable case study for understanding the complexities of ancient settlement dynamics, trade networks, and cultural interactions. Its history offers lessons in resilience and adaptation, highlighting the importance of strategic location, resource management, and cultural heritage in shaping the trajectory of communities. Pellana's story is a microcosm of the broader historical narrative of the Peloponnese—a region marked by the rise and fall of civilizations, the interplay of cultural influences, and the enduring impact of geographical and environmental factors. As we continue to explore and interpret its past, Pellana remains a testament to the rich tapestry of human history and the enduring spirit of its people.

Pellana's Resilience and Adaptation over Time: Throughout its long history, Pellana has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability in the face of changing political, economic, and environmental landscapes. From its Mycenaean prosperity to its integration into the Spartan sphere and subsequent transformations under Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman rule, the settlement has navigated the ebb and flow of regional powers.

One of the key factors contributing to Pellana's longevity was its strategic location. Situated in the fertile Eurotas Valley, with access to perennial water sources and control over vital trade routes, the settlement was able to maintain its economic and military importance over the centuries. This geographic advantage allowed Pellana to adapt and thrive, even as the broader political and social dynamics of the region shifted. Another crucial aspect of Pellana's resilience was its ability to harness the natural resources of its surroundings. The settlement's inhabitants demonstrated a deep understanding of environmental management, developing sophisticated irrigation systems and soil conservation techniques to maximize agricultural productivity. This sustainable approach to resource utilization enabled Pellana to withstand periods of environmental stress and maintain a stable food supply.

The settlement's cultural and religious identity also played a significant role in its resilience. The belief that Pellana was the birthplace of the Dioscuri, revered figures in Spartan mythology, imbued the community with a strong sense of cultural and spiritual significance. This shared identity likely fostered social cohesion and a collective determination to preserve the settlement's legacy, even in the face of external challenges.

Pellana's Transformation and Modern Significance: Despite the many transformations Pellana has undergone, its historical significance continues to be recognized and celebrated in the modern era. The ongoing archaeological investigations at the site have shed new light on its ancient past, revealing the complexity of its urban planning, trade networks, and cultural practices.

The Village of Pellana: The modern village of Pellana boasts a range of amenities and economic activities, reflecting its continued importance in the region. It features two taverns, a grocery store, places of worship, a local museum, community hall, a stone mason, jewellery craftsmen, taxi service, olive oil factories, a bakery, a flour mill, and numerous olive groves. Residents engage in a mix of agricultural, commercial, and public service activities, highlighting the settlement's adaptability and integration into the modern Greek state. **Ancient Ruins and Renewed Interest:** The discoveries of ancient Pellana have sparked renewed interest in the settlement's role within the broader context of Greek history. Scholars and enthusiasts alike are drawn to Pellana's ability to adapt and thrive, even as the political and social landscape around it changed dramatically. Pellana's story offers valuable insights into the dynamics of ancient settlements, the interplay between geography and human agency, and the enduring power of cultural heritage.

Despite the site being enclosed by security wire, limiting direct public access, efforts are being made to preserve and celebrate Pellana's legacy. Local initiatives to maintain and restore the archaeological sites, as well as the dissemination of research findings, have contributed to a growing appreciation for the settlement's historical significance. While the area may not have experienced a significant economic revival, its status as a site of cultural and academic interest ensures that Pellana's story continues to be woven into the broader narrative of Greece's past. **The Enduring Spirit of Pellana:** Despite the many challenges and transformations Pellana has faced throughout its long history, the settlement's enduring spirit and resilience have remained a constant. From its Mycenaean prosperity to its integration into the Spartan sphere, and through the tumultuous periods of Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman rule, Pellana has demonstrated an unwavering ability to adapt and persevere.

