

Self-Guided Corfu Trail

Trip Code: SGCK

Version: SGCK Self-Guided Corfu Trail



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay in the magnificent UNESCO listed Corfu Town, full of Venetian architecture and historical charm
- Witness flamingos and egrets feeding at Korrision Lake
- Taste authentic Greek food in charming hilltop village tavernas and dine on freshly caught seafood in Kalami
- Discover the beautiful mountain top Castle of Aggelokastro and Pantokratoras Monastery

- Cool off with a swim in the crystal blue waters of secluded bays along your trail

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 7 days hiking
- 2 days sightseeing
- Daily departures available
- Join at Corfu Town / End in Kalami

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 9 Breakfasts
- 2 Dinners
- 3 nights Studio Apartment
- 2 nights Apartment
- 3 nights Hotel
- 1 nights Studio Apartment With Swimming Pool

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Discover Corfu, the lush green island the Greeks call Kerkyra and complete the challenge of a long distance trail on this spectacular 10 day Self-Guided Corfu Trail holiday. A trail which takes you from bustling tourist towns bursting with culture, good food and Venetian architecture, over rugged mountains to charming hilltop villages, and to dreamy secluded bays. Corfu has it all and it is as colourful as the writings of Gerald Durrell portray.

This delightfully varied trail showcases the very best of the island and it won't take long before you fall in love with it. Starting in the island's capital, Corfu Town, you will have time to enjoy a spot of sightseeing and discover why so many have fought over this strategic island through the centuries. With an insight into Corfu's rich culture your trail begins in the south of the island from where you make your way north along the coast before heading inland to sleepy hilltop villages and over the highest mountain on the island, Mount Pantokrator (906m). From the top of the island you wind your way through olive groves and along rugged coastal paths to your final goal, Kalami, unveiling secluded coves as you go. Along the way you will stay in small, family run hotels and guesthouses where our hosts are ready to provide a warm Greek welcome. Plus in Kalami you will have your own apartment complete with a breakfast hamper of local produce to fuel your hike, the perfect space to unwind at the end of your trail, and perhaps extend your stay.

Is this holiday for you?

This fantastic 10 day journey along the Corfu Trail is perfect for those looking for a challenge. A long distance trail off the beaten track, marked by yellow waymarks to help you on your way leads you through farmlands, over rugged mountains and along coastlines to inviting bays with their crystal waters. You should be comfortable walking 5-6 hours a day and an average of 15-20km per day on quiet farm tracks, mountain paths and byways. A head for heights is also recommended to ensure you can enjoy the coast to its full potential. Staying in a great selection of hotels, guesthouses and apartment, we will transport your luggage for you so all you need to do is relax, put one foot in front of the other and soak up the authentic island charm.

Itinerary

Version: SGCK Self-Guided Corfu Trail

DAY 1

Arrive in UNESCO listed Corfu Town.

Arrive in Corfu Town, check into your hotel and take a stroll. It won't take long before you are whisked away in the towns historic charm and standing in awe at the Venetian style architecture which is dominant wherever you look. Discover the old fortress on the eastern side of town where its sit on a rocky peninsula over the sea. Built by the Venetians in the 16th century it is considered one of the most impressive fortifications in Europe. Alternatively, visit the Mon Repo gardens and villa, where Prince Philip was born, or enjoy a spot of lunch and a coffee in the town square and soak up the bustling atmosphere.

In the evening, you will have an abundance of restaurants to choose from where you can perhaps sample your first taste of Pastitsada, the trademark dish of the island.



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Explore Corfu Town, transfer to Marathias to discover the south of the island.

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast and further time to get lost in the inviting little alleyways of the town and enjoy a spot of lunch before taking your private transfer to Marathias on the south of the island in preparation for starting your trail tomorrow. You will have plenty of time to settle into your hotel and perhaps pay a visit to the welcoming golden beach to relax with a good book or a swim in the crystal waters before setting off on your hike tomorrow.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Studio Apartment

DAY 3

Begin your hike of the Corfu Trail and witness flamingos and egrets at Korrision Lake.

