Wild mountains and rivers

Plan Days 9

Join Trailsbeyond on their “Wild Mountains and rivers” adventure and discover the secret beauty of the Greek mainland! Traditional stone-made villages, lush forests, alpine landscapes, magical lakes and rivers, delicious food and authentic hospitality!

By: Bonnie
# PLAN SUMMARY

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Day 1

1. Athens International Airport “Eleftherios Venizelos”
About region / Access & Useful info

Note: Upon arrival in Athens International Airport, you are met and welcomed by our team. You transfer to your hotel and, since your fellow travel companions arrive in different times of the day, you have the day free to explore the city of Athens and its numerous cultural and historical places of interest.

2. Commercial Center of Athens
Culture / Monuments & sights

Note: Depending on your arrival time, there is an optional Athens bike tour, 90% car – free. Alternatively, you can opt for the Athens guided walking tour and explore the centre of Athens and the principal sites of historical interest on foot under the guidance of our professional guide.

3. Plaka & Anafiotika
Culture / Monuments & sights

Note: In the evening, you will meet with the group to get to know each other and we will discuss the trip details, while enjoying a traditional dinner at a Greek tavern in Plaka, one of the most beautiful, picturesque and traditional neighborhoods in Athens!
Day 2

1. Syntagma Square and the Hellenic Parliament
   Culture / Monuments & sights

   **Note:** Early in the morning, we depart with direction the dreamy Lake Plastira, a destination that combines harmonically serenity with adventure.

2. Plastira Lake
   Nature / Lakes

   **Note:** We will first visit the Dam of the artificial lake and enjoy the stunning views it offers! After lunch in one of the traditional taverns around the lake, we will explore the endless natural beauty of the area on a hydro-bike or canoe/kayak! For those of you that prefer mountain biking, there are numerous trails around the lake.

3. Elati & Pertouli
   About region / Main cities & villages

   **Note:** Later in the afternoon, we depart for dinner and overnight at the beautiful mountainous traditional village of Elati.
1. Elati & Pertouli
About region / Main cities & villages

2. Acheloos River
Nature / Rivers

Note: Today, we will drive along Acheloos river (also called Aspropotamos)

3. Monastery of Timiou Stavrou (Holy Cross)
Culture / Churches & Monasteries

Note: We will then visit some of the traditional scenic villages, the old church of Agia Paraskevi or Holy Transfiguration and the impressive church of Timios Stavros, the only one that features 13 domes, all made of stone.

4. Aspropotamos villages
About region / Main cities & villages

Note: Upon arrival in our beautiful hotel, an interesting cultural evening is waiting for us! We will visit the Folklore Museum, inside the hotel, where we will see traditional gold-embroidered uniforms and weapons of the Greek War for Independence. Then, we will visit the traditional “Mantani” and learn how the women used to wash the woolen clothes in the past. In the end, before dinner, we will visit
Day 4

1. Lakmos
Nature / Mountains

**Note:** After breakfast, we depart for the charming village of Chaliki, built at 1.150m height, in an alpine landscape. Crossing Mt. Lakmos, one of the highest in Greece, we leave Thessaly and enter Epirus prefecture and the imposing Tzoumerka mountains.

![Lakmos Image]

2. Kalarrites
About region / Main cities & villages

**Note:** It is the place where wild nature meets tradition and history. We’ll visit the picturesque village of Kalarrites, renowned for its architecture and unparallel natural beauty of the surrounding landscape.

![Kalarrites Image]

3. Kipina Monastery
Culture / Churches & Monasteries

**Note:** After lunch, we will visit the Kipina Monastery, the most impressive monastery of Epirus, literally hanging from a vertical rock!

![Kipina Monastery Image]

4. Mount Athamanika (Tzoumerka)
Nature / Mountains

**Note:** Driving through the traditional villages of Tzoumerka, we’ll reach the historical arch stone bridge of Plaka, where we will have dinner and overnight.

![Mount Athamanika Image]
5. Stone Bridge Plaka
Culture / Monuments & sights

Note: In year 2015 the stone bridge was destroyed by the bad weather but hopefully reconstruction will start soon!
Day 5

1. Arachthos
Nature / Rivers

Note: Have a nutritious breakfast this morning, as we will go on a rafting adventure in one of the best rivers for rafting in Greece, Arachthos river.

