

**Ionian Islands – Corfu – self-guided hike:
8-day off-season walking tour
with 4 stages of the Corfu Trail and
2 walks around Corfu Town
2024 (IKWS214I)**



Our hiking philosophy: active during the day, and in the afternoon a warm shower, a good meal and a comfortable bed in a small-scale accommodation.

We invite you to join us!

more information: www.annahiking.nl



About AnnaHiking and the Corfu Trail

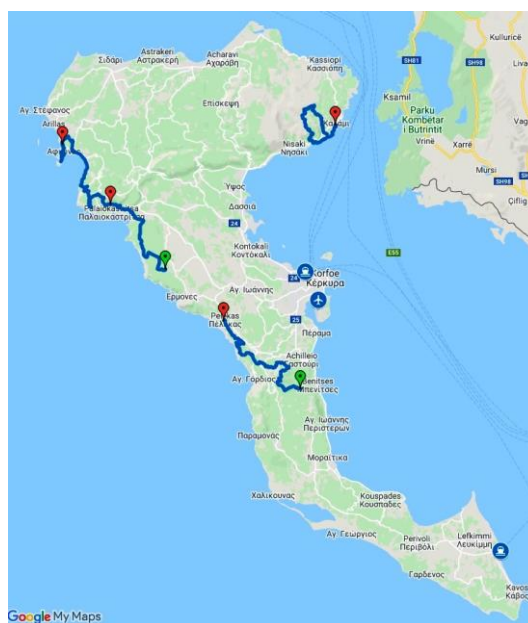
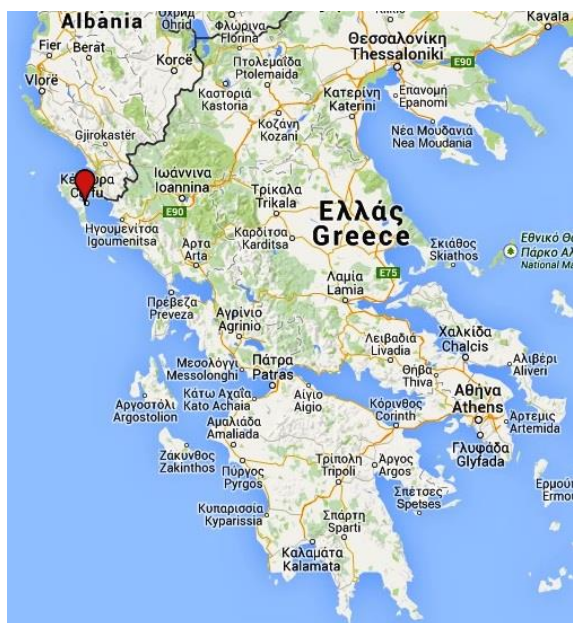
In 1991 we visited Greece for the first time. Our love for the country, the culture, the climate, the food, the language and the Greek has grown ever since. We feel at home here and want to communicate this feeling to others.

Most people are familiar with the Greek “islands with beautiful beaches”. Many islands also boast a splendid inland with historical paths, ideal for hiking. Corfu is such an island with much more on offer than beaches alone, and we’d love to introduce it to you.

The Corfu Trail is only to be hiked as a trekking in May, June, September and October. The reason is the weather and availability of accommodation along the track. We’d like to offer you the possibility to walk some of the Trail also out of this season.

This trip is organized by Aperghi Travel, our Greek colleagues on Corfu. They check and maintain the paths, arrange the (luggage) transfers and the on-site support. As self-guided hiker they’ll provide you with the route descriptions and all other necessary information.

The tour location



General information about the tour and the Corfu Trail

The Corfu climate is soft in winter and hot in summer.

The Trail as trekking is only bookable in May, June, September and October. In July and August it’s too hot and before May and after October the accommodations along the Trail haven’t opened yet. There is interest in the Trail though also in low season, so in March, April and November we offer a selection of the stages that are easily reached from Corfu Town. You stay in Corfu Town during the whole tour.

The weather is unpredictable in this period, so the program is flexible. The order of the walks may be changed and maybe it’s even not possible to do all the walks. You have to be flexible yourself!

You’ll have two days in or around Corfu Town for your own program. In the roadbook with route descriptions you’ll also find a city walk and a walk on Analipsi peninsula south of Corfu Town.



