

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips



### INSIDER TIP Fresh and tasty

The *Bellissimo* taverna is hidden away just a few yards off the Old Town's main shopping street. Three generations provide a friendly service and new delicacies every day → p. 43

### INSIDER TIP Royal bay

Only a few visitors to Corfu know about the small bay in *Mon Repos* Park where royalty used to bathe → p. 39

### INSIDER TIP Helping hand

If you plan to visit the Diapontia Islands or want to hire a motor boat, you will welcome the services of *San Stefano Travel* in Ágios Stéfanos → p. 56

### INSIDER TIP A room with a view

The Hotel *Konstantinoúpolis*, built in 1861, hardly stands out from the other buildings on the Old Harbour. But, you have a view all the way to Albania from its windows and balconies → p. 46

### INSIDER TIP Relax in a lemon grove

The *Lemon Garden* in Acharávi is the place to sit – central, but completely secluded – and enjoy a drink, cake or fine food surrounded by citrus trees → p. 50

### INSIDER TIP Alternative accommodation

The *Pélekas Country Club* offers stylish residence on a Venetian estate secluded away from the crowds and traffic noise → p. 91

### INSIDER TIP Lobster without frills

The *Gregóris* taverna is located off the beaten track above the usually deserted Astrakéri Beach and serves lobsters at reasonable prices, prepared just the way the fishermen themselves like them → p. 53

### INSIDER TIP Buddha on Corfu

The island's most unusual church, *Naós Evstrámenou*, can be found on the outskirts of Nímfes – it looks like a Buddhist stupa or dagoba → p. 53

### INSIDER TIP Cruise the coast

A small motorboat is moored at the end of the track to Cape Drástis and its skipper takes those who make their way here on short trips along the rocky coast (photo left) → p. 54

### INSIDER TIP In luck

After a stroll through the quaint, old village of Makrádes away from the main road, you'll have the good luck to reach the *Spti Tichí* café. Not only does *tichí* mean luck in Greek but the homemade cakes served in the café's garden are also delicious → p. 67

### INSIDER TIP Magnificent garden

Feel like you are in paradise if you stay in the *Skála guesthouse* in Paramónas with its wonderfully laid out gardens → p. 76

### INSIDER TIP City oasis

The terraces belonging to the garden restaurant *Tabernita Mexicana* situated directly beneath the New

Fort are one of the nicest places to relax in the capital → p. 44

### INSIDER TIP Hike across the island

You can hike across the island on the 220 km (136 miles) long *Corfu Trail* (photo below). You should be something of a trailblazer; the paths are not perfectly marked but there is always a village in sight on Corfu → p. 112

### INSIDER TIP Riding for everyone

Sally-Ann Lewis used to be a cowgirl in Wyoming. Since 1992, she has been taking riders of all levels on two-hour trails through Corfu's olive groves and vineyards. *Trailriders'* stables are near the village of Áno Korakiána → p. 112

### INSIDER TIP Keep fit

The *Corfu Mountainbike Shop* in Dassía offers everything a biker needs. The services offered by the MTB pros range from rentals to guided day tours and a complete Fly-&-Bike programme → p. 112



# BEST OF...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

### ● Free culture

Rock festivals, jazz concerts, operas and concerts with traditional Corfiot orchestras – and all free of charge or for a token 1 cent fee! On no less than 30 evenings between early June and mid August the annual *International Festival of Corfu* bans boredom from the island → p. 119

### ● Panorama with airplanes

The panoramic view from the free *Kanóni* lookout point near the town towards Mouse Island and the monastery island of Vlachérna in the foreground is magnificent. Some action comes into the picture when jets full of holidaymakers swoop down at eye-level before landing. Bring a picnic: Drinks are expensive here. → p. 38, 116

### ● Corfu's island brewery

The *Corfu Brewery* near Arillás offers free admission to its small private brewery offering visitors the chance not only to try the beer but also to see how it is made. Four different beers are produced at the site and visitors can taste all of them → p. 55