At the heart of Pellana's resilience lies its strategic geographic location, which has been a double-edged sword. On one hand, the settlement's position in the fertile Eurotas Valley and its control over vital trade routes made it a coveted prize for various regional powers. This exposed Pellana to the ebb and flow of political and military conflicts, as it was repeatedly drawn into the struggles for dominance in the Peloponnese. On the other hand, Pellana's geographic isolation and rugged terrain also served as a buffer, providing a degree of protection and allowing the community to maintain a certain level of autonomy, even under the rule of larger empires. The inhabitants' intimate knowledge of the local environment and their ability to harness its resources enabled them to weather the storms of history and rebuild in the aftermath of destruction.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Pellana's enduring spirit is its ability to reinvent itself and adapt to changing circumstances. Whether it was the transition from a Mycenaean administrative center to a Spartan Perioicic settlement, or the transformation from a prominent polis to a smaller village under Roman rule, Pellana consistently demonstrated a remarkable capacity to evolve and maintain its relevance. This adaptability was not limited to political and economic shifts; it also extended to the settlement's cultural and religious identity. As Pellana's story continues to unfold, it serves as a reminder of the enduring human spirit and the power of place-based identity. Through the careful study and preservation of this ancient settlement, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of human history and the timeless qualities that have allowed communities to endure and flourish, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

Christos Tsountas (1857–1934): Excavated Mycenaean sites in Laconia (e.g., **Unravelling the Spartan Stronghold: Modern Scholars Illuminate the Legacy of Pellana**)

The belief that Pellana was the birthplace of the Dioscuri, the divine twins revered in Vaphio, 1889) and pioneered Cycladic studies. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#) [Source 6](#) [Source 9](#)

Spyridon Marinatos (1901–1974): Linked Pellana to Mycenaean trade networks through excavations in Laconia.
[Source 3](#) [Source 6](#)

Paul Cartledge (1947–present): Analysed Pellana's Spartan significance in *Sparta and Lakonia* (2002). British historian specializing in Sparta. His works (*Sparta and Lakonia*, 2002) reference Pellana's archaeological significance. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#) [Source 11](#)

Gina Salapata: Published *Heroic Offerings* on Lakonian votive plaques from Amyklai. [Source 9](#)

Carl Blegen & Alan Wace: Contextualized northern Lakonia's Bronze Age through Peloponnesian studies.
[Source 3](#) [Source 6](#)

Oscar Broneer (1894–1992): Studied Lakonian lamps and excavated Isthmia, informing regional chronology.
[Source 9](#)

John Kraft & George Rapp: Conducted geoarchaeological studies on Laconia's ancient landscapes.
[Source 10](#) [Source 16](#)

Richard J.A. Talbert: Edited the *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World* (2000), mapping ancient Pellana and surrounding villages. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#)

Michael Loy (University of Cambridge): Analysed Mycenaean trade patterns in adjacent Messenia.
[Source 14](#)

Elena Korka (Greek Ministry of Culture): Directed excavations at Tenea, influencing Peloponnesian archaeology.
[Source 1](#) [Source 5](#)

Peter Adamis (Abalinx and Associates) Pellana - A resource historical perspective 2024

Peter Adamis (Abalinx and Associates) Pellana - A historical narrative of rise, decline, and resilience 2025

Peter Adamis (Abalinx and Associates) Pellana - Pellana and Travellers in the Peloponnese 2025



AGIOS KOSTATINOS AND ELENI – LOOKING TOWARDS THE EAST

CHAPTER 5 - DIGITAL & ARCHIVAL SOURCES

Unveiling the Secrets of Pellana: The Digital and Archival Trove

In the ever-evolving pursuit of knowledge, the ancient Spartan settlement of Pellana has captivated scholars and enthusiasts alike, drawing them to the rich tapestry of sources that have preserved its legacy over the centuries. From the classical writings of Pausanias and Strabo to the modern-day digital repositories and archival collections, the story of Pellana has been meticulously woven together, piece by piece.

At the forefront of this digital treasure trove stands the Perseus Digital Library, a renowned online resource that has made the works of ancient Greek authors accessible to researchers worldwide. Within its digital halls, the vivid accounts of Pausanias and Strabo, who both referenced the ancient site of Pellana, have been carefully translated and preserved, providing invaluable primary sources for scholars to explore.

Delving deeper into the scholarly discourse, the JSTOR and Google Scholar platforms have become indispensable tools, housing a wealth of academic papers and analyses that have shed light on Pellana's historical role and significance. From studies that contextualize the site within the broader Spartan and Peloponnesian landscapes to interdisciplinary explorations that uncover new insights, these digital repositories have become essential gateways to the cutting edge of Pellana research.

