

Greece Ionian Adventure

ISLANDS, HISTORY
& CHALLENGE

BOLDER 

Adventure

HIGHLIGHTS



IONIAN SEA-KAYAK EXPEDITION

Paddle between Lefkada and nearby islands, wild-camping on quiet beaches and building confidence day by day.



TURTLE CONSERVATION

Learn from active marine-conservation work and support appropriate seasonal tasks around loggerhead nesting beaches.



ATHENS & KORINTHOS

Use temples, streets and landscapes to bring democracy, philosophy, faith and ancient travel to life.



CRETE & SAMARIA GORGE

Extend the journey with one of Europe's great gorge walks and a new island landscape.

Destination

SNAPSHOT



LANDSCAPE

Turquoise bays, limestone coast, islands, olive-covered hills, city archaeology and Crete's dramatic gorges.



CULTURE

Ancient and modern Greece, food, faith, maritime life and island communities.



CHALLENGE LEVEL

Moderate to challenging. Repeated paddling days and wild camps create a real expedition; Crete adds a long trekking day.



ACCOMMODATION

Simple hotels or group accommodation, plus supported beach camps during the kayaking phase and an overnight ferry on some routes.



CLIMATE

Warm, dry summers with strong sun and possible wind. Water and trekking plans remain weather-led.



TRAVEL

Fly to Athens, travel overland to Lefkada and use internal flight or ferry if Crete is included.



ATMOSPHERE

Bright, sociable, historic and adventurous.



BEST FOR

Schools seeking a journey-based water expedition with meaningful conservation and enough culture to support History, Classics, Geography or faith learning.





ATHENS, ISLANDS & CRETE 14 DAYS

ONE POSSIBLE JOURNEY This sample itinerary shows how we believe you can get the most from your time and create a well-balanced adventure. The exact running order and individual elements may vary according to availability, local conditions and the needs of the group. Most aspects can be tailored to suit your school's aims, preferred duration and priorities, so please get in touch and we can shape the right programme with you.

Day 1

Arrive in Athens & Orientate

The group arrives in Athens, meets the local team and transfers to its accommodation. There is time to settle in, recover from the journey and take in the first impressions of the capital before everyone gathers for an evening orientation. This is where the wider route begins to make sense: conservation near Athens, an expedition by sea kayak, then a final trekking and cultural phase in Crete. Expectations, practical arrangements and group roles are introduced without making the arrival day too busy, giving students a calm start before the programme gathers pace.

Day 2

Sea Turtle Conservation in Action

The first full day moves directly into conservation with the Archelon Sea Turtle Protection Society. Students learn about loggerhead turtles, the pressures facing nesting beaches and the practical systems used to protect them. Depending on season and current priorities, the group may support beach monitoring, nest-protection work, data collection or awareness activity; the exact task is confirmed by the conservation team rather than promised in advance. The day gives the programme an immediate sense of purpose and helps students understand that effective conservation is built on patient, repeated work as well as memorable encounters.

Day 3

Athens: History, Culture & St Paul

Today Athens becomes a landscape to read on foot. Guided exploration connects the city's ancient sites with the ideas of democracy, philosophy and faith that travelled far beyond Greece. Places associated with St Paul give the group a clear thread through the day, grounding historical discussion in real streets and landmarks rather than treating the capital as a collection of monuments. Modern city life continues around those layers of history, creating useful contrast and perspective. The pace is exploratory, with time for questions and observation before the adventure turns west towards the Ionian coast.

Day 4

Across Greece to Lefkada

Leaving Athens, the group travels west across mainland Greece towards Lefkada. The transfer is part of the transition: dense city gives way to a more open, coastal landscape and the focus shifts from history to a four-day journey on the water. On arrival near the shoreline, students meet the sea-kayak team, check equipment and work through the route, safety systems and camp routines that will shape the expedition. By evening, boats and kit are ready and everyone understands what the next stage will ask of them.

Day 5

Sea Kayaking: First Launch

The expedition begins with a detailed safety briefing and a practical skills session led by certified sea-kayak guides. Students learn how to control the boats, communicate on the water and work efficiently with a partner before setting out along Lefkada's coastline. Sheltered bays provide space to build confidence, while breaks on quiet beaches divide the first day into manageable sections. Reaching the first wild-camp location is an important arrival in its own right. The group unloads, establishes camp and shares the evening meal, beginning the simple daily rhythm of paddle, camp and prepare for tomorrow.

Day 6

Islands, Coves & a Growing Rhythm

With the first-day nerves behind them, the group continues along the eastern coastline of Lefkada and among nearby islands and coves. Navigation, pacing and decision-making are shared more deliberately, so students begin to understand how a sea journey is managed rather than simply following the lead boat. A remote beach provides a natural pause for lunch, rest and, where conditions allow, a swim. The afternoon paddle leads to a second camp and another round of unloading, cooking and organising equipment. Familiar routines make the team more efficient and leave more time to appreciate the setting.

Day 7

Sea Kayaking: Into the Expedition

The third day on the water carries the journey farther around Meganisi and the islands off eastern Lefkada. The coastline feels quieter and the sense of travelling under your own power becomes stronger. As skills improve, students take greater responsibility for maintaining pace, reading the route and completing camp tasks, always within the guides' safety framework. This is the stage at which separate paddlers begin to work as an expedition group: noticing who needs support, keeping communication clear and making steady progress together. Evening reflection at camp looks back on how much has changed since the first launch.

Day 8

The Final Stretch by Sea Kayak

Camp is packed for the final time and the group returns to the water for the last stretch of coastline. There is still a real journey to complete, but the skills that once required close concentration now feel more natural. A final beach stop and celebratory lunch provide time to recognise the distance travelled before the boats are brought ashore and expedition equipment is packed away. The guides lead a debrief on the water phase, then the pace changes completely: showers, proper beds and a shared meal mark the end of four connected days of paddling and wild camping.







Day 9

North-East via Patras

The group leaves Lefkada and begins the return journey towards Athens, breaking the transfer with a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Patras. After several days focused on sea, weather and camp routines, the museum reconnects the programme with the human history of the regions through which the group has travelled. The transfer also creates useful space to rest and reflect before the next major transition. By evening, everyone is back in Athens, equipment has been reorganised and the kayaking expedition sits as one complete chapter within the wider adventure.

Day 10

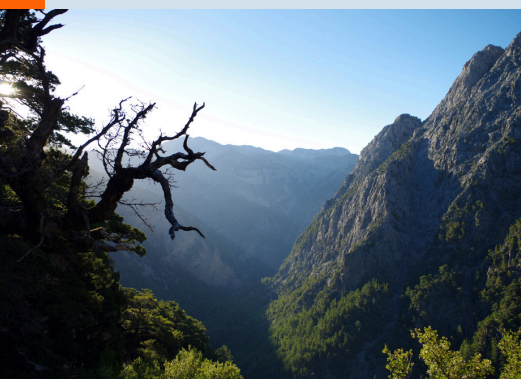
Fly South to Crete

A domestic flight carries the group south to Crete and into a different landscape and cultural setting. The day balances travel with light exploration of the local area, allowing students to orientate themselves without using energy needed for the trekking phase ahead. Once settled, the team reviews timings, equipment and the outline of the Samaria Gorge journey. The move from Ionian coastline to Greece's largest island gives the itinerary fresh momentum, while the slower pace ensures everyone has recovered properly from the sea-kayak expedition.

Day 11

Crete: Explore & Prepare

Today provides context for Crete and practical preparation for the gorge. Local exploration introduces the island's landscape and culture, while equipment checks, route briefings and discussion of pacing make the following day's challenge feel clear and manageable. A light walk keeps the group moving without tiring legs, and the afternoon allows time to rest before an early start. This is a deliberately measured day: anticipation builds, but the emphasis remains on arriving at the trail prepared, with each student understanding the length and character of the journey ahead.



Day 12

The Samaria Gorge Trek

An early start takes the group into Samaria Gorge for the major trekking day of the programme. The route descends between high rock walls and through changing ecosystems, demanding patient pacing over a long day on foot. Students move as one team, using the habits developed during the kayaking expedition - clear communication, steady effort and attention to one another - in a completely different environment. Completing the gorge gives the day a strong sense of achievement. The group then returns to Heraklion for food, recovery and a well-earned night's rest.

Day 13

Crete, Reflection & the Overnight Ferry

The final day in Crete returns to exploration, including places connected with St Paul's journey where the confirmed programme allows. After the physical focus of Samaria Gorge, there is time to look back across both expedition phases and consider how the landscapes, histories and communities of Greece have connected. In the evening, the group boards the overnight ferry to Athens. Leaving the island by sea gives the adventure a memorable final transition: Crete recedes behind the ship while everyone settles in for the journey back to the capital.

Day 14

Arrive in Athens & Fly Home

The ferry arrives back in Athens and the group transfers to the airport for the return flight. It is a straightforward travel day, but it completes a route that has moved through the capital, the Ionian Sea and Crete by kayak, aircraft, foot and ferry. Students head home with two substantial shared challenges behind them: four days of sea kayaking and wild camping, followed by the Samaria Gorge trek. The journey ends with a far richer picture of Greece than a single-location visit could provide.



SHAPE YOUR Adventure

7 DAYS

KAYAK EXPEDITION

Keep the focus on the kayak expedition, making the most of the challenge and journey elements around Lefkada, alongside the rich history of Athens.



12-14 DAYS

CRETE EXTENSION

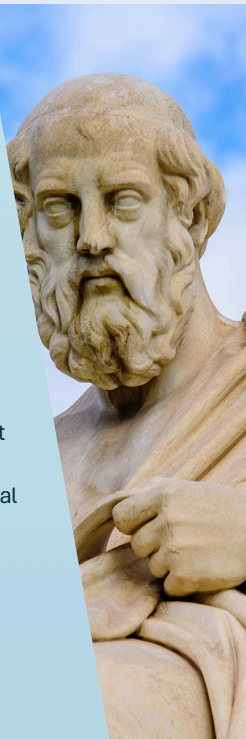
Add the canyon to the challenge. Take on Samaria Gorge, enjoy island culture and add an overnight ferry for a second major physical goal. Any surrounding days can be shaped around culture, conservation, trekking and the school's learning priorities.



