

# IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS TO THE GREEK ISLANDS



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## FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THIS BOOK FROM THE VILLA

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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.



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## WELCOME TO VILLA ARMONIA

On behalf of Ionian & Aegean Island Holidays we would like to welcome you to Villa Armonia. We trust that your journey to the island was a pleasant one. We hope you have familiarised yourselves with the villa and are enjoying the surroundings and incredible views. On the following pages are answers to the most frequently asked questions but please do not hesitate to contact your representative for further information.



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## 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, Ithaka, 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 Fiskardo, Kefalonia.



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## ABOUT VILLA ARMONIA

### CLEANING

The property is cleaned twice a week - arrival day and midweek.

### HOT WATER

Hot water should be available at all times. If otherwise, please contact your Representative.

### ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES: WASHING MACHINE/ DISHWASHER

If you are having trouble with any of the appliances, please contact your Representative.

### AIR CONDITIONING

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

### KEYS

The keys to your property can be found in the front door. The electricity is operated by key card which is attached to the front door key. 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 reserved 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 property 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 any extra keys are for use only in emergency - we cannot provide spare keys as a matter of course.

### SWIMMING POOL

The pool is cleaned on a regular basis.

### WATER

The property's tap water is drinkable but we would still advise you to consume bottled water.

### INTERNET

Wifi connection is free of charge. Details of passwords are given in your welcome letter.

### FIRE NOTICE

Fire drill instructions can be found inside the front door.

### SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX

The safe is located in the main bedroom.

### 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.



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## LOCAL AMENITIES

### SHOPS

In the village of Agios Mattheos there is a selection of shops including jewellery and souvenir shops. During the summer season shops are open from 9.00am until late.

### BANK

Your nearest bank is in Corfu Town. The opening hours are 8.00am to 2.00pm, Monday to Thursday and 8.00am to 1.30pm Friday. You will, however, find an ATM in the resort of Messonghi, approximately 7kms away.

### POST OFFICE

Your nearest post office facility is situated in Agios Mattheos. The opening hours are 8.30am to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday.

### MINI MARKET

The nearest supermarket – Varagoulis – is located in Agios Mattheos. It is well-stocked and even if it doesn't have what you require, they will order it in for you (i.e. fish, seafood, meat etc). During high season you will find them open from early in the morning until late at night.

### LOCAL BAKERY

Your nearest bakery is located in Agios Mattheos and has an amazing array of breads, pies, cakes and cookies. Much like the mini markets, bakeries stay open from 8.00am until late.

### NEAREST PHARMACY

Your nearest pharmacy is located on the main road in Agios Mattheos. Opening hours are 8.30am to 2.00pm and 5.30pm to 8.30pm every week day, except Wednesday when it is open 8.30am to 2.00pm. Pharmacies work on a rota basis on Saturdays and Sundays, there will be information in the window of the nearest open pharmacy. For more information please contact your Representative.

### NEAREST DOCTOR

The nearest surgery is located on the outskirts of Agios Mattheos. Also an ear, nose and throat specialist. Surgery hours are 9.00am to 2.00pm and 6.00pm to 8.00pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm. Best to call in advance as he does call out visits so may not be there. Telephone number is 26610 75066 and there is also a 24-hour cover. Should you experience any difficulties or require more information please contact your Representative.

### DENTIST

Your nearest dentist is in Corfu Town. Check useful telephone numbers page for recommendations. Should you experience any difficulties, require more information or want to book an appointment please contact your Representative.

### PETROL STATION

Your nearest petrol station is Revoli Petrol Station heading back towards Messonnghi. Open 7.00am to 9.00pm.

### NEAREST RESTAURANTS

Your nearest restaurants and tavernas are located in the village of Paramonas. There are also several restaurants and tavernas in the larger village of Agios Mattheos.

### NEAREST BEACHES

One of your nearest beaches is Paralia Paramona which is a few minutes' walk from the villa. Approximately a 10-minute drive, you will also find Prasoudi Beach.



