



Tour Information



Lakes of Northern Greece





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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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 your detailed itinerary is a BA e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. **Online check-in is not available for this booking.**

Your BA Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.

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 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 British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit www.britishairways.com

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. For more information please visit 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 into Thessaloniki Airport you will be met by your Tour Manager in the arrival's hall. Please look for a Travel Editions sign. The transfer time to Lake Kerkini is approximately 1 hour 35 minutes.

Special Requests

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



Accommodation

Villa Belles, Akritochori

The hotel is situated at the foot of the imposing Mountain Belles and overlooks beautiful Lake Kerkini. Facilities include a snack-bar and café-bar. Each of the comfortable bedrooms include air-conditioning, TV, telephone, fridge, and most of the rooms benefit from a balcony with a magnificent view.

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

Limneon Resort Hotel, Kastoria

This luxury spa hotel is located right on Lake Orestiaida and features spectacular lake views. Facilities include a lobby bar, pool bar, restaurant, all-day bar-restaurant and outdoor pool. The Noufaro spa includes an indoor pool, hydro massage, sauna, and a choice of treatments available at an extra charge. The contemporary rooms include air-conditioning, hairdryer, safe, TV, mini-bar and free wi-fi.

For more information please visit the hotel's website: <https://www.limneon.com/en/>

Daluz Boutique Hotel, Preveza

Daluz Boutique Hotel is located close to the centre of the historical city of Preveza, in the picturesque area of Psathaki. Features include a restaurant, bar, swimming pool and pool bar. Each of the comfortable rooms include a balcony, air-conditioning, TV, mini-bar, hairdryer and free wi-fi.

For more information please visit the hotel's website: <http://daluzboutiquehotel.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 6 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

Breakfast - daily.

Dinner – Two dinners and two lunches are included during your tour



Destination

One doesn't think of Lakes when thinking of Greece, it is always the sea, the islands and the country's beautiful coastline and yet Greece is home to numerous lakes that offer a completely different view of this wonderful country. This tour will take you on a journey, off the beaten track at times, to discover some of these beautiful lakes and the nature, scenery, fauna and food that goes hand in hand with these special places.

Places and sites of interest included in the tour:

Lake Kerkini

Lake Kerkini is one of the most important wetlands in Europe, and is considered to be one of the top European bird watching destinations. About 300 bird species have been observed here: some of them nestle, some winter, others stop over for rest or food. Among them, the Pelican and the Pygmy Cormorant are threatened with extinction. The area is also one of the most important cormorants' and herons' colonies of the Northern Balkan Peninsula. The rich fish fauna of the lake gives some delicious dishes in the tavernas of the area. Taste the local eels, sardines, roaches, and carps and you'll definitely come back for more!

For more information about Lake Kerkini, please visit: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/lakes/an_escape_to_lake_kerkini

Fort Roupel

Fort Roupel is a fortress at the north border of Central Macedonia, Greece, built in 1914. It became part of the fortifications of the Metaxas Line in the 1930s and became famous for its defence during the German invasion of Greece in April 1941. During World War I, on 25 May 1916, under German pressure, the Greek government ordered the surrender of the fortress to the Germans and their Bulgarian allies, without a shot being fired. The German-Bulgarian troops then proceeded to occupy most of eastern Macedonia without resistance. This act led to the outbreak of a revolt of Greek Army officers in Thessaloniki and the establishment of the Provisional Government of National Defence under Entente auspices there, opposed to the official Athens government and

King Constantine I, cementing the so-called "National Schism". The fort became famous during World War II, when the advance of the German and Bulgarian armies was stopped in front of this fort. On the eve of World War II, Fort Roupel was incorporated into the Metaxas Line, a new line of defence that was built to repel an invasion into Greece from Bulgaria. For three days the fort held out against German attack and was only abandoned by its men after the surrender of the Greek army in Thessaloniki.

For more information about Fort Roupel, please visit: <https://fsgfort.com/fortfinder/poi/roupel-metaxas-line/>

Monastery of Timios Prodromos.

