

Tour
Information



Culture and Cuisine in Evia





Travel

Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit.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. At check-in you will need to quote/show this and you will be issued with your boarding pass.

Online check-in is also available and opens 24 hours before the scheduled flight departure.

Visit the British Airways website for more information;

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 baggage allowance the charges at the airport will be hefty.

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, and one personal bag, such as a handbag or computer bag.

For more information please visit

www.britishairways.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

Fly from London Heathrow to Athens. On arrival in Athens, transfer by coach to the port of Agia Marina (approx. 40 minutes) for the very pretty 45 minute ferry ride to Evia and the sleepy resort of Nea Styra. We will have a short walk along the waterfront to the Hotel Delfini (luggage will travel by minivan) where, our hosts, Marianna and her family, will offer us a warm welcome.

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

Hotel Delfini, Nea Styra

The Hotel Delfini is a friendly, family-run hotel that is located right on the beachfront in the centre of the small resort of Nea Styra. Facilities include a restaurant serving local cuisine, a bar and a sea-facing terrace. Bedrooms have en-suite bathroom with shower, air-conditioning, TV, telephone, fridge and safe box. The hotel is well-located for wandering out in the evening, with all facilities easily accessible on foot, including a choice of seaside tavernas.

For more information visit the hotel website: <http://www.delfini-styra.gr/index.php/en/>

Karystion Hotel, Karystos

Located on a tree-lined promontory overlooking the sea and just 400 metres from the centre of Karystos, the family-run Karystion Hotel offers a restaurant, bar and lounge. Bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms, with shower, air-conditioning, TV, telephone, minibar and hairdryer. All bedrooms have a private balcony with views of either the sea or the tree lined park. The facilities of the town are all within easy walking distance of the hotel.

For more information visit the hotel website: www.karystion.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. 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

A buffet breakfast is included daily.

Four lunches and three dinners are also included.



Destination

Evia

The green and mountainous island of Evia (Euboea) is the second largest island of Greece (Crete is the largest). It measures 3580 km², and has approximately 165,000 inhabitants. It is a very green island little touched by tourism. It is ideal for people who like peace and quiet, nature and tradition. It is Greece's hidden gem, managing to retain a wonderful air of the undiscovered. This two centre tour has been designed to focus on the traditions and culture of this unspoilt island.

Discover some of the age old traditions first hand whilst enjoying the islands delightful scenery, visiting some of its historic sites and, of course, experience the famous Greek hospitality! You'll have the opportunity to enjoy delicious local cuisine in some wonderful locations, sample some good local wines and experience some of the traditional local cooking methods that are still used in the villages today.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Drakospita

An archaeological wonder lies in the area of Southern Evia: it's the famous constructions called Drakóspita (Dragonhouses). Always located on steep and dominating location, they are built with huge slabs of limestone which form a pyramid-shaped roof: opposite walls converge towards each other as the slabs are put on top one another with each of them protruding as regards its inferior one. Other architectural features include monolithic jambs and lintels, as well as stone shelves protruding from the wall.

Many theories have been proposed in order to explain when, how and for which use the Dragonhouses were built. Some have claimed that they were ancient sanctuaries of either Zeus or Hera or Heracles. Others believe that they might have been guard posts or defensive structures, or even shelters for the quarry workers. Whichever the truth is, their imposing size and construction technique is an intriguing enigma!

Limnionas

The beach Limnionas in Central Evia is a beautiful white pebble beach, which during the day is hot and no one can walk on it barefoot, so bring suitable footwear!

Athens

It's no wonder that all roads lead to the fascinating and maddening metropolis of Athens. Lift your eyes 200 feet above the city to the Parthenon, its honey-colour marble columns rising from a massive limestone base, and you behold architectural perfection that has not been surpassed in 2,500 years. But, today, this shrine of classical form dominates a 21st-century boomtown. To experience Athens—Athína in Greek—fully is to understand the essence of Greece: ancient monuments surviving in a sea of cement, startling beauty amid a shabbiness, tradition juxtaposed with modernity. Locals depend on humour and flexibility to deal with the chaos; you should do the same. The rewards are immense.

