



# Sailing the Ionian Islands

Country(ies): Greece

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: Gulet Sailboat

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 25

Days: 8 days

Start Location: Corfu, Greece

End Location: Corfu, Greece

Meals: Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 6, Dinners - 2

### **Highlights:**

UNESCO listed Corfu Old Town, Islands of Sivota and Mourtos, beautiful Parga, the hidden gem of Antipaxos, the coves of Lakka and Paxos.



# **Itinerary**

# Day 1: Embark in Corfu

The Gulet will be available for boarding from 5pm today. We will provide joining instructions for where to find the boat in Corfu Harbour. Prior to embarking, we recommend taking the time to explore the UNESCO listed Corfo Old Town, where you'll plenty of traditional tavernas, local produce markets and a good selection of interesting shops. After boarding your gulet, you'll have the opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and enjoy your first dinner onboard whilst sailing to our first stop - Kassiopi.

**OVERNIGHT:** On board gulet

**MEALS:** Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 2: Sailing around Sivota and Mourtos Islands

The Ionian Islands are known for their lush forests, green hills and abundant olives groves, not to mention the clear waters and white beaches! Today you'll be sailing around the Sivota and Mourtos Islands, located south of the Corfu mainland.

After arriving here you'll spend time sailing around the islands, visiting the Blue Lagoon and the famous Papanikolis Cave, which played an important role in WWII, sheltering Greek war ships.

Later today, you'll have free time to explore the traditional Marina Village, where you'll have time to eat in one of the many tavernas.

**OVERNIGHT:** On board gulet **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch

**EXTRAS:** 

# **Day 3: Exploring Parga**

Parga, with its two crystal clear bays and Venetian Castle is often described as one of the most beautiful villages in Greece. For those visting Greece in the summer months, a stop in Parga is a must! You'll have plenty of free time today to explore the town or visit one of the beautiful beaches.

Note: As Parga has a relatively undeveloped port infrastructure, it is not always possible to find space for our gulet to dock. If this is the case, it may be necessary for you to take a water taxi to reach the shore. The cost of this is not included in the overall trip price.

**OVERNIGHT:** On board gulet **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch

**EXTRAS:** 

# Day 4: Hidden Antipaxos

Despite its small size, Antipaxos is a true hidden gem. After arriving on the island, we'll fill up with an onboard lunch before a day of exploring the coast. We'll visit some of the islands most secluded and tranquil bays. We'll also visit the famous beaches of Voutoumi and Vrika. Whilst here, you'll have the chance to snorkel in some of the clearest waters in Greece or take a walk to one of the three main towns of Gaios, Loggos or Lakka. In the evening, the group will normally visit a beachfront restaurant for dinner together - the cost of dinner is not included in the overall trip price.

**OVERNIGHT:** On board gulet **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 5: Beautiful Paxos

Today we'll visit Paxos, known for its excellent Olive Oil, which is often considered one of the worlds best varieties. You'll have time today to explore this lush green island, why not consider renting a bycycle to head to one of the secluded coves which surround the island. Alternatively you can spend the day exploring the city, eating traditional seafood and meze or grab a drink in a local taverna (which are often run by the local fishermen).

**OVERNIGHT:** On board gulet **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 6: Paxos Island

Today we'll visti the island of Paxos, known for it's secluded coves and sea caves. As it's not possible to dock in Lakkas marina, we'll dock in one of the many private coves from where you'll be able to explore the nearby village and beach. The Ionian Sea in this part of Greece is known as a diving/snorkelling hot spot, a dream for underwater explorers!

**OVERNIGHT:** On board gulet **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 7: Return to Corfu Old Town

After spending the week exploring the Ionian Islands, today we'll return to Corfu, basing ourselves in the Old Town Port. You'll have plenty of time today to further explore the town or head to the Venetian Fortress. You'll have a last chance to purchase locally produced souvenirs.

Our final night onboard will be spent docked in the Old Town Marina, where the crew will offer an optional traditional group dinner in town, before returning to the gulet for our final night onboard together.

**OVERNIGHT:** On board gulet **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch

**EXTRAS:** 

### **Day 8: Departure Day**

Today your Greek adventure comes to an end, after breakfast and taking time to bid farewell to the crew and your fellow travellers, disembarkation will take place at 9am in Corfu.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A **MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Included:

- Transportation by Gulet boat
- 7 nights gulet accommodation in a double cabin
- · Services of captain and supporting crew
- 7 Breakfasts,6 Lunches, 2 Dinners (day of 2nd dinner may vary)

#### **Excluded:**

- International Flights
- Airport transfers
- Port Fees ((€100.00 per person, payable at the start of your trip)
- Government imposed cruise tax (€50.00 per person expected to come into force in March 2026)
- Pre/Post tour Accommodation
- Compulsory Travel Insurance
- Suggested optional activities
- Tips Captain and Gulet crew
- Drinks, snacks and personal expenses

#### **Notes**

- Gulet cruises and itineraries are subject to alterations while en-route or before departure.
  These are subject to the final decision of the boat captain and out of our control and may be made at short notice due to weather conditions, the number of other boats in certain bays or other practical reasons. The same overall experience will be maintained.
- Please note that port fees are not included in the cost of this trip, these amount to (€100.00 per person. This will be collected at the start of your trip.

