

EXPLORE!



Walking the Corfu Trail (North)

8 days

Greece - Trip code FA

Walking the Corfu Trail (North)

This walking trip concentrates on the northern half of the renowned Corfu Trail, from Liapades Beach to Agios Spyridon. Walk across the island to the eastern coastal town of Kalami for views of Albania on the horizon and trek along the karst plateau, passing by remote monasteries and hillside villages to the summit of Pantokrator Mountain. Explore the winding backstreets of Kerkyra Old Town and enjoy fresh food in local tavernas.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Inland villages** - Get well off the beaten track
- ★ **Swimming in the sea** - After a day's hike
- ★ **Crossing the Karstic highlands** - Admire the views across the sea to Albania
- ★ **Traditional food** - Enjoy fresh food in local tavernas
- ★ **Kerkyra (Corfu Town)** - Explore the winding backstreets of the Old Town

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

WALKING GRADE:

Moderate To Challenging

Combining moderate grade walks with some more strenuous hikes. This grade is ideal if you are fit and want to challenge yourself with a few longer, more demanding trekking days, possibly on difficult terrain or at higher altitudes.

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 tour Liapades Beach

Arrive at Liapades Beach and check-in to our hotel. Situated below the traditional village of Liapades, and surrounded by green hillsides Liapades Beach has a beautiful pebble beach and some small cafes and restaurants.



Accommodation: Cricketer Taverna and Studios (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 - Walk to Agios Georgios

First thing this morning we negotiate a steep and fairly difficult ascent up to Lakones and Bella Vista (the best view in Europe). After a kilometre of unavoidable road we take a break for lunch. In the afternoon our walk continues across olive groves to Krini, through Lily Valley and on down one of Greece's most remarkable footpaths, which zigzags down a sheer cliff. Our accommodation tonight is in the pleasant beach resort of Agios Georgios, where it may be possible to hire wind surfers. The wide empty beach north of the resort was used for scenes in the James Bond film 'For Your Eyes Only'.

Today's 13.5km walk is expected to take a round 4hrs with 350m of ascent.



Accommodation: Belle Helene Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 3 - Walk to Rekini via several villages; bus transfer to Roda

A sharp climb from Agios Georgios to the village of Prinilas starts today's walk. We descend from here to the picturesque village of Pagi. Tracks and a quiet road take us through agricultural land alongside the Megapotamos River and over the ridge through Aspiotades, to the two sprawling villages of Agros and Agios Athanasios, where our way leads through the alleyways. Leaving the villages, a quiet road leads past the wealthy convent of Agios Athanasios and tracks take us on to the road junction at Rekini. From here we plan to take a bus for the short journey to the nearest accommodation on the north coast at Roda.

Today's 13.8km walk is expected to take around 4.5 hours with 350m of ascent.



Accommodation: Pegasus Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Bus to Rekini where our walk begins via Sokraki, to Spartillas. Bus to Kalami

A local bus takes us back to the Corfu Trail. Starting our walk from Rekini, we take the unmade road to Valanio, a village deep in the middle of nowhere. Then tracks funnel us up a deep valley. Along a cobbled path, we enter Sokraki, where the village square with its happy atmosphere calls for a stop. Then to Spartillas, where a chartered bus is waiting to take us down to our accommodation at the picturesque coastal village of Kalami. Here, in the White House, Lawrence Durrell wrote Prospero's Cell. The little bay in Kalami is lined with white pebbles and has a panoramic backdrop of mountainous Albania.

Today's 12.4km walk is expected to take around 4.5hrs with 500m of ascent, we are transferred to Kalami from the top of the village.



Accommodation: Thomas Place (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Bus to Spartillas; walk to Spyridon via the summit of Pantokrator (917m)

Today the real mountain terrain beckons. We transfer by bus back to Spartillas and start our walk: immediately we are on a steep mountain footpath climbing a gully to a fantastic viewpoint at Taxiarchis Chapel - a ruin with fresco-covered walls. We ascend further to cross the Karst Plateau, Corfu's wildest scenery, under the summit of Pantokrator. Then we make our way to the very top, at 917 m, and visit the monastery, with its views across to the mountains of Albania. Descending now with fine views and some rough sections we reach the deserted village of Polie Perithia where we stop at a taverna before we descend the final stretch of the Corfu trail ending at the most northerly point of the island.

Today's 21km walk is expected to take around 8.5hrs with 500 m of ascent and 850 m of descent. The optional climb of an additional three km to the summit will take approximately 1 hour with an additional ascent and descent of 250m.



Accommodation: Thomas Place (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Free day; optional walk to deserted village of Mengoulas

Today you may choose to relax in your free time or alternatively you could walk the 5 hour round trip from Kalami to Mengoulas.



Accommodation: Thomas Place (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Bus to Corfu Town. Orientation tour

We return to Corfu Town's old port by bus this morning. This afternoon your tour leader will accompany us on a walking orientation tour of the main points of interest in the marvellous Venetian town centre. There may well be time to take a bus to the picture postcard location of Kanoni to perhaps explore the archaeological sites and walk across the causeway to visit Vlacherna Church. Intriguing Mouse Island can also be visited by boat, departing from the peninsula's small jetty. Alternatively, spend the rest of your

time exploring more of Corfu Town: there is certainly plenty to keep you occupied. The town has some sophisticated restaurants to round off your tour in style.



Accommodation: Konstantinoupolis Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Tour ends Corfu Town

Our tour ends this morning in Corfu Town (Kerkyra).



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES



Optional Walks

Walking grade

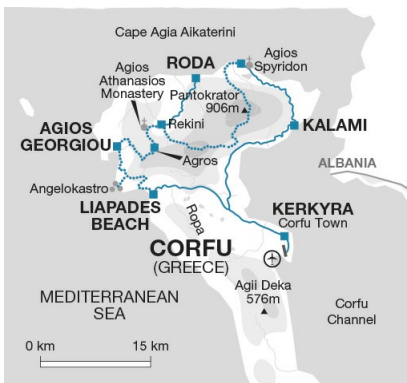
Moderate to challenging

Trek details

Walk on 4 days for 4 to 5 hours, and up to 9 hours on day 5. Walk along dedicated coastal and mountain paths and old mule tracks.

Max walking altitude (m)

917



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7
Dinner: 2



Transport

Bus
Taxi



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

4 nights standard hotel
3 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 approximately 15 Euros for entrance fees; Kanoni Peninsula 3.50 Euros.

Liapades Beach - Boat trip up west coast (depending on numbers booked) 15 Euros. (6 people minimum) Agios Georgios Wind surfer hire 10 to 12 Euros per 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 will 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 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. 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

One main piece of baggage and a daysack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself. 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, 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 and in Kalami our accommodation is listed as Thomas Palace. For these nights we stay in a variety of studios/apartments in each town near to the traditional Tavernas. 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. In Liapades 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.

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)

917

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.

