



# Tour Information



# Authentic Macedonia





## Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit. The name on your passport must match the name on your flight ticket/E-ticket, otherwise you may be refused boarding at the airport.

## 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.

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



## Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced their 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 extra 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 that you stick to the baggage allowances advised. If your luggage is found to be heavier than the airlines specified baggage allowance the charges at the airport will be hefty.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

## Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

## Departure Tax

UK Flight Taxes are included in the price of your holiday.

## Transfers

On arrival into Thessaloniki Airport you will be met by your Tour Manager in the arrival's hall. Please look for a Travel Editions sign. The transfer time to Drama is approximately 1 hour 45 minutes.

## 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.



# Accommodation

## Hydrama Grand Hotel, Drama

A contemporary luxurious 5-star hotel, located in the restored 19th century Herman Spierer tobacco house. Facilities include two bars, a restaurant, spa and wellness centre with various treatments available at an extra cost. Each of the spacious rooms feature air-conditioning, TV, hair dryer, mini-bar and safe.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:

<https://www.hydrmagrandhotel.gr/en/the-hotel/>

## Prasino Horio, Arnaia

A peaceful hotel set within its own grounds. Featuring a restaurant, lounge bar and gardens to relax in. The comfortable bedrooms include fridge, TV, and veranda or terrace overlooking the mountains.

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

## 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 is something of an acquired taste but it goes well with the local food. The white is usually always very drinkable but the red varies quite a lot. 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 between 3 and 5 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 your holiday

**Breakfast** - daily.

**Dinner** – Two dinners and two lunches



## Destination

The region of Macedonia, in northern Greece, is an area people generally associate with history and yet it offers a kaleidoscope of alternatives. The region has a stunning nature, not just inland but by the sea too, which we will discover at both Lake Kerkini and the Halkidiki peninsula.

### Places and sites of interest included in the tour:

#### Lake Kerkini

Lake Kerkini in Northern Greece, one of the most important wetlands in Europe, 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 winter, others stop over 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 gives some delicious dishes in the tavernas of the area. Taste the local eels, sardines, roaches, and carps and you will definitely come back for more!

For more information about Lake Kerkini, please visit: [http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/lakes/an\\_escape\\_to\\_lake\\_kerkini](http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/lakes/an_escape_to_lake_kerkini)

#### Xanthi

Built on the foot of the Rodopi mountain chain, Xanthi is located in Thrace (Northern Greece), at the crossroads of the Black Sea and the Aegean, Europe and Asia. Kosynthos River divides the city into the west part, where the old and the modern town are located, and the east part, the "Samakov district", that boasts a rich natural environment. Both parts still preserve their traditional flair, mesmerizing visitors with their nobility and magnificence. The cobbled narrow streets of the Old Town are decorated by gorgeous mansions, whose architectural style is a marvellous blend of local and Ottoman architecture as well as Greek Neoclassicism architectural style. Together with the Byzantine churches and the picturesque squares, the city's Old Town could be said to be an open museum, the glory of which has remained untouched through the years. The modern part of the city boasts a beautiful square with a Clock and the renovated tobacco warehouses including the

famous "Π», on Kapnergaton str., which took its name from the shape of the 1890's edifices.

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

#### Arnaia

Arnaia is a traditional small town which was built close to the Holomontas mountains and is located 70 km away from Thessaloniki. Beautiful houses and buildings remain intact and consist of distinctive traditional Macedonian architecture. Therefore, Arnaia is characterized by the Ministry of Culture a "Historical place" and "Traditional Settlement." A walk through the narrow-cobbled streets will be a unique experience, with maybe a meal in one of the traditional taverns in the central square.

For more information about Arnaia, please visit: <https://www.halkidikitavel.com/en/regions-of-halkidiki/north-halkidiki/arnaia-halkidiki-57>

#### Mount Athos

An Orthodox spiritual centre since 1054, Mount Athos has enjoyed an autonomous statute since Byzantine times. The 'Holy Mountain', which is forbidden to women and children, is also a recognized artistic site. The layout of the monasteries (about 20 of which are presently inhabited by some 1,400 monks) had an influence as far afield as Russia, and its school of painting influenced the history of Orthodox art. The landscape reflects traditional monastic farming practices, which maintain populations of plant species that have now become rare in the region.

For more information about Mount Athos, please visit: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/454/>

#### Halkidiki

Halkidiki has long been famed for its cosmopolitan seaside resorts, beautiful natural landscape, and exotic beaches. Halkidiki is a peninsula, which is divided into three smaller peninsulas, the so-called legs. The first leg is named Kassandra and is full of popular tourist resorts, luxurious Halkidiki hotels, and organized beaches. The second leg is named Sithonia and is less organized and full of secluded coves. The third leg is named Athos and is a close

monastic community, where the entrance is allowed only to men with special permission. Athitos is a traditional village in Kassandra and is built on a hill above the coast. Small squares, cobbled streets and traditional taverns create a beautiful scenery totally harmonized with the natural landscape.

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

### **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.



## 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 (Summer time 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 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, however, 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 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 of the 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 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** – 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.

**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 does award 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.**



### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep 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.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.

### Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who, more often than not, will 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

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.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC is **not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

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

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



## 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:

0030 6977 465892 (Greek resort manager) 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](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, 9am to 1pm.

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

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

Travel Editions

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