DISCOVER THE BEAUTY

Touring Greece is a unique journey full of adventures and knowledge. A road where the quintessence of adventure lies within the exploration, where the evergreen vista of imposing mountains blends harmonically with the vast, deep blue seas, to portray the versatile mosaic, Greece.

Challenges vary. Ascending on green mountains, exploring the sublime caves, sailing the historic greek seas with their friendly harbours and the indigo beaches, descending frozen rivers... Even greater knowledge is gained through encountering regional fauna and visiting precious biotopes and national eco-parks, as well as traditional settlements that conceal a long-lived history and a profound continuation of old greek morals and customs.

Vivld colours and breathtaking images accompany every journey, whilst sounds and fragrances conveying Greece, stay in the memory for ever... How can one resist the magic of a crimson sun-setting sky, when the sun dives into the emerald sea or the mysterious hazy atmosphere that dominates at sunrise on a steep frozen greek mountain peak? The scent of pine-trees, olives and oaks, the upstanding flying of seagulls, the gurgle of ice-cold water from the wellsprings of a mountain village and the odour of home-made, traditional pies stimulate all senses.

Touring Greece from North to South, milestones are set by emotion-stirring locations, thrilling landscapes and tranquil ecosystems, rendering the entire trip unforgettable. Modern Greece invites travellers to challenge themselves and experience all it has to offer with a single goal in mind: tour around each and every site and fall in love with its unmatched natural beauty...
Thrace is a place of history, with exceptional ecosystems and virgin forests, a meeting point between western lifestyle and oriental culture. Local hospitality mesmerizes visitors, while fauna and flora fascinates...

The natural reserves of Thrace are among the most significant in Greece. It is here, within the ultimate dominance of nature, within the crystal-lake waters and the ‘hopeful’ green of the forests, where the feast of colours leads through the ‘walk of life’. The area of Thrace hosts one of the country’s most varied bird-fauna, where one can enjoy endless hours of bird-spotting.

Exploration at Dadeia forest and Vistonida lake, distinctively protected biotopes of the region, as well as the Evros river estuary take the mind on a journey, with sole companion the inhabitants of the area, the hundreds of rare bird species who live there.

A wish that time would stand still is what comes to mind after a visit at the village of Livadeia, with its well known waterfalls. Continuing the tour to Thrace, numerous choices are offered; hiking on the paths of Haldia National Park, where the oak–beech forest is aged more than 200 years, climbing Balkan’s second tallest waterfalls, with over 40 metres of height and residing at the forest village of Erymanthis, an ideal base for mountain biking, 4x4 off-road driving and trekking. Amid lakes, rivers, fields and forests emerges the seaside and simultaneously lakeside Porto Lagos village. It is at the striking church of Agios Nikolaos, located in the middle of the lagoon, where visitors become one with the thousands of birds flying around them.

Thrake’s dreamy locations elevate the natural beauty of historic places, where one can experience the harmonic coexistence of East and West, by gazing at monumental Orthodox churches close to Muslim establishments. Touring around Thrace, visitors find themselves at the Pomakohoria district, where they can enjoy going through the little stores of traditional art and get acquainted with the friendly locals.

At the island of Samothraki, the medieval chateaux, the water- and oil-mills, the streaming waterfalls and Pergari (Moon), the tallest mountain in the Aegean Sea, set a scene by far different from urban style.

Tasteful oriental sweets are worth taking home after saying goodbye to Thrace, as they will ideally accompany nostalgic memories generated by this wonderful place.

**DONT MISS**
- The Ethnological Museum of Thrace at Alexandroupoli
- Exploring of the aquatic reserves of Xanthi
- Getting familiar with the architecture and the prominent sites of Soufli
- The picturesque villages of Komotini
- Touring the delta forest, in the middle of Euros protected
- The fall of barn birds rivers of Thrace
Picturesque scenery, wild nature, unpaved routes and graphic villages set the scene as one approaches the Macedonia region. A typical Greek coastline along with lakes, mountainous rivers and forests hosting a versatile flora and fauna altogether constitute the well-preserved ecosystem of Macedonia.

