

# EXPLORE!



## The Corfu Trail Explorer

15 days

Greece - Trip code CFA

## The Corfu Trail Explorer

Hillside villages, whitewashed monasteries and quiet pebble beaches all feature on the 220km-long Corfu Trail. We follow meandering footpaths over the length of the island: from Kavos in the south to Agios Spyridon in the north.

We walk through shady olive groves, along cliff paths, summit Corfu's tallest mountains and visit isolated monasteries, Byzantine villages and pretty harbour towns en route.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Kerkyra (Corfu Town)** - Explore the old winding backstreets
- ★ **Inland villages** - Get well off the beaten track
- ★ **Dramatic views** - Down over the island and coastline
- ★ **Variety of landscapes** - Forests, valleys, Karst plateau, shoreline
- ★ **Swimming in the sea** - After a day's hike
- ★ **Traditional food** - Enjoy fresh food in local taverna

### 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:**

**Moderate To Challenging**

Combining moderate grade walks with some more strenuous hikes. This grade is ideal if you are fit and want to challenge yourself with a few longer, more demanding trekking days, possibly on difficult terrain or at higher altitudes.

**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 Corfu Town

Arrive Corfu Town (Kerkyra) and check-in to hotel. Corfu town is one of Greece's most elegant island capitals. The 'Old Quarter' lies above the port, its narrow streets containing beautiful houses and buildings. On either side of this are two forts: Paleo Frourio (Byzantine) and Neo Frourio (Venetian).



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



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Drive then walk to Spartera

This morning we drive south out of Corfu Town, starting our hike from just south of Kavos, we head out on a track to the southern tip of Corfu, where the ruined monastery of Arkoudillas stands. A footpath leads down to the island's southernmost beach, a seemingly endless stretch of golden sand. Leaving the beach at its northern end, we follow uphill tracks through agricultural land to Spartera and our accommodation. Today's 9.6km walk is expected to take around 3.5 hours with 150m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Mediterranean Blue Resort** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 3 - Walk to Santa Barbara

On this walk, you cross the southern part of the island to the east and back to the western coast. From Asprokavos you follow a track around a pretty and peaceful small lake where you might see birds and turtles. Afterwards you will descend through olive groves and fields to Lefkimmi. Here, your path takes you through the various neighbourhoods and historic city centre of Lefkimmi. Leaving the second biggest town of the island, you will descend into the green valley of the Gardeno River. The last part of today's walk leads you up again, so you have wonderful views of both the east and west coast of the island, before you descend to Santa Barbara. Today's 23.5km walk is expected to take around 6.5hrs with 150m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Perfect Ten Taverna** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Walk to Paramonas

A day of almost level walking during which we follow the beach. Our way leads on through sand dunes covered with a forest of cedar trees. Then, crossing a footbridge, we reach Lake Korission. The Trail then follows tracks and a section of road to reach Paramonas and our next overnight stop. Today's 20km walk is expected to take around 6hrs.



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



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Walk to Benitses via Komianata

A sharp climb early in the walk takes us over the coastal ridge, with great views, and inland to the villages of Ano and Kato Pavliana. Footpaths and tracks take us down through Vouniatades, then we cross the Messongi River Valley by way of tracks through olive groves and across heathland. Through Strongili, the Trail heads uphill again, on an old cobbled way which leads to Komianata, from here we continue on foot to our overnight stop at Benitses. Today's 18.5km walk is expected to take around 6hrs with 200m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Benitses Arches Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Walk to Pelekas

From Benitses we take a bus back to Stavros, and our walk continues with a delightful footpath skirting Agii Deka Mountain, before we make a very sharp ascent to the summit of Agii Deka, Corfu's second highest peak. Here, an abandoned monastery in a walled garden makes an ideal rest stop. Our way continues down a cobbled mule path to Agii Deka village then along minor roads and tracks to Sinarades, where you might like to visit the Folk Museum (depending on opening times) and admire the picturesque architecture of this large village. Then the Trail leads along undulating tracks with very fine views over the west coast and inland to Pelekas. Later this afternoon you may like to take a walk up to another fine viewpoint at 'Kaiser's Throne' a favourite viewpoint of Kaiser Wilhelm II to watch the sunset. Today's 17.5km walk is expected to take around 6.5 hours with 700m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Jimmy's Pension** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Walk to Liapades Beach