## 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 housekeeper 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.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY (CONTINUED)

### 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 housekeeper 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.**

## EXPLORING CORFU

The rich and varied island of Corfu offers a host of opportunities for those with an interest in the more active pursuits such as walking, swimming, cycling, horse riding or watersports. It has a varied and lively nightlife, and it's also a perfect place to just sit by the pool, on the balcony or on the beach doing absolutely nothing!

Being the most northerly of the Ionian Islands, Corfu experiences high annual rainfall resulting in a wonderful year-long array of wild flowers and vegetation. Said to be one of the greenest of the Greek islands, Corfu boasts a wide and colorful variety of fruits, nuts and vegetables. Lemons, oranges, kumquats, grapes, olives and fennel grow in abundance.

When combined with the scents of wild flowers they make a wonderful aromatic cocktail!

Corfu town of 'Kerkyra', the island's capital, combines elegance and sophistication with tradition. A maze of beautiful back streets opening out here and there into little 'plateias' (squares) lead us into the heart of the old town with its smart shops and cafés; a joy to explore day or night.



### A BRIEF HISTORY

Since ancient times, Corfu has been known as a place of beauty, culture and hospitality. In his 'Argonautics' Appolonius of Rhodes mentioned that Jason and the Argonauts took refuge in Corfu to evade the pursuing Colchs. In 'The Odyssey' Homer



The picturesque town of Corfu.



describes how Odysseus was cast ashore and discovered by Nafsika, daughter of King Alcinoos at a time when the inhabitants were of Phaecean origin. Even Alexander the Great, charmed by the beauty of the island, gave it his protection for some thirty years during the 3rd century B.C.

The island's situation on trade and invasion routes to and from the Balkans and the Levant, however, have also given Corfu her fair share of troubles. Between 735 – 435 B.C. under the Corinthian political system, Corfu became a vigorous power with a strong naval and economic force, thriving peacefully for 300 years until Corcyrans came into conflict with Corinth itself. Athens sided with Corfu, a move that sparked off the Peloponnese war.

There followed a time of changing fortunes. Corfu became part of an Athenian alliance and subsequently fell into the hands of Philip of Macedonia (Alexander the Great's father), Sparta, Syracuse and Illyria before being ceded to Rome in 229 B.C.

The first Greek territory to fall under Roman rule, Corfu, supplied Rome with men and ships for its wars and despite persecution, Christianity was introduced. In 337 A.D. the Roman Empire split and in 395 Corfu was ceded to the Byzantine Empire.

Corfu remained nominally Byzantine for eight centuries, and there is still evidence of the occupation here, particularly in churches and church paintings. Being one of the most distant outposts of the Byzantine Empire, it was, however, constantly subject to raids by Vandals, Goths (led by Totila, an event which led to relocation to the ancient city for defensive purposes to the old fort), by Saracens and Normans, various Frankish Knights and the Venetians. In 1214 with Byzantium once more in control, Corfu became part of the Despotate of Epirus, at that time one of the three independent Greek states.

The use of the Greek language in the Byzantine Empire led to the church splitting from the control of the Pope and coming under the auspices of the Patriarch in Constantinople. The Greek world opposed the Latin and so the Orthodox faith was born.

In 1267 The King of Sicily seized the island and divided it into the four bailiwicks, Gyros, Oros, Mesis and Lefkimi. Then, following increased and constant threats from Turkey the Council of Corfu asked for the protection of Venice. So it was that on 20th May 1386, the flag of St. Mark was raised on the Old Fortress and was to remain there until 1797.

The four centuries of Venetian rule determined the character of Corfu as we know it today. The Italians offered security but in return demanded total submission. Architecture, music, folklore, even dialect reflect their 370 year presence. They encouraged the planting of olives and developed the agriculture of the area and, for the privileged, they brought with them a rich cultural life. Despite the strength of the Venetians, Corfu was still the subject of repeated attacks by Genoese pirates and the Turks; this constant fear is one of the reasons the oldest villages are to be found high in the mountains often invisible from the sea, and not easily accessible over land.

