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## Tour program 2023

Almost all tours are updated with regards to program and price. Two of our North Pindos tours have been altered: the [heavy trekking](#) is extended with a splendid hike over the Grabala summit, and the [medium-level tour](#) is altered because an accommodation closed.

The Naxos Strada tour has been extended with a couple of optional walks for an extended stay; this island really deserves a longer stay!



Only the South Pindos is lagging, why? One of the most beautiful but then again most tricky hikes is the 'Otter path' along the Arachthos river. The path was well maintained, because every year a run was organised. During covid organised runs were prohibited, so the path closed and the river recaptured the banks.

All the same this tour is one of our favourites and runs 'in our back yard', so we didn't want to cancel it too soon. At the moment some maintainance is carried out and Anna will explore the hiking routes again. In accordance with her findings the tour will be updated or cancelled altogether.

## New travels 2023

New in our program is the [Corfu Trail off-season](#). The accommodations along the Corfu Trail only open from mid April to end October. In July and August they don't accept bookings for a short stay and besides it's too hot to hike.

In the winter months the weather is great for hiking on Corfu, so our agent offers in this period a hiking tour with one hotel in Corfu Town and transfers to the walking paths.



**In the pipeline we have the following new tours:**

- 8-day hiking tour Kythira
- 9-day hiking tour Saronic Islands: Poros, Hydra and Aegina, including a guided bicycle tour and optional individual city walk in Athens
- variation on the Pilion trekking with longer walks
- module Meteora, with hikes and a wine and spirit tasting

## Greek holidays

In your holiday planning you have to take into account the (different) Greek holidays. Shops will be closed and especially in a long weekend lots of Greek will be about, so accomodations and places to eat and drink will be crowded.

The first to come is 25 March, Evangelismoú (Annunciation) but also commemoration of the start of the revolution against the Ottomans in 1821. There are both church services and military parades, confusing if you don't know the background.

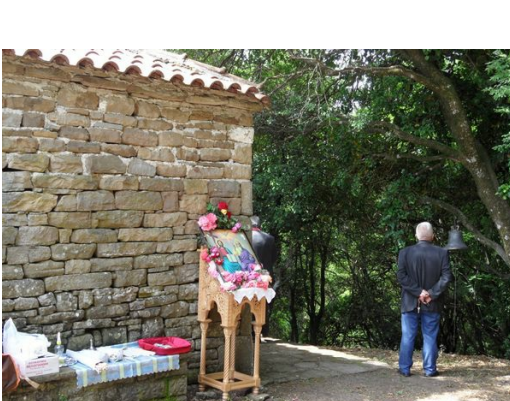
Then comes Easter. Also this year Greek (orthodox) Easter is a week later than in the west and north of Europe, on 16 April. In the newsletter of April 2018 I wrote about the reasons for this aberration. The whole week before Easter, 'Great Week', shop opening times may be different from normal. On Good Friday many processions take place.

Easter ("Páscha") also names the ladybugs: 'paschalitses' in Greek, and lilacs, 'paschaliés'.

Follows the first of May, 'Protomayía'. This day traditionally almost all ferry services are on strike; you may or may not be informed through the itinerary. People go out for picnicks, fly kites and make garlands.

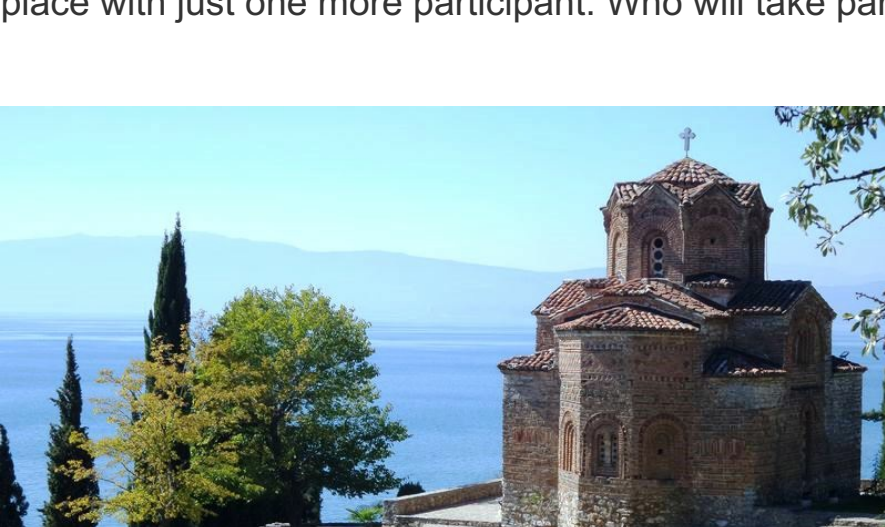
Next is Pentecost, naturally also a week later than in the west, so on 4 and 5 June. Assumption on 15 August is a very important holiday where the whole country grinds to a halt.

Finally we have some saint's days which may or may not influence the traveller. For instance in Ioannina the bakeries are closed on the nameday of Profitis Ilias, the neighbouring districts don't follow this tradition. You may come across a local feast where everyone is welcome.



## Guided bicycle tour Ohrid-Meteora 17-30 June

This magnificent [guided bicycle tour from Ohrid \(Macedonia\) to Meteora](#) with start date 17 June only needs 2 more participants to guarantee departure. And most probably it will also take place with just one more participant. Who will take part in this challenging tour?



## Free GPS-tracks AnnaHiking in Wikiloc

We uploaded a couple of our hikes in [Wikiloc](#).

If you want to follow us so you have easily access to these routes, fill in onder 'Discover new trails': 'anna pelt' and click on 'Members with username anna pelt'. You're shown Anna's profile. Click on the photo and click [Follow].

We uploaded gps-tracks in the Pilion, near mount Smolikas, in the Tzoumerka (South Pindos) and Zagoria (North Pindos). [You'll find the tracks here](#).

## Tips

According to the new First Aid rules a tour leader can do little more than wash a wound with (preferably sterile) water and cover it: "no lotions, no potions, no pills".

Nevertheless I want to share some tips from own experience. Do ask your physician or pharmacist for advice!

You'll find more tips in the [blog](#) in the AnnaHiking website.



### Calloused feet

Who suffers from calloused feet may benefit from **Gehwohl Callus Cream** or **Gena Healthy Hoof**. As the name suggest the latter is originally designed for horses, but works wonders on feet.

I rub every other day the hoof cream and every now and then the callus cream. And of course a regular visit to the pedicure!

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