Half an hour's downhill walk takes us to Myrriotissa, 'the so-called' loveliest beach in the world' (now used by nudists) and one of the Durrell family's favourites. Climbing now, we have to regain the height we have lost (and more), with a steep ascent on a gravel and concrete track. The west coast views are simply spectacular. Passing the village of Vatos, the terrain levels out and our way follows the bank of the Ropa River (with possible terrapin sightings), bordered by pastures and willow trees. Leaving the river, the Trail ascends into olive-blanketed hills, where tracks lead to Liapades, an ancient village full of lovely old mansion houses. We stay in nearby Liapades beach, surrounded by green hillsides with a beautiful pebble beach and some small cafes and restaurants. Today's 23km walk is expected to take around 7hrs with 700m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Cricketer Taverna and Studios** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 8 - Free day Liapades Beach

Today is left free to explore. Situated below the traditional village of Liapades, and surrounded by green hillsides Liapades Beach has a sand and single beach and some small cafes and restaurants. You may also like to join an optional boat trip up the west coast of Corfu from Paleokastritsa to Ermones beach (boat sailing is dependent on weather conditions). You can also wander around the famous Paleokastritsa Monastery situated on an spectacular promontory, a 2 hour walk or short water-taxi ride away (own cost).



**Accommodation: Cricketer Taverna and Studios** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 9 - Walk to Agios Georgios

First thing this morning we negotiate a steep and fairly difficult ascent up to Lakones and Bella Vista (the best view in Europe). After a kilometre of unavoidable road we take a break for lunch. In the afternoon our walk continues across olive groves to Krini, through Lily Valley and on down one of Greece's most remarkable footpaths, which zigzags down a sheer cliff. Our accommodation tonight is in the pleasant beach resort of Agios Georgios, where it may be possible to hire wind surfers. The wide empty beach north of the resort was used for scenes in the James Bond film 'For your eyes only'. Today's 13.5km walk is expected to take a round 4hrs with 450m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Belle Helene Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 10 - Walk to Rekini; transfer to Roda

A sharp climb from Agios Georgios to the village of Prinilas starts today's walk. We descend from here to the picturesque village of Pagi. Tracks and a quiet road take us through agricultural land alongside the Megapotamos River and over the ridge through Aspiotades, to the two sprawling villages of Agros and Agios Athanasios, where our way leads through the alleyways. Leaving the villages, a quiet road leads past the wealthy convent of Agios Athanasios and tracks take us on to the road junction at Rekini. From here we plan to take a bus for the short journey to the nearest accommodation on the north coast at Roda. Today's 13.8km walk is expected to take around 4.5 hours with 600m of ascent.



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



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 11 - Bus/walk to Spartillas; transfer to Kalami

A local bus takes us back to the Corfu Trail. Starting our walk from Rekini, we take the unmade road to Valanio, a village deep in the middle of nowhere. Then tracks funnel us up a deep valley. Along a cobbled path, we enter Sokraki, where the village square with its happy atmosphere calls for a stop. Then to Spartillas, where a chartered bus is waiting to take us down to our accommodation at the picturesque coastal village of Kalami. Here, in the White House, Lawrence Durrell wrote Prospero's Cell. The little bay in Kalami is lined with white pebbles and has a panoramic backdrop of mountainous Albania. Today's 12.4km walk is expected to take around 4.5hrs with 550m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Thomas Place** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 12 - Bus to Spartillas; walk to Spyridon

Today the real mountain terrain beckons. We transfer by bus back to Spartillas and start our walk: immediately we are on a steep mountain footpath climbing a gully to a fantastic viewpoint at Taxiarchis Chapel - a ruin with fresco-covered walls. We ascend further to cross the Karst Plateau, Corfu's wildest scenery, under the summit of Pantokrator. Then we make our way to the very top, at 917m, and visit the monastery, with its views across to the mountains of Albania. Descending now with fine views and some rough sections we reach the deserted village of Polie Perithia where we stop at a taverna before we descend the final stretch of the Corfu trail ending at the most northerly point of the island. Today's 21km walk is expected to take around 8.5hrs with 900m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Thomas Place** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 13 - Free day; optional walk to deserted village of Mengoulas

Today you may choose to relax in your free time or alternatively you could walk the 5 hour round trip from Kalami to Mengoulas.



