
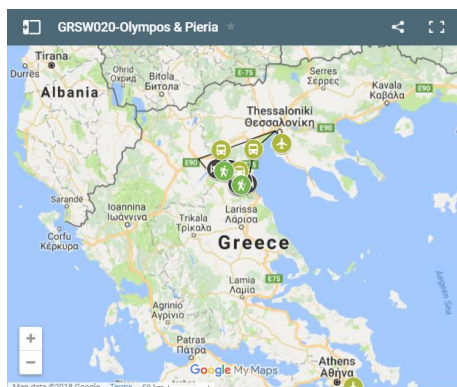


TREKKING WALKING	
style :	Selfguided
level :	●●●●○
duration :	8 days
comfort :	●○○○○
period :	Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code :	GRSW020
	

Northern Greece: Olympus & Pieria - Greece

8 days, price from € 425



- Highest summits of Greece (almost 3000m!)
- Home of the Ancient Greek Gods
- Unknown mountain of Pieria, where hardly any foreigner travels to
- Stay in good mountain huts and in inviting guest houses

An impressive 8-day trek staying in mountain huts along the route in the mountains of Olympus and Pieria in Northern Greece. You start with a 4-day hike over the mystic mountain Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece and home to the Greek Gods. Continuing to the north you cross the Mt. Pieria from east to west via the Flambouro summit. The hike ends in a comfortable hotel in Velvendos.

A challenging hiking tour on these great mountains where the air is clear and your mind will have a chance to clear too! By staying in rural villages at the start and end of the tour, you will come in contact with and live the local culture of this part of Greece!

After an overnight stay in Litochoro, a lively village at the foot of Mt. Olympus, you hike in 4 days across this mystic mountain staying in dormitories in the mountain huts. Whereas, the majority of hikers aim for the summit and then go down directly back to Litochoro, you descend via the eastern slopes and stay overnight in the new Koromilia mountain hut. Upon arrival you will have a short taxi transfer to Ano Milia from where the next part of your hike begins.

You climb the unique Pieria mountain walking up to the mountain hut of the local hiking club of Katerini. You will most likely be the only foreigner there! Via the summit 'Flambouro' you cross further westwards into the prefecture of Kozani. At the end of this day's hike, you go by jeep to the guesthouse Katafygi in eponymous village. This village is only accessible by jeep.

The last hike takes you to Velvendos, a traditional village close to the artificial lake of Polifytou. There you will stay in a lovely hotel in the centre of the village amidst authentic taverns before traveling back home via Thessaloniki.

Route

Day 1 Arrival at Litochoro

Arrival in Litochoro: a picturesque town at the foot of Mt. Olympos from where most hikers start their challenge to the Summits. Time permitted you can make a stroll through the village and make your last preparations for the hike starting tomorrow.

Day 2 Walk to mountain hut 'A' (19 or 9 or 6 km)

Today you start your trek on Mount Olympos. You have 3 different options:

1. You walk the entire route from Litochoro to the mountain hut 'A' via Prionia,
2. you take a taxi to the Ag. Dionysios Monastery and walk from here to the mountain hut 'A' (this route includes a nice section through the Enipeas gorge) or
3. you take a taxi to Prionia and walk the shortest possibility to the mountain hut 'A'.

Challenge: 7,5 hours or 4 hours or 2h45min, 19/9/6 km, 2145/1250/1000m ascent, 405/40/20m descent

Day 3 From hut 'A' via the summits and zonaria to the Mousson plain (11 km)

This is where it is all about! A hefty ascent through an alpine mountaineous area up to the Skala summit (2866m). From this point you have a breathtaking view of the Mytikas summit (2918m) and its climbers. Then over a ridge to our highest point: the Skolio summit (2911m) where you can write your name in the register. Enjoy the views! Go along the Zonaria to the Plateau of the Muses where you stay overnight in the mountain refuge Kakkalos which is nestled among smaller summits.

Challenge: 6 hours, 11 km, 1230m ascent, 650m descent

Day 4 From the Mousson plain to Koromilia mountain hut (10,5 km)

After the demanding trek of the past days, today's walk is easier.

From the Plateau of the Muses you reach the Giosos pass and descend to the small ridge "Lemos" ("throat"). You descend further until you come to the forested area again. You descend still further on shaded paths interspersed with various views, and finally you reach the Koromilia refuge.

Challenge: 4h45min, 10,5 km, 55m ascent, 1675m descent

Day 5 From Koromilia to Ag. Konstantinos and transfer to Ano Milia (4 or 11 km)

From Koromilia you descend further to the east via forest trails, sometimes steeply. In between the trees you have beautiful views over the plains to the sea. The lovely spot near Orlias stream is an invitation for a break. From the church of Ag. Konstantinos you will be picked up by a taxi (from Litochoro) and taken to the mountain hut from the EOS Katerinis 'Ano Milia'.

You may be in time for a half day walk to the summit Pente Pirgi (literally: the 5 wells), a walk mainly on lovely forest trails offering great views of the Olympos summits where you have recently been.

Challenge: 1h45min or 4,5 hours, 4 or 11 km, 0 or 680m ascent, 735 or 680m descent

Day 6 From Ano Milia to Katafygi (25,5 km)

Today's walk is the longest of this trip and mainly follows the E4 long distance trail. Through dense forest you ascend easily to a plain with great views of the surroundings. You pass by a superb picknick hut where you find a spring with the clearest and coolest water you ever tasted! Here you continue to the Flambouro summit: really worth the detour with the breathtaking views all around you! You see the mighty Olympos summits and the artificial lake of Velvendos. You descend until the mountain hut from the EOS Kozani. Unfortunately it is mostly closed. From here you will be picked up by a jeep and taken to the guesthouse Katafygi.

(*Note: in 2014 due to landslides, walkers needed to continue on app. 3 km to the pick-up point where the jeep could reach them.

Challenge: 8 hours, 25,5 km, 1325m ascent, 670m descent

Day 7 From Katafygi to Velvendos (13,5 or 19 km)

From the village of Katafygi an easy mountain trail winds down to the Skouliaritikos Lakkos stream, which you cross by a bridge. After the bridge there follows a gradual descent along forest paths down the slopes of the Alogomandria mountain. A sudden glimpse of the Polifitos Lake, than back into the forest. After a while the whole lake unfolds before your eyes and then also the town of Velvendos comes into view. You reach the plain near the lovely little church of Agios Georgios, where you can take a break. We described an optional detour back and forth to the Waterfalls: the scenery is really worth the effort of 3 kilometers of asphalt road. Back at the outskirts of Velvendos a path takes you to the stadion and then into the town.

Challenge: 5 hours or 3h45min, 13,5 or 19 km, 160 or 35m ascent, 1155 or 1030m descent

Day 8 Departure

After breakfast end of arrangement. Travel to Thessaloniki airport.

Accommodation

All hotels of this trip are carefully selected because of their location, atmosphere and/or unique services. Specified room type ONLY on day 1 and day 6 and 7. Day 2 until and day 5 are in mountain refuges with bunk beds in dormitories and shared facilities

Extra overnight:

You can book additional night(s) at any of the accommodations along the way. We can also book a hotel in Thessaloniki or Athens for you before and/or after the trip.



Xenonas Papanikolaou (Litochoro)

Xenonas Papanikolaou guest house is situated in the picturesque town of Litochoro, 'city of Gods', at the foot of Mount Olympus. It is a unique combination of mountain and sea in the altitude of 300 meters.

www.xenonas-papanikolaou.gr



Mountain Hut 'A'-Spilios Agapithos (Olympos)

Refuge A (Spilios Agapitos) is a magnificent stone building situated on the E4 route that weaves it's way to the top of Mount Olympus. Located on a well situated, stone outcrop at 2,100m, this welcoming hostel is a great stopping point on your journey to the top.

www.mountolympos.gr



Mountain Hut 'C'-Christos Kakalos (Olympos)

Alpine refuge Christos Kakalos is located on the Plateau of Muses at the elevation of 2650m. It was named after Christos Kakalos, the infamous Mount Olympus hunter, who guided Swiss climbers Fred Boissonnas and Daniel Baud Bovy to realize the first recorded ascent to Olympus highest peak Mytikas.

www.olympus-climbing.gr



Koromilia Mountain hut (Olympos)

The refuge is located at 1000 meters in place 'Koromilia' Dion Olympus overlooking the Thermaikos Gulf.

www.koromiliarefuge.gr



Ano Milia-EOS Katerini (Pieria)

A mountain hut with 50 mattresses.



Guesthouse Katafygi (Katafygi)

Guesthouse Katafygi is located at an altitude of 1500 meters and 26 kilometers from the village Velvento Kozanis. Aesthetic and comfortable rooms and spectacular views will make your stay pleasant. Surrounding stunning natural beauty calms while at the same time it seduces the soul of the visitor.

www.hotelkatafygi.com



9 Muses (Velvendos)

A warm and traditional Bed and Breakfast located in Velvendo, ideal for rest and relaxation. Here a visitor will enjoy true peace and quiet, experience the unique hospitality of Velvendo, taste delicious homecooked meals, special local wine as well as the famous homemade fruit jams.

www.9muses-velvento.gr

Practical info



This trip can be book from June 10th until October 15th.



The nearest airport is Thessaloniki airport from where you can travel by local bus (line 78) to the city center. This bus goes also to the intercity bus station. From the intercity bus station in Thessaloniki you take the KTEL bus to Litochoro.



We can send you GPS tracks of this trip upon request and after booking.

Included

(*) specified room type ONLY on day 1 and day 6 and 7. Day 2 until and day 5 are in mountain refuges

Included

- 7 nights accommodation on B&B basis (*)
- Taxi transfer Ag. Konstantinos-Ano Milia on day 5
- Transfer per jeep from mountain hut Kozani to Katafygi guesthouse
- 24-hour telephone assistance, just a phone call away
- Detailed road book and basic maps in English
- GPS tracks

Not included

- Flights and public transportation
- Travel insurance
- Admissions and entrance fees of any kind
- Tips and gratuities
- Personal expenses such as other meals, drinks, phone calls, extra transfers etc.
- Any items that have not been specifically mentioned in the program

Optional services (to be booked in advance)

- Transfer luggage from Litochoro hotel via Ag. Konstantinos-Ano Milia to Velvendos (allowing guests to leave luggage in Litochoro and change part of their luggage during trip Ag. Konstantinos-Ano Milia)
- Additional night/s at any of the accommodations along the way, in Thessaloniki or any other destination in Greece