



Tour Information



Scenic Epirus





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

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 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 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 you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the specified weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

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.

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.

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 at the Airport please collect your luggage and proceed until you are in the arrival's hall. You will find your Tour Manager there, holding a Travel Editions sign.

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

Anemolia Hotel, Ioannina

Situated just outside Ioannina, this attractive four-star boutique style hotel offers a high standard of accommodation and lovely views over the lake and countryside. Bedrooms are bright and airy, with a homely lobby and bar area. The hotel also has a gym, sauna and spa.

For more information visit the hotel website: <http://www.anemolia-resort.gr/>

Philoxenia Hotel, Monodendri

The family-run Philoxenia Hotel is a very attractive, traditionally designed, stone-built hotel situated in the upper part of the quiet village of Monodendri. Featuring wooden ceilings and floors, warm colours and dark wood furnishings; the comfortable bedrooms, with private bathrooms, are equipped with TV, fridge and hairdryer. A breakfast buffet is served daily in a traditionally furnished dining area. The hotel has a small bar and a small library, with books on the local area. Free Wi-Fi access is available in all public spaces; magazines and board games are also available. Tavernas are within a 2-minute walk.

For more information visit the hotel website; www.zagoriaphiloxenia.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 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. 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.

In Monodendri and Corfu you will find a reasonable choice of tavernas within walking distance of the hotel. At Anemolia there is a small handful of tavernas also within walking distance.

Meals included in the holiday:

Breakfast daily

One dinner and three lunches



Destination

Epirus

Epirus is located in the north-west part of Greece, between the mountain range of Pindos and the Ionian Sea and combines impressive mountainous and charming seaside scenery. Mountains and rivers are traversed by wonderfully picturesque and historic stone built arched bridges. Fertile plains and valleys interrupt the mountain ranges from north to south. The climate of the coastline is moderate, while in the interior it is harsh, with heavy winters, frequent frost and abounding rain and storms. The villages and cities have always been connected via a number of trails carved through the many mountains. Later, this contributed to the flourishing of trade and the development of the region.

Epirus, borders the regions of West Macedonia and Thessaly to the east, West Greece to the south, the Ionian Sea and Ionian Islands to the west and Albania to the north. The region has an area of about 9,200 km². It is part of the wider historical region of Epirus, which overlaps modern Albania and Greece but lies mostly within Greek territory.

Epirus is largely made up of great limestone ridges orientated northwest-southeast and north-south; they reach up to 8,600 feet (2,600 m) in height and fall off more steeply to the west. These ridges generally parallel the coast and are so steep that the valley land between them is mostly suitable only for pasture, though northern Epirus has more plains and cereal production. Much of Epirus lies on the windward side of the Pindus Mountains and hence receives the prevailing winds off the Ionian Sea with the result that it receives more rainfall than any other region of mainland Greece.

Epirus is an incredibly scenic region due to its spectacular mountains, the impressive Vikos gorge and the wonderful stone villages of Zagoriahorra.

Ioannina

Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, spreads out around Lake Pamvotida. The natural environment, the climate and character of the town are defined by this stretch of water – the area's trademark.

The lake, with its still waters and its small island, is a natural monument, around which the entire area lives and breathes. The strong cultural traditions of the town give visitors the opportunity to get to know the roots of the intellectual life of Epirus.

A walk through the city has the feel of a bygone era, full of secret places and legends still living. Wonderful buildings like the House Matei Hussein, the Ottoman mosque of Veli Pasha and the historic centre of the town are unique attractions.

Ioannina was always multicultural, dominated mainly by Christian, Islamic and Jewish influences. This coexistence is clearly evident in the historic city centre today.

The imposing castle of Ioannina was built in 528 AD by the Emperor Justinian, and was an ambitious expression of the might of the Byzantine Empire. It is the oldest Byzantine fortress in Greece with significant influence over the history of the town which grew around it. Over the years it evolved into a thriving centre with a highly developed intellectual life. Ali Pasha, that enigmatic symbol of Ottoman rule, lived here. His great love for the lady Kyra – Frosini resonates still as an integral part of the history of the town.

The castle is divided into four sections: the outer wall, the north-western citadel, which is dominated by the Aslan Mosque, the southeast citadel of Itch-Kale and finally the actual castle town - the old, walled town of Ioannina.

