

## National Parks in Greece

Despite its size, Greece has a rich variety of landscapes, from wetlands, forests, beaches and high mountains, gorges and valleys. Even the islands boast a scenic beauty of their own. Whether you are a nature lover or simply want to discover the other faces of the country besides age-old monuments, temples and beaches, here is a list of the beautiful national parks you can visit in Greece.

### Prespa National Park

The National Park of Prespa is home to the enchanting lakes of Mikri and Megali Prespa. Separated by an islet and enclosed by imposing mountains, the lakes, shared between Greece, Albania and FYROM (the Republic of Macedonia), are a habitat for a variety of bird and fish species. The region attracts local and foreign visitors, coming to reconnect with nature, observe the numerous birds and to explore the few interesting monuments. Often overlooked by the majority of tourists flocking to Greece, the Prespa National Park truly deserves a visit.



## **Vikos – Aoös National Park**

Located in northwestern Greece, in the picturesque region of Epirus, the Vikos – Aoös National Park is 30 kilometres away from Ioannina. With an area of over 12,600 hectares of gorges and canyons, caves, lakes and rivers and dense forests. Established in 1973, the park is home to wolves, brown bears and deer, and is a favourite among locals for outdoor activities. Perfect for hiking, climbing, mountain biking, rafting and kayaking, the area is ideal if you are looking for enchanting nature, picture-perfect mountain villages and adrenaline-pumping activities.





## **Samaria National Park**

The Samaria Gorge in southern Crete is the longest gorge in Europe. Part of the Samaria National Park the gorge is 16 kilometres long and starts at an altitude of 1,200 metres all the way down to the little coastal village of Agia Roumeli. The park is the natural habitat for more than 450 plant species and many endemic animals such as the kri kri goat. If you are a hiking fan, the Samaria National Park should be on your bucket list.

