



Tour Information



Macedonian Gold





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 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

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 specified baggage allowance the charges at the airport will be hefty. Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one** cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels). If you book an upfront or extra legroom seat you can also take an additional large cabin bag on board. 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.

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.

Transfers

On arrival, please collect your luggage and proceed to the arrival's hall, where you will find your Tour Manager holding a Travel Editions sign. The transfer to the hotel is approximately two hours.

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

Lucy Hotel, Kavala

The five-star Lucy Hotel is set in an impressive eight storey building, a five-minute drive from the city centre. Located at the western end of Kavala, this comfortable hotel overlooks the sea. Facilities include two restaurants, one with a sea-view terrace, a café-bar, outside pool (seasonal) and elegantly designed rooms that offer sea or city view.

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

Royal Hotel, Thessaloniki

Situated just 17 kilometres from Thessaloniki and only a 10-minute drive from the airport, the 4-star Royal Hotel provides a relaxed place to stay as our base for visiting the sites of Thessaloniki. Set on a hill, the hotel commands a fantastic view across the Thermaikos Gulf. The comfortable rooms all have balconies with either mountain or sea view, air conditioning/heating. The hotel facilities include a restaurant and bar.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.royal-hotel.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 can be something of an acquired taste, but it usually 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, 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 – 3 dinners at the Lucy Hotel.

3 dinners at the Royal Hotel.



Destination

An opportunity to discover the vast and fascinating history of ancient Macedonia through visits to some of the greatest and most beautiful sites in this region. At the same time, discover the many glories offered by Greece's second city, the vibrant and cultural city of Thessaloniki, all in the company of ancient historian Jeremy Paterson.

Places and sites of interest included in the tour:

Ancient Philippi

The remains of this walled city lie at the foot of an acropolis in north-eastern Greece, on the ancient route linking Europe and Asia, the Via Egnatia. Founded in 356 BC by the Macedonian King Philip II, the city developed as a "small Rome" with the establishment of the Roman Empire in the decades following the Battle of Philippi, in 42 BCE. The vibrant Hellenistic city of Philip II, of which the walls and their gates, the theatre and the funerary heroon (temple) are to be seen, was supplemented with Roman public buildings such as the Forum and a monumental terrace with temples to its north. Later the city became a centre of the Christian faith following the visit of the Apostle Paul in 49-50 CE. The remains of its basilicas constitute an exceptional testimony to the early establishment of Christianity.

For more information about Philippi, please visit: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1517/>

Amphipolis

This ancient Greek city sits on the Strymon River about three miles from the Aegean Sea, in Macedonia. A strategic transportation centre, it controlled the bridge over the Strymon and the route from northern Greece to the Hellespont, including the western approach to the timber, gold, and silver of Mount Pangaeum in Thrace. Originally a Thracian town (Ennea Hodoi, "Nine Roads"), it was colonized by Athens in 437–436 BC. The Spartan Brasidas seized it in 424 and defeated the Athenian Cleon, who tried to recapture it in 422. It was officially returned to Athens by the Peace of Nicias (421) but actually remained independent, despite Athenian attempts to regain

control (416 and 368–365). Philip II of Macedonia occupied it in 357, and it remained under Macedonian control until 168, when Rome made it a free city and also the headquarters of the Roman governor of Macedonia. Traces of ancient fortifications and a Roman aqueduct are on the city's site, which is occupied by the modern town of Amfípolis.

For more information about Amphipolis, please visit: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Amphipolis>

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 of Thessaloniki – holds and interprets 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.

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.

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

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

Roman Forum

An impressive – if rather confusing – sprawl of ruins, the Roman Forum was ancient Rome's showpiece center, 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.