2. Rafting at Arachthos river
Interests & activities / Rafting

Note: While rafting, we will pass under historical arch stone bridges, waterfalls and an underground river! Flying fox over the river comes next!
Day 6

1. Monodendri
About region / Main cities & villages

Note: This morning we will visit the charming villages of Vitsa and Monodendri.

2. Vitsa
About region / Main cities & villages

Note: We will go on a hiking tour around the villages and down to Vikos Gorge to explore the natural landscape, the numerous arch stone bridges over Voidomatis river and learn more about Zagoria and their history.

3. Vikos Gorge
Nature / Gorges

Note: In the afternoon our beautiful horses will take us on a horse riding tour and our professional guide, Daphne, will show us more of Zagoria!
Day 7

1. Mikro & Megalo Papingo
About region / Main cities & villages

Note: Starting from Mikro Papigo village, we will go on a full day hiking tour to the impressive alpine Dragon lake (Drakolimni), which is located at 2.050m height.

2. Drakolimni Gamila
Nature / Lakes

Note: It will take us about 4-4.5 hrs to ascend Mount Tymfi until we reach the alpine lake, but the striking scenery, the views over the Pindos mountain range and the lake itself, rich in myths and traditions will definitely reward us! At about 3 hrs distance from the beginning, we find Astraka refuge, so on our way back, we will stop there to relax and have lunch. On our hiking path, we will meet a lot.

3. Mikro & Megalo Papingo
About region / Main cities & villages

Note: We’ll be back late in the afternoon, so you will have your evening free to get some rest and go for dinner at one of Papigo’s village traditional tavernas.
Day 8

1. Aristi
About region / Main cities & villages

2. Rafting at Voidomatis river (Aristi bridge-Kleidonia bridge)
Interests & activities / Rafting

Note: Prepare yourselves for rafting in one of the clearest rivers in Europe! Starting from the beautiful stone bridge of Aristi, we will cross the National Park of Vikos – Aoos, while rafting across Voidomatis river. This is an easy route, ideal for everyone, yet very impressive because of the river’s crystal clear waters and the surrounding natural landscape.

3. Klidonia Stone Bridge (Voidomatis river)
Culture / Monuments & sights

4. Metsovo
About region / Main cities & villages

Note: In the afternoon, we will drive to the picturesque small town of Metsovo for a coffee/tea break

5. Meteora
Culture / Monuments & sights

Note: It’s time to explore the imposing Meteora, a marvel of nature and UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we will overnight.
Day 9

1. Meteora
Culture / Monuments & sights

Note: This morning we will visit the worldwide renowned impressive top-cliff monasteries of Meteora beyond the ordinary way!

Location: Kalabaka
Απόσταση: Start
Χρόνος: -
GPS: N39.713621793971065, W21.62518480273434

2. Monasteries of Meteora
Culture / Churches & Monasteries

Note: We will follow the paths that the ancient monks used to follow to explore the area and the monasteries and admire the breathtaking views.

Location: Kalabaka
Απόσταση: by car 2.1km
Χρόνος: 29'
GPS: N39.71124485096512, W21.62518480273434

3. Climbing area of Meteora
Interests & activities / Climbing

Note: For the more adventurous of you, you can enjoy rock climbing on the sandstone steep rocks of Meteora and admire this unique natural setting from a different angle. After lunch, we take our way back to the city of Athens, which we will reach in the evening.

Location: on foot 0.0km
Χρόνος: 00'
GPS: N39.711702258207666, W21.62569706452632

4. Athens International Airport
“Eleftherios Venizelos”
About region / Access & Useful info

Note: For those of you having a late evening flight from Athens International Airport, you can be transferred straight to the airport or you can enjoy your last night in beautiful Athens, before leaving next day!

