

Tour
Information



Citadels, Temples and Castles





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Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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

British Airways

At the bottom of your detailed itinerary there will be a booking reference number. At check-in you will need to quote/show this and you will be issued with your boarding pass. **Online check-in is not available for this booking.**

For more information please visit: www.britishairways.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.

With **British Airways** 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 Kalamata 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 situated in arrivals, holding a Travel Editions sign.

Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Filoxenia Hotel, Kalamata

Overlooking the magnificent Messinian Bay and nestling at the foot of the Taygetos Mountains on the outskirts of Kalamata, the four-star Filoxenia Hotel, surrounded by a spacious green landscape, provides comfortable and tasteful accommodation in a pleasant setting right next to the sea. The light and spacious rooms, located on all floors of the main building and surrounded by multi-coloured exotic gardens with palm trees, are beautifully designed in an elegant modern style with bamboo furniture and textiles in muted earth tones. Facilities at the hotel include a private pool, indoor and outdoor pool, spa, restaurant, lounge and pool bar. All rooms include TV, fridge, safe box, phone, air-conditioning, private bathroom and hairdryer.

Amalia Hotel, Nafplion

The four-star Amalia Hotel is situated just outside Nafplion. It has been built with considered respect to the town's historic culture and architecture. Designed in a neoclassical style the hotel has spacious surroundings that are enclosed by pretty gardens. The 170 luxuriously appointed guest rooms are situated on three levels and share views of the Palamidi Fortress, the sea or the hotel's green gardens. All the public areas, which include the grand lobby and the lounge, are elegantly and comfortably furnished. Facilities include a café, lounge and piano bar and a swimming pool (not heated). Additionally, on the ground level, the main restaurant is located overlooking the gardens, where a rich buffet breakfast and dinner, with Greek and Mediterranean cuisine, is served. The 'Classic' rooms, which we use for this tour, are located on all three levels. All rooms include TV, Wi-Fi access, mini-bar, safe box, phone, bath with shower and hair dryer.

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 in Greece the locals 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 very 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, raki or tsipoura (virtually the same product), metaxa and, of course, Greek wine. Raki/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.

Meals included in your holiday

Breakfast daily plus eight dinners



Destination

The Peloponnese

Hanging like a large leaf from the stem of the Isthmus of Corinth, the Peloponnese region of Greece has also been called 'Morea', which means mulberry leaf. This slight botanical reference is nothing compared to the extent and variety of imposing ruins, which make up the region but they are, however, situated amongst an equally varied and beautifully scenic landscape diversely composed of massive mountains, which surround coastal valleys and loom above rocky shores and sandy beaches.

The Peloponnese has been a centre of history for thousands of years. Sparta, Mycenae, Corinth, Epidaurus and Nafplion are just a few of the names linked with this long history.

Today, the region is separated into seven administrative provinces; Achaia, Ilia, Messinia, Lakonia, Arcadia, Argolis and Corinthia. Our tour is based in Argolis.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Nafplion

Nafplion was the first capital of Greece, and beauty, culture, history and tradition characterize this wonderful city. It is one of the prettiest towns in the Peloponnese with a beautiful setting and an understated elegance and charm that are stressed in the attractive narrow streets of the 'old town' that meander timelessly behind the picturesque waterfront. Neoclassic houses, charming streets, wooden balconies with cascading flowers, Turkish fountains and the colourful Constitution Square with its fascinating mosques and outdoor cafes, all contribute to the lovely ambience here. The views from the waterfront include the Bourtzi, a small castle built by the Venetians in 1471 that sits in the middle of the bay and, surveying the town, the impressive Palamidi Castle, built by the Venetians around 1714 AD overlooks the whole area.

For more information about Nafplion visit:

www.visitnafplio.com

Mani Peninsula & Areopoli

The Mani Peninsula, also known by its medieval name Maina, is a geographical and cultural region in Greece that is home to the Maniots. Areopoli is one of the main towns on the Mani Peninsula.