Touring begins from Nestos river, whose crystal clear waters run through deep valleys and gorges, while its magical aquatic reserve awaits to be discovered. All visitors are seduced by the sound of absolute silence, interrupted only by the bewitching birds’ singing.

Travelling around, visitors get caught up by the constantly alternating view. Peaceful lakes interchanged by steep mountains and small rural communities spreading throughout the area constitute a completely secluded setting, extremely distant from the hectic urban lifestyle. A perfect example is the mountain-village Nymphoe, where distinctive architecture blends with natural splendour.

In Macedonia, numerous organisations with a sense of high environmental responsibility are dedicated to protect local wildlife and conserve the animals’ natural habitat.

For those who prefer alternative ways of touring, there is a variety of ski resorts at the mountains Kaimaktsalan, Vassilissa, Verno and Verno that can be combined with sightseeing routes at the lake of Kerkini or the Edessa waterfalls. Eco-tourists can also find themselves very close to rural and agricultural areas and familiarize themselves or even participate in the production of the unique local products, like the fine wines and the delicious varieties of cheese. Additionally, the exclusive naturally sour-flavoured water stemming from the headsprings of the Xiro Nero (Sour Water) village, never fails to amaze visitors.

Bird-spotting at the Prespes lake district, travellers find the petite island of Agios Ahillios, where the small church confers an utter ritualistic atmosphere. At Kastoria, visitors will enjoy the local delicacies gazing at the lake, which remains magical all year round. Revived local customs, like the ancient masquerade custom “Regoutaria”, along with the modern music festival “River Party”, constitute only a tiny portion of the diverse cultural character of the town.

The ‘samarakine’ island of Thassos charms the traveller with the white sand and the pine trees that surround its magnificent beaches. The forests of the island are ideal for the nature lovers and for those who wish to explore the mountain-ranges that lead to picturesque alpine villages.

All the way through the astonishing routes one can reach the destination of choice while enjoying nature, relaxing at traditional coffeehouses, chatting with friendly locals, indulging himself in northern Greek delicacies, thus making the entire tour a source of images and experiences never to be forgotten.
Epirus is an adventure of experiences and emotions.

Approaching the northwestern part of Greece, Epirus 'stands up' to expectations. The imposing Tzoumerka mountains, among the few areas not submitting to technology, along with Smolikas, the second highest Greek mountain, and the peak of Grammos mount set the genuinely highland scenery. Firs climb up the steep rocks, reaching the naked alpine zone, while visitors tour in high altitude within the intact nature at the outstanding forest village Kefalos.

Amid the various national eco-parks, Valia Calda (Warm Valley), established in 1966 aiming at the protection of provincial wildlife, offers an exceptional touring experience.

The wild mountain beauty is emphasized by the numerous rivers of the region, such as Greece’s second longest river, Arachthos, and the ‘adventurous’ Aoos and Voidomatis, ideal destinations for all rafting and kayaking aficionados. Human intervention lies solely in the stone bridges – true works of art – spread all over the area. Most famous is the bridge of Pliaki, with a span of 40 metres and height of 20 metres, considered among the most difficult single-arch bridges to build.

Truly outstanding, the Zagoriokoria district consists of 46 villages located throughout the mountains. Each exquisite village can serve as a starting point for expeditions to explore the fascinating nature. In close proximity visitors find Vikos canyon, the second deepest canyon in the world, bearing an admirable ecosystem of 1,700 plants and 182 animals, awaiting to be experienced.

Visitors are equally overwhelmed by the scenery at the Ioannina lake. Also called “Pamvotis” (the all-feeding), the lake stands calm, though sometimes frozen during winter and is still considered as the center of attraction of the region. It is believed to be finally inhabited by man 21,000 years ago.

Still, it is the combination of picturesque landscapes and cultural activities that renders Epirus a unique destination. Byzantine churches and folklore museums coexist with turbulent rivers ideal for rafting, along with smooth slopes perfect for paragliding, whilst everyone can get acquainted or even participate in agricultural activities. Traditional customs authentically revived, in addition to local hospitality, make Epirus simply unforgettable.

