

EXPLORE!

Greek Cruise and Island Walking

8 days

Greece - Trip code GCW



Greek Cruise and Island Walking

Explore Evia and experience traditional Greece on this walking and cruise trip. Join Captain Thanos, on board his traditional Greek sailing boat as we motor to beautiful bays and small harbours. Walk to hillside villages, through olive groves and ancient sites, and promenade with the locals along the waterfronts of tranquil fishing villages, sampling the delicious regional cuisine.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Greek Caique** - Cruise around the beautiful Greek island of Evia for 6 nights on a traditional wooden boat
- ★ **Panagia** - Walk in the hills above this beautiful fjord
- ★ **Eretria** - Ascend along forest paths to the acropolis overlooking the harbour
- ★ **Nea Styra** - Walk through the olive groves of the Valley of Styra on this stunning coastline
- ★ **Swimming** - Swim from the boat every day in the warm, azure waters of the Aegean. Snorkel and look for sea life in rocky coves
- ★ **Traditional Greek food** - Opportunity to sample the local food on board and at waterside tavernas

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:**Simple**

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, sometimes with en suite facilities.

WALKING GRADE:**Easy To Moderate**

This grade is ideal if you want to enjoy both easy and moderate level walks on the same tour. You'll be walking mainly on good paths and at low altitude, with occasional more demanding ascents or descents.

GROUP SIZE:**10 - 16**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip at Athens International Airport and transfer to caique on Evia

Join trip at Athens International Airport. We then travel by bus to the port of Rafina where we catch a ferry to the island of Evia. On arrival it is a short taxi / minibus ride to Karystos where the caique is moored.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Enjoy a day relaxing and swimming from the boat en route to Panagia

Today we travel towards the Archipelagos of Petali, where seven private and exclusive islands offer the best of the 'Jet Set' in the Aegean. Once the summer residence of the Greek Royal family, today it is the playground of the Picasso family, the Embiricos family and other shipping tycoons. Maria Calas spent many summers here. We will have opportunities to swim from the boat throughout the day before arriving in Panagia, via the Fjord of Almyropotamos. Here we will visit the beautifully frescoed church and take a look at some of the 2500 year old olive trees.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 3 - Walking around Panagia

Panagia is a small, traditional fishing village lying in the shelter of a fjord. From the harbour we walk up country lanes and tracks first to the village of Zarakas and then Argyro (400 m), where the tiny red-roofed houses are dwarfed by the mountains above. From here we descend to the coastal hamlet of Agios Dimitrios and walk back along the coastal road to Panagia, where we can take dinner in one of the family run waterfront tavernas. This afternoon cruise to Eretria, one of the best well known cities of ancient Greece, the birthplace of our alphabet - wrongly named Latin. Today's 10 kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours with 400 meters ascent and descent.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 4 - Visit Eretria Archaeological Site and Museum; walk to the summit of Castelli Hill

Today we visit the local archaeological site and museum then climb up along the forest path to the summit of Castelli Hill (120 m) and discover the remains of the ancient acropolis there. Later we descend back to the port to enjoy our evening on the long cosmopolitan promenade of the town watching the small ferries coming and going to the mainland. Cruise to Nea Styra, an area of stunning beaches and coastline. Today our five kilometre walk will take approximately three hours with 120 meters ascent and descent.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 5 - Visit the Dragon House and return to boat via the Valley of Styra

This morning we take a transfer to the start of our walk in the rolling hills above the small summer resort, by the stone prehistoric 'Dragon Houses' (400 m). From here we walk down ancient paths and through olive groves to the Valley of Styra and back to the harbour. As the sun sets cruise to Marmari. Our walk today covers 10 kilometre over approximately four hours with 400 meters ascent and descent.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Walk from Kampos to Marmari

Today we take a transfer to the start of our walk in the village of Kampos where the vineyards of the island grow. From here we walk round the headland of Lycorema to Marmari on local paths, through agricultural land. Marmari is a small port and fishing village with small tavernas and cafes dotted along the waterfront. In the afternoon we will sail around the headland to Karystos. Today's 10

kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours with no noticeable ascent or descent.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Walk to Gournia Villages and Castello Rosso

