



# Tour Information



## The Glory that was 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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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 final documentation is an e-ticket 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 both the outbound and inbound flight.**

Visit the British Airways websites for more information; [www.britishairways.com](http://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.



## 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](http://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.

## Departure Tax

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

## Transfers

Transfer from Athens Airport to Arachova approx. 2 ½ hours.

## 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

### Likoria Hotel, Arachova

The 4\* Likoria Hotel is located just 300 meters from the centre of Arachova. Hotel facilities include a lounge with fireplace, breakfast room, hammam and sauna. The spacious bedrooms all have verandas overlooking the Delphi valley. Facilities include bathroom with bath or shower, AC, heating, hairdryer, TV and fridge.

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

### Europa Hotel, Olympia

Hotel Europa is built on the top of Drouvas Hill in Ancient Olympia, at the foot of which lies the sacred Altis, which encompasses the most eminent and significant buildings and monuments as well as the ancient stadium of Olympia, where the Olympic Games were held. Facilities include an outdoor pool, bar and restaurant. The bright rooms are spacious and comfortable and include balcony overlooking the garden, air-conditioning/heating, satellite TV, fridge, en-suite bathroom with complimentary toiletries and free wi-fi.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:  
<https://www.hoteleuropa.gr/portal.php?action=&language=en>

### Hotel Menelaion, Sparta

Centrally located in Sparta, this comfortable hotel provides a welcome one-night stay to ensure we get the best out of our visit to the sprawling site of Mystras. Hotel facilities include wi-fi, lounge café, bar, restaurant and pool (seasonal). Bedrooms have en-suite bathroom facilities, TV, air-conditioning/heating, triple glazing and hairdryer.

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

### Amalia Hotel, Nafplio

The Amalia Nafplio is designed in a neoclassical style surrounded by pretty gardens, whilst public areas are elegantly and comfortably furnished. Hotel facilities include a restaurant, café lounge bar, pool (seasonal opening) and gardens.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:  
<http://amaliahotelnafplio.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, which 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. Both the white and red are usually very drinkable. 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

Seven nights on half-board basis

Two nights on bed and breakfast basis



## Destination

An opportunity to explore the varied and rich history of Greece by visiting some of its greatest and most beautiful sites in the company of ancient historian Jeremy Paterson. We start at the breathtaking ruins of Delphi, hidden in the folds of Mount Parnassus. On the same day we experience the peace of Hosios Loukas, one of the finest Byzantine monasteries in Greece. As we move on into Southern Greece, we see one of Greece's most recent marvels, the Rio-Antirio bridge, the world's second longest cable-stayed bridge, before reaching Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympics. For the rest of our stay we are based just outside Nafplio, one of the most charming of Greek towns, yet one that testifies to the remarkable history of modern Greece, with its castle, held both by Venetians and by the Ottomans, and with its many monuments and statues, which tell the story of how this little place was for a short time the first capital of modern Greece. From here we visit the palaces of the Golden Age at Tiryns and Mycenae, the best-preserved Greek theatre at Epidaurus, and the extraordinary deserted Byzantine city of Mystra.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Delphi

At the foot of Mount Parnassos, within the angle formed by the twin rocks of the Phaedriades, lies the Pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, which had the most famous oracle of ancient Greece and was regarded as the centre of the world.

According to mythology, it is here that the two eagles sent out by Zeus from the ends of the universe to find the navel of the world met. The sanctuary of Delphi, set within a most spectacular landscape, was for many centuries the cultural and religious centre and symbol of unity for the Hellenic world.

For more information about Delphi, please visit: [http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/culture/world\\_heritage\\_sites/delphi](http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/culture/world_heritage_sites/delphi)

#### Hosios Loukas

Secluded on Mt. Helicon in Greece, just south of Delphi, is the Monastery of Hosios Loukas (Holy Luke). A triumph of Byzantine art and architecture, it is no surprise that this church is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The monastery's two large churches (the Church of Panagia and the Katholikon), its Crypt, belfry, monk's cells and other buildings, all devoted to the local, miracle-making Hosios, have a unique standing as they are considered paragons among all 11th century monuments in Greece.

For more information about Hosios Loukas, please visit: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/537>

#### Rio-Antirio Bridge

The Rio–Antirio Bridge is the world's longest multi-span cable-stayed bridge. It crosses the Gulf of Corinth near Patras, linking the town of Rio on the Peloponnese to Antirio on mainland Greece.

#### Olympia

The site of Olympia, in a valley in the Peloponnese, has been inhabited since prehistoric times. In the 10th century B.C., Olympia became a centre for the worship of Zeus. The Altis – the sanctuary to the gods – has one of the highest concentrations of masterpieces from the ancient Greek world. In addition to temples, there are the remains of all the sports structures erected for the Olympic Games, which were held in Olympia every four years beginning in 776 B.C.

For more information about Olympia, please visit: <http://www.olympia-greece.org/>

#### Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassae

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this famous temple, dedicated to the god of healing and the sun, was built towards the middle of the 5th century B.C. in the lonely heights of the Arcadian mountains. The temple, which has the oldest Corinthian capital yet found, combines the Archaic style and the serenity of the Doric style with some daring architectural features.