Location: by car 369.9km
Χρόνος: 4h16'
GPS: N37.9363244, W23.947402199999942
Attiki Prefecture

Access

By bus

Bus station Kifissos (KTEL): This is the central bus station connecting Athens with most cities of Greece. It is located at 100 Kifissou Avenue Str. and it can be accessed by the bus lines X93 from "Eleftherios Venizelos" airport, 051 from Omonia and 420 from Piraeus.
Tel.: (+30) 210 5124910-11, 5132601

Bus station Liosion (KTEL): The station is located at 26 Stratigou Dagkli Str. and there are several itineraries to neighboring prefectures of Attica. It can be easily accessed since there is a large number of bus lines passing by the station, such as X93, 420, 701, 704, A10, B10 et al.
Tel.: (+30) 210 8317186
You can call 14505, where recorded information for all the bus stations (KTEL) and the itineraries are provided.

By train

TRAINOSE and OSE: TRAINOSE is the suburban railway company and OSE is the traditional railway company. There are itineraries that connect Attica with central and smaller cities.
Tel.: 14511 (recorded messages)
www.trainose.gr and www.ose.gr

By boat: The prefecture of Athens has three ports to service the passengers' wants. The largest one, the port of Piraeus, is located closer to Athens and thence depart most of the ships. Then follow the ports of Rafina (40km from Athens) and Lavrio (60km from Athens), which have less traffic and itineraries only to certain islands of the Aegean Sea.

Port of Piraeus: It can be easily accessed due to its close distance from Athens. Moreover, the easiest way to get there is by electric-powered train, whose terminal station is located across the port. The passengers can also take the Suburban Railway, whose terminal station is a few meters away from the station of the electric powered train. Moreover, a large number of buses connect the port with several areas of Athens and the suburbs, while it is connected with the airport via the bus line X96.
Tel.: 14541 (for itineraries, changes or delay information)
www.olp.gr

Port of Rafina: To the east of the prefecture of Attica, on the coast Andreas Papandreou is located the port of Rafina. The port can be accessed either by private means or by the itineraries of the bus station (KTEL) of Attica, from where ships depart for Andros, Syros, Tinos, and Mykonos.
Tel.: (+30) 22940 23605, 22840
www.rafinaport.gr

Port of Lavrio: Nearly at the southeast part of Attica, shortly after Sounio, lies the port of Lavrio. It can be accessed either by car or by taxi or by bus (bus station (KTEL) Attica). The port of Lavrio is 60km from Athens and 25km from "El. Venizelos" airport. Moreover, this port has several itineraries to Kea, Lesvos, Limnos, Chios and some other islands of the Aegean Sea.
Tel.: (+30) 22920 27711, 22089
www.oll.gr

By plane: "Eleftherios Venizelos", the national airport of Athens, is located in Spata and is one of the most modern airports. It can be accessed by the following public means of transport: the Suburban Railway, the Metro (blue line), and the bus lines X95 from Syntagma Square, X96 from Piraeus, X93 from the bus station Kifissos and X97 from the metro station Dafni.
Tel.: (+30) 210 3530000
www.aia.gr

Domestic transportation
Means of transport in Athens and Piraeus: The public transport in Athens and Piraeus accommodates almost every corner of the city. In particular, there are:

- The buses (ETHEL) and the trolley buses
- The Attic Metro, which is the fastest mean of transport in Athens
- The Electric-powered Railway, which connects the northern suburbs with the port of Piraeus and is also connected with the two Metro lines.

Moreover, there are two tram lines that connect Piraeus with the center of Athens and the southern coastline from Piraeus till Voula.

For itineraries information, you can contact the Urban Transport Organization of Attica in the telephone numbers 185 and (+30) 210 8200999

www.oasa.gr

Bus station Attica (KTEL): The destinations within the prefecture are accommodated by the point of departure in Athens and specifically at Mavromateon in Pedion of Areos (railway station "Victoria") and at the Agion Asomaton Square in Thissio (railway station "Thissio").

Tel.: (+30) 210 8808080
You can also call 14505, where recorded information are provided for all the bus stations (KTEL) and the itineraries.

