

EXPLORE!

Tour Notes



Family Caique Cruise (FGC 2015)



TOUR DURATION
8
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Relaxed

Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Simple

tour Code: FGC

Tour Highlights - Family Caique Cruise

- ✓ Staying on a boat - Cruise around the beautiful Greek island of Evia for 6 nights on a traditional wooden boat
- ✓ Swimming - In the warm, azure waters of the Aegean Sea, straight from the boat
- ✓ Snorkelling - Search rocky coves for signs of sea life
- ✓ Thanos - Our boat captain prides himself on showing the best parts of Greece that he used to sail around as a boy
- ✓ Meeting local people - have dinner in family run tavernas by the waterfront

Tour Essentials

Accommodation: 6 nights Simple Boat
1 night Standard Hotel

Included Meals: 7 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners

Start Point: Join tour: Athens airport

End Point: Tour ends: Athens airport

Transport: Bus, Boat, Ferry

Countries: Greece

Minimum Age: From 5 years

Family Caique Cruise

We experience traditional Greece on this relaxing cruise around the quiet coves and harbours of Evia Island. Join our captain, Thanos, on board a traditional Greek motorised sailing boat and explore the forts and ruins scattered along this historic coastline. Along the way we drop anchor at tranquil fishing villages and visit the local taverna to sample the delicious local Mediterranean cuisine.

Why Book this tour

This holiday is designed for families who want to relax and unwind in the beautiful Aegean Sea. A week's cruising along the coastline of Evia Island with its beautiful beaches, cafe culture with locally run taverns' and a sprinkling of historical attractions is sure to be attractive. Thanos, our Greek boat captain who has been working with Explore for many years, is sure to entertain and explain the sites and routing that he has been sailing along since he was a young boy.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: 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, typically with en suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Relaxed

Easy paced tours with plenty of time to relax and absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join Athens airport and transfer to caique on Evia

Join tour at Athens International Airport. Transfer by bus to Rafina for a ferry to Evia. On arrival, there is a short taxi / minibus ride to where the Caique is moored. Thanos, our boat captain, has been working with Explore for many years and prides himself on showing the best parts of Greece to the many Explore customers that have travelled with him over the years. Discovering many places



that he himself used to sail around as a boy, he is a very proud Greek and loves nothing more than to captain his boat that he owns around the beautiful waters of the Aegean.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 To Karystos via a stop to explore the hills above the town

Our first destination is the bay of Karystos via a stop close to Bouros with opportunities to swim and snorkel in the amazing clear waters of the Aegean. We then have our first lunch on-board with the afternoon set aside for exploring the hills above Karystos. We can visit the Venetian mountain castle of Castello Rosso in Gourni which is a well preserved 4th crusade fortresses that commands the sea corridor between Asia and Europe, the entry to the Black Sea. Alternatively, you may wish to spend some time on the beach which is a few minutes' walk from where the boat anchors. Dinner tonight will be in one of the beautiful seaside tavernas on the promenade.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Cruise to Panagia and discover its famous church

Our next destination is Panagia, a small fishing village lying in the shelter of a fjord. We stop en-route to swim in the waters off the rugged and undeveloped coastline of Porto Lafia. Once at Panagia, you could visit the inland village of Argyro where the tiny red-roofed houses are dwarfed by the mountains or walk along the coast to Agios Dimitrios, a hamlet on the other side of the fjord. Panagia's long beach is shaded by trees which are dotted along the coastline. There are also a number of cafes and ice cream shops close to the boats anchor point from where you can relax and watch the world go by and enjoy the great views overlooking the sea. In the evening, why not visit the beautiful church in Panagia which is renowned for its frescoes as well as two olive trees that are 2,500 years old and are located next to a small stream full of turtles. There is also the option to have dinner in one of the small family run tavernas by the waterfront.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Sail to Eretria via Porto Buffalo

Today we will cruise to the Gulf of Evia, where the island splits from the mainland. Greek legends romantically claims that the divide was caused by Poseidon piercing the earth with his trident. We travel via Porto Buffalo, a beautiful and private lagoon where we spend time at the sandy beach or if you wish, why not practice jumping off the boat from the top deck into the turquoise Aegean Sea. We continue at a leisurely pace cruising to Eretria, one of the most well known cities of ancient Greece and the birthplace of our alphabet. The town boasts an extensive archaeological site with a superb museum. We enjoy our evening in the long cosmopolitan promenade watching the small ferries coming and going to the mainland.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Cruise to Nea Styra with its stunning beaches and beautiful coastline

