



# Tour Information



## Greece – The Road Less Travelled





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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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

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.

For more information please visit

[www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com) and [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 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 situated in arrivals, holding a Travel Editions sign. The transfer to your hotel will take approx. 30 minutes.

## Special Requests

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



## Accommodation

### City Hotel, Thessaloniki

This modern 4\* hotel is situated in the heart of Thessaloniki, close to the many lively cafes and bars of Tsimiski Street and Aristotelous square. Hotel facilities include a restaurant and bar, gym and Wellness centre. Each of the comfortable rooms feature air-conditioning, TV, tea and coffee facilities, safe, hairdryer and free wifi.

For more information visit the hotel website; <https://www.cityhotel.gr/>

### Hotel Kastaki, Meteora

The 3-star Hotel Kastraki is located at the foot of the enchanting Meteora rocks in the beautiful village of Kastraki and only 2 km from the city of Kalambaka. It enjoys unique views of the imposing rocks of Meteora. Each of the comfortable and stylish rooms have private balconies, a bath or shower, complimentary toiletries, air-conditioning, TV, radio, fridge, safe and hairdryer.

For more information visit the hotel website; <http://www.hotelkastraki.gr/>

### Grand Serai, Ioannina

In the heart of the town of Ioannina. This 5\* hotel combines the traditional style of Ioannina with elements of the Middle East. Facilities include a restaurant and bar, Spa with steam room and heated pool, beauty salon and gym. All the comfortable bedrooms have either a bath or shower, air-conditioning, safe, mini-bar, TV, hairdryer and bathrobes and slippers.

For more information visit the hotel website: <http://www.grandserai.com/>



### Food

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.



### Drink

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, tsipoura, metaxa and, of course, Greek wine. 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

**Dinner** – one dinner in Thessaloniki





## Destination

Join historian Jeremy Paterson as he takes 'the road less travelled' through Northern Greece, from the ancient tombs of Macedonia with their spectacular hoards of gold, to the remarkable 'monasteries in the sky', Meteora and the villages and humped-backed packhorse bridges of the Pindus mountains. We visit Ioannina, where Byron met Ottoman-Albanian tyrant Ali Pasha. We consult the oracle at Dodona, we see the site of the Battle of Actium where Augustus defeated Antony and Cleopatra. We also visit Pella, the capital of ancient Macedonia, Edhessa, the 'city of waters', and explore the fascinating history of Thessaloniki.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Pella and Edhessa

Pella is an ancient city located in Central Macedonia, best known as the historic capital of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon and the birthplace of Alexander the Great. Excavations in Pella by the Greek Archaeological Service began in 1957 and revealed large, well-built houses with colonnaded courts and rooms with mosaic floors portraying such scenes as a lion hunt and Dionysus riding a panther. These mosaics are made with small natural pebbles of various colours, carefully matched and laid, and are masterpieces of their kind. They date from the late 4th century BC. Excavations revealed the town to be laid out on a rectangular grid plan with streets more than 30 feet wide. Under the streets are terra-cotta pipes for distributing fresh water. The excellent museum of Pella is located in the north eastern part of the archaeological site.

The Waterfalls of Edhessa are situated in Edhessa town and are considered the tallest waterfalls in Greece. The city is filled with little bridges and the sound of running water will accompany your strolls around the town. The main volume of water was collected in a small basin in the west side of the city, up to the end of the 14th century, but due to a geological phenomenon the water changed course and crossed the city forming this spectacular waterfall; meanwhile numerous smaller sized rivers were created and the lake,

where the water once accumulated, eventually dried out. Many 17th and 18th century travellers described the city as built on a rock from which many waterfalls fell.

For more information about Pella and Edhessa, please visit:

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Pella-ancient-city-Greece>

[http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/waterfalls/the\\_waterfalls\\_of\\_edessa](http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/waterfalls/the_waterfalls_of_edessa)

#### 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.

The Archaeological Museum here is excellent and one of the largest museums in Greece. It has some unique collections exhibiting artefacts from the Prehistoric, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods, mostly from the city of Thessaloniki but also from the region of Macedonia in general.

For more information about Thessaloniki, please visit:

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/greece/northern-greece/thessaloniki>

#### Ancient Aigai

Ancient Aigai used to be the cradle of the Temenid dynasty, which gave humanity two of its most imposing figures, Philip II and ultimately Alexander the Great, who would go on to change the course of Greek and world history. In the underground building that encases and protects the monuments, the visitor can unravel the threads of history and myth. The illuminated ancient objects shine all the more brightly in the dark. The sight of Philip II's tomb and the treasures exhibited near the place where they were found is truly awe-inspiring. The golden shrine with the sixteen-pointed star, the sovereign's gold wreath, his wife's gold crown, her crimson and gold shroud

and the unique frescoes are just a sample of some of the wonderful pieces that were un-earthed.

For more information about Veria and Aigiari, please visit:

<https://www.discovergreece.com/en/mainland/macedonia/veria>

## Meteora

A trip to Meteora offers the unique experience of nature's grandeur in conjunction with history, architecture and man's everlasting desire to connect with the Divine. From the early Christian times, the Meteora vertical cliffs were regarded as the perfect place to achieve absolute isolation, to discover peace and harmony and, thus, to support man's eternal struggle for spiritual elevation. Meteora is a truly inspiring and sensational setting of overwhelming rock formations. It is a pilgrimage site for Christians around the world. The first monks of Meteora arrived in the 14th century establishing an entire monastic community on top of giant rock cliffs. They chose to do this not because it was easy but because it was hard, almost impossible. And they succeeded in this great achievement through their faith. Meteora has become a preservation ark for the 2000-year-old Christian Orthodox creed.

