

**North-Pindos self-guided:  
8-day light trekking Zagoria and Vikos gorge  
with 6 walks of 3-3½ hours  
2024 (PZWT114I)**

**May be shortened, altered or extended, ask for advice!**



*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](http://www.annahiking.nl)**



### About AnnaHiking

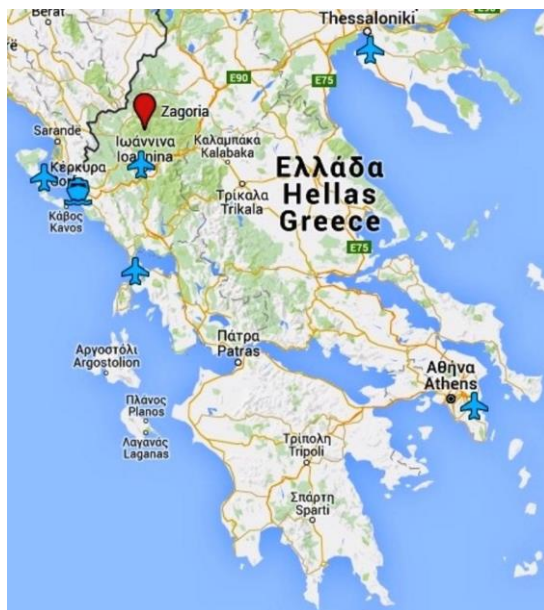
In 1991 we visited Greece for the first time. Our love for the country, the culture, the climate, the food, the language and the Greek has grown ever since. We feel at home here and want to communicate this feeling to others.

Many people are familiar with the Greek beaches: is there more? Sure! The mountainous mainland offers the traditional way of living, close to nature. Here you won't find beaches, but gurgling streams with waterfalls, small houses hugging the mountainside and welcoming people.

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 Pindos mountain range runs along the borders of Epiros and Thessalia provinces in the northwestern mainland of Greece.

You make a trekking with walks of 3 to 3½ hours net walking time per day. You may extend your stay in every accommodation for an extra day to relax.

Most walks are on narrow and sometimes steep mountain paths. Generally the paths are cleared and marked. You will find loose stones on your path and steep drop-offs on the sides. You must be sure-footed and fit and not prone to vertigo.







We advise you to start the tour well trained and prepared with well worn-in ankle-high walking boots.

This is a hiking tour for active people who like to have the time to enjoy the peace and nature of the Greek mountains at ease.

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

The arrangement can be extended with walks and free days in the Zagoria or be combined with a trekking or walks along the Corfu Trail (Kerkyra). We'll gladly advise you about the logistics.

You might also stay some days in Ioannina to explore the city and its environment.

Of course you may also travel on to another destination in Greece. We'll gladly offer advice.

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

***Walking in the North Pindos***

The area has been inhabited since 5000 b.C. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century b.C. many fortifications were built, but little is still visible. The golden age was from 1200 to the start of the Turkish domination in 1430. The famous Plakida or Kalogeros bridge was only built in 1865, when the Turks had as good as left.

The inhabitants lived from agriculture, cattle breeding and trade. Only recently has some income been gained from (mostly Greek) tourism. Still not many people live here, especially not in winter. In summer Greek daytrippers and weekend guests come to admire the bridges and enjoy the fresh air and lovely food.

Wolves and bears still exist in the woods, although the chance of an encounter is very rare.

The North Pindos is famous for its Zagoria villages with their stone houses and paved mule paths (kalderimia), the characteristic stone formations that look like piles of coins (schists) and the Vikos Gorge.

You walk around the Vikos gorge. According to the Guinness book of records this is the deepest gorge in the world: 900m deep at the narrowest point. (*Deeper gorges like the Grand Canyon are not this narrow.*)

During the walks you'll view the Tymfi mountain range with the highest peaks Astraka (2430m) and Gamila (2495m).

