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After the fires

This year Greece has been ravaged by wood fires, partly caused by accidents, partly deliberately lighted. Project developers regularly set fire to forests because the grounds then will be free for building, especially in the 'more expensive' areas like Attica.

One of the first fires that influenced tourism took place the second half of July on **Rhodes**. It started in a remote nature reserve so it took a while before the fire was discovered and extinguishing activities could start. The fire was enhanced by the upbuilding winds. Tourists and locals were evacuated until the situation was under control.

The [biking tour](#) we offer on Rhodes leads you for a couple of kilometers in the burnt area; the rest of the tour is not affected.

Some days later fires lit on **Corfu**. The [Corfu Trail](#) is hardly affected by the fires and also our [semi-trekking](#) continues as usual.

Also on **Evia** several fires have raged. The area in North Evia that burnt two years ago is not in one of our tours. The fires around Karystos did not affect the [biking tour Evia](#).

The worst fire took place near Alexandroupoli, in the Evros delta and the Dadia forest. These are protected nature reserves, so the ecological damage is huge. The fire brigade could not control the fires, because they kept burning underground. Only the heavy rains that accompanied the storm Daniel extinguished the fires.

The other AnnaHiking tour regions were spared.

The situation in the Pilon after the flooding

In September 2023 the Pilon and Thessaly were vastly ravaged by the storm Daniel, which caused major flooding. Because of it's sudden arrival there was no time to undertake preventive actions. In Greece the overall damage exceeded 2 billion euro.

Where normally the Pilon gets about 380 mm of rain in the whole year, for 4 days at a stretch more then 800 mm per DAY were counted; in Zagora even 1092 mm in one day! The Thessalian plain, a vast agricultural region, was flooded completely, only the roofs showed above the water level.

Just when everything was more or less back to normal and the area began to be cleared, a second storm passed by with again floodings.

We rang our accommodations in the Pilon and fortunately most got off without a lot of damage. Some however, like in Agios Ioannis and Platanias, have been almost destroyed and it is to be seen whether they'll survive. Besides we spoke with a guide there who also organizes the Ultra Pelion Trail, a trail-running event. He told us that although some of the paths are clean, there are still many trees and branches on the path and gullies have expanded to complete rivers. After this discussion we decided to visit the Pilon only after the winter to check the routes.

This means that the Pilon tours are on hold for the moment, and may be booked in autumn 2024 at the earliest. More the pity because we had just finished a new South Pilon tour.

New tours 2023

Kythira hiking

New in the program is a hiking tour on the island [Kythira](#). You'll stay in one location and will have a rental car, so you may design your own hiking program. We described 8 hikes from 2 to 4 hours net walking time.



Saronic islands on foot

A second new tour is a hiking tour on the [Saronic islands](#): Poros, Hydra and Aegina, with a guided bike tour and self-guided hike in Athens. We already had a bike tour on the Saronic, now we also offer a hiking tour.



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