

A Snapshot of Northern Greece





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to Greece.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents.

British Airways

As this leg of the flight is booked on a group reference, you are not able to check-in online and will need to check -in at the airport.

For more information, please visit: [www.britishairways.com](#)

EasyJet

For the Easyjet leg of the flight you **must** check-in online and print out or download your boarding passes to your phone before travelling. Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

For more information, please visit: [www.easyjet.com](#)

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and

non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage Allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information, please visit [www.britishairways.com](#)

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you**, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels). <http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Transfers

On arrival at Thessaloniki Airport, you will be met by your Tour Manager in the arrival's hall. She will be holding a Travel Editions sign. The transfer time to the Golden Star Hotel is approximately 15 minutes.

Special Requests

If you haven't done so already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

Taking food into EU countries

Please note you are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



Accommodation

Golden Star Hotel, Thessaloniki

Situated just 17 kilometres from Thessaloniki and only a 10-minute drive from the airport, the four-star Golden Star Hotel provides a relaxed place to stay for the start of our tour. Set on the sea front in the small seaside resort of Perea, ensures ease of access to local tavernas, shops and the seaside promenade. The comfortable rooms all have balconies with either mountain or sea view, air conditioning/heating. The hotel facilities include a restaurant and bar.

For more information, please visit:

<https://goldenstarcityresort.com-hotel.com/>

Hotel Kastraki, Meteora

The three-star Hotel Kastraki is located at the foot of Meteora rocks in the village of Kastraki, just 2 km from Kalambaka town. The hotel has 27 comfortable and elegant rooms tastefully decorated with earthy tones and dark-coloured wooden furnishings. The public areas include a spacious lounge, TV room and cafeteria. Free wi-fi is available in all areas. A small selection of taverna's are located within easy walking distance.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.hotelkastraki.gr/>

Anemolia Resort and Spa, Ioannina

This comfortable four-star boutique-style hotel, overlooking the lake, is located approximately three kilometres from Ioannina's city centre. Set in landscaped gardens, facilities include a bar, spa with sauna, hot tub and various treatments (at extra cost) as well as very comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.anemolia-resort.gr/>

Dining

The standard of food in Greece is excellent and offers a remarkable variety of freshly prepared and very tasty dishes, many of which use locally grown products and locally produced olive oil. When eating out the Greeks nearly always eat 'mezedes' style. This means ordering several

dishes, starters and/or main plates, whatever takes your fancy, to put in the middle of the table for all to share. It is a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! Do not be shy in the amount you order, or if you only find yourselves ordering starters – any combination is acceptable.

When ordering fish in Greece you will find the price on the menu relates to a cost per kilo. Don't be put off by this. You are expected to go into the kitchen, choose the fish you want which will be weighed in front of you so you know what you will pay.

Nearly all tavernas sell their own 'open' wine, known as village wine. It can be something of an acquired taste, but it usually goes very well with the local food. If you are unsure, you can always ask if you can try the wine before you agree to it. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 6 euros per half litre.

Other local drinks are ouzo, tsipouro, brandy/cognac. Tsipouro is the local firewater! This is distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine.

Meals included in the holiday.

Breakfast daily, two dinners and one lunch



Destination

This 'adventure' takes us to the surprising landscapes and natural beauties of northern Greece during a period when the colours of spring should be painting the trees and when most tourists have yet to arrive, so it will feel like we have places to ourselves. The places visited will provide a fantastic glimpse of the diversity and beauty offered in this region, not only in its spectacular scenery but also in its local tastes and its distinct culture.

Places and sites of interest included in the tour:

Halkidiki

Halkidiki is a region known for its agriculture, jutting peninsulas, or three legs, one of which accommodates Greece's largest monastic community Mount Athos, beautiful beaches and traditional villages. The region's notable archaeological sites include Stageira, Aristotle's birthplace, and Olynthus, known for its well-preserved mosaic floors.

For more information about Halkidiki, visit: <https://www.discovergreece.com/macedonia/halkidiki>

Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the region. Built right by the sea, it is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of a stormy and ancient history which provides its cosmopolitan character, that gives way to special beauty and charm.

For more information about Thessaloniki, visit: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/greece/northern-greece/thessaloniki>

Ancient Aigai - Vergina

Aigai was the ancient capital of the Macedonian kingdom, and it was here in 336BC that Alexander the Great was proclaimed King of Macedon after the assassination of his father, Philip II. The excavation by Professor Manolis Andronikos and his associates of the Great Tumulus that housed three very special tombs, found in modern day Vergina village in 1977, brought to light one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the

20th century. The site hosts a very cleverly designed museum that showcases the riches that were found in the excavated tombs, one of which is believed to belong to Philip II. The site is a recognised UNESCO site comprising a unique discovery with an enormous universal impact.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/culture/archaeological_sites/vergina

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/780/>

Meteora Monasteries

Meteora, a sensational rock formation in central Greece, hosts one of the largest and most precipitously built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries, second in importance only to Mount Athos. The six (of an original twenty-four) monasteries that remain in existence today are built on immense natural pillars and hill-like rounded boulders that dominate the area. Meteora is located near the town of Kalambaka at the north-western edge of the Plain of Thessaly near the Pineios river and Pindus Mountains. The exact date of the establishment of the monasteries is unknown but by the late 11th and early 12th centuries, a rudimentary monastic state had formed and by the end of the 12th century, an ascetic community had flocked to Meteora.

