

# EXPLORE!

Book with confidence



## Greek Cruise and Island Walking

GREECE - TRIP CODE GCW

WALKING AND TREKKING

### Why book this trip?

Explore Evia on this walking and cruise trip joining Captain Thanos on board his traditional Greek sailing boat. Cruise to beautiful bays and small harbours, with walks to hillside villages, through olive groves and to ancient sites.

- **Panagia** - Walk in the hills above this beautiful fjord
- **Swim and Snorkel** - From the boat in the warm, azure waters of the Aegean
- **Traditional Greek food** - Enjoy the delicious regional cuisine on board and at waterside tavernas



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



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Boat Crew  
Driver(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Boat  
Ferry  
Taxi



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



**WALKING GRADE:**  
Easy To  
Moderate



**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 International Airport and transfer to caique on Evia

Our trip begins at Athens International Airport (ATH) at 6.30pm. The latest your flight can arrive is therefore 5.50pm. 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 we exclusively charter. The caique built in 1982 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.

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**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## **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.

Food and drink is a major part of our journey and you certainly won't go hungry! Our boat crew will go out to local markets to buy fresh ingredients, so what we eat will depend on what's in season. Our hearty breakfast will normally include fresh bread, cheese, ham, eggs, cereals, Greek yogurt, honey, marmalade and fruit. Washed down with orange juice, coffee or tea. You will also be served complimentary tea and coffee with tasty biscuits and cake every day at around 11am and 5pm. Lunch is normally a freshly prepared hot meal such as oven baked fish accompanied by seasonal salads and traditional appetisers and followed by a platter of fresh fruit (vegetarians can be catered for on board).

Each night of this trip our leader Thanos is keen to show us Greek hospitality and great food in one of the waterfront tavernas. There are excellent choices of evening dinners on every night of our trip which include barbecued seafood and various meats alongside traditional vegetable dishes.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Boat**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 3 - Walking around Panagia

Panagia is a small, traditional fishing village lying in the shelter of a fjord. From the harbour we drive up country lanes and tracks first to the village of Zarakes 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. 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 easy 10 kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours with 400 meters ascent and descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### 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's easy five kilometre walk is expected to take around three hours with 120 meters ascent and descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Boat**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### **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.

Today's moderate 10 kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours with 400 meters ascent and descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Boat**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### **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 easy 10 kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours with no noticeable ascent or descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
M/S Isidoros II (or similar)

Grade: Simple Boat



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 7 - Walk to Gourni Villages and Castello Rosso

After breakfast we take taxis to Mili where we begin our walk up to the villages of Gourni. 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 Gourni and Mount Ohi, and down to the coast, returning to the boat. Tonight we will overnight in a small hotel in Karystos.

Today's moderate 10 kilometre walk is expected to take around five hours with 400 meters ascent and descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Galaxy (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 8 - Trip ends Athens Airport

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, 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.

Eretria Museum entrance - €2.00 per person

Bar prices on board the caique are very reasonable and are approximately: mineral water €0.50, soft drinks (fizzy or juice) €1.50, €1.50 large glass of wine (red, white or rose - all locally produced) or ouzo mixed with water, €2.00 can of beer (Mythos or Fixx - local Evia beer) and €3.00 spirits such as whiskey, gin, vodka, rum, brandy, metaxa (rose flavoured local spirit) and mixer. There is also a large water container which is filled with fresh drinking water that can be used to re-fill bottles free of charge.

All optional excursions must be paid for in cash and on board the caique payments can be made in cash in GBP or Euro. Most tavernas accept credit cards as well as cash payments.

## Clothing

Bring light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature. The summer months are the hottest, 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 travelling between the ports. Tops made from wicking materials which keep you drier and walking trousers are preferable to trousers of heavier material such as jeans.

- Breathable wind and waterproof jacket
- T-shirts
- Long sleeved tops
- Sunhat
- Long trousers
- Shorts (if you prefer to walk in them)
- Swimwear
- Midlayer Fleece/pullover
- Socks (liner and thicker pair)

## Footwear

We recommend you bring walking boots with ankle support- leather or fabric are both fine. Make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Footwear is not generally worn on board but bring walking sandals for local shore excursions. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable.

## 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 20-30 litre day sack is recommended. You will need to carry what you need for the day which may include a jumper, camera, sun-cream and water.

## Equipment

- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Small Torch (with spare batteries and bulb)
- Camera
- Walking poles (if you usually use them)
- Personal toiletries
- Personal first aid kit - On each walk a first aid kit is carried but you should have your own blister kit, supply of plasters, aspirin and other essentials.
- Small waterproof dry bag (for items such as your mobile phone)
- Reusable water bottle (minimum 1 litre) - Get 15% discount on a Water-to-Go bottle [www.explore.co.uk/about-us/responsible-travel/water-to-go-discount-with-explore](http://www.explore.co.uk/about-us/responsible-travel/water-to-go-discount-with-explore)



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

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 £20 of local currency for tipping.

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.

## 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, Taxi

### Accommodation notes

Spend six nights aboard the historic listed family-owned traditional wooden motorised caique - MV Isidoros II. This boat is exclusively chartered by Explore and has a maximum capacity of 19 people which includes the crew and our leader, Thanos. Although our boat does have sails it will primarily run on engine power, but as long as the weather is good then the crew will get the sails out to show you and run on them for a short time. The caique was only ever designed for the sails to be a back-up should the engine fail and its shape is reminiscent of that of the ancient Greek rowing ships.

Our boat has a large sundeck on the bow and space to sunbathe on the top deck, a cool and airy indoor galley and dining room, shady spots outside under a canopy, and a boat ladder for swimming. Between the floors of the caique are quite steep ladder type stairs with hand banisters. Sunbathing mats and snorkelling gear are provided. A safe for your personal valuables is available in the wheelhouse and complimentary Wi-Fi is available on board at all times.

There are two double cabins on the main deck and six twin cabins on the lower deck. Cabins and bathrooms have windows that open (not portholes) and all cabins are en suite with a shower, sink and toilet. The cabins are cosy and can get warm in summer as (there is no air-conditioning due to the historic listed nature of the vessel), but each is equipped with a large fan that is on 24-hours a day or if you prefer, it's also possible to sleep on deck under the stars and take in the refreshing sea breeze. All cabins have a power socket (European two pin round plug), as does the galley for charging personal appliances. The plugs can be used when moored but not when cruising. In terms of bedding - pillows, a blanket for spring and autumn departures or a lightweight sheet in summer are provided as well as a bath and face towel, which are all changed mid-week.

Vegetarians can be catered for on board, but please do let us know of any dietary requirements at the time of booking.

The plastic used on the boat is recycled by the crew and the water on the island is drinkable, so Thanos will ask for jugs of water to be provided during dinners in the tavernas.

Life jackets are stored under the sofas in the galley (there are 25 adult and 15 child life jackets on board). Life boats are located on the main deck (three boats that each hold 10 people).

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.

There are two single cabins available per departure, once sold there are no more available. If the

departure is not full and there are spare cabins you might find that other single travellers, booked on a twin share basis, may be allocated on default a single cabin without paying the additional supplement cost.

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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.

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 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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### Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES		
Day 3	10km	4hrs
Day 4	5km	3hrs
Day 5	10km	4hrs
Day 6	10km	4hrs
Day 7	10km	5hrs

#### Walking grade

Easy to moderate

#### Trek details

Walks on 5 days for between 3 to 6 hours. Walk on country lanes and tracks through agricultural land and along old stone paths.

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### Additional Information



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## Reviews

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**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**