Yet, the digital realm is but one facet of the vast archival tapestry that has preserved the legacy of this ancient settlement. The Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI), a renowned German archaeological institute, has played a pivotal role in this endeavour, archiving the seminal work of Friedrich Adler, whose 1892 survey and excavations in the Eurotas Valley were instrumental in definitively identifying the site of Pellana.

Beyond the digital realm, the local Greek archives have also proven to be invaluable sources of information, though often requiring fluency in the Greek language to access. These regional histories and records may contain references to the villages and settlements that surrounded Pellana, offering glimpses into the broader cultural and social context of the ancient Spartan site.

As the digital age has ushered in a new era of research and discovery, the wealth of resources available to scholars has expanded exponentially. From the classical texts that first mentioned Pellana to the modern-day analyses and archival materials, the digital and archival trove has become an indispensable tool in the ongoing quest to unravel the secrets of this captivating ancient settlement.

Whether delving into the Perseus Digital Library's translations of Pausanias and Strabo, scouring the academic papers on JSTOR and Google Scholar, or navigating the archival treasures of the DAI, researchers and enthusiasts alike have access to a veritable treasure trove of information that continues to shed light on the enduring significance of Pellana.

As the digital landscape evolves and new archival materials come to light, the story of Pellana continues to unfold, drawing in a new generation of scholars and captivating the imaginations of those who seek to understand the rich tapestry of ancient Greek history and archaeology. The digital and archival resources that have preserved this legacy serve as a testament to the enduring power of knowledge and the relentless pursuit of understanding the past.

Reviving the Pellana Press: Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future. As the ancient settlement of Pellana continues to captivate scholars and the local community, there are discussions underway to reintroduce a newspaper that would serve the region. This initiative, still in the planning stages, holds the promise of reviving the local press and amplifying the voices of the Pellana community. The ideal location for the revival of a local newspaper is the Pellana museum, which once was the site of the local school.

The idea of a Pellana-based newspaper, whether in hardcopy or digital format, has generated significant enthusiasm among residents and stakeholders. The potential resurrection of this local publication reflects a desire to preserve the settlement's rich history and cultural heritage, while also shaping its future trajectory. The Pellana Press, as it might be called, would serve as a vital platform for the community to share its stories, celebrate its achievements, and address the challenges it faces. By providing a dedicated space for local news, arts, and community events, the newspaper would foster a sense of unity and pride among the residents of Pellana.

Moreover, the Pellana Press could play a crucial role in bridging the gap between the ancient past and the present. Through feature articles, historical accounts, and interviews with local historians and archaeologists, the newspaper would have the opportunity to delve into the settlement's storied history, bringing its legacy to life for both longtime residents and newcomers alike. The digital component of the Pellana Press would further amplify its reach, allowing the community's narrative to extend beyond the physical boundaries of the village. By embracing the power of digital media, the newspaper could connect Pellana with a wider audience, fostering a sense of global interest and engagement with the settlement's past, present, and future.

As the discussions around the Pellana Press continue to evolve, the community's vision for this initiative remains clear: to preserve the settlement's identity, to celebrate its resilience, and to empower its residents to shape the path forward. By giving voice to the people of Pellana, the newspaper would become a testament to the enduring spirit of this ancient Spartan stronghold, ensuring that its story remains an integral part of the broader tapestry of Greek history and culture.

The reintroduction of a local newspaper in Pellana represents a significant milestone in the settlement's ongoing journey. It is a testament to the community's determination to maintain its cultural heritage, to foster a sense of belonging, and to actively participate in the shaping of its own future. As the Pellana Press takes shape, it promises to become a powerful tool for preserving the past, while also charting a course towards a vibrant and sustainable tomorrow.

Perseus Digital Library: Hosts translations of Pausanias, Strabo, and other classical texts mentioning Pellana.