Marinas: If you are traveling by private boat in Attica you will find several marinas
Marina of Flisvos: Trokantero area T: (+30) 210 9871000-2
Marina Zeas: Piraeus (+30) 210 4559000
Marina Vouliagmeni: 77 Apollonos Str., T: (+30) 210 8960012-5
Marina Alimos: Kalamaki area, T: (+30) 210 9880000
Marina Glyfada: 2 Saki Karagiorga, Glyfada T: (+30) 213 2025366, 2025200
Marina Olympic: 77th km Athens-Sounion, Lavrio T: (+30) 22920 63700

Useful telephone numbers

Health Services
The number you can call to learn on duty hospitals is the 166 and the 106, which you can also call in an emergency.
Emergency call: 166
Poisons Centre: (+30) 210 7793777
On duty hospitals/pharmacies/doctors: 14944

Municipalities
Municipality of Athens: 63 Athinas Str., Kotzia Square
T: (+30) 213 2082200, 5277000, 33108261
www.cityofathens.gr

Municipality of Piraeus: Korai Square & 1 Dragatsi Str., Piraeus
T: (+30) 213 2022000, 4127941, 4194000

Police Authorities
Emergency call: 100
Tourist police: 171, (+30) 210 6977386
All police services: 1033
Traffic police: (+30) 210 5230111
Road service: 10400

Port Authorities
Port authority of Piraeus: Coast Miaouli 50, Piraeus: (+30) 210 4147800, 4226000
Port authority of Rafina: Coast Andrea Papandreou 1, Rafina: (+30) 22940 22300, 28888
Port authority of Lavrio: (+30) 22920 25249, 26859
Emergency call: 108

Fire Service, Forestry
Emergency call: 199
Forestry: (+30) 210 60173290, 6395280

Transportations
Urban buses: 185 www.oasa.gr
Attiko Metro: (+30) 210 5194001, www.ametro.gr
Suburban Railway: (+30) 210 5272000, www.proastiakos.gr
Tram: (+30) 210 9978000, www.tramsa.gr
Electric Railway: (+30) 210 3248311, 1440, www.isap.gr
Hellenic Railways Organization: (+30) 210 5297777, www.ose.gr
Suburban Buses: (+30) 1440210, 5124910, www.ktel.org
Athens Sightseeing Public Bus N.400: 185
Taxi
Kosmos: 18300, (+30) 210 5200020
Hellas: 801 1157000, (+30) 210 6457000
Enotita: 801 1151000, (+30) 210 6459000
Hermes: (+30) 210 4115200
Ikaros: (+30) 210 5152800
Europi: (+30) 210 5023783
Express: (+30) 210 9943000
Athina 1: (+30) 1203, 210 9212800
Apollon: (+30) 210 3636508
Asteras: (+30) 210 6144000
Prototopia: (+30) 210 2130400
Glyfada: (+30) 210 9605600
Karditsa Prefecture

Access

**By car:** Karditsa Prefecture is located in central Greece. The distance between the capital of Karditsa and Athens is 305km and Thessaloniki 212km. Lamia is 90km away, Larisa 70km and Trikala 25km away. There is a quite good road network to reach the prefecture and inside it.

**By bus:** Buses of Karditsa make often itineraries from and to Athens and Thessaloniki and other big cities. The same buses also serve the connection between villages and cities inside the prefecture. In Karditsa city there is also public transportation available.

Karditsa Buses: (+30) 24410 21001/21411
Thessaloniki Buses: (+30) 2310 595432
Athens Buses: (+30) 210 5120887
www.ktel-karditsas.gr

**By train:** The connection of Karditsa with Athens and Thessaloniki is also available by train itineraries that are quite often. The journey from Athens lasts about 4 hours and from Thessaloniki 2.30 to 3 hours. For more information visit the following websites.

www.ose.gr
www.trainose.gr for ticket purchase

Useful telephone numbers

**Health Services**

Ambulances: 166
Hospital of Karditsa: (+30) 24410 65555, 24413 51555

**Municipality**

Municipality of Karditsa: (+30) 24410 71521
Municipality of Sofades: (+30) 24430 22396
Municipality of Plastira Lake: (+30) 24410 95631
Municipality of Karditsa: (+30) 24410 71521
Municipality of Palamas: (+30) 24440 22333
Municipality of Mouzaki: (+30) 24450 41214
Municipality of Argithea: (+30) 24450 31202

**Police Authorities**

Police: 100
Karditsa Police Department: (+30) 24410 80223
Karditsa Traffic Police: (+30) 24410 80243
Karditsa Tourist Police: (+30) 24410 21534
Mouzaki Police Department: (+30) 24450 42101
Palamas Police Department: (+30) 24440 22222
Sofades Police Department: (+30) 24430 24860

