

# EXPLORE!

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## Family Greek Coast Caique Cruise

GREECE - TRIP CODE FGC

FAMILY

### Why book this trip?

Join our captain, Thanos, on board a traditional Greek motorised sailing boat and explore the forts and ruins scattered along this historic coastline. Along the way there is ample opportunity to drop anchor and swim in the sea, soak up the sunshine on deck and visit tranquil fishing villages and family run taverns to sample the delicious local Mediterranean cuisine in the evenings.

- **Thrill of adventure at sea** - Cruise around the beautiful Greek island of Evia for six nights on a traditional wooden boat.
- **Swimming** - In the warm, azure waters of the Aegean Sea, straight from the boat.
- **Relax** - Wake up to a new view every morning in the Mediterranean.



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 7  
Lunch: 6



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Boat Crew



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Boat  
Ferry



**ACCOMMODATION**  
6 nights simple boat  
1 nights  
comfortable hotel



**TRIP PACE:**  
Relaxed



**GROUP SIZE:**  
10 - 16

## 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**

Our trip begins at Athens International Airport (airport code ATH) at 7pm. The latest your flight can arrive is therefore 6.30pm. We will travel together as a group by bus to the port of Rafina or Marathon where we catch a ferry to the island of Evia. On arrival it is a short taxi or minibus ride to Karystos where our caique is moored. Before settling into our cabins we meet our friendly boat crew and enjoy a welcome drink.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, you may have time to wait ahead of our group transfer to Evia this evening. You can make the most of this time by taking the opportunity to explore the nearby city of Athens, which is easily accessible from the airport on regular metro trains - the signage is in English and no changes of train are required. There are also luggage storage facilities available at the airport.

The MV Isidoros II is a traditional family-owned wooden caique with just eight guest cabins that Explore exclusively charters. The caique is listed as a historic vessel and there are fewer than 80 of this iconic Greek designed boat left in existence, so being able to stay aboard is a real treat. It was built in 1962 and was originally used as a cargo ferry before being converted in 1974 to the comfortable passenger cruiser it is today.

Our boat has a large sundeck and a comfortable galley for meals. There is a bar where you can purchase a range of local wine and beer, spirits and soft drinks. There is also a boat ladder and snorkelling equipment available on board to make the most of the many swimming opportunities. All of the cosy cabins are en suite with windows and large fans and there is complimentary Wi-Fi on board. Our boat has a real home from home feel and you are free to move around as you please. You can even choose to sleep on deck under the stars if you wish to enjoy the clear night sky and cool night breeze.

Evia is one of the largest Greek islands, but still remains off of the main tourist trail. In summer and on the weekends you'll find the main visitors are the Greek's leaving the city of Athens to enjoy the waterfront tavernas and uncrowded beaches. Visiting Evia is therefore a very authentic local experience. The rugged

coastline is dotted with market towns, fishing villages, secluded coves and wide sandy beaches. The sea is clear and warm, making it a wonderful spot to swim and snorkel. The pine covered hills provide the perfect backdrop and also help to keep the evenings temperatures cooler.

Please note that the order of the itinerary and inclusions may vary due to weather and cruising conditions.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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### **DAY 2 - Sail to the bay of Panagia, a small fishing village lying in the shelter of a fjord.**

Each morning a hearty breakfast is prepared for you consisting of fresh bread, cheese, ham, eggs, cereals, Greek yoghurt, honey, marmalades, fresh seasonal fruits and orange juice with coffee or English tea. Our captain also serves tea and coffee with biscuits or cakes at eleven o'clock on deck.

After breakfast we set sail for our first destination, the bay of 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 in Panagia there is the opportunity to see terrapin turtles in the streams behind the picturesque church of St Mary or swim and snorkel in the fjord waters of the bay.

Lunch is generally a hot regional speciality with a vegetarian option served with seasonal salad and a traditional appetiser.