[Source 1](#)

JSTOR/Google Scholar: Academic papers analysing Pellana's historical role. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#)

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI): Archives Friedrich Adler's original 1892 survey and supports fieldwork in the Eurotas Valley. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#)

Local Greek Archives: Regional histories may reference villages like Perivolia or Pardali, though access often requires fluency in Greek. [Source 1](#)

[A brief history of mankind:](#)

[Byzantium](#)

[Critias:](#)

[Greek Society - Antony Andrewes:](#)

[History of the Greek Revolution by Thomas Gordon:](#)

[History of the War of Independence in Greece by Thomas Keightley, 1830:](#)

[How societies Collapse:](#)

[Lycurgus:](#)

[Maccabees 14 – Apocrypha –Bible\):](#)

[Nicholas Bakis"](#)

[Pausanias on Pellana:](#)

[Pellana Tombs:](#)

[Pellana, Archaic to Roman polis at Kalyvia:](#)

[Peter Adamis:](#)

[Pindar:](#)

[Sea Peoples:](#)

[The Greek Revolution by Mark Mazower, 2021:](#)
[The Greek War of Independence by Peter H. Paroulakis, 2000:](#)
[The Greek War of Independence: by David Brewer, 2001:](#)
[William Martin Leake:](#)
[The War of Greek Independence, 1821 To 1833 by Elder and Co Smith, 2019:](#)
[The War of Greek Independence, 1821 To 1833 by Walter Alison Phillips, 1897:](#)
[Theodore Spyropoulos:](#)
[Mycenean Greece](#)
[Helen of Troy](#)
[Menelaus](#)
[History as a guide](#)
[Myths Oral stories and Literature](#)
[Extinct languages](#)
[Archaeology and material culture](#)
[Modern technologies and science in Archaeology](#)
[Mycenean burial practices](#)
[Symbols Hieroglyphics and Inscriptions](#)
[The role of interdisciplinary approach to research](#)
[Hellenistic period](#)
[Brief history of artificial intelligence - AI](#)
[Hellenistic Mycenaean King - Chief or Wanax](#)
[Menelaion at Sparta](#)
[Pellana ancient Mycenean city](#)
[Pellana and ancient tombs](#)
[Pellana a village in Laconia](#)
[Pellana – Ancient references](#)
[Pellana - The Administrative capital of Lacedaemon](#)
[Early Helladic period](#)
[Hellenistic era](#)
[Chamber tombs](#)
[Tyndareus](#)
[Peloponnesian politics: 371-361 B.C](#)
[New study 2018 – Collapse of the Mycenean empire](#)
[Brigands and Brigadiers](#)

PERSEUS.

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/searchresults?q=PELLANA&target=en&collections=Perseus%3Acollection%3AGreco-Roman>

PAUSANIAS, *DESCRIPTION OF GREECE* (ENGLISH) ([GREEK](#))

[book 3, chapter 1](#): ... in fear; the Lacedaemonians say that he went to Pellana, but a Messenian legend about him is that he

[book 3, chapter 21](#): ... Achaia. Farther On in the direction of Pellana is what is called Characoma (Trench) ; and after it Pellana, which in the olden time was a city. They ... another spring, Lancia. A hundred stades away from Pellana is the place called Belemina. It is naturally The

[book 3, chapter 26](#): ... Pephnus, but that it was Hermes who took them to Pellana. In this little island there are bronze
[book 6, chapter 8](#): ... previously the boys' wrestling-match; Philip, an Azanian from Pellana, who beat the boys at boxing, and Critodamus from

PINDAR, *NEMEAN* (ED. DIANE ARNSON SVARLIEN) (ENGLISH) ([GREEK](#))

[book N., poem 10](#): ... Sicyon they returned with silver wine-goblets, and from Pellana with soft wool cloaks around their shoulders. But it

PINDAR, *OLYMPIAN* (ENGLISH) (GREEK)

[book O., poem 7](#): ... him, and the duly ordered contests of the Boeotians, and Pellana and Aegina, where he was six times victor.

[book O., poem 9](#): ... at, at the festival of Lycaean Zeus, and when at Pellana he carried off as his prize a warm remedy

[book O., poem 13](#): ... Lycaean altar that rules over the Arcadians, and by Pellana, and Sicyon, and Megara, the beautifully enclosed

STRABO, *GEOGRAPHY* (ENGLISH) (GREEK) (ENGLISH, ED. H.C. HAMILTON, ESQ., W. FALCONER, M.A.)

