

IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS



EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS TO THE GREEK ISLANDS

FURTHER INFORMATION BOOKLET

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We kindly ask that you leave the booklet at the property in a visible location, handy for the arriving guests to read and enjoy. If you have any queries regarding any of the information in the book or if there is anything else you would like to know, please do not hesitate to speak to your Representative.

WELCOME TO VOTSALO BEACH VILLA



Ionian Island Holidays and the property owners would like to welcome you to Votsalo Beach Villa, Steni Vala, Alonissos. We trust that your journey to Alonissos was a pleasant one and that everything is in order with the villa. By now your Representative will have given to you your welcome letter which will include the place and time of the welcome meeting. We recommend that you take a few moments from your holiday to attend even if you are familiar with the island and your surroundings as at this time you will be given important information regarding your stay.

Please take time out to read this information booklet which has been put together with your holiday in mind and help you get the most from your stay in Alonissos. If you have any queries regarding your holiday or if there is anything else you would like to know, please do not hesitate to speak to your Representative.

ABOUT IONIAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

We are a small independent specialist tour operator offering exclusive holidays to Greece and the islands, our properties range from villas by the sea, villas with pools, waterside apartments, apartments with swimming pools, boutique hotels, deluxe spa hotels and family run pensions. We operate entirely in Greece & more specifically the Ionian Islands of Kefalonia, Ithaca, Lefkada, Meganisi, Paxos, Corfu and to the mainland Epiros

coastline. In the Aegean we feature Skopelos, Alonissos, Skiathos and the mainland Pelion Peninsula.

The quintessential Greek Islands; hot sun, warm sea, shaded olive groves, historic monuments, ancient vine terraces, dramatic cliffs, the hum of cicadas and perhaps, most important of all, that timeless quality, uniquely Greek that is 'Filoxenia' or Friendship to Visitors.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

As a specialist and totally independent tour operator, we have a simple philosophy - "To provide quality holidays to the Greek Islands, backed by solid experience and a high level of customer care". Ionian Island Holidays are part of that heritage. We love our islands, and are determined that their beauty, culture and tradition should not be changed irreversibly by inappropriate

development. To this end, we have encouraged the sympathetic restoration of many of the old houses and villas and to fully support all initiatives that maintain this tradition.

It is equally important to us that the company should be very much a part of and contribute to the local economy to the benefit of all the islanders.

OUR SERVICE

We believe that people who book with Ionian Island Holidays will benefit from our experience, knowledge and the personal attention that we, as a small independent tour operator, can offer. When you contact our office in London, you will be speaking to an experienced and knowledgeable team who know the islands and the accommodation intimately.



Our home in Kefalonia

ABOUT VOTSALO BEACH VILLA

CLEANING

The property is cleaned every three days. The cleaner disposes of the rubbish as well.

HOT WATER

The water is heated by the use of solar power. Hot water should be available at all times. If otherwise, please contact your Representative.

AIR CONDITIONING

The air conditioning is operated by a remote control. The usual temperature is around 22°C. All doors and windows should be closed for air conditioning to function properly.

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

Instructions on how to operate the washing machine can be found by the machine itself. If you are having trouble with any of the appliances, please contact your Representative.

KEYS

The keys to your property can be found in the front door and instructions on where to leave them will be given in your departure letter. We would ask that you take good care of the keys to the property as if they are your own. In the unlikely event you were to lose the keys, please contact your Representative and you will be provided with a spare set.

However, should it be necessary to change the locks for security reasons as a result of lost keys, we reserve the right to make a charge for which you may be



liable for. We would ask that you also be mindful when you are outside the villa and around the pool area not to lock yourselves out. This can happen easily as the wind can slam doors very quickly.

Should you get locked out contact your Representative.

Please note that these extra keys are for use only in emergency - we cannot provide spare keys as a matter of course.

WATER

The property's tap water is not drinkable. We advise you to consume bottled water.

SWIMMING POOL

The pool is cleaned three times a week.

CCTV

The outside areas of the property are monitored by a CCTV.

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX

The safe is located in the closet and is operated by a key.

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure all personal possessions are packed when leaving your accommodation. Whilst we will endeavour to assist when items are left, unfortunately we are unable to guarantee the return of any items which

have been left unattended and will not be liable for any items lost or damaged. If we are able to locate your lost item, postage, packaging and handling fees may apply for the return of the lost items.



HEALTH & SAFETY

To help ensure that your holiday will be both happy and safe, we would kindly ask that you take the time to read the following information.

Part of the enjoyment of traveling abroad is experiencing a different way of life. Please remember though, that it may also mean experiencing different standards from those we are used to at home. We are continually working to raise safety standards in all of our properties and will of course do our best to ensure that your holiday is safe and trouble-free, but we do ask that you take extra care while you are away. With this in mind, we would like to highlight the following important points.

