

# CHOOSE YOUR GREECE





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UNESCO World Heritage site

# Eclectic Greece by Kyvernitis Travel

Eclectic Greece is the incoming luxury travel department of Kyvernitis Travel S.A. Kyvernitis Travel is one of Greece's largest travel agencies with more than 40 years experience. The company is a leader in the corporate and marine travel segments as well as in luxury outbound and inbound FIT.

Eclectic Greece has experienced dynamic growth in the past couple of years having joined the leading luxury travel networks in the US and Europe. We have a team of luxury oriented travel designers working 24-7 in order to provide high end tailor made itineraries, all done with the outmost professionalism, punctuality and of course style!

Greece has also experienced dynamic growth in the past few years, with more than 25 million tourists in 2015. This growth is forecasted to continue in the years to come. And why not, Greece has so much to offer: great weather with more than 300 sunny days per year; more than 150 islands that one can visit featuring some of the best swimming beaches in the world; a very much under-appreciated Mediterranean cuisine; 5000 years of history and 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites; and most importantly, a very friendly and welcoming people who actually speak the best English in Southern Europe.

At Eclectic Greece, our goal is first to offer the best possible service to our partner agents and second to offer the most enriching and memorable experiences to their clients visiting Greece. By always including options for destinations, hotels, experiences, we offer the opportunity for visitors to select what they want to do and see, and to assist them in designing the perfect honeymoon or family vacation.

This booklet was designed in order to offer an introduction to Greece, its many destinations and experiences. So dive into Greece and reach out to us when you are ready to **CHOOSE YOUR GREECE.**

We look forward to welcoming you!

CHRISTOS KYVERNITIS  
CEO of Kyvernitis Travel S.A.

Greece lies at the meeting point of three continents- Europe, Asia and Africa- and is located in south-eastern Europe and is divided in 13 administrative regions.

The country consists of a peninsular mainland, the Peloponnese peninsula that is separated from the mainland by the Corinth canal and around 6.000 islands and islets scattered in the Aegean and Ionian Sea. Most of the islands are grouped in clusters that constitute the unique Greek archipelago. The most popular islands and island clusters are Crete, Rhodes, Corfu, the Dodecanese and the Cyclades.

Eighty percent of the country consists of mountains or hills, making Greece one of the most mountainous countries of Europe. Furthermore, the country has 16,000km of coastline of which 7,500km are found around the six thousands islands of the Greek archipelago. A truly unparalleled phenomenon on the European continent!

The people of Greece cherish the ancient value of “Philoxenia” (hospitality) and are very outgoing with tourists. Once in Greece you will find your way very easily as most of the people are fluent English speakers. Greeks are also late eaters which you might find a bit strange in the beginning but you will soon adjust to their habits and you will even find it fun. During the summer season you will adore the vibrant atmosphere all around the country with the outdoor cafés, bars and eateries that gives you the impression that the country never sleeps. The weather is also mild mostly all year round and this extends the season from April until late October.

Let us guide you to our beautiful country and introduce you to experiences you have never imagined! This destination manual you are holding in your hands is actually an introduction to what this beautiful country has to offer.

**Let's Choose your Greece together !**



# PRACTICALITIES GUIDE

## 1. USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES

English (and occasionally other international languages) is widely understood in hotels, restaurants, and shops in areas that see many foreign tourists such as Athens and the islands.

Greek is quite difficult for short time visitors to pick up more than a few words. However, just making the effort to speak will be greatly appreciated by Greeks as a sign of respect. Even just using the following basic phrases, without worrying about the pronunciation, can make you instantly popular!

Goodmorning: *Kaliméra*

Hello: *Yiasou*

Thank you: *Efcharisto*

You are welcome/ Please: *Parakalo*

Goodbye: *Antio*

Yes: *Né*

No: *hi*

Can I have some water please? : *Ligo nero parakalo;*

How much is this? : *Poso kani?*

My name is... : *Me léne .....*

What is your name? : *Pos se léne?*

## 2. TIME

Greece is 3 hours ahead of London (GMT/UTC +2) and 7 hours ahead of New York (GMT/UTC 2). Daylight saving time (DST) changes do not necessarily occur on the same date every year however it is generally between April and October.

## 3. TRANSPORTATION

To ensure the quality and punctuality of your transfer service, please contact your Eclectic Greece assigned travel designer for any extra transportation request during your stay in Greece.

## 4. WHAT TO PACK

As any seasoned traveler can tell you, the best advice is to pack light, natural fabrics and loose fitting clothes. They help keep you cool, are easily washable and won't make your luggage heavy. If visiting the islands do pack a sweater or light jacket because it can get chilly at night. Also, be sure to pack comfortable walking shoes as well as sandals when visiting the beach. Sunscreen is, of course, a must due to the strong summer sun. A wide-brimmed hat is also a good idea. Umbrellas are also as useful against the sun as they are against the rain.

## 5. TIPPING & ETIQUETTE

Tipping is optional but it is kind of a norm in Greece, especially in the tourist industry. In general, a 15% tip is usually sufficient. Please mind that in Greece, the wait staff is salaried thus tips are not part of the compensation package.

A 23% VAT Tax is currently charged on all food and drink. Usually the prices indicated in the menus include all applicable taxes unless stated otherwise. Same thing applies in clothing etc.

### Tipping guide for various services

#### Transfers

Long drive: 40-50€, Short drive: 10-20€, Helicopter Transfer: 200€

#### Guides

Full day: 50€, Half day: 30€

#### Motor Yacht Cruises

Full day: 200€, Half day: 10€

#### Sailing Yacht Cruises

Full day: 100€, Shared: 20€ per person

## 6. BUSINESS HOURS

### Banks

Banks in Greece are open Monday-Friday 08:00 am until 14:00

However, ATMs (most linked to Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Cirrus, Plus, Maestro, and JCB) are abundant, even in small towns.

### Shops

#### Shops in Athens are open:

Monday and Wednesday: 9:00 - 15:00

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 - 14:00 and 17:30 - 21:00

Saturday: 9:00 - 17:00

**Department Stores**

Open every day from 9:00 till 21:00 and Saturday from 9:00 till 20:00  
Always closed on Sundays and holidays.

**Supermarkets**

Open at 8:00 and close at 20:00 during the winter and at 21:00 from April to the end of October.

On Saturdays they close at 18:00 and are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

**Post-offices**

The main post-offices are open Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm and Saturday 8.00 till 2.00 pm. Other post-offices will generally be open from 8.00 till 2.00 only from Monday to Friday.

**Kiosks**

There is always a kiosk open somewhere very close to you, night and day. They sell everything, from magazines and newspapers to soft drinks and mobile phone credits. They are like tiny supermarkets scattered all around the city.

**7. ELECTRICITY**

In Greece standard voltage is 220V (50Hz AC). Plugs are continental type with two round pins.

**8. USEFUL NUMBERS**

Police: 100

Fire Department: 199

National Health Service: 166

Port Police: 108

Tourist Police: 171

European Emergency Number: 112

Food poisoning call centre: +30-210- 77 93 777

**9. EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES**

For a detailed list of all the Diplomatic Missions in Athens please visit the website of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs at [www.mfa.gr](http://www.mfa.gr). Under the “Contact” tab you can get any information you need.



# CHOOSE YOUR GREECE

## ATHENS





## ATHENS, CITY INFO

Athens can be  
anything you want  
it to be.

Every year hundreds of thousands of people show up on its doorstep and let themselves be captivated by the everlasting city of culture, art, politics and entertainment. However, discovering the soul of the city is much more than a quick tour around its monuments and sightseeing.

Take the chance to walk around the old neighborhoods and discover the coexistence of different eras in the heart of the city; old mansions, large luxurious department stores, archaeological sites, museums, hip restaurants and traditional taverns are located one next to another, creating a unique blend of history and renewal.

The Acropolis has been the city's natural center through the ages, while the Parthenon is an architectural masterpiece of great renown. With the professional guidance of our licensed English speaking tour guides you will appreciate its splendor when you learn about the construction secrets of this unique temple, dedicated to the goddess Athena. However, a visit to the New Acropolis Museum completes the picture of the city's glorious past.

Also, take the chance to visit the National Archaeological Museum (one of the most important museums in the world), the Benaki Museum, the Museum of Cycladic Art and the newly inaugurated Museum of Contemporary Art.

Over the last years, Athens has been undergoing a cultural rebirth with the Onassis and the Stavros Niarchos Cultural Centers enhancing the potentials of the city and its people and placing them within a 21st Century global context.

What's also great about this city is that during the summer it shifts towards the Athenian Riviera and in about 15-30 minutes drive one can find crystal clear waters to swim and exclusive beach clubs to eat or drink, especially in the areas of Glyfada and Vouliagmeni.

When in Athens do not miss the chance to experience the diversity of the Greek cuisine, whose ingredients are proven to be connected to life longevity. During the last years, a new generation of young internationally experienced chefs has hit the Athens dining scene and renewed the whole attitude the Greeks had about gastronomy. What stayed the same however is the use of local fresh products and the love about tradition. Long story short, you will not be short of choices when dining in Athens!

Athenian nightlife is still something one must experience. With great weather all year round, there is a characteristic outdoor lifestyle with cafes, restaurants, and bars spilling out on the streets.

Please note we always secure for our guests the best tables and there is never any waiting in lines! Also note we can always make table reservations for our clients at no additional cost

## ATHENS, MUST VISITS



### 1. The Acropolis of Athens

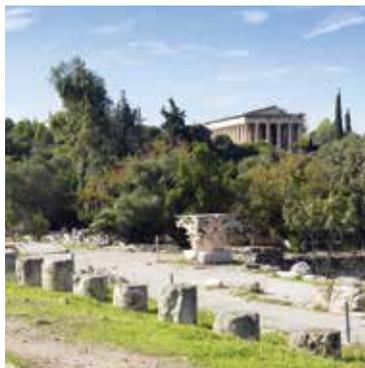


The greatest and finest sanctuary of ancient Athens, dedicated primarily to its patron, the goddess Athena, dominates the centre of the modern city from the rocky crag known as the Acropolis. The most celebrated myths of ancient Athens, its greatest religious festivals, earliest cults and several decisive events in the city's history are all connected to this sacred precinct. The monuments of the Acropolis stand in harmony with their natural setting. These unique masterpieces of ancient architecture combine different orders and styles of Classical art in a most innovative manner and have influenced art and culture for many centuries. The Acropolis of the 5th Century BC is the most accurate reflection of the splendor, power and wealth of Athens at its greatest peak, the golden age of Pericles.



## 2. The New Acropolis Museum

In a total area of 25,000m<sup>2</sup>, with exhibition space of over 14,000m<sup>2</sup>, ten times more than that of the old museum on the Hill of the Acropolis, the new Museum offers all the amenities expected from an international museum. The Museum showcases exquisite finds from the slopes of the Acropolis.



## 3. The Ancient Agora

In the ancient times it was the heart of public life. Among the site's extensive excavations you'll find temples, a concert hall and long, colonnaded arcades



## 4. The National Archaeological Museum

The largest museum in Greece and one of the world's greatest museums. Although its original purpose was to secure all the finds from the 19th Century excavations in and around Athens, it gradually became the central National Archaeological Museum and was enriched with finds from all over Greece. Its abundant collections, with more than 11,000 exhibits, provide a panorama of Greek civilization from the beginnings of Prehistory to Late Antiquity.



## 5. Anafiotika

A 19th Century neighborhood on the northern slopes of the Acropolis hill, beside the entrance to the Agora. Nestled above Plaka, Athens' center, and bustling Monastiraki, the old bazaar



## 6. Monastiraki Flea Market

On Sunday morning, make your way to the flea market for a jumble of curios, from books to paintings, clothes to trinkets



## 7. Open air cinema Thission

On the south side of the Acropolis. Classic Hollywood flicks are popular. Important: all non-Greek films are shown with subtitles rather than dubbed!



### 8. Mount Lycabettus

At 745 ft, stands high above Athens, commanding a clear view across the Attica basin and the Aegean. Facing the viewing platform is the tiny white-stuccoed chapel of St. George. To get there, hike up the path that starts at the end of Aristippou Street in Kolonaki or you can opt for the cable car leaving from Ploutarchou and Aristippou Streets

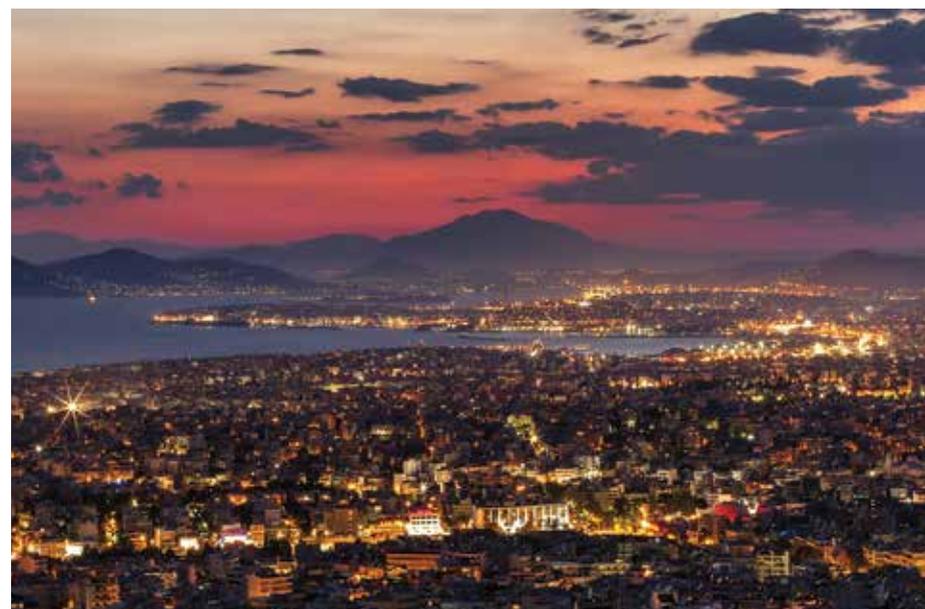


### 9. Gazi

The favorite newbie in Athens nightlife. Ex industrial district of Athens, full of bars and clubs. Here you can find numerous restaurants, cafes, bars, clubs and art spaces, all gay friendly. The Art space “Technopolis”, an old Gas factory, hosts many art events during the summer. The industrial surrounding gives a different tone to exhibitions of modern art and concerts and people moving around contrast the cold metal structure of the building. If you need a late bite, you will surely find street food or souvlaki around the central square

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

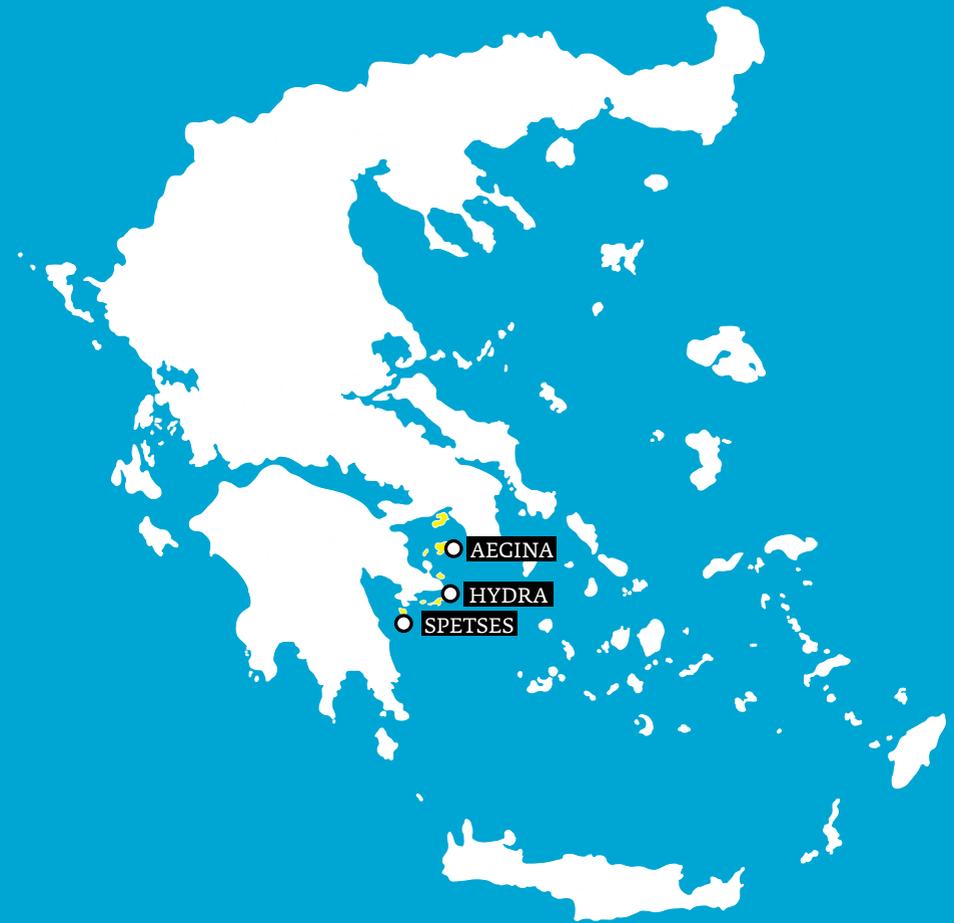
# Helicopter city tour



Let us show you around the Athens area in the most exclusive way. Enjoy a thrilling aerial tour on board one of our twin engine helicopters. The tour takes 40 minutes and it takes you over the city’s main monuments such as the Acropolis, the Parliament, mount Lycabettus and the Ancient Agora. The tour continues on to the Athenian Riviera where you can admire the Flisvos Mega Yacht Marina, the areas of Glyfada and Vouliagmeni, as well as the rest of the city’s impressive waterfront. The tour ends at Cape Sounio and the Temple of Poseidon. During the flight, the pilot will be your personal guide, showing you around this great city but from a different point of view.