***The accommodations***

You'll stay in lovely guest houses and small-scale hotels built in the Zagorian style: thick stone walls, cool in summer (but may be chilly in spring and autumn!). All accommodations have a courtyard or patio inviting you to relax. The hotel in Monodendri boasts a small swimming pool.





Most accommodations offer an excellent local cuisine where the food is prepared with love and expertise. In most villages you may choose from several other tavernas. The guest house in Tsepelovo does not offer meals, but you'll find a couple of restaurants in the village.



### **Bookable**

The arrangement is bookable in the periods from 1 April until 31 July and 1 September until 26 October.

### **Prices per person 2024**

# travellers	room type	1-4 / 6-5 1-10 / 26-10	7-5 / 17-6 1-9 / 30-9	18-6 / 31-7	surcharge national holidays
solo	single	€ 1225	€ 1200	€ 1215	€40
2 pax	2x single	€ 895	€ 875	€ 885	€40
2 pax	double/twin	€ 710	€ 695	€ 705	€40
3 pax	double/twin + single	€ 665	€ 645	€ 655	€40
3 pax	triple	€ 540	€ 535	€ 540	€40
4 pax	2x double/twin	€ 590	€ 575	€ 585	€40

Note:

- If your tour is around one of the Greek holidays (Easter, Pentecost): surcharge of €40 per person and little availability unless you book early.
- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- For other group sizes contact us for an estimate.
- 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 finish:** Ioannina bus station or airport.

### **Included**

- 7 overnight stays in guest houses and small-scale hotels including breakfast.
- A hiking map of the Zagoria region; sent by post. If you live within the European Union we'll send it to your home address, otherwise the package will wait for you in the first accommodation.
- 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.
- All transfers and luggage transports according to the program.



### *Not included*

- Flight and insurances.
- Overnight tax (see above).
- Lunches, diner, drinks and other personal expenses. Packed lunch can be bought from the accommodations and most offer diner.
- Transfers not mentioned in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under “included”.

### *Own travel expenses and flight*

You travel to Ioannina on your own account; we gladly advise you about the possibilities. For more information you may download our [document with possible logistics](#).

Ioannina may be reached in the following ways:

- Flight on Ioannina, always with flight change in Athens.
- Flight on Thessaloniki, Preveza Akti or Athens, public bus to Ioannina.
- Flight on Corfu, ferry to Igoumenitsa and public bus to Ioannina. Very suitable should you wish to extend your stay on Corfu (we offer a walking mini-trekking and beach accommodation).

We can arrange transportation from Thessaloniki or Preveza Akti airport or from Igoumenitsa harbour. 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 or is transferred.

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. The walking times are calculated with a formula from the Dutch Mountaneer's Society NKBV, based on horizontal distance and elevation. Where necessary we lengthen the time indication, f.i. for a difficult steep path, or shorten the time indication f.i. for a gradually descending wide country road.

Of course the times are different per person, it's a guideline. Should you notice that you're often below or above the mentioned times, you may extrapolate this for the rest of the walks.

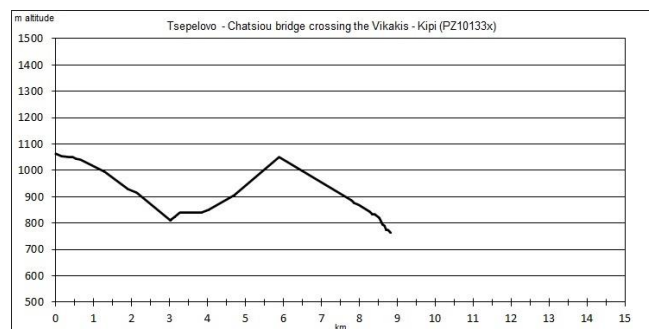
### Day 1: To Tsepelovo



You travel on your own to Ioannina, where you'll be met and taken to the accommodation in Tsepelovo. This lovely village has a cosy square with various tavernas and two little shops.