FIRE SAFETY

Other countries have different fire safety regulations and procedures. Please read carefully all safety information available in your property and in this information book. When you first arrive, please make sure you familiarise yourself with the location of the fire exits and the location of all fire extinguishers.

To help avoid the risk of fire, please take particular care when cooking and using the barbecue.

IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A FIRE:

- RAISE THE ALARM
- CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE - 199
- DO NOT PANIC

Leave the building. Do not stop to take personal belongings with you

- IF THE EXITS/STAIRS ARE BLOCKED keep the doors shut and try to get out onto a balcony for fresh air and to attract attention
- DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING - AWAIT FOR CLEARANCE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

BATHROOMS

In common with many Mediterranean countries, your bathroom will probably have a marble or tiled floor. Shower curtains are not always provided and most bathrooms do not have non-slip mats in either the bath or shower, so extra care must be taken when the floor is wet, particularly with children.

Due to the size of the standard bore sewerage pipe used, Greek toilets cannot properly dispose of any paper or other waste material. To avoid blockages, please ensure that all paper, nappies and sanitary items are placed in the bin provided, which will be emptied regularly.

GLASS PANELS/DOORS

Although most properties have safety stickers on glass doors this may not always be the case, so particular care should be taken when walking through glass patio doors, as it can be difficult to tell if they are open or closed.

SECURITY AND VALUABLES

Where available, it is generally advisable to use the safety deposit facilities, or hotel safe, at your property, particularly for valuables.

WATER

Although tap water is purified it can cause upset stomachs and so it is best to drink bottled water, which may be purchased in local shops. To avoid dehydration and the effects of the sun it is advisable to drink water, in addition to other drinks you may consume.

PLUMBING

Drainage systems in Greece are not always efficient as small bore pipes are often used. A blockage will cause considerable inconvenience and during the summer season plumbers can be hard to find. To avoid problems of this nature, please do not put any products other than a small amount of toilet paper into the toilet. A bin is provided in the bathroom for disposable nappies and other sanitary products.

RUBBISH DISPOSAL

The maid will dispose of your rubbish on visits to the property. If you wish to dispose of rubbish in between visits, your Representative will advise you of the nearest disposal bin. Please keep the lid on the bin and tie any rubbish sacks up securely to stop any rodent/insect infestation.

GAS SAFETY

If your accommodation has a gas cooker, always double check that it has been turned off properly just as you would at home. Please follow any Gas Safety instructions provided. In many cases you will find that the gas is supplied direct from a bottle - as an extra precaution, turn the supply off at the bottleneck when it is not in use.

Never attempt to locate a gas leak yourself or tamper with the gas supply. If you are unsure about how any of the gas appliances operate or have any queries or concerns please ask your Representative for assistance and advice.

SMOKING MATERIALS

Please take care when discarding matches, cigarettes etc. Always use the ashtrays provided. Never throw a cigarette end carelessly within the grounds or outside, especially near trees and plants. In summer the vegetation can be tinder-dry and fires can start all too easily. Please note that it is absolutely prohibited to use any type of flammable materials inside the villa.

KEYS

Please be careful when you are outside the villa not to lock yourselves out. This can happen easily as the wind can slam doors very quickly! Should you get locked out keys are held by the maids and your Representative. Please note that these extra keys are for use only in emergency - we cannot provide spare keys as a matter of course.

SUNBATHING

A healthier colour makes us all feel better, but taking too much sun can be both painful and dangerous. Build up your tan gradually by minimising your exposure during the first few days of your holiday. Remember the sun's rays are at their strongest between the hours of 11.00 to 15.00.

- Always use a sunscreen that protects against UVA and UVB (ultra violet) and has a high SPF (sun protection factor)
- Avoid midday sun, but if you have to go out, cover up with loose clothing and wear a wide brimmed hat
- Never expose babies under six months to direct sunlight
- Remember you can still burn in the shade, when it's cloudy or when you're swimming.

Wind and water intensify the sun's effect, so while you may feel cool, you could be burning. Always re-apply sunscreen after swimming

- Where possible, seek natural shade

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

You will find that many swimming pools are not designed in the same way as the UK and may have unusual features. Take care when walking around the pool, as pool surrounds are often slippery when wet. Do not use the pool if you cannot see the bottom and do not tamper with the pool filter covers, report any defects to your Representative immediately. In general, pools do not have a lifeguard so we strongly recommend that you read through this Swimming Pool Safety section.

NEVER put any liquids or chemicals into the pool yourself. The pool pump house housing the pump and filtration equipment should normally be locked and not accessible. However, if for some reason the pump house is open, perhaps for access to the “Pool Lights” switch, **NEVER** touch any of the equipment. Keep children out of the pump house at all times. If pool chemicals such as chlorine and acid are in the pump house, under no circumstances touch them and ask your Representative to have them removed to a safe place. Concentrated chlorine and acid will cause severe burns on contact with skin.