Metsovo

This authentic Vlach village, retaining its traditional character, dots the mountain side below Katara Col in the Mountain Range of Pindos. Even though the year's average temperature does not exceed 10°C, this charming destination remains lively all year round, thanks to the devotion of its people and the generosity of benefactors, who have helped maintain the local culture and capitalize on the natural beauty. The village is famous for its local cheeses (*Metsovone* and *Metsovela*) and for its winemaking industries, including the Katogi vineyard of the Averoff family.

Zagoria

The word Zagoria comes from the Slavic language and means "behind the mountains", Za meaning "behind" and gora "mountain". Visiting the region and experiencing its undulating and dramatic landscape that includes the second highest mountain in Greece, Mount Smolikas, and the imposing Mount Tymfi range, it is easy to understand why the region was given this name. The northern area of Zagoria has been designated a National Park, covering a distance of 2500 sq. km with the dramatic Vikos Gorge slicing through the middle. This status has ensured the rich flora and fauna of Epirus has been vitally protected. More than 1800 species can be found here, many of which are endemic and considered endangered. Five species of wild lily flourish in the area; other impressive species that can be found are the Poet's Daffodil, the Australia tulip, the spring gentian and the saxifraga spruneri. Various medicinal herbs and plants can also be found; mint, sage, thyme, daphne, myrtle spurge and many others. Orchids are also prominent. Wildlife in the park includes 60 species of mammals, the most famous being the European Brown Bear with others of note including wolves, wild cats, otters, boar and badgers. 187 bird species, 30 species of reptiles, 14 kinds of amphibians and 17 species of fish are also known to inhabit the park.

Zagorohoria

Zagorohoria are the villages of Zagoria, 46 stone-built villages situated to the north and northwest of Ioannina. During the last decade, the Zagorohoria region has become incredibly popular among Greeks, but it's a place that only foreigners 'in the know' visit. Its cultured people, stunning landscapes, cosy guesthouses, World Heritage protected architecture, and wonderful rivers make it a fantastic and a unique destination.

Most of the villages consist of the same 'arhontika' style houses - stone mansions with walls and roofs made of grey slate, taken from surrounding mountains, and winding cobbled streets. Dotted between the villages are graceful arched Turkish bridges; churches with painted interiors; kalderimi (old mule trails); and forests of beech, chestnut, and pine.

Vikos Gorge

The gorge is about 20km long and spreads between the villages of Monodendri and Vikos, and is in the Guinness book of records as the deepest gorge in the world. The average depth of the gorge is 700 metres, but its highest point is 1,600 metres, the width varies from 450 to just a few metres.

The Vikos Gorge makes up the majority of the Vikos-Aoos National Park and has the Voidomatis River running through it, which is also the cleanest river in Europe.

Agios Paraskevi Monastery

The Agios Paraskevi Monastery is an abandoned monastery situated on the edge of Vikos Gorge, in the region of Zagori. The monastery founded at 1413–1414, consists of a small stone-built chapel, the oldest preserved in Zagori, and offers panoramic views to the gorge.

Stone Forest

The mountain route of Monodendri goes through the Vikos Creek and holds an unexpected geological surprise to its visitors besides the breathtaking natural beauty. At a certain point of the route the landscape starts changing dramatically and the visitor comes face to face with huge rocks rising up to the sky, created by multiple layers of stone. This phenomenon looks so much like trees created of stone that it is known as the Stone Forest.

Tour Manager

Your Tour Manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him/her immediately in order to resolve any issues quickly so you can fully enjoy your holiday.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings at visits at altitude 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 (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 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. ATM machines can be easily accessed in the town and 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.

Credit cards– Greece remains very much a cash society so credit cards are not always widely accepted, however, many 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 perfectly safe to drink in Epirus but in Corfu we advise that you don't drink the water in the hotel and buy bottle water, which you will find is readily available to

buy in all of the local shops and also 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 - 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.

Taking food into EU countries

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



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/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 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

The nearest hospitals are in Ioannina and Corfu. 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, generally will 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.

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 (**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 need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Vice-Consulate, Corfu

1st floor

18 Mantzarou Street

49 100 Corfu

Email: Corfu@fco.gov.uk

Tel 0030 26610 23457

Tel 0030 26610 30055

Open to the public, by appointment only, Tuesday to Thursday, 9am to 1pm

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

Telephone enquiries: Monday to Friday, 8am to 3pm

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

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