*overnight stay: Tsepelovo*

### Day 2: Past the Chatsiou bridge to Kipi (PZ10133x)



You leave Tsepelovo by country roads descending towards the Vikakis gorge with the Chatsiou arched bridge. You may follow the river for a short while until a second arched bridge; past it lies a gorge which always contains water and invites you to swim, if you can stand the cold. From the river you ascend through forest roads with sometimes views on the slopes past Tsepelovo. After 3 kilometer the descent starts towards Kipi.

There's an alternative walk by a forest path past the bridge. This walk is more than 2km and almost 1 hour longer. You may choose on the spot.

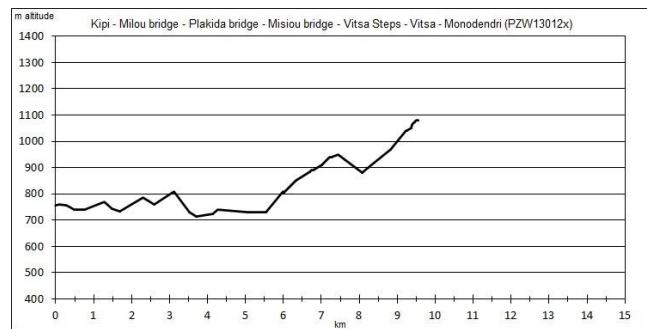
*walking time/distance: 3h / 8,2km*

*ascent/descent: 225m / 540m*

*overnight stay: Kipi*



### Day 3: Along the Zagoria bridges to Monodendri (PZ13012x)



You leave Kipi by the asphalt road and a path over the ‘Miller’s bridge’. You make a small detour to the famous triple arched bridge Plakida or Kaloyero. You proceed by a mountain path over the hill to the Kokoros bridge. From there you follow the stream bed of the Vikos river until you’ve reached the Misiou bridge (1748). Enjoying the views you ascend the ‘Vitsa steps’ to the lovely village with its plane-shaded square and a café with view.

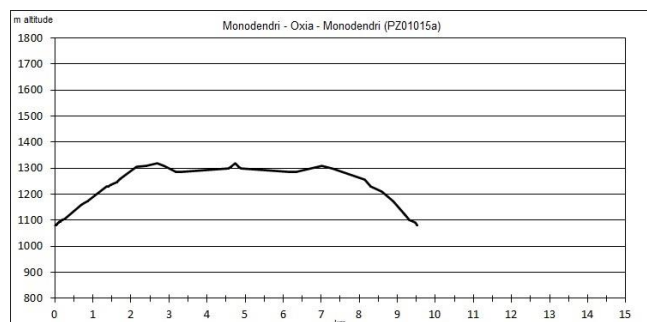
The plane tree is over 600 years old: the planting is mentioned in the records of the Panagia monastery. From Vitsa you ascend further by a forest path to Monodendri.

walking time/distance: 3h30' / 9,5km

ascent/descent: 585m / 260m

overnight stay: Monodendri

### Day 4: Circular walk through the Stone Forest to Oxia viewpoint (PZ01015a)



You make a circular walk from Monodendri. You ascend through the ‘Stone Forest’, limestone formations looking like piles of coins, specific for the Zagoria. Then an easy stretch through a flowery meadow until you’ve reached the Oxia ‘balcony’ for a great view into the Vikos gorge.

You walk back through the meadow and then about 1 kilometer of asphalt road. You head back into the forest and descend by forest paths back to Monodendri.

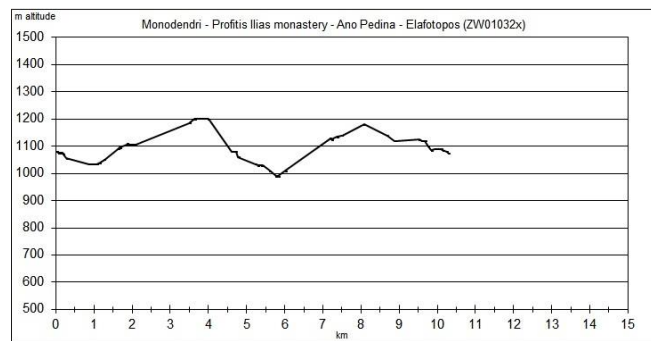
walking time/distance: 3h20' / 9.5km

ascent/descent: 300m

overnight stay: Monodendri



### Day 5: Along Ano Pedina to Elafotopos (PZ01032x)



You descend through Monodendri by a kalderimi, then a bit of asphalt road. By a small archeological site you take forest paths and gravel roads to the derelict monastery Profitis Ilias. Another bit of asphalt and then you'll descend by a stony plateau to Ano Pedina, enjoying great views.