Please take a few minutes to read this information and familiarise yourself with the points mentioned below.

- Please note that the pool is unattended and therefore you are responsible for the safety of any children and non-swimmers in your party to act responsibly around the pool area.
- Diving is NOT permitted.
- If you are at a shared pool please consider others and be respectful of other swimmers.
- Please familiarise yourself on arrival with the depth of the pool. In particular the deep and shallow ends as well as the steepness of the slopes. Pay close attention to the depth markings.
- Shower before and after using the pool - this will help maintain good hygiene standards, keep the pool clean and functioning properly.
- Please do not swim in the pool after using suntan lotions or oils as this can damage the filter systems.
- It is your responsibility to ensure children in your party are supervised at all times when using the pool and the surrounding areas.
- Please do not run or allow children to run around the pool areas.
- Please remove all toys and swimming aids from the pool and the pool area when the pool is no longer in use and when an adult is not supervising the area.
- Please avoid using drinking glasses, bottles and anything breakable around the pool area.
- No alcohol should be consumed before or during the use of the swimming pool.
- Should the weather turn windy, please ensure any parasols are closed or where possible removed from the pool area. Please ensure they are also closed when not in use.
- Beware of slippery surfaces and raised edges in and around the pool.
- Do not tamper with the pool filter covers, pool lights or any pool equipment.

DRIVING

Driving overseas can be great fun and a good way to explore. However, conditions and procedures can differ to those we are familiar with in the UK. The rules of the road can be very different, drivers are not always obliged to stop at pedestrian crossings and you may need to look the other way when crossing the road! Please be fully aware of the local regulations regarding the "Highway Code". Information on speed limits can be obtained from the car hire company.

Never drink and drive, as it is an offence



GREEN LIVING

We at Ionian Island Holidays take an active role in assuring that we do our utmost to be energy aware and we do all we can to aid conservation to help the environment. We know many of our guests want to conserve energy and water, so here are a few tips to help you during your stay

WATER CONSERVATION

- 🍃 Turn taps off when brushing your teeth or shaving
- 🍃 Take shorter showers: recommended time 4 mins
- 🍃 Fully load the washing machine/ dishwasher OR, if not full, use the half load button if available
- 🍃 Use lower economy settings on washing machines and dishwashers
- 🍃 Do not leave taps running unnecessarily



ENERGY CONSERVATION

- 🍃 Switch off lights when not in use
- 🍃 Kettles use lots of electricity - so only boil what you need and don't overfill
- 🍃 Don't leave TVs/DVD-players/Radios on standby - this still uses a lot of electricity
- 🍃 Don't leave your mobile phone or other device charger plugged into the socket when not charging, as this still draws on electricity
- 🍃 If it's not too hot, instead of using the air-conditioning, open doors and windows and let the cool summer breezes in
- 🍃 To maximise air-conditioning, ensure external doors and windows are shut (air-conditioning in some properties will not work otherwise)
- 🍃 Optimum air-conditioning temperature is 22-24°, helping conserve energy and preventing units from potentially freezing up and causing water leakage (Remember, it's not recommended to sleep with air-conditioning as you may catch a chill)
- 🍃 If the hot water switch is on, make sure it is turned off when not needed

EXPLORING STENI VALA

Patitiri takes its name from the wine presses once located here. The wines of Alonissos were famous throughout the region until the Phylloxera virus decimated the vineyards in the 1950's. At that time, the island's capital and main village was the spectacularly sited Chora or 'Palea Alonissos' (Alonissos Old Town), a cluster of traditional Sporadic houses built around the walls of a Venetian hilltop fortress dating back to the 15th century.

