

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips

INSIDER TIP Order differently

At the *Ektós Skéδιο*, the waiter lets you do part of the work. You fill in an order form – and he brings lots of Corfiot delicacies → p. 43

INSIDER TIP Alternative nights

Corfu's alternate scene parties the night away at the *Polytéchno*. Their motto: experiments instead of mainstream. They also have stand-up comedy and animated movies → p. 46

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. 101

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. The taverna even hosts Alexis Zorba once a week → 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 Greek alarm clock

If you go to sleep in the traditional no-frills hotel *Konstantinoupolis* on the Old Port, you'll be awakened at eight o'clock sharp by the Greek national anthem → p. 46

INSIDER TIP An evening by the sea

Coastal cliffs, palm trees, the sea and wooden jetties have never looked more atmospheric than from the bar *La Grotta* in Paleokas-trítsa → p. 65

INSIDER TIP Keep fit

The *Corfu Mountainbike Shop* in Dassíá 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

INSIDER TIP A family paradise

Children and their parents can spend carefree days in the apartments in the *Honey Valley*, where the little ones can find lots of things to do → p. 58

INSIDER TIP Now this is a beach hotel

No other hotel on the island is closer to the beach than the *Dassíá Beach*. Only the shady taverna fits between the lobby and the beach → p. 84

INSIDER TIP In an enchanted forest

Drive slowly, then get out of the car! And take in the ancient *olive forest* between Pentáti and Paramónas with its rays of sun, nylon nets, chicken and sheep → p. 98

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 Pink flamingos

In the salines of *Alikés*, hundreds of pink flamingos standing on one leg can often be seen in the months between October and May. The vast birds' sanctuary is only accessible via narrow paths, and its edge, you can even bathe all on your own → p. 73

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



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 (photo). Fun can be had watching the jets full of holidaymakers swooping down at eye-level and guessing where they will land on the runway → 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. Six different beers are produced on site and visitors can taste all of them → p. 56

● 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-ows

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 Petríti 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, 92

● 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

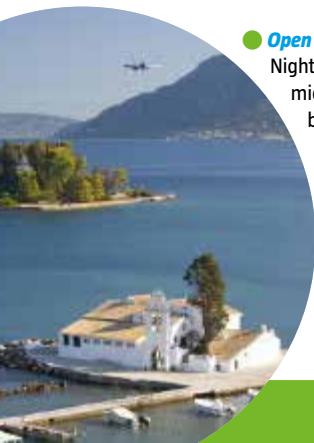
Linger for a while in Corfu's most important church *Ágios Spirídonas* and experience the locals' religious tradition first hand. There is a continuous stream of Corfiots who kiss the icons, pay homage to the relics of the patron saint of the island and kneel in prayer, as many feel this is the place – between paintings, icons and the silver sarcophagus of St Spirídon – where heaven and earth meet → p. 34

● 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. 77



NO 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.

Would you like to explore the places that are unique to this island? Then the Discovery Tours are just the thing for you – they include terrific tips for stops worth making, breathtaking places to visit, selected restaurants and fun activities. It's even easier with the Touring App: download the tour with map and route to your smartphone using the QR Code on pages 2/3 or from the website address in the footer below – and you'll never get lost again even when you're offline.



→ p. 2/3

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, Guviá and Dassíá to Pírgi. Drive from Pírgi along the coastal road and turn up a narrow, twisting road with hairpin bends to Spartilás. Shortly before reaching Sgourádes, head right up to the

