

EXPLORE!



Walking the Corfu Trail (South)

8 days

Greece - Trip code CF



Walking the Corfu Trail (South)

Corfu is one of the most beautiful Greek islands and on this walking holiday we explore the southern part of this wonderful island. We visit ancient villages framed by vineyards, walk through shady olive groves and relax in riverside tavernas. We also climb Agii Deki, the island's second highest mountain, and enjoy spectacular views of the Mediterranean.

Trip highlights

- ★ Corfu Town (Kerkyra) - Explore the backstreets of the Old Town
- ★ Picturesque villages - Lefkimmi, Komianata, Sinarades, Liapades
- ★ Variety of landscapes - Issos Forest, Ropa Valley and Lake Korission. Dramatic views of the coastline
- ★ Traditional food - Enjoy fresh food at local tavernas

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Simple

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, sometimes with en suite facilities.

WALKING GRADE:

Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

GROUP SIZE:**10 - 16**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip Corfu Town

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



Accommodation: Konstantinoupolis Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Drive to Kavos where you walk down to the beach and onto Spartera

This morning we drive south out of Corfu Town, starting our hike from just south of Kavos, we head out on a track to the southern tip of Corfu, where the ruined monastery of Arkoudillas stands. A footpath leads down to the island's southernmost beach, a seemingly endless stretch of golden sand. Leaving the beach at its northern end, we follow uphill tracks through agricultural land to Spartera and to our accommodation in Asprokavos.

Today's 12km walk is expected to take around 3.5 hours with 250m of ascent and descent.



Accommodation: Mediterranean Blue Resort (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 3 - Walk via Lefkimmi to Santa Barbara

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

Today's 22.5km walk is expected to take around 6.5hrs with 350m of ascent and descent.



Accommodation: Perfect Ten Taverna (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Walk along the coast to Lake Korission and onto Paramonas

A day of almost level walking during which we follow the beach. Our way leads on through sand dunes covered with a forest of cedar trees. Then, crossing a footbridge, we reach Lake Korission. The Trail then follows tracks and a section of road to reach Paramonas and our next overnight stop.

Today's 20km walk is expected to take around 6hrs with 150m of ascent and 120m of descent.



Accommodation: Varagoulis Apartments (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Walk to Benitses via Komianata, transfer to Pelekas


A sharp climb early in the walk takes us over the coastal ridge, with great views, and inland to the villages of Ano and Kato Pavliana. Footpaths and tracks take us down through Vouniatades, then we cross the Messongi River Valley by way of tracks through olive groves and across heathland. Through Strongili, the Trail heads uphill again, on an old cobbled way which leads to Komianata, from here we continue on foot to at Benitses. After a short break we will transfer to Pelekas where we will stay for the next two nights.

Today's 18.5km walk is expected to take around 6hrs with 650m of ascent and descent.



Accommodation: Bella Vista Hotel (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Bus to Stavros where the walk begins to Pelekas via the summit of Agii Deka


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

Today's 17.5km walk is expected to take around 6.5 hours with 650m of ascent.



Accommodation: Jimmy's Pension (or similar)

 Simple Hotel

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Walk to Liapades beach via Myrtiotissa


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


Today's 23km walk is expected to take around 7hrs with 600m of ascent and 800m of descent.



Accommodation: Cricketer Taverna and Studios (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 8 - Tour ends at Liapades beach

Our tour ends after breakfast.

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCE

Day 2	12km
Day 3	22.5km
Day 4	20km
Day 5	18.5km
Day 6	17.5km
Day 7	23km

Walking grade

Moderate

Trek details

This is a 6-day hike with an average of 4 to 6 hours of walking a day. We follow footpaths, tracks, minor roads and beaches, reaching an altitude of 576m. This trek has been graded as moderate.

Trek terrain

Walking Grades and Fitness - Walking on the Corfu Trail is generally on rough footpaths, cobbled mule paths, dirt and gravel tracks, minor roads and beaches. The highest point reached is 576m.

Max walking altitude (m)

576



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7
Dinner: 2



Transport

Bus
Boat
Taxi



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

3 nights standard hotel
4 nights simple hotel

Trip information

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

+2

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Orthodox

Language

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.

Corfu Town - Allow approx. €15 for misc. entrance fees; Kanoni Peninsula €3.50.

Liapades Beach - Boat trip up west coast (depending on numbers booked) €15, (6 people min.); Agios georgios Wind surfer hire €10-12per hour.

Clothing

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

Footwear

We recommend you bring lightweight walking boots with ankle support, make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Also trainers or sandals for relaxing and general wear. 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

You will be carrying only your daysack during the walks and main luggage shall be transported from hotel to hotel by car.

Equipment

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

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Country Information

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

£12.00 - 16.00

Beer price

£3.5

Water price

£0.9

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Euro

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP Sterling or US Dollars, cash.

Where To Exchange

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn from ATMs from all types of cards in most areas in Greece, including the islands.

Credit Card Acceptance

In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Banking hours may make exchanging Travellers Cheques more difficult.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Taxi

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

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

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

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 consider applying 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 now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, 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.

Maximum altitude (m)

576

Non refundable permits

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.