Having got a taste for the island, its history and traditions, today you begin your hike of the Corfu Trail. Feeling energised your route starts along a beautiful sandy stretch of beach, along the coast to the sand dunes of Issos. This idyllic stretch of beach separates the coast from the important wetlands of Corfu and Korrision Lake. Your route will take you away from the sandy beach and along the lakeshore to explore this rich natural habitat where you will witness flamingos, ergets and migratory birds amongst the rich flora which thrives here. Before long your route changes underfoot with the final section of today's walk taking you along the Chalikounas beach and through quiet, olive grove lined, back lanes to your final goal, Paramonas village. A perfect introduction to the Corfu Trail.

Meals: **B**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|  | Accommodation Studio Apartment |  | Ascent 230M |  | Descent 170M |  | Time 5-6 hours |  | Distance 19KM |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|

DAY 4

Ascend the coastal ridge and be rewarded with vast panoramic views, discover pretty hilltop villages and cross the Strongili River Valley to Stavros.

Your route today begins with a steep ascent over the coastal ridge where you are rewarded with panoramic views over the boats sailing the Ionian sea and inland to the little villages of Ano and Kato Pavliana. A great place to stop to catch your breath and admire the views before descending along quiet footpaths and tracks to your next goal, the pretty village of Vounaitades. This picturesque hillside village is an insight into the carefree village life of Corfu; a series of narrow alleys and beautiful yards.

Leaving Vounaitades behind you cross the Stongili River Valley on a track through olive groves and across peaceful heathland to Stongili village. Arriving in the village you can enjoy a refreshment in the welcoming tavern before making a final ascent on an old cobbled road to Komianata, Stavros, you may even spot the oldest olive tree on the island as you leave behind the village of Stongili. Arriving in Komianata Stavros you can relax and enjoy dinner in one of the nearby restaurants.

Meals: **B**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|  | Accommodation Hotel |  | Ascent 700M |  | Descent 500M |  | Time 4-5 hours |  | Distance 15KM |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|






DAY 5

Summit Agii Deka for views over the island and transfer to Giannades to walk under the olive way to Liapades.

Feeling refreshed your day begins along quiet roads to the traditional villages of Stavros where you can enjoy a morning coffee. Fuelled, you join a delightful footpath skirting the mountain and ascending to the summit of Agii Deka. Reaching the top unveils the abandoned monastery and walled garden, a perfect spot to grab a drink and admire the views across the island, south from where you have come, and north over your trek ahead.

When you have finished taking those all-important holiday snaps at the summit, you begin your descent down a cobbled mule path to the village of Agioi Deka where a taxi will be waiting to transfer you to Giannades village. Here, you can enjoy the final stretch of your hike along the so-called olive way, a beautiful route under the shade of the olive groves all the way to Liapades village and your hotel for the evening.

Meals: **B**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Accommodation Studio Apartment With Swimming Pool |  | Ascent 650M |  | Descent 650M |  | Time 5-6 hours |
|  | Distance 16KM | | | | | | |

DAY 6

Hike to Aggelokastro perched high on a monolith, appreciate its history and descend along the Venetian footpath with impressive views to Agios Georgios of Pagi Bay.

Today's walk begins with a steep ascent before the heat of the day, taking you up to the picturesque village of Lakones, also known as Bella Vista due to being one of the top 10 views in Europe. On arriving you will soon understand why, as you enjoy the magnificent views to the north west of the island dotted with colourful villages against its lush green environment. When you have finished taking in the views your route continues along a quiet road to the village of Krini where you begin your second ascent of the day, this time to the Byzantine castle of Aggelokastro perched high on top on a great monolith. We recommend paying the couple of Euro fee to enter the castle and explore this once important defensive piece of history. When you have finished exploring and taking in the views you begin your descent past the village to reach the old Venetian footpath which zig-zags steeply down the cliffside to Agios Georgios of Pagi Bay where you will spend the evening. Whilst a head for heights and some surefootedness is required for the descent the rewarding vistas are well worth it, not to mention the appreciation for the engineering of its time to create both the path and the castle.

