



Tour Information



Delphi to Macedonia

An historic journey





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. EasyJet have now replaced all their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore, 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.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided.

For more information, please visit: www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your flight documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your

passport. Your flight tickets are 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.

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 Athens Airport please collect your luggage and proceed to the arrivals hall, where you will find your tour manager holding a Travel Editions sign. The transfer time to Likoria Hotel is approximately 2.5 hours.

Special Requests

If you haven't 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

Likoria Hotel, Arachova

At 990 metres above sea level, the comfortable four-star Likoria Hotel is situated in the heart of the picturesque mountain village of Arachova. Each spacious and tastefully decorated room has a private balcony with views over the Delphi valley. Hotel facilities include a bar, sauna, steam room, heating/air-conditioning and wi-fi. Rooms have a private bathroom with bath or shower, balcony, TV, mini-bar and kettle. There is a good choice of tavernas within easy reach on foot from Likoria and some great local shopping too!

For more information, please visit the hotel's website: <http://www.likoria.gr/en/>

Hotel Kastraki, Meteora

The three-star Hotel Kastraki is located at the foot of the impressive Meteora rocks in the village of Kastraki. The hotel has 27 comfortable and elegant rooms tastefully decorated with earthy tones and dark-coloured wooden furnishings. Room facilities include air-conditioning, TV, Safe, air-conditioning/heating, fridge, bathroom with shower or bath, hairdryer and balcony. The public areas include a spacious lounge, TV room and cafeteria. Free Wi-Fi is available in all areas. A section of taverna's are located close by.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website: <http://www.hotelkastraki.gr/en/>

City Hotel, Thessaloniki

The City Hotel is centrally located in the heart of the city. The comfortable rooms have ensuite facilities, air-conditioning, mini-fridge, TV, tea/coffee making facilities, safe & hairdryer.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website: <https://www.cityhotel.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's a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! Don't 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 goes very well with the local food. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 6/7 euros per half litre.

Local drinks are ouzo, tsipouro, brandy or cognac and, of course, Greek wine. Tsipouro is the local firewater! This is distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine. You will probably find you come across this whether you want to or not, as it is often served, complimentary, at the end of a meal.

Meals included in the holiday:

Breakfast daily

One dinner at Likoria Hotel

Taking food into EU countries

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



Destination

An opportunity to explore the varied and rich history of Greece by visiting some of its greatest and most beautiful sites in the company of lecturer Dr Rita Roussos Phd. Our tour includes the great sanctuary of Delphi, an iconic Greek site, and the breath-taking and unforgettable sights of Meteora. Here, from the 14th century onwards, Orthodox monks, fleeing the insecurity of the times, built their monasteries on the soaring and incredibly impressive rock pinnacles. Thessaloniki, Greece's second city, offers some of the great monuments of Byzantium as well as an understanding of its strong multicultural past where Greeks and Muslims lived side by side with the largest Jewish community in Europe. Other visits include the pass of Thermopylae, the site of the Spartans' resistance to the invading Persians; and the fantastic museum of Vergina, that, reputedly, contains the tomb and sumptuous grave goods of Philip II.

Places and sites of interest included in the tour:

Delphi

Acclaimed as the centre of the Earth and Universe, Delphi has always been a place of historic and spiritual significance. The 'navel of the world' where the omniscient Oracle was to be advised blends harmoniously with the magnificent landscape and it surely is an absolute must destination for any history lover. Although the eternal flame is no longer burnt inside, a visit to the Temple of Apollo is obligatory.

Meteora Monasteries

Meteora is a truly inspiring and sensational setting of overwhelming rock formations. It is a pilgrimage to a holy place for all Christians around the world.

The gigantic rocks of Meteora are perched above the town of Kalambaka, at a maximum height of 400 m (1200 ft). The most interesting summits are decorated with historical monasteries, included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Only 6 of them have made it through the centuries, from an initial estimated number of 24. Mostly dating to the 14th and until the 16th century, these monasteries were built by monks who were previously hermits in the area, living in individual caves. Once united, these monks took months and years to carry the

construction material to the top of rocks, using ropes, folding ladders, nets and baskets, and with much determination.

Thessaloniki

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

Places of interest in Thessaloniki:

Church of Saint Demetrios – arguably the most important church of Thessaloniki, it is devoted to the patron Saint of the city and has a long and rich history.

