



Greek Islands Walking - Andros and Tinos

GREECE - TRIP CODE WAT

WALKING AND TREKKING

Why book this trip?

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

Our trip begins at Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport (ATH). The latest your flight can arrive is 2.45pm. We will travel together as a group to the port of Rafina, and take the 5.30pm ferry 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

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. The Monastery appears to be literally clinging to the side of Gerakonas Mountain. Even though we do not climb all the way up to the Monastery, the views over the island from the highest point of our walk are lovely. 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

DAY 3 - Public bus to Kochilou, walk on ancient paths back to hotel

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.

We take the public bus or taxi's to the tiny village of Kochilou and start our walk here. We ascend along a wide kalderimi, the Ottoman name for paved paths, through orchards to the ruin of the fortress of Paleokastro, also named Faneromeni. From this lovely spot we enjoy a 360 degree view over southern Andros and the bay of Ormos Korthiou. 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 10 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four hours with a total ascent of 275 metres and descent of 600 metres along stoney paths.





ACCOMMODATION:
Paradise Art Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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

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. The afternoon is free to enjoy a last stroll through the alleys of Chora and sit for a hot meal at a local restaurant.

Later we travel by public bus to the port at Gavrio and take the late afternoon 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

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

DAY 6 - Circular walk 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

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

DAY 8 - Trip ends in Athens

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Athens.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Athens at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport (ATH) a 40 minutes' drive from the hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Greece

Climate

Greece has such a vast geographical difference between the mainland and the islands, and travel is possible at all times of year but the climate can vary depending on when you go. During late spring or early autumn, in the months of April-May or September-October, temperatures are warm and pleasant, usually hovering around 25 degrees. Rainfall is low, but can be erratic during these months. Cooler evenings take the heat off the day. If you have booked a walking holiday, wild flowers bloom during the spring, adding colour to the hiking trails. Summers are hot and dry, with plenty of sunshine and little rain. Temperatures can go north of 35 degrees in July and August. On the islands, restaurants and bars may be busy with cruise ship passengers. While this period definitely gives you a 'summer holiday' feeling, those wishing to explore Greece's ancient sites may find the heat challenging. When travelling in winter, from late November to early March, the villages will be very quiet. Temperatures in Athens at this time are around 10-15 degrees, while the nights will be colder. Hotels in northern Greece in particular are well adapted to deal with cold winters, having proper heating and warm fires to retreat to after a day of exploring. This makes it a good destination for travel between November-March.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+2	2 Pin Round	Orthodox	Greek

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
- Lunch bag/Tupperware (for packed lunches)

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 £15 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.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Ferry, Taxi

Accommodation notes

This two centre trip gives you the flexibility to unpack and get to know different the different islands.

Accommodation and service levels in Greece are generally very good. On this trip we stay in two smaller, family-run hotels that might not offer the same luxuries as larger chain-style hotels, but they do provide a warm welcome and a comfortable place to stay.

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, Commonwealth & Development 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 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 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.

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES		
Day 2	13.5km	4.5hrs
Day 3	10km	4hrs
Day 4	8.5km	4hrs
Day 5	16km	7hrs
Day 6	8km	2.5hrs

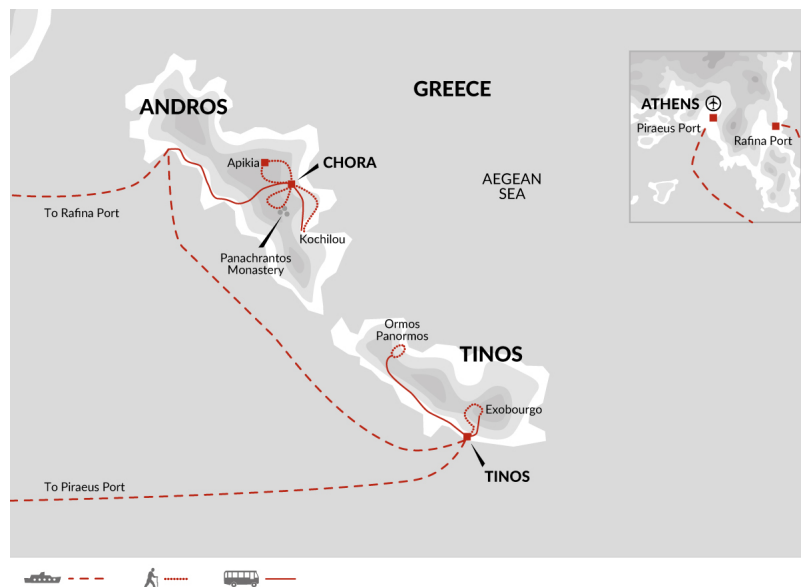
Walking grade

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.

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.

Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**