**Fire Services, Forestry**

Fire Service: 199
Karditsa Fire Service: (+30) 24410 71255
Karditsa Forestry: (+30) 24410 71486

**Local Transportations**

Karditsa Buses: (+30) 24410 21411
Thessaloniki Buses: (+30) 2310 595432
Athens Buses: (+30) 210 5120887
Karditsa Railway: (+30) 24410 21755, 21402
Taxis: (+30) 24410 73001-3/23839, 21740
Public Buses: (+30) 24410 21718
Trikala Prefecture

Access

By car: Trikala Prefecture is easily accessible through the road network. The city of Trikala is located 329km away from Athens, 218km away from Thessaloniki, 127km away from Ioannina and 120km away from Volos.

By bus: There is frequent connection between Trikala, Athens (4h30), Thessaloniki (2h45), Volos (2h15), Ioannina (2h15), Grevena (1h45), Karditsa (40’), Patra (5h) and other main cities.
Bus Station of Trikala: (+30) 24310 73130-3

By train: A train network is available from Athens, Thessaloniki, Larisa, Karditsa and Kalabaka, as well as with the in-between stops of each itinerary.
Train Station of Trikala: (+30) 24310 27214.
www.trainose.gr

Local transportations
The local bus network offers often itineraries from the city of Trikala to the most villages of the prefecture. For example Trikala is only 31km away from Elati, 45km away from Pertouli and 20km away from Kalabaka (Meteora).

Useful telephone numbers

Health services
General hospital of Trikala: (+30) 24310 45100
Health center of Kalambaka: (+30) 24320 22222
Health center of Pyli: (+30) 24340 22870
Hospital of Pertouli: (+30) 24340 91205

Municipality
Municipality of Tikala: (+30) 2431-351100
Municipality of Kalampaka: (+30) 24320 22421
Municipality of Pyli: (+30) 24340 22313

Police Authorities
Police station of Ttikala: (+30) 24310 27401
Police station of Kalambaka: (+30) 24320 76100
Police station of Pyli: (+30) 24340 22201
Tourist police: (+30) 24320 76500

Fire department,
Fire department: (+30) 24320 22999

Transportation
Taxi: (+30) 24310 33111, 22111, 33991
Bus station of Trikala: (+30) 24310 73130
Bus station of Kalambaka: (+30) 24320 22432
Train station of Trikala: (+30) 24310 27214
Train station of Kalambaka: (+30) 24320 22451
Ioannina Prefecture

Access

By car: You can reach the area by car, from Athens via Patras the duration of the journey is around 6 hours and from Thessaloniki the trip takes 2-3 hours. You must be very careful as the roads are quite dangerous and if you decide to visit the area during the winter months should be equipped with snow chains.

By bus: If you do not have your own you can use intercity buses that operate to and from Ioannina to many destinations. www.ktelioannina.gr

By plane: The prefecture is connected by air with Athens and Thessaloniki from Ioannina Airport. From Athens the flight takes 45 minutes and from Thessaloniki the duration is around 35 minutes. Airport: (+30) 26510 83605

By boat: Finally, if you’re coming from Italy you can go to the port of Igoumenitsa, 100 km from Ioannina.

Useful telephone numbers

Health Services
Emergency call: (+30) 166
University Hospital Doroutis: (+30) 26510 99111-33461
Hospital Hatzikosta: (+30) 26510 80111
Health center Metsovo: (+30) 26560 41111
Health center Konitsa: (+30) 26550 23111
Pharmacies on Duty: (+30) 26510 23333

Police Authorities
Emergency call: 100
Police station Ioannina: (+30) 26510 26290
Tourist Police: (+30) 26510 25673
Traffic Police Ioannina: (+30) 26510 26308

Fire Services, Forestry
Fire service: 199
Forestry Ioannina: (+30) 26510 88080
Forestry Metsovo: (+30) 26560 42297
Forestry Konitsa: (+30) 26550 22498

Transportations
Taxi: (+30) 26510 46777-9
Bus station Ioannina: (+30) 26510 27442
National airport of Ioannina: (+30) 26510 83605