



# Tour Information



## Walking in the Cyclades





## Travel

### 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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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 this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all of 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](http://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 you to check the specified baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

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.

Please contact the airline for further information. [www.easyjet.com](http://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.

### Transfers

On arrival at Mykonos Airport please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area and proceed until you are in the arrival's hall. You will find your Guide situated in arrivals, holding a Travel Editions sign. The transfer journey will be by boat to Tinos (approximately a 1 hour 30 minutes crossing).

### 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

### Golden Beach Hotel Apartments, Agios Fokas, Tinos

Just 2km from Tinos' capital, Chora, the Golden Beach Hotel offers apartment style rooms in an attractive garden setting, close to the sea. Rooms all have private bathroom facilities, kitchenette, fridge, TV, air-conditioning, safe, telephone and free Wi-Fi. All have a veranda with garden or sea view.

For more information please visit the hotel website [www.goldenbeachtinos.gr](http://www.goldenbeachtinos.gr)

### Hermes Hotel, Ermoupolis, Syros

The comfortable Hermes hotel sits in a privileged position with Syros port on one side and the open sea on the other. Hotel facilities include a bar and restaurant with sea views, wi-fi and safety deposit boxes. Rooms have sea views, ensuite bathrooms, fridge, TV, air-conditioning, telephone and wi-fi. There are plenty of facilities within easy walking distance, which include both shops, which sell local products, and tavernas which serve local specialties.

For more information visit the hotel website <http://hermes-syros.com/>



## Food

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 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.

### Meals included in your holiday

Breakfast daily

One dinner and five lunches (picnic or taverna)



## Destination

### The Cycladic Islands

The name “Cyclades” refers to the islands forming a circle (the name in English means: “circular islands”) around the sacred island of Delos. According to Greek mythology, Poseidon, God of the sea, furious at the Cyclades nymphs turned them into islands. The Cyclades comprises some of the most beautiful islands in the world! Gorgeous sandy beaches, picturesque architecture dominated by white and blue, a continuing traditional lifestyle, folk music, a warm hospitable people and barren landscapes with isolated chapels are all just a little of the Cyclades experience.

### Syros

The Phoenicians were among the first inhabitants of Syros and the ones who eventually named the island. There are two possible explanations of the word Syros: either it comes from the word “Ousoura” or “Ousyra”, which in Phoenician means happy, or from the word “Syr” which means rock. Syros is also mentioned by Homer with the name Syrii.

This is an island where Greek tradition and western influence come to a harmonious marriage. Ermoúpoli (meaning “the city of Hermes”) is the island’s capital town and has been the first important trade and industrial centre of the country in the 19th century. The island combines both Venetian and Cycladic architecture. Ermoupolis is a gem to walk around the old quarters as well as to enjoy fantastic views to the Aegean Sea. Hiking the hill above Ermoupolis, you reach the attractive quarter of Ano Syros, the traditionally Catholic community of the island. Galissas, Megas Gialos, Kini and Posidonia are the main and well known beaches of Syros, with sandy shores and crystal water.

### Tinos

Located at the northern side of the Cyclades, Tinos island is a very special religious place for Greeks and considered to be the capital of religious tourism in Greece because of a very important church, the church of Panagia (Virgin Mary), which houses a very important and famous icon. The church complex was built around the icon which,

according to tradition, was found after the Virgin appeared to a nun, Pelagia, and revealed to her the place where the icon was buried. The icon is widely believed to be the source of numerous miracles and, as the icon was found on the very first days after the creation of the modern Greek State, 'Our Lady of Tinos' was declared the patron saint of the Greek nation. The church is actually dedicated to the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and has become the most popular pilgrimage in Greece. The church is located on a hill above Chora, the capital of Tinos. Many pilgrims, those who keep a solemn promise to the Virgin Mary, cover this distance, from the port to the church, on their knees. As the path is very rough and their knees can get injured, a long red carpet has been laid from the entrance of the church to the port, only for this reason. Greeks will usually 'pilgrim' to this place at least once in their lifetime and in particular on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, when the 'Feast of the Assumption' is celebrated.

Apart from this famous church the island is known for its secluded beaches and its many traditional villages that are adorned with the characteristic picturesque Cycladic architecture. Pyrgos being the most famous of these, with its long tradition in marble carving.

### Your Guide

#### Jonathan Peat

Jonathan has been guiding walks in Greece for more than 20 years. He is of British/Greek descent and speaks both languages fluently. He spent many years living in Greece but has now settled in France with his French wife Myriam but returns to Greece every year. His passion for the country is fully represented in his guiding when he aims to introduce the visitor to the region’s unspoilt and beautiful nature as well as a very authentic side of Greek life.

**Please note as this tour is very much dictated by the hands of nature, it is possible some of the walks mentioned may change if conditions are not suitable for the walks advertised. If appropriate, these decisions will be taken by the guide during the tour.**



## 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). 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 still 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.

**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 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** – 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 dialing 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.

# Practical Information

**We recommend you bring the following items:**

1 light waterproof jacket  
1 good size day sack  
1 pair of light trousers (for prickly undergrowth)  
1 water bottle  
Personal first aid kit  
Sun hat, sun cream, insect repellent  
1 fleece or warm layer for cold in altitude or chilly evenings  
T-shirts/layers so you can adjust to changing early/late season weather conditions  
A walking stick or ski sticks are highly recommended as the paths followed are not always even and can be strewn with loose shingle/stones so sticks can be extremely helpful on such paths

Although none of the walking paths are particularly difficult you will encounter uneven and sometimes rocky terrain so it is essential to have comfortable, well-fitting and protective footwear. It is advisable that boots are ankle high to provide good ankle support. Vibram soles tend to have better grip. It is always advisable to break in your boots before your holiday. Try two pairs of socks, one thin pair close to the skin, and a thicker outer sock.

Bring a foot care kit, especially useful is moleskin and second skin, compeed is also very good for blisters



## 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 guide 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

Your guide/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.

**We would advise ensuring that your travel insurance has full health cover in the event that the EHIC becomes invalid following the end of the transition period in December 2020.**

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

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

### Travel Insurance

We strongly advise 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 (Greek resort manager)

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 Embassy Athens

1, Ploutarchou str

106 75 Athens

Greece

Tel: +30 210 7272 600

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

Open to the public - by appointment only

[Appointments.Athens@fco.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:consular.athens@fco.gov.uk)

Travel Editions

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