# CHOOSE YOUR GREECE

## ARGOSARONIC GULF ISLANDS



## AEGINA, ISLAND INFO

## Alluring destination close to Athens

Aegina is one of the most popular islands near Athens and also the second largest of the Argosaronic Gulf Islands. The island gets very busy during the weekend as it is a weekend escape near Athens. Aegina island attractions include its beautiful natural scenery along with archeological sightseeing and, of course, beautiful beaches and villages. Holidays in Aegina can be combined with a day trip or short vacations to the neighbor island of Agistri, a lovely place for total relaxation.

The island offers a large variety of nightlife experiences which will definitely make your stay really pleasant. Short distances will delight you as you go from the beach to your room and, then, shortly you can visit a fish tavern with excellent seafood and eventually close your day in one of the beach bars of the island. Aegina town is the place where some of the most popular bars and clubs are gathered.

## GETTING THERE



## By ferry

Aegina is accessible only by ferry from the port of Piraeus. You can either choose to travel with the conventional ferry that takes about 1.5hr or with a highspeed flying dolphin that takes 40minutes to reach the port of Aegina. The itineraries are regular and there is a boat almost every hour. Aegina is also connected to the rest islands of the Argosaronic Gulf (Hydra, Poros and Spetses). Ask us to book a seat for you to discover this lovely islands complex!

## TIP

Do not forget to buy the authentic pistachio nuts produced on the island!

## AEGINA, MUST VISITS



## 1. Temple of Aphaia

Built around 420 B.C. It is situated on top of a rock and it was dedicated to goddess Athena. The amazing thing is that the temple of Aegina, the temple of Poseidon in Sounion and the Acropolis of Athens geographically form an isosceles triangle.



## 2. Temple of Apollo

This ancient temple was dedicated to god Apollo. It is also known as Kolona, because a single column stands there today. This temple is situated in a walking distance from the port of Aegina Town.



### 3. Monastery of St. Nektarios

The monastery was established by the Saint himself, who was an Orthodox bishop, in 1904. St. Nektarios lived in this monastery from 1908 to 1920. Today, this monastery is considered an important religious centre in Greece.



### 4. Paleochora

This used to be the old capital of the island. Located on a high stony hill which offered natural protection from the pirate raids. On this region, 38 churches are preserved today as well as a very small part of the Venetian castle built there.



### 5. Moni islet

Just 10 minutes by boat from Perdika there is this little piece of heaven full of pine trees, friendly deers, goats and peacocks. The waters are ideal for snorkeling and there is also an organized cantina that offers lunch and refreshments. Highly recommended to spend a day on the beach.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



Attend the Fystiki Fest, the island's biggest cultural event of the year organized every September. The main idea is to promote and support the cultivation of the unique pistachio known internationally as the "Aegina Pistachio". The Aegina Fystiki Fest is the largest commercial and economic event in the region. More than 20,000 visitors browse and buy from the many booths featuring pistachio cultivation, and sweet-making along with many other artists and craftsmen who, with their unique techniques and talents, present their imaginative creations. The Aegina pistachio nut freely lends its unique taste and texture to many sweet and savoury gastronomic creations, as well as inspiring the makers of jewellery, pottery and arts and crafts.

## HYDRA, ISLAND INFO

## The most impressive island of the Argosaronic Gulf

Due to its proximity to Athens it gets very popular as a weekend destination. Hydra is among the most impressive islands of the Argosaronic Gulf. Due to its proximity to Athens it gets very popular as a weekend destination. The special thing about Hydra Island is that cars and other motor vehicles are entirely prohibited thus all transports are conducted on foot, by boat or with donkey taxis. In fact the cute donkeys are very characteristic figures of Hydra.

This little place is also great for hiking as hiking paths lead to old mansions and monasteries in the countryside. Holidays in Hydra will give you unique moments of true relaxation. Beaches on the island are actually small coves with crystal water and green surroundings. Agios Nikolaos, Bisti, Vlichos and Kaminia are the most beautiful beaches on the island.

In September 1960, Canadian singer Leonard Cohen bought a house in Hydra to bask in its balmy solitude. While living on the island he wrote his novels "The Favourite Game" (1963) and "Beautiful Losers" (1966). It was in Hydra that he met Marianne, his partner and the inspiration behind debut album cut "So Long, Marianne".

## GETTING THERE

**By ferry**

Hydra is accessible only by ferry in just 2hrs from Athens. Regular daily itineraries with speed catamarans are available from the port of Piraeus. Hydra is also connected to the rest islands of the Argosaronic Gulf (Aegina, Poros and Spetses). Ask us to book a seat for you to discover this lovely islands complex! Also, through our sister company Domus Philosophy, we offer a variety of traditional homes/villas for rent.

**TIP**

The islands of the Argosaronic Gulf  
are ideal for island hopping!  
Charter a sailing boat!

## HYDRA, MUST VISITS

**1. Historical Archives Museum**

The Historical Archives Museum of Hydra was founded in 1918 and it is housed in an elegant stone mansion that belonged to the local shipowner Gikas Koulouras. In 1996, the building was renovated and today it is the most impressive mansion at the port of Hydra. Next to the entrance, there are some old anchors, signs of the rich nautical impression of the island.

**2. Lazaros Kountouriotis mansion**

The impressive yellow mansion of Lazaros Kountouriotis is located close to Hydra's harbor and was built by the end of the 18th century. It is a typical example of Hydra's traditional architecture. Lazaros Kountouriotis was a great ship owner who played important political role to the Greek Revolution in 1821. His character, his abilities, his wealth and his authority over the Greek politicians made him one of the most important men of his days.



### 3. Hydronetta

Located in a short walking distance from Hydra Town, Hydronetta is a rocky swimming area with cemented sun decks and profound blue waters. It is a very popular place as it is offering one of the most magnificent views over the sea and the surrounding islands



### 4. Bisti

This small pebble beach is accessible by boat from Hydra main port. It will take you around 15 minutes to go there. The place is ideal for relaxation. The beach bar is serving cold drinks and snacks and there is a sun bed and umbrella service.



### 5. Agios Nikolaos

Located on the west coast of Hydra, Agios Nikolaos is a deserted pebble beach accessible only by boat. If one takes a taxi-boat to reach the beach, he has to be sure to arrange the return trip and to bring some food and water. There is no tavern, snack bar or anything else available on that beach.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

### The Slaughterhouse Project

Every summer, the DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art hosts a series of exhibitions on the island of Hydra at its unique premises, an old slaughterhouse. The DESTE Foundation Project in Hydra was established in 2009 in the island's former slaughterhouse, a strange and evocative place, freighted with an eerie history. Although the space was recently restored and renovated, it retains many of its former features. Its past is still visible and its original identity largely preserved. Every summer since 2009 a different artist has been commissioned to present an exhibition that has been designed specifically for that particular space and the island itself. A great suggestion for those visiting the island!



## SPETSES, ISLAND INFO

## The Island of perfumes

Spetses belongs to the Argosaronic Gulf islands complex (together with Poros, Aegina and Hydra). Due to its proximity to Athens it gets very popular as a round-the-year weekend destination. Spetses was named by the Venetians as “The Island of perfumes”. It is a beautiful car-free island with numerous wonderful sandy beaches and lovely secluded bays. The island played an integral part in the Greek revolution from the Ottoman rule and the subsequent birth of the Modern Greek state. When in 1821 the Greek revolution broke out, Spetses was the first of the Greek islands that raised the flag of the Revolution the morning of April 3rd 1821, in the patron saint church of St. Nicholas, located in the old harbor.

Regarding accommodation, the island offers a variety of boutique hotels that respect and preserve its unique character and architectural style. Also, Spetses is a place with vivid nightlife, particularly during the summer weekends when many Athenians visit the island for a weekend break. The most popular nightlife spot in Spetses is the old port, lined up with many bars and clubs that stay open all night. Few cafe-bars are also found in Dapia but things are quieter there.

## GETTING THERE



### By ferry

Spetses is accessible by ferry in just 2hrs from Athens. Regular daily itineraries with speed catamarans are available from the port of Piraeus. Spetses is also connected to the rest islands of the Argosaronic Gulf (Aegina, Poros and Hydra). Ask us to book a seat for you to discover this lovely islands complex! Also, through our sister company Domus Philosophy, we offer a variety of traditional homes/villas for rent.

### By car

It will take you 2.5hours drive to Costa, the shore right opposite Spetses, and then about 10 minutes to reach the port of Spetses with the sea taxi. If you do not plan to continue your vacation to Peloponnese, we recommend you take the ferry option as it is the more relaxed and short way.

## SPETSES, MUST VISITS



### 1. Bouboulina Museum

Located just 100m behind the harbor of Dapia, the Bouboulina Museum is housed in a 300 year-old mansion. Bouboulina was a heroine of the Greek revolution and, although a woman, was an Admiral of the Greek Navy. The museum's exhibits include gun collections, old books, letters and documents from the Greek revolution, paintings, ship models, maps, old furniture and personal items.



### 2. Spetses Museum

The Museum of Spetses is housed in the mansion of Hatzigiannis-Mexis, one of the lords of the island who took part in the Greek revolution of independence. The exhibits include findings from an early Mycenaean shipwreck, sculptures and coins from the Roman and Byzantine years.



### 3. Old port lighthouse

One of the oldest highhouses that ever operated in Greece is located on the right side of the old harbor of Spetses. It first operated in 1837 and is standing in an overall height of 27m on a beautiful hill with pine trees.



#### 4. Kaiki beach

Kaiki is the most popular beach close to the town. It is partly organized and has a lively bar in summer. Located at 2km from Dapia.



#### 5. Agia Marina beach

This small beach is organized with sun beds, umbrellas and many watersports centres. It can be reached by bus or boat. Located at 3km south of Spetses Town.



#### 6. Agii Anargyri beach

This is among the most popular beaches of Spetses. A few hotels are found in the area. A walking path from this beach leads to the amazing cave of Bekiri. Located at 12km west of Spetses Town.

**TIP**

Staying at Poseidonion Grand Hotel is a true experience when visiting Spetses!



**UNIQUE EXPERIENCE**

**Armata**

Every year, the second weekend of September is dedicated to commemorating the events of the battle of September 8th, 1822, in which the Turkish flotilla was torched. The events culminate with a re-enactment of the burning of the Turkish flagship in the harbor. Even today, all fishing boats and sea-taxis hoist the blue and red flag of the revolution.

CHOOSE  
YOUR  
GREECE

PELOPONNESE





## PELOPONNESE, GENERAL INFO

# The land of legends and myths!

All nations have their heroes and collections of myths, but none of them has the glory of the world-renowned Hercules. The Peloponnese is where ancient Greek mythology places many of his adventures and there are hundreds of spots in the region whose own histories are intrinsically linked to his achievements. Discovering these spots is like discovering a whole new geography of the Peloponnese, with the journey in his footsteps beginning in his beloved Tiryns (Tiryntha today), then on to Stymphalia, Argos, all over Laconia and to the banks of the Neda River.

The Peloponnese is – together with Troy – the main exhilarating setting of Homer’s epic tales. In the forests, rivers and ancient ports of the Peloponnese, scenes from “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey” come to life. This is where you will find the fortress of the great military commander Agamemnon, the castles of Nestor and Menelaus, the site of Helen of Troy’s infidelity and so many other significant incidents. Of all regions, Sparta and Argolida are more closely linked to mythology and the Homeric epics. Travelling this mythical land is truly the best way to reread two of the most fascinating masterpieces of world literature.

In the area of Ilia you can find ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games; the most significant Games in history whose ideals still revive every four years in every corner of the world. Visit the archaeological museum and the ancient stadium of Olympia for a unique cultural experience. Follow the footprints of the ancient athletes and come to honor Zeus!!

In the area of Argolis you will find Nafplio, Greece's first capital which is a traditional settlement of international renown and one of the most picturesque and historical towns of the country. Enjoy the endless beaches and admire the ancient theater of Epidauros. Walk around ancient Mycenae and let the ruins speak of the drama that divided a royal family and the tragedy of Agamemnon and his family; the area is a true paradise for cultural tourism. Another destination is Porto Heli; a cosmopolitan seaside town on the eastern side of Peloponnese. Originally a secluded fishing village, the place started to gradually develop in the 1970s when upper class Athenians started building summer houses there. Porto Heli is a nice family destination with safe environment and luxury resort options and also a convenient base for excursions in the Saronic Gulf and road trips in eastern Peloponnese.

In the area of Corinth you must visit the ancient acropolis, Acrocorinth, the largest castle in the Peloponnese. The town's proximity to Athens has pervaded its development since antiquity, as it was the second naval force of the ancient world. Do not miss to taste the Agiorgitiko wine growing in the vineyards of Nemea.

In Messinia, where the infamous extra virgin olive oil is produced, do not miss the chance to visit Voidokilia beach; a NATURA protected environment of unique beauty in the area of Pylos. Kalamata is the largest yet picturesque town of the region. It offers an adequate infrastructure and fast growing tourism development as well as rich natural and cultural resources.

In Lakonia you will find Sparta, the town of Menelaus and his wife Helen. Taygetus is the highest mountain of Peloponnese offering mountainous spots ideal for alternative tourism. In the Byzantine town of Mystras visit the churches with the magnificent frescos, the manors, walk on the roads and learn about the king that still waits in the palace of his ancestors. Take a nostalgic walk among castles, fortresses, knights and princesses in Monemvasia, one of the most romantic spots in Peloponnese. Also, the region of Mani remains one of the most popular traditional settlements. Gythio offers a breathtaking view, traditional architecture and charming beaches. If a beach enthusiast, do not miss the tropical waters of Elafonisos.