Found in the depths of the gorge of Mount Menikion, 7.5 miles northeast of Serres, Timios Prodromos (St. John the Baptist) is one of the most historic monasteries of Macedonia. It was founded around 1270-1278 and later renovated circa 1300. The monastery was favoured by Byzantine emperors from the start of its existence. With their donations and grants, it gained considerable wealth and quickly developed into a great monastic centre.

For more information about the monastery, please visit: <http://mag.politismosmuseum.org/the-monastery-of-timios-prodromos/>

Vergina

The excavation by Professor Manolis Andronikos and his associates under the Great Tumulus of Vergina village in Central Macedonia in 1977 brought to light one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century in Greece. Today's Vergina in the foothills of Mt. Pieria, was the first capital of the ancient kingdom of Macedonia, called Aigai. The site of the Royal Tombs under a modern roof hosts the main excavation, as well as an exhibition of the major finds from the burials. It is protected by UNESCO as world cultural heritage and comprises a unique discovery with an enormous universal impact.

For more information about Vergina, please visit: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/culture/archaeological_sites/vergina

Kastoria

This charming furrier city, is built amphitheatrically on a narrow peninsula, mirrored in Orestiada Lake and nestled in between Grammo and Vitsi Mountains. A short distance from the lake one finds the old neighbourhood 'Doltso', a picturesque corner where buildings date back to the 17th and 18th century, when the city's economy blossomed due to the fur trade. Lots of buildings have been converted into museums, such as Neratzi Aivazi mansion that houses the Folk-Art Museum, and the Emmanouil mansion, which houses the Costume Museum. In Kastoria there are more than 60 Byzantine and post-Byzantine Churches, that dating from between the 9th and the 19th century. The Monastery of Panagia Mavriotissa (1802), located by the lake, has impressive murals, depicting Byzantine Emperors.

For more information about Kastoria, please visit: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/main_cities/kastoria

Prespes

These wetlands of north-western Macedonia have been designated a national park, occupied by twin lakes, Megali and Mikri Prespa (Large and small Prespa) or Brigiis as was the ancient name. Megali Prespa, the Balkans biggest lake tips over into three countries, Greece, Albania and From which meet at a tri-national point on the lake. A narrow neck of land divides the two lakes whose waters communicate underground. There is an islet in the middle of Mikri Prespa, Vitrinetsi, and another at the northern end, Agios Achillios. The shores of both lakes are steeply sheer and rocky in places and at others gently sloping with abundant vegetation.

For more information about Prespes, please visit: <http://www.hipgreece.com/prespes.html>

Lake Pamvotis

This well-known lake was, in ancient times, known as "Pamvotis" (the great provider). Situated right next to the city of Ioannina, this uncommonly beautiful lake is a true gem of the Ioannina Basin. Full of legends and traditions that go back centuries the lake has thick reed beds as well as dense thickets of willows, poplar trees and huge plane trees, which offer shelter from the wind to a host of local and migratory birds. Herons, grebe, snipe, swans, and cormorants all "earn their daily bread" by snacking on the local fish population. The lake has two main features: a peninsula with

an historic castle and towering minarets, and the small island – the only island in Greece to be inhabited and yet not have a name – which basks in its green waters.

For more information about Lake Pamvotis, please visit: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/lakes/lake_pamvotida

The Ambracian Gulf

The Ambracian Gulf was born almost 10.000 years ago when the Ionian Sea that was gradually elevating passed through the pit that had already been created hundreds of thousands of years earlier. So, it is actually a closed internal sea that is connected with the Ionian Sea through a narrow seaway in Actium. The Ambracian Gulf is a paradise for birds; 294 species have been listed here with a total population of almost 100.000; many of which are rare or threatened species. The gulf is also home to many different species of fish, around half of which are fished. You may also see dolphins, turtles and water buffalo during your cruise of the area.

For more information about the Ambracian Gulf, please visit:

<http://www.visitarta.gr/arta/tourism/articles/article.jsp;jsessionid=3FB488991ACFEA5269D8475DB79A9C34?context=1504&categoryid=4546>

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 or 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 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.

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 reasonable 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, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

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 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 arrange hospital transport.

Keep 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.

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

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. 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 medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

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 strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



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:

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 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

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