# **Options**

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

### **Standard Cabin - Single supplement (GRSGIO)**

Min numbers: 1

Due to the style and nature of this cruise and the bedding arrangements in the cabins, we do not arrange room shares between people not travelling together. This option therefore provides a single cabin on board the gulet for the duration of the cruise and should be added by all solo travellers.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

# Premium Cabin - Single supplement (GRSGIO)

Min numbers: 1

Due to the style and nature of this cruise and the bedding arrangements in the cabins, we do not arrange room shares between people not travelling together. This option therefore provides a single cabin on board the gulet for the duration of the cruise and should be added by all solo travellers.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

#### **Extra Services**

Min numbers: 1

A selection of extra services are available on this trip, these should be booked and paid for prior to arrival. If you would like to add any of these options to your booking, please let us know.

- Corkage Fee 450.00 EUR per week
- Early Check-in 220 EUR (between 14:00 to 17:00)
- Kayak hire 165 EUR per week
- Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) 220 EUR per week
- Overnight A/C 155 EUR per person per week (between 00:00 and 08:00)
- Bus Transfers Please contact us for pricing
- Birthday Events onboard (cake included) 135 EUR
- Island Excursions (contact us for details)

#### Notes:

- Corkage Fee This option allows you to bring your own drinks onboard.
- Overnight A/C The service also includes a fan. The overnight A/C cannot be substituted by the included A/C during day time hours.

#### **Food & Drinks**

Min numbers: 1

Pre-bookable dinner and drinks packages are available on our Greek sailing tours. Approximate bar pricing is also provided below, rates are generally updated for the coming year in January.

- Local White/Rose wine 4 EUR per glass / 18 EUR per bottle
- Beer (330ml) 3 EUR
- Vodka (glass) 4 EUR
- Rum (glass) 4 EUR
- Gin (glass) 4 EUR
- Mineral Water (1.5l bottle) 1 EUR
- Tea (cup) 2 EUR
- Filter Coffee (cup) 3 EUR
- Espress Coffee (cup) 3 EUR
- Ouzo (shot) 2 EUR
- Aperol (glass) 4 EUR
- Tonic (330ml) 2 EUR
- Soft Drinks (330ml) 2 EUR

If you would prefer to pre-purchase a drinks or dinner package, these must be booked prior to arrival, pricing is provided below:

- Dinners 28 EUR per meal
- Premium Dinners 55 EUR per meal (Fresh Fish etc.)
- Drinks Package (water, soft drinks, local beer, local wine) 23 EUR per person per day
- Premium Drinks Package (water, soft drinks, local beer, local wine, alcoholic drinks) 45 EUR per person per day

#### 1. Gulets in Greece

Spending a few days on a traditional gulet (a handmade, motorised wooden yacht) is one of the highlights of exploring the Greek Islands. You can enjoy plenty of swimming and snorkelling and explore loads of natural and historical sites along the way. As you cruise you can sunbathe on the deck, or read a book or play games on the cushioned seating in the shadow of the aft deck.

Most of the gulets we use feature an interior salon/bar area, both indoor and outdoor eating areas, and a fully equipped galley. The gulets we use in Greece generally carry up to 25 passengers, in 9 cabins (on our Mykonos Gulet, we use a larger vessel carrying up to 46 passengers). All cabins have ensuite toilet & shower facilities. Please note that the shower in Standard cabins is in the form of a wet room, whereas the Premium Cabins have a separate shower cubicle. Single or twin bedded cabins are not generally available unless we have an odd number of people travelling so be prepared for a same-sex room share if you are travelling alone. This being said, many people choose to sleep under the beautiful Mediterranean sky on mattresses on the deck, and only use their cabins as a wardrobe.

**Premium Cabins:** Where premium cabins are offered, these are the same as standard level cabins, the difference relates to the bathroom facilities, where standard cabins have a wet-room and premium cabins have a separate shower cubicle.

The gulets we use are motorised pleasure craft with sails, and while they can manoevre under sail, the majority of the time the motor will be used. This is particularly the case during July and August when winds are very low. Strong winds also cause them to bank steeply and so time actually under sail is generally very limited. These are not sailing vessels where you are expected to help with the rigging or take part in sailing as an activity.

The gulets come with facilities for both outdoor and indoor dining. There are freezers to keep drinks cold, a CD/cassette player (so bring your music!), snorkels and masks, fishing lines and some board games.

You will need to bring your own beach towel and other personal items with you. Charging points are available for your electronic devices in your cabin (you will need to bring an adapter).

#### Health & Safety:

A dinghy with outboard, a ship-to-shore radio, mobile telephone and life jackets are also provided. Please keep away from ropes and hawsers while sailing. Do not jump into the sea while the engine is running. In case of fire please check the position of your nearest life jacket and fire extinguisher - alert everybody on board and put on your life jacket immediately.

All the gulets we use are government approved with fully qualified captains.

#### Accessibility:

The boats we use are not suitable for passengers with special mobility needs. Embarkation gangways do not fit all types of wheelchairs and cabin bathrooms and staircases have restricted space and are generally unsuitable for people with limited mobility.

If you have other physical disabilities please contact us with any queries. It is expected that any passengers requiring special attention, assistance or treatment will be travelling with an escort.

#### 2. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to make the most of their trip. So, we have selected Gulet boats which will allow us to have plenty of space but restrict the group size to a maximum of 25 people, accommodated in 9 cabins.

On Gulet cruises, you will be looked after by the boat captain and their crew. The captain and most crew will speak some English - enough to communicate effectively, if not fluent. We do not send an additional tour guide on our gulet cruises.

We run regular small-group departures on this trip between May and October, generally starting on a Saturday. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of two people. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.
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<b>Note:</b> Please <u>download an up-to-date copy</u> of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.