## PELOPONNESE, MUST-VISITS

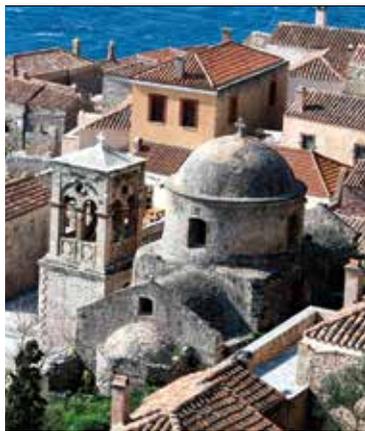


### 1. Fortress of Palamidi

The castle of Palamidi lies on a high hill to the east of Acronauplia. In 1715 it was captured by the Turks and remained under their control until 1822, when it was liberated by the Greeks. The retaining wall of the castle has been recently restored and all the crumbling parts at the south end of the fortification have been rebuilt. The most important monuments of the site are the Castle, a Venetian defensive structure dated to the beginning of the 18th Century consisting of eight bastions surrounded by walls, the church of St. Andrew, built in one of the bastions of the fortress and the prison of Kolokotronis, hero of the Greek Revolution.

### 2. Castle of Mystras

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1989 located 6km NW of Sparta. Mystras, the 'wonder of the Morea', was built as an amphitheatre around the fortress erected in 1249 by Prince William of Achaia. The town was re conquered by the Byzantines, then occupied by the Turks and the Venetians and then abandoned in 1832 leaving behind some breathtaking medieval ruins, standing in a beautiful landscape.



### 3. Castle of Monemvassia

Built on a rock accessible only through a causeway, the castle of Monemvassia was populated around the 6th Century A.D. by the locals in order to protect themselves from the Arabic invasions. They constructed the first wooden, moveable bridge that linked the rock to the shore. The castle was named after this bridge, as “Monemvassia” meaning “single entrance”. The castle experienced a radical growth during the Byzantine Period from the 12th up to the 14th Century, when the finest byzantine churches that decorate the rock were built.



### 4. Ancient Corinth

The archaeological site of Ancient Corinth is situated in a village bearing the same name only a few kilometers from the modern town of Corinth. The area was first inhabited during the Neolithic period and was then developed as a strategic location where land communication could be controlled between the Peloponnese and Central Greece.



### 5. Ancient Olympia

The Ancient Olympia Museum hosts findings from the ancient site and from other excavations in the area. The most famous exhibits of the museum are the statues of Hermes of Praxiteles and of Nike Paionios. After the Museum visit the Ancient Olympic Stadium where most Olympic Games used to take place in antiquity. Every 4 years the Flame Lighting Ceremony is hosted here and, after the ritual of the Lighting, the Flame travels to the Olympic Games hosting city.



### 6. The ancient theatre of Epidauros



The Ancient Theater of Epidauros is famous for its exceptional acoustics, its absolute symmetry and the way it fits in the natural landscape. It is considered as the biggest and most beautiful amplifier made of stone. It was built in the 4th Century B.C. and its capacity was extended in the 2nd Century. Every summer, in its 14.000 seats, it welcomes the lovers of ancient drama who come to enjoy the plays of great tragic and comic writers.



### 7. Mycenae



The Rich in Gold Acropolis of Mycenae is located in a strategic position; 10km outside the town of Argos, on the old national road to Corinth Homer’s “Rich in Gold” town is located between two conical hills. According to the tradition it was founded by Perseas whose dynasty lasted three generations. Afterwards Mycenae was reined by the family of Atreus and it was during their rule that most of the monuments were built. Their decline started in the 12th century. The town was then occupied by the Dorians. By the 2nd Century B.C. Mycenae was ruined. The visitors will admire the “Lion Gate”, the “cyclopean walls”, the “Atreus Palace”, the famous “Treasure of Atreus”, the tomb of Clytemnestra and many other constructions which will take visitors back to mythical and glorious days.



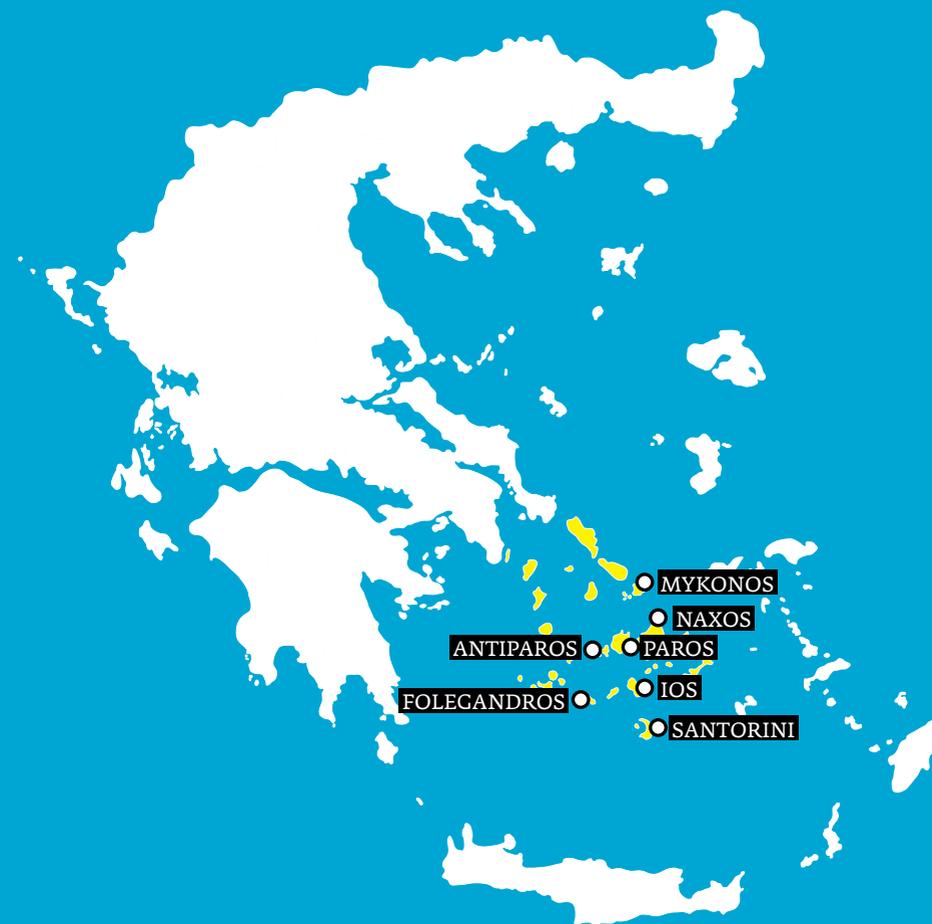
## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

# Winetasting at the famous wineries of Nemea

The Peloponnese undeniably holds one of the leading positions in terms of wine production in Greece. It's no coincidence nor a surprise that many of the most domestically and internationally popular wine varieties have their origins in the Peloponnese, since this geographical district has a production of approximately 1,208 labels and a total vine area that covers 29.1% of the Greek wine map. Visit one of the many estate wineries in Nemea and taste the area's exquisite wine.



# CHOOSE YOUR GREECE CYCLADES





## MYKONOS, ISLAND INFO

# The international jet setters meeting point!

Worldwide famous amongst emblematic and cosmopolitan holiday destinations, Mykonos is one of the most well-known Greek islands thanks to the vibrant nightlife and its gorgeous beaches. A place with archeological, natural, recreational and traditional facets, Mykonos constitutes a thrilling destination combining jet-set venues with nature's rich heritage and eternal Cycladic beauty. Mykonos Island features a great variety of activities, sightseeing, attractions and natural marvels that you will find carefully listed below.

The numerous beaches of unique beauty, the variety of quality Greek and international cuisine, the vast selection of resorts and boutique hotels and the traditional Cycladic architecture and landscape makes it just as much an ideal destination for families as it is for those who want to dance until sunrise.

In terms of nightlife, is no other island or destination in Greece that can compete with the infamous Mykonian nightlife. From the many bars along the famous Little Venice and Matogiannia street, to the famous beach clubs and after-hour clubs, to the quiet piano cocktail bars, and the fun gay bars, you will not be bored for a single second. The challenge is always waking up the next day and making it to the beach in time to work on your tan before the afternoon party scene of the beach bars.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Mykonos Airport is served by daily domestic flights from Athens Airport and direct flights from many major European cities.

### By ferry

The island is also easy to reach by ferry from either of Athens' main ports, Piraeus or Rafina. The journey takes between 2 to 4 hours depending on which port and which boat you select.

Mykonos is also connected to the Cyclades with daily itineraries going to Paros, Santorini, Folegandros, Milos, Naxos, Syros and Crete. Depending on the type of experience you are looking, ask us to suggest the best islands you may combine with Mykonos.

## MYKONOS, MUST VISITS

### 1. The archaeological site of Delos



Located just a few miles away from cosmopolitan Mykonos, Delos is among the most important archaeological sites in Greece and a UNESCO world heritage site. The excavations in the island are ongoing and quite extensive and many of the artifacts found are on display at the Archaeological Museum of Delos and the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. In the ancient times, the myth of God Apollo, God of light, and Goddess Artemis having been born there rendered the island sacred: no mortal would ever be allowed to be born or die on its land.

### 2. Shopping



Shopping along Matogiannia Street offers visitors the opportunity to indulge in some of their favorite international luxury brands in a place that feels that Picasso painted. How fitting! Spoil yourself and choose from designer labels, leather goods, jewellery, handmade accessories, local art and many more to be discovered amongst the charming Mykonian alleys. Shops are located conveniently close to each other and you can find anything you would ever imagine! Ask us to introduce you to a personal shopper and leave nothing undiscovered!



### 3. Wellness activities

Spend the day in one of the numerous spas located in the island's luxury hotels. An ultimate rejuvenating experience. Also, we can help you hire a personal trainer or a yoga instructor for some exercise overlooking the Aegean blue



### 4. Watersports

Get the chance to discover the best parts of the underwater kingdom and maybe become more aware on reducing your impact on the marine environment. Choose among a variety of activities that best suit your needs, your age and your physical condition. Either you wish to do shore or boat snorkeling or just take a boat tour to explore the south coast underwater life, we can plan it for you or your children.

## MYKONOS, BEACH GUIDE



Mykonos is world famous for having the most vibrant nightlife in the East Mediterranean. The truth though is that its main attraction is its beaches offering some of the best in the Cyclades. Below is a list of the top beaches on the island along with other activities that one should not miss when visiting.

#### 1. Psarou Beach

International celebrity and jet setters beach connected to luxury living. Nammos beach restaurant and bar is the must visit there

#### 2. Kalo Livadi

One of the longest beaches in Mykonos and quite popular for the facilities and the parties. The vast beauty of the exotic waters and the idyllic setting, mark the landscape of this beach. Located 10km from Mykonos Town.

#### 3. Panormos

Located on the northern side of the island and it is much secluded. Away from tourist facilities and water sports centres, Panormos is a calm and beautiful beach with nice restaurants and beach facilities.



#### 4. Lia

Lia is one of the most beautiful beaches in Mykonos with exotic waters and great environment. It is located in the south eastern edge of the island, 14 km from Mykonos Town. Even though it is considered a rather quiet beach for the standards of Mykonos, Lia has been a favorite place for this reason. Its blue waters and the white sand create the ultimate combination for a swimming paradise.

#### 5. Super paradise

Located right next to Paradise Beach. Mykonos Super Paradise is less organized than neighboring Paradise and has beautiful crystalline waters and soft golden sand. Super Paradise is the most famous gay beach.

#### 6. Kalafatis

This is very much an active beach. In the left corner of the beach of Kalafatis one can find a hut with hire facilities from a snorkel to diving. There is also a windsurf centre, where you can rent a board by hour, and a watersports centre for jet ski.

#### 7. Agrari

Agrari and Elia are located near each other, forming a huge sandy beach, 10 kilometres from the island's capital. Agrari Beach is less popular than its neighbor Elia and much calmer.





## SANTORINI, ISLAND INFO

# The stunning volcano island!

Santorini is truly unique not only for Greece but for the entire world. This iconic destination is most known for its breathtaking views of the red and brown layers of volcanic ash that make up its famous cliffs. In fact everything seems to be perched on these cliffs from its many boutique luxury hotels to its fabulous restaurants. It's no surprise that it consistently shows up on the top 10 lists of the most romantic vacation spots in the world.

In terms of accommodation, Santorini just might be the luxury boutique hotel capital of the world! It is the traditional architecture of small houses built in the side of the cliffs that make these properties unique. The amazing caldera views will make you feel like your room is part of the blue waters of the Aegean! Our selection is based on best views, location and ease of access, and of course a high standard of service. Note that many caldera properties have many stairs not suitable for older guests and also age restrictions for young children.

Because of the high quality of visitors who flock to Santorini each year, the island has a reputation of being exclusive. This is also what has brought in the past few years a few of the most talented Greek chefs to open restaurants here. Their cuisine is part of the good food movement of contemporary Greek cuisine and the many local recipes of the island which are based on the high quality of ingredients produced on the islands nutritious volcanic soil. Fava beans and tomatoes, being the most popular of these ingredients, along with the famous Santorini wine make for a gastronomic experience of the highest quality. However, the difficult part is not to know where to eat as much as securing tables at these establishments even in the peak season of August.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Santorini Airport is served by domestic flights from Athens Airport and direct flights from major European cities.

### By ferry

The island is easy to reach by boat from the port of Piraeus. The journey takes 4 hours if you take the highspeed and twice that time on a conventional ferry. Santorini is also connected to the rest of the Cyclades with daily going to Paros, Mykonos, Naxos, and Crete. Depending on the type of experience you are looking for we will suggest the best islands you may combine with Santorini, Mykonos.

## SANTORINI, MUST VISITS



### 1. Volcano tour

Visit the crater of the volcano on Nea Kameni and then head to Palia Kameni to swim in its thermal sulphur waters



### 2. Archaeological site of Akrotiri

Take a guided tour of Akrotiri, one of the most important Minoan settlements covered in ash with the eruption of the volcano 3500 years ago and immaculately preserved.



### 3. Wine tour

Visit one of the many wineries located in Pyrgos. You will be introduced to the island's wine production history as well as the different procedures that Santorinian producers use. You will be amazed by the quality of wines that the volcanic soil can produce. Assyrtiko, Athyri, Aidani, Mantilaria and Mavrotragano are just some of the distinctive varieties

## SANTORINI BEACH GUIDE

### 1. Vlychada

The beach follows a smooth descent. You will notice as you approach two large chimneys. One is directly behind the beach and one nearby, but don't worry as this factory is no longer in use and the brick structures are actually quite pleasant to look at

### 2. Monolithos

The beach of Monolithos is close to the beach of Kamari, in the area near the airport of Santorini. It is quite popular among the locals and especially families. It is long with black sand and shallow waters, well-organized with sunbeds and umbrellas

### 3. Red Beach

The red beach is arguably one of the most famous and beautiful beaches of Santorini. It is located only some steps away from the ancient site of Akrotiri. The small size of the beach creates a much crowded atmosphere and there are many days where most of the visitors choose not to make it all the way down to the beach and instead admire this unique landscape of red and black volcanic rocks from the headland. The access is relatively easy. You can leave your car at the parking space and continue all the way down that takes about two minutes. As you gradually get down to the beach you will be impressed by the different colorings of the cliffs. Many sunbeds and umbrellas cover the dark sand. Snorkeling is highly recommended due to the interesting rocks

### 4. White Beach

The cove right next to the Red beach, on the southern side of Santorini, is known as the White beach. It is very similar to the Red beach, with black pebbles on the shore, only that the surrounding cliffs are white. This beach is accessible by boat or on foot from the Red beach. It is less popular than the neighboring cove and therefore quieter. It doesn't have facilities, except for some umbrellas and sun beds along the coast, although the surrounding rocks provide some shade too.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Private sunset sailing cruise

Charter a private sailing yacht and cruise along the Caldera, Thirassia and the crater of the volcano. Enjoy dinner on board and the unique sunset of Santorini in total privacy!

## NAXOS, ISLAND INFO

Always  
in Season

As the Cyclades' largest island, it could be said that in Naxos there is something for everyone. A mostly mountainous island with alternating landscape of torrents, gorges, caves, basins, plateaus and valleys encircled by 91 km of pristine coastline. Naxos is a great place to experience diverse outdoor activities; from hiking, mountain biking and water sports, to culinary expeditions such as partaking in the wine or olive oil harvest. Naxos is also an island of beautiful old churches, monasteries and Venetian castles coexisting in harmony with Cycladic cubic houses.