The total length of the **Corfu Trail** is more than 200 kilometers, running from the southernmost to the northernmost tip of Corfu in 11 stages. The trail is generally well marked. It was designed by Hillary Whitton-Paipeti who came to Corfu in 1981. She collected a group of hiking enthusiasts and together they started the Corfu Trail.



The net walking time in this tour is between 3½ and 6 hours (excluding the breaks). The terrain alternates between rough footpaths, cobbled mule paths (kalderimia), gravel roads and tracks, minor roads and beaches. Generally the route is well marked. You'll walk along mountain slopes and summits and through olive groves, taking in typically Corfiotic villages.

We advise you to arrive well trained and fit with well worn-in and ankle-high hiking boots. Thus you'll get more pleasure out of your hiking holiday.

It's a tour for people who want to get to know the Corfu Trail off-season.

Modular set-up: extensions/alterations

The arrangement may be extended with extra days in Corfu Town.

For all your wishes: ask for an estimate!

About the Ionian Islands and Corfu/Kerkyra

The Ionian Islands are located on the west side of the Greek mainland in the Ionian Sea. They are greener than most Greek islands. In Greek they are called 'eptánisa', 'seven islands', because there are 7 larger islands: Corfu, Lefkas (Lefkada), Ithaka, Kefalonia, Paxi or Paxos, Zakynthos and –strangely enough- Kythira which is located south of the Peloponnese. Besides there are some smaller (inhabited) islands like Antipaxos and Meganisi. Apart from Lefkada they have not been ruled by the Turks, but by the Venetians (14th-18th century) and English (1815-1864) who protected the islands from the Ottomans (Turks).

The Venetians imported specific dishes like bourdetto (meat or fish in spicy red sauce), patsisada (veal or chicken with pasta and wine sauce). The British provide the cricket field in Corfu town, which is still in use.



Corfu island (or Kerkyra as the Greek call it) is the most northern Greek island in the Ionian Sea. Part of it is situated next to the Albanian coast and so there are also ferries and excursion boats to Sarande and Dürres in Albania. The island is very green, because of heavy rainfall, mostly in winter.

Since the Venetian time olives formed an important means of income. Depending on the source you consult there are 6 to 10 million olive trees, which are also particularly high. In autumn everywhere in the olive groves you'll see the nets which are used to harvest the olives. Nowadays the olive groves decline in importance or are being used as building grounds for villas and holiday residences.





Another local product is the kumquat, a small citrus fruit, which is conserved and used for a lovely liqueur.

Some other rather striking differences with other Greek islands, due to other rulers in history: lots of cypress trees (the Turks imagined these to bring bad luck and had them cut down elsewhere) and hardly any blue-white painted houses (Greek did that in other parts because the Turks did not allow them to use their blue-white flag).



Tourist attractions are the fortress in Corfu Town and the Achilleion, the palace of the Austrian empress Elisabeth “Sissi”. Corfu Town is UNESCO protected inheritance.



The accommodation

The accommodation is in Corfu Town center; it depends which is available at the time of booking.

Booking

The tour may be booked in the periods from 2 January until 20 April and from 1 November until 12 December.

Prices per person 2024

	for double/twin room	for single room, travelling together	for triple room	solo traveller
2-1 / 20-4	€ 980	€ 1240	€ 905	€ 1700
1-11 / 12-12	€ 980	€ 1240	€ 905	€ 1700

Note:

- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- Availability of single rooms is limited.
- A triple room is a double/twin room with an extra bed and the availability is limited.
- The dates apply to your tour period, not the departure day!
- From January 1st 2018 in Greece an ‘overnight tax’ is applicable. This tax has to be paid at check-in at your accommodation. Tourorganisations are not allowed by law to pay this tax.

The rates per room per night were until 2023: € 0,50 for 2*-hotels, € 1,50 for 3*-hotels, € 3,00 for 4*-hotels and € 4,00 for 5*-hotels.

It seems they’ll be lifted to: €1,50 for 2*-hotels, €3,00 for 3*-hotels, €7,00 for 4*-hotels and €10,00 for 5*-hotels.



Start and end of tour: Corfu airport or ferry port.

Included

- 7 overnight stays on hotel room with en-suite bathroom, including breakfast.
- Transfer from and to the airport, transfers to the start of the walks and from the end of the walks according to the program.
- Contribution to the Corfu Trail maintenance.
- GPS tracks; sent by WeTransfer.
- Hiking map Corfu, sent by post. If you live within the European Union we'll send it to your home address, otherwise the package will be handed over at arrival.
- Information package with route descriptions; handed over at arrival.

