

Northern Greece & Meteora Discovery



Arranged with Travel Editions Group Travel for The Arts Society Dorking

Meteora Monastery

14th-21st April 2027 - 8 days from *£2,165pp

History, Coastlines & Mountain Villages

Often overlooked, Northern Greece is as diverse and as spectacular as the rest of the country and simply should not to be missed! This tour provides the opportunity to discover many highlights of this immense and interesting region, which offers history, unique cultural flavours and plenty of wonderful scenery. Our journey takes us from vibrant seaside Thessaloniki and the vast hills of Halkidiki, to the magnificent landscape of Meteora where age-old monasteries teeter atop stunning rock pinnacles, and the remarkable region of Epirus, scenic, historic and, in parts, almost untouched by the hands of time.



Zagoria stone bridge



Halkidiki coastline

This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel

For further information please contact:

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*Based on minimum 25 travellers. Initial deposit of £300 per person due by 30th September 2026



Itinerary

Day 1: Wednesday 14th April 2027

Arrival in Northern Greece.

Fly from London Gatwick to Thessaloniki where your Greek adventure begins. On arrival, transfer to the welcoming beachfront Golden Star Hotel in the charming seaside village of Perea, well situated along the waterfront promenade. Welcome dinner this evening at the hotel with a relaxed buffet-style meal and wine included.

Day 2: Thursday 15th April 2027

The Blues and Greens of Halkidiki.

Halkidiki is a huge region known both for its glorious beaches and its immense agriculture, which is renowned for several first-class products; wine, olives, first class honey, cheese, ouzo and Tsipouro (the local fire water). Our day is designed to discover just a little of this exceptionally scenic region with a visit to a charming historic village which showcases the Macedonian architecture, as well as a visit to a vineyard that produces many things, but not a drop of wine! Dinner included this evening at a local taverna by the sea.

Day 3: Friday 16th April 2027

A Glimpse of Thessaloniki.

We start today with a visit at the 'top' of Thessaloniki, where the old castle walls are found along with wonderful views that stretch down across the city and over the sea to Mount Olympus, Greece's highest mountain, which can be glimpsed on a clear day. We will visit two historic highlights of the city, the Rotunda and the Arch of Galerius, to get a taste of the city's historic past, and take a leisurely walk on the bustling seafront promenade, which is highlight of Thessaloniki, enjoyed by both visitors and locals alike. There will be free time for you to explore a little around Aristotelus Square, the central buzzy square of Thessaloniki, and have a relaxed lunch (own expense). After lunch, continue your exploration with a visit to the acclaimed Museum of Byzantine Culture, home to an outstanding collection illustrating the rich artistic and religious heritage of the Byzantine world. Later, visit the magnificent Church of Agios Dimitrios, Thessaloniki's most important religious monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site dedicated to the city's patron saint. Return to Perea for dinner.

Day 4: Saturday 17th April 2027

The Glories of Ancient Aigai, Vergina.

Today we head towards our next destination, Meteora, visiting enroute the historic site of

Ancient Aigai, the ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedon, where we find the excellent Royal Tombs Museum, which showcases the incredible riches found in a tomb that is believed to have belonged to Philip II. This spectacular museum has been cleverly created inside the Tumulus where the tomb was discovered. The remains of the great Palace of Aigai, which only opened to the public in 2024 after 16 years of ongoing restoration, is another highlight of this extensive site. The Palace is an optional visit during our visit to Aigai as it does involve a 950 metres uphill walk. After our visit concludes, we continue to the Kastraki Hotel where we get our first views of the stunning rocks of Meteora. Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Day 5: Sunday 18th April 2027

The Impressive Rocks and Monasteries of Meteora.

It is not just the monasteries that are a highlight at Meteora but also the astonishing landscape, which is believed to have been formed more than 60 million years ago when the seabed moved downwards leaving exposed towering rock pillars. Hermits first settled in caves on these rocks in the 9th C building simple hermitages and then, from the 11th C onwards they began to build monasteries atop of the pinnacles of these incredible rocks. Meteora, loosely translated, means 'suspended in the air' and when you see the monasteries teetering upon the pinnacles, you understand immediately the significance of the name. Later continue westwards and check-in to the Anemolia Hotel, Ioannina. Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 6: Monday 19th April 2027

Historic Ioannina.

Our day is spent discovering the lakeside city of Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, which saw its zenith under the Albanian tyrant, Ali Pasha, who features in many famous stories of the region. The lake that Ioannina sits alongside, Lake Pamvotis, hosts a tiny, inhabited island, where Ali Pasha met his dramatic end at the hands of the sultan. Today it is a popular place to visit both for its historic past but also for the pleasant trip by boat that takes no more than 10 minutes. After our visits there will be free time for lunch and perhaps a little shopping. Evening dinner included tonight.

Day 7: Tuesday 20th April 2027

Timeless Zagorioria.

When visiting Ioannina, one should never fail to 'dip a toe' into the unique scenic region of Zagorioria. It is a timeless place filled with what can only be described as 'fairy-tale' villages! Forty-six of them dot the region, each built in a traditional style using local stone from the



towering Pindos mountains. The only connection between these villages until the 1950's were stone built arched bridges, that were essential for crossing the fast-flowing rivers, many of these bridges still stand today, providing a wonderfully picturesque remnant of the past. We will visit a village or two, marvel at the bridges, enjoy the sensational tranquil scenery, and finish with lunch in a lovely taverna. This evening we meet for a farewell dinner back in Ioannina.

Day 8: Wednesday 21st April 2027

Departure.

Depart Ioannina for Corfu Airport for return flight to London Gatwick.

Where you stay

Golden Star City, Perea	3 nights
Kastraki Hotel, Meteora	1 night
Anemolia Hotel, Ioannina	3 nights

Provisional Flights

Gatwick → Thessaloniki	EZY8243	07:00 → 12:15
Corfu → Gatwick	EZY8214	16:55 → 18:25

Included in the price

- Local return coach transfers from Dorking to Gatwick Airport
- Flights from London Gatwick to Thessaloniki and from Corfu to London Gatwick
- Services of experienced Tour Manager Jane Freeman throughout
- Seven nights' accommodation in carefully selected hotels
- Daily breakfast
- All dinners with wine included
- Two traditional taverna lunches included
- All excursions and sightseeing as detailed
- All tipping included throughout

Not included

- Single room supplement - £265
- Optional Upgrade: Sea View rooms available at the Golden Star Hotel
- Holiday insurance
- Meals other than those stated
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls
- Portage and gratuities