**Accommodation: Thomas Place** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 14 - Bus to Corfu Town

We return to Corfu Town's old port by bus this morning. This afternoon your tour leader will accompany us on a walking orientation tour of the main points of interest in the marvellous Venetian town centre. There may well be time to take a bus to the picture postcard location of Kanoni to perhaps explore the archaeological sites and walk across the causeway to visit Vlacherna Church. Intriguing Mouse Island can also be visited by boat, departing from the peninsula's small jetty. Alternatively, spend the rest of your time exploring more of Corfu Town: there is certainly plenty to keep you occupied. The town has some sophisticated restaurants to round off your tour in style.



Accommodation: Konstantinoupolis Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 15 - Trip ends Corfu Town

Our trip ends this morning in Corfu Town (Kerkyra).



Meals Provided: Breakfast

# Walking and Trekking information

## DAILY DISTANCE



### Walking grade

Moderate to challenging

### Trek details

This hike covers 220kms with between 5 and 7 hours of walking most days. This trek has been graded as moderate to challenging.

### Trek terrain

Walking on the Corfu Trail is generally on rough footpaths, cobbled mule paths, dirt and gravel tracks, minor roads and beaches. The highest point reached is 917m. whilst the longest days are a more strenuous 8-9 hours (though this is the last day of walking) when we are based in Kalami. If you don't feel up to any day's walk, you can always take a taxi to the next nightstop.

### Max walking altitude (m)

971



# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 14  
Dinner: 4



## Transport

Bus  
Taxi



## Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader  
Driver(s)



## Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel  
7 nights simple 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

Corfu Town - Allow approx. €15 for misc. entrance fees; Kanoni Peninsula €3.50. Liapades Beach - Boat trip up west coast (depending on numbers booked, the minimum required for the trip to operate being 6) €15. Agios georgios Wind surfer hire €10-12 per hour.

### Clothing

Weather is changeable in the mountains and it can become cool, especially at night, so bring a warmer jacket/fleece. A water and windproof coat is essential at all times in case of the odd shower or quickly changing mountain weather. Also take a warm hat. Whilst walking you may prefer to wear shorts, but carry lightweight long trousers for narrow footpaths, where thorny vegetation may scratch bare legs. Also, carry a long-sleeved shirt for protection against the sun, and a sunhat. Don't forget your swimming



costume and towel.

## Footwear

Walking sandals are ideal to wear when crossing beaches but these, if brought, should be in addition to walking boots. Bring comfortable shoes for relaxing in and evenings.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself. You will be carrying only your daysack during the walks and main luggage shall be transported from hotel to hotel by car.

## Equipment

Take a towel, a water bottle, sunglasses, torch and suncream. You may find trekking poles useful for certain sections of the Trail. Take binoculars if you have an interest in birdwatching.

## 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. 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, 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.

Throughout this trip we use a mixture of simple and standard accommodation. At Liapades beach our accommodation is listed as the Cricketer Taverna and Studios. For this night we stay in a variety of studios/apartments in Liapades Beach near to the Taverna. We will use the Cricketer Taverna as a communal base with use of all the facilities there including the hotel's swimming pool. This is where breakfast and our traditional Greek dinner will take place. As with the nature of apartments in this part of the Mediterranean the size and standard of the rooms can vary, the rooms will be decorated in a plain style with private bathrooms and some may have a balcony or terrace.

## 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](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.

## **Maximum altitude (m)**

971

## **Non refundable permits**

## **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.