Dinner will be in one of the small characterful seaside waterfront taverns offering barbecue seafood and traditional dishes with local wine, beer and soft drinks.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### **DAY 3 - Cruise to Porto Buffalo, a delightful small fishing port steeped in ancient history, sailing later that day to Eretria.**

Today we will cruise to 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 small fishing village port in southern Evia renowned for its fresh fish, the port hosts a beautiful and private lagoon where we spend time at the sandy beach or if you wish, why not practice jumping off the boat from the top deck into the turquoise Aegean Sea.

We continue at a leisurely pace cruising to Eretria, one of the most well known cities of ancient Greece and the birthplace of our alphabet. The town boasts an extensive archaeological site with a superb museum. We enjoy our evening in the long cosmopolitan promenade watching the small ferries coming and going to the mainland.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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#### **DAY 4 - Spend the morning in Eretria with its ancient baths and mosaics. Cruise to Nea Styra in the afternoon.**

We make the most of the mornings perfect location with a visit to the museum and the towns archaeological site along with time to wander along the boulevard where you will find many gift shops. Alternatively, there is the opportunity to go for a swim and snorkel before cruising towards Nea Styra. This area has a number of stunning beaches and boasts a beautiful coastline with clear waters inviting you to swim and snorkel. The rolling hills above Nea Styra lead to a silver-green valley of olive trees where we have the opportunity to explore in the afternoon. As the sun sets in the historic bay of Marathon, the promenade comes to life with all the locals and visitors experiencing a typical Mediterranean stroll before dining alfresco.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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#### **DAY 5 - Swim and snorkel in Nea Styra. In the afternoon cruise to Figias and on to Marmari.**

After a leisurely start to the day, we set sail and cruise towards Figias and onto Marmari, a typical Aegean fishing village with numerous tavernas and cafes dotted along the promenade. There is ample opportunity to swim and snorkel off the boat close to the rocky shores.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### **DAY 6 - Cruise to Petali Islands for swimming and on to Karystos**

This morning we cruise towards the archipelagos of Petali, where seven private and exclusive islands offer the best of a 'jet set' life in the Aegean. Once the summer residence of the Greek royal family, today it is the playground of the Picasso family, the Embiricos ship owners, and other such tycoons. Maria Calas, one of the most renowned and influential opera singers of the 20th century, spent many summers here and we drop anchor to enjoy the good life ourselves with opportunities to swim, snorkel or just relax on the deck amongst the rich and famous. In the late afternoon we set sail for Karystos.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### **DAY 7 - Cruise to Bouros Bay and then on to Karystos, overnight in a hotel.**

This morning we can visit the Venetian mountain castle of Castello Rosso in Gournas which is a well preserved 4th crusade fortresses that commands the sea corridor between Asia and Europe, the entry to the Black Sea.

Our final stop on our cruise is Bouros in Karystos bay where we will drop anchor for the last time to swim and snorkel in the amazing clear waters of the Aegean. After docking at the harbour we bid farewell to our friendly crew. Tonight we stay in a waterfront hotel in Karystos. We can visit the famous Montofoli winery estate or enjoy an afternoon in Kohyli Coves which is walking distance from our hotel.





ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Galaxy (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 8 - Ferry to Rafina and transfer to Athens Airport where our trip ends

Departing Karystos this morning we take a short taxi or minibus ride back to Marmari or Styra to board the ferry for the journey back to Rafina or Marathon on mainland Greece. Our ferry will depart at approximately 9.50am. From Rafina we transfer to Athens International Airport (airport code ATH), where we will arrive at about 11.30am and this is where our trip ends. The earliest your flight can depart is 1.30pm.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### Country information

#### Greece

##### 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	Plugs	Religion	Language
+2	2 Pin Round	Orthodox	Greek

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### Budgeting and packing

## Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family.

Day 4: Entry to Eretria Museum, €2 per person (morning visit before we set sail)

Day 4: Visit Styra village, including transport by taxi, €10 per person (afternoon visit)

Day 7: Visit the Red castle ruins at Castello Rosso for spectacular views across the bay (includes transport by taxi) €10 per person

## 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

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself. 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).

