

Tour
Information



Highlights of Corfu





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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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

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 extra cost.

Online check-in is available any time 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 25 cm. Overhead locker space is limited on board the aircraft and on busy flights your cabin bag may have to go in the hold.

Please contact the airline for further information <http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

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 Corfu Airport you will be transferred by coach to your hotel. Please exit the luggage hall and you will find the Tour Manager waiting with a Travel Editions sign. The journey time to resort is approximately 30 minutes.

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

Kontokali Bay Resort Hotel

The five-star Kontokali Bay Spa Hotel, located on the lush Kontokali Peninsula, offers very comfortable rooms and a magnificent setting. Facilities include an indoor and outdoor pool, Spa and Wellness centre, Lobby Bar, Beach Bar and a choice of restaurants. The rooms included in the tour are all bay view rooms, and all have private bathroom facilities, safe, hairdryer, TV, free wi-fi, air-conditioning, telephone, minibar and tea/coffee making facilities.

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



Food

The standard of food in Greece and her islands 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. Greek people love meat and in Corfu's restaurants you can find a lot of meat dishes. Famous all over Greece, you can not miss to try the "Souvlakia" (meat sticks), the Stifado (veal cooked with onions and tomato sauce) and the delicious Giouvetsi (lamb cooked into a large pot with rice). Traditional dishes prepared with minced meat are the Bifteki (big meat ball filled with cheese, onions and peppers and then grilled), the Mousakas (different layers of potatoes, eggplants and cream) and the Papoutsakia (eggplants cooked in oven and filled with cheese). 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 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 the price of your holiday are:

Lunch – one lunch while in Butrint, Albania

Dinner – 4 dinners included at the hotel.

On the day's dinner is not included you might like to try one of the hotels choice of restaurants such as the Asterias a la carte restaurant or the Taverna Marina. Alternatively, you might like to try a local taverna in the nearby village or in Corfu town. You can find details of recommended restaurants on the hotel website www.kontokalibay.gr/where-to-eat-in-corfu/



Destination

Corfu

Corfu (Kerkyra in Greek) is a Greek island in the Ionian Sea. It is the second largest of the Ionian Islands, and, including its small satellite islands, forms the northwesternmost part of Greece. Two high and well-defined mountain ranges divide the island into three districts, of which the northern is mountainous, the central undulating, and the southern low-lying. The earliest reference to Corfu is the Mycenaean Greek word ko-ro-ku-ra-i-jo ("man from Kerkyra") in 1300 BC. Christianity arrived in Corfu early; two disciples of Saint Paul, Jason of Tarsus and Sosipatrus of Patras, taught the Gospel, and according to tradition the city of Corfu and much of the island converted to Christianity. Their relics were housed in the old cathedral (at the site of the current Old Fortress, before a dedicated church was built for them c. 100.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Corfu Town

Corfu Town is the capital of Corfu, one of the most beautiful and elegant towns in Greece. It is the principal port of the island and one of the largest and most populated towns of the Ionian Islands. Built on a promontory, the town displays a unique architecture which is strongly influenced by the different dominations; Sicilian, Venetian, French and English. From those times, Corfu Town has kept many of its imposing buildings, elegant mansions, superb palaces, French-style flowered squares and beautiful fortresses. Many interesting monuments adorn Corfu Town, such as the Old and the New Venetian Fortresses, the Town Hall Square, the Square of the Saints, the Ionian Academy and the Palace of Saint Michael and Saint Georges. The town is filled with beautiful Venetian neighbourhoods such as the Kanoni area where the ruins of the Ancient city are, or the beautiful area of Mandouki.

For more information about Corfu Town, visit:
<https://www.greeca.com/ionian/corfu/corfu-villages/corfu-town.htm>

Kassiopi

Kassiopi is a charming town situated at a small peninsula on the north-east corner of the island of Corfu, with its little harbour square the focal point of the towns social life by day and evening. It is an attractive town with traditional narrow streets and is overlooked by the ruins of an ancient castle.

For more information about Kassiopi, visit:
<http://www.kassiopi-bliss.com/>

Perithia

This historic 'Heritage Protected' village is in 'A Designated Area of Natural Beauty', situated on the attractive north east corner of the island, and just below Mount Pantokrator. It is the oldest example of the original mountain villages of Corfu. Records date back to the mid-14th century, although it is considered to have been inhabited many centuries before. Around 130 houses were built, entirely by hand, some of which have now fallen into ruin. The village, once inhabited by approximately 1200 people, was one of the wealthiest on the island, surrounded by vines, oak trees and thousands of sheep that roamed across the mountainside. To this day, with its cobbled streets and ancient houses, the atmosphere retains its warmth and friendliness. Encircled by eight churches, Old Peritheia is set amidst beautiful countryside with views to the sea.

For more information about Perithia, visit:
<http://www.old-perithia.com/>

Pantokrator Monastery

At 906 metres (2,972 ft), Mount Pantokrator is the highest mountain on the island. At the summit, the whole of Corfu can be seen, as well as Albania which lies a short distance from the island. On particularly clear days it is also possible to see Italy despite it being around 130 km (81 mi) away. At the top there is the first monastery on the site, Angevin, built in 1347 but then destroyed sometime around 1537. The church on the site dates from around 1689, and the current facade was built during the 19th century.

For more information about Pantokrator, visit:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Pantokrator

Achillion Palace

This magnificent Palace was built in 1890 exclusively for Elizabeth (Sissy), the former Empress of Austria, and used to serve as her summer retreat. Unfortunately, the Empress passed away in a rather tragic manner when she was brutally assassinated in 1898 in Geneva and the palace was deserted till the year 1907 when it was bought by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. The impeccably landscaped palace garden is absolutely top class and makes for a picture-perfect setting. Legend has it that the Empress fell in love with Corfu, so much so that she ultimately decided to build a residence that she could call her own. The palace is located at the spot where the manor of the renowned philosopher Petros Armenis Vrailas stood.