[book 8, chapter 4](#): ... Hom. Il. 9.150 some say that it is Pellana, also spelled Pellene; now Zugra. others that

[book 8, chapter 7](#): ... the games; it lies between Aegium and Pellene. But Pellana is different from these two; it is a Laconian

STRABO, *GEOGRAPHY* (ENGLISH) (GREEK) (ENGLISH)

[book 8, chapter 4](#): ... Cardamyle, and Pheræ, and Pedasus. Enope, some say is Pellana; others, some place near Cardamyle; others, Gerenia. According

[book 8, chapter 7](#): It lies between Ægium Vostitza. and Pellene. But Pellana, a different place from these, belongs to the Lacedemonian

PERSEUS ENCYCLOPEDIA (ENGLISH)

[entry dioskouroi](#): ... at Pephnus: Paus. 3.26.2 taken to Pellana by Hermes: Paus. 3.26.2 them

[entry Hermes](#): ... Paus. 5.17.3 takes infant Dioscuri to Pellana: Paus. 3.26.2 hymn of Alcaeus

[entry Pellana](#): Pellana Pellana, city of Laconia Paus. ... Paus. 3.21.2 Pellana (2), in Arcadia Paus.

[entry springs](#): ... Messeis Oenoe Olympias Pellana Persea Petra Piera

[entry Tyndareus](#): ... 4, Paus. 3.21.2 flees to Pellana or Thalamae in Messenia: Paus. 3.1.4,

ANDREW STEWART, *ONE HUNDRED GREEK SCULPTORS, THEIR CAREERS AND EXTANT WORKS* (ENGLISH)

[part 2, chapter 2](#): ... Kleonai, at Olympia The boy-boxer Philippos of Pellana, at Olympia The hoplite-runner Chionis of

DICTIONARY OF GREEK AND ROMAN GEOGRAPHY (1854) (ENGLISH) [entry belemina-geo](#): ... l.c.) to have been 100 stadia from Pellana, and is plated by Leake on the summit of [entry laconia-geo](#): ... narrow part of the valley; above it the town PELLANA the frontier-fortress of Sparta in the vale of the Eurotas; and 100 stadia from Pellana, BELEMLNA. (Paus. 3.20.8 - 21... the Lacedaemonian TRIPOLIS (Liv. 35.27 .) Pellana was one of the three cities (Plb. 4.... bulwark of Sparta in the vale of the Oenus, as Pellana was in that of the Eurotas. Above Sellasia was

[entry pellana-geo](#): ... of Asclepius, and two fountains, named Pellanis and Lanceia. Below Pellana, was the Characoma (Χαράκωμα), a fortification or (Plut. l.c.) Pausanias says that Pellana was 100 stadia from Belemina; but he does not... the waters of these fountains to Sparta. The acropolis of Pellana may have occupied one of the summits of the [entry Pellene-geo](#): ... 2. A town in Laconia. [PELLANA] COIN OF PELLENE.

A DICTIONARY OF GREEK AND ROMAN BIOGRAPHY AND MYTHOLOGY (ED. WILLIAM SMITH) (ENGLISH)

[entry tyndareus-bio-1](#): ... Hippocoon, and, according to a Laconian tradition, Tyndareus went to Pellana in Laconia, and according to a Messenian tradition, he

ELEGY AND IAMBUS, VOLUME II (ED. J. M. EDMONDS) (ENGLISH) (GREEK, ED. J. M. EDMONDS)

[volume 2, text 25, section 2](#): ... of Arcadia') , 6. 8. 5 ('Philippus the Azanian of Pellana won the boxing for boys. the statue is by

CHAPTER 6 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

The Enduring Enigma of Pellana: Uncovering a Spartan Stronghold Through the Decades.

The ancient site of Pellana, nestled within the storied region of Laconia, has long captivated the attention of scholars and archaeologists. Yet, the passage of time has not been kind to this once-thriving Spartan settlement, as it has faced a tumultuous history of decline and looting.