Not included

- Flight and insurances.
- Overnight tax (see above).
- Lunches, dinners, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Other transfers not mentioned in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under “included”.

Flight

You'll fly on Corfu airport. You'll be picked up at the airport and returned there at the end of your arrangement.

Luggage

You carry a day pack with water, lunch, warm and rainproof clothing, items for personal care, binoculars/camera etc.

Before departure we send you a list with essential and advised items.





Day to day program

(The elevation profiles can be downloaded separately. Mind: the scale differs per day!)

Note: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks.

The program depends heavily on the weather, so the order of the walks may change or the walks may take place on other days. In case of longtime bad weather walks may be cancelled completely. The agent who does the transfers is responsible and will inform you.

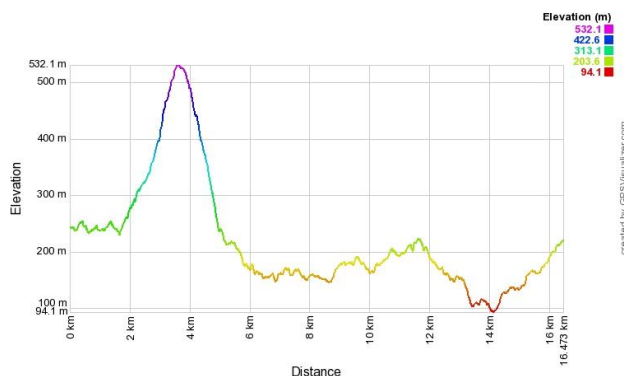
Day 1: Arrival (CT-AC)



You'll be met at Corfu airport and transferred to your accommodation in Corfu Town. You may spend the afternoon exploring the old town.

overnight stay: Corfu Town

Day 2: From Stavros (Coyevinas) via Agi Deka summit to Pelekas (CT-05)



You'll be taken to the starting point in Stavros village. The walk starts with a delightful footpath skirting Agii Deka Mountain and leading to Ano Garouna, from where you make a very sharp ascent to the summit of Agii Deka, Corfu's second highest free-standing peak. Here, an abandoned monastery in a walled garden makes an ideal rest stop.

Your way continues down a cobbled mule path to Agii Deka village then along minor roads and tracks to Sinarades, where you might like to visit the Folk Museum (depending on opening times) and admire the picturesque architecture of this large village.

Alleyways and a track lead to Aerostato, one of the island's most famous viewpoints, then the Trail leads along undulating tracks with very fine views over the west coast and inland to Pelekas. You'll be met and taken back to Corfu Town.

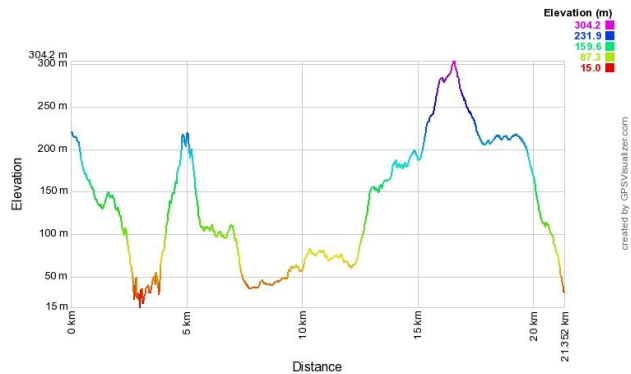


walking time/distance: 6h / 16.8km

ascent/descent: 650m

overnight stay: Corfu Town

Day 3: From Giannades past Liapades to Lakones (CT-06a)



You'll be brought to the picturesque village Giannades. With views over the Ropa valley you'll ascend through olive groves that seem deserted into Liapades, an ancient village full of lovely old mansion houses.

