Ionian islands – Paxos – self-guided:
8-day walking tour from Gaios
2019 (IPWS1191)

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

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.

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

We explored several hiking routes and described them in detail. We regularly revise the routes and the description where necessary. As an individual traveller we offer you these descriptions together with GPS-tracks and marked detailed maps, so you can find your way easily. We also offer you an information package with background information, tips for the best meals and several other useful trivia.

The tour location

General tour information

The climate on Paxos is moderate in winter and hot in summer. Springtime (April-June) is abundant with flowers and September-November are lovely mild months for walking. Mid June until end August the island is often crowded with (beach) tourists.

You stay all week in Gaios. Three days a taxi will take you to the start of the walk, the other 2 walks start from and end in your accommodation.

The program contains one spare day to spend according to your own ideas. You might join an excursion boat to Antipaxos (only in summer), for a swim in the crystal clear waters, a lazy day on one of the soft sandy beaches or a stroll along the island carrying the map in your hand.
The Paxos hiking tour is meant for people who are curious about the nature, culture and hinterland of a lovely island.

**About the walks**

We prepared 5 walks of 3¾-4½ hours net walking time (i.e. excluding the breaks). You walk on quiet country asphalt and dirt roads, lovely paths and some stretches over rocky, pebble or sandy beaches. The walks take you over mountain slopes, along villages and through meadows. The paths are not always signposted, but the descriptions are clear.

There may be loose stones and some parts may be steep. We thus recommend you to start the tour well trained and prepared with well worn-in ankle-high walking boots.

**About the Ionian islands and Paxos (Paxi)**

The Ionian islands are situated on the west side of the Greek mainland in the Ionian Sea and are greener than most Greek islands. Their Greek name is ‘eptánisa’ or ‘seven islands’, because the archipel consists of 7 big islands: Corfu, Lefkada (Lefkas), Ithaka, Kefalonia, Paxi or Paxos, Zakynthos and -strangely enough- Kythira which is situated south of the Peloponnese. Besides there are a couple of smaller (inhabited) islands like Antipaxos and Meganisi.

Apart from Lefkada they’ve never been dominated by the Turks. The islands have been ruled by the Venetians (14th-18th century) and English (1815-1864) who protected the population against the Ottomans and contributed to their special atmosphere. They added specific dishes to the menu like bourdetto (meat or fish in spicy red sauce), pastitsada (beef or chicken with noodles and sauce) or sofrito (marinated beef in wine sauce).

The capital and most important harbour is Gaios, a former pirate den, at the south-east side of the island. The harbour is sheltered by two small islets, Panagia and Agios Nikolaos. Other villages of importance are Lakka in the north and Longos in the north-east.

The west coast is formed by steep limestone cliffs, heavily eroded at sea level. At the east coast you’ll find lots of small beaches, alternately sand, pebble and rock. According to mythology Poseidon struck with his trident a piece off Corfu and formed Paxos; he wanted a quiet place for his wife and himself. Just like Corfu Paxos has lots of olive trees (about 500.000) and produces high quality olive oil. You’ll encounter a couple of antique olive presses on your way.

**The accommodation**

Baronessa studios are located near to the beach and the fishing harbour but off the beaten track. It’s a quiet place with a lovely garden. The complex consists of 4 studios with either a double bed or two singles. Each studio has a kitchenette, television set, wifi and airconditioning. The balconies and terraces look out
over sea. You may take breakfast in the café next door or cook your own breakfast.

**Booking**

The arrangement can be booked the whole year. But: the charter flights to Corfu and daily ferry services Corfu-Paxos are from May until end October. Out of season the logistics are more complicated and lots of shops and tavernas are closed.

**Dates and prices per person**

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<th></th>
<th>alone in studio, travelling together</th>
<th>2 people in studio</th>
<th>travelling alone</th>
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<tr>
<td>January-June &amp;</td>
<td>€ 575</td>
<td>€ 380</td>
<td>€ 705</td>
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<td>September-December</td>
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<td>July-August</td>
<td>€ 705</td>
<td>€ 445</td>
<td>€ 835</td>
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Note:
- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- For other group sizes, contact us for an estimate.
- The dates apply to your tour period, not the departure day! If your tour is within more periods, the price will be calculated according to the amount of days in the respective periods.
- 10% discount for people who previously booked an AnnaHiking tour.

**Start and finish:** Paxos Gaios harbour.

**Included**

- 7 overnight stays in Baronessa studios.
- Taxi transfers on Paxos according to the program.
- A hiking map of Paxos and Antipaxos; sent by post.
- GPS-tracks, detailed route descriptions and marked maps of each walk according to the program; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- Information package with background information and information about catering, shops and facilities; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- Reservation costs and support by telephone.