After breakfast we take taxis to Mili where we begin our walk up to the villages of Gournia. These traditional villages sit beneath the imposing peak of mythical Mount Ohi. Continuing along paved paths and dirt track we arrive at the old Venetian castle 'Castello Rosso' (400 meters) and enjoy the views back across to Gournia and Mount Ohi, and down to the coast. We then descend towards Karystos, where we visit the Montofoli Estate and Vineyards before returning to the boat. Tonight we will overnight in a small hotel in Karystos. Today our 20 kilometre walk is expected to take around six hours with 400 meters ascent and descent.



Accommodation: Hotel Galaxy (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Trip ends Athens Airport

Today we leave Karystos and take the short taxi / minibus ride back to the ferry for the journey back to Rafina. From Rafina we are transferred to Athens International Airport where our trip ends.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCE

Day 3	10km
Day 4	5km
Day 5	10km
Day 6	10km
Day 7	20km

Walking grade

Easy to moderate

Trek details

There are 5 days walking on this holiday, with an average of 4 to 5 hours walking each day.



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7

Lunch: 3



Transport

Bus

Boat

Ferry

Taxi



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader

Boat Crew

Driver(s)



Accommodation

6 nights simple boat

1 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Greece Holidays & Tours

Climate

Greece has predominantly hot, dry summers, May - October with temperatures reaching into the mid thirties in July and August. May and October themselves can be less predictable and may have some rain and cooler evenings. Wild flowers bloom in April and May adding much colour to the trails. At the beginning and end of the season the villages tend to be very quiet. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up to date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Orthodox

Language

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Castello Rosso (by taxi) - €10.00 per person Montofoli Winery Estate (by taxi) - €10.00 per person Styra village (by taxi) - €10.00 per person Eretria Museum entrance - €2.00 per person Optional excursions can be paid for by credit card except for any local buses or taxis used, which will need to be paid for in cash.

Clothing

July and August are the hottest months though the islands are freshened by cooling winds. Early and late in the season there may be an occasional shower and you will need a warmer sweater/fleece and long trousers for the odd chilly breeze whilst walking, in the evenings and when we travel between the ports.

Footwear

Bring well broken in walking shoes for the hikes. Footwear is not generally worn on board but bring walking sandals for local shore excursions.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

Space is limited on board so only bring what you need. A soft bag is strongly recommended as it is more easily stored than a hard suitcase.

Equipment

Bring a daypack, water bottle, torch, sunhat, sunglasses and sunblock. Please note that if you intend to sleep out on deck on some nights, as many travellers choose to do in good weather you need to bring a sleeping bag with you (the sunbathing cushions are available to sleep on the boat but cabin bedding can't be taken on deck).

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Please allow £10 for tipping the boat crew at the end of the trip. In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip.

Country Information

Greece Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£12.00 - 16.00

Beer price

£3.5

Water price

£0.9

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Euro

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP Sterling or US Dollars, cash.

Where To Exchange

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn from ATMs from all types of cards in most areas in Greece, including the islands.

Credit Card Acceptance

In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Banking hours may make exchanging Travellers Cheques more difficult.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Ferry, Taxi

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

MV Isidoros II - Our traditional wooden caique has a large sundeck and a comfortable galley for meals and indoor relaxing. There is also a boat ladder to make the most of swimming opportunities. There are two double cabins on the main deck and six twin cabins on the lower deck. Cabins on the lower deck have portholes and cabins on the upper desk have windows. All are en suite. The cabins are cosy and can get warm in summer as there is no air-conditioning but each is equipped with a fan and all have power sockets (European 2 pin round). Bath and face towels are provided on the caique, so there is no need to bring your own. A safe for your personal valuables is available in the wheelhouse of the caique. While our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day route printed, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Overnight stops and even islands visited, may vary due to weather, sea conditions and the availability of mooring space in harbours.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check

requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Greece: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

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Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against tetanus and polio. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.