We make the most of the mornings perfect location with a visit to the museum and the towns archaeological site along with time to wander along the boulevard where you will find many gift shops. Alternatively, there is the opportunity to go for a swim and snorkel before cruising towards Nea Styra. This area has a number of stunning beaches and boasts a beautiful coastline with clear waters inviting you to swim and snorkel. The rolling hills above Nea Styra lead to a silver-green valley of olive trees where we have the opportunity to explore in the afternoon. As the sun sets in the historic bay of Marathon, the promenade comes to life with all the locals and visitors experiencing a typical Mediterranean stroll before dining alfresco.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Sail to Marmari via Petali Islands

This morning we cruise towards the archipelagos of Petali, where seven private and exclusive islands offer the best of a 'jet set' life in the Aegean. Once the summer residence of the Greek royal family, today it is the playground of the Picasso family, the Embiricos ship owners, and other such tycoons. Maria Calas, one of the most renowned and influential opera singers of the 20th century, spent many summers here and we drop anchor to enjoy the good life ourselves with opportunities to swim, snorkel or just relax on the deck amongst the rich and famous. From here we continue to Marmari, a typical Aegean fishing village with numerous tavernas and cafes dotted along the promenade.

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Overnight: **Simple Boat**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 7 Return Karystos via Petali Islands

Our last day cruising takes us towards the Archipelagos of Petali, where seven private and exclusive islands offer the best of the Jet Our last day of cruising takes us towards Mnima Bay where we can swim and snorkel off the boat close to the rocky shores before returning to Karystos where we overnight in a waterfront hotel. We can visit the famous Montofoli winery estate or enjoy an afternoon in Kohyli Coves which is walking distance from our hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8 Ferry to Rafina then transfer to Athens airport where our tour ends

Today we take the short taxi / minibus ride back to the ferry to Rafina. From there we transfer to Athens International Airport where the tours ends. * The itinerary along the coast may vary depending on local weather conditions e.g. stopping points and nightstops may

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

Ability to swim required

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

MV Isidoros II - Our caique has a large sundeck and a comfortable and airy galley for meals where we can dine or relax. There are two double cabins on the main deck and six twin cabins on the lower deck. All have en suite facilities. There is also a boat ladder to make the most of the swimming and snorkelling opportunities.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

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.

Greece

Lunch £: 14.00

Dinner £: 18.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Greece

Bottle of Beer £: 3.50

Water £: 0.90

Other Sightseeing & 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.

Optional Excursions

- 10 Euros per person to Castello Rosso and back by taxi
- 10 Euros per person to Montofoli Winery Estate and back by taxi
- 10 Euros per person to Styra village and back by taxi
- 2 Euros per person entry to Eretria Museum

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

Tipping - 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. Please allow £10 for tipping the boat crew at the end of the trip.

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.

Foreign Exchange

Greece

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.

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

Joining your Tour

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 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 on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

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.

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 please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

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.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Visa 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.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Lone Parents

Greece

Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the Greek embassy for further information on exactly what may be required.

Vaccinations & Protection

Greece

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against tetanus and polio. 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 <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Greece

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.

Clothing

July and August are the hottest months though the islands are freshened by cooling winds. You'll need your swimming gear and an extra towel. Early and late in the season, there may be an occasional shower and you will need a warmer sweater and/or fleece for the odd chilly breeze whilst we travel between the ports.

Equipment

Water bottle, a torch, sunhat, sunglasses and sunblock. Please note that if you intend to sleep out on deck on some nights, as many travellers choose to do in good weather. Please bring a sleeping bag with you (the sunbathing cushions are available to sleep on the boat but cabin bedding can't be taken on deck).

Footwear

Footwear is not generally worn on board but bring trainers, walking sandals for shore excursions or walking shoes for longer walks on the island.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself. Space is limited on board so only bring what you need. A soft bag is strongly recommended as it is more easily stored than a hard suitcase. A daysac is useful for shore excursions.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Greece

Population: 11,305,118

Size of Country: 131,990 sq km

Major Language: Greek

Religion: Orthodox

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Greece

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

The Travel Foundation

Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

Tourism Concern

Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk

- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

Know before you go

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 follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety>

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

These tour notes were printed on 06/03/2015 14:12:29