For more information about Meteora, please visit:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meteora>

Metsovo

This tree-shaded village retains a very traditional character, dotting the mountain side below Katara Col in the mountain Range of Pindos. This locally infamous Vlach village, birthplace of the well-known national benefactors Tositsas and Averoff, who contributed in an enormous way by creating a foundation to make substantial improvements to both the village and the region of Epirus. Metsovo is a favourite destination for Greeks, especially in the winter months when snow arrives. The settlement's heart beats in the central square, where you can see a distinctive image of Metsovo: the elders, with their handlebar moustaches, usually sitting on the benches, occasionally in traditional costumes and holding long wooden crooks, chatting in Vlach, a Romance language

with its roots in the Balkans. The Folklore Museum of Metsovo, one of the first works of the Baron Michael Tositsa Foundation has been operating since 1955. It is housed in the rebuilt Tositsa Mansion. The exhibits include everything that could exist in a mansion during the great economic prosperity of Metsovo but also displays objects that are a historical memory for the nation: collections of weapons and swords from the struggle of 1821, bronze and wooden cooking utensils, jewellery, clothing, decorative plates and silverware, gold-embroidered saddles, chests, agricultural tools, looms and ornate textiles.

Metsovo is also well-known for its smoked cheeses and its excellent wines, all produced locally.

For more information on Metsovo, please visit:
http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/main_cities/metsovo

Ioannina

Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, spreads out around beautiful Lake Pamvotis. The natural environment, the climate and character of the town are defined by this stretch of water – the area's trademark. The lake, with its still waters and small island, is a natural monument, around which the entire area lives and breathes. A walk through the city has the feel of a bygone era, full of secret places and legends. Wonderful buildings like the House Matei Hussein, the Ottoman Mosque of Veli Pasha and the entire historic centre of the town are unique attractions. Ioannina was always multicultural, dominated by Christian, Islamic and Jewish influences. This coexistence of cultural influences is clearly evident in the historic city centre. The Stoa Louli arcade is one of the locations where the three communities worked together and prospered. The arcade was originally an inn and then became a mercantile exchange of great importance throughout the whole of Epirus.

For more information about Ioannina, please visit:
<https://www.visitgreece.gr/mainland/epirus/ioannina/>

The Zagoria Villages

Zagorohoria, or Zagoria Villages, comprise 46 stone-built villages situated northwest of Ioannina. During the last decade, the region of Zagorohoria has become incredibly popular among Greeks, but it is a place that only foreigners 'in the know' visit. Its cultured people, stunning landscapes, cosy

guesthouses, World Heritage-protected architecture, and wonderful rivers make it a unique destination.

Most of the villages consist of the same 'arhontika' (traditional) style houses - stone mansions with walls and roofs made of grey slate, taken from the surrounding mountains - and winding cobbled streets. Dotted between the villages are graceful arched stone bridges, churches with painted interiors, kalderimi (old mule trails), and forests of beech, chestnut, and pine.

For more information about the Zagoria Villages, visit:

<https://www.mysteriousgreece.com/travel-guides/mainland/epirus/zagorohoria/>

Tour Manager

Your Tour Manager will be on hand during the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see them immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues.

Grading

This tour has been graded as **moderate**: Walking between sites and standing for viewing.



The Basics

The weather in northern Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings might be a little cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful as is a light rain jacket and small umbrella.

Time – GMT +3 hours (Summertime Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). This means Greece is always 2 hours ahead of the UK.

Language – Greek

Religion – Greek Orthodox

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are available in most towns, as well as airports and other spots. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros other than bringing euros with you. You can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdrawn cash.

Please Note: As not all hotels on this tour are close to ATMS, we recommend bringing some euros with you for convenience.

Credit cards – Credit cards are far more widely accepted nowadays but it is always best to check first in restaurants and shops, especially in small villages, that they accept payment by credit card, should you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments, you may like to check these with your credit card supplier before you travel. Hotels usually always accept credit cards.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink although you should check at the hotel if the bathroom water is safe to drink as it could be tank water rather than mains water. Bottled water is readily available to buy in all local shops and very reasonably priced.

Shopping - Most villages, however small, usually have at least one minimarket. Minimarkets usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening.

Stamps - In most places you can purchase stamps at the same time you purchase postcards. This is much easier than trying to find a post office!

Plumbing - **Unless there is information to the contrary, please do not put toilet paper down the toilet.** This is common practice in Greece due to the narrowness of the mains waste pipes. Please dispose of the paper in the bins provided, which will be regularly emptied by the hotel.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that, when receiving a good service, one awards with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager/guide if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor. There is normally a charge of about 60 Euros for calling out a doctor (or more, depending on the distance the doctor has to travel) and there is also a charge to visit a doctor.

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed, or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who, usually, will speak some English. Pharmacists will often be able to give advice and medicine for minor ailments. Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday but not on Saturdays.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you have got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date.

Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900 - 1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7952 237156 or 00 44 7841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Embassy Athens

1, Ploutarchou str

106 75 Athens

Greece

Tel: +30 210 7272 600

Email: information.athens@fco.gov.uk

Open to the public - by appointment only

Appointments.Athens@fco.gov.uk. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am to 1pm.

Telephone enquiries: Monday to Friday, 8am to 3pm

Email: consular.athens@fco.gov.uk

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

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Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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