For more information about Achillion Palace, visit:
<https://www.greeka.com/ionian/corfu/corfu-excursions/achillion-palace-corfu.htm>

Paleokastritsa

Paleokastritsa is arguably the most picturesque village of the island of Corfu located 25 km northwest of Corfu Town. The word Paleokastritsa literally means old fortress, and a castle used to stand with the Monastery of the Virgin is now located. The village retains its traditional charm and character and boasts a picturesque harbour. At the end of the road, right after the main harbour is the Monastery of the Virgin that dominates the village. The monastery hosts an interesting collection of post Byzantine icons, books and other objects.

For more information about Paleokastritsa, visit:
<https://www.greeka.com/ionian/corfu/corfu-beaches/corfu-paleokastritsa.htm>

Makrades

Built at the top of a hill with perennial olive trees, Makrades has history which goes back to the 13th century. It is possible that its first residents were craftsmen who built the famous Angelokastro which is nearby. Makrades has traditional architecture which has been maintained over the last 800 years. The old church, the main road and its picturesque alleys, blend well with the

enchanting scenery of the authentic, Corfiot countryside.

For more information about Makrades, visit:
<https://greece.terrabook.com/corfu/page/makrades/>

Butrint, Albania

Being just across the water from Albania provides the opportunity to visit one of the countries ancient ruins Butrint, a Greek Roman site and a UNESCO World Heritage Centre, as well as get a taste of Albania. Butrint lies 18km south of the town of Sarande, where the boat from Corfu lands. The site and its surrounds are famed for its size, beauty and tranquillity. It has a fantastic natural setting which is part of a 29-sq-km national park. The remains – one of Albania's finest – are a microcosm of Mediterranean history, with occupation dating from 50 000 BC, at its earliest evidence, up to the 19th century AD.

For more information about Butrint, visit:
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/570>

Parga

Parga is a lovely town in western Greece with vivid island style. Constructed along the slopes of a hill, it is surrounded by lush greenery and blue sea. Lovely two-storey mansions with colourful walls are built on the slopes of the hill around the port and create a picturesque atmosphere. On top of the hill above the port are the ruins of an old Venetian Castle. Due to some archaeological findings, it is believed that Parga has been inhabited since the Neolithic times. However, Parga appears more clearly in the Greek history since the Byzantine times. During its history, the city has been conquered by the Venetians, who built the castle of Parga, and has been destroyed by pirates. It has also been under the rule of the Russians and the British, who finally sold it to Ali Pasha, in the 19th century.

For more information about Parga, visit:
<https://www.greeka.com/epirus/parga/>

Gliki and the Acheron River

The springs of Acheron River is an area of outstanding natural beauty located at the border of Thesprotia and Preveza, close to the villages of Kanalaki and Gliki. Apart from the natural beauty,

the springs of Acheron are known worldwide due to ancient Greek mythology, Acheron was one of the five rivers of the Greek underworld. According to the tradition, Zeus was devastated when the Titans drunk from the water and then he condemned the river to remain eternally under the earth while its water became darker. Acheron River is located 25km from Parga, in a beautiful location with rich vegetation and crystalline waters which make up a stunning natural landscape. In many parts of the river where the water flow is normal, there are lakes and water pits which have the ideal living conditions for many amphibians and fish. In other locations, the river flows impetuously through steep and precipitate high cliffs. In the rocky side slopes of Acheron, there are many birds of prey that nest in the forest slopes of the canyon.

For more information about Glikli and the Acheron River, visit:

<https://www.greeka.com/epirus/parga/parga-excursions/parga-acheron-river.htm>

Reading suggestions

Gerald Durrell, *My Family and Other Animals*.

An autobiographical work by British naturalist Gerald Durrell. It tells of the years that he lived as a child on the Corfu between 1935 and 1939

Mike Gerrard, *Corfu and Beyond Travel Guide*

Corfu and Beyond is a comprehensive guide to the beautiful Greek island of Corfu and is written by two award-winning Greece travel experts: Mike Gerrard and Donna Dailey. Between them they have travelled through most of the Greek mainland and the Greek islands, including many visits to Corfu, and have written or contributed to many best-selling guides to the country.

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 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

National holidays – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Orthodox Ash Monday (19 Feb); Independence Day (25 May); Orthodox Good Friday (06 Apr); Orthodox Easter Monday (09 Apr); Labour day (01 May); Orthodox Whit Monday (28 May); Assumption day (14 Aug); Ochi Day (28 Oct); Christmas day (25 Dec).

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 are widely available in all towns and cities, on the mainland and the islands. 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 0800 - 1430. Although banks on the larger islands tend to stay open in the afternoon and some during the evening to offer currency exchange facilities.

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.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. Bottled water is readily available to buy in all the local shops and very reasonable priced

Shopping – Most shops are open Mon, Wed and Sat 0900 -1430; Tue, Thurs and Fri 0900-1430 and 1730-2030. Olive oil and objects made from olive wood, leather goods and pottery are all excellent purchases 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. Coverage is excellent on the mainland and islands, but occasionally disappears in more rural locations.

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 good shoes which have good gripping soles.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see 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.

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

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



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:

00 30 6977 465 892 (Greek resort manager) 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 dialing code 0030.

If you find that you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Vice-Consulate Corfu

Mantzarou 18,

491 00,

Corfu

Greece

Tel: +30 26610 30055

Fax: +30 26610 37995

Monday to Friday 0800-1500

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

Open to the public by appointment Tuesday to Thursday 0900-1300.

Please note that an appointment is not necessary for emergency cases requiring consular assistance.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

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

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