It is not sight, Epirus, neither is knowledge. It is emotion and thrill, it is beauty and longing.
The landscape is lush green, the waters deep blue, the local cuisine delicious. Locals turn their every word to song, their every move to dance. The Ionian Sea’s natural splendour seems impervious to time.

The “Ionian Queen”, Corfu, evidently influenced by Venetians, offers sublime mountain vegetation coming in astounding contradiction with its dazzling seas. Enjoying the famous home-made pastitseo dish and sipping the renowned kournak ouzo, visitors wander the koritounia (alleys), leading to forts and mansions, places of historic decision-making.

Heading South, Paxi and Antipaxi, truly green oases within the vast blue of the Ionian Sea, bewitch visitors through their versatil morpholgy. Calm ports and harbours, sea-caves and footpaths set the scene where, according to ancient mythology, Poseidon and Amphitrite fell in love.

The journey continues in Lefkada, the ‘mainlander island’, which is easily accessible by car. Pine-forests and olive groves, streaming waterfalls and fountains of gargling water tempt all hikers. The tour is complete only after tasting the fish delicacies bouderno, cod blanc and mandopita (toddler-pie).

Further towards the South, one finds the birthplace of Odysseus, Ithaca. On top of Astos (eagle) mount visitors have the chance to explore the ancient citadel called “The Palace of Odysseus”, while the surrounding villages fill the background with scents and colours.

One breath away is our next stop, Kefalonia. Picturesque villages, fertile lands, steep rocks and a magical coastline shape the island’s image, while the Aenos national park, hosting a rare and unique in Europe species of black fir, never fails to fascinate visitors.

From the crystal waters of south Ionian Sea emerges the island of Zakynthos, the island of serenade and opera, where emotions are dressed in notes. The “Flower of Levante” (Eastern Blossom) has mountain regions idly extending to the seashores. Visitors are captivated by the aquatic park of Laganas beach, which is inhabited by a mediterranean species of sea turtle (Caretta caretta), one of the rarest animals.

The tour in the Ionian Sea’s nature rejuvenates and becomes...
“From the entire world, the best land is the Thessalian land...”. Many things may have changed from the time when the Oracle of Delphi was giving out its divination, however, the land of Centaurs and home of Asklepios still fascinates visitors with its extraordinary beauty.

Thessaly outstandingly combines lush flora and wonderful beaches, while offering versatile alternative tourism infrastructure. Moreover, the Thessalian mountains fulfill every expectation; they offer ideal locations for extreme-game aficionados, but one can also enjoy an invigorating walk through apple-trees, maple-trees and firs.

Traditional villages spread across almighty green forests gazing at the Aegean Sea, constitute Pelion one of the very few areas where snowy mountain tops are only a breath away from sandy beaches. Inhabited by rare bird and mammal species, Olympus, Greece’s highest mountain, home of the ancient Greek gods, is filled with colours and emotions.

Visiting the villages of Thessaly stimulates all senses, from preserved settlements to the outfalls of Pinios river, which come across the stunning valley of Tembi and host the beautiful flamingo birds. The landmark of the Trikala district is the colossal rock of Metaora, a natural monument, imposingly standing there for millions of years. It is there, where the earth virtually touches the sky and the view from the hospitable monasteries speaks directly to visitors’ hearts.

The journey moves on through stone-built alleys and traditional houses, clearly revealing the rustic origin of the region, while closely lies the Aspropotamos river area, including eight breathtaking forests. The local myth has it that visitors at Neraidonion (village of fairies) may actually see fairies dancing in the woods at night. The rippling of the river is the only distraction, when one stares at the magnificent surroundings at the bridge of Pyra.

The journey is reaching a finale, when suddenly visitors are faced with the stunning Agrafa mountain range, while memories from the region’s biotopes and the vast blue of Plastira lake come to mind.

One wonders what would be today’s divination from the Delphi oracle... He, who decides the tour to Thessaly, definitely shall find out for himself...