With beautiful sea views, the cobble-stoned streets and the unspoiled tower-houses are the jewels of this picturesque town. This historic area played an important part in the Greek liberation fight of 1821. It was the people of Mani who raised the banner signifying the start of the revolution against the Turkish occupation in the village square of Areopoli. Now, every year, the residents honour the anniversary of the uprising.

For more information on Areopoli visit:

<https://web-greece.gr/en/destinations/areopoli-laconia-peloponnese-greece/>

Bassae

Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassae

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this famous temple, dedicated to the god of healing and the sun, was built towards the middle of the 5th century B.C. in the lonely heights of the Arcadian mountains. The temple, which has the oldest Corinthian capital yet found, combines the Archaic style and the serenity of the Doric style with some daring architectural features.

For more information about the Temple of Apollo Epicurius visit:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/392>

Messene

Most of the area of Ancient Messene contains the ruins of the large classical city-state of Messene founded by Epaminondas in 369 BC, after the battle of Leuctra and the first Theban invasion of the Peloponnese. The substantial ruins are a major historical attraction and include an astonishing system of walls, towers and gates, containing a theatre, agora, public fountains, sanctuaries and one of the finest ancient stadiums in Greece.

Palace of Nestor at Chora

The Palace of Nestor was an important centre in Mycenaean times and described in Homer's Odyssey and Iliad as Nestor's kingdom of "sandy Pylos". The palace featured in the story of the Trojan War and is the best-preserved Mycenaean Greek palace discovered. The palace was a two-storey building with store rooms, workshops,

baths, light wells, reception rooms and a sewage system.

Venetian Castle at Methoni

The Castle of Methoni is a medieval fortification in the port town of Methoni, Messenia. Built on the tip of the Peninsula, the castle is protected by the sea on its three sides and a deep moat separates the castle from land. On the south part of the walls rises the spectacular sea gate which has recently been restored. A stone-paved stretch leads over a small bridge to the small fortified islet of Bourtzi. The west part of the walls is not as well constructed as the others. It was here that during the Second World War, after an explosion, parts of well-constructed stones from the ancient walls of Methoni were found. In the interior of the walls, ruins of Turkish military establishments are preserved.

Nemea

The Nemean Games became a sporting event to rank alongside the other three major Pan-Hellenic athletic games held at Olympia, Isthmia and Delphi. They were the youngest of the four but were held in as equally high regard as the games at Olympia and ensured any 'Victor' free meals for life. Nemea is also well known within Greek mythology for the slaying of the Nemean Lion by Hercules.

Argos & The Argos Theatre

This is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is the biggest town in Argolis and a major centre for the area. Built in 320 BC, the Argos theatre is cut into the hillside. It held around 20,000 spectators and was used for music, drama, political assembly and the Nemean Games. These events transferred from the city of Nemean over to the city of Argos.

Your Lecturer

Dr Rita Russos

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 throughout 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.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant but can still 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 (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). 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 located in all towns and cities, 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.

Banks are open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm. Nafplion has a lot of ATM machines easily accessed in the town and 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.

Credit cards – Greece remains very much a cash society so credit cards are not always widely accepted, however, 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 travel. The Hotel Amalia does 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 the local shops and very reasonably priced.

Shopping - There are plenty of mini-markets for any basic supplies you might need. The mini-markets are 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.

English newspapers – These can usually be found in one or two places in Nafplion.

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 dialing 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.

Walking shoes – for visits to archaeological sites, which can be a little rocky underfoot, we recommend that you take shoes which have good gripping soles that are fairly sturdy and comfortable.



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

Please talk to your tour manager 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 must travel) and there is also a charge to visit a Doctor.

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

The nearest hospitals are in Kalamata, Nafplion and Argos. 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

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 office hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 30 6977 465 892 (Greek resort manager) or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

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 dialing code 0030.

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

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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