



# Tour Information



## Scenic Epirus





# 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

Visas are not required for Greece for citizens of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 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 cannot check-in online and will need to check-in at the airport.

For more information, please visit:

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

### EasyJet

For the EasyJet leg of the flight you should check-in online and print 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](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).

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

## Transfers

On arrival, please collect your luggage and proceed until you are in the arrival's hall. You will find your Tour Manager there, or standing just outside the arrivals building, 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.

## Taking food into EU countries

Please note you cannot take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



# Accommodation

## Anemolia Hotel, Ioannina

Situated just outside Ioannina, this attractive four-star boutique style hotel offers a high standard of accommodation and lovely views over the lake and countryside. Bedrooms are bright and airy, with a homely lobby and bar area. The hotel also has a gym, sauna, spa and outdoor swimming pool.

For more information visit the hotel website: <http://www.anemolia-resort.gr/>

## Philoxenia Hotel, Monodendri

The family-run Philoxenia Hotel is a very attractive, traditionally designed, stone-built hotel situated in the upper part of the quiet village of Monodendri. Featuring wooden ceilings and floors, warm colours and dark wood furnishings; the comfortable bedrooms, with private bathrooms, are equipped with TV, fridge and hairdryer. A breakfast buffet is served daily in a traditionally furnished dining area. The hotel has a small bar and a public lounge area. Free Wi-Fi access is available in all public spaces; magazines and board games are also available. Tavernas are within a 2-minute walk.

For more information visit the hotel website; [www.zagoriaphiloxenia.gr](http://www.zagoriaphiloxenia.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, 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 is something of an acquired taste, but it goes well with the local food. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 5 to 6 euros per half litre.

Local drinks are ouzo, tsipoura, metaxa and, of course, Greek wine. Tsipoura 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 very often served, complimentary, at the end of a meal.

In Monodendri you will find a reasonable choice of tavernas within walking distance of the hotel. At Anemolia there is a small handful of tavernas within walking distance.

## Meals included in the holiday:

Breakfast daily

Two dinners and two lunches





# Destination

## Epirus

Epirus is located in the north-west part of Greece, between the mountain range of Pindos and the Ionian Sea and combines impressive mountainous and charming seaside scenery. Mountains and rivers are traversed by wonderfully picturesque and historic stone built arched bridges. Fertile plains and valleys interrupt the mountain ranges from north to south. The climate of the coastline is moderate, while in the interior it is harsh, with heavy winters, frequent frost and abounding rain and storms. The villages and cities have always been connected via trails carved through the many mountains. Later, this contributed to the flourishing of trade and the development of the region.

Epirus borders the regions of Macedonia and Thessaly to the east, the Ionian Sea and Ionian Islands to the west and Albania to the north. The region has an area of approximately 9,200 km<sup>2</sup>. It is part of the wider historical region of Epirus, which overlaps modern Albania and Greece but lies mostly within Greek territory.

Epirus is largely made up of great limestone ridges orientated northwest-southeast and north-south; they reach up to 8,600 feet (2,600 m) in height and fall off more steeply to the west. These ridges generally parallel the coast and are so steep that the valley land between them is mostly suitable only for pasture, though northern Epirus has more plains and cereal production. Much of Epirus lies on the windward side of the Pindus Mountains and hence receives the prevailing winds off the Ionian Sea with the result that it receives more rainfall than any other region of mainland Greece.

Epirus is an incredibly scenic region due to its spectacular mountains, the impressive Vikos gorge and the wonderful stone villages of Zagoriahorion.

## Ioannina

Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, spreads out around 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 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 still living. Wonderful buildings like the House Matei Hussein, the Ottoman Mosque of Veli Pasha and the historic centre of the town are unique attractions. Ioannina was always multicultural, dominated mainly by Christian, Islamic and Jewish influences. This coexistence is clearly evident in the historic city centre today.

The imposing castle of Ioannina was built in 528 AD by the Emperor Justinian and was an ambitious expression of the might of the Byzantine Empire. It is the oldest Byzantine fortress in Greece with significant influence over the history of the town which grew around it. Over the years it evolved into a thriving centre with a highly developed intellectual life. Ali Pasha, that enigmatic symbol of Ottoman rule, lived here. His great love for the lady Kyra – Frosini resonates still as an integral part of the history of the town.