Spyropoulos, the archaeologist who uncovered much of the site of ancient Pellana, believes it to be a major administrative fortress of North Laconia. Spyropoulos is also of the belief that ancient Pellana was the home of the Wanax (Chieftain) Menelaus and his beautiful wife Helen of Troy fame. This belief has yet to gain widespread scholarly acceptance and remains a matter of academic discussion. Nevertheless, Pellana was strategically placed not only as the Northern gate fortress in Lacedaemon, but also as a major administrative and trading town, monitoring the traffic arriving from the North.

Over the centuries, the very materials that once composed the grandeur of Pellana have been stripped away, with the building blocks of its structures repurposed to construct the modern village that now stands in its stead. The ravages of time and the actions of post-war inhabitants have conspired to erase much of the physical evidence of Pellana's former glory, leaving behind a landscape that frustrates and challenges those who seek to unravel its mysteries.

Despite these obstacles, the scholarly pursuit of Pellana has continued unabated, with researchers from around the world turning their attention to this enigmatic site. The British School at Athens, for instance, has produced reports that potentially mention Pellana or the nearby villages that dot the Laconian landscape, providing tantalizing clues for those who delve into the archives.

Likewise, the Greek archaeological journal *Αρχ. Δελτ.* has chronicled the ongoing efforts to study the region, with entries that shed light on the evolving understanding of Laconia and its ancient settlements. The post-1915 excavation reports, catalogued as Item 329, have become invaluable resources for scholars seeking to piece together the fragmented history of this once-vibrant Spartan stronghold.

Among the researchers who have dedicated themselves to unravelling the secrets of Pellana, the work of Theodoros Spyropoulos stands out as a testament to the perseverance and passion that drives this field of study. In his 1998 publication, Spyropoulos presented his findings on Pellana, drawing upon the proceedings of the 19th British Museum Classical Colloquium, which was held in collaboration with the British School at Athens and King's and University Colleges, London.

Spyropoulos' meticulous analysis and the insights he gleaned from the excavations and surveys conducted at Pellana have become invaluable resources for scholars seeking to understand the site's significance within the broader context of Spartan and Peloponnesian history.

Yet, even as the scholarly discourse around Pellana has continued to evolve, the physical site itself has faced a new set of challenges. Today, the ancient settlement is enclosed by security wire, limiting direct access and exploration, while the renowned Mycenaean royal tombs that once graced the landscape have been closed off to the general public.

Access to the site is now tightly controlled, with permission required from the archaeology departments in Sparta and Athens. The artifacts and treasures unearthed at Pellana, including those discovered by Spyropoulos, have been carefully curated and housed in the museums of Sparta and Athens, further restricting the ability of researchers and enthusiasts to engage with the physical remnants of this ancient Spartan stronghold.

Despite these obstacles, the enduring fascination with Pellana persists, fuelled by the tireless efforts of scholars like Christos Tsountas and Spyridon Marinatos, who have explored the Laconian region and uncovered invaluable insights into the Mycenaean and Spartan legacies that are woven into the fabric of this captivating site.

As the modern world encroaches upon the ancient ruins of Pellana, the task of preserving its legacy and unlocking its secrets has become ever more challenging. Yet, the dedication and passion of researchers, combined with the wealth of archival and scholarly resources available, continue to fuel the ongoing quest to unravel the mysteries of this Spartan stronghold, ensuring that its story remains an integral part of the tapestry of Greek history and archaeology.

Multiple entries reference Laconia (the region containing Pellana) and nearby sites:

- Item 129: B.S.A. xxi. 148 ff. – British School at Athens report potentially mentioning Pellana or nearby villages.
- Item 130: Ἀρχ. Δελτ. ii. παράρτημα, 46 – Greek archaeological journal entry on Laconia.