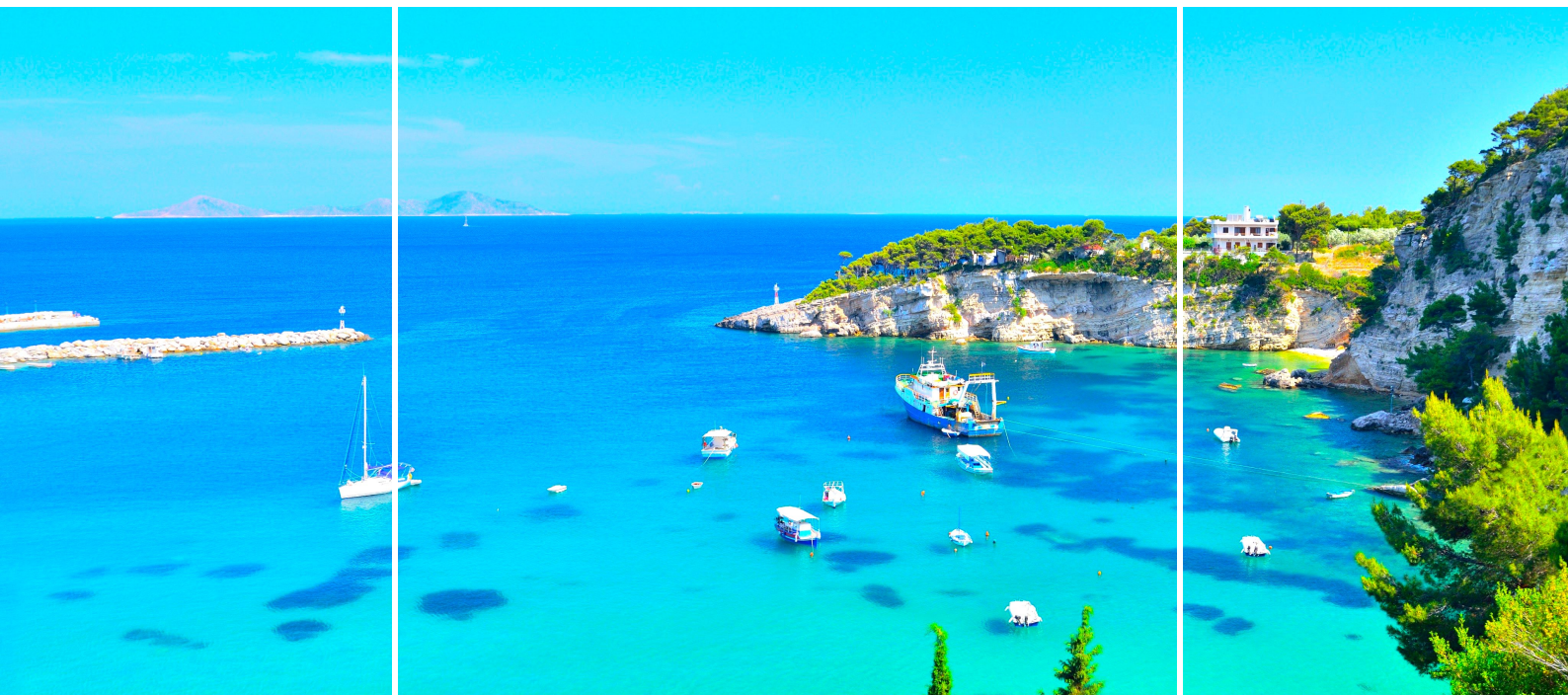


Patitiri



Old town of Alonissos

Located 10km north east of Patitiri and surrounded by pine trees, the lovely harbour of Steni Vala is set in a beautiful bay. Even at the height of the summer season the pace of life in seems much more in tune with a less hectic age. Perhaps this is the reason why one of the earliest Paleolithic human settlements in the Aegean (between 10,000 and 300,000 years ago!) has been discovered here. The village has a selection of seaside tavernas, and this is where the Monk Seal Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre is located.



LOCAL AMENITIES

SHOPS

You will find plenty of souvenir and clothing shops as well as jewellery and other boutique stores in Chora. During peak summer season the shops will stay open from early in the morning until late at night.

BANK

Your nearest bank is located in Patitiri, at the island's main port, a 35 minute drive from your property. The bank stays open Monday to Thursday, 8.00am to 2.30pm and Friday 8.00am to 2.00pm.

SUPERMARKET

Your nearest supermarket is located in Steni Vala, at a short walking distance from your property. The supermarket is open 7 days a week.

PHARMACY

There are two pharmacies in Patitiri, both on the island's main road. One you will find at the beginning of the road, on your left hand side, and another, 500m from the port, on the other side of the road. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

MEDICAL CENTRE

The island's medical centre is located in Patitiri, 500m from the port. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

DENTIST

Your nearest dentist is located in Patitiri, 1km from the port. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

BAKERY

Your nearest bakery is located in your local mini market, at a 20 minute walk from your property.

RESTAURANTS

You will find several restaurants in Steni Vala, by the small port, a 20 minute walk from your property. However, a plethora of restaurants, traditional Greek tavernas and bars you will find in Chora.

BEACHES

One of your nearest bays is the beautiful Glyfa beach, near Steni Vala, at a short 5 minute drive from your property.

POST OFFICE

At Alonissos main port you will also find the post office. It is located on the main road, 500m from the port. The opening hours are Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 2.00pm.

PETROL STATION

Your nearest petrol station is located on the main road in Patitiri, 1km from port and near Votsi, called Jet Oil. A second petrol station you will find at the beginning of the road, on your way to Chora, 900m from the port, called EKO.

EXPLORING ALONISSOS

‘I dive from a cliff into the bright blue Aegean and return to you, fresh as a newborn child.’ – *Greek Island* by Mark Rockery

Alonissos is the most peaceful, remote and least developed of the three inhabited islands in the northern Sporades. Alonissos is the haven we all dream of when life and work becomes too stressful, yet it is a mere two hours from Skiathos international airport.

