

GREECE TOUR

13 days / 11 Riding Days



Our Greece Tour takes in all the best that Greece has to offer the motorcycle tourist. We start in Athens, ride Evia Island in the Aegean, then take to the twisties in the mountains of the north - the Pindus Range. There are several good stops at some world-renowned archeological sites, including Meteora and Delphi, and then we enter the Peloponnesus, and ride the stark and beautiful landscape along the stunning Mediterranean coast. Olympia, Monemvasia and Epidaurus are all on the way.

Greece most definitely has everything to offer the tourist, and for the motorcyclist, so much more. To experience the beauty of Greece and its antiquities from the seat of a motorcycle is to experience one of the world's classic tourist destinations to the fullest.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

DATES in 2010

September 24 - October 6
or any time May - Oct for Self guided tour.

COUNTRIES

Greece

TOUR STARTS / ENDS

Athens, Greece

REST DAYS

2; Karpnisi, Olympia

ROUTE

Mileage: 2.600 km (2.400 miles)
Daily rides: 150 - 350 km (90 - 220 miles)
The whole tour runs on asphalt.

HIGHLIGHTS

Riding the mountains of Greece, Delphi, Athens, Meteora, Epidavros, Acropolis, Mani region.

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable, very nice hotels, mostly 4 star, often the best in the area.

TOUR MAP



CULTURE



ROADS



LANDSCAPE



DAY BY DAY

- Day 1:** Arrival in Athens
- Day 2:** Athens - Evia Island
- Day 3:** Evia Island - Meteora
- Day 4:** Meteora - Karpnisi
- Day 5:** Rest day in Karpnisi
- Day 6:** Karpnisi - Delphi
- Day 7:** Delphi - Olympia
- Day 8:** Rest day in Olympia
- Day 9:** Olympia - Mani
- Day 10:** Mani - Monemvasia
- Day 11:** Monemvasia - Nafplio
- Day 12:** Nafplio - Athens
- Day 13:** Flight home from Athens

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GREECE TOUR DAY BY DAY

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Athens

Welcome to Athens. We'll pick you up at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. There you'll have a chance to meet other riders on the tour and try out your bike. If you have time, wander the Plaka, the cobbled pedestrian-only shopping area in central Athens. Or relax on the roof top of the hotel which has a view of the Acropolis. In the evening, we'll eat at a classic Greek Trattoria.

Day 2: Athens - Evia Island

The island of Evia is the second largest island in Greece after Crete and offers us a wonderful introduction to Greece. As we ride the island, we'll discover its beautiful villages, coastal resorts and quaint towns. Riding the coast offers fantastic views of the mountains on one side and the crystal blue waters of the Aegean Sea and Evoikos Gulf on the other. Rest stops mean a number of beautiful beaches to explore.

Day 3: Evia Island - Meteora

After our island tour, get ready for some really active riding. Greece is almost 80% mountainous. The Pindus Mountains provide plenty of twisties and impressive scenery all around. We'll ride these tight turns until they gradually open up to the wild terrain of eroded sandstone peaks, the domain of The Meteora. The Meteora is one of the largest and most important complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Greece. In a region of almost inaccessible sandstone peaks, from the 11th century onwards, monks built twenty four precariously perched monasteries. Today, we are able to visit six of the surviving monasteries and their 16th-century post-Byzantine frescoes.

Day 4: Meteora - Karpenisi

This morning we ride into the mountain again. The beautiful valley of the Karpenisiotis River provides the backdrop for today's ride. We'll travel the convoluted cliff side as it skirts the mountains, stopping for short breaks to enjoy the fabulous views. We overnight in the mountain town of Karpenisi. Mount Tymfristos lies to the north, elevating at nearly 2,315 meters. Karpenisi is a ski resort town. In the summer, it attracts mountain bikers, climbers and river rafters.

Day 5: Rest day in Karpenisi

Today we'll have a rest day in Karpenisi. Enjoy wandering the town's shopping district looking for souvenirs. Try the feta cheese roasted in wax paper and the local sausages, or buy some of the local goat butter and cheese, chestnuts and walnuts. It's possible to take a hike in the surrounding forests. The clear atmosphere, the dry healthy climate, the plane trees, fir and chestnut forests make Karpenisi an ideal place for a nature walk. If more riding suits you, the challenging mountain roads await.

Day 6: Karpenisi - Delphi

Excellent riding greets us again today as we take to the mountain curves once again. Eventually these demanding turns widen out and drop us down into open valleys. In lower lands, the road opens up, and we travel more spacious roads between the mountains, towards one of Greece's most popular archeological sites. Delphi is the ancient home of a renowned Oracle who, with the help of a priest, dispensed advice from the lofty gods to everyday Greek citizens. One of the top ten must-see sites in the world, Delphi was built in the 6th century BC and boasts the Temple of Apollo, the sanctuary of Athena, and the much photographed Tholos. We arrive in the afternoon, so visiting the archeological site after the tour buses leave allows us to truly appreciate this ancient wonder.