Karystos

A quaint fishing port of about 5,000 residents situated at the southern end of the island, which remains unaffected by commercial tourism. There are hotels and tourist facilities but these are predominantly enjoyed by a domestic influx of Greeks during the summer season.

Mount Ochi (1390m), with its Dragon Houses on the top, dominates the area and Karystos is overlooked by the ruins of the 'Red Castle' (Castello Rosso) (1030 AD). Besides the beautiful beaches and scenery there are also monasteries, the reconstructed Venetian fortress of Bourtzi, and the columns at Kallindri.

Castello Rosso

The castle dominates the foothills of Mt Ochi and is situated approximately four kilometres above Karystos. The hill, where the present-day castle stands, was first fortified by the Byzantines in 1030. The medieval Castello Rosso, according to one version, was constructed on Byzantine foundations by the baron Ravanus Dalecarcheri between the years of 1209 - 1216. Captured by the

Franks, it was later purchased by the Venetians, who held on to it for 104 years. Later, during the Ottoman period (1470 - 1830) the Turks fortified it even more impressively.

During the period of the 1821 War of Independence, many attempts were made to take the castle. Odysseus Androutsos, Nikolaos Kriezotis, known as the "lion of Evia", and the French Philhellene Fabvier, all lay fruitless siege to it. It was only after the liberation of the island in 1833 that the castle gates were opened to the Greeks. Today, its ruined walls preserve the memories and secrets of the past. Rare wildflowers, such as the Karystos bellflower (*Campanula celsii carystea*), grow in its abandoned walls, while blue rock thrush, rock nuthatches, kestrels and other cliff-dwelling birds nest amongst its rocks.

Montofoli Estate

Montofoli Estate is a remarkable landmark of South Evia. Franks, Ottomans and Kings have given this piece of land its exceptional energy. Since the Frankish Domination it was owned by the ruler of the Castello Rosso (the castle of the area), which, like the estate, is built on the hill 'Montofoli' (the mount with foliage, monte + folio).

Omer Pascha, the last Ottoman ruler of Karystos, was its last owner. The estate was then referred to as "The Paschas' Gardens." Following the departure of the Ottomans from Karistos it was conveyed by the Sultan to Ioannis Papparigopoulos, Russian sub-consul to Karistos and Lord Chamberlain to King George I.

In 1877 his heir, Michael, sold the land to Ioannis Konstandinides, a merchant from Alexandria, Egypt, who in his turn kept the estate in excellent condition by growing citrus fruits.

The estate has welcomed over the years personalities such as King Otto of Greece and King Paul I of Greece.

Your Guide and Tour Manager

Your guide is New Zealand born Annie Apgar, who settled in Greece many, many years ago. She lived first in Athens and then in Evia and raised her, now grown, family between the two places. Evia is still her home although she travels quite a lot because her family are now scattered in Malaysia and America and she also works with tour groups in various places in the world. In between she spends her time on Evia, where she has her own house in a small village and is very much 'a local'.

Annie is passionate about 'her' island appreciating the unspoilt aspect of the island and the authentic culture that continues to shine throughout the island. She is also very proud to be a naturalised Greek!



The Basics

Climate – 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. Nea Styra and Karystos have ATM machines easily accessed in the town.

Credit cards – Greece is very much a cash society so credit cards are not 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 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 - There are plenty of mini-markets scattered throughout Karystos for any basic supplies you might need; 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 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 – We recommend that you take shoes which have good gripping soles.



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 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 has to travel) and there is also a charge to visit a Doctor.

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

The nearest hospital is in Karystos, and there is also one in Chalkida, the capital of Evia. 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

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 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

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

Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: info@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk