

# EXPLORE!



## Why book this trip?

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This walking holiday in Greece takes you to the little-known islands of Andros and Tinos. Follow ancient pathways to discover a traditional and quieter side to Greece. Walk through green valleys to idyllic beaches on Andros and to the decorated dovecotes characteristic of Tinos.

- **Island hopping** - Discover the Cycladic islands of Andros and Tinos on foot
- **Chora** - Andros' capital, a beautiful coastal town with marble paved streets and lively squares
- **Greek food** - Enjoy fresh seafood in waterside tavernas and typical sweet pastries



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 7



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour Leader



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Ferry  
Taxi



**ACCOMMODATION**  
7 nights  
comfortable hotel



**WALKING GRADE:**  
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 Airport. Drive to Rafina and take the ferry to Andros Island

After joining the trip at Athens Airport, we drive to the port of Rafina, from where we depart in the late afternoon to Andros Island. The ferry crossing takes approximately two hours after which we take the public bus to Chora on the north coast, our base for the next three nights.

Andros is the second largest of the Cycladic islands, situated approximately 70 kilometres from mainland Greece. The landscape here is characterised by cypress trees, fertile valleys, mountain ridges, scattered houses and secluded beaches. The island abounds with patisseries serving traditional deserts and spoon sweets, fruits and nuts preserved in a sugar syrup, all best enjoyed with a coffee and glass of cold water.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Paradise Art Hotel (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



**MEALS PROVIDED: NONE**

### DAY 2 - Walk through olive groves to Mesaria, with views over the island from the Monastery of Panachrantos

This morning we walk from the hotel, ascending via a cobblestone-paved path, alongside high cypresses and through olive groves. For centuries these paths were the main routes between villages allowing for trade and communication. The walls on both sides of the path are constructed with large vertical slabs of slate in the distinctive traditional way. We pass through the villages Lamira and Mesaria with their imposing churches and natural springs then descend to an ancient Venetian bridge crossing the river bed. Higher up the mountain the Monastery of Panachrantos comes into sight. A steady climb leads us up to the Monastery, that appears to be literally clinging to the side of Gerakonas Mountain. The views over the island and the warm welcome at the Monastery are well worth the climb. After visiting the Monastery, now home to only two monks, we descend through the green valley of the Livadia river back to Chora.

The remainder of the day and evening is free to explore the marble-paved streets and elegant architecture of Chora, built on a small peninsular between two sandy beaches. You could visit the excellent Goulandris Museum of Modern Art which showcases both Greek and international artists.

Today's 13.5 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four- and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 400 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Paradise Art Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 3 - Public bus from Chora to Korthi, hike on ancient paths**

Most of today's linear walk is along paved mule tracks and dirt roads. Throughout the walk we enjoy great views over the Aegean Sea, Chora and coastal villages.

Taking the public bus to Korthi we ascend from the bay of Ormos Korthiou to Kochilos village. We walk along wide kalderimi, the Ottoman name for paved paths, and through orchards to the ruin of the fortress of Paleokastro, offering a 360 degree view over southern Andros. Descending through the Dipotama Gorge and flora-rich valley to Sineti, we pass by old water mills arriving back into Chora on foot.

Today's 13.5 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four- and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 600 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:

Paradise Art Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 4 - Morning walk to Apikia descending via old mule tracks through the valley. Ferry to Tinos Island**

This morning we take a circular walk on a paved path to Apikia where we can see the village's well shaped like a lions head and numerous natural springs. We descend through the valley on ancient, walled mule tracks. Walking back into Chora, you could stop for a swim at Nimborio Beach.

Later today we travel by public bus to the port at Gavrio and take the ferry to Tinos Island, the crossing is approximately one-and-a-half hours. Tinos is a wild and beautiful island with lush green valleys, hidden beaches and over 60 sleepy, picturesque villages. The island is famed for the Church of Panagia Evangelistria, an important site for Greek pilgrims visiting its sacred icon of the Virgin Mary, found where the church now stands.

Today's eight-and-a-half kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four hours with a total ascent and descent of 400 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Agali Bay Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 5 - Walk around the imposing Exobourgo rock fortress to Ktikados, descend to Tinos town**

Today's walk leads us around the Exobourgo mountain and ruined Venetian fortress. This rugged granite mass stands high, ringed by small villages. Taking taxis to Falatados we walk through valleys and terraced

fields, villages with narrow alleys, numerous churches and a monastery. In the wide valley between Loutra and Kambos are the decorated dovecotes that are symbolic of Tinos Island. There are 1,300 two-storey towers dotted throughout the Island, built by the Venetians in the 15th Century to rear doves and pigeons for eggs, food and carrying messages. The artistic decorations on the upper facades are based on triangles and circles representing the sun and its rays. We arrive back to the hotel on foot.