LEARNING

CURRICULUM THREAD

Deepen research and connection. Frame the route around Classics, History, Geography, marine ecology or St Paul's journeys without turning the expedition into a conventional tour.



WILDLIFE

FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

Where seasonally available, deepen the marine-conservation component with structured learning and reflection.



NOT SURE WHICH WORKS BEST?

That's where we come in. We'll help shape the right adventure for your team.



WHAT'S INCLUDED



Free teaching staff places
Bolder Adventure Programme Leader 

International flights



All in-country transport
All accommodation, meals and safe drinking water

All required permits/park fees
Guided activities with expert local partners



Group safety, communication & sleep-out equipment
Travel Pack, inc. hoody or tech tee

Comprehensive travel insurance
Safety management & planning
24/7 support during travel



Highly experienced UK account management
Pre-trip briefings & training (*as applicable*)

PLEASE NOTE: Cancellation insurance, visas, vaccinations, personal expenditure, tips for leaders, guides and drivers - and any other services not listed above are not included.

NEXT STEPS

1

Consider your preferred itinerary or direction



2

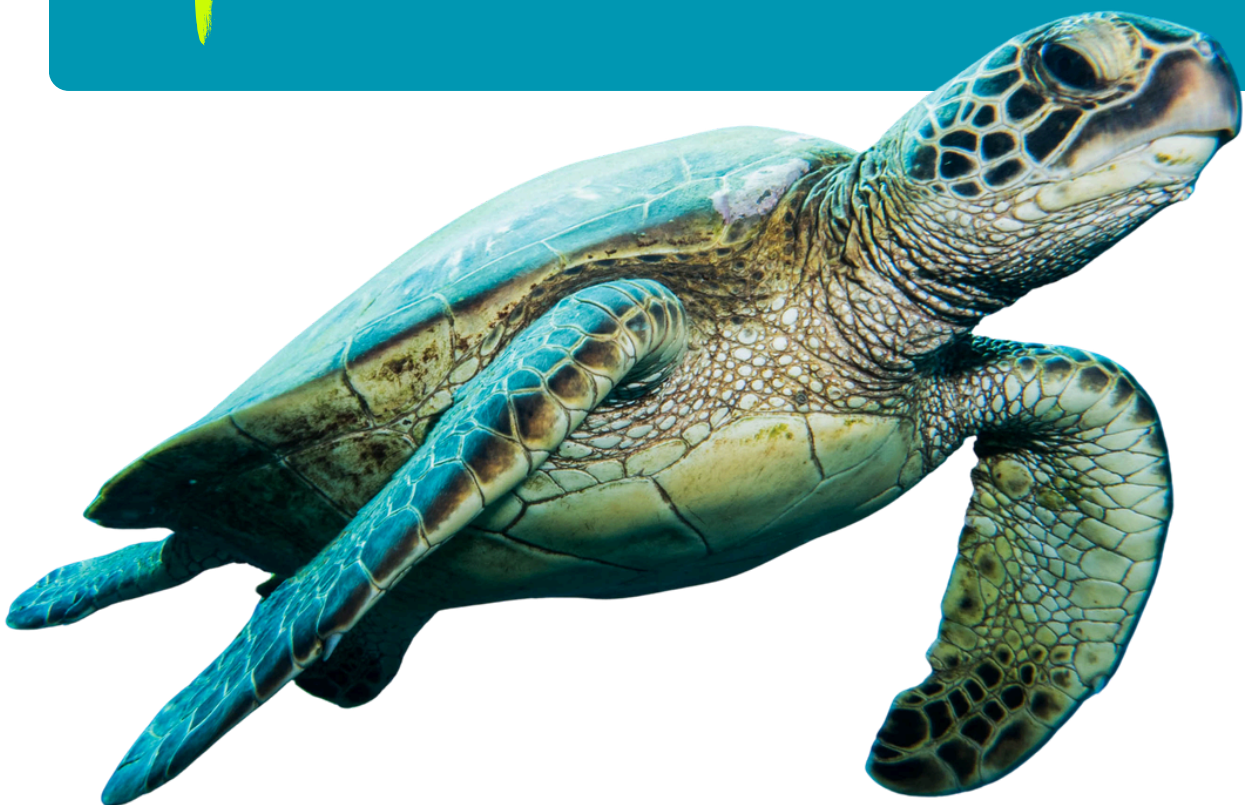
Book a 20 minute planning call. We'll confirm your aims, shape the itinerary, and prepare what you need for SLT and promotion

3

Receive your customised pack for confirmation and launch

4

Reserve your dates with a small holding deposit



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DIFFERENTLY**



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