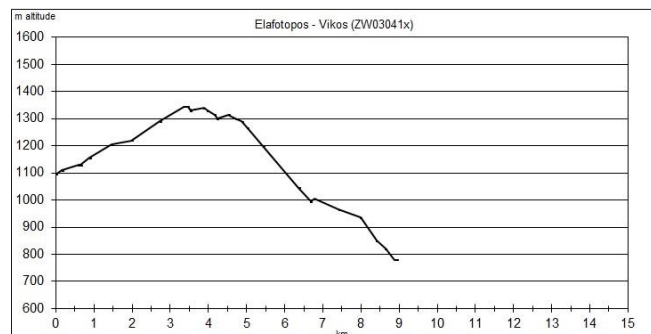
You pass the village Ano Pedina and start to ascend again over meadows. At the red iconostasis on the pass you'll see the village Elafotopos ahead of you: just a last descent by cattle paths until you've reached the village.

walking time/distance: 3h30' / 9,9km

ascent/descent: 375m / 365m

overnight stay: Elafotopos

### Day 6: Over the Smindela plateau to Vikos (PZ03041x)



From Elafotopos you ascend gradually by gravel roads until you reach the Smindela plateau, a peculiar and little trodden landscape. From there you descend over grassy meadows and later through forest, with at intervals splendid views over the Aoos river valley. Probably you'll only encounter the goats of the old Vikos shepherdess.

Leaving the woods you'll pass yet another characteristic iconostasis and see Vikos village below you. A stony descent to end the walk and then a well-deserved rest in the quiet village with some cosy tavernas.

Here you'll be met and taken to the accommodation in the neighbouring village Aristi.

walking time/distance: 3h30' / 8.9km

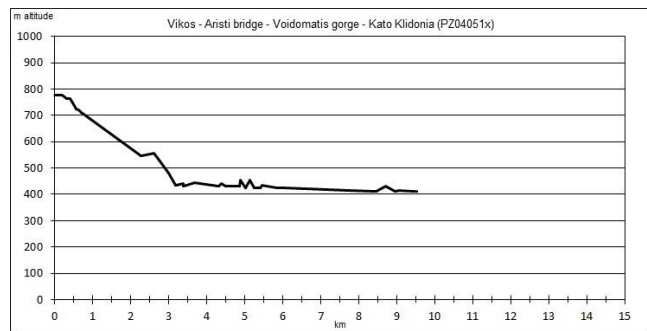
ascent/descent: 285m / 600m

overnight stay: Vikos





*Day 7: The plane tree valley of the Voidomatis (PZ04051x)*



You descend from Vikos to the Aristi bridge, a well-known spot for a swim in the Voidomatis river and start of rafting tours. You cross the bridge and ascend to the start of the 'Ice age path'. The path takes you along the river valley of the Voidomatis, idyllically surrounded by plane trees. You may see trout and dippers forage in the clear water of the purest river of Greece. On the way you'll find a lovely swimming spot at a small beach in a river bend.

After 1½ hours along the Voidomatis you'll reach Klidonia arched bridge, a very photogenic place with artificial waterfall and fish pass. From the picnic area you may paddle in the river and admire the rafters who have to overcome the waterfall.

From here it's just 10 minutes to your accommodation.

*walking time/distance: 3h10' / 9,8km*

*ascent/descent: 130m / 495m*

*overnight stay: Ano Klidonia*

*Day 8: Departure*

After breakfast your arrangement comes to an end. You're taken back to Ioannina.