



Tour Information



Wild Flowers of Epirus





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 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.**

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.

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 visit: 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.

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.

Taking food into EU countries

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

Transfers

On arrival, please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area and proceed until you are in the arrivals 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

Arion Hotel, Corfu

The "Arion" Hotel recently renovated, is situated in the area of Anemomylos just 100m from the sea front, 1200 m from the centre of historic Corfu town and just a short walk from the beautiful gardens of Mon-Repos. All rooms have their own private bathroom, direct phone-line, TV, air-conditioning, balcony and free WiFi. The lounge area, the indoor bar and the restaurant with their elegant furniture and high windows create a comfortable and friendly atmosphere. A buffet style breakfast is served in the dining room on the ground floor. The "Arion" offers an excellent location as well as a friendly service and comfortable rooms. Tavernas are easily accessed from the hotel on foot.

For more information visit the hotel website: <http://www.arioncorfu.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 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.

In Monodendri and Corfu you will find a reasonable choice of tavernas within walking distance of the hotel.

Meals included in the holiday

Breakfast daily

One dinner and two lunches



Destination

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.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Zagorohoria

Zagorohoria means the villages of Zagoria, which comprise 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, cozy guesthouses, World Heritage-protected architecture, and wonderful rivers make it 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.

Having our main base for the tour at Monodendri, one of the larger of the Zagoria villages, really provides the opportunity to truly soak up the local atmosphere of this remarkable region.

Vikos Gorge

Although our tour doesn't include a walk into the Vikos Gorge, it is such a striking feature of the region that it has to be mentioned.

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. The gorge is very important to scientists as it has some unique eco-systems and endangered wildlife and plants. The gorge is popular during the summer months for hiking, although the full distance of the gorge doesn't have to be completed in one go as you can enter and leave the gorge at different points along the way.

The Vikos-Aoos National Park

The Vikos-Aoos National park is named after the two Gorges within its boundaries; the Vikos gorge and the lesser known Aoos gorge, which is about 10 km long. The Aoos gorge, like the Vikos is popular with hikers and has a number of historic stone built arch bridges, which cross the Aoos river that flows through the gorge.

The Vikos-Aoos National park has much more than just the two canyons, the amazing mountainous landscape has many rivers, mountain lakes, ancient coniferous and deciduous forests, caves and a unique ecosystem. It is one of the last places in Europe to have wild Brown Bears, the park also has wild Cats, Eagles, Egyptian Vultures, and all kinds of rare plants.

Corfu

Magnificent verdant Corfu, (Kerkyra in Greek), was Homer's 'beautiful and rich land'. Mountains dominate the northern half where the coastlines can be steep and dramatic and where the island's interior is a rolling expanse of peaceful countryside where stately cypresses, used for masts by the Venetians, rise from shimmering olive groves. South of Corfu Town the island narrows and flattens.

Corfu was a seat of European learning in the early days of modern Greece. While the rest of the nation struggled simply to get by, the Corfiots established cultural institutions such as libraries and centres of learning, and many major Greek figures like Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first head of an independent Greece, hailed from Corfu. To this day, Corfiots remain proud of their intellectual and artistic roots. This legacy is visible in its fine museums and cultural life to its high-calibre, Italian-influenced cuisine.

Your Guide

Javier Méndez

The guide for this tour is Javier Méndez, who leads our Flowers and Wildlife of Menorca tour to great acclaim. Javier is a professional ornithologist and naturalist who has been guiding birdwatchers, walkers, botanical groups, and nature enthusiasts since 2001. Javier was born and bred in Menorca, which is where you would normally find him, but, having introduced him to this area of northern Greece, he was very keen to join us and lead this tour in this exceptional area. Javier has been a keen birdwatcher and nature lover all his life. He speaks very good English and has a natural and infectious enthusiasm for his subject, which he loves to share with the clients in his care.

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/her immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues.

Please note as this tour is very much dictated by the hands of nature, it is possible some of the sites mentioned may change if the flora is found to be better elsewhere. If appropriate, these decisions will be taken by the guide and tour manager 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 (Summertime 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 in all towns, 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 Corfu and you can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdraw cash. The instructions are in English. Just look for signs on ATM's for Delta or Cirrus.

Please Note: As the Zagoria region, where we stay for most of the tour, is quite a remote area we cannot guarantee that cash machines will be readily available so it is advisable to have a reasonable amount of cash to cover your time in this area.

Credit cards– Greece remains very much a cash society, so credit cards are not always accepted, however, more places are accepting these now 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 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 – 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 our days are spent in various terrains during our botanising, which can be a little rocky and uneven underfoot, we recommend that you bring shoes which have good gripping soles, such as trainers or good walking shoes.



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. Please note there is not a pharmacy in Monodendri, the nearest is in a town approximately a 30-minute drive from the village.



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 of these hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 30 6977 465 892 (**Greek 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 dialing 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

Fax 0030 26610 37995

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

Travel Editions

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