In 1797, Napoleon conquered Venice and recognising how important the Ionian islands were, sent a French Fleet over. At first the French were welcomed, the locals fired by the ideas of the French Revolution and eager to gain liberation from the 'cultured' but repressive Italians. The French however, proved no less authoritative and their rule was shortlived. In 1799, Corfu was taken by the Russians and Turks, concerned by French territorial expansion. Under Russian protection, Corfu and the other Ionian islands joined to create the independent Septinsular Republic, where aristocracy was given total control, almost leading to civil war between merchants and peasants. In 1807, Tzar Alexander ceded the islands back to Napoleon. During this second period of French rule, the Ionian islands' school system and printing presses were established. The 'Liston' was also built along the same lines and at the same time as the Rue de Rivoli in Paris. Napoleon was defeated in 1814 by the British and the last notable period of civic construction began. The Palace of Saint George and Michael, the Ionian Academy and Mon Repos as well as other amenities were built. The high commissioner, Sir Thomas Maitland, nicknamed 'The Abortion' by the Greeks, was seen by many as being dictatorial and denying

## EXPLORING CORFU (CONTINUED)

any political role for Corfu's educated and middle class. He did, however, help rebuild the economy of the island and for the first time the islanders could afford to build much needed roads, aqueducts and other public works. The Ionian Academy, the first Greek University, was established and most importantly, Greek became the official language. The British remained in Corfu until 1864 when Queen Victoria offered the Ionian islands back to Greece. There is a monument of this union in the park near the bandstand.

During World War II, Corfu was occupied by the Italians and Germans and was severely bombed by the Germans, destroying several of the most distinguished buildings, including the Ionian Academy, library and the Municipal Theatre (a theatre that rivaled La Scala). Most, if not all of the town's large Jewish population who had found refuge here over the centuries were arrested and shipped off to Nazi camps. Immediately after the war, Corfu shared the fortunes of Greece racked by civil war and poverty resulting in mass emigration. This trend continued until the 1960's and 1970's when development in tourism gave a new impetus to the economic and social life of Greece.

The island's attractions to tourists was already evident by the turn of the century. It was on the lists of those who embarked upon the 'Grand Tour'



Vibrant Corfu town at night.

– including Lord Byron, and it was the spot chosen by the Empress Sissi for her Achilleion Palace – built in 1890 as a refuge from the intrigues of the Hapsburg Court. Through the years the island's natural beauty, wonderful beaches and elegant architecture have attracted more and more people, including of course the Durrell family, who made Corfu their home, immortalizing the island in their writings. By the 1960's the "delectable landscape" of Corfu had attracted some of the first of the 'mass market' tourists to visit Greece. Sadly many seaside villages and beaches quickly turned into not particularly attractive 'resorts'. This gained Corfu a tainted reputation that she most certainly does not deserve. These 'black spots' are few and far between and if you venture even slightly off the beaten track you will find an island brimming with history, culture and beauty.

### CORFU TOWN

No visit to Corfu is complete without a trip to the island's capital. Said to be one of the most vibrant and cosmopolitan areas outside Athens, Corfu town is an absolute delight. Undoubtedly chic and trendy, it comes as a wonderful surprise when you venture beyond the facade of the elegant esplanades and squares, beyond the sophistication of the café bars and the modern shops and into the Old Quarter – a labyrinth of narrow cobbled streets, lanes and alleyways overshadowed by tall 18th century buildings. The Venetian influence is certainly strong but the French and English styles are also much in evidence. The Parisian style Liston is an ideal spot at which to enjoy a drink – its prime position in the town providing ring side seats for watching the well heeled on their daily 'volta'. The Palace of St. Michael and St. George is regarded by some as the finest example of the Regency style outside Britain. And let's not forget the other great British legacy – the cricket pitch!

### KAVOS

Despite its reputation as a party resort, Kavos on the south coast, remains at the very least the resort with everything and probably one that the kids will love – especially if they want a change from Greek salads and souvlaki! As well as loud music there are watersports, bungee jumping, and so on. There is also a good beach here.