Upon entering the port, the whitewashed town of Naxos and the islet of Palatia at its entrance form the most welcoming setting. On Palatia islet lays the impressive "Portara", a marble gate of a 6th Century BC temple of Apollo. According to mythology, the God Dionysus met Ariadne there, who had been abandoned by Theseus.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Naxos is connected to Athens with regular domestic flights. The airport is located 1km from Naxos town.

### By ferry

The island is connected to the ports of Piraeus and Rafina with daily itineraries. The highspeed ferry takes around 2.5 – 3.5 hrs and the conventional ferry takes up to 6hrs. Also, Naxos is connected with the rest of the Cyclades with inter Cycladic ferry routes to Santorini, Mykonos, Paros, Koufonissia and other destinations.

## NAXOS, MUST VISITS

### 1. Naxos Archaeological Museum



The Archaeological Museum of Naxos is situated at the central square at the top of the Kastro. It is inside a beautiful 17th Century Venetian building. It has five floors and was built to be a school for Jesuits eventually housing the School of Commerce in the late 19th Century and later becoming the Archaeological Museum in 1973 also being declared a historical monument since then. The museum also has an outstanding collection of Mycenaean pottery dating back to the second millennium B.C.

### 2. Hiking trail from Apiranthos to Moutsouna (12km)



The hike starts from the main square of Apiranthos. You will walk through steep slopes with an excellent view until you reach a stream and see the emery mines after about a two-hour walk. The caves-tunnels of the mines as well as the open trucks used for the transportation of the emery compose an extraordinary setting. Then, you have two choices, either to go back to the village following the same road or to carry on walking in the direction of Moutsouna. If you choose the second option, follow the road for about 1,5km until you reach a road in the shape of a horseshoe where there is a path sloping down on your right. Walk along the stream on a dirt road for about 30 minutes and then you will see the picturesque little harbour of Moutsouna where the trucks carrying the emery used to end up starting their own trip.



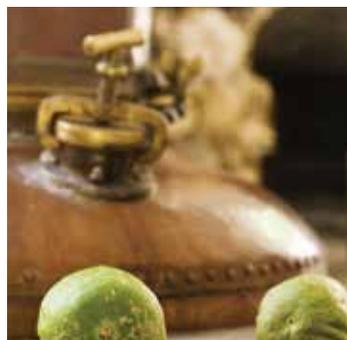
### 3. Apiranthos Archaeological Museum

Although the Museum is housed in a rather modest establishment in Apiranthos' main street, it hosts the most important archaeological finds of the area. The exhibits include oil lamps and small receptacles of the early Cycladic period (3000-2700 BC), Cycladic idols and vessels, sculptures, parts of marble architectural structures, tools, weapons etc. The most important and rare exhibits are considered the 10 stone slabs with rock drawings of scenes of everyday life, found at a hill overlooking the eastern coast of Naxos, where archaeologists believe that there was a small sanctuary and a watch tower.



### 4. Portara

Portara is one of Naxos' most famous landmarks and is connected to Naxos town with a man-made causeway. The rectangular door stands 8m (26ft) high and is made of four blocks of marble weighing 20 tons. The Portara is the entrance to an unfinished temple that faces directly towards Delos (island right opposite Mykonos), Apollo's birthplace. It stands on "Palatia", which was once a hill but now is a separate little island.



### 5. Naxos historic distillery

In the heart of Halki village, the old capital of Naxos, there is a small distillery that today works mostly as a museum. This distillery was established in 1896 and was managed by Vallindras family. It used to produce a very famous liqueur of the island, "Kitron", a sort of yellow drink from a fruit that looks like a lemon but has a bitter taste. After visiting the distillery you can stroll around the alleys of the village and taste a traditional coffee under the eucalyptus.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Visit at the traditional villages of Naxos

**Apirathos** is a colorful mountainous village with beautiful squares and narrow alleys paved with marble. Its inhabitants have a Cretan accent and it is said that they are descendants of Cretan pirates that found shelter in Naxos during the Venetian times. Filoti, built on the top of a rock, is a picturesque village with cubic shaped houses and narrow stone-paved alleys. At the **community of Sagri** (Ano Sagri, Kato Sagri, Kanakari, Kastraki and Mikri Vigla) you will admire the Venetian towers, the traditional windmills and a number of major Byzantine churches. of the volcano. Enjoy dinner on board and the unique sunset of Santorini in total privacy!

**PAROS & ANTIPAROS, ISLAND INFO**

## In the heart of the Cyclades

In the heart of the Aegean Archipelago there is a cluster of islands of unique beauty which are given their name after the circle they shape around the holy island of Greek antiquity, Delos. The Cyclades are basically perceived as the cradle of Greek culture that developed in the area 5.000 years ago.

The beautiful island of Paros is located in the center of Cyclades at a distance of 92 miles east of Athens.

The Parian landscape is fascinating with undulating hills spotted here and there by private chapels, fertile valleys, golden coasts and picturesque white washed villages spread all around the island. The harbor and capital of the island, Parikia, offers religious, archaeological and cultural monuments while the cobbled streets in the old part of the town reveal cultural treasures and a very attractive shopping area. A visit to the byzantine church of Virgin Mary, Ekatonapyliani (also called Katapoliani) is an experience not to be missed. In the northern coast of the island there is the picturesque fisher's port and second town of the island, Naoussa, with an intense traditional color and vibrant night life, the gulf of Kolimpithres with the uniquely formed rocks, the ancient quarries of the snow white Parian marble from which masterpieces such as the Venus of Milos, the Hermes of Praxiteles and the Pediments of the Parthenon are created, are only few of the numerous highlights.

However, Paros is more than all the above. The island has become a world famous tourist destination where visitors enjoy the intact nature, the fascinating sea in sculpted beaches and deserted islets, traditional colors, rich local Mediterranean cuisine, countless local feasts and religious events, while it is the paradise for wind surfing, sailing, walking and island hopping; boat trip to other islands of the group takes about one hour. The hospitable Parian people love to welcome guests, teach them how to dance the 'ballo', share their cultural wealth and offer a unique holiday experience.

## GETTING THERE

### By airplane

Paros is connected to the airport of Athens with scheduled domestic flights. The flight takes 20minutes.

### By ferry

Parikia harbor is a major hub for Aegean islands ferries and catamarans with several daily connections between the ports of Piraeus and Rafina, Heraklion Crete and other Cycladic islands such as Naxos, Ios, Koufonissia, Santorini and Mykonos. The trip from Athens takes around 3hrs on a highspeed and around 5hrs on a conventional ferry. Connection to Antiparos is only by ferry departing from Alyki and by motor boat from the port of Parikia. The trip takes 15minutes.



## PAROS & ANTIPAROS, MUST VISITS



### 1. Ekatontapyliani (Katapoliani)

Located at Parikia. According to the legend, the original church was constructed by Saint Constantine, first Emperor of Constantinople, after the offering of his mother, Saint Helene. During her journey to the Holy Land to search for the Holy Cross, a storm brought Saint Helene in Paros, where she promised to the Virgin to build a church if her quest were successful. The original church was constructed in the 4th century A.D. The name Ekatontapyliani means “the Church with the Hundred Doors”. According to the legend, the church has 99 doors and a secret door will open when the church of Hagia Sofia in Constantinople will be Orthodox again.



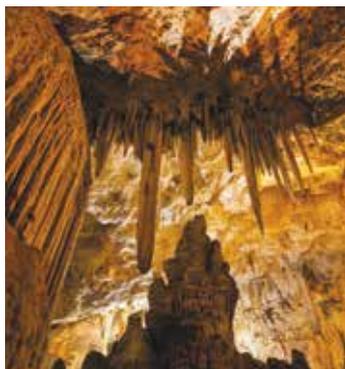
### 2. Lefkes

Lefkes is one of the largest inland villages and is the settlement at the highest altitude, built under a pine-covered hill. The typically Aegean houses are arrayed amphitheatrically, and the village boasts many narrow streets though which cars cannot pass and are perfect for walking. The main street of the village is named Ramnos, with a few tourist shops and attractions, such as the stunning neoclassical buildings, the House of Literature and the Museum of Cycladic Folklore. Many of the traditional wash houses in the old houses are still used by the women of the village. Locals meet on the main square, near the monument dedicated to the Heroes of war, to talk and have a coffee. The entire stroll along Ramnos Street boasts an excellent view of the east coast of the island. Agia Triada is at the end of the road, an impressive church constructed of Parian marble in 1835.



### 3. Despotiko

Although presently uninhabited, there is a significant indication that in prehistoric and ancient times the island - due to its central position among the Cyclades and the large Despotiko Bay (between the island and Antiparos) providing safe anchorage- played an important role in maritime communication routes. Currently, excavations are taking place in the northwest part of the island and so far the findings are of great importance. Some of the nicest artifacts from the recent excavations are exhibited in the archaeological museum in Parikia. One day excursions from Paros and Antiparos are available every day during the summer period.



### 4. Antiparos cave

Situated on the southeastern side of the island on the hill of Agios Ioannis at the height of 177 metres above sea level and is well known all over the world as possibly the oldest cave in Greece. The inhabitants of Antiparos have known about the cave for many centuries, but the inside of the cave remained undiscovered until 1673, when the French ambassador to Constantinople, marquis de Nouadel, visited the island. The purpose of his trip was to visit the cave because according to his information he would be able to locate some valuable archaeological findings to take back to France. He and his escorts entered the cave by climbing down ropes and were amazed to find nature's wonderful creation, which they lit up with large candles, oil lamps and dry firewood. Today the cave is taken care of by the Ministry of Culture and is served by frequent bus schedules.



### 5. Marathi Ancient Marble Quarries

This is the place where one of the finest varieties of marble is found. The Parian marble was much preferred by the renowned Greek sculptors largely due to its transparency and fine consistency. Some of the all-time great masterpieces like the world famous Venus de Milo and Hermes were sculpted using the Parian marble. Visitors who intend to visit the quarries find the immense pathway that leads one to the actual quarries very foolhardy due to the fact that the pathway is paved with marble. As you walk along the meandering pathway, you will come across a cluster of old abandoned edifices and further ahead lies the ancient quarries. Archaeologists believe that during the height of Roman Empire, this particular quarry on Paros employed approximately 150,000 slaves who worked as miners here.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

## Kitetrips & Downwind

Paros is a meeting point for surfers and water sports enthusiasts from all over the world. Do not miss the chance to enjoy its friendly waters and live a unique experience with professional guidance and all necessary precautions.

## Antiparos diving

Discover the majestic underwater world of Antiparos and dive into reefs that are protected from the usual summer north wind. Feel the peace and harmony of the sea bottom and become part of a memorable experience!

**IOS, ISLAND INFO**

# Peaceful and intense



Ios is a typical Cycladic island and one of the most preferred destinations when it comes to entertainment. Offering a large array of bars and clubs mainly scattered around the picturesque Town of Ios.

Although it is mostly famous as a youth destination, Ios Island has many places off-the-beaten-track. Visitors love the traditional style of Ios town and the sandy beaches, the countless churches and the numerous sights of archaeological interest. Holidays in Ios can be both peaceful and intense, depending on your preferences. There are places in Ios where families with kids can spend a relaxing holiday and also places like Mylopotas with the beach bars and watersports that are fantastic for the youngsters.

Hora, the main town of Ios, is the centre of activities on the island with many shops, hotels and bars.

## GETTING THERE



## By ferry

Ios can be reached by highspeed and conventional ferries. During the summer months there are daily scheduled itineraries from the ports of Piraeus and Rafina. The high-speed boat ride takes about 4.5hrs and the conventional ferry takes up to 7-8hrs, depending on the layovers. Ios is also connected to the other islands of the Cyclades complex (Santorini, Mykonos, Paros, Tinos, Syros, Folegandros, etc).

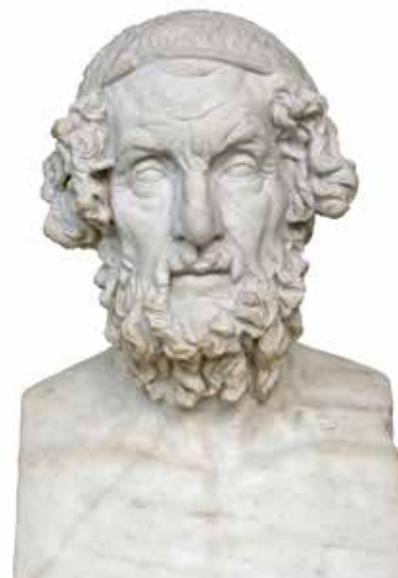
## TIP

During high season the bars of Hora become very crowded and are recommended for youngsters only.

## IOS, MUST VISITS

## 1. Homer's tomb

According to the myth, Homer was buried in Ios. His tomb is said to be in the location of Plakotos, on top of a hill. Access is easy by car and visitors can also admire the magnificent view from up there.



## 2. Archaeological Museum of Ios

Located in Chora. It hosts a vast collection of exhibits found on the island between the 3rd Millennium BC until the Roman Era. The Museum is open every day apart from Mondays.



## 3. Prehistoric settlement of Skarkos

At a close proximity to the port, excavations have brought to light one of the most important prehistoric settlements.





#### 4. Mylopotas beach

Long sandy beach, offering many tourism facilities and a lot of beach bars along the coast. This is the most popular beach on Ios. Located at 2km from Chora.



#### 5. Manganari beach

Manganari bay features one of the most enchanting landscapes of Ios. This beach is by far quieter than the beaches close to Chora. Located at 19km from Chora.



#### 6. Aghia Theodoti beach

The beach took its name from the small chapel of Aghia Theodoti that stands on a hill above the coast. This is a large and sandy spot, ideal for relaxation. Located at 9km from Chora.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Private day-cruise to Santorini

Ios is located very close to Santorini so it is a good idea to charter a motor yacht and take a private cruise to Santorini. You will get the chance to experience the unique aura of the Aegean Sea and of course relax on board, swim in undiscovered waters and admire the infamous Santorini sunset in total privacy!

## FOLEGANDROS, ISLAND INFO

## Unrivaled natural beauty!

Folegandros is a small island located next to Santorini and in the centre of the southern Cyclades, near Ios, Milos, Sifnos and Mykonos. Its natural beauty is monumental, exactly as that of Santorini, thanks to its rocky coastline with its almost sheer cliffs with two dazzling white villages that look as if they are reposing on the edge of the precipice. However Folegandros has its own distinct character which makes it unique and thus, unrivaled. It is a mountainous island, with peaks reaching over 200 metres, the tallest being 455 metres. They look even higher because of the steep inclines of the slopes. Mainly due to the morphology of the terrain, Folegandros has remained practically unspoiled; and not just by tourism. It has remained unspoiled by its own inhabitants, who have lived here since ancient times. It is them who, first and foremost, show love and respect for their island – two emotions that are passed down from generation to generation.

The island's road network has only begun to develop in the last fifteen years and still remains fairly limited. However, it is sufficient for those who like hiking and are interested in discovering the island's natural beauty, which is stunning because of its wild untamed character, but also on account of its incredible serenity and harmony. For these reasons, those who know the island are not surprised by the fact that Folegandros is listed among the 7 most beautiful villages in Europe!

Regarding nightlife, most places for drinks in Folegandros are found in Chora, the capital of the island. This is where one can choose among cozy cafés and lounge bars to spend a beautiful night out. Some restaurants and cafés are also found at few beaches around the island, such as Karavostasi and Agali. Bars in Folegandros are mostly lounge and create a romantic atmosphere. Most of them stay open until 1-2am.



## GETTING THERE

**By ferry**

Piraeus is the port of departure to Folegandros. The highspeed boat ride takes about 3.5hrs and the conventional ferry takes up to 6hrs, depending on the layovers. Folegandros is also connected to Mykonos and Santorini with regular scheduled itineraries.

