

EXPLORE!

BEST SELLER

Greek Island Cruise
8 days

Greece - Trip code GC



Greek Island Cruise

Experience traditional Greece on this relaxing cruise around the quiet coves and harbours of Evia Island. Join our captain, Thanos, on board his traditional Greek sailing boat and explore the beautiful bays and ancient ruins scattered along this historic coastline. Along the way we drop anchor at tranquil fishing villages and local taverns to sample the delicious Mediterranean cuisine.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Greek Caique** - Cruise around the beautiful Greek island of Evia for 6 nights on a traditional wooden boat
- ★ **Panagia** - Explore this small fishing village wonderfully situated at the head of a fjord. See its ancient olive trees and stream full of terrapins
- ★ **Nea Styra** - An area of stunning beaches and coastline. Enjoy sunset over the historic bay of Marathon
- ★ **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 at waterside taverns

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.

TRIP PACE:**Relaxed**

You can enjoy easy-going activities and experiences on these Relaxed pace tours, with opportunities to absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings, but still come home feeling relaxed and refreshed.

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 Airport and transfer to Evia Island to board our caique

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. MV Isidoros II is a traditional wooden caique with a large sundeck and a comfortable galley for meals. There is also a boat ladder to make the most of swimming opportunities. All of the cosy cabins are en suite. Thanos, our Explore Leader, has been working with Explore for many years and prides himself on showing the best parts of Greece to the many customers that have travelled with him over the years. Discovering many places that he himself used to sail around as a boy, he is a very proud Greek and loves nothing more than to voyage with us on the boat that he owns around the beautiful waters of the Aegean. Please note that three lunches are included on our boat cruise, but the days these are taken on will vary depending on cruising conditions. The days of the itinerary may also change order because of the cruising and weather conditions.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Cruise to Karystos; chance to swim and visit Costello Rosso Fort

Our first destination is the harbour town of Karystos, we stop briefly at an anchorage close to Bouros for a swim, before continuing on for an afternoon's exploration of the town. You could visit Costello Rosso or the famous winery Estete of Montofoli.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 3 - Chance to enjoy a walk to Agios Dimitrios; cruise to Panagia

Our next destination is Panagia, a small fishing village lying in the shelter of a fjord. En route, we will stop to swim in the waters off the rugged and undeveloped coastline. Once at Panagia, you could walk to the inland village of Argyro where the tiny red-roofed houses are dwarfed by the mountains or visit the beautiful church of Panagia renowned for its frescoes and the two historic olive trees of 2,500 years old next to the small stream full of turtles. Dinner in one of the small family run tavernas by the waterfront.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 4 - Cruise via the lagoon at Porto Buffalo to ancient Eretria

Today we will cruise to the limit of the Gulf of Evia, where the island splits from the mainland. Greek legends romantically claim that the divide was caused by Poseidon piercing the earth with his trident. We travel via Porto Buffalo - a beautiful and private lagoon before continuing a leisurely cruise to Eretria, one of the best well known cities of ancient Greece, the birthplace of our alphabet - wrongly named Latin - and an extensive archeological site with a superb museum. We enjoy our evening in the long cosmopolitan promenade of the town watching the small ferries coming and going to the mainland.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 5 - Chance to shop and relax in Eretria before cruising to Nea Styra

We make the most of this morning's perfect location for a swim and snorkel before cruising towards Nea Styra, an area of stunning beaches and coastline. The rolling hills above the small summer resort, lead to the silver-green valley of olives, which we'll have the opportunity to explore this afternoon. As the sun sets in the historic bay of Marathon, the promenade comes to life with all the locals and visitors experiencing the typical Mediterranean strolling before dining al-fresco.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Cruise via peaceful Porto Lafia to the fishing village of Marmari

This morning will see us cruising towards Porto Lafia, a peaceful hamlet where we can swim off the boat in Lafia Bay. From here we continue to Marmari, of typical Aegean fishing village with numerous small tavernas and cafes dotted along the promenade.



Accommodation: M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Cruise around the exclusive Petali Islands en route back to Karystos

Our last day cruising takes us 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 the playground of Picasso family, the Embiricos family and other shipping tycoons. Maria Calas spent many summers of her lifetime here. From here we will return to Karystos where we will overnight in a small hotel.



Accommodation: Hotel Galaxy (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Ferry to Rafina then transfer to Athens airport where our trip ends

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. * The itinerary may vary depending on local weather conditions



Meals Provided: Breakfast



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7
Lunch: 3



Transport

Bus
Boat
Ferry
Taxi



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew



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

Greek

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. You'll need your swimming gear and an

extra towel. Early and late in the season, there may be an occasional shower and you will need a warmer sweater and/or fleece for the odd chilly breeze whilst we travel between the ports.

Footwear

Footwear is not generally worn on board but bring trainers, walking sandals for shore excursions or walking shoes for longer walks on the island.

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. A daysac is useful for shore excursions.

Equipment

Water bottle, a 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. Please 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 Leaders 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.

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.