Liston might remind you of Rue de Rivoli in Paris.



Beautiful scenery in Kassiope.

### KASSIOPE

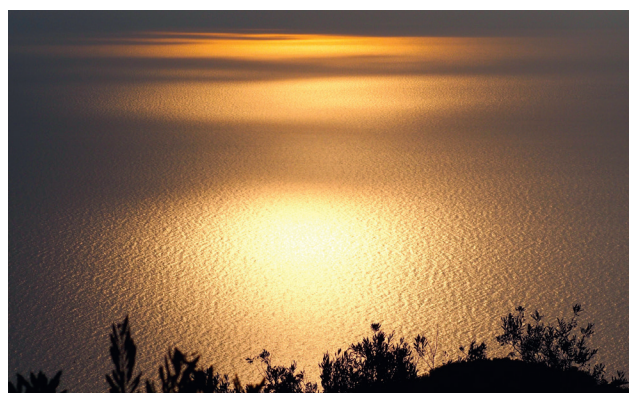
Kassiope, where the Roman Emperor, Tiberius had his holiday home, is now a bustling resort with good shops and supermarkets, a ruined castle, and five pebble beaches. There is a wide choice of international cuisine available here, from Mexican through to Chinese, as well as some very good traditional Greek tavernas, of course!

### LEFKIMI

Lefkimi on the south east coast is the island's second largest town and an alternative ferry port for the mainland and Paxos. Despite its close proximity to the major resort of the south of the island, this is a truly traditional Greek town with shaded plateia, interesting churches, and a refreshing lack of development. In spite of the presence of the busy port, there is just one café serving the lorry drivers awaiting the boats. Likewise, the shops in the town are very much unaffected by tourism and you can find many everyday items in the range of shops available.

### PELEKAS

The magnificent hilltop situation of this pretty village, retains much of its original charm.



Visit Pelekas to enjoy the stunning views.



## EXPLORING CORFU (CONTINUED)



Pontikonisi as seen from the hilltop in Kanoni.

Kaiser Wilhelm even built his famous 'Throne' – a small viewing tower on top of this wooded mountain – so that he could admire the dramatic western coastline and its stupendous sunsets.

### BENITSES

This resort on the south coast suffers from a slightly notorious past but is undergoing something of a quality change and reestablishing its traditional roots. The north end of the village is much quieter and more interesting, with a rather unusual shell museum boasting more than 2000 shells! There are also some limited Roman remains. Just south, though, despite the other highly developed resorts, there are a few little gems such as: Ano Moraitika and Boukari.

### KANONI

Bordering with Corfu town, Kanoni is where you will find the much photographed monastery of Vlacherna and Pontikonissi (Mouse island). What the pictures don't show you is that these are immediately next to the airport runway. Nonetheless, it is a beautiful spot with a little boat making trips across to the island with its tiny church.



The small but delightful beach at Nissaki.

### AGIOS MARKOS

This pretty little village is situated just above Pyrgi on the east coast. The snack bars – including the one that sells 'local moonjuice' – offer fantastic views out beyond the resort of Ipsos. The pretty 17th century Church of St. Mercurios is the oldest Byzantine church in Corfu, and at the top of the village, the interior of the 17th century Church of Pantokrator is almost entirely covered in frescoes.



"Gradually the magic of the island settled over us as gently and clingingly as pollen."

Gerald Durrell,  
*My Family and Other Animals*



The beautiful village of Kaminaki.

### SPARTILAS

On the same stretch of coast, a detour to the village of Spartilas will again give great views across Corfu town as well as a lesson in driving carefully on Greek roads. The bar in the colorful square proffers some the best local wine you will taste in Corfu. Continue through this little village and you will find yourself high in the mountains. Blissfully peaceful even in the summer, the road to the top of mount Pantokrator or across the island towards Paleocastritsa gives startling views around every bend and eventually takes you out onto the North West of the island with its maze of traditional villages and some beautiful wide sandy beaches.