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. Following the expulsion from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492, Jews began to arrive in 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 Arch of Galerius and Rotunda

The Arch of Galerius and the Rotunda are neighbouring early 4th-century AD monuments in the city of Thessaloniki. The 4th-century Roman Emperor Galerius commissioned these two structures as elements of an imperial precinct linked to his Thessaloniki palace. Archaeologists have found substantial remains of the palace to the southwest. These three monumental structures were connected by a road that ran through the arch, which rose above the major east-west road of the city.

Pella

Pella is best known as the historical capital of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon and birthplace of Alexander the Great, a bustling metropolis of the Classical period. Several excavations of the site reveal the ancient city's majestic grandeur. Visit the monumental palatial complex that occupies the northernmost hill of the city. Wander around the city's commercial and manufacturing centre, the so-called agora (ayorá), which was in fact the biggest agora of the ancient world. This huge building complex included shops, workshops, administration offices, and the repository of the city's historical records. The main avenue of agora was actually connected with the city's port, the ruins of which are still visible today. The ancient agora is constructed according to the famous urban planning of Hippodamus (Hippodamian grid plan): well-defined city blocks, paved streets with sidewalks, and elaborate water supply and sewage systems. They all illustrate Pella's modern infrastructure and sophisticated urban design. The two-storey private houses built in Doric and Ionic style brings to mind images of a prosperous, ancient, city. You will certainly be impressed by the outstanding mosaic floors that used to

decorate the city's grand mansions – the most famous are the ones depicting the Abduction of Helen, Rapture, the Amazonomachy (the battle of Amazons), and the Deer Hunt. You can view these decorated floors (considered the most important group of mosaics in Macedonia) at the New Archaeological Museum of Pella.

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

Veria

Veria was the second most significant town, after Aigai, during the blooming ancient Macedonian years. The city is built on the foothills of Mt. Vermion and crossed by the River Tripotamo. From the 11th to the 14th century it was the third most important city of the Byzantine Empire, after Constantinople (Istanbul) and Thessaloniki. The impressively large number of Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches gave the city the nickname "Little Jerusalem". Today, 48 Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches are preserved in the city centre.

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

Vergina – Ancient Aigai

Here you can visit the stunning Macedonian Vergina Tombs, where the remains of King Philip of Macedonia, the father of Alexander the Great, were found. Vergina is the name of the modern village that now exists at the same place where once the ancient Greek Macedonian city of Aigai was located. Besides the tomb of King Philip II, you can see three more tombs in the museum. The Royal Tomb Museum of Vergina is built within a (reconstruction of the) tumulus (mount) where the tombs originally were found in. Beautiful treasures found in the tombs are on display. The Macedonian Greeks, just like other ancient Greek tribes, buried their dead in a small artificial hill called tumulus (plural: tumuli). These mounds of accumulated earth covered the actual tomb. The actual tomb also had a sign bearing the name and the fathers' name of the dead. A more important person in the dynasty would have a bigger tumulus and even a temple.

For more information about Vergina, please visit: <https://strollinggreece.com/northern-greece/vergina-tombs-aigai-greece/>

Your Lecturer - 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 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.

Reading Suggestions

Salonica – City of Ghosts. Mark Mazower

This book covers the more recent history of Thessaloniki, not the Classical period.

***Alexander the Great: The Truth Behind the Myth* (Vintage, 2004). Paul Cartledge**

Paul Cartledge, one of the world's foremost scholars of ancient Greece, illuminates the brief but iconic life of Alexander (356-323 BC), king of Macedon, conqueror of the Persian Empire, and founder of a new world order.

The Thread. Victoria Hislop

If you want a lighter read, and although this book is classed as a work of fiction, it does give a very good insight into some of the more recent history of Thessaloniki.



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 (Summertime 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 can be found in most towns, as well as at 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, should 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 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 – 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 – As archaeological sites tend to be quite rough underfoot, we recommend that you have shoes that are reasonably sturdy with good gripping soles.



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 must travel). 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, if it is necessary.

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.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who will usually speak some 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)

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.

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 (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

Tel: 0030 2310 278006

Fax: 0030 2310 283868

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