Item 329: Ἀρχ. Δελτ. ii. 144 ff. – post-1915 excavation reports from Laconia. [Source 1](#)

Spyropoulos, Theodoros, g. 1998. Pellana *Proceedings of the 19th British Museum Classical Colloquium held with the British School at Athens and King's and University Colleges, London, 6-8 December 1995*, Cavanagh, W. G. and S. E. C. Walker, eds. The British School at Athens, BSA Studies 4. p. 28-38, English and Greek Abstracts [Theodore Spyropoulos](#):

Christos Tsountas (1857–1934): Excavated Mycenaean sites in Laconia (e.g., Vaphio, 1889) and pioneered Cycladic studies. [Source 1](#) [Source 3](#) [Source 6](#) [Source 9](#)

Spyridon Marinatos (1901–1974): Linked Pellana to Mycenaean trade networks through excavations in Laconia. [Source 3](#) [Source 6](#)



MYCENAEAN ROYAL TOMBS

CHAPTER 7 - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Unravelling the Mysteries of Pellana: Navigating the Scholarly Archives

As the pursuit of understanding the ancient Spartan settlement of Pellana continues, researchers and enthusiasts alike have turned to a wealth of scholarly archives and resources, each offering a unique window into the site's rich history and significance.

At the forefront of this scholarly endeavour stands the British School at Athens, an institution that has long been a bastion of knowledge and exploration in the Peloponnese region. The school's publications, particularly the B.S.A. xxi reports, have become invaluable sources for those seeking to uncover the secrets of Pellana and its surrounding landscape.

Delving deeper into the Greek archaeological landscape, the Ἀρχ. Δελτ. (Greek Archaeological Reports) have also proven to be a crucial repository of information, with entries that provide insights into the ongoing research and excavations conducted in the Laconia region, where Pellana is situated.

Beyond the bounds of these institutional archives, the local Greek archives have also become a vital resource for scholars seeking to unravel the mysteries of Pellana. By reaching out to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Laconia, researchers can gain access to unpublished reports and documents that shed light on the lesser-known villages and settlements that dot the northern Lakonia landscape, potentially uncovering new clues about Pellana's role and significance within this broader context.

As the scholarly pursuit of Pellana expands, researchers have also turned to the vast repositories of knowledge housed within university libraries, utilizing interlibrary loan systems and digital platforms like Cambridge Core and JSTOR to access a wealth of specialized publications.

Among these, the German journal *Hermes* (Items 140, 141, 328) and the French *Revue Archéologique* (Items 145, 152) have become invaluable resources, offering a diverse array of classical studies and archaeological reviews that can inform and enrich the understanding of Pellana and its place within the broader Spartan and Peloponnesian spheres.

The NESTOR bibliography, a comprehensive resource for Aegean and Greek archaeology, has also become an essential tool, providing researchers with a curated list of publications and resources specifically related to the study of Pellana and its surrounding region.

Moreover, the work of scholars like Leonidas V. Souchleris, Katie Demakopoulou, and Theodoros Spyropoulos, whose recent publications have shed new light on the Laconian landscape and the significance of Pellana, have become vital additions to the scholarly discourse, further expanding the knowledge base and inspiring new avenues of exploration.

As researchers navigate this rich tapestry of archives, publications, and digital resources, the enduring mysteries of Pellana continue to captivate and challenge. Each new discovery, each unearthed document, and each insightful analysis brings us one step closer to unveiling the full story of this ancient Spartan stronghold, ensuring that its legacy will continue to fascinate and inspire scholars for generations to come.

British School at Athens. Consult B.S.A. xxi (British School at Athens) and Ἀρχ. Δελτ. ii (Greek Archaeological Reports) for Laconia-specific findings.

Local Greek Archives. Contact the Ephorate of Antiquities of Laconia for unpublished reports on North Lakonia villages.

University Libraries. Use interlibrary loans or digital repositories like Cambridge Core and JSTOR to access:

- **Hermes** (Items 140, 141, 328) – German journal with classical studies.
- **Revue Archéologique** (Items 145, 152) – French archaeological reviews.

The enhanced document provides a comprehensive overview of the notable travellers, scholars, and archaeologists who have encountered or studied the ancient site of Pellana in the Peloponnese region of Greece. It includes references to primary sources, modern scholarly works, and digital/archival resources that can be consulted for further research on this topic. The inclusion of specific internet sources and URLs allows for easy access to the referenced materials.

