EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Greek Island Cruise (GC 2016)

BOAT JOURNEYS

TOURDURAT
8
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Relaxed
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Simple
tour Code: GC

Tour Highlights - Greek Island Cruise

- ✓ Greek Caique - Cruise around the beautiful Greek island of Evia for 6 nights on a traditional wooden boat
- ✓ Panagia - Explore this small fishing village wonderfully situated at the head of a fjord. See its ancient olive trees and stream full of terrapins
- ✓ Nea Styra - An area of stunning beaches and coastline. Enjoy sunset over the historic bay of Marathon
- ✓ Swimming - Swim from the boat every day in the warm, azure waters of the Aegean. Snorkel and look for sea life in rocky coves
- ✓ Traditional Greek food - Opportunity to sample the local food at waterside taverns

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	6 nights Simple Boat 1 night Standard Hotel
Included Meals:	7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Athens Airport
End Point:	Tour ends: Athens Airport
Transport:	Bus, Boat, Taxi, Ferry
Countries:	Greece

Greek Island Cruise

Experience traditional Greece on this relaxing cruise around the quiet coves and harbours of Evia Island. Join our captain, Thanos, on board his traditional Greek sailing boat and explore the beautiful bays and ancient ruins scattered along this historic coastline. Along the way we drop anchor at tranquil fishing villages and local taverns to sample the delicious Mediterranean cuisine.

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 tour at Athens airport and transfer to Evia Island to board our caique

Join tour at Athens International Airport. We then travel by bus to the port of Rafina where we catch a ferry to the island of Evia. On arrival it is a short taxi / minibus ride to Karystos where the caique is moored.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Cruise to Karystos; chance to swim and visit Costello Rosso Fort

Our first destination is the harbour town of Karystos, we stop briefly at an anchorage close to Bouros for a swim, before continuing on for an afternoon's exploration of the town. You could visit Costello Rosso or the famous winery Estete of Montofoli.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 Chance to enjoy a walk to Agios Dimitrios; cruise to Panagia

Our next destination is Panagia, a small fishing village lying in the shelter of a fjord. En route, we will stop to swim in the waters off the rugged and undeveloped coastline. Once at Panagia, you could walk to the inland village of Argyro where the tiny red-roofed houses are dwarfed by the mountains or visit the beautiful church of Panagia renowned for its frescoes and the two historic olive trees of 2,500 years old next to the small stream full of turtles. Dinner in one of the small family run tavernas by the waterfront.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 Cruise via the lagoon at Porto Buffalo to ancient Eretria

Today we will cruise to the limit of the Gulf of Evia, where the island splits from the mainland. Greek legends romantically claim that the divide was caused by Poseidon piercing the earth with his trident. We travel via Porto Buffalo - a beautiful and private lagoon before continuing a leisurely cruise to Eretria, one of the best well known cities of ancient Greece, the birthplace of our alphabet - wrongly named Latin - and an extensive archeological site with a superb museum. We enjoy our evening in the long cosmopolitan promenade of the town watching the small ferries coming and going to the mainland.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 Chance to shop and relax in Eretria before cruising to Nea Styra

We make the most of this morning's perfect location for a swim and snorkel before cruising towards Nea Styra, an area of stunning beaches and coastline. The rolling hills above the small summer resort, lead to the silver-green valley of olives, which we'll have the opportunity to explore this afternoon. As the sun sets in the historic bay of Marathon, the promenade comes to life with all the locals and visitors experiencing the typical Mediterranean strolling before dining al-fresco.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Cruise via peaceful Porto Lafia to the fishing village of Marmari

This morning will see us cruising towards Porto Lafia, a peaceful hamlet where we can swim off the boat in Lafia Bay. From here we continue to Marmari, of typical Aegean fishing village with numerous small tavernas and cafes dotted along the promenade.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Cruise around the exclusive Petali Islands en route back to Karystos

Our last day cruising takes us towards the Archipelagos of Petali, where seven private and exclusive islands offer the best of the 'Jet Set' in the Aegean. Once the summer residence of the Greek Royal family, today the playground of Picasso family, the Embiricos family and other shipping tycoons. Maria Calas spent many summers of her lifetime here. From here we will return to Karystos where we will overnight in a small hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast

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

Today we leave Karystos and take the short taxi / minibus ride back to the ferry for the journey back to Rafina. From Rafina we are transfered to Athens International Airport where our tour ends. * The itinerary may vary depending on local weather conditions

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

MV Isidoros II - Our caique has a large sundeck and a comfortable, airy galley for meals and indoor relaxing. 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, 3 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

Allow 35 Euros for local transport and entrance fees for optional on-shore excursions. These include:
Castello Rosso (by taxi) - 10 Euros per person
Montofoli Winery Estate (by taxi) - 10 Euros per person
Styra village (by taxi) - 10 Euros per person
Eretria Museum Entrance - 2 Euros per person

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 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. 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 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. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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.

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.

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 tempertaures 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

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 & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one 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 traditional, 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 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 www.explore.co.uk/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 LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â 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: 2016 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2016. 2017/18 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2017.

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