**Not included**

- Flight and own travel expenses: see below.
- Breakfast, lunch, diner, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Insurances.
- Excursions to Antipaxos or otherwise.
- Transfers not mentioned in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under “included”.

**Own travel expenses and flight**

You fly to Corfu airport; you may choose from various carriers.

From the airport you go to the harbour by bus or taxi (about 20 minutes) and take the boat to Paxos (€20 per person one way for the regular ferry). A taxi awaits you in Paxos harbour.

The Kamelia Line ferries sail daily from Corfu from May until mid October; the rest of the year irregularly. In high season there are also hydrofoils from the Nisos Paxon Shipping company (faster but more expensive).
You may have to stay the first and/or last night in Corfu (surcharge), if the ferry schedule does not match your flight.

**Modular set-up: extensions/alterations/abbrevations**

The arrangement can be extended with free days on Paxos.

You may shorten the arrangement by leaving out walks.

You may also hire a car, in Gaios are several agents for car hire.

Finally you can combine the arrangement with (parts of) other tours we offer. We’ll arrange the logistics for you. Easily to be reached are:

- Corfu, where your flight is. We offer a mini-trekking, trekkings along the Corfu Trail or a lovely accommodation near the beach (Boukari Beach).
- North and South Pindos. You take the ferry to Igoumenitsa and the public bus to Ioannina where your arrangement starts. In this area we offer various trekkings, mini-trekkings and walks from one location.

**For all your wishes: ask for an estimate!**

**Luggage**

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

The remaining luggage stays in the accommodation.

The maximum weight of your luggage depends on your airline.

Before departure we send you a list with essential and advised items.
Day to day program
(You can download the elevation profiles separately.)

Note: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks.

Day 1: To Gaios

You are met at the ferry harbour of Gaios and taken to your accommodation. You may explore the village and enjoy a drink on the boulevard.

overnight stay: Paxos Gaios

Day 2: West coast (IP-2)

You are transferred to Lakkas in the north, where you may start the day with a drink in the fishing harbour. From there you stroll along Lakkas bay to Charami beach and turn west. You pass a lighthouse with great views over sea to Corfu.

You then come along one of the cultural highlights of Paxos: the Ypapanthis monastery with the splendid bell tower. The monastery is not accessible, but the bell tower may be ascended.

You continue ascending by a lovely path until the Nikolaos church and from there you descend to the Olive Press museum. We try to arrange a visit for you but it’s private property and the lady of the house has to be present. Finally you head back to Gaios.

walking time/distance: 3h45’ / 12.0km
ascent/descent: 340m
overnight stay: Paxos Gaios
Day 3: South (IP-4)

You make a circular walk from Gaios along the peculiar ‘pavement’ of Ostria, the Galazio viewpoint and an old windmill.

walking time/distance: 3h50’ / 12.5km
ascent/descent: 400m
overnight stay: Paxos Gaios

Day 4: Free day to spend f.e. on Antipaxos

A free day to do as you like: you may take a lazy stroll through Gaios or go to the beach. You might also join an excursion to the islet Antipaxos (not included) with lovely beaches, crystal clear water and wonderful tavernas. Another option is a boat trip to Tripitos arch or Erimitis beach on Paxos.

overnight stay: Paxos Gaios

Day 5: East coast and beaches (IP-1)
A taxi takes you to Lakkas. You pass two beaches and reach Longos by the ‘donkey steps’ along the old soap factory. The lovely fishing harbour of Longos invites you for a drink or lunch on the boulevard.

From Longos you follow the coast and reach Gaios by another 5 exquisite beaches.

walking time/distance: 4h30’ / 13.4km  
ascent/descent: 500m  
overnight stay: Paxos Gaios

**Day 6: Central island (IP-3)**

You are transferred to Longos and walk back to Gaios along historical cisterns and Pountos viewpoint.

walking time/distance: 4h30’ / 12.5km  
ascent/descent: 315m  
overnight stay: Paxos Gaios

**Day 7: Tripitos arch (IP-5)**

You start in Gaios and walk along cape Mousmouli with spectacular views over the rocky west coast. You descend to the famous Tripitos arch and pass the bridge at about 30 meters altitude. The best photo position is from above or from a boat.

After the bridge you follow the west coast to the peninsula Mongonissi. Here you’ll find some tavernas for a refreshing drink before heading back to Gaios again. You may also return by one of the taxi boats that sail from Mongonissi to Gaios.

walking time/distance: 4h / 13.2km  
ascent/descent: 280m  
overnight stay: Paxos Gaios
**Day 8: Departure**

You are picked up at your accommodation and taken to the ferry harbour of Paxos. You sail to Corfu and go by public bus or taxi to the airport. The morning ferry usually sails at 7:30. Should this not connect to your flight, you take the afternoon ferry on day 7 and stay the last night in Corfu town (surcharge). Check the schedules before booking!