### ● From pool to pool

How about a bit of pool-hopping? You can often *swim in the pools* at many smaller hotels even if you are not a guest – as long as you buy a drink at the bar. A change of scenery is always good → p. 72

### ● Open invitation to night-owls

Nightlife in Corfu Town is not nearly as expensive as you might think. Very few of the venues in the popular clubbing district around the ferry terminal charge entry fees. Get ready to party the night away → p. 45

### ● A table with a view – and a sunbed

If you choose to have lunch in the beautifully situated *Panórama* taverna in Petriti you can indulge in a further luxury free of charge after an excellent meal – namely the use of sunbeds on the beach nearby → p. 79



Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

## ONLY ON CORFU

Unique experiences

### ● Watch out – keep your head down!

The Corfiots celebrate *Easter* in their own very special way. On Easter Saturday hundreds of clay water jugs are thrown out of windows and from balconies onto the streets in the Old Town. Thousands of cheerful spectators watch this wet spectacle that follows the magnificent Easter procession → p. 118

### ● Little oranges are big business

The bitter fruit of the *cumquat tree* has become a new trademark of the island. Try them yourself! Liqueurs, jams, sweets and many other goodies can be found in the shop run by the *Vassilákis family* in the town or its sales rooms at Achíllion (photo) → p. 44



### ● A lifetime working with olive wood

Olive trees provide fruit and oil as well as a unique kind of wood that demands great skill from carvers. For decades Thomás has been one of the best and has devoted himself to this craft in his studio *By Tom* in Corfu's Old Town → p. 44

### ● Moments of contemplation

Linger for a while in Corfu's most important church *Ágios Spirídonas* and experience the locals' religious tradition first hand. There is a continuous stream of Corfiots who kiss the icons, pay homage to the relics of the patron saint of the island and kneel in prayer, as many feel this is the place – between paintings, icons and the silver sarcophagus of St Spirídon – where heaven and earth meet → p. 35

### ● Fish in the Garden of Eden

Corfiots love lush gardens and a fish soup called *bourdétto* made with scorpion fish. In *Alonáki Taverna* near Chalikúnas you can enjoy the best of both – a version of the traditional dish made to a particularly tasty recipe, served in beautiful surroundings → p. 70

### ● In perfect harmony

Dance like Zorba the Greek! Thanks to the blockbuster film of the same name, the *sirtáki* has become synonymous with Greek dancing. You can delight in watching professional dancers perform on the terrace at the *Golden Beach* bar and actually give it a try yourself! → p. 18

# ONLY ON

# DISCOVERY TOURS

1

## CORFU AT A GLANCE



START: ① Kérkyra  
END: ① Kérkyra

Distance:  
📏 225 km/140 miles

2 days  
Driving time  
(without stops)  
4.5 hours



**WHAT TO PACK:** swimwear, hiking boots, sun protection

**IMPORTANT TIPS:** : If you are based in Kérkyra or between Dassíá, Glifáda, Ágios Górdis and Messóngi-Moraítika, you can return to your holiday accommodation to spend the evening of the first day.

Corfu has just too much to see for it to be explored in one day. On this two-day tour, which begins in the capital and takes you to both the island's north and south, you will reach the island's highest point by car and discover its wild, steep coastlines and fantastic beaches.

Every corner of the earth has its own special charm. If you want to explore all the many different facets of this region, head off the beaten track or get tips for the best stops, breathtaking views, hand-picked restaurants or the best local activities, then these customised discovery tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

In the tiny, centuries-old inland villages, you can expect to find splendid cafés, tavernas and idyllic village squares. Pass through olive-tree forests, explore castles and see the many different faces of Corfu as this tour takes you from one viewpoint to the next along the island's twisting roads.

**09:00am** The tour starts in ① Kérkyra → p. 32 continues on past the holiday resorts of Kontokáli → p. 86, Guviá → p. 86 and Dassíá → p. 81 to Pírgi. Drive from Pírgi along the coastal road and turn up a **narrow, twisting road with hairpin bends to Spartilás**. Shortly before reaching