The walk continues with a sharply ascending footpath which immediately brings you high above sea level towards Paleokastritsa. You quickly cross the main road and head into the hills again, using a network of lovely cobbled footpaths. A climb of about an hour takes you to the centuries old village of Lakones and Bella Vista Viewpoint ('the best view in Europe'). You'll be picked up from Lakones.

walking time/distance: 4h30' / 12.0km

ascent/descent: 390m / 350m

overnight stay: Corfu Town

Day 4: Corfu town walk (CS-C1)

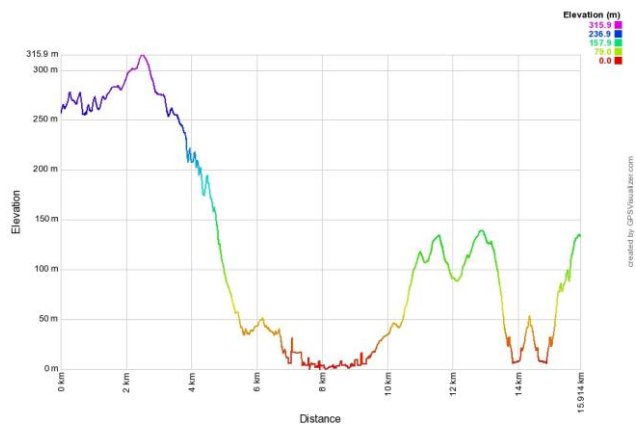


You'll walk the historic centre of Corfu Town. You'll pass Faliraki beach and the fortresses looming above. Then the churches of Agios Spyridon (the patron saint of the island) and Antivouniotissa. You'll also pass the archeologic museum and the British cemetery. You'll have a route description.

overnight stay: Corfu Town



Day 5: From Lakones along the Roman Way to Afionas (CT-07a)



You'll be transferred back to Lakones. You cross the village on asphalt, but the spectacular views make up for it! The Trail then heads across olive groves to Krini (from here you can opt to visit the Byzantine castle Angelokastro), through 'Lily Valley' and on down one of Greece's most remarkable footpaths, which zigzags down a sheer cliff. The way continues down an olive grove track and along the seashore to the resort of Agios Georgios Pagon.

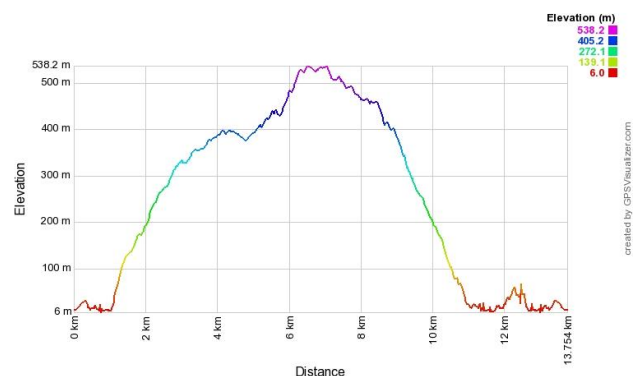
From Agios Georgios it's a steep climb up to the beautiful village of Afionas, with its olive oil shops, narrow alleys and beautiful views. On a footpath, you descend steeply towards the sea below, where the peninsula is so thin that you can choose on which side to swim! The path continues a bit further up the peninsula to the chapel-like cave of Agios Stylianos. You walk back to Afionas where you'll be met again.

walking time/distance: 5h45' / 17.4km (Angelokastro: +1km one way)

ascent/descent: 560m / 450m (Angelokastro: +150m)

overnight stay: Corfu Town

Day 6: From Kentroma along the mountain flanks to Kalami (CT-11a)



You'll be brought to Kentroma for a walk exploring the Northeast of the island. You quickly climb into the hills and then onto the high mountain flanks, through Porta and on to the ruined village of Mengoulas. After some level walking with most spectacular views your descent begins, towards Katavolos and down to the sea at Kaminaki.

Your return is along the high coastal footpath along spectacular bays with sheer cliffs and turquoise waters into Kalami, where you'll be picked up.

walking time/distance: 4h30' / 13.2km

ascent/descent: 430m / 550m

overnight stay: Corfu Town

***Day 7: Circular walk Analipsi peninsula (CS-C2)***

From Corfu Town you walk the Analipsi peninsula. Here you'll find various ancient places of interest: the Greek temple in Mon Repos parc, The two-columned cruciform church of Saint Jason and Sosipater (disciples of the Apostle Paul) and the Vlacherna monastery. This white monastery in the sea is one of the most photographed buildings on Corfu. Along Paleopolis and the Kanoni area you'll return to the town centre.

walking time/distance: 3h30' / 12.3km

ascent/descent: 135m

overnight stay: Corfu Town

Day 8: Departure from Corfu (CT-V)

You'll be picked up and brought to the airport. Should you have booked an extension on the mainland or on Paxos, you'll be brought to the ferry harbour.

