



# Tour Information



# An Autumn Adventure in Northern Greece





## 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

The outbound flight is with British Airways and the inbound flight with Easyjet.

Included with this documentation are e-tickets, which shows the reference numbers for your flights.

## British Airways

You can check-in at the airport or check-in online 24 hours prior to travelling using the reference number provided. Online check-in opens 24 hours prior to the scheduled departure time.

For more information, please visit:

[www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)

**EasyJet** have now replaced all airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore, you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit: [www.easyjet.com](http://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](http://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). If you book an upfront or extra legroom seat you can also take an additional large cabin bag on board.

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

## Transfers

On arrival at Thessaloniki Airport, you will be met by your Tour Manager in the arrivals hall. She will be holding a Travel Editions sign.

## 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.



## Accommodation

### Kassaros Hotel, Metsovo

This hotel is designed in keeping with the style of the village of Metsovo, where tradition abounds. A stay here provides the opportunity to enjoy the authentic feel of the village. The hotel exudes a warm relaxing atmosphere, and the rooms offer comfort in their decoration that similarly recognises the authentic style of the region. Room facilities include private bathroom, air-conditioning, TV, minibar, safe and Wi-Fi. The hotel is located just 50 metres from Metsovo's central square.

For more information, please visit:

<https://hotelkassaros.gr/en/accommodation/>

### Anemolia Resort and Spa, Ionnina

This very comfortable four-star hotel overlooking Lake Pamvotis is located approximately 4 kms from Ioannina's city centre. Set in landscaped gardens, facilities include a bar, spa, with sauna and hot tub. The well-appointed and tastefully decorated bedrooms include all modern amenities; TV, fridge, safe, hairdryer, free wi-fi and bathrobes and slippers.

For more information, please visit:

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

### Golden Star Hotel, Thessaloniki

Situated just 11 kilometres from Thessaloniki and only a 15-minute drive from the airport, the 4-star family run boutique Golden Star Hotel provides a relaxed place to stay at the start of our tour and is located right on the "Blue Flag" awarded beach of Perea. Individually decorated rooms and suites feature Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and minifridges; some have balconies.

Room service is available. Breakfast is offered. Dining options include a fine-dining restaurant and a casual beachfront eatery.

For more information, please visit:

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

### 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 and then it 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 5 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 two lunches

### Taking food into EU countries

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



## Destination

This 'adventure' takes us to the surprising landscapes and natural beauties of northern Greece during a period when the colours of autumn should be painting the trees and when most tourists have already departed, 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:

#### Metsovo

This tree-shaded village retains a very traditional character, dotting the mountain side below Katara Col in the Mountain Range of Pindos. Metsovo is full of life throughout the year with its natural surrounding beauties. This famous Vlach village, birthplace of well-known national benefactors (notably Tositsas and Averoff), who left Greece but never forgot their home helping to enhance the village by donating funds to make substantial improvements. 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, also known as "Archontiko", 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, which are produced locally.

For more information about Metsovo, please visit: [http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/main\\_cities/metsovo](http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/main_cities/metsovo)

#### 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>

#### 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 its small island, is a natural monument, around which the entire area lives and breathes. The strong cultural traditions of the town and the artistic and intellectual events which are organized throughout the year, give visitors the opportunity to get to know the roots of the intellectual life of Epirus. 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 mainly 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/>

## Ali Pasha's Island

One of the very few inhabited lake islands in Europe is in Greece. The island of Ioannina's Lake is the only inhabited island of its size in the world without a name. The verdant island of 200 square kilometres is home to more than 300 people. It is known for its traditional Epirus stone-built settlement and was the base of Ali Pasha of Janina, an Ottoman-Albanian ruler in the early 19th century, hence the 'nickname' for the island, Ali Pasha's Island. In its tiny heartland, there are seven Byzantine and post-Byzantine monasteries built close to each other, which made it an important place for monasticism in the past. This traditional monastic community is the third largest in the country after those in Mount Athos, Macedonia, and Meteora in Thessaly.

For more information about the island, please visit:

<https://greece.greekreporter.com/2014/12/07/the-unnamed-island-in-ioannina-lake/>

## Corfu

Corfu Town, the capital of Corfu, is one of the most beautiful and elegant towns in Greece. It is the principal port of the island and one of the largest and most populated towns of the Ionian Islands. Built on a promontory, the town displays a unique architecture which is strongly influenced from the different dominations, such as the Venetians, the French and the English. Corfu Town retains many of its original buildings, including elegant mansions, superb palaces, French-style flowered squares and imposing fortresses. The old town lies on the northern side between the Esplanade Square and the new fortress. Ferries approaching the port of Corfu offer a magnificent view to this picturesque and beautiful town. The square of the Esplanade (also called Spianada) is the central square of the town and the largest square in the Balkans. It became a public square during the French occupation and was designed according to a French garden architecture, with many organised trees and flowerpots. It is surrounded by sumptuous buildings, imposing

monuments and an old Venetian fortress which marks the beginning of the modern town.

For more information about Corfu, please visit:  
<https://www.greeka.com/ionian/corfu/villages/town/>

## The Zagoria Villages

Zagorohoria means Zagoria Villages, which comprise 46 stone-built villages situated to the north and 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' 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 Turkish bridges made from stone, churches with painted interiors, kalderimi (old mule trails), and forests of beech, chestnut, and pine.

## Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the region. Built near the sea, it is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of a stormy history and a cosmopolitan character, which give it a special beauty and charm.

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

## 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 Gentle: Some walking between sites and standing for viewing.



## The Basics

The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings, and sometimes the days, can be quite cool, particularly in shadow, 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 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 from the UK. You can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdrawn cash. The instructions are in English. Just look for signs on ATMs for Delta or Cirrus.

Banks open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm.

**Credit cards** – Greece is very much a cash society so credit cards are not always widely accepted, however, far more places are accepting these nowadays, but it is best to check first in restaurants and shops, if you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments and 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. The 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. As you may know this is common practice in Greece due to the narrowness of the 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](http://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 09:00-17:00), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7952 237156 (Jane Freeman)

**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](mailto:information.athens@fco.gov.uk)

Open to the public - by appointment only

[Appointments.Athens@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Appointments.Athens@fco.gov.uk). Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 09:00 to 13:00.

Telephone enquiries: Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 15:00.

Email: [consular.athens@fco.gov.uk](mailto:consular.athens@fco.gov.uk)

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