The castle is divided into four sections: the outer wall, the north-western citadel, which is dominated by the Aslan Mosque, the southeast citadel of Itch-Kale and finally the actual castle town - the old, walled town of Ioannina.

## Metsovo

This authentic Vlach village, retaining its traditional character, dots the mountain side below Katara Col in the Mountain Range of Pindos. Even though the year's average temperature does not exceed 10°C, this charming destination remains lively all year round, thanks to the devotion of its people and the generosity of benefactors, who have helped maintain the local culture and capitalize on the natural beauty. The village is famous for its local cheeses (*Metsovone* and *Metsovela*) and for its winemaking industries, including the Katogi vineyard of the Averoff family.

## Zagoria

The word Zagoria comes from the Slavic language and means "behind the mountains", Za meaning "behind" and gora "mountain". Visiting

the region and experiencing its undulating and dramatic landscape that includes the second highest mountain in Greece, Mount Smolikas, and the imposing Mount Tymfi range, it is easy to understand why the region was given this name. The northern area of Zagoria has been designated a National Park, covering a distance of 2500 sq. km with the dramatic Vikos Gorge slicing through the middle. This status has ensured the rich flora and fauna of Epirus has been vitally protected. More than 1800 species can be found here, many of which are endemic and considered endangered. Five species of wild lily flourish in the area; other impressive species that can be found are the Poet's Daffodil, the Australia tulip, the spring gentian and the saxifraga spruneri. Various medicinal herbs and plants can also be found; mint, sage, thyme, daphne, myrtle spurge and many others. Orchids are also prominent. Wildlife in the park includes 60 species of mammals, the most famous being the European Brown Bear with others of note including wolves, wild cats, otters, boar and badgers. 187 bird species, 30 species of reptiles, 14 kinds of amphibians and 17 species of fish are also known to inhabit the park.

## Zagorohoria

Zagorohoria are the villages of Zagoria, 46 stone-built villages situated to the north and northwest of Ioannina. During the last decade, the Zagorohoria region has become incredibly popular among Greeks, but it's 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 fantastic and 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 surrounding mountains, and winding cobbled streets. Dotted between the villages are graceful arched Turkish bridges; churches with painted interiors; kalderimi (old mule trails); and forests of beech, chestnut, and pine.

## Vikos Gorge

The gorge is about 20km long and spreads between the villages of Monodendri and Vikos and is in the Guinness book of records as the deepest gorge in the world. The average depth of the gorge is 700 metres, but its highest point is 1,600 metres, the width varies from 450 to just a few metres. The Vikos Gorge makes up the majority of

the Vikos-Aoos National Park and has the Voidomatis River running through it, which is also the cleanest river in Europe.

## Agios Paraskevi Monastery

The Agios Paraskevi Monastery is an abandoned monastery situated on the edge of Vikos Gorge, in the region of Zagori. The monastery founded at 1413–1414, consists of a small stone-built chapel, the oldest preserved in Zagori, and offers panoramic views to the gorge.

## Stone Forest

The uphill route from Monodendri holds an unexpected geological surprise for its visitors, besides the breath-taking natural beauty. At a certain point of the route the landscape starts changing dramatically and the visitor comes face to face with huge rocks rising up to the sky, created by multiple layers of stone. This phenomenon looks so much like trees created of stone that it is known as the Stone Forest.

## Tour Manager

Your Tour Manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him/her immediately to resolve any issues quickly so you can fully enjoy your holiday.



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings at visits at altitude can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful as is a rain jacket and small umbrella.

**Time** – GMT +3 hours (Summertime Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). In reality this means, summer or winter, Greece is 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 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 perfectly safe to drink in Epirus.

**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

### 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)

### 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

The nearest hospital is in Rethymnon. 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, more often than not, speak good 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/>



**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 (Jane Freeman) or 00 44 7841 023807

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

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

British Vice-Consulate Corfu

Mantzarou 18,

491 00,

Corfu

Greece

Tel: +30 26610 30055

Fax: +30 26610 37995

Monday to Friday 08:00-15:00

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

Open to the public by appointment Tuesday to Thursday 09:00-13:00.

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

Travel Editions Group Ltd

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