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HANZAC MEMORIAL

EPILOGUE

As this comprehensive work on "Pellana and Travellers in the Peloponnese" draws to a close, it is clear that the significance of this ancient Spartan settlement extends far beyond its physical location. The wealth of information and the diverse array of sources compiled within these pages serve as a testament to the enduring allure and scholarly importance of Pellana. From the earliest classical references by Pausanias, Strabo, and Homer, to the pioneering work of scholars like William Martin Leake and Friedrich Adler in the 19th century, Pellana has captivated the minds of those seeking to unravel the mysteries of the Peloponnese and its place within the broader context of Greek history and archaeology. The site's strategic location, its links to Spartan mythology and culture, and its role within the Mycenaean and Classical Greek worlds have all been the subject of intense scholarly scrutiny and debate.

The continued efforts of modern researchers, including Christos Tsountas, Spyridon Marinatos, Paul Cartledge, and others, to explore, excavate, and analyse Pellana have further solidified its significance, expanding our understanding of its past and its connections to the wider region. The inclusion of digital and archival resources within this document ensures that this knowledge remains accessible and can be built upon by future generations of scholars. As the study of Pellana and the Peloponnese continues to evolve, this comprehensive work serves as a resource that encapsulates the rich tapestry of exploration, discovery, and scholarly endeavour that has been woven around this ancient Spartan settlement. The enduring fascination with Pellana, as evidenced by the diverse array of travellers and researchers who have engaged with it over the centuries, speaks to its enduring relevance and the crucial role it plays in our understanding of the ancient Greek world.

In the years and decades to come, it is certain that Pellana will continue to captivate and inspire scholars, archaeologists, and enthusiasts alike, as new discoveries and interpretations emerge to further illuminate the site's place in the storied history of the Peloponnese. This document stands as a testament to the ongoing quest to uncover the secrets of this remarkable ancient settlement, and a testament to the enduring power of scholarly inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge. As the modern world encroaches upon the ancient ruins of Pellana, the task of preserving its legacy and unlocking its secrets has become ever more challenging. Yet, the dedication and passion of researchers, combined with the wealth of archival and scholarly resources available, continue to fuel the ongoing quest to unravel the mysteries of this Spartan stronghold, ensuring that its story remains an integral part of the tapestry of Greek history and archaeology.

The comprehensive overview presented in this work highlights the significant role that the ancient site of Pellana has played in the history and archaeology of the Peloponnese region of Greece. Through the accounts and studies of a diverse array of travellers, scholars, and archaeologists, spanning from ancient Greek sources to modern-day researchers, a rich tapestry of knowledge has been woven around this important Spartan settlement. As the study of Pellana and the Peloponnese continues to evolve, this document serves as a testament to the enduring legacy of this remarkable ancient site and the relentless pursuit of knowledge that has defined its study over the centuries. The enduring fascination with Pellana, as evidenced by the diverse array of researchers who have engaged with it, underscores its continued relevance and the need for ongoing exploration and study.



THE COTTAGE

CONCLUSION

As this comprehensive work on "Pellana and Travellers in the Peloponnese" reaches its conclusion, it is clear that the significance of this ancient Spartan settlement extends far beyond its physical location. The wealth of information and the diverse array of sources compiled within these pages serve as a testament to the enduring allure and scholarly importance of Pellana.

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Peter Adamis was born in Pellana, (a small village near Sparta Lakonia, Greece on the 28 March 1950. His parents and young brother Philip migrated to Fremantle West Australia in 1954. In 1955, twins Kon and Helen were born in Perth. In 1956 the parents Vasili and Kaliopi decided to relocate to Melbourne to maximise employment opportunities and create a stable family environment. He is married to Yovanna and had four sons from a previous marriage, David – William, Paul – Arthur Phillip, Matthew – Allan – Norman and Mark Daniel Adamis.

He is an avid supporter of Pellana his place of birth by bringing attention to the ancient Ruins of the town and its connection to King Tyndareus, and Homer of the Iliad and Ulysses. He enjoys researching the ancient world with emphasis on the Mycenaeans and the Sea Peoples, Australian community cultures and their impact on Australian society. Currently researching material for two books, "An ordinary Bloke" and "HANZAC". Peter has written in excess of 500 articles on domestic and international issues and on controversial subjects that affect Australian society.

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