Meals: **B D**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|  | Accommodation Hotel |  | Ascent 500M |  | Descent 500M |  | Time 5 hours |  | Distance 14KM |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------|

DAY 7

Discover the tranquil Pantokratoras Monastery and ascend through traditional farming villages to Sokraki.

Today you leave the coast behind and head for the mountains of Corfu's interior winding your way through the little hillside villages which dot the valleys. Just beyond the traditional farming village of Agios Athanasios you will come across the Monastery of Pantokratoras, home to 27 nuns this tranquil monastery dates back to the 17th century. You will have time to visit the monastery and admire its vivid coloured wall paintings delicately painted by the nuns who live here. The monastery's elevated location surrounded by olive groves makes for a stunning setting for their worship. Leaving the nuns behind you continue on your trail to Rekini. Here you immerse yourself into the luscious green slopes of the hills as you follow a narrow limestone path up towards Valanio village, known for its village choir, which you may hear practicing as you pass through to reach the ridge of Sokraki village and your home for the evening.

Meals: **B**

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|---|--|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|  | Accommodation Studio Apartment |  | Ascent 1000M |  | Descent 600M |  | Time 5-6 hours |  | Distance 20KM |
|---|--|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|

DAY 8

Today you complete the Corfu Trail and hike to the top of Corfu's biggest mountain, Pantokrator!

We suggest an early start today as you summit the top of Corfu. Setting off your trail soon begins to winds its way up to reach the beginning of Pantokrator's plateau, where Taxiarchis Chapel stands proud with its frescoes and magnificent views. You will be able to admire the chapel and it's staggering location before crossing the karst plateau to make your final ascent to the peak of the mountain via a rocky path under the shade of oak trees and accompanied by the scent of the wild growing herbs.

From here, it is pretty much all downhill as you make your way down to sea level. Your route down will take you to the village of Old Perithia, a UNESCO stated village that is now semi-abandoned but remains full of mountainous charm. This once lively village was a safe haven from the threat of pirates along the coast, now it offers an insight into the islands history and a welcoming tavern for thirsty hikers. You continue to snake your way down the north mountainside on traditional paths to Almyros beach where your driver will be waiting to congratulate you on completing the Corfu Trail and transfer you to your final accommodation at Kalami Bay. This beautiful village is home to the White House where Lawrence Durrell and his fiancé Nancy lived during their time on the island, and now your home for the next two nights too.

Meals: **B**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|  | Accommodation Apartment |  | Ascent 1000M |  | Descent 1400M |  | Time 7-8 hours |  | Distance 25KM |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|

DAY 9**Enjoy a relaxed walk along Corfu's north coast, swim in secluded bays and discover Agios Stefanos.**

After a big day yesterday, today is a little easier paced and one to pack your favourite book and swim suit too. You can enjoy a relaxed breakfast before heading out northwards, along the coastline. Your route today has swimming opportunities in abundance as you pass one inviting bay after another. The far-reaching views are in abundance too; with Albania as little as 2km away from Corfu in parts, you will be able to enjoy views not only of Corfu's spectacular coastline but Albania's too.

We recommend stopping off at Kerasia Bay where the small pebble beach gives way to crystal clear waters and offers loungers to relax and a little taverna where you can enjoy a spot of lunch while admiring the views across to Albania. Alternatively, you may wish to stop further along your route at the picturesque harbour village of Agios Stefanos where you can enjoy watching the local boats coming and going and excited tourists rent boats and set sail to witness the coastline anew. Your final goal of the day is Avlaki Bay where your driver will be waiting to collect you and transfer you back to Kalami where you can toast to your achievements.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Apartment



Ascent
310M



Descent
320M



Time
4 hours



Distance
10KM

DAY 10**Departure Day**

You can enjoy one last breakfast on this paradise island and perhaps one last dip in its clear waters before making your onward journey.

If you wish to reward your efforts throughout your trail with a few days by the beach we can extend your stay in Kalami, just ask our sales team for a quote.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Luggage transfers
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Welcome briefing
- Transfers to/from your walks as per itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to/from Corfu
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist Taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan (lunches)
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit, about the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook and all your relevant documents no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start date. We will send your documents using signed for courier so that you can track your package and know that they are safely on their way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our sales team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker so please remind them to pack it before you set off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start date, please do inform our sales team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

This trip starts at your hotel in Corfu Town. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a land only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you.