Limited snorkelling equipment in on board, however we recommend that you bring your own if you wish

to snorkel.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. You may however, want to recognise a leader that has done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It is a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we would recommend £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

### Local crew

Although 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. Accordingly, you should allow approximately £10 of local currency per family member.

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.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

## Greece

### 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	Beer price	Water price
£12.00 - 16.00	£3.5	£0.9

### Foreign Exchange

Local currency	Recommended Currency For Exchange
Euro	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.

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## **Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

### **Transport Information**

Bus, Boat, Ferry

### **Accommodation notes**

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 deck have windows. All are en suite. Please note we don't have single cabins on board, if you are a family of two, four or six you will all get twin cabins. If you are a family of three or five you will still get twin cabins and there is a very small chance, if the trip is fully booked and we have a number of families of three and five that one of your party will need to share with someone of the same gender and age group (i.e. adults will only ever share with adults or children with children).

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.

### **Family swimming**

There is a chance to swim every day straight from the boat.

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## **Essential Information**

### **Government Travel Safety 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.

### **Price Guarantee**

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 and Passport 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 be able to apply 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

### **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 complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have

selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

## **Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

## **Greece**

## Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against tetanus and polio. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Family information



Our traditional Greek sailing boat

**Greek sailing holiday:** Whether you are new to sailing or an old hand who knows the ropes, an Explore family sailing holiday is ideal for all abilities, no previous sailing experience is necessary. Our Greek skipper Thanos and his crew will be happy to show you the ropes and there is ample opportunity to pick up some sailing skills along the way, alternatively kick back on deck with a book and let the world float by. Wake up to a new view every morning in the Aegean Sea, swim to your hearts content during the day and head ashore to traditional seaside tavernas every night to enjoy hearty Mediterranean cuisine.

**Cabin information:** 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 deck have windows. All are en suite. There are no triple cabins available.

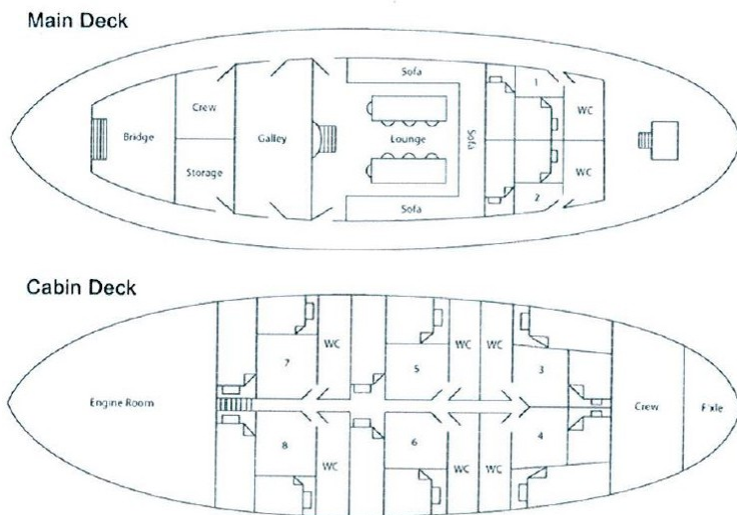
**Average Age:** As a guide we have identified the actual average age of the children who have travelled on this trip over the last 5 years, to help you decide whether it's the right one for your family. The average age on this trip is 13 years old.

**Minimum age:** This trip is suitable for children of all ages from 7 upwards. On certain trips there may be some flexibility to accept children from the age of 5 if travelling with older

siblings, please speak to our reservations team for details.

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**Additional Information**



*Greek sailing holiday - deck plan*

## Why book this trip

This holiday is designed for families who want to relax and unwind in the beautiful Aegean Sea. A week's cruising along the coastline of Evia Island with its beautiful beaches, cafe culture with locally run taverns' and a sprinkling of historical attractions is sure to be attractive. Thanos, our Greek boat captain who has been working with Explore for many years, is sure to entertain and explain the sites and routing that he has been sailing along since he was a young boy.

# Reviews

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**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**