The voyage to Alonissos is a mini-cruise in its own right, passing small islands and spectacular cliffs. It's the perfect way to prepare for your arrival at the island capital and the port of Patitiri, where you will soon discover that arriving on the ferry may well be the busiest event of the day. Life on Alonissos runs at its own pace. Rush hour may well mean half a dozen cars on the road at one time and a wild night out could be sitting on your terrace by the pool, a glass of local wine to hand, star-gazing whilst the kebabs sizzle on the barbecue!



Steni Vala

This is not to say that there is little to do on the island. Although only 12kms long and 4kms wide, there are dozens of well-maintained mule paths criss-crossing the island, linking the scattered hamlets and small fishing villages which are a walker's or mountain biker's paradise. Equally, jostling for a patch of sand on a crowded beach is unheard of here, but if the sunbathing palls, then kayaking, snorkelling and diving are all available, as are boat trips around the Sporades National Marine Park, taking in the neighbouring islets of Peristera and Lechoussa and the teeming marine life both in and out of the seas surrounding them.

The island suffered much damage from an earthquake in 1965, and many of the buildings around the island have been newly built since. However a number of the original Sporadian buildings in the hilltop village and ancient capital of the island, Chora, have now been restored. Wonder around the jumble of narrow alleys, traditional tavernas, shops, houses, and the ruined fortress, and admire one of the finest viewpoints in the Sporades.

And the tiny but picturesque fishing village of Steni Vala with its lovely harbour and waterfront tavernas serving fresh fish straight off the boat is well worth a visit.

Fishing is still a widespread activity here, and so too is agriculture, which mainly comprises of winemaking and mixed farming. The island's main products are grapes, figs, almonds, and olives. And

although the islanders now mostly live from tourism, Alonissos remains relatively unspoilt, making it a perfect place for a peaceful getaway.

A BRIEF HISTORY

This now quiet island was one of the first islands of the Aegean to be inhabited. In its position at the crossroads of major sea routes, legend has it that it was from Alonissos that Jason and the Argonauts sailed to Kolhida to retrieve the Golden Fleece, and that it is also from here that the Achaean ships sailed to Troy. There are a number of shipwrecks dating from classical times and the more recent, Byzantine era which lie on the bottom of the sea.



Tradition holds that the Cretans, with the mythical hero, Staphylo as their leader, established colonies on Peparithos and on Ikos (as Alonissos was known to the Ancient Greeks) in the 16th century B.C. during the Minoan domination of the

Aegean Sea. The Mycenaean city stood on the site today known as Kokkinokastro, on the eastern side of the island. However, it is historically ascertained that the Geometric period finds Ikos under the domination of the Dolopes. In time the Dolopes turned into dangerous pirates and became the scourge of the Aegean. The Athenian navy set out to confront them later on, under the leadership of Cimon, who routed them and annexed all the islands to Athens. Thus, in 476 B.C. the island joined the first Athenian Alliance.

During the classical period Ikos must have contained two cities, one of them probably located at Kokkinokastro, where the ruins of the wall remain until today, and the other on the site where the village of Horio, or Old Alonissos, stands today. During that period the island was renowned for its vineyards and its exceptional wine.

In 190 B.C. the island was taken by the Roman navy. After this point there is no further information on the history of Ikos until the occupation of Constantinople by the Franks in 1204 A.D. when both Constantinople and the other neighbouring islands passed into the hands of the Venetians. Together with Skopelos, Alonissos was occupied by successive conquerors. After the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453, the islands were turned back over to the Venetians. They remained Venetian until 1538 when the Turkish navy, under the leadership of Khair-ed-Din Barbarossa, imposed Turkish authority.

During the Greek revolution of 1821 and the first years of the Greek Nation's independence, Greeks from different parts of the country took refuge on Alonissos. These people, along with the natives of the island, compose the present population.

CHORA

Patitiri takes its name from the wine presses once located here. The wines of Alonissos were famous throughout the region until the Phylloxera virus decimated the vineyards in the 1950's. At that time, the island's capital and main village was the spectacularly sited Chora or 'Palea Alonissos' (Alonissos Old Town), a cluster of traditional Sporadic houses built around the walls of a Venetian hilltop fortress dating back to the 15th century. Unfortunately, the village was destroyed by an earthquake in 1965 and most of the inhabitants had to resettle in nearby Patitiri, which is the main port and can now be loosely described as the island's capital. Over the last few years, old Chora has been carefully restored and the village is now popular for its fantastic views, sunsets, traditional tavernas and steep, narrow cobbled streets.

VOTSI

Just a couple of kilometres north west of Patitiri is the tranquil little fishing village of Votsi. Lying around one of the most beautiful bays on the island, this charming little harbour filled with small fishing boats (caiques), is lined with romantic tavernas.

