



# Cricket Corfu

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## Introducing Cricket Corfu

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"No cricketer's education is complete until – besides Australia – he has visited this island."

R A Roberts, Cricket Correspondent, Daily Telegraph

On St George's Day, 23 April 1823, a cricket match was held in Corfu between officers of the Royal Navy and those of the British Garrison. The locals, bemused and intrigued by what they saw, asked what game was being played, what the rules were and how it was scored. Thus began a unique and charming union of this most British of games and the Greek island of Corfu.

Corfu has continued to play and promote cricket to the current day and supports eleven local teams, runs an active cricket training programme in local schools, boasts five pitches, welcomes visiting teams from around the world and has most recently hosted the International Cricket Council's Division 5 Championship. The island team won the tournament and were consequently immediately promoted to the ICC European Division 4.

So important is cricket to the island's heritage, Corfu Town's infamous and elegant main square even has a cricket pitch at its centre and is the only working sports field anywhere within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Cricket Corfu is a newly established body created specifically to promote the game on the island to a wider world market and to facilitate bringing teams – whether professional, amateur or simply enthusiastic visitors – to Corfu.

Working exclusively with the [Hellenic Cricket Federation](#) and in close collaboration with both the local municipality and Prefecture, Cricket Corfu is best placed to coordinate specialised cricketing trips to Corfu, help arrange tournaments, matches and festivals and promote the game to future visitors to the island.

## Why Cricket in Corfu?

As a well established and popular holiday destination, Corfu already enjoys a reputation as a safe and welcoming island which offers something for everyone. Whether the visitor wishes to spend their days on the beach – and Corfu is proud to have more Blue Flag beaches than any other island in Europe – or walk in the unspoilt countryside, to explore the hillside villages or enjoy the elegant and sophisticated cafes and museums of Corfu Town, the island can accommodate its guests.

In association with:



Cricket Corfu is proudly associated with the [Hellenic Cricket Federation](#)



GREEK TOURIST ORGANISATION



CORFU PREFECTURE



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The Greeks' sense of hospitality and genuine friendliness is renowned and, when combined with the island's vast choice of hotels, apartments and villas, together with its peoples' experience, and existing infrastructure, array of amenities and attractions, Corfu is able to offer a rich variety of different types of holidays for all kinds of visitors.

Corfu is easily accessible from all parts of Europe, served by its international airport and large choice of ferry crossings. A journey by plane from most UK airports is approximately three hours and, being a relatively small island, onward transfers are manageable.

The **Hellenic Cricket Federation** are a well established, internationally recognised and significant sporting body who are experienced in managing visiting teams and tournaments. **Cricket Corfu** has been recently founded to support and promote the game of cricket in Corfu and establish the island as a destination of choice for cricket tourism.

Corfu has five cricket pitches, three located in the beautiful Ropa Valley, neighbouring Corfu's Golf Course, one at the marina in Gouvia and the exhibition pitch in Corfu Town's main square.

Corfu's association with Britain is long established and cherished by both the local Corfiots and her British visitors, and nothing surely encompasses this remarkable friendship more than the game and fellowship of cricket.

## Why Cricket?

**Cricket Corfu** aims to combine cricket with holidays in Corfu. Visitors can participate in a match or tournament as part of their family holiday or enjoy specific cricket-centred vacations with their teams. Corfu's enviable climate ensures that rain won't stop play and the easy journey to the island allows the visitor to choose either a weekend away for a couple of matches or a longer holiday during which a cricketing tournament can be arranged.

Cricket is the second most well funded sport in the world, after football, and is played throughout the globe, at all skill levels, at all ages and by all socio-economic groups. Cricket truly brings people together.

Cricket is a game that most people have some knowledge of – whether they played it at school or simply watched a game on their local village green or on their neighbourhood street – and is familiar and unintimidating.

Cricket is a most social game: At any match there will be the inevitable breaks for lunch or tea, where players mingle with spectators and adversaries, and for later matches, games are followed by long, friendly dinners or barbecues, where tactics and bruises are discussed and analysed whilst life long friendships are made.

Cricket is an accessible game. It can be played anywhere – on a pitch or on a beach. The equipment required is compact and easily transported and as long as one can find a group of friends, one can create a team.

But, mostly, cricket is a fantastically popular world sport which brings people together. Cricket forms a fellowship between all those that spectate, play or participate in any form.





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## How We Can Help You

Cricket Corfu's research has shown that cricket teams, at both professional and enthusiastic amateur level, have the resources to travel for focused training camps and social group trips and are currently visiting countries such as Dubai and the Caribbean to play cricket, unaware that there is a far more accessible and familiar destination so much closer to home.

From the teams and players that Cricket Corfu has brought to the island to date, the feedback has been extremely positive.

### Our past guests have pointed out that:

- They can get to and from Corfu easily and inexpensively.
- Teams can happily be accompanied by their partners and children, assured that the facilities and amenities of Corfu will satisfy everyone.
- Corfu's cricketing facilities are very good and unusual – the locations of the pitches are accessible and in very attractive locations.
- The arrangement and management of the matches by the Hellenic Cricket Federation is excellent.
- Playing cricket in Corfu seems familiar, friendly and uncomplicated.
- The visiting teams can easily combine other excursions and pastimes with their match timetable – many attractions, places of interest, beaches, other sports (sailing, golf, waterskiing, walking, etc.), bars, museums, cafes and restaurants close by.
- The welcome, hospitality and interest shown by the islanders to the teams was "second to none" and created trips "of a life time."

**If you would like to discuss the possibility of developing cricket in Corfu as a holiday option for your clients and customers, please contact us.**

### Cricket Corfu aims to:

- Raise awareness of Corfu's cricketing heritage.
- Inform potential visitors of Corfu's cricketing facilities and existing support framework and organisational skills.
- Promote Corfu as a specific European sports destination.
- Develop Corfu's position as a host venue for visitors' cricket tournaments, festivals and matches.
- Support the Hellenic Cricket Federation's work to further develop the game of cricket throughout Greece.