If you are arriving to Corfu via Ferry the nearest port is Corfu Town, from here it is a short taxi ride to your accommodation in Corfu Town.

If you are arriving by air, the nearest airport for this trip is Corfu Airport with many departures from regional UK airports. From here it is possible to take the regular blue line bus service to Corfu Town. Alternatively, you can take a taxi from the airport or arrange a private transfer, ask our sales team for a quote.

Your trip ends in Kalami. It is possible to return to the airport via the green line bus service (long distance service), the journey takes approximately 1-2 hours. Alternatively it is possible to arrange a private transfer ask our sales team for a quote.

If you are returning to the ferry port it is possible to take the public bus to Corfu Town from where you can take a short taxi ride to the port or alternatively we can arrange a private transfer from Kalami to the port.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your trip. We have also included two evening meals when there are fewer options to dine out in local restaurants.

Food & Water

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Greek food has a vast culinary influence throughout Europe and beyond thanks to its ancient traditions making for an excellent mix of tasty Mediterranean dishes alongside a fantastic range of fresh vegetables and salads. Greek food tends to be influenced by the seasons and geography with local menus on the islands including fresh seafood, fava beans, olives, aubergines, fresh cheeses, filled filo pastries, lamb and poultry, plus don't forget the excellent breads to dip in taramasalata and tzatziki.

For those with a sweet tooth you can look forward to the delights of buttery Baklava, a filo pastry tart layered with nuts and butter soaked in syrup after baking, or the delicious Amygdalota almond cookies- perfect with a cup of coffee.

As one of the oldest wine-producing regions in the world, the country has an excellent selection of local wines available by the glass. The light beer of Mythos, the aniseed aperitif of Ouzo, Metaxa the local brandy, Retsina (wine with an acquired taste) and the fiery Tsipouro are all popular local tipples and well worth a try.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

On this trip, you will stay in a selection of comfortable guesthouses, studio rooms, and small family run hotels. Each accommodation brings its own charm whether it is a small family run guesthouse offering beautiful gardens to relax, a simple studio with a kitchenette at your disposal, or a small hotel in the centre of town close to great local restaurants and tavernas. You will also spend your final 2 nights in your own self-contained holiday apartment in Kalami. Each apartment has a kitchenette, bathroom, balcony and Wi-Fi. Apartments can be studio, one bedroom or two bedroom apartments. Studio and one bedroom apartments are suitable for up to 2 people, while two bedroom apartments can accommodate up to 4 people. If you are travelling as part of a larger group we will arrange multiple apartments. Air conditioning is available at some locations, there may be an additional charge for this.

All our accommodations are booked on bed and breakfast basis in a twin or double room and have wifi available too. For your two nights in your apartment in Kalami we have arranged for a basket of local produce to be provided for you to make your own breakfasts.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to extend your time in Corfu Town or Kalami. Please speak to our sales team for more information.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your hike. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however, getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking 5 to 6 hours for consecutive days on rugged paths. Some of the routes will take you on quiet back roads, through farmlands and on high paths where surefootedness and a head for heights is required to enjoy the views.

Climate

Corfu benefits from a mild Mediterranean climate with hot, sunny summers with temperatures averaging 27 degrees and mild rainy winters. With this in mind we offer this trip in the spring and Autumn seasons where temperatures are more comfortable. In the interior of the island where the elevation is higher rain is more frequent throughout the year.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](https://www.gov.uk/travelaware)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Walking and Trekking Corfu by Cicerone

The Corfu Trilogy by Gerald Durrell

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good grip soles
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof Jacket
- Waterproof Trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack

- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics
- Walking poles
- Headtorch & spare batteries
- Your self-guided route notes

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers.
[>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Looking for a challenge? Then why not complete the spectacular Corfu Trail at your own pace safe in the knowledge that we have made all the arrangements for you.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 17/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change