THE ALONISSOS MUSEUM

Set on a hill above Patitiri, this is the largest privately owned museum on any island in Greece. Founded in 2000, its

collection showcases the historical and cultural heritage of Alonissos. Exhibits include objects of everyday life, articles of clothing, weapons and other artefacts used by pirates of the Aegean sea. Space is also given to works of art by local artists both past and present. There is a small fee for admission.

NATIONAL MARINE PARK OF ALONISSOS

The National Marine Park of Alonissos is located in the northern Sporades and is currently the largest marine protected area in Europe (approximately 2.260 km²) and the first of it's kind in Greece. The park also includes the island of Alonissos, six smaller islands, as well as 22 uninhabited islets and rocky outcrops. Proposed by the German zoologist, Thomas Schultze-Westrum, who had extensively explored the area and found it to be of great ecological and biological value, and agreed to by the local fisherman, the first order to protect the area was issued in 1986. This was soon followed by the formation of the Mom NGO by young marine biologists to observe and protect the Mediterranean Monk Seal. Alonissos is also home to the Medical Care of Seals centre, which ensures their safe return to their natural habitat. The team is always on hand to give first-aid to seals should the need arise.



TOP BEACHES

CHRISI MILIA

The only really golden sandy beach on the island benefits from shallow, crystal clear waters which make it ideal for children - and scuba divers! There are tavernas by the beach and sunbeds and parasols for rent.



Chris Milia beach

GIALIA & VRISITSA BEACHES

If you take the road from Patitiri to the Old Village, there are tracks to pebble beaches on the right hand side of the road: Gialia (turn right just past the turning signposted OTE) and Vrisitsa (turn right immediately after the corn circles).



Gialia beach

AGIOS DIMITRIOS

Probably the most beautiful on the island (and has been included in the list for the "10 best beaches of the planet"), this very long, white pebble beach with turquoise waters has spectacular views. There is a canteen and a taverna on the beach, and sunbeds and parasols for rent down one end.

KOKKINOKASTRO

At the foot of a steep cliff of imposing red rocks, this white stone and pebble beach has calm, clear turquoise waters. A short way out to sea lie the ruins of the sunken neolithic city of Eikos, making it a perfect place for snorkelling or scuba diving. Sunbeds and parasols are available but there are no food and drink facilities.



MARPOUNTA

Moving south from Patitiri, there are swimming areas to the left of the road to Marpounta. These are small inlets between the rocks which offer a certain degree of privacy, if not too much comfort - take a lilo! About 500m before Marpounta (which is an Italian Resort Hotel and closed to non-residents) there is a turning on the right which is a graded road leading to Megalos Mourtias.



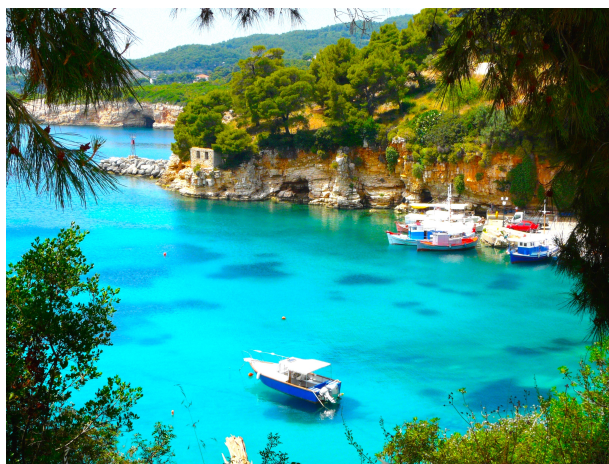
Patitiri

LEFTOS GIALOS BEACH

Surrounded by pine trees, this large, popular, sandy pebble beach with crystal-clear waters has two tavernas and a beach bar (which are all open at night), together with sunbeds and parasols for hire.

VOTSI & SPARTINES BAYS

A 20 minutes walk from Patitiri, Votsi is a small beach looking out over the harbour which is home to many fishing and pleasure crafts. There are tavernas on each side of the bay. Just beyond Votsi, and accessible only on foot, is the small beach of Spartines.



Votsi bay

ROUSSOUM

This little bay right next to Patitiri has a popular white shingle beach with several traditional tavernas serving fresh fish and seafood, and a cantina. The tiny, pretty, harbour was the original port from where wine was sold/exported. Its name originates from the Turkish word 'Rsum', meaning 'taxes'.



LOCAL FOOD

The island of Alonissos promises to offer a rich gastronomic experience with dishes made of fresh ingredients and home made pastries. Throughout the island you will find a plethora of luxurious Greek restaurants, traditional tavernas and plenty of diverse eateries offering quality international cuisine.

FETA CHEESE

Made of sheep's and goat's milk and produced in blocks, feta is the most popular Greek cheese used in lots of Greek dishes, salads and even pastries. High quality feta should have the aroma of ewe's milk, yoghurt and butter, together with a smooth and thick texture.