DON'T MISS
✓ The thrilling historic monasteries of Meteora
✓ The Roman spa originating from the 2nd century A.D., near Volos, from where, according to mythology, Jason set off for the Argonautic expedition
✓ The lake and challenging passages at the canyon of Collypia in Kinesvia mount
✓ The sightseeing route at Pelion with the 100-years-old steam train
✓ The clock tower within the foot of the sector of Tembi
✓ The Thaegrotta cave in Kalamakia
✓ Horseback riding at Pelion lake district

Thessaly
The Old Steam Train in Pelion
Plastira Lake
Tembi
Agricultural Unit in Pelion
Volos
Olympus Mountain
Ski Resort at Pertouli
Traditional coffee-shops at picturesque squares, home-made delicacies, modern ski resorts, beaches with crystal waters, mysterious villages, trails leading to all sorts of off-road activities, exploration of caves and forests... Central Greece surprises all visitors with the numerous delights it offers, at a short distance from the country's capital, Athens. One thinks, the journey unveils pieces coming straight from fairy-tales.

Touring starts from the Phthiotida prefecture. At the wooded tables of the ‘flagstone squares’, during the autumn, when the leaves are brown, the heart melts and the mind flies. First stop Pavliani, a village equally exciting all year round. In close proximity, Megali Kapsi and the regional forest-village, where the wooden houses with their big fireplaces host visitors. There, one can enjoy mountain biking, archery and flying-fox. At the historic village of Mavrolo, the centennials pine-trees tenderly embrace the traveller.

Continuing the journey towards the Fokida region, visitors have the chance to experience Itea, one of the most stunning greek mountains. Rest awaits at the seaside of Galaxidi village, where the stone-built houses with their colourful doors and windows dominate the scenery. Travellers stand at awe in front of the ancient monuments located at Delphi and the “Center of Earth”, as referred to by ancient Greeks. Being very close to Athens, visitors test themselves at the challenging ski resort of Parnassos mount, residing eventually at Arachova, a beautiful village difficult to describe with words, where tourism infrastructure has not affected local traditions.

With the Acropolis as its eternal landmark, Athens is the ideal destination both for exploration, as well as entertainment. Enjoy a walk through the streets of Plaka, a coffee-break at Monastiraki at Piraeus with its sea-view and nightlife with live greek music. For those willing to escape the frenetic city vibe, a trip to the mountains and seas of Attica hides many surprises. Pamitha mount and its organized refuge, along with Kitheronas and the many alternative tourist activities it offers, make the visit unforgettable. The countless Attica shores with the indigo waters refresh visitors and provide for all those wishing to enjoy sandy beaches, organized seaside resorts and water-sports.

With the impressive Drakopelis (dragon houses), the megalithic constructions aged over 4,500 years at Ohi mount, to the wildlife habitats and traditional fishing-villages, travellers enjoy the tour. The renowned healing spas of Aedipsos, the mythical beaches with the dense pines lagging behind the sea and the seaside taverns as well, constitute the coastline of Evia, which combines it all...

In very close distance from the capital of Greece, the traveller meets the island complex of the Saronikos Gulf, islands with significant history and tradition. The magnificent beaches, the picturesque villages, the miraculous nature and the ancient monuments compose the charming landscape of Salamina, Aegina, Angistri, Poros, Hydra and Spetses.
Angolida, Korinthia, Achaia, Ilia, Messinia, Lakonia, Arkadia... Each place, a different history...

Departing from the eastern Peloponnesse and terminating at the mountains of Arkadia, the traveller is accompanied by recollections from the Ancient Theater of Epidavros, the breath-taking and imposing Palamidi castle and the monuments at the historical Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

The natural surroundings around the Dassios lake, as well as the archeologically and ecologically-intriguing Feneos mountain are ideal for outdoor activities. The camping refuge at the artificial Doxa lake, as well as the invigorating waters and heavenly scents of the Vouraikos canyon allure all visitors.

At the city of Patra, one can enjoy the vivid and colorful carnival, an integral part of the region’s festive atmosphere. Moving further, the traveller can experience challenging off-road 4x4 expeditions, the snowy mountaintops at the ski resort of Kalavryta, the wonderful Limnionas cave and the Foloi forest. Beautiful images fill travellers’ baggage.

Heading West, the Kyline spa are a place of sheer relaxation and serenity, while kayaking and rafting enthusiasts can discover the inner magnificence of the gorge at Afios river.

The journey ‘overflowed’ with colours and sounds, carries on to Loussios river, where the plateau, the waterfalls along with the imposing canyon, the stone bridges and the green coasts arouse the interest of all touring aficionados. The ancient baths of Asklepius seduce all hiking fans during all four seasons.

Going South, where the Perithorio forest and the Neda gorge astonish visitors, greek nature becomes a true challenge, but also delights. Full of biotopes, the slopes of Parnonas mount are intersected by the aquatic reserve of Moustas river.

At the heart of Peloponnesse, stands the Menalo mountain, where virgin forests provide a safe haven to endemic wildlife. From the traditional products of Wydha village to the ‘Olive oil Feast’, that takes place every October at Kranichis village, visitors can experience local mores and customs in their very essence.

Crossing the breathtaking Taygetos mountain, passing through the castles of Mystrias, one stares at the scenery, takes note of all nature’s sounds and discovers its very secrets. Hiking on precipitous paths, the traveler meets the mountain region of Mani, while the Dyros cave leads to the gorge of Larnaka, where rare species of butterflies and remains of aged water-mills can be found. The contrasting scenery transfers the traveler to the marvellous beaches of Elafonissos, an ideal setting for campers.

Final destination is the island of goddess Aphrodite, where gorges, caves and creeks harmonically merge with beaches and indigo waters. There, where the bequeathed civilization bestows culture. Exactly there, the breathtaking landscape of Kythira is formed.

Bewitching sights, idyllic landscapes, timeless images...
Discover

Dating back to ancient Greek mythology, the adventures of Theseus and his father, King Aegeus, appointed the name to the most important Greek sea. The Aegean Sea is characterized by sun-drenched islands, which combine natural beauty and monuments proclaiming their long-standing history. Islands with incomparable beaches mingled with either floral or rocky scenery, equipped with modern accommodation units and connective road networks, challenge and invite all visitors to discover every spot.

Flawless natural beauty, secluded or organized beaches, rich plant life and biotopes along with lively folkloric customs, traditional settlements, local cooking and home-grown products of each island, altogether constitute the Aegean Islands as a center of attraction to any visitor willing to experience Greek hospitality at full splendor.

Touring around the Aegean is matchless, as one, somewhere between the deep blue and the lively green, combines the magic of discovery, the thrill of adventure and the need to relax along with the joy of encountering the friendly locals.

The journey in the islands of northeastern Aegean starts from the island of Limnos with the beautiful biotopes and goes on at Lesvos and its exceptional fossil-forest. At Hios, a land that nature has endowed in a generous and magical way with the privilege of mankind’s worldwide uniqueness, travelers can experience the beneficial effects of the maftba products, while close by they find refuge at a small but picturesque, worth-visitng island, Peira. The tour continues in beautiful Samos, the island of Pythagoreas, where travelers can enjoy endless walks around the dense flora and meet the rich tradition of the island. After a stop at the charming island of Fournos, the journey continues at Ikaria, which is an ideal escape for those who seek a serene island that can offer a great variety of activities.

Touring the Sporades island complex conceals countless surprises, such as golden beaches, impressive caves and traditional monasteries, while it hosts one of the most protected aquatic parks, whose sole purpose is to protect an endangered species of seal (Monoschus monoschus).

At daybreak, the ancient monuments in Delos bestow a bewitching atmosphere, whereas the alleys of the Cycladic islands, with the white houses and numerous chapels, transfer travelers to a different era. The journey continues at Tinos with the traditional pigeon-houses, leading to Naxos, where visitors can taste the Anise-koz cheese, produced only at the island’s mountain villages. At Paros they will be fascinated by the picturesque port and the famous temple of Fanagia Exotourapliani. Visiting Santorini’s volcano and swimming at Mykonos’ beaches ideally complete the book of memories.

At the Dodecanese complex one can relive romantic moments of the past in Rhodes, the ‘island of knights’, explore Kos, birthplace of Hippocrates, the father of medicine, wander in the mysterious streets of Patmos under the imposing monastery, ending his journey at the border land of Kasartonias.

Hospitable people, tasteful goodies and deep-blue sea can be found at each and every Aegean island, replete with colours and sounds that ‘speak’ Greece.
Breathtaking natural beauty... Canyons, caves, lakes, mountains and rivers altogether within a single image...

On the Lefka Ori (White Mountains) at Hania district, nature lovers experience the entirety of beauty. Visiting the national park of the Samaria canyon is astonishing, due to the variety of rare plantation and wildlife, including the famous cretan wild-goat Kri-Kri (Capra s. cretica). Mountain hikers and climbers find themselves bewitched by the rocky landscape. Horseback riding enthusiasts can enjoy nature in equestrian tours. A stop at the cave of Arxosolissa, where the flowered shapes resemble a nubia bear, never fails to fascinate visitors. The prefecture of Hania also includes Gavdos island, which is opposite of the south-western coastline of Crete. Gavdos is a beautiful small lowland island with natural beaches and wonderful shores that fascinate the travellers.

Touring continues at the Rethymno district, where the Venetian fort, the Sfendoni cavern and the Kavoura gorge harmoniously combine man-made and nature's creations. The Kourtaliotis river comes across the captivating Preveli region, where palm-trees and waterfalls take visitors to a "tropical dimension". Climbing Ida mountain brings forward wonderful sights from the bird-watching post, whilst the Nida plateau is a perfect camping spot and base for surprising yourself while discovering the cave of Idaano Andro and the Vorotano gorge.

Moving towards the centre of the island at Iraklio district, the myths related to the Kingdom of Knossos are brought to life, while the humanlike Glouha mount and the gorgeous beaches are merged with the caves of Kamares and Iliathyia. The Asterousia mountains indulge all visitors who, after having crossed the canyons and cloughs and having met the local aquatic world, end up at traditional taverns by the sea. The rough sight of the mountains and the abrupt rocky beaches quench all travellers' thirst and offer ideal setting for 4x4 off-road trucks and other extreme sports. Both the wind-mill farm and the archaeological park succeed to impress, whereas rock climbing lovers head directly to Kepetania region.

The journey concludes on the eastern coast of Crete at Lasithi district. The contrast between the snowy mountain-peaks and the exotic forest of Ve, where a unique range of palm-trees (Phoenix theophrasti) flourishes, is exceptional. Advancing, visitors find Sitia region, the point where three continents intersect. The remains of Minoan civilization along with magnificent beaches are ideal destination for nature and history lovers. Exactly opposite, the travelers meet the Dionsysades islands, which constitute beautiful biotopes. For visitors touring Chrysi (golden) isle, the setting of sapphire waters next to the golden sand under the forests is not utopian. Reaching the gorge of Ha with its petite lakes and challenging canyon next to the cave of Diktano Andro, the nature never ceases to amaze visitors.

Touring Crete is a blend of enjoying nature and indulging to local delicacies. Travellers familiarize themselves with the island and its beauties, while they discover a unique lifestyle right through the island's 'secret treas'.

DON'T MISS
✓ The old town of Hania
✓ The Minoan Palace of Knossos
✓ Tramping at the plateau of Chania near Hania
✓ Knossos lake at Rethymno, the only natural lake of the island
✓ Boutique hotel at Gavdos island near Iraklio
✓ Tasting traditional cretan delicacies made with local olive-oil
✓ The Phaestos sea-village with its treasuries and the small island Agios Nikolaos
Research, Design & Development
Monticore S.A.

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Nikos Dessypris
Antonis Nikolopoulos
Andrea Bonetti

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Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Greek National Tourism Organisation
7, Tsoha Str., GR 115 21, Athens, Greece