For more information about Meteora, please visit:

<https://www.visitmeteora.travel/the-meteora-monasteries/>

## Ali Pasha's Island

One of the very few inhabited lake islands in Europe is in Greece. The island of Ioannina's lake holds a unique record as it is the only inhabited island of its size in the world without a name. The verdant island of 200 square kilometres is home to more than 300 people. It is known for its traditional Epirus stone-built settlement and was the base of Ali Pasha of Janina in the early 19th century, hence the 'nickname' for the island, Ali Pasha's Island. In its tiny heartland, there are seven Byzantine and post-Byzantine monasteries built next to each other, which made it an important place for monasticism in the past. This traditional monastic community is the third largest in the country after those in Mount Athos, Macedonia, and Meteora in Thessaly.

For more information about the island, please visit:

<https://greece.greekreporter.com/2014/12/07/the-unnamed-island-in-ioannina-lake/>

## Dodona

Dodona in Epirus in north western Greece was the oldest Hellenic oracle, possibly dating to the second millennium BCE according to Herodotus. The earliest accounts in Homer describe Dodona as an oracle of Zeus. It is an important ancient Greek oracle, second in fame only to Delphi, and is located in a strategic pass at the eastern slopes of the imposing Mt. Tomaros, close to the modern city of Ioannina in western Epirus. It was dedicated to Zeus and Dione, and the Greeks believe it to be the most ancient of oracles.

For more information about Dodona, please visit:

<https://www.ancient-greece.org/history/dodona.html>

## Nicopolis

Nikopolis or Nicopolis (which means, the victory city) is probably the largest in size ancient city in Greece, but still few have heard about it! It is located about eight kilometres away from Preveza, in Epirus and it was built by the Roman emperor Octavian after his victory at Actium against Antony and Cleopatra of Egypt. Within the archaeological site are many interesting monuments. The impressive Roman Odeon, which is located on the west side of the old Christian Wall includes the auditorium, the orchestra and the stage. It was built in the 1st C. AD and remained in use until the second half of the 3rd C. AD. The impressive theatre differs from other ancient Greek theatres, it constructively follows the logic of the Roman theatres of the period it was built and was created from three consecutive galleries and not in a natural sloping position, as it used to be in ancient Greek theatres.

For more information about Nicopolis, please visit:

<https://www.secret-greece.com/nikopolis-ancient-city-greece/>

## Kassope

Kassope occupies a magnificent and remote site on a high platform overlooking the sea, the Ambracian Gulf and the fertile lands to the south, and with the slopes of the Zalongo mountain to the north. It is considered one of the best remaining examples of a city built on a rectilinear street grid of a Hippodamian plan in Greece. The city of Kassope was founded in the middle of the 4th century BC as the capital of the Kassopaeans, a sub-tribe of the Thesprotians. Cassope or Cassopia is mentioned in the war carried on by Cassander

against Alcetas II of Epirus, in 312 BC. The city flourished in the 3rd century BC, when large public buildings were built. Kassope also minted its own coins. It was destroyed by Roman forces in 168-167 BC and abandoned in 31 B.C. when the remaining inhabitants resettled to Nikopolis the region's new capital. According to the legend, the women of Zalongo, holding their children in their arms, went to the cliff at Zalongo and, while singing and dancing the syrtos, jumped over the precipice one after another. Today, a monument on the site of Mount Zalongo above Kassope commemorates their sacrifice. There is also a popular dance-song about the event, which is known and still danced in Greece today.

For more information about Kassope, please visit:  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassope>

## Zagoria

Zagoria in Greece is a mountainous region of incredible natural beauty. Located on the north western side of Epirus, Zagoria is a complex of 46 traditionally built stone villages. These villages have a characteristic architecture and are surrounded by lush scenery.

For more information about Zagoria, please visit:  
<https://www.greeka.com/epirus/zagoria/>

## Your Guide

### Jeremy Paterson

Jeremy taught Greek and Roman history for over forty years at Newcastle University. He has travelled widely in Greece and the Mediterranean. His enthusiasm for the ancient world was first inspired by reading Homer and then by his fascination with the archaeological discoveries at Mycenae and Knossos. He is much in demand as a speaker at home and in many of the classical countries of the Mediterranean, where he has accompanied many groups to sites and museums.

## 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 evenings can 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 (Summertime Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). This means, summer or winter, 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 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.

**Credit cards**– Greece remains very much a cash society so credit cards are not always accepted, however, although more and more places are accepting these now 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.

**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 the local shops and very reasonably priced.

**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 our days are spent in various terrains, which can be a little rocky and uneven underfoot, we recommend that you bring shoes which have good gripping soles such as trainers or good walking shoes.



## 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 if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a Doctor if necessary. There is normally a charge of about 80 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

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 often speak fairly 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.

**We would advise ensuring that your travel insurance has full health cover in the event that the EHIC becomes invalid following the end of the transition period in December 2020.**

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 of the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 30 6977 465 892 (**Greek resort manager, Jane Freeman**) or

00 44 7841 023807

**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 in Thessaloniki, Greece

21 Aristotelous Street 546 24 Thessaloniki Greece

Email: [salonika@british-consulate.gr](mailto:salonika@british-consulate.gr)

Tel: 0030 2310 278006

Fax: 0030 2310 283868

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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