### NISSAKI

Nissaki is one of the few areas in Corfu that has, despite an increase in tourism, retained its original charm and character. The small beach of Nissaki village does get busy during the summer months but its is served by good tavernas and has a new watersports jetty, certainly worth a visit. The beach at the Nissaki Beach Hotel has snack bars and watersports but should not be confused with the first beach.

### KAMINAKI

A tiny hamlet nestling beneath the shadow of Mount Pantokrator, picture postcard material when viewed from the sea with a sweet pebbly beach a couple of tavernas and a small selection of watersports.

### KALAMI

The whole of the north-east coast of Corfu is affectionately known as Durrell county and it is here at Kalami that Lawrence Durrell wrote his book 'Prosero's Cell'. Since his day Kalami has changed into a fairly bustling little resort but is still one of the prettiest bays along the coast and the ducks at The White House offer some insight into how totally unspoilt this area once was.

### KOULOURA

Viewed from the top, Kouloura is a charming circular harbour, still totally unspoilt and tranquil. This tiny hamlet boasts just one taverna and no shops or holiday accommodation, and is a perfect place to unwind. The gracious house on the headland is privately owned by an Italian family and dates from the 17th century. Architecturally interesting, the house is part mansion and part fortification, this area of Corfu being strategically important in times of trouble.

### KERASIA

Kerasia is a long stretch of unspoilt beach with just one beachside taverna and pedals to rent. A wonderful quiet and 'get-away-from-it-all' location.



Kalami bay.



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## TOP BEACHES IN CORFU

### DAFNILA & DASSIA BEACH

These are popular beaches backed by olive groves – Villa Mimbelli, a replica of a 14th century Italian palazzo, is to be found nearby.

### KONTOKALI BEACH

A 30 minute walk or a short drive along the coastal road from Gouvia, these two sandy beaches are situated on either side of the peninsula. They are childfriendly and watersports, sunbeds and parasols are available.

### AGIOS GEORGIOS

A little further south along the coast from Agios Stephanos, this is the best place to go for windsurfing, with a large sandy bay and plenty of space. Board hire and instructions are readily available. There are a number of excellent fish tavernas by the waterfront and a couple of bars, but the resort is essentially very low key.



Dassia beach.



Korissia lake next to the beach.

### KALAMI, KOULOURA & AGNI

This part of the coast is broken by a series of picturesque bays, each with its own small, quiet, fishing village. The main road is forced by the steepness of the terrain to follow a course set back from the sea, with access to these villages by winding lanes. Between the villages are a host of small coves accessible by path or track, which remain uncrowded even in the height of summer. The numerous waterfront restaurants provide a wide choice of menu with fresh fish very much to the fore.

### KORISSIA LAGOON & HALIKOUNA BEACH

Situated along the southwest coast of the island, the Korissa lagoon is in fact manmade, dating back to the Venetian occupation of the island. Now a nature reserve, the lagoon is 5km by 1km, and is a peaceful sanctuary where turtles, tortoises and many species of migratory birds



Kalami beach.





The golden sandy beach of Glyfada.

can be seen. On its seaward side is the long and almost deserted Halikouna Beach, with its small taverna. It is a gorgeous stretch of sand backed by wind-blown dunes.

#### GLYFADA

Another popular resort in a beautiful location, a fine beach with dramatic cliffs on either side. The excellent beach here is probably best visited outside of peak season, as it gets very busy. There is a small selection of tavernas in Glyfada, and a bar.

#### AGIOS GEORGIOS - SOUTH

This is one of the longest beaches on the island, almost encircling the entire Korissia lagoon. Popular with package tours, it is worth a visit for its selection of good restaurants offering a wide range of international cuisine and a vibrant nightlife. Next to Agios Georgios there is also the beautiful Issos beach.

#### ERMONES

Ermones, in the west coast, has a fantastic beach with a number of facilities available. There is even an 18-hole golf course nearby.



Agios Georgios beach.



Issos beach.



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## TOP PLACES TO VISIT IN CORFU

### THE ESPLANADE

Running between the town and the Old Fort, the Esplanade is one of the largest squares in Greece as well as being home to its one and only