Church of Agia Sofia – one of the most impressive Byzantine churches in Thessaloniki, this church boasts a 'Domed Basilica' style temple with imposing architecture, beautiful wall paintings and elaborate mosaics.

The Monastery of Hosios David – an early Christian cruciform building of the late 5th or early 6th century. A small but historic monastery built upon the ruins of a Roman period building.

Vlatodon Monastery – founded between 1351 & 1371 A.D., this monastery is one of the oldest Byzantine monuments in Thessaloniki. Its importance lies to the fact that despite the various challenges and significant disasters the monastery suffered throughout the centuries, it never stopped being active.

Heptapyrgion

The Castle of Thessaloniki, also known as Heptapyrgion or Yedi Kule, is located on a hill above the old town (Ano Poli). Its location gives gorgeous views to the city, the port and the Aegean Sea.

Roman Forum

An impressive – if rather confusing – sprawl of ruins, the Roman Forum was ancient Rome's showpiece centre, a grandiose district of temples, basilicas and vibrant public spaces. The site, which was originally an Etruscan burial ground, was first

developed in the 7th century BC, growing over time to become the social, political and commercial hub of the Roman Empire.

Byzantine Museum

This museum was awarded the Council of Europe's Museum Prize for the year 2005. For years it remains one of the favourite destinations of the city for many visitors!

The Rotunda

Built by the Roman emperor Galerius (305 -11AD) as part of a large palace complex that included the Arch of Galerius. It was likely it was intended to be his mausoleum but was never used as such. The Rotunda was converted in later years to a Christian church. During Thessaloniki's occupation by the Ottomans the Rotunda was turned into a mosque.

Ancient Aigai

The ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia, was discovered in the 19th century near Vergina. The most important remains are the monumental palace, lavishly decorated with mosaics and painted stuccoes, and the burial ground with more than 300 tumuli, some of which date from the 11th century B.C. One of the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus is identified as that of Philip II, who conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and the expansion of the Hellenistic world.

Pella

The ancient capital of Macedon since the early 4th century. Excavations have brought to light a well-organized city, an admirable testament to its great history. The new Archaeological Museum at Pella gives you the chance to reconstruct in your mind's eye the daily goings-on of the city in its halcyon days.

Thermopylae

The battle of Thermopylae was the first battle between the Persians and Greeks during the Persian invasion of 480-479 BC. The Greek force was very small but was determined to make a stand against the huge Persian army.

Your Lecturer - Dr Rita Roussos Phd

Rita studied ancient Greek and Latin at the University of California, Berkeley, and completed her PhD in History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London. She has excavated in Greece and taught at the American University of Athens.

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 him/her immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues.

Grading

This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of 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 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 located 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 ATM's for Delta or Cirrus.

Banks are open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm.

Credit cards – Greece is very much a cash society, so credit cards are not widely accepted, although, far more places are accepting these nowadays, but it is best to check first in restaurants and shops that they accept credit cards, 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 generally safe to drink everywhere although it is advisable to check at hotels 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 local shops and very reasonably priced.

Shopping - Most villages, however small, usually have at least one minimarket. The mini-markets usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening. Olive oil, olives and local honey are all excellent produce if you are interested in taking a little bit of Greece home with you.

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 hotels.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Greece, depending on your operator and contract. If you are calling the UK from a mobile in Greece, you will need to prefix the number with the international dialling code 0044.

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 level of expectation that, when receiving 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.

Walking shoes – As archaeological sites can be quite rough and uneven underfoot; we recommend that you have shoes that are comfortable and reasonably sturdy.



Health

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

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

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

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your Tour Manager/hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay.

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.

Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Greece.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who will,

generally, 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

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also 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've 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're travelling to an EU country.

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

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 (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00)

Outside the above hours please 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 are calling a Greek number from a UK mobile, you should prefix the number with the Greek international dialling code 0030.

If you find that you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Vice Consulate Crete

Candia Tower

17 Thalita Street, Ag. Dimitrios Square

71 202 Heraklion

Crete Greece

Email: crete@fco.gov.uk

Tel: +30 2810 224012

Open to the public - by appointment only

Tuesday to Thursday, 9am to 1pm

Please note that an appointment is not necessary for emergency cases requiring consular assistance.

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

In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600 and follow the automated instructions.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

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

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