



Tour Information



Christmas in Greece





Travel

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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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

Easyjet

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all 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 additional cost.

Online check-in is available 30 days prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or 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 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.

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 at Thessaloniki Airport please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area and proceed until you are in the arrival's hall. You will find your Tour Manager there, holding a Travel Editions sign. The journey time to your hotel is approximately 3 hours.

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.



Accommodation

Anemolia Hotel, Ioannina

This 4*, boutique style hotel is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ioannina's city centre, overlooking the lake. The hotel is a wonderful base for a relaxing stay over the festive period. Facilities include a bar, indoor plunge pool, spa including sauna, hot tub and various treatments (at extra cost) as well as well-appointed bedrooms with all modern amenities, and featuring TV, fridge, safe, hairdryer, free wi-fi and bathrobes and slippers.

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

Met Hotel, Thessaloniki

Centrally located in the harbour, the Met Hotel offers modern, five-star designer luxury to enhance your stay in Greece's vibrant second city. Facilities include a fitness centre with hamam, hot tub and indoor pool, two restaurants, bar and extremely comfortable bedrooms. Each of the bedrooms include air-conditioning, TV, safe, telephone, free wi-fi, hairdryer, mini-bar and bathrobes and slippers.

For more information please visit the hotel's website: <https://www.themethotel.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 is something of an acquired taste, but it goes 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.

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

Lunch – Christmas Day lunch at a local taverna

Dinner – a mezze dinner on the first night and dinner on Christmas Eve at a local taverna.



Destination

Enjoy the wintery, scenic atmosphere of northern Greece where snow should be dusting the mountain tops and fires roaring in the tavernas! A twin centre tour bases us first in the historic city of Ioannina, which spreads out around picturesque Lake Pamvotis with a magnificently scenic backdrop. Then to cosmopolitan, buzzing Thessaloniki, Greece's second city, sitting right next to the sea with a wealth of history as well as promenade seaside walks, good food and, perhaps, a little shopping!

Places of interest included in the tour:

Ioannina

Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, spreads out around beautiful Lake Pamvotis. The lake, with its still waters and its small island, is a natural monument. A walk through the city has the feel of a bygone era, with wonderful buildings like the House Matei Hussein, the Ottoman mosque of Veli Pasha and the historic centre of the town. 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 was of great importance throughout the whole of Epirus. 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.

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

Zagoriahoria

Northwest of Ioannina, the road leads over a steep ridgeline and into the Zagoriahoria (Zagori villages). More than 40 tiny settlements built of the local grey stone, right up to the slate roofs, blend almost seamlessly into the flanks of the heavily forested mountains. Most of their streets are too narrow for cars, and they're linked to other villages by old stone paths, staircases and graceful

arched bridges, all built in the 18th and 19th centuries. Although many of the villages are less than an hour's drive from Ioannina, the area feels much more remote, with breath-taking views at every turn. The main attraction is the dramatic Vikos Gorge, nearly 1km deep, but snow-capped peaks to the north compete, and you can understand why the whole area is a designated National Park.

For more information about Zagoriahoria, please visit: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/greece/northern-greece/zagoriahoria>

Meteora

Meteora is a rock formation in central Greece hosting 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 stone pillars that dominate the local area. Meteora is located near the town of Kalambaka at the north western edge of the Plain of Thessaly near the Pineios river and Pindos Mountains. The exact date of the establishment of the monasteries is unknown, but certainly, 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, visit: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meteora>

Kastoria

This charming city built amphitheatrically on a narrow peninsula, and mirrored in picturesque Orestiada Lake is nestled in between Grammo and Vitsi Mountains. A short distance from the lake is the old neighbourhood Doltso, a picturesque corner of the town where buildings date back to the 17th and 18th century, when the city's economy blossomed due to the fur trade. Several buildings have been converted into small museums, such as Neratzi Aivazi mansion that houses the Folk-Art Museum and Emmanouil mansion which holds the Costume Museum. The second oldest neighbourhood with an aristocratic feel is Apozari; its picturesque Byzantine churches and its beautiful mansions, built by the renowned stone masons of Epirus showcase for fortunes of the past.

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

Metsovo

This tree-shaded village, retaining its traditional character, dots 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. Particularly during winter, this famous Vlach village, birthplace of well-known national benefactors (Tositsas, Stournaras, Averoff), is a favourite destination for the Greeks. The settlement's heart beats in the central square; where you see a distinctive image of Metsovo: the elders, with their handlebar moustaches, usually sit on the benches, occasionally in traditional costumes and wooden crooks chatting in Vlach. It is just a short walk from here for our visit to the Tositsa mansion, which houses the exceptional Folk Art Museum.

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

Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the area. Built next to the sea, it is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of a stormy history and a cosmopolitan character and offers plenty of interest.

Archaeological Museum – this excellent museum is one of the largest museums in Greece and has some unique collections exhibiting artefacts from the Prehistoric, through to the Hellenistic and Roman periods, but one of its highlights is the exhibits of the 'Gold of Macedon'.

Church of Saint Demetrios – arguably the most important church of Thessaloniki. Devoted to the patron Saint of the city, Agios Dimitrios, this impressive church has a long and rich history dating back to the 6th century.

Roman Forum - that dates to the 1st century AD. It is a large two-terraced forum featuring two-storey stoas, which were dug up by accident in the 1960s. Along with the Galerian Palace Complex it was the center of political and public life in Thessaloniki.

The Arch of Galerius and Rotunda

The Arch of Galerius and the Rotunda are neighbouring early 4th-century AD monuments in the city of Thessaloniki. The 4th-century Roman Emperor Galerius commissioned these two structures as elements of an imperial precinct linked to his Thessaloniki palace. Archaeologists have found substantial remains of the palace to the southwest. These three monumental structures were connected by a road that ran through the arch, which rose above the major east-west road of the city.

Byzantine Museum

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

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



The Basics

The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be quite cold, with sun and rain. Snow may also be possible in the higher areas visited such as Metsovo and Zagoriahoria.

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 available in most towns, as well as airports. 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 withdraw cash. The instructions are in English. Just look for signs on ATM's for Delta or Cirrus.

Banks are open Monday to Thursday 8.00 – 14.30, Friday 8.00 – 14.00.

Credit cards – Greece is very much a cash society so credit cards are not always accepted, although, far more places are accepting these nowadays, but it is always 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 it is advisable to check at the hotels if the bathroom water is safe to drink. Bottled water is readily available to buy in local shops and very reasonably priced.

Shopping - Shopping hours are usually as follows: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday – 0900-1430, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 0900-1430 and 1730-2030. In tourist areas, shops remain open all day, every day.

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. 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 – 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.

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 so they can do their utmost to resolve any issues on the spot.



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/guide if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a Doctor.

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, more often than not, will speak good English. They will often be able to give advice and medicine for minor ailments. Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday but not on Saturdays.



Insurance

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

It is essential to carry an EHIC card with you as this will assist you if you are admitted to a hospital in Greece.

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.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

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

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad. If you require medical assistance whilst abroad it is essential that you contact the emergency number of your insurance company to advise them of the situation. 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 action whilst in resort.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700),

Outside the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

0030 6977 465892 (Jane Freeman) or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079

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 Consulate Thessaloniki
21 Aristotelous Street
546 24 Thessaloniki
Greece
Tel: +30 2310 278006
Email: salonika@british-consulate.gr

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, 9am to 1pm.

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

Email: consular.athens@fco.gov.uk

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