Folegandros is connected to the islands of Mykonos, Milos, Sifnos, Serifos, Ios, Naxos, Koufonisia, Amorgos and Sikinos. The connection is made by conventional or high speed boats.

**TIP**

Save time and reach Folegandros on a helicopter from Athens, Mykonos & Santorini!

## FOLEGANDROS MUST VISITS

**1. Hrisospilia cave**

The cave is a remarkable cave found at an altitude of 10 meters above the sea. The cave is among the biggest in Greece and is considered to be an exceptional archaeological site. Access to the cave is only by boat

**2. The Castle of Chora**

The castle of Folegandros is a medieval settlement built in order to protect the island's population from enemies and pirate invasions. The castle is still inhabited and offers breathtaking views of the island and the Aegean Sea

**3. Ano Meria village**

Only a few km away from Hora the picturesque village of Ano Meria is nuzzled amidst lush green fields. Visitors will be enchanted by its unraveling scenic beauty and its unspoiled character. It is worth while visiting the Laographic museum and tasting the local handmade pasta "matsata"

# CHOOSE YOUR GREECE

## CRETE



**ELOUNDA, GENERAL INFO**

# Greece's premier luxury resort destination for more than 40 years

Elounda is one of Greece's most exclusive summer destinations, noted for its coves, rocky coastlines, the fishing harbor, the sunken city of Olous and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. What is really amazing here is the impressive selection of luxury hotels, resorts and restaurants that will meet even the highest of your expectations. The outstanding natural beauties of secluded Elounda bay and the first-class accommodation services have made Elounda the number one favorite for world leaders, royalties and celebrities alike since the mid '70s.

Apart from the cosmopolitan atmosphere, right opposite from Elounda, you will find the island of Spinalonga, an under consideration UNESCO World Heritage site. Lepers from Crete and the rest of Greece had been kept here in isolation until 1957. The island is considered to be a monument of Greece's modern cultural heritage and connected with many true stories of pain, separation and fear. Victoria Hishlop wrote a best seller entitled "The Island" with stories based on the tormented life in Spinalonga.

Elounda has been Greece's premier luxury resort destination for more than 40 years. Having hosted some of the world's most powerful people, the resorts here are used to guests that have the highest standards and are hard to please. The resorts offer all services one could look for including gourmet restaurants, private beaches, watersports, kids clubs and activities, luxury spas, and all types of other bespoke services. Your wish here is our command.

Here you can find many high quality award winning restaurants worth dining at. Beyond Elounda there are several high quality tavernas serving Cretan specialties in a more traditional setting. You can find both in Agios Nikolas just next to Elounda, but also in the many villages spread out throughout the area of Lassithi.

Crete is Greece's largest island and once here it's worth discovering the unique experiences it offers. From Elounda you can easily head by private car transfer to either Rethymno or Chania both very well preserved coastal towns with Venetian influences.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Depending where you are coming from there are various ways to reach Elounda. You can either fly to Heraklion airport and then take a private transfer to Elounda (1hr drive) or fly to Sitia airport which is closest to Elounda. Both airports are connected with daily domestic flights from major Greek airports.

### By ferry

If you are already in one of the other islands in the Cyclades like Mykonos or Santorini, there are ferries to the port of Heraklion.

## ELOUNDA, MUST VISITS



### 1. Spinalonga Island

Take a private guided tour of Spinalonga Island, a Venetian fortress which until 1957 served as one of the last leper colonies in Europe.



### 2. Gaidouronissi

Head south to Ierapetra, the biggest city in Lassithi prefecture and from there head to Gaidouronissi an uninhabited tropical island off the coast.



### 3. Open air Museum of Lychnostatis

Built with real care for the promotion of the Cretan folklore tradition. Through the representation of a traditional Cretan village, the visitor collects information on folklore tradition, old professions, the self-taught folk artists and even the flora of the place. In the Museum's cafe you can try unique tea flavors with herbs of Crete

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

# Olive oil tasting



The olive oil is considered to be the Cretan gold. We invite you to visit a family-run olive oil factory and taste the different olive species and olive making methods. Discover a vast selection of equipment used through the ages from the Cretan producers. In here lay the secrets of the most nutritious, delicious and pure olive oil that scientists have connected to life longevity. A really magical experience about the most valuable product of the Cretan land



## HERAKLION, GENERAL INFO

# Crete's largest city

Heraklion is the largest city of Crete and one of Greece's major urban centers; its development begun in the wake of the 9th century AD. In antiquity Knossos was the island's most important centre while in later times, Heraklion came under Arabic, Venetian and Ottoman rule. During the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, the city of Heraklion was one of the Olympic cities.

Among the most outstanding sights of Heraklion are the fortification walls that delimit the old city. The first fortifications were built by the Arabs and were later reinforced by the Venetians. From the seven bastions, only the Martinengo bastion survives to this day; visitors will find there the tomb of the renowned writer Nikos Kazantzakis, overlooking the city.

In the heart of the city there are many monuments dating to the Middle Ages, a period in which Heraklion witnessed great prosperity. From the port, ascending 25 August street, one reaches a square where the church of Agios Titos is found, while next to it lies the Venetian Loggia, a magnificent Venetian building decorated with blazons, trophies, etc., which served as a meeting place for the Duke and other nobles during the Venetian period. A very typical feature of Heraklion is its Venetian and Turkish fountains, scattered all around the city. The most famous one is the Venetian-style Morozini fountain, also known as the Lions, a landmark for local inhabitants and visitors alike.

One should not miss out on a visit to the newly renovated Heraklion Archaeological Museum, one of the most important museums in Greece; it showcases almost all the unique treasures of the Minoan civilization unearthed at Knossos, Phaistos, Malia and other sites.

In the market of Heraklion, one of the richest in the Mediterranean, visitors can find all sorts of modern products, as well as traditional Cretan products such the famous Cretan olive oil, raki, local wine, honey, herbs, etc. Moreover, a modern golf course both for beginners and advanced players operates not far away from the city of Heraklion (in the area of Hersonisos).

About 10 minutes drive towards the south of Heraklion lies Knossos, one of the most important archeological sites in Europe, the legendary centre of the Minoan civilization from 1900 to 1400 BC. The Palace of Knossos, the largest one in Minoan Crete, witnessed two architectural phases and which was devastated by the earthquake of Santorini (1450 BC). The site contains the remains of the Palace of Minos.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Heraklion is connected with daily scheduled domestic flights with all major Greek airports and during the summer months with charter flights from all major European capitals.

### By ferry

There is a daily boat connection all year long from Piraeus port and also there are ferry itineraries between Heraklion and the Cyclades.

## HERAKLION, MUST VISITS



### 1. Knossos Palace

Knossos is the most important archaeological site in Crete, located km from the city of Heraklion. It was the Palace of King Minos and according to mythology, home of the Minotaur.



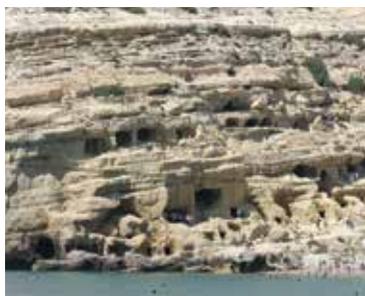
### 2. Archaeological Museum

One of the most important museums in the country showcasing a rich collection of Minoan treasures from all over Crete: weapons, jewels, tools, the Phaistos Disc and many more. Located right over the Venetian Harbor



### 3. Venetian Walls

This magnificent wall is 3km long and its construction began in 1426. It is the largest fortification in the Mediterranean. It has four gates and seven bastions. The tour usually starts from the bastion of St. Andrew Street Ethnarchou Makarios. In the tower Martinengo, in the southern part of the wall, you can find the tomb of Nikos Kazantzakis, Crete's most important writer and poet



### 4. Matala

The artificial caves in the cliff of the Matala bay were created in the Neolithic Age. Matala was also the port of Phaistos during the Minoan period. In the 1960s hippies from all around the world found shelter in these ready-made cave homes. The place is of unique beauty and it is protected by the National Archaeological Service.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

# Visit Cretaquarium



Located a few minutes from Heraklion, it is the largest research, technology and entertainment centre in the Mediterranean.

Cretaquarium offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore the magnificent world of the Mediterranean Sea. From large predatory sharks to tiny sea horses and spectacular jellyfish, the diversity of marine life is presented against a backdrop of Cretan underwater seascapes, such as the rocks at Matala (South Crete) and the seabed at Vai (Southeast Crete)



## RETHYMNO, GENERAL INFO

# Renaissance appearance

Rethymno is the third largest city in Crete and a fast growing urban centre still retaining the character of its Renaissance appearance. Without exaggeration, it is one of the most attractive cities in Greece preserving its wealth of history and one of the best surviving Venetian cities. In the old town, Renaissance architectural elements of the Venetian era co-exist with Ottoman structures while the rich history of the city is in step with the development of modern tourism. In the summer, Rethymno attracts visitors from all over the world who base themselves here for the exploration of the greater area and indeed the whole island, whilst in the winter the students of the local University bring a buzz to the place.

Rethymno maintains its long cultural tradition with events such as the Renaissance Festival that is being held every summer. Also, the Rethymno Carnival has witnessed a great development in the recent years drawing lots of visitors every spring.

When taking a walking tour around the city, one realizes the main attractions are all concentrated in the old town which is worth exploring without any preconceived route but by just walking along the narrow alleys and discovering the picturesque spots and the architectural treasures of the Venetian times.

However the most relaxing and laid back part of the city is the waterfront esplanade with its numerous cafés and bustling restaurants scattered over the sandy shore.

## GETTING THERE



Rethymno is not directly connected to the rest of Greece however one can use the airports and ports of the cities of Heraklion and Chania from where there are daily scheduled flights and ferries between Athens and many other major European capitals. The drive from either Chania or Heraklion takes about 1hr 15minutes.

## RETHYMNO, MUST VISITS



### 1. The Fortezza

The Venetian Fortress- Rethymno's landmark, the renowned "Fortezza" that stands imposingly on the hill of Paleokastro overlooking the Cretan Sea, as well as the impressive cityscape. Here you can admire beautifully preserved buildings, such as the armory with its four arched openings, Erophyli theatre, the ruins of the Episcopo Palace, the Mosque of Sultan Ibrahim and the Holy Temple of St. Theodore of Trihinas. Continue to explore Rethymno until you reach the old Venetian Harbor.



### 2. Archaeological Museum

Visitors will have the opportunity to admire the exhibits from the late Minoan period, the Geometrical era and the Classical period. The museum also proudly displays a large collection of coins from various periods of History. Located in front of the Fortezza main gate.



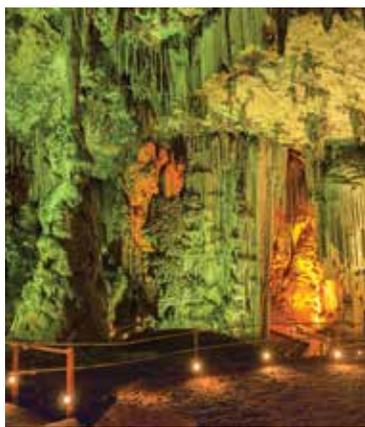
### 3. The Rimondi fountain

Cretan towns have always had a water supply problem. This was faced by the Venetians by constructing numerous aqueducts and fountains. Eight fountains survive today. One of them dates back to the Venetian era and it is the Rimondi fountain, also known as "vrysakia" to the locals. The fountain was built in the heart of the city and it is the most frequently photographed corner of the old town, as well as a favorite meeting point for the Rethymnians.



#### 4. Historical & Folklore Museum

The museum is housed in a restored 17th Century Venetian mansion and its collection originates from donations and purchases. It numbers over 5.000 exhibits. The permanent exhibition areas extend into five rooms and mostly include traditional handicraft and folk art objects.



#### 5. Melidoni Cave

Located about 31 km from Rethymno, close to the Melidoni village. Its archaeological findings are displayed in the Archaeological Museum of Rethymno. The cave was the mythical home of Talos - the giant bronze protector of Crete. According to the myth, the sorceress Medea removed his protective bronze peg from his ankle and he bled to death. Talos is one of the best-loved legendary characters in the ancient world and one of the protector of Minoan Crete.



#### 6. Preveli Monastery

There is no better place to catch a magnificent view of the Libian Sea, 33 km drive from Rethymno. You can admire the wood carved chancel with religious icons that are real masterpieces and represent detailed scenes from the Bible. Some of these icons date back to 1750. The chapel is a two-aisled popular art church, built in 1836. The old abbey is currently used as a guest house. A small museum exhibits ecclesiastical art from the 19th century.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Visit the village of Anogia

The picturesque village of Anogia is located 55 km drive from Rethymno. Its history reaches the end of Centuries as indicated by the Doric expressions used in the local dialect. The people of Anogia helped significantly in the fight against all conquerors. The village was destroyed twice, the first time in 1822 by the Turks and the second in August 15th 1944, by the Germans. The people of Anogia are very different from the other Cretans. They keep tradition alive as far as clothing, food, dialect and social gatherings are concerned. The local costume is very famous here. From Anogia, one should visit mount Psiloritis and Idaion Andron. Do not miss the chance to eat at a local tavern and experience impeccable Cretan hospitality.

## CHANIA, GENERAL INFO

## A paradise for the senses

Chania is a place where different civilizations have flourished throughout the centuries. Wandering around the Old Town's maze-like alleys with the beautiful Venetian mansions, the fountains and the churches will help you discover well-preserved historical monuments.

The city of Chania is built on the area of Minoan Kidonia and it was the former capital city of Crete. Nowadays, it is the second largest city of Crete after Heraklion. However, Chania is one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities in Greece and a paradise for food lovers. Get familiar with the city by strolling around its streets, visiting its museums and admiring the different architectural styles presenting the historical route of the city.

The old town is built around the Venetian port and is also a relatively integral area where Venetian buildings, and later Turkish elements, compose a unique architectural style. Due to the historic center of Chania with its Venetian walls defining the borders between the old and new city and its ramparts, the city has been pronounced as preserved. It consists of five connected districts surrounding the Venetian port. Its design was made by Venetian engineer Michelle Sammichelli. The Lighthouse, built in 1570 by the Venetians and reconstructed in 1830 by the Egyptians, is located at the end of the rock protecting the port from the north. On the east of the old town there is the Splantzia district built on the former Turkish district. Here you will see the only Orthodox Church which had the permission to operate during the period of the Venetian and Turkish occupations. You will also see the Fountain square.



On the southeast of the old city lies the Hebrew district which reminds the times when the developing Hebrew community of Chania was obliged by the Venetians to move to a delimited area called judeca where two synagogues were operating. Pretty close to that, you will find the Folklore Museum of Chania and Saint Francisco church which houses the city's Archeological Museum. Also, do not miss the famous Stivanadika, where the Cretan boot-makers workshops are located. Stivania are the boots worn as a part of the traditional Cretan men's costume. Today this street is full of souvenir shops as well as shops selling local leather goods.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Chania Airport is connected with regular domestic flights with the main airports of Greece. The flight from Athens lasts about 50-55 minutes and the airport is located at 14km from the city of Chania.

### By ferry

Chania is connected daily to the port of Piraeus. The trip takes around 8hrs. The port of Chania is located in Souda area, about 10km from the town of Chania.

## CHANIA MUST VISITS



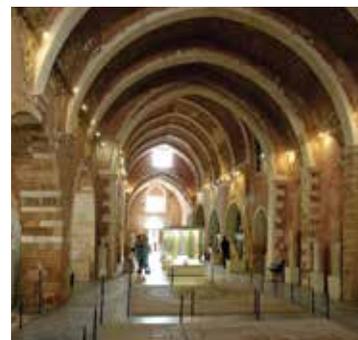
### 1. Elafonissi

Located in the South-West of Crete, Elafonissi has become a very popular destination for day trippers who flood to this corner of paradise by car, bus or boat. Its main attraction to most tourists is the unique feeling of being in a South Seas lagoon whilst having a Mediterranean holiday.