A refreshing block of Feta

COURGETTE BALLS

These lightly fried balls are certainly among the most popular starters on the Greek table - usually paired with some freshly made tzatziki.



Known as 'kolokythokeftedes'

GREEK COFFEE

There is lovers and there is haters. People who have tried the Greek coffee, also known as Turkish - although you are better off ordering it as 'Greek' - have either fallen in love with its strong coffee smell and thick texture or have found it hard to even get a sip off the cup. Order this unfiltered coffee with a spoon of sugar, otherwise you will be joining the haters in no time.



Greek coffee in a pot

GALAKTOBOUREKO

For the majority of Greeks, Galaktoboureko is the tastiest sweet in the country. Made of home made pastry and custard filling with eggs, milk and sugar, Galaktoboureko resembles the French mille-feuille. Unlike the French delicacy though, in this instance, the custard is baked with the pastry.



A delicious Greek version of the French mille-feuille

GREEK SALAD

During the hot summer days, you can't go wrong with a refreshing Greek salad. You can even have it as your main course. Why not throw some grilled meat on the side?



A healthy choice

warm Bougatsa. In most bakeries you will be offered the savoury version of the pastry as well. You can find the Bougatsa where in place of custard, the pie will be filled with cheese or minced meat.



The sweet and creamy Bougatsa

PASTELI

Pasteli is a sesame seed candy, made of local honey. You will find Pasteli in a flat bar, just like a chocolate bar. Pasteli is another perfect, sweet snack.



Fresh Pasteli

HONEY

The country produces its own high quality - and of exceptional taste - honey. The geography's biodiversity and environmental state promote the yield of such unique produce.



Skopelos-produced honey

BOUGATSA

Bougatsa is the country's most popular breakfast pastry, made of homemade custard between layers of filo pastry. In every bakery on the island you will find a

GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE

We at Ionian Island Holidays are passionate about Greece and its inhabitants, which includes all the local animals as well as the indigenous wildlife. Since Greece are not as fortunate as we are in the UK to have such fantastic charitable organisations and infrastructure such as the RSPCA, The Dogs Trust, Battersea Dogs Home and all the other wonderful animal charities that prevent us from seeing strays on our streets.

HOW IT WORKS

Your local Representative will place an animal welfare charity envelope inside your welcome letters and we kindly ask if you would kindly like to donate any of your left over change before you depart on your journey home in order to help the animals on the island or in the area where you have stayed.



For more information visit <http://www.asap-animalz.org> or email mail@ionianislandholidays.com

The money raised will help local animal charities to purchase vaccinations, microchipping neutering and paying vets bills, feeding, fostering and rehoming.

Your donations will save the many lives of dogs, cats even donkeys, mules and horses and as all our chosen charities are run by volunteers all the donations go directly to helping the animals.

We thought you might like to read a story about how your donations helped Sasha a pure bred German Shepherd who was found wandering the streets of Corfu. She was in very poor condition, extremely weak from hunger in fact so weak she could barely walk. Sasha was ridden with fleas, ticks and suffering from a severe case of Mange.

CARE (Corfu Animal Rescue Establishment) were alerted and they immediately took Sasha to the local vets where she was placed on medication for all the ailments she was suffering from.

Sasha was in such poor condition that it was felt she would be best looked after by one of the volunteers from CARE who took her in and fostered her. Sasha was very well looked after and received the specialist attention and care she needed to recover.

Now some months later, Sasha has made a remarkable recovery. A bounding lively girl, Sasha is 10kgs heavier and full of energy, exhibiting all the characteristics one would expect to see from this fascinating breed. The kind volunteers from CARE have found Sasha a loving permanent home in Corfu.

Your donation has had a direct impact on this dog's life - in fact the money donated actually saved her life.

This is just one story how your donation will help make happy endings!

From all of us at Ionian Island Holidays and on behalf of the many volunteers of the charities we would like to say Thank You!

RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Ionian Island Holidays is committed to high standards of service and believes in regular and thorough training of employees. We continually seek to review and improve our holidays. We listen to our customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

OUR INVOLVEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

We are committed to the conservation and preservation of the natural environment. With strong local connections, we feel we have a moral responsibility towards the environment and the local community.

SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMY OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We support small scale agriculture and local crafts of the local community, introducing you to the products and services available locally, from traditional wine and olive oil procedures to honey farmers.

PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

We support and sponsor initiatives that seek to maintain the natural beauty of our region, including regular beach cleaning, footpath clearance and management of the wildlife.

INCREASING CLIENT AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL ISSUES

You may only have a short time to spend in this region, but we realise that this has an important part to play in ensuring that the qualities that attracted you to the area in the first place are preserved.

