



Walking the Corfu Trail (North)

GREECE - TRIP CODE FA

WALKING AND TREKKING

Why book this trip?

Take in the highlights of northern Corfu, taking the renowned Corfu Trail. Walk across the island to the coastal town of Kalami and cross the Karst Plateau, passing by remote monasteries and hillside villages to the summit of Pantokrator Mountain.

- **Karstic highlands** - Admire the views across the sea to Albania
- **Variety of landscapes** - Olive groves, valleys, plateaus, golden beaches and dramatic cliff paths
- **Home cooked food** - Enjoy freshly prepared meals in local tavernas



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 7
Dinner: 2



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
Taxi



ACCOMMODATION
4 nights
comfortable hotel
3 nights simple
hotel



WALKING GRADE:
Moderate To
Challenging



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 in Liapades Beach

Arrive in Corfu Liapades Beach, situated below the traditional village of Liapades, and surrounded by green hillsides. For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 6pm for the welcome meeting. Dinner is included tonight where you can sit outside and enjoy the coastal views. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Corfu Town at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive at Corfu International Airport (CFU) which is around 30 minutes' drive from the hotel. Should you miss the meeting, your leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, perhaps you might choose to stroll down to the beautiful pebble beach, a 10 minute walk away.



ACCOMMODATION:
Avra Sunset Sea View (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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 13.5 kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours with 300 metres of ascent and 500 metres of descent.



ACCOMMODATION:
Belle Helene Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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 14 kilometre walk is expected to take around four-and-a-half hours with 450 metres of ascent and descent.



ACCOMMODATION:
Pegasus Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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. For the next three nights we stay at Thomas's Place, a family ran taverna. Located on Kalami Bay, the group will be spread over a variety of simple apartments.

Today's 14 kilometre walk is expected to take around four-and-half hours with 550 metres of ascent; we are transferred to Kalami from the top of the village.



ACCOMMODATION:
Thomas's Place (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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 challenging 21 kilometre walk is expected to take around eight-and-half hours with 500 metres of ascent and 850 metres of descent. The optional climb of an additional three kilometre to the summit will take approximately one hour with an additional ascent and descent of 250 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:
Thomas's Place (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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 five hour, 15.5 kilometre round trip from Kalami to Mengoulas.



ACCOMMODATION:

Thomas's Place (or similar)

Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Trip ends in Corfu Town

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Corfu Town.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Corfu Town 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 Corfu International Airport (CFU) which is around 10 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.

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

Bring light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature. The weather conditions in the mountains can be changeable, and it can become cool, especially at night, so bring warmer layers. Tops made from wicking materials which keep you drier and warmer are recommended as a base layer, and walking trousers are preferable to trousers of heavier material such as jeans. A waterproof jacket is essential at all times in case of rain and wind.

- Breathable wind and waterproof jacket (you may also wish to bring waterproof trousers)
- T-shirts
- Long sleeved tops
- Sunhat
- Long trousers (thorny vegetation may scratch bare legs)
- Shorts (if you prefer to walk in them)
- Swimwear and towel
- Midlayer Fleece/pullover
- Socks (liner and thicker pair)
- Insulated jacket

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

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

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)
- Binoculars

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.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Taxi

Accommodation notes

Throughout this trip we use a mixture of simple and comfortable accommodation. 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.

Due to the small size of the properties in Liapades and Kalami, the group may be spread over a variety of studios/apartments in the area if necessary; in this case we will use the AVRA Sunset Sea View Liapades as a communal base with use of all the facilities there including the hotel's swimming pool. This is where breakfast and dinner will take place.

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

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.

From 1st July 2020, All visitors are required to provide a completed 'Passenger Locator Form (PLF)' which must be submitted at least 24 hours before departure at:
<https://travel.gov.gr/#/>

You will also receive a QR code (up to 24 hours before you travel, regardless of how early you fill in your form). When you receive your code, make sure you either print it, or can show it on your mobile phone as you will need to show this at check in and on arrival in Greece.

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.

Maximum altitude (m)

917

Ability to swim

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

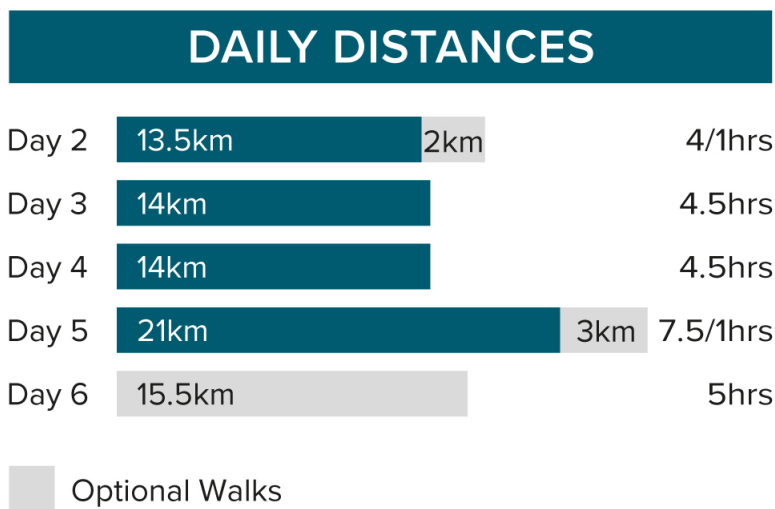
of the Mediterranean the size and standard of the rooms can vary, the rooms will be decorated in a plain style with private bathrooms and some may have a balcony or terrace.

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



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

Additional Information



Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**