### 2. Sfakia

The district of Sfakia is the largest one in the prefecture of Chania, but consisting in large part of mountains it is sparsely populated. Sfakia is famous throughout Greece as one of the most traditional regions of Crete and for its magnificent nature, contrasting the high mountains, the plateaux of Askyfou and Anopolis as well as the wild scenic coast of the Libyan sea. There is plenty to explore in the region.



### 3. Archaeological Museum

The Archaeological Museum of Chania is housed in the former Venetian church and monastery of San Francesco. The exhibits are presented following a chronological order and include findings of Minoan pottery, pottery, stone carving, seals, jewelry and other items.



#### 4. The lighthouse of Chania

The original Venetian lighthouse was built around the late 16th century to protect the harbor. A chain could be connected from the base of the lighthouse to the fortress of Firkas in order to close the harbor. The lighthouse is located at the end of a long mole that protects the Venetian harbor from the sea. It is well worth walking all the way to the end of it as you get splendid views from the harbor. Unfortunately the lighthouse itself is closed so you can't go up the tower.

#### TIP

Discover the natural beauty and diversity of the villages around Chania!

#### UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

## Hiking at the gorge of Samaria



The gorge of Samaria is situated in the National park of Samaria, in the White Mountains in West Crete. This majestic gorge is considered one of the great attractions of Crete and many tourists want to visit it. But you must realize that it is a long (5 to 7 hours) walk on rough terrain so you will need to have a certain degree of fitness and walking experience in order to enjoy it.

CHOOSE  
YOUR  
GREECE

DODECANESE  
ISLANDS



## RHODES, ISLAND INFO

## The island of the Knights!

Rhodes is a cosmopolitan island with centuries-old tradition that can serve every visitor's needs. It combines unique natural beauty, archaeological wealth, great beaches and intensive nightlife.

Due to its strategic position, Rhodes had been important since the ancient times and one of the most important seafaring and trading centers in the Eastern Mediterranean. When it became a province of the Roman and later the Byzantine Empire it initially lost its ancient glory but in 1309 the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem conquered Rhodes. They built strong fortifications to protect the island turning it into an important administrative centre and a thriving multinational medieval city. In 1523 Rhodes was conquered by the Ottoman Turks and the Greeks had to settle outside the city walls. During the Ottoman occupation, new buildings were erected within the Old Town, mainly mosques and baths. In 1912 Rhodes and the rest of the Dodecanese, were seized by the Italians. The new rulers embellished the city with magnificent buildings, wide roads and squares. The Palace of the Grand Master was rebuilt and the Street of the Knights was reconstructed in order to regain its medieval glory. It was not until 1948 that Rhodes officially became part of the Greek State. In 1988 the Medieval City of Rhodes was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Outside the walls of the Old Town extends the modern city. A stroll around Mandraki, the small marina with the Rhodian deer statues at its entrance and the surrounding windmills, is an experience not to be missed. The multicultural character of Rhodes is also evident in this part of the city, since at a very central point you can find the Murat Reis Mosque with its elegant minaret. Enjoy the sun and the sea at cosmopolitan Elli beach at the northern tip of Rhodes town, lined with modern hotels. Here you will also find the beautifully renovated historic Grande Albergo delle Rose, which today operates as a Casino. A visit to the Aquarium, one of the most important marine research centers in Greece, is also a must! In the underground aquarium, reminiscent of an underwater cave, the visitor can see many of the species living in the Aegean.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Regular daily flights from the airports of Athens and Thessaloniki. There are also connections to and from other Greek islands such as Kos, Leros, Mytilini, Karpathos, Kasos, Kastellorizo, Mykonos, Santorini and Crete.

Rhodes International Airport is also connected with direct flights from/to major European airports such as Frankfurt, Brussels, Bremen, Düsseldorf, Bologna, Cagliari, Milan, Pisa, Rome, Liverpool, London, Stockholm and Kaunas.

### By ferry

The Port of Rhodes has daily connections to the Port of Piraeus (Athens). The trip lasts approximately 12 hours with intermediary stops at the islands of Patmos, Leros, Kalymnos and Kos.

Rhodes is also connected directly to all the other islands of the Dodecanese and Crete.

## RHODES, MUST VISITS



### 1. Palace of the Grand Master

The Palace, also called “The Castello”, is built at the highest point of the medieval city. It was a strong structure, indissolubly linked to the fortifications and played an active role in the defence of the city, forming the last refuge of the population in the event of the city boiling to the enemy. It was destroyed in 1856 by a large explosion of gunpowder that was hidden in the basement of the Church of St John and was then rebuilt according to the original drawings by the Italians in 1940. Nowadays, it occasionally houses exhibitions and major cultural events.



### 2. Archaeological Museum

The Archaeological Museum is located in the Old Town of Rhodes, housed in the medieval building of the Hospital of the Knights, in the Palace of the Grand Master. The Museum showcases findings from excavations all over the island. Visitors can see a collection of vases, figurines and small objects, all dating back to the Roman times.



### 3. Valley of the Butterflies

One of the most fascinating and popular attractions of the island, a habitat of unique value for the reproduction of the Panaxia Quadripunctaria butterfly. Enjoy an atmosphere of incomparable beauty with lush vegetation and streams as you stroll along cleverly laid paths. All in all, this amazing valley constitutes an excellent destination for an excursion. If you get tired, you can have a refreshment drink or lunch in the picturesque taverns with a view to the waterfalls and enjoy the natural beauty!



### 4. Filerimos Monastery

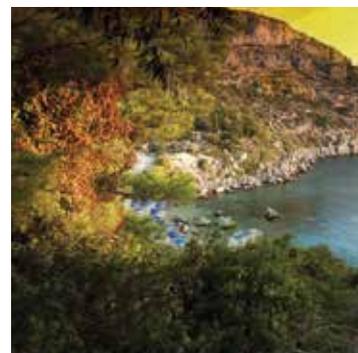
Located on a hill above Ialyssos, about 10 km from Rhodes Town. The monastery is dedicated to Virgin Mary and its architecture is much different than the usual monasteries in Greece. It was built in the 15th century by the Knights of Saint John, on the site of an older Byzantine monastery.



### 5. Aquarium

The main objective of the Aquarium is to present and preserve selected species of the Mediterranean Sea which are displayed in public view: sea turtles, dolphins, seals, mollusks, echinoderms, crabs and many kinds of fish. The Hydrobiological Station of Rhodes runs today a lot of research on the oceanography of the Dodecanese islands and works as a model research unit in the Mediterranean area.

## RHODES, SWIMMING & SPORT ACTIVITIES



At the picturesque small bay of **Ladiko** where the film “The Guns of Navarone” was shot and where you can find the scenic “Anthony Quinn” Bay



In the verdant area of **Afandou** where you can either bask on beautiful sandy beaches or play golf on a modern 18-hole golf course that is open all year round and attracts golf enthusiasts from all over the world!



For trekking enthusiasts, do not miss the chance to discover the unique natural beauty of the island. You can choose among a large variety of trekking routes and difficulty levels



Kastelorizo



Chalki

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



Symi

## Take a day trip around Rhodes: Choose among the following destinations

**Kastelorizo**, the easternmost island of Greece, bearing a long and stormy history. Only 300 people live on the island today but the town and its magnificent neo-classical houses reveal the former prosperity of the island.

**Chalki**, a former sponge-diving center, famous for its Theological School. Emborio, with its grand houses and a picturesque waterfront offering fresh fish, is the only inhabited hamlet on the island. Horio and the Knights' Castle are both well worth visiting.

**Symi**, just an hour away by ferry from Rhodes. Symi used to have 30,000 inhabitants before the Second World War and was the richest island in the Dodecanese, despite its small size. Today the island attracts many visitors thanks to its beautifully preserved neo-classical buildings and the famous monastery of Panormitis.



## SYMI, ISLAND INFO

# Picturesque architecture and relaxing ambience

Symi is a tiny island of the Dodecanese complex, only 1hr ferry ride from Rhodes. What makes it special is its picturesque architecture and the relaxing ambience. The island's main town offers a marvelous scenery; brown and yellow houses constructed on the slopes of a hill with fantastic views to the sea. Lovely villages and beaches can be reached within walking distance from the port making the island ideal for hiking or cycling. An interesting place to visit in Simi is also the Monastery of Taxiarches, on the south part of the island, dedicated to be the protector Saint of the locals.

When it comes to food, the island offers great dining options. One can taste fresh fish and seafood as well as various traditional dishes with the company of ouzo or raki. On the other hand, when it comes to entertainment, Symi does not have a vibrant nightlife. It is a more laid back destination and visitors come here to admire the island's unique character that remains unspoiled. A few bars are scattered along the main town of Symi and in the greater area around it. Definitely not boring but yet, not recommended if you are looking for a party destination!

## GETTING THERE



### By ferry

There are ferries from Piraeus to Symi 3 times a week but the trip is long, about 20 hours. The best way is to fly to Rhodes and then take the local ferry to Symi which is only one hour.

### By plane

Regular domestic flights operate to Rhodes International Airport connecting the island with all major Greek airports as well as with other European airports. Ask us to book a seat for you to discover this lovely island!

## SYMI, MUST VISITS



### 1. Monastery of Panormitis

The Monastery of Panormitis is the main religious centre on the island. It is dedicated to Archangel Michael and celebrates on November 8th. This male monastery receives many pilgrims every summer.



### 2. Nimborio Beach

Nimborio is a small beach resort with narrow coastline and crystal clear waters. The vegetation surrounding the coast provides with some shade. Located at 3km from Symi Town.



### 3. Pedi Beach

This is a popular beach because of its stunning views and wonderful surroundings, backed with tamarisk trees providing shade. Ideal for families. Located at 2km from Symi Town.

**TIP**

The islands of the Dodecanese are very close to one another and are convenient for day trips!

**UNIQUE EXPERIENCE**

## Visit the neighboring island of Halki

Charter a private yacht and visit this tiny island of Dodecanese; Halki is a relaxing place for a day trip. Halki is a place to enjoy long walks and secluded beaches. The only town is Nimporio, a picturesque place that surrounds the main port of the island. The beach promenade of Nimporio is lined up with cafés and taverns, while a small bus departs for beaches around the island, mostly for Potamos beach. Holidays in Halki are ideal if you are looking for Greek islands off the beaten track.

## PATMOS ISLAND INFO

## The island of the Apocalypse!

Patmos is world famous as the island where Saint John was inspired and wrote the Apocalypse, this mysterious book of Christianity. In fact, the Monastery of Saint John and the Cave of Apocalypse are the most important sites in Patmos. Thousands of pilgrims come to Patmos every year to visit these two religious monuments that are so connected to this island with the spiritual vibes.

Patmos Island has become a top destination in Greece and, specifically, in the Dodecanese, because of its undeniable beauties, spiritual character and vibrant nightlife. The most cosmopolitan, quality bars are found in Patmos Chora while the party continues at Skala after 03:00am, when the bars at the old town close.

## GETTING THERE

**By ferry**

Patmos is connected with the port of Piraeus by conventional ferry and it takes 7hrs to get there. The island is also connected to the rest islands of the Dodecanese complex with highspeed boats and the trip takes 1-1.5hr.

**By plane**

Patmos Island does not have an airport. The closest airports are Rhodes, Kos and Samos. Local highspeed boat itineraries connect Patmos to the aforementioned islands on a daily basis during the summer. The trip takes 1-1.5hr.

## PATMOS, MUST VISITS

**1. Cave of the Apocalypse**

It is believed to have been the sacred cave where Saint John heard the voice of God and wrote the Apocalypse. In the cave, visitors can admire the cross engraved by Saint John as well as the three small cracks on the rock through which the voice of God came, symbolizing Holy Trinity. A visit to the Cave is really an unforgettable experience.



## 2. Saint John Monastery

Built in the 11th Century, this monastery dominated the cliff above the island and resembling as a medieval castle. It has been declared as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Attending the celebrations of the Holy Week at the monastery of the Apocalypse

The ritual, customs, the ceremony of the Holy Washbowl and the representation of the Last Supper are several reasons to spend the Easter on the island of Revelation in a climate of special devoutness that exudes the whole formal and ritual of Holy Week.

## KOS, ISLAND INFO

## The place where Medicine was born



Kos is one of the most popular destinations in Greece. It is located on the south eastern side of the Aegean Sea, it is the third biggest island of the Dodecanese complex and the second most popular destination after Rhodes. This is a place with tourist and secluded spots, crystal clear waters, interesting sightseeing, intense nightlife, traditional villages and delicious food. As Kos receives many charter flights from abroad, many places around the island are getting really busy in high season. However, there are also places staying away from crowds and keeping their relaxing atmosphere.

Beaches in Kos vary from organized coasts with luxurious hotels and water sport centers to secluded beaches.

## GETTING THERE

**By ferry**

There are daily itineraries between Kos and the Port of Piraeus as well as between Kos and the rest of the Dodecanese islands. The trip with a conventional boat can last up to 13hrs depending on the layovers. The trip with a highspeed boat lasts from 5 to 8hrs.

**By plane**

Throughout the year, and especially during the summer months, there are numerous commercial and charter flights that connect Kos to Athens, Thessaloniki and many European capitals. The flight from Athens takes 1hr.

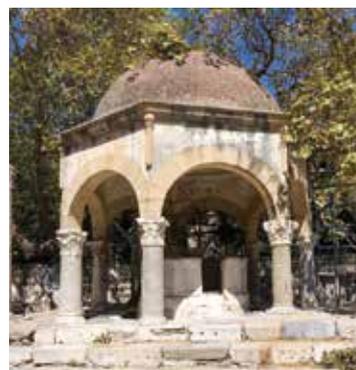
## KOS, MUST VISITS

**1. Asklepeo**

One of the most important archaeological sites in Greece and of course the most significant site of the Island. In antiquity, it worked as a healing centre and it got its name from Asklepeos, son of Apollo and protector of health and medicine.

**2. Roman Odeon**

The Roman Odeon was constructed in the 2nd Century BC and it has been very well preserved. It hosted crowds of people that gathered to watch fights between prisoners, like it happened in the Colosseum in Ancient Rome.

**3. Hippocrates' plane tree**

The myth says that under this plane tree in Kos Town, Hippocrates, the father of medicine, would teach his students the secrets of healing. Of course, this is a descendant of the original tree.



#### 4. Castle of the Knights

Nerantzia Castle, or else the Castle of the Knights, is located at the entrance of the port, Kos Town. It was built in the 14th Century by the Knights of Saint John, on the site of a former Byzantine fortress.



#### 5. Mastichari Beach

Mastihari is an exotic beach with soft, white sand and emerald water. Many windsurfing centres are located along this beach. Located 27km southwest of Kos town.



#### 6. Thermes Beach

One of the most idyllic places to visit in Kos. It is a beautiful sandy beach surrounded by steep cliff and dark clean waters, known for its hot springs. It is located 12 km from Kos town. In front of the beach lies the famous sea pool with the hot springs, a rounded lake sheltered by rocks. In this pool, hot water mixes with the water coming from the sea, offering a natural warm bath.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Attend the Hippocratea

cultural events organized every year during the months of July, August and September, including concerts, theatrical shows, ancient tragedies, art exhibithins, sailing races and of course the recitation of Hippocrates' oath in the archaeological site of Askipeo.

### TIP

Holidays in Kos can be combined with other islands of the Dodecanese such as Rhodes, Nisyros and Leros

CHOOSE  
YOUR  
GREECE

NORTHERN  
GREECE



## THESSALONIKI, CITY INFO

## A charming metropolis

Thessaloniki is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the area of Macedonia. It is also a major industrial, commercial and political center as well as a transportation hub for the rest of the southeastern Europe. It is located 520km North of Athens and extending all along the Gulf of Thermaikos. Thessaloniki is a modern and charming metropolis bearing the marks of its stormy history and its cosmopolitan character.

