



Tour Information



Highlights of the Peloponnese





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Swiss valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

As a tourist visiting from the UK, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



Tickets

Included with this documentation is an itinerary which includes a 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 not available for this booking.** 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.

Departure Tax

UK Flight Taxes are included in the price of your holiday.



Baggage Allowance

We advise that you stick to the baggage allowances advised. If your luggage is found to be heavier than the airlines baggage allowances 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.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.

Taking food into EU countries

Please note, you are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.

Transfers

On arrival at Kalamata Airport please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area. You will find your Tour Manager situated in arrivals, holding a Travel Editions sign. The journey time to resort is approximately 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 sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Pharae Hotel, Kalamata

The four-star Pharae Hotel has a seafront position, which ensures all rooms of sea views but also provides easy access for enjoying the good choice of nearby local tavernas and the seafront promenade. Facilities at the hotel include the Loft Lounge Restaurant with views to the Messinian Gulf, and a Terrace bar. Each of the comfortable rooms include TV, air-conditioning, safe, free wi-fi, mini-bar, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.

For more information visit the hotel website:

<https://www.pharae.gr/en/>

Ippoliti Hotel, Nafplion

Set in a 19th-century neoclassical building, this comfortable, stylish and well-located four-star boutique style hotel has a central position in a quiet street just behind the town's seafront promenade. Facilities include garden with small pool and gym. Each of the comfortable rooms include air-conditioning, TV, safe, fridge and hairdryer.

For more information visit the hotel website:

<http://ippoliti.gr/en/>

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. 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, 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 holiday

Breakfast daily and one dinner



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.

Details of places of interest included in the tour:

Kalamata

Kalamata, famous worldwide for its olives, is Messinia's capital and the second-largest city in the Peloponnese. Below the kastro (fort) is the small but attractive old town, which was almost totally destroyed by the Turks during the War of Independence, rebuilt by French engineers in the 1830s, then levelled again by an earthquake in 1986. Located in the northern part of the city, just below the castle, Kalamata Old Town is a chaotic jumble of churches and artisanal shops, all hidden in a maze of cobbled streets. Set out in any direction and you're sure to stumble upon a scene of authentic Peloponnese life. It is home to some of the most important churches in the region. The church of Agioi Apostoloi has had a long and complex history. It was where the revolt against the Turks began in 1821 and its walls are lined with paintings and icons, many of them hundreds of years old. There are plenty of museums in the old town, too. The Archaeological museum gives a good overview of the history of the region, displaying artefacts from important sites like the ancient city of Messini. The Warfare Museum chronicles the tools and methods of combat throughout the ages. And the Folklore Museum displays examples of the traditional arts and crafts the region is famous for.

For more information about Kalamata, please visit:

<https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/kalamata-greece-travel-guide/>

Olympia

One of the most important archaeological sites in Greece, Olympia is located on the western side of Peloponnese. This was the place where the ancient Olympic Games were organized, these games were held to honour god Zeus and included a series of athletic competitions with representatives of all the Greek city-states. It was a great honour for a city-state to give birth to Olympic winners, whose only prize was an olive branch. The Olympic Games were suspended in 394 AD by the Byzantine emperor Theodosius as a pagan ritual. The spirit of the ancient Olympic Games inspired their revival in modern times. They started again many centuries later, in 1896, after the idea of the French baron Pierre de Coubertin. The most characteristic sights of Olympia Greece are the Ancient Stadium, the temples of Zeus and Hera and certainly the Archaeological Museum, with impressive exhibits and findings from excavations in the region.

For more information about Olympia, please visit:

<https://www.greeka.com/peloponnese/olympia/>

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 with a massive Arcadian gate, the ruins of temples, houses, and public buildings are all in a wonderful condition with one of the finest ancient stadiums in Greece.

For more information about Messene, please visit:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5859/>

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, please visit:
www.visitnafplio.com

Corinth and the Corinth Canal

According to myth, the first kings of Corinth were descendants of Sisyphos, the man who was punished by the Gods for his hubris by being forced to roll an immense boulder up a hill only for it to roll down again when they came near the top, repeating this action for eternity. Thanks to traffic and trade over the Isthmos, the narrow strip of land that connects the Peloponnesos to the mainland of Greece and Attika, this ancient city, whose foundation dates back to the 10th century BCE, could easily compete in terms of wealth and fame with Athens and Thebes. Until the middle of the 6th century BCE Corinth's main export product were the black-figured vases, many of which made their way to several colonies in Magna Graecia. The great temple on its Acropolis (the Acrocorinth) was dedicated to Aphrodite, Corinth was one of the most important cult centres for the Goddess of Love throughout its history, according to some sources, there were more than a thousand temple maidens serving at the Sanctuary of Aphrodite.

The Corinth Canal connects the Gulf of Corinth in the Ionian Sea with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea. It cuts through the narrow Isthmus of Corinth and separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland, arguably making the peninsula an island. The canal was dug through the isthmus at sea level and has no locks, is 6.4 kilometres (4 mi) in length and only 21.4 metres (70 ft) wide at its base, making it impassable for many modern

ships. It has little economic importance and is mainly a tourist attraction. The canal was initially proposed in classical times and a failed effort was made to build it in the 1st century AD. Construction recommenced in 1881 but was hampered by geological and financial problems that bankrupted the original builders. It was completed in 1893, but, due to the canal's narrowness, navigational problems, and periodic closures to repair landslides from its steep walls, it failed to attract the level of traffic expected by its operators.

For more information on Corinth, please visit:
<https://www.greecetravel.com/peloponnesos/corinth/index.html>
For more information about Corinth Canal, please visit:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corinth_Canal

Hydra

Following the short ferry trip that connects the Saronic Island with the mainland, we visit Hydra, a very beautiful island, a real historical gem and is steeped in a seafaring tradition of a bygone age. The entire island is a preserved national monument and has retained all its 17th and 18th Century charm and authentic quaintness. Hydra's spectacular attractive harbour remains hidden from sea view, until just before you enter the port. A beautiful horseshoe of white painted, red tiled houses and huge mansions that cascade down to the harbour, packed with cruise ships, fishing boats, yachts and water-taxis, making Hydra one of the most photographed, filmed and painted harbours in the whole of Greece. Hydra is very cosmopolitan, attracting thousands of visitors by its numerous charms. The charm of Hydra is increased by the fact that there are no private vehicles or motorbikes on the island. All transport is by donkey for all activities of life, including the transportation of luggage and sightseeing. Donkeys are far better suited to the narrow-stepped streets of the town.

For more information about Hydra, please visit:
<https://ermioni.info/hydra-island>

Mycenae

Ancient Mycenae is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Greece. It is located in Peloponnese, in mainland Greece. Dating from the Late Bronze Era, this was the kingdom of the legendary king Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War. It was an influential centre of that time and it gave its name to an entire civilization, the Mycenaen civilization. Surrounded by huge walls that were constructed by Cyclops as the myth says, it was a military-centered society with very limited interaction with other cultures. The most famous spots of Mycenae Greece is the Lion Gate, the entrance of the town, and the Treasury of Atreus, the vaulted tomb of King Agamemnon. The Archaeological Museum hosts interesting exhibits from excavations in the region. For more information about Mycenae, please visit: <https://www.greeka.com/peloponnese/mycenae/>

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 or 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). In reality 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 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. ATM machines are easily accessed in towns 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 all local shops and very reasonable priced

Shopping - 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.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

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 awards 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 definitely 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 has to 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 will, often, speak good English. Pharmacists will usually 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)

Before you travel, make sure you have got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC 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 office hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

0030 6977 465892 (Greek resort manager) 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 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

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

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