



Tour Information



Lakes of 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

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

British Airways

If flights are booked as a group ticket online check-in will not be available and you will need to check-in at the airport. If online check-in is available, this opens 24 hours prior to the scheduled departure time.

For more information, please visit:

www.britishairways.com

EasyJet

You **must** check-in online and print out or download 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.

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). If you wish, you can pay to take an additional larger cabin bag on board, but this must be pre-booked.

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

Transfers

On arrival at Thessaloniki Airport, your Tour Manager will be waiting with a Travel Editions sign. The transfer time is approximately 1 hour 45 minutes to the hotel.

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

Villa Belles, Akritochori

The hotel is situated at the foot of the imposing Mount Belles and overlooks beautiful Lake Kerkini. The bedrooms include air-conditioning, TV, telephone, fridge, most of the rooms also benefit from a balcony with view. The hotel also offers a café/bar service.

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

Limneon Resort Hotel, Kastoria

This luxury spa hotel is located just outside of Kastoria overlooking Lake Orestiaida which assures spectacular lake views. Facilities include restaurant, all-day bar-restaurant, and outdoor pool. The Noufaro spa includes an indoor warm pool, hydro massage, sauna, and a choice of treatments available at an extra charge. The contemporary rooms include air-conditioning, hairdryer, safe, TV, mini-bar and free wi-fi, and all have lake views.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website: <https://www.limneon.com/en/>

Daluz Boutique Hotel, Preveza

DaLuz Boutique Hotel is located close to the historical city of Preveza, in the area of Psathaki. Facilities include a restaurant, bar and swimming pool. Each of the comfortable rooms include a balcony, air-conditioning, TV, mini-bar, hairdryer and free wi-fi.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website: <http://daluzboutiquehotel.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 choose the fish you want which will then 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 well with the local food. We recommend trying it. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 6 euros per half litre.

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

Meals included in the holiday

Breakfast - Daily

Dinner - One dinner

Lunch - Three lunches

Taking food and drink into EU countries

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



Destination

One doesn't think of Lakes when thinking of Greece, it is always the sea, the country's beautiful coastline and the islands, and yet Greece is home to more than 50 lakes that offer a completely different view of this wonderful country. This tour will take you on a journey, off the beaten track at times, to discover some of these beautiful lakes and the nature, scenery, fauna and food that goes hand in hand with these special places.

We highly recommend bringing binoculars and cameras if you have an interest in the birdlife of the areas we are visiting.

Places and sites of interest included in the tour:

Lake Kerkini

Lake Kerkini is one of the most important wetlands in Europe and is considered to be one of the top European bird watching destinations. About 300 bird species have been observed here: some of them nestle, some over winter, others stop all their way for rest or food. Among them, the Pelican and the Pygmy Cormorant are threatened with extinction. The area is also one of the most important cormorants' and herons' colonies of the Northern Balkan Peninsula. The rich fish fauna of the lake provides some delicious dishes in the tavernas of the area.

Grazing on the banks of Lake Kerkini its not unusual to see buffalos! This is an important product of the area that also is found on taverna menus in the form of meat, cheese and other products.

For more information about Lake Kerkini, please visit:

http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/lakes/an_escape_to_lake_kerkini

Vergina

The excavation by Professor Manolis Andronikos and his associates under the Great Tumulus of Vergina village in Central Macedonia in 1977 brought to light one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century in Greece. Today's Vergina in the foothills of Mt. Pieria, was the first capital of the ancient kingdom of Macedonia, Aigai. The site of the Royal Tombs under a modern roof hosts the main excavation, as

well as an exhibition of the major finds from the burials. It is protected by UNESCO as a world cultural heritage and comprises a unique discovery with an enormous universal impact.

For more information about Vergina, please visit: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/culture/archaeological_sites/vergina

Kastoria

This charming furrier city, is built amphitheatrically on a narrow peninsula, mirrored in Orestiada Lake and nestled between Grammo and Vitsi Mountains. A short distance from the lake is the old neighbourhood 'Doltso', a picturesque corner where buildings date back to the 17th and 18th century, when the city's economy blossomed due to the fur trade. Lots of buildings have been converted into museums, such as Neratzi Aivazi mansion that houses the Folk-Art Museum, and the Emmanouil mansion, which houses the Costume Museum. In Kastoria there are more than 60 Byzantine and post-Byzantine Churches, dating from between the 9th and the 19th century. The Monastery of Panagia Mavriotissa (1802), located by the lake, has impressive murals, depicting Byzantine Emperors.

For more information about Kastoria, please visit: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/main_cities/kastoria

Prespes

These wetlands of north-western Macedonia have been designated a national park, occupied by the twin lakes Megali and Mikri Prespa (large and small Prespa) or Brigiis as was the ancient name. Megali Prespa, the Balkans biggest lake tips over into three countries, Greece, Albania and Fyrom, now known as North Macedonia, which meet at a tri-national point on the lake. A narrow neck of land divides the two lakes whose waters communicate underground. There is an islet in the middle of Mikri Prespa, Vitrinetsi, and another at the northern end, Agios Achillios. The shores of both lakes are steeply sheer and rocky in places and at others gently sloping with abundant vegetation.

For more information about Prespes, please visit: <https://www.discovergreece.com/macedonia/prespes>

Lake Pamvotis, Ioannina

This well-known lake was, in ancient times, known as “Pamvotis” (the great provider). Situated right next to the city of Ioannina, this beautiful lake is a true gem of the Ioannina basin. Full of legends and traditions that go back centuries the lake has thick reed beds as well as dense thickets of willows, poplar trees, and huge plane trees, which offer shelter from the wind to a host of local and migratory birds. Herons, grebe, snipe, swans, and cormorants all “earn their daily bread” by snacking on the local fish population. The lake has two main features: a peninsula with an historic castle and towering minarets, and a small island, which is the only lake island in Greece to be inhabited and yet not have a name.

For more information about Lake Pamvotis, please visit:

http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/lakes/lake_pamvotida

The Ambracian Gulf

The Ambracian Gulf was formed almost 10.000 years ago when the Ionian Sea, that was gradually elevating, passed through the pit that had already been created hundreds of thousands of years earlier. In reality, it is a closed internal sea that is connected with the Ionian Sea through a narrow seaway in Actium. The Ambracian Gulf is a paradise for birds; 294 species have been listed here with a total population of almost 100.000; many of which are rare or threatened species. The gulf is home to many different species of fish, around half of which are fished, dolphins and turtles can also be spotted here.

For more information about the Ambracian Gulf, please visit:

<https://ecotourism-greece.com/attractions/ambracian-gulf-amvrakikos/>

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 or her 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, good flat walking surfaces.



The Basics

The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be very pleasant, but evenings, and occasionally, the days, might be a little cool, particularly in shadow, and there could be 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). In reality 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 ATM's for Delta or Cirrus.

Please Note: As the regions where we stay are quite remote, we cannot guarantee that cash machines will be readily available, so it is advisable to bring some cash euros with you. ATMs are not easily accessible at Kerkini or Kastoria.

Credit cards – Greece is very much a cash society, but credit cards are widely accepted these days. In smaller places, it is still 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, 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 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 all local shops and very reasonable priced.

Shopping - Most villages, however small, usually have at least one mini-market. 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.

Stamps - In most places you should be able to 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

Sun Protection

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

Pharmacies

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

00 44 7952 237156 (Jane Freeman)

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

If you find that you need 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, 09:00 to 13:00.

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

Email: consular.athens@fco.gov.uk

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3 Youngs Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

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