For 2013 the National Geographic Magazine included Thessaloniki in its top tourist destinations worldwide while in 2014 the Financial Times FDI magazine declared Thessaloniki as the best mid-sized European city of the future for human capital and lifestyle.

Founded in 315 BC, Thessaloniki's history spans some 2,300 years ago; an important metropolis by the Roman period and also second largest and wealthiest city of the Byzantine Empire. Thessaloniki is home to numerous notable monuments and of course neighbor city to Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great.

Thessaloniki owes its importance to its strategic location. The most interesting part of the city can be found close to the waterfront. However, each neighborhood of Thessaloniki is special on its own way: Aristotle Square is famous for the numerous cafés, Ladadika is known as a nightlife spot, Egnatia has ancient sites to offer and Han Square has impressive architecture. However, the most popular part of Thessaloniki is the large waterfront Esplanade where people stroll or cycle with view to the port.

When it comes to food and entertainment, Thessaloniki is the place to be! The city offers great options and it undoubtedly wins the eternal battle against Athens; something even the Athenians will admit. In Thessaloniki one can taste oriental dishes, fresh fish and seafood. Local attractions are the “mezedopolea” where you can taste different dishes with the company of ouzo or raki and live music. After all, Thessaloniki is a student town that stays up till very early in the morning! Apart from the traditional “mezedopolea” that combine food and entertainment, one can find numerous nightclubs, bars and live stages, all scattered around the center and the area of Ladadika.

## GETTING THERE

### By airplane

The International Airport of Thessaloniki is connected with regular daily flights with all Greek airports and of course with international flights from all major European cities.

### By train

For those seeking a more traditional means of transportation, the National Railway Network operates with frequent daily itineraries from Athens. The overall trip takes 4.5hrs and it offers superb scenery through the alternating landscapes of the Greek Nature. The central train station in Athens is directly accessible by metro and tickets can be bought online at [www.trainose.gr](http://www.trainose.gr).

## THESSALONIKI, MUST VISITS



### 1. White Tower

The hallmark of Thessaloniki, depicted on all types of souvenirs. The exact date of its construction is hidden in the mists of time. The initial suggestion that it was perhaps of Venetian construction has not been accepted by archaeologists. Most likely it was built during the early Ottoman period, sometime after 1530. It was built to serve as a defensive fortress.



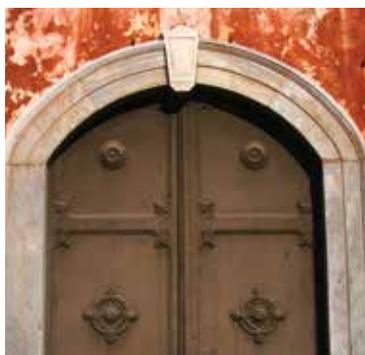
## 2. The City Walls

This is the place to rest your eyes and enjoy the view. If you are lucky enough to get a clear sky you will not only see the entire city, but you will also get an astonishing view to mountain Olympus, the mountain of Ancient Greek Gods.



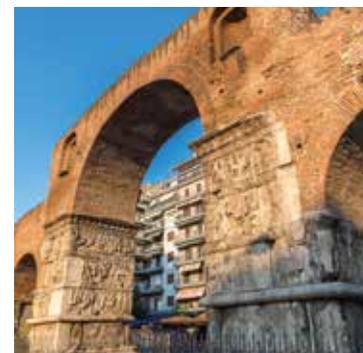
## 3. The Roman Agora

Located at the upper side of Aristotle Square. In the 3rd century BC, Macedonians made it a commercial centre and the Romans maintained this function. An English-language placard explains the site, which contains clustered shop walls and mosaic floor remnants.



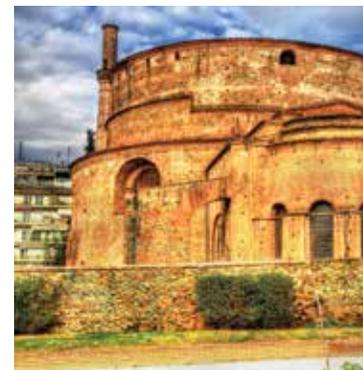
## 4. The Palace of Galerius

The ruined Palace of Galerius sprawls east-west across Plateia Navarinou. You can descend into it, or just peer over the handrail. Pieces of floor mosaic, columns and a few walls survive.



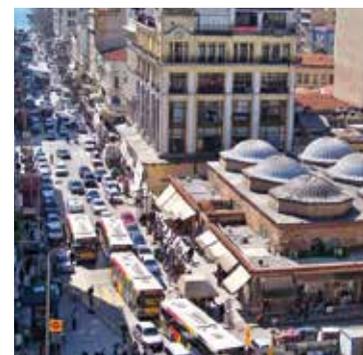
## 5. Kamara

Or else the Arch of Galerius built in AD 305 to commemorate his military successes in general in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. Nowadays it is also a frequent meeting point for the locals.



## 6. Rotonda

The neighborhood of Rotonda took its name from the circular building that stands there; an early 4th century building which later was converted into a Christian church.



## 7. Bezesteni

A rectangular building with lead-covered domes and four entrances, built in the late 15th Century and operated as a cloth market. Now it is an open market with fabrics, clothes, shoes and carpets reminding a lot of an oriental bazaar. Located close to the Rotonda.



### 8. Ano Poli (Old City)

Located on the north of the modern town. This was the former Ottoman quarter where a large community of Jews also lived. The Old Town of Thessaloniki has paved streets and stone houses. There, you will find many Byzantine churches and monasteries. In the Old Town, you will also find the house of Kemal Attaturk, the famous Turkish leader. Kemal was born and raised in this house at the end of the 19th century, when the town was still under Ottoman rule. Today, this house hosts the Turkish Consulate and part of it works as a museum. A large part of the Old Town, mostly the Jewish Quarter, was destroyed in a fire in 1917, which burnt the city in two days.

## SUGGESTED DAY TRIPS AROUND THESSALONIKI



### 1. Pella & Vergina

Do not miss the chance to visit one of the most interesting places of Greece's ancient times. First stop is the archaeological site of Pella, the ancient capital of the Macedonian Empire and birthplace of Alexander the Great. You will then visit the archaeological museum of Pella housing some splendid mosaics from the Macedonian era. Your next stop is Vergina, where you will visit the most important remains of the monumental palace of the Kingdom of Macedonia and the burial ground with more than 300 tumuli. Afterwards you will visit the museum of Vergina which houses some of the most impressive artifacts and treasures of the Macedonian times. Some of the most spectacular exhibits of the museum are the shield and armor of King Phillip the second and the famous Golden Larnax found in the sarcophagus of the King. It will take you 1.5hrs drive to get there.



### 2. Dion & Mount Olympus

Discover Mount Olympus or else, “the home of the Gods”. First visit Dion, the religious center of the Macedonians where the mythical Gods were worshiped. Later on you can head to the picturesque village of Litochoro where you will take a walk and breathe the fresh mountain air, admire the natural beauty and walk through the unspoiled forest. You can take a rest in one of the restaurants located in the main square of the village and have lunch enjoying stunning views of the mythical mountain. It will take you 1hr drive to get there.



### 3. Kavala

Kavala is amphitheatrically built on the slopes of Mt. Symvolos forming one of the most picturesque cities in Greece. The city's breeze sweeps through its historic buildings, which perfectly reflect the city's modern character. According to the archaeological finds, the city's history dates back to the Prehistoric times. Its economic importance over the centuries is attributed to its strategic position in Via Egnatia, which traversed the city connecting East and West, to its port and to the natural fortification of the peninsula, on which the old city was built. It will take you 1.5hrs drive to get to Kavala.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

# Take a balloon ride over the city

We can take you to a fantastic aerial tour over the city on a balloon! You will be treated champagne and enjoy unique photographic moments over the Sea of Thessaloniki!



## CHALKIDIKI, GENERAL INFO

## A dreamy place

The stunning region of Chalkidiki is situated in central Macedonia in Greece and consists of the Kassandra peninsula, the Sithonia peninsula and Mount Athos. Chalkidiki is a popular tourist region with many resorts and lovely beaches. It is easily accessible from Thessaloniki, the second largest Greek city. Due to its large size, tourism in Chalkidiki is spread all around. The first peninsula is the busiest, while the second peninsula is less frequented but equally beautiful. Holidays in Chalkidiki will give you amazing days on the beach and long romantic nights. A drive around will bring you to nice places and historical sites.

More specifically, the first leg is Kassandra and has popular tourist resorts with organized beaches. The second leg is Sithonia, with less organized resorts and more secluded coves. The third leg, Mount Athos, is a close monastic community where entrance is allowed after special permission and only to men. The boat trip from Ouranoupolis is a must-do experience. The boat takes you on a tour around Mount Athos, a region with lovely beaches and impressive Byzantine monasteries.

Mount Athos is a UNESCO World Heritage site and an Orthodox spiritual centre since 1054. Mount Athos has enjoyed an autonomous statute since Byzantine times. The so-called 'Holy Mountain', which is forbidden to women and children, is also a recognized artistic site. The layout of the monasteries (about 20 of which are presently inhabited by some 1,400 monks) had an influence as far afield as Russia, and its school of painting influenced the history of Orthodox art.

## GETTING THERE

**By airplane**

The nearest airport is the International airport of Thessaloniki which is connected daily to all Greek cities and the major European capitals on a daily basis. Depending on which leg you are going, the drive can take from 1 to 3hrs.

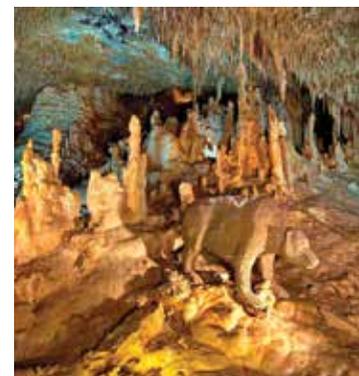
**By car**

The Egnatia Motorway crosses Greece from its westernmost edge -Italy to its easternmost borders with Turkey- and is a modern motorway of international standards equipped with devices and safety systems that aim at protecting and helping the motorists. Egnatia Odos meets the Ring Road of Thessaloniki which leads to the National Road towards Chalkidiki.

## CHALKIDIKI, MUST VISITS

**1. Mount Athos**

Mount Athos is a self-governed part of the Greek State, famous for its old Byzantine monasteries. Women are not allowed to enter the area, while men need a special permission to go. There are frequent boats from Ouranoupolis that go around Mount Athos.

**2. Cave of Petralona**

The Cave of Petralona is located on the western side of Mount Katsika. It is rich in stalactites and stalagmites and in 1960 a human skull of 700,000 years old was discovered there. Fossils of lions, panthers, bears, deer, bats and other animals were also discovered.



### 3. Aristotle Park

In the village of Stagira, next to Ierissos, there is a park dedicated to the life and works of Aristotle, the famous ancient Greek philosopher. Created in 2004, the park hosts a series of important instruments that show the phenomena of nature.



### 4. Archaeological site of Olynthos

This archaeological site was discovered in the 1930s and includes archaeological findings of Ancient Olynthos, the ancient capital of Chalkidiki. In Olynthos village, there is also the archaeological museum that hosts the findings from the excavations.

## CHALKIDIKI BEACH GUIDE



### 1. Possidi

Nuzzled in the spectacular surroundings, the long sandy beach of Possidi offers a heavenly summer retreat



### 2. Kalogria

Unspoiled and unhurried, the beautiful beach of Kalogria offers a heavenly retreat for tranquil hours of relaxation.



### 3. Kavourotrypes

Secluded by natural rocks and lush greenery the small pristine beach of Kavourotrypes is a tranquil beach hideaway for those wishing to escape the touristy resorts.



#### 4. Armenistis

Encircled by the deep pine filled hills, it captures travelers with its emerald waters and its powdery white sand. It is a very popular camping center with outstanding facilities and services attracting tourists from all over the world.



#### 5. Sani

Embraced by abundant greenery and fragrant pine trees, Sani beach is a heavenly retreat with crystalline sapphire waters and fine golden sand ideal for relaxing breaks



#### 6. Kalithea

This beautiful beach with the golden shimmering sand is ideal for families and travelers seeking a fully organized beach resort near the exciting village of Kalithea.

### TIP

Make sure you do not miss the stunningly beautiful beaches of Hanioti, Armenisti, Sani, Gerakini, Vourvourou, Porto Koufo, Nea Flogita, Pefkohori and Nea Fokea!

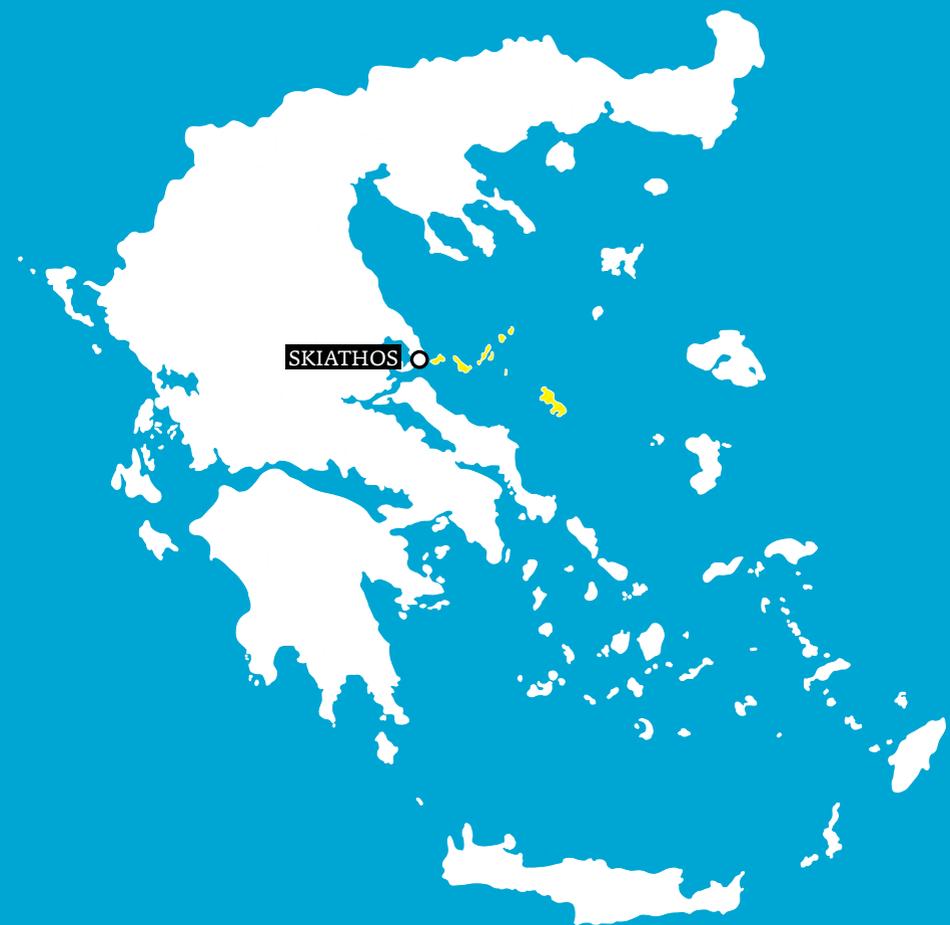
### UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Plan a visit at Mount Athos

Experience the daily life and the impeccable hospitality of the monks. Becoming a part of the Mount Athos daily life can offer you a unique spiritual peace. Learn from the monks the secrets of healthy living and see how they produce mostly everything they consume. Permits are issued daily and are valid for a four-day visit and for specific dates.

CHOOSE  
YOUR  
GREECE  
SPORADES





## SKIATHOS, ISLAND INFO

# A summer retreat for all

Skiathos is a spectacular island that belongs to the complex of Sporades. It is a cosmopolitan destination with many interesting attractions, a wide choice of hotels and restaurants and stunning beaches.