Today's 16 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately seven hours with a total ascent of 220 metres and descent of 500 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Agali Bay Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 6 - Circular hike from Ormos Panormos beach. Admire the marble reliefs in the white village of Pyrgos**

This morning we take a public bus to the north coast to start our circular walk from the marina in Ormos Panormou. Following a gravel road and cobble path we reach Pyrgos and enter via marble steps. This white village is said to be the prettiest in the whole of Tinos. Its marble craftsmen are famed for their handiwork which you can admire in the marble reliefs on the houses. Enjoy a rest and coffee under the shade of the 200 year old plane tree in the main square before descending back to Panormos with views of the bay.

Today's 8 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately two-and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 200 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Agali Bay Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 7 - Free morning in Tinos before taking the ferry to Piraeus. Drive to hotel in Athens**

This morning is left free. You could take a stroll around the streets of Tinos and visit the Panagia Evangelistria before enjoying a seafood lunch at one of the fish tavernas in the Old Town. Try the fresh calamari accompanied with Savori, a spicy sweet and sour sauce.

In the afternoon we take the ferry back to mainland Greece and drive to our hotel in Athens for the final night of the holiday.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Crystal City Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 8 - Trip ends in Athens**

Your trip ends this morning after breakfast, in Athens.



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.

<b>Time difference to GMT</b>	<b>Plugs</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Language</b>
+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.

Goulandris Museum of Modern Art - €5 entrance fee

### Clothing

Bring light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature. It can become cool, especially at night, so bring warmer layers. Tops made from wicking materials which keep you drier, a warmer fleece is recommended as a mid layer, 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 and towel
- Midlayer Fleece/pullover
- Socks (liner and thicker pair)

### Footwear

We recommend you bring well-worn in walking boots - leather or fabric are both fine. In addition please take comfortable trainers/shoes or sandals for the evenings. 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

Bring one main piece of luggage and a 20-30 litre day sack is recommended. You will need to carry what you need for the day which may include a raincoat, jumper, camera, sun-cream, water and picnic lunch. On hot days you will carry fewer clothes but more drinking 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.
- Insect repellent
- 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)
- Lunch bag/Tupperware (for packed lunches)

## 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 recognized 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 Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, we recommend approximately 15€ per person for tipping. 10% is recommended at meal times.

## 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, Ferry, Taxi

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**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.

**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.

## 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 2	13.5km	4.5hrs
Day 3	13.5km	4.5hrs
Day 4	8.5km	4hrs
Day 5	16km	7hrs
Day 6	8km	2.5hrs

## Walking grade

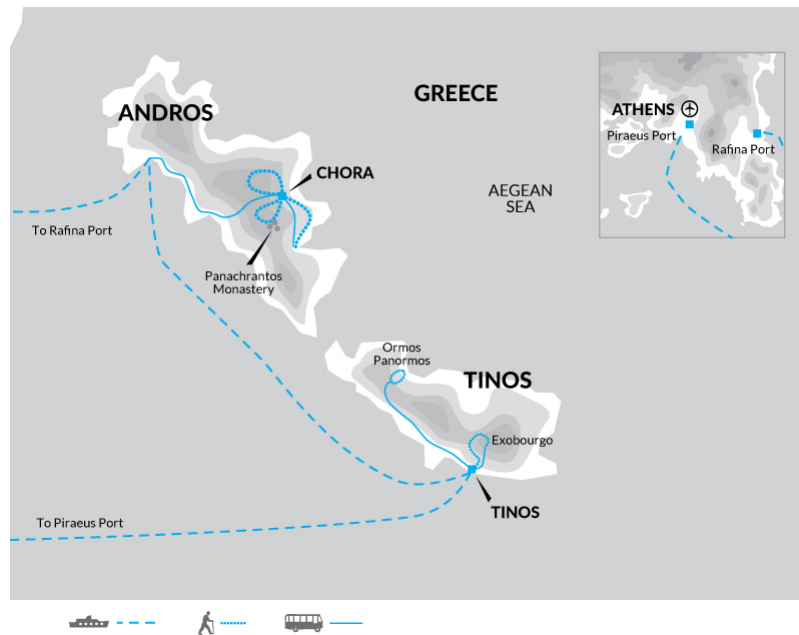
Moderate

## Trek details

Walks on 5 days for between 2 to 7 hours. Walk on well-defined trails of a variety of terrains from stony and paved paths to mule tracks and dirt roads.

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### Additional Information



## Why book this trip

This one week walking holiday takes you to a world far away from the more touristed Greek islands of Santorini and Mykonos to the relatively unknown, but no less beautiful, islands of Andros and Tinos. Their green and varied landscapes are a haven for walkers. Follow ancient pathways to discover a traditional and quieter side to Greece.

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## Reviews



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**