WORKING CLOSELY WITH OWNERS AND LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES

We encourage appropriate future development and share a mutual responsibility towards maintaining the natural beauty of our surroundings and to ensure appropriate future development.



YOUR NEXT TRIP WITH US...

When the Gods chose Greece for their home they knew what they were looking for...

- A land so beautiful time has almost stood still
- A sea so blue it shimmers against cloudless skies
- Endless hot summer days drifting into starlit nights
- Hundreds of tiny islands each unique with its own proud history and culture
- Spectacular secluded beaches stretching as far as the eye can see
- Never ending olive groves whistling in the wind
- A land with endless possibilities and choices

Ionian Island Holidays feature some of the most beautiful areas this glorious country has to offer and we are certain that you will become as captivated and passionate about Greece as we are!

LOYALTY DISCOUNT

EXCEPTIONAL SAVING WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON QUALITY

Ionian Island Holidays love to reward our loyal clients. To show our appreciation to returning guests, we offer an additional **5% loyalty discount** off any holiday with Ionian Island Holidays.

Should you book two holidays with us in the same season at full brochure price, we will reduce the cost of your second holiday by **15%**.

YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



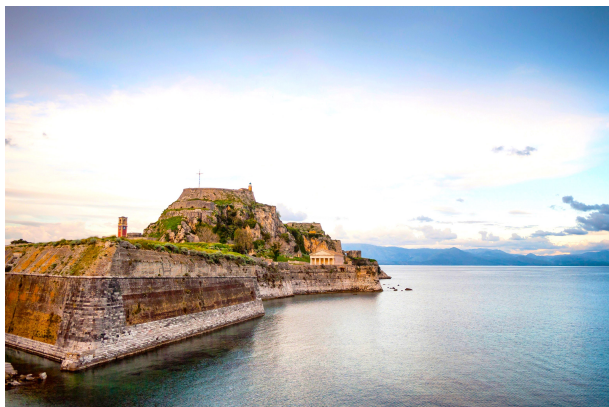
KEFALONIA

Home of Ionian Island Holidays and the largest, most varied of the seven islands. Dramatic mountains and a coastline made for exploration, green valleys, secluded bays, havens of peace and solitude. The island has some of the most beautiful beaches in Greece.



LEFKADA

Known as the White Island, Lefkada is wild in the west, with perfect beaches, a turquoise sea and rugged mountains above fertile eastern valleys. The rural tradition of centuries lives on in unspoilt villages amongst vineyards and olive groves.



CORFU

The most romantic and verdant island of the Ionian. Corfu has inspired writers and poets for over a thousand years. Despite its popularity, the magic remains through its remote, traditional mountain villages, glorious bays and beaches, as well as its rich architectural and archeological heritage. We operate solely to the beautiful bays and harbours of Corfu's idyllic north eastern coastline.



PARGA

Parga is justifiably referred to as the jewel of mainland Greece. It is an incredibly beautiful town and the most perfect place by the sea. Picturesque and dramatic scenery enriched by a long and interesting history provide compelling reasons to explore the area.



PAXOS

The island of olives is a holiday paradise welcoming visitors returning year after year. Apart from Gaios, the bustling island port and capital, the rest of Paxos is comprised of small hamlets and isolated houses with no large holiday complexes. Even at the height of the season, this remains a peaceful island where it is possible to wander along old mule tracks and discover shaded paths down to hidden coves.



ITHAKA

An island of hidden coves, green mountains and secret valleys where reality is as inspiring as the legend. Our properties are located in the south around the bustling main harbour Vathy and in the timeless small fishing harbour, Kioni in the north.



MEGANISI

A unique island of where tradition and relaxation are combined to create a small, peaceful island where time really does stand still.



PELION

The Pelion Peninsula is truly unique. The Aegean on the one side, the sheltered inland sea of the Pagasitic Gulf on the other and the mountains of the Pelion in the north. The protected forests of oak, chestnut and beech are the crowning glory of the Pelion. Unaltered over the centuries, they cover every hillside, valley and ravine. The Pelion is unsurpassed for exploration on foot.



SKIATHOS

The smallest of the three inhabited islands and the most popular, due in part to its airport, but mainly because of its string of golden sandy beaches, bustling Skiathos Town and its clear waters. The west coast is spectacular and largely undeveloped, whilst the interior is still rural with olive groves, pine woods and aromatic hillsides that few explore.



SKOPELOS

The island of reefs, a magnificent craggy coastline hiding secluded bays and narrow inlets, each with a sheltered beach fringed by pine forests and olive groves. Skopelos is remarkably undeveloped. The island's eponymous capital is a bustling harbour with a maze of narrow paved streets, old churches and a Venetian fortress.

If you should have any questions that remain unanswered, please do not hesitate to contact your Representative.

On behalf of all the Ionian Island Holidays Team, we wish you a very enjoyable holiday!





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