Day 7: Delphi - Olympia

Today we enter the Peloponnese, a peninsula now made into an island by the Corinth canal. More exhilarating riding awaits us. As you will see over the next few days, riding through each region of the Peloponnese offers something different. We'll skirt roads which frame rugged mountains, progress through deeply carved coves, and make rest stops in beautiful coastal villages. Riding the Mediterranean coast offers a touring experience found nowhere else in the world. We end our most-excellent journey day in ancient Olympia, with its collection of must-see ancient architectural excavations.

Day 8: Rest day in Olympia

Olympia is set against the mountains and is known for having been the site of the ancient Olympic Games. On the rest day, gather the most avid riders from the tour and attack the coastal and mountainous roads once again. Nothing beats riding with a view of the spectacular Mediterranean Sea. Or if you would rather, explore the excavations of the Olympic Stadium, the Temple of Hera, and the enormous Sanctuary of Zeus, to whom the Olympic Games were dedicated. The archaeological museum houses the Hermes of Praxiteles, a classic sculpture masterpiece.

Day 9: Olympia - Mani

Today we ride the area known as the Mani. One of the most rugged and least traveled areas in all of Greece, we'll journey undulated roads through dryer country. We'll hug the tight coastal road, in view of the spectacular Mediterranean, slowing only to pass through tight arcs high above beautiful azure-blue coves. Here you will see orange, olive and lemon groves, and sheep and goat herders tending flocks. This is Greece as it has been for hundreds of years, before the tourists. In the evening, we'll enjoy traditional Greek seafood and stay in a hotel built from the local stone and overlooking the spectacular coast.

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Day 10: Mani - Monemvasia

Today we'll make the journey up the east side of the Peloponnese to Monemvasia. Monemvasia is a huge rock connected to the mainland and topped by a fortress. Unknown to the observer, the rock has a medieval, stone-built town on the seaward side. During the 6th Century, barbarian incursions forced the inhabitants of the surrounding area to retreat to this natural rock fortress. With its nearly 360 degree views of the sea, and quaint town built out of the local stone, Monemvasia is a great place to sit back on the terrace of the hotel with a drink and gaze out at the ocean.

Day 11: Monemvasia – Nafplio

Guarded by the majestic Palamidi Fortress, which provides stunning views of the town and surrounding coast, Nafplion is one of the most beautiful seaside towns in all of Greece. Filled with neoclassical mansions and perfumed with the flowers of the Mediterranean, stroll the vast pedestrian shopping area to pick up the last of your souvenirs, or simply sit and enjoy dinner and the view at the lively waterfront. A tourist area for Greeks as well as foreigners, Nafplio has a variety of outstanding restaurants.

Day 12: Nafplio - Athens

One last magnificent ride through the stunning and varied terrain of the Peloponnese leads us to Athens. On the way, we'll make a short stop at the World-Heritage listed theater of Epidauros and the Sanctuary of Asclepius. We also have the choice of stopping at Ancient Mycenae, where the Lion Gate entrance is Europe's oldest monumental structure. We'll also pass over the Canal of Corinth, a man-made canal, which connects the Aegean Sea with the Gulf of Corinth. Then we'll end the day back at our hotel in Athens, where our farewell dinner awaits.

Day 13: Flight home from Athens

Depart Athens (if you must). Or spend time in this fabled city. Don't miss the last of the fabulous archeological sites available to you from this tour: The Acropolis, The Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the National Archeological Museum. Or hop to one of the many islands before heading back home.

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2010 GREECE TOUR MOTORCYCLE PRICES (per person in EUR)

Motorbike	Sharing a double room and riding the motorcycle two up.	Sharing a double room and riding the motorcycle solo.	Staying in a single room and riding the motorcycle solo.
Honda CBF 600 S Suzuki V-Strom 650	2.540	3.220	3.620
BMW F 650 GS Honda CBF 1000	2.630	3.400	3.800
BMW F 800 GS	2.720	3.570	3.970
BMW R 1200 GS BMW R 1200 R Yamaha FJR 1300	2.840	3.750	4.150
BMW R 1200 RT	3.000	4.050	4.450
Your Own Motorcycle	2.070	2.200	2.600
Self-guided tour	app 20% discount applies for tour prices above, contact us		

Group discounts available.

The 13 day Greece Tour includes:

- Late model motorcycle with lockable hard luggage and tank bags plus a Third party liability insurance and Comprehensive vehicle insurance.
- Experienced guide on a motorcycle.
- Support van for luggage and 1 or 2 passengers.
- 12 nights accommodation in quality, mostly 4**** hotels or on very nice
- Bed & Breakfasts; each room with private facilities.
- 12 breakfasts in the hotel.
- 10 dinners, mostly in traditional local restaurants.
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure (on the first and last day of tour).
- Highlighted maps of the region
- Extensive tour booklet.

Not included in the tour price:

Air ticket, dinners on rest days, most lunches, drinks, gasoline, tolls, personal spending, tips.