For more information about the Temple of Apollo Epicurius, please visit: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/392>



## Mystras

Mystras, the 'Wonder of the Morea', was built as an amphitheatre around the fortress erected in 1249 by William of Villehardouin. Reconquered by the Byzantines, then occupied by the Turks and the Venetians, the city was abandoned in 1832, leaving only the breath-taking ruins, standing in a beautiful landscape. The complex of the ruins offers the image of a city with a brilliant destiny that was deserted by men and threatened by the return of encroaching vegetation, which is splitting the walls and covering the slopes, thus destroying here and there fragile traces of history.

For more information about Mystras, please visit: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/511>

## Nafplio

Nafplio, located 12km southeast of Argos on the Argolic Gulf, is one of Greece's prettiest and most romantic towns. It occupies a lovely location – on a small port beneath the towering Palamidi fortress – and is graced with attractive narrow streets, elegant Venetian houses, neoclassical mansions and interesting museums.

Nafplio was the first capital of Greece after Independence (between 1833 and 1834) and has been a major port since the Bronze Age. So strategic was its position that three fortresses were built here – the massive principal fortress of Palamidi, the smaller Akronafplia and the diminutive Bourtzi on an islet in the middle of the bay.

For more information about Nafplio, please visit: <http://www.visitnafplio.com/>

## Roman Corinth

Corinth was partially destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC, but in 44 BC it was rebuilt as a Roman city under Julius Caesar. Roman Corinth prospered more than ever before and may have had as many as 800,000 inhabitants by the time Paul visited. It was the capital of Roman Greece, equally devoted to business and pleasure, and was mostly populated by freedmen and Jews. The ruins of ancient Corinth, a short drive from the modern city of Corinth, are spread around the base of the rock of Acro-Corinth, which forms a natural acropolis for the city. Most of the surviving buildings are Roman rather than Greek. Much of

the city has been toppled by recurring earthquakes over the centuries.

The most notable ruin of ancient Corinth is the 6th-century BC Temple of Apollo, built on a hill overlooking the remains of the Roman marketplace (agora). Seven of the original 38 Doric columns still stand, and it is one of the oldest stone temples in Greece. The temple was still functioning in the time of Paul but was eventually destroyed by earthquakes.

For more information about Roman Corinth, please visit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient\\_Corinth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Corinth)

## Corinth Canal

The famous Corinth Canal connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea. It cuts through the narrow Isthmus of Corinth and separates the Peloponnesian peninsula from the Greek mainland, thus effectively making the former an island. The canal is 6.4 kilometres in length and only 21.3 meters wide at its base. Earth cliffs flanking either side of the canal reach a height of 63 meters. Aside from a few modest sized cruise ships, the Corinth Canal is unserviceable to most modern ships.

The Corinth Canal, though only completed in the late 19th century, was an idea and dream that dates back over 2000 thousand years.

Before it was built, ships sailing between the Aegean and Adriatic had to circumnavigate the Peloponnese adding about 185 nautical miles to their journey. The first to decide to dig the Corinth Canal was Periander, the tyrant of Corinth (602 BCE).

For more information about the Corinth Canal, please visit: <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/greece/articles/a-brief-history-of-the-corinth-canal/>

## Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns

The archaeological sites of Mycenae and Tiryns are the imposing ruins of the two greatest cities of the Mycenaean civilization, which dominated the eastern Mediterranean world from the 15th to the 12th century B.C. and played a vital role in the development of classical Greek culture. These two cities are indissolubly linked to the Homeric epics,

the Iliad and the Odyssey, which have influenced European art and literature for more than three millennia.

For more information about Mycenae and Tiryns, please visit:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/941>

## 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.

### Jeremy will give five lectures during the tour:

**Day 2:** 'Consulting the Oracle'

**Day 3:** 'The ancient Olympic Games'

**Day 5:** 'Sparta and Mistra'

**Day 7:** 'A short history of Greece'

**Day 8:** 'I have gazed on the face of Agamemnon'

## 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

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 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 local shops and also very reasonable priced.

**Shopping** - Most villages, however small, usually have at least one minimarket. Minimarkets usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening. Olive oil, olives and local honey are all excellent products 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.

**Walking shoes** – As archaeological sites tend to be quite rough underfoot, we recommend that you have shoes that are reasonably sturdy and have good gripping soles.



## 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](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### 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 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, 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

### 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 office hours telephone our emergency staff on:

**00 30 6977 465 892 (the overseas ops manager) or**

**00 44 7841 023807 (UK contact)**

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate Athens  
1 Ploutarchou Str.,  
106 75 Athens  
Greece

Email: [information.athens@fco.gov.uk](mailto:information.athens@fco.gov.uk)

### **Consular section Open to the public - by appointment only**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8am to 3pm

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

Telephone enquiries - Monday to Friday, 8am to 3pm. Tel: 0030 210 7272 600

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

#### Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. IT IS MEANT AS A GUIDE ONLY  
AND WE CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR SUBSEQUENT CHANGES.