

Tour  
Information



# Delphi to Macedonia

An historic journey





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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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

### **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](http://www.britishairways.com)

### **Easyjet**

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket for your inbound journey, 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](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 **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.

With **Easyjet** your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 20kg 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

Transfer times are as follows:

Athens Airport to Arachova – approx. 2 hrs 15 mins

Arachova to Kalambaka – approx. 3hrs

Kalambaka to Thessaloniki – approx. 2hrs 45 mins

City Hotel to Thessaloniki Apt – approx. 30 mins.

## 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

### Likoria Hotel, Arachova

At 990 metres above sea level, the comfortable four-star Likoria Hotel is situated in the heart of the picturesque mountain village of Arachova. Each spacious and tastefully decorated room has a private balcony with views over the Delphi valley. Hotel facilities include a bar, sauna, steam room, heating/air-conditioning and wi-fi. Rooms all have a private bathroom with bath or shower, balcony, TV, mini-bar and kettle. There is a good choice of tavernas within easy reach on foot from Likoria and some great local shopping too!

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

### Hotel Kastraki, Meteora

The three-star Hotel Kastraki is located at the foothills of Meteora rocks in the village of Kastraki, just 2 km from Kalambaka town. The hotel has 27 comfortable and elegant rooms tastefully decorated with earthy tones and dark-coloured wooden furnishings. Room facilities include air-conditioning, TV, Safe, air-conditioning/heating, fridge, bathroom with shower or bath, hairdryer and balcony. The public areas include a spacious lounge, TV room and cafeteria. Free Wi-Fi is available in all areas. A small section of Taverna's are located close by.

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

### City Hotel, Thessaloniki

Favoured as one of the best design luxury hotels in Thessaloniki, City Hotel is conveniently located in this metropolitan city, and boasts comfortable rooms with ensuite facilities. Other features include air-conditioning, mini-fridge, TV, tea/coffee making facilities, safe & hairdryer.

For more information please visit the hotel's website: <https://www.cityhotel.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

Eight nights bed & breakfast

Two dinners



# Destination

An opportunity to explore the varied and rich history of Greece by visiting some of its greatest and most beautiful sites in the company of lecturer Dr Rita Roussos Phd. Our tour starts at the great sanctuary of Delphi, an iconic Greek site. Continuing our journey our second highlight is Kalambaka where we have the opportunity to spend a full day amid the breath-taking and unforgettable sights of the Meteora. Here, from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Orthodox monks, fleeing the insecurity of the times, built their monasteries on soaring pinnacles of rock. Our last days we will be based in Thessaloniki, Greece's second city, where we will explore some of the great Byzantine churches in the city as well as its Byzantine Museum. To remind ourselves that until the 20<sup>th</sup> century Thessaloniki was a city where Greeks and Muslims lived side by side with the largest Jewish community in Europe, we will visit the Jewish Museum, and we will see the house where Atatürk, the creator of Modern Turkey, was born. Other visits will include the pass of Thermopylae, site of the 300 Spartans' resistance to the invading Persians.

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

### Delphi

Acclaimed as the centre of the Earth and Universe, Delphi has always been a place of historic and spiritual significance. The 'navel of the world' where the omniscient Oracle was to be advised blends harmoniously with the magnificent landscape and it surely is an absolute must destination for any history lover. Although the eternal flame is no longer burnt inside, a visit to the Temple of Apollo is obligatory.

### Meteora Monasteries

Meteora is a truly inspiring and sensational setting of overwhelming rock formations. It is a pilgrimage to a holy place for all Christians around the world.

The gigantic rocks of Meteora are perched above the town of Kalambaka, at a maximum height of 400 m (1200 ft). The most interesting summits are decorated with historical monasteries, included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Only 6 of them have made it through the centuries, from an initial

estimated number of 24. Mostly dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> and until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, these monasteries were built by monks who were previously hermits in the area, living in individual caves. Once united, these monks took months and years to carry the construction material to the top of rocks, using ropes, folding ladders, nets and baskets, and with much determination.

### Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the area. Built near the sea, it is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of its stormy history and cosmopolitan character, which give it a special beauty and charm.

#### Places and sites of interest in Thessaloniki:

**Church of Saint Demetrios** – arguably the most important church of Thessaloniki, it is devoted to the patron Saint of the city and has a long and rich history.

**Church of Panagia Archeiropoietos** – One of the oldest surviving Christian temples of Greece. Being a three-aisled basilica with a wooden roof, it is a beautiful sample of Paleo-Christina byzantine architecture.

**Church of Agia Sofia** – one of the most impressive Byzantine churches in Thessaloniki, this church boasts a 'Domed Basilica' style temple with imposing architecture, beautiful wall paintings and elaborate mosaics.

**The Monastery of Hosios David** – an early Christian cruciform building of the late 5<sup>th</sup> or early 6<sup>th</sup> century. A small but historic monastery built upon the ruins of a Roman period building.

**Vlatadon Monastery** – founded between 1351 & 1371 A.D., this monastery is one of the oldest Byzantine monuments in Thessaloniki Its importance lies to the fact that despite the various challenges and significant disasters the monastery suffered throughout the centuries, it never stopped being active.

### **Heptapyrgion**

The Castle of Thessaloniki, also known as Heptapyrgion or Yedi Kule, is located on a hill above the old town (Ano Poli). Its location gives gorgeous views to the city, the port and the Aegean Sea.

### **Roman Forum**

An impressive – if rather confusing – sprawl of ruins, the Roman Forum was ancient Rome's showpiece centre, a grandiose district of temples, basilicas and vibrant public spaces. The site, which was originally an Etruscan burial ground, was first developed in the 7th century BC, growing over time to become the social, political and commercial hub of the Roman Empire.

### **Byzantine Museum**

This museum was awarded the Council of Europe's Museum Prize for the year 2005. For years it remains one of the favourite destinations of the city for the majority of the visitors!

### **Jewish Museum**

The Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki was founded to honour the rich and creative Sephardic heritage as it evolved in the city after the 15th century. Consequent to the horrible expulsion from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492, Jews began to arrive in the safe haven of the city in big numbers bringing with them an awareness of Renaissance culture and languages of the Western Mediterranean. Skills such as printing, cartography, medicinal sciences and knowledge of contemporary weaponry made the Iberian Jews an asset to the Ottomans.

### **The Rotunda**

Built by the Roman emperor Galerius (305 -11AD) as part of a large palace complex that included the Arch of Galerius. It was likely it was intended to be his mausoleum but was never used as such. The Rotunda was converted in later years to a Christian church. During Thessaloniki's occupation by the Ottomans the Rotunda was turned into a mosque.

### **Ancient Aigai**

The ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia, was discovered in the 19th century near Vergina. The most important remains are the monumental palace, lavishly decorated with mosaics and painted stuccoes, and the burial

ground with more than 300 tumuli, some of which date from the 11th century B.C. One of the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus is identified as that of Philip II, who conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and the expansion of the Hellenistic world.

### **Dion**

The site of Dion spans approximately 1,500 acres and the excavation of the findings relate mainly to the Roman and early Christian times.

### **Pella**

The ancient capital of Macedon since the early 4<sup>th</sup> century. Excavations have brought to light a well-organized city, an admirable testament to its great history. The new Archaeological Museum at Pella gives you the chance to reconstruct in your mind's eye the daily goings-on of the city in its halcyon days.

### **Thermopylae**

The battle of Thermopylae was the first battle between the Persians and Greeks during the Persian invasion of 480-479 BC. The Greek force was very small but was determined to make a stand against the huge Persian army.

### **Your Lecturer - Dr Rita Roussos Phd**

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 during 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

The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings, and sometimes the days, can be 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). 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 reasonably 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.

**Walking shoes** – As archaeological sites tend to be quite rough underfoot we recommend that you have shoes that are reasonably sturdy and 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](http://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. 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.**

### 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. 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 hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

0030 6977465892 (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](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)

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