

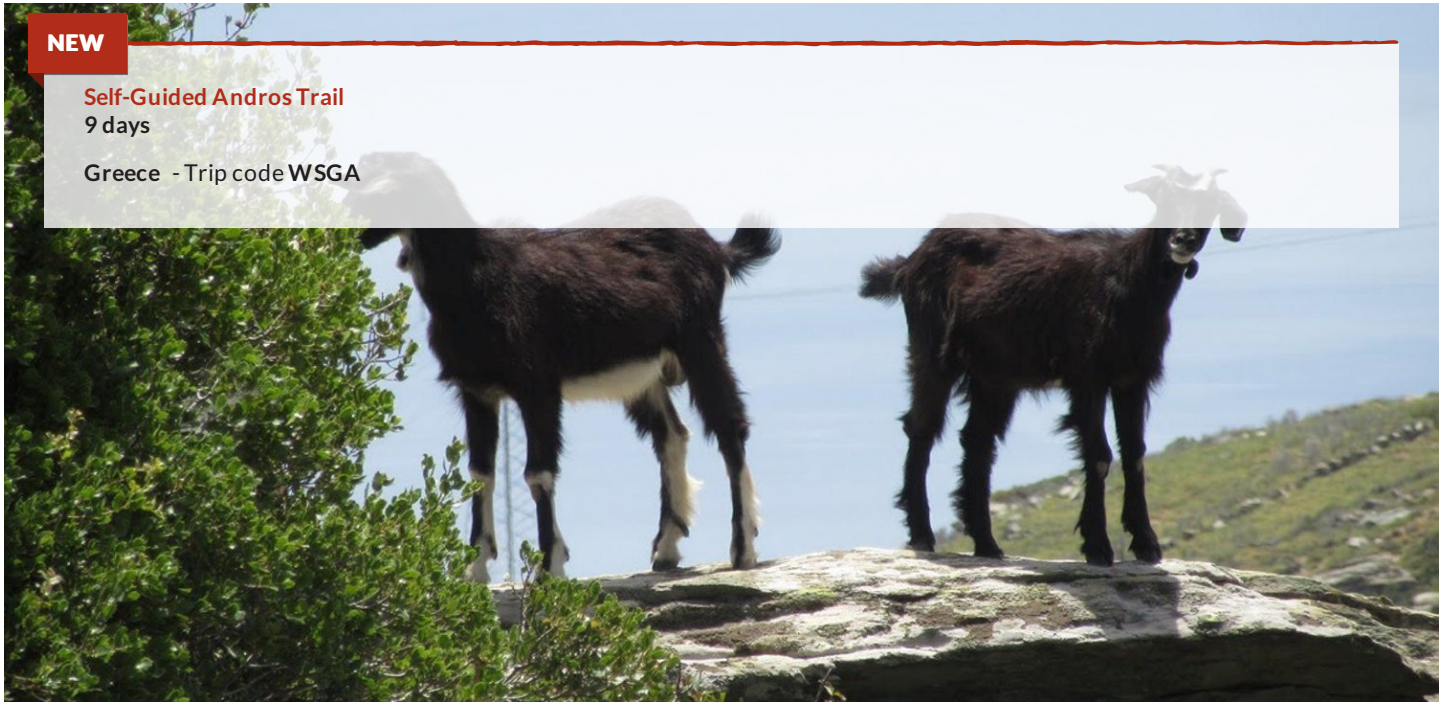
# EXPLORE!

NEW

## Self-Guided Andros Trail

9 days

Greece - Trip code WSGA



## Self-Guided Andros Trail

Trek from the South to the North of Andros on the Andros Route, a recently restored historic trail. Let old, walled mule tracks lead you through terraced fields from one picturesque village to the next on this self-guided walking holiday. Explore tranquil harbors, old fishing villages and unwind with a swim in the turquoise Aegean Sea or relax on one of the many sandy beaches soaking up the Greek sun.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Historical trails** - Hike from the South to the North of the island on old mule tracks
- ★ **Andros Chora** - Charming town mansions, cafes and stone walkways
- ★ **Sandy beaches** - Relax on the beach or swim in the turquoise Aegean Sea
- ★ **Andros Routes project** - by booking this trip you promote sustainable tourism on Andros

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### WALKING GRADE:

##### Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

## Itinerary

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

### DAY 1 - Trip starts in Andros

On arrival at Athens airport an included taxi will take you to the port of Rafina, from where you take the ferry Andros. The ferry crossing is approximately 2 hours. On arrival in the port of Gavrio you travel by local bus (1hr) to Ormos Korthiou. Once at your hotel you will receive a welcome pack that includes a small pruner and gloves, in order to contribute to activities of the voluntary organization 'Andros Routes' and help (if you wish!) keep the trails trim.



**Accommodation: Nicolas Apartments** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Walk from the Tromarchion Monastery on ancient paths to Ormos Korthiou

Your first walk of the holiday starts at the Tromarchion Monastery perched high on a cliff on the west coast of Andros. Your walk starts along walled paths that provide some shade. Pass through sleepy hamlets and enjoy panoramic views on the wide valley of Korthi and, the more you continue eastwards, the sea at the far horizon. A short section is on a dirt road, but most of the walk is on old footpaths that were once the only connection between the villages. Walk to the beautiful town and bay of Ormos Korthiou where you spend the night. Today's 8km walk is expected to take approximately 3 hours and you will ascend 130m and descend 260m.



**Accommodation: Nicolas Apartments** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Walk across mountain ridges and through forests and orchards to Andros Chora

Today's walk follows a great route through the semi-deserted inland of Andros. Outstanding views, tiny, well-hidden villages, old watermills and beautiful stony trails are what you encounter today. The first part of the route leads you through traditionally cultivated land, which has been made suitable for small-scale farming centuries ago. Then cross the mountain ridge which leads you to the valley of Andros Chora. From here there are impressive views over this great valley and the town of Andros Chora with its traditional white buildings. Walk through forest and orchards until you reach the town and then continue to the beach of Nimborio where you spend the next two nights. Today's 14km walk is expected to take approximately 5 hours and you will ascend 530m and descend 530m.



**Accommodation: Stella Apartments** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Circular walk from Andros Chora - valleys and beaches

You may decide to explore Andros Chora before heading off on your walk today. The town has two museums, stone walkways and a combination of Venetian, Byzantine and Ottoman architecture not to mention plenty of local cafés and pastry shops. We suggest a 9km walk along wide paved paths and through forest to Apikia, a village situated in a green valley famous for its spring water. You descend along cypress hedges to the old Bitsis-tower house and further to the sandy beach of Gialia. There is a short, demanding climb before you descend to the beach of Nimborio. If you want more of a challenge there is a longer walking route available of 17.5km. Today's 9km walk is expected to take approximately 4 hours and you will ascend 400m and descend 400m. If you decide to take the longer route of 17.5km it is expected to take 6.5hrs and you will ascend 600m and descend 600m.



**Accommodation: Stella Apartments** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Bus to Messaria, walk old trading route to Batsi

Today you take a local bus to Messaria and head for the west coast of Andros. From here you walk to the exceptionally beautiful, verdant village of Menites with its famous Lion head adorned springs. In the village square you will find many water fountains, considered therapeutic in ancient times. Refreshed you start your demanding climb on Petalo Mountain, follow the old trading route over its slopes with great views over green valleys, villages and the sea far below. On your way uphill you pass through the village of Ano Pitrofos. (If you take a taxi to this village, you avoid half of the ascent, 300m, and shorten the walk by 5km.). Lastly you descend to the charming seaside town of Batsi, and your hotel for the next two nights near the fine, sandy beach. Today's 18.5km walk is expected to take approximately 6.5 hours and you will ascend 560m and descend 700m. If you decide to take a taxi to Ano Pitrofos you shorten the walk to 13.5km.



**Accommodation: Karanasos Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel

 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 6 - Taxi to Remata, walk shaded stream bed and through terraced hills to Batsi


Start by taking a taxi to the nearby village Remata from where you walk via a shaded, lush, stream bed ascending to the green villages of Arni and Katakilos. Follow a wide valley with terraced fields to the hills above Batsi. You finally descend to the village enjoying great views of Batsi and the sea. Today's 11km walk is expected to take approximately 4 hours and you will ascend 400m and descend 600m.

 **Accommodation: Karanasos Hotel** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 7 - Walk to Agios Petros visiting the Monastery of Zoodochou

High above the coastline your walk today offers wide reaching views of the Aegean Sea. You can stop to visit the largest Monastery on the island. The fortress-like Zoodochou Pigis Monastery is considered one of the most important in Andros, and has a library rich with books, manuscripts and old heirlooms. The walk ends at the beautiful seaside village of Agios Petros. This sleepy fishing village is on the quieter Western side of Andros and has a long sand beach where you can take a swim in the shallow waters or just sit down and soak up some more of the soothing Greek sun. If the accommodation is full in Agios Petros you will stay in nearby Gavrio. Today's 11.5km walk is expected to take approximately 4 hours and you will ascend 450m and descend 450m.

 **Accommodation: Irene Studios** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 8 - Circular walk from Agios Petros round Gavrio


Today is your last day of walking the Andros Route and you head to the port of Gavrio and surrounding countryside. You walk below the village Ano Gavrio and ascend via a pleasant, but steep, path to the summit of a hill. There are great views from the top. Then you descend into the valley of Agios Petros and walk past the imposing Hellenistic Tower back to the beach. Today's 12km walk is expected to take approximately 3.5 hours and you will ascend 400m and descend 400m.

 **Accommodation: Irene Studios** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 9 - Trip ends Agios Petros

After breakfast the organised part of your holiday comes to an end.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## Walking and Trekking information

### Walking grade

Moderate

### Trek details

On this journey you walk 78km over 7 days (an average of 11km a day). Walking routes are generally 3 to 6.5 hours with a maximum ascent of 540m on one day. Moderate day walks are interspersed with more strenuous sections in hilly to mountainous areas using well-kept, sometimes stony paths. We have graded this trip as moderate.

## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 8



### Accommodation

8 nights standard hotel

## Trip information

### Country information

## 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

## Clothing

Light clothes suitable for walking in warm weather are recommended (July and August can be extremely hot). However early and late in the season (May/June/September/October) also bring warm clothing in case of drops in temperature or the odd shower. A fleece jacket is a good thing to have at any time of year when in the mountains.

## Footwear

Well worn, sturdy walking boots with good ankle support are essential for the walks. We recommend bringing sandals and trainers for relaxing in the evenings.

## Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you may need to carry your luggage at times so don't overload yourself. When travelling on public transport you should always keep your luggage with you.

## Luggage transfer

Included between hotels.

## Equipment

Bring a personal water bottle (at least 2l capacity) and sun protection for use during the walks. You may find a trekking pole useful over the downhill sections. You may also wish to take a swimming costume and towel.

## Tipping

### Local fees

Day 2 there is a taxi to the start of the walk that needs to be paid locally. The cost is approximately 16 euro per taxi.

## 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

## 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](http://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.

## Greece Holidays & Tours

### 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.