

GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME

Northern Greece

Thessaloniki · Mount Athos · Vergina · Meteora · Metsovo · Ioannina · Zagori · Kastoria · Edessa · Pella

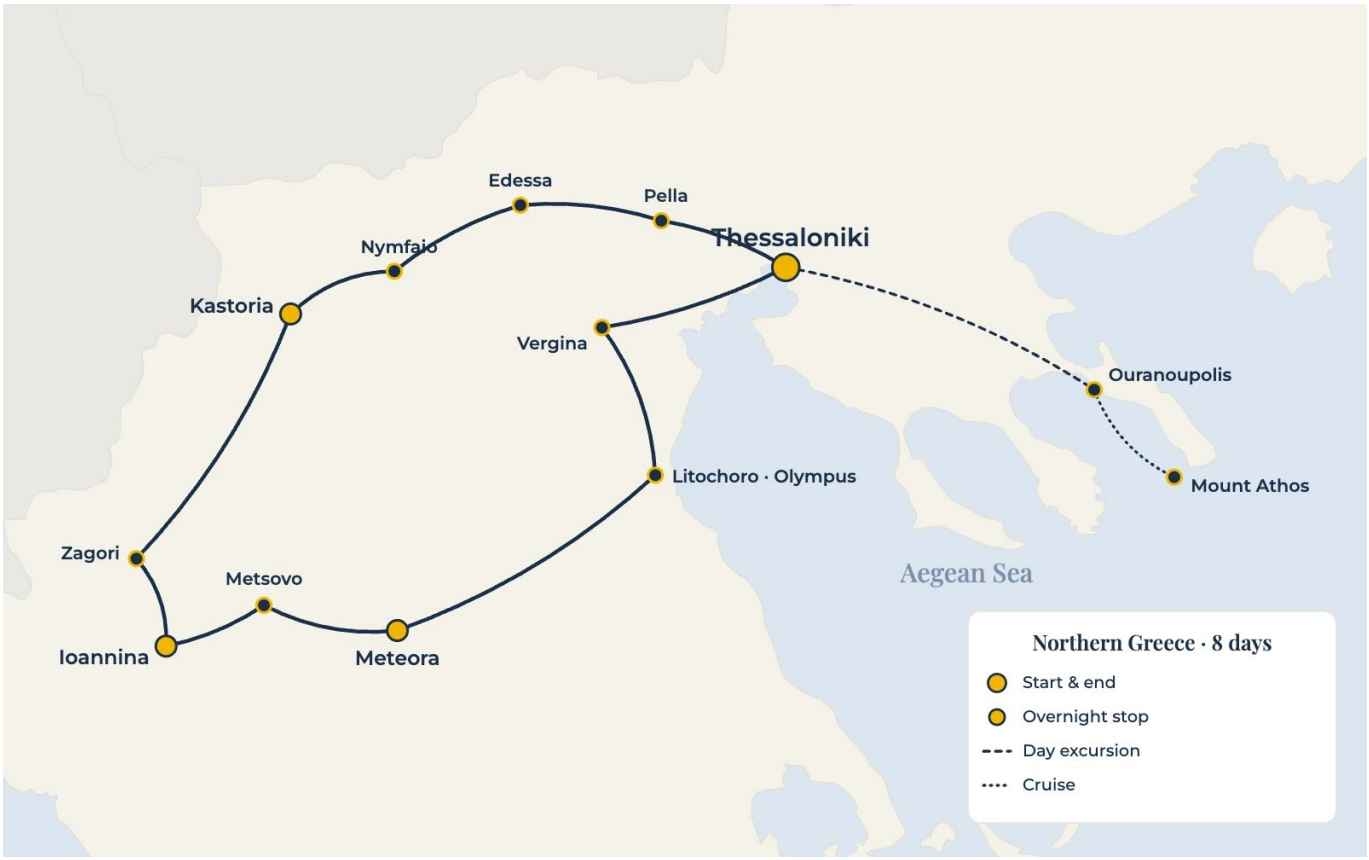
DURATION	GROUP SIZE	REGION	BEST SEASON	TOUR THEME
8 Days · 7 Nights	**10+ Pax**	**Macedonia & Epirus**	**Apr–Oct**	**Byzantine & Macedonian**

The Greece most groups never see: Byzantine Thessaloniki, the monasteries of Mount Athos from the sea, the tomb of Philip II at Vergina, Meteora, the stone villages and gorges of Zagori, and the lakeside towns of Ioannina and Kastoria. A full loop from Thessaloniki airport and back, with six UNESCO World Heritage Sites and mountain scenery the islands cannot offer. Also available as a 5-day version. BenLeToni Tours has handled groups across Greece since 1992 – this programme is tailored for travel agencies and tour operators.

Made for your planning

Every day has a notes field, and the planning sheet on the last page collects what we need for a tailored proposal. Type into this PDF on screen or print it and write on it – then send it back to us.

Tour Route



Included In Our Offer

INCLUDED IN YOUR PROGRAMME

- ✓ 7 nights accommodation – 4 in Thessaloniki, 1 in Kalambaka, 1 in Ioannina, 1 in Kastoria – in 3- and 4-star hotels (5-star on request)
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✓ Private air-conditioned coach throughout the full itinerary
- ✓ Licensed guide for the entire programme
- ✓ All entrance fees to the sites and museums listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Airport transfers on arrival and departure days
- ✓ 24/7 local support contact during your group's stay in Greece
- ✓ Cruise along the coast of Mount Athos

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses and gratuities
- Single room supplements (available on request)
- Optional excursions not listed in the itinerary
- Climate resilience fee, payable locally at the hotels

Full Programme

YOUR NOTES

1

Arrival in Thessaloniki

Arrival at Thessaloniki airport, where your BenLeToni guide meets the group. Transfer to the hotel. Welcome dinner. Overnight Thessaloniki.

2

Thessaloniki

Morning city tour: the White Tower and the seafront, the Rotunda and the Arch of Galerius, and the Byzantine churches of Agios Dimitrios and Hagia Sophia – part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afternoon free for the Archaeological Museum, the markets or the Ano Poli. Overnight Thessaloniki.

3

Ouranoupolis — Mount Athos cruise

Drive to Ouranoupolis on the Chalkidiki peninsula (about 2 hours). Cruise along the west coast of Mount Athos, the monastic republic, past monasteries that look much as they did centuries ago. The cruise is open to everyone, as the boats stay offshore. Return to Thessaloniki. Overnight Thessaloniki.

4

Vergina — Litochoro — Kalambaka

Vergina, ancient Aigai: the royal tombs of the Macedonian kings and the tomb of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, in their underground museum. Free time in Litochoro at the foot of Mount Olympus. Continue to Kalambaka. Overnight Kalambaka.

5

Meteora — Metsovo — Ioannina

Two of the monasteries of Meteora on their sandstone pillars. Over the Pindus mountains to Metsovo, a mountain town known for its cheeses, woodcarving and Aromanian traditions – free time for lunch. Continue to Ioannina on Lake Pamvotis. Overnight Ioannina.

6

Zagori — Kastoria

The villages of Zagori, a UNESCO World Heritage Site: stone houses, arched stone bridges and the viewpoint over the Vikos Gorge. Afternoon drive to Kastoria on its lake, the town of Byzantine churches and fur traders' mansions. Overnight Kastoria.

7

Nymfaio — Edessa — Pella — Thessaloniki

Nymfaio, a stone village in the mountains, and its bear sanctuary. The waterfalls of Edessa, which drop over the cliff in the middle of the town. Pella, birthplace of Alexander the Great, and its floor mosaics. Return to Thessaloniki. Overnight Thessaloniki.

YOUR NOTES

8 **Departure**

Transfer to Thessaloniki airport for departure.

Useful Information

Best time to travel

April to October. May, June, September and October are best: mild weather in the mountains and green landscapes. The Athos cruise runs from spring to autumn; in winter it is replaced by a visit to the Chalkidiki coast.

Hotel category

The programme uses a mix of 3- and 4-star hotels, including traditional stone guesthouses in the mountains where they suit the group. 5-star hotels are available on request in Thessaloniki.

Customisation

The 5-day version covers Thessaloniki, Pella, Edessa, Veria, Vergina, Dion at the foot of Mount Olympus, Meteora and Ioannina, with departure from Thessaloniki. The 8-day programme can be extended with Kavala and Philippi or combined with Corfu.

Walking difficulty

Moderate. Meteora involves stairs up to the monasteries, and Zagori has cobbled paths and uneven stone bridges. Comfortable closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Group size

Minimum group size for this programme is 10 passengers. Coaches and guides are planned around the size of your group.

Dress code

Modest dress is required at Meteora and in the churches – covered shoulders and knees, and at Meteora women wear skirts (wraps are provided at the entrance). We advise all groups of this requirement in advance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can women join the Mount Athos cruise?

Yes. Women may not set foot on Mount Athos, but the cruise boats stay offshore, so the whole group can take the cruise together.

Is there a shorter version of this tour?

Yes. A 5-day version covers Thessaloniki, Pella, Edessa, Veria and Vergina, Dion at the foot of Mount Olympus, Meteora and Ioannina, returning to Thessaloniki for departure.

How long are the driving days?

The longest days are Day 5 (Meteora to Ioannina through the mountains) and Day 6 (Zagori to Kastoria), with about 3 hours of driving each, broken up by stops.

Do we need licensed guides at the archaeological sites?

Yes. Licensed guides are required at the major archaeological sites in Greece. BenLeToni Tours arranges all guides as part of the programme – multilingual guides are available in German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and Japanese.

Can the programme be customised?

Yes. Duration, hotel category, pace and included sites can all be adapted. Contact us with your requirements and we will send a tailored proposal.

YOUR NOTES

Planning sheet

Fill in what you already know and send this page to contact@benletoni-tours.gr. We reply with a tailored proposal within 48 hours.

AGENCY / TOUR OPERATOR

CONTACT PERSON

EMAIL

PHONE

GROUP NAME / CLIENT

TRAVEL DATES

NUMBER OF GUESTS

ROOMS: DOUBLE / TWIN / SINGLE

ARRIVAL FLIGHT

DEPARTURE FLIGHT

GUIDE LANGUAGE

HOTEL CATEGORY

☐ 3-star ☐ 4-star ☐ 5-star

CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME

SPECIAL REQUESTS (DIET, MOBILITY, CELEBRATIONS)

We look forward to welcoming your group to Greece.

CONTACT
contact@benletoni-tours.gr
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benletoni-tours.gr