



Tour Information



Wild Flowers of Rhodes





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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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 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 a small 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

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 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 25 cm. Overhead locker space is limited on board the aircraft and on busy flights your cabin bag may have to go in the hold.

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.

Departure Tax

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

Transfers

On arrival at Rhodes Airport please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area and proceed until you are in the arrival's hall. You will find your Tour Manager situated in arrivals, holding a Travel Editions sign. The journey time to resort is approximately 30 minutes.

Special Requests

If you haven't done so already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Best Western Plaza Hotel, Rhodes Town

Best Western Plaza Hotel is a relaxing 4* hotel, situated in the centre of the modern city of Rhodes, and located just 400m from the famous Medieval Walled Town of Rhodes and the Mandraki Marina. The hotel facilities include an outdoor pool with snack bar, cocktail lounge and restaurant. Each of the comfortable bedrooms feature a private balcony, TV, hairdryer, AC, safe, mini-bar and telephone.

For more information visit the hotel website: <https://www.bestwestern.gr/booking-path/hotel-details/best-western-plus-hotel-plaza-rhodes-77522>

Thomas Hotel, Monolithos

Monolithos is a picturesque and historical village located in the southwestern region of Rhodes, and guarded by the famous Monolithos Castle. The Thomas Hotel is a simple village hotel, that has been chosen for its location, which provides good access to the south of the island where a lot of our botanising will be done. The rooms all offer individual air conditioning and heating, TV, a kitchenette and refrigerator, bathroom with shower and bathroom amenities.

For more information visit the hotel website: <https://www.thomashotel.gr/the-hotel/>

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 your fish 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. 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.

Other local drinks are ouzo, tsipoura, metaxa. 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

Welcome dinner and two lunches



Destination

Rhodes

Rhodes, the largest of Greece's Dodecanese islands, is known for its beach resorts, ancient ruins and remnants of its occupation by the Knights of St. John during the Crusades. The city of Rhodes has an old town with striking features such as the medieval Street of the Knights and the castle Palace of the Grand Masters. Captured by the Ottomans and then held by the Italians, the palace is now a history museum. The island's interior is mountainous, sparsely inhabited and covered with forests of pine (*Pinus brutia*) and cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*). Its rocks, limestone and schist, form a mountain backbone in the centre of the island: Akramytis in the south-west 823m, Atarvios, the highest, in the middle at 1,215m and Profitis Ilias to the north 798m.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Petaloudes Valley

A unique nature reserve is to be found inland on Rhodes Island, "Butterfly Valley" or in Greek "Petaloudes Valley". It is one of the most famous attractions of Rhodes. It is a habitat with dense flora, beautiful nature, harmonious structures of bridges, paved paths, ponds, small inexhaustible waterfalls and a serene atmosphere. We are unlikely to see butterflies at the time we visit but hope to find some interesting flora.

Mount Attavyros

Mount Attavyros is the tallest mountain and overlooks several small villages in the area. It is located between Agios Isidoros village and the village of Embonas. This lush green mountain, at times completely bathed in sunshine and at others, hidden in clouds, has now become a timeless symbol of the island. The view is breathtakingly beautiful. On the top one can find the ruins of an ancient temple that was dedicated to the god Zeus.

Agios Isidoros, Laerma and Lindos

Agios Isidoros, a mountainous village situated 65 km from Rhodes town, is built on the eastern slopes of Mt. Attavyros, the village has not been

influenced by tourism and has preserved its authenticity. The most important event of the year, Easter, is celebrated in true tradition here. The locals still today produce their own products such as wine, honey, 'souma' (similar to ouzo) and olive oil.

Laerma - Apart from a couple of excellent tavernas there is not much tourism in Laerma, although one of the main reasons for perhaps visiting the area is the Monastery Taxiarchis Michail at Tharri situated close to the village.

Lindos - Lindos is one of the most attractive villages on Rhodes. The streets are a maze of continuous whitewashed buildings, many with interior courtyards. Most of the houses have flat roofs, which gives the impression of the village flowing picturesquely down to the bay. It is overlooked by the historic Acropolis that sits on a hill just above the village.

Your Guide

Graham Kendall

Having studied at the Savill Gardens, Windsor and the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, Graham Kendall went on to be Head Gardener at three National Trust Properties before starting his own consultancy. In the 1970's he spent a year studying in Greece at a pioneering garden which combined native plants with plants from other Mediterranean-type climates. This kindled Graham's love of Greece's rich native flora. Numerous subsequent visits have only increased his fascination and knowledge.

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.

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 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 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.

Credit cards – Greece 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 the local shops and very reasonable priced.

Shopping - There are plenty of mini-markets in Rhodes for any basic supplies you might need. 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 – 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 our days are spent in various terrains and can be a little rocky or uneven underfoot, we recommend that you bring sturdy shoes which 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

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 must 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 (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 dialling code 0030.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate in Rhodes,
Pavlou Mela 3 P O Box 47 851 00
Rhodes
Greece

Tel: +30 22410 27247

Fax: +30 22410 22615

Email: rhodes@british-consulate.gr

Open to the public - by appointment only – Tuesday to Thursday, 09.00 – 13.00

Telephone enquiries: Monday to Friday, 08.00 to 15.00

Out of hours: In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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