Skiathos has a turbulent history, marked by the Venetians, the Byzantines, the Ottomans and the pirates and this explains the numerous sightseeing opportunities visitors have in this little paradise. The island is also famous for its sandy beaches, the lush greenery and the vivid nightlife, which is why holidays in Skiathos are particularly popular among young visitors. The southern side of the island is dotted with fantastic beaches, like Koukounaries, Banana, Agia Paraskevi, Kanapitsa and more. The countryside has few interesting monasteries to visit. From Skiathos there are day cruises to the other islands of Sporades and Pelion.

In 2008 the film “Mamma Mia” was shot in Skiathos and in the neighboring areas of Skopelos and Pelion. Once you visit the old port you will recognize the scenery where Meryl Streep and the other cast were performing.

## GETTING THERE



### By airplane

Scheduled domestic flights operate between Athens International Airport and the island of Skiathos. During the summer months there are also numerous charter flights from many European cities, like Amsterdam, Vienna, Milan, Berlin, Zurich, Oslo, Munich, Stockholm, Frankfurt etc.

### By ferry

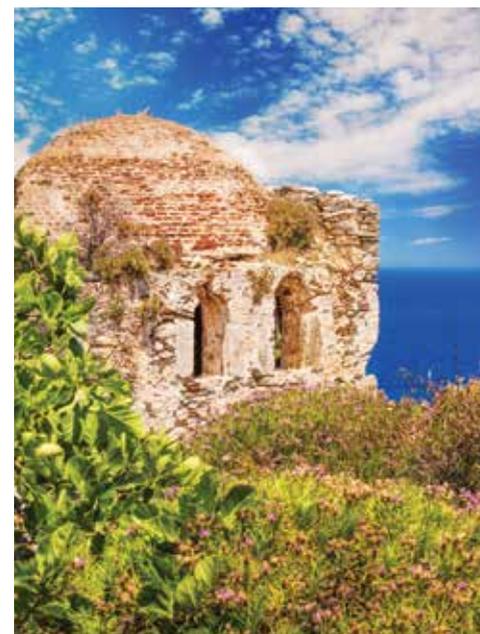
Skiathos is connected by ferry boat with Volos (321 km from Athens), Agios Konstantinos (165 km from Athens) and Thessaloniki. However, during the summer months it is also connected with the islands of Alonnisos, Skopelos, Syros, Santorini, Paros, Naxos, Tinos and Heraklion by highspeed flying dolphins

## SKIATHOS, MUST VISITS



### 1. Bourzi

Bourtzi is a tiny peninsula at the entrance of the port that divides it in two parts. A fortress was built there in the 13th Century to protect the town, however today only few ruins survive. This is a nice place to have a rest among the many pine trees.



### 2. Medieval Castle

The Castle of Skiathos is located on the northern side of the island, accessible by boat or through a track path. This is a former Medieval town built on a rocky cliff. In the area, there are remains of old structures such as churches, walls, baths and many more.



### 3. House of Alexander Papadiamantis

One of Greece's most prominent writers and poets. His house was built by his father in 1860, it has two floors and it's quite simple. Today it's a museum, with the writer's books, clothes and various artifacts. It's located on the eastern part of the town, in a small dead-end street.



### 4. Lalaria beach

A beach famous for its round, white pebbles. It is accessible only by boat, weather permitted, and it doesn't offer any shade or facilities. However the natural beauty is just stunning. On its right side, the cliffs are sculpted by the strong waves and the winds, creating a natural gate.



### 5. Koukounaries beach

Among the 7 best beaches in the world! The famous pine forest reaches all the way to the water giving the sea this extraordinary emerald color. It is very long, with extra fine golden sand and excellent infrastructure. The natural beauty is stunning. Right behind it, there is a lagoon which is also a stunning wetland with rare fauna and flora

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

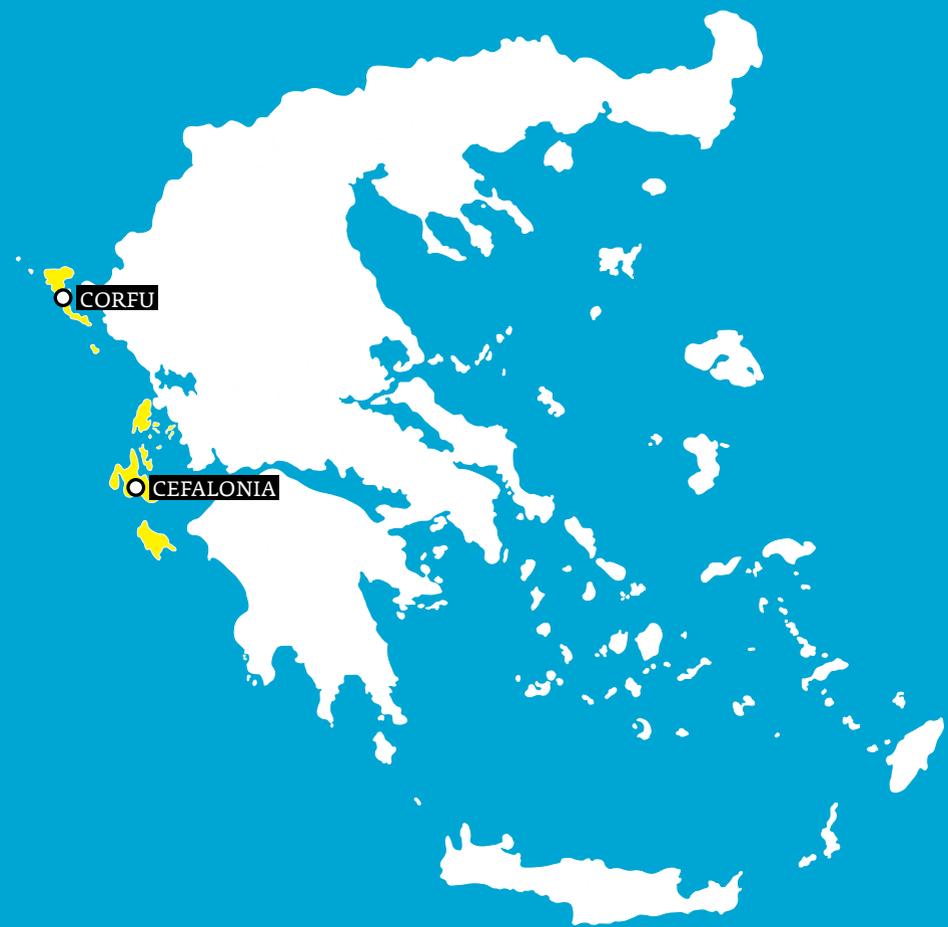


## Scuba diving

Discover the island's emerald waters and get amazed by the unique underwater kingdom! Most Skiathos diving centers are found on the southern side of the island, in beaches like Tzaneria, Koukounaries, Vromolimnos and Vassilias. These centers offer courses for all ages, rent the necessary equipment and organize diving trips to interesting reefs and uninhabited islands. Upon proper guidance, scuba diving can also be practiced at night!

CHOOSE  
YOUR  
GREECE

IONIAN  
ISLANDS



## CORFU, ISLAND INFO



## The nymph of the Ionian Sea

Corfu is the second largest of the Ionian Islands. The island is bound with the history of Greece from the beginning of Greek mythology. According to the myth, Poseidon fell in love with the beautiful nymph Korkyra and abducted her. Poseidon then brought Korkyra to an unnamed island and, in marital bliss, offered her name to the place: “Korkyra”, which gradually evolved to “Kerkyra” (English: Corfu).

Over time the island has changed a lot but one can still feel the spirit of its distant yet glorious past. Its rich multi-cultural heritage, its numerous historic monuments, its stunning natural landscapes, its crystal clear seas and its excellent weather all year round explain why Corfu is one of the most popular cosmopolitan destinations in the Mediterranean, weaving a powerful spell on its visitors.

Corfu, unlike the rest of Greece, never fell under Ottoman oppression. Due to the successive dominations of the Venetians, the French and the British, the island has primarily become part of the Western rather the Levantine world. This is why Western culture has a strong influence over the city of Corfu: it was here that the first Greek University (the Ionian Academy), the first Orchestra and the First School of Fine Arts were founded.

In the beautifully preserved old town, a UNESCO world heritage site, Palaces, fortresses, austere public buildings of the Venetian rule uniquely blend with lines of drying laundries in tiny alleyways and small secluded squares. Strolling through a complex of narrow cobbled streets with stairways and vaulted passages, the so-called “kantounia”, will make you feel as if you are in Genoa or Naples.

When visiting Corfu, one should not miss the chance to hop to the neighboring islands of Paxi and Antipaxi. You will be amazed by the island’s fjord-shaped beaches, underwater caves, small bays and green hills. According to the myth, the island would have been the southernmost tip of Corfu if Poseidon had not broken it off with his trident when he needed a divine place to live his love with the Nereid Amphitrite. On the other hand Paxi, although a small island lying 3 nautical miles from Paxi, it is endowed with outstanding beauty. Antipaxoi is also famous for its renowned exotic beaches, among which Voutoumi, with its exotic turquoise waters, considered to be within the most impressive within Greece.

## GETTING THERE

### By airplane

Corfu is connected to Athens with regular domestic flights. Also, during the summer months, it is connected with charter flights from all major European capitals.

### By ferry

Corfu is connected with ferries departing daily from the ports of Patra, Igoumenitsa and Venice (Italy).

## CORFU, MUST VISITS



### 1. Archaeological Museum

The museum stands in Vraila Street, near the Garitsa coastal road and was built to house the Gorgon pediment from the temple of Artemis which was found in the area of Paleopolis. This pediment dates back to 580 BC and is supposed to be the oldest in Greece. The Museum also houses other finds from archaeological sites across the island, from the ancient town of Cassiopea and from a private collection.



## 2. Palace of Mon Repos

The Mon Repos Palace estate (258 acres) takes up the most of the Analipsis hill where the ancient town of Corfu was located. It is 3km drive from Corfu town. In the centre of the garden stands the imposing palace built in 1824 by the British Commissioner Frederick Adams. It is a grandiose building that has been occupied by British Commissioners, Italian politicians, the Greek Royal Family and was the birthplace of Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.



## 3. Achillion Palace (Palace of Sissy)

Located in Gastouri village, this luxurious villa was built for the Empress of Austria, Elisabeth von Wittelsbach (also known as Sissy) by the Italian architect Raffaele Carito in 1892. Today the palace has been transformed into a museum, whilst its stunning, colorful gardens feature prominent statues such as the one of the dying Achilles.



## 4. Kanoni & Pontikonissi

World famous Kanoni is situated south of the old town peninsula. It was named Kanoni (canons) after the battery of artillery established by the French in 1798. In the sea below Kanoni lays the Monastery of Vlaherna built in the 17th Century, linked to the mainland by a pier. Right across the Vlaherna monastery you can see the verdantly green Mouse Island (Pontikonisi). This stunning view is the trademark of Corfu.

# CORFU, MUST VISITS



## 5. Paleokastritsa

Paleokastritsa has long been considered one of the most beautiful villages in Corfu. Here you can find six secluded sand and fine pebble beaches surrounded by tall cliffs, wooded headlands, olive groves, lemon and cypress trees and lush hilly countryside. The island's favorite monastery is the charming Theotokos monastery, situated in the 13th Century Venetian Castrizza San Angelo, just above the main beach of Paleokastritsa.



## 6. The folklore Museum of Acharavi

Inaugurated in October 2008 and housed in a building of more than 1,000 square meters. The owner has been collecting, maintaining and promoting local folk objects of particular historical interest for the last 25 years. The permanent exhibition of the museum is located in two rooms. The objects, which have been mainly donated, are organized in zones concerning the main local activities. The museum has a rich collection comprising of: Photographic material, books and documents dating back to 1862 and a specialized numismatic collection from the period of the Ionian Islands independent state (19th Century), Local costumes dating back to 1800, folk house furniture, a cart, a harrow, a plow and other agricultural objects and many more.



### 7. Old Perithea ghost village:

This historic village is a unique area of natural beauty, situated on the attractive north east corner of the island, just below Mount Pantocrator. It is the oldest example of the original mountain villages of Corfu. The village, once inhabited by approximately 1200 people, was one of the wealthiest on the island, surrounded by vines, oak trees and thousands of sheep that roamed across the mountainside. To this day, with its cobbled streets and ancient houses, the atmosphere retains its warmth and friendliness. Nestling beneath the island's highest mountains, Old Perithea is set amidst beautiful countryside with views to the sea; it was once a hideaway from Pirate attacks. The village remains an enchanting discovery for visitors from all over the world.



### 8. Corfu island safari

Experience Corfu's stunning beauty on a Jeep Safari and feel the island's adventurous nature and stunning views. You can choose to be a driver or a passenger. The tour starts towards the north of the island and passes by the villages of Zigos, Omali and Strinilas. Take some time to observe the unique architectural style of the houses with spilling flowers from balconies and pots as well as little churches whose unique architecture was visibly influenced by Italian churches of the 16th Century. You will also drive to the highest point of the island, Mount Pantocrator. On clear days you can even see Italy, which is about 130 km away. Next you drive along to Kalamaki, one of the nicest beaches in northern Corfu.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

# Easter in Corfu

The celebration of Easter in the island of Corfu is a truly unique experience, combining elements from Paganism, Agios Spyridon's spirit (the Patron Saint of the island), the Roman Catholic community, the Venetians, the locals' mentality and of course the Orthodox faith.



## CEFALONIA, ISLAND INFO

## A very charming place

Cefalonia is the largest island of the Ionian Sea and a very charming place. Although it has developed over the last years as a family destination, beach places in Cefalonia Island never get crowded due to its large size. Mostly famous for its exotic beaches, including Myrtos, Antisamos, Lourdas and Skala, the island was chosen in 2001 for filming the Hollywood movie “Captain Corelli’s Mandolin”.

Apart from swimming, do not miss the chance to visit the island’s picturesque villages, the medieval castles and the beautiful monasteries.

The cuisine of the Ionian Islands, Cefalonia included, is heavily influenced by its conquerors. Local ingredients cooked with passion and according to tradition lead to superb gastronomic experiences, bursting with distinctive aromas and unique flavors. Dining in Cefalonia can be a real pleasure! The traditional restaurants offer the best of local gastronomy with authentic dishes like aliada, bouryetto, tsigaria and bourborelia.

Fiscardo is the most cosmopolitan place with a port that receives many yachts every summer. Other nice villages to visit during your stay are Argostoli, Sami and Assos.



## GETTING THERE

**By plane**

There are daily flights between Athens and the Airport of Cefalonia throughout the year as well as numerous charter flights that connect the island with major European capitals. The Cefalonia airport can be easily accessed by private car and it is located in the area of Argostoli.

**By ferry/car**

From Athens you have to drive to Patras or Kyllini and then take the ferry to Cefalonia. The trip takes around 4-6hrs.

## CEFALONIA, MUST VISITS

**1. Melissani Cave**

The Cave Lake of Melissani is located just 3 km from Sami, close to Karavomilos village. Visitors enter the cave through an underground path and they can step into a boat to tour the cave. Archaeological excavations have found exhibits from the 4th and the 3rd century BC.



### 2. Castle of St George

The Castle of Saint George stands on a hill above Peratata village, about 7 km from Argostoli. It was originally built by the Byzantines but the Venetians gave it its final form in 1504. The Castle is almost ruined today by invasions and the severe earthquake that hit Cefalonia in 1953.



### 3. Myrto Beach

Myrto is the most famous and beautiful beach of Cefalonia. It is actually a large coast with turquoise waters and white sand, surrounded by steep cliffs. Located at 30km north of Argostoli.

### TIP

The Ionian Islands are ideal for sailing vacations as the area offers friendly winds and seas all summer long!

### UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



## Scuba diving

Scuba diving is particularly popular in Cefalonia, due to the rocky coastline and the safe waters. Important diving sites are the Temple Cave in Fiscardo with two entrances, the Catacombs with max depth 21 m, the Blue Canyon in Lassi, and the shipwreck of the Italian WWII ship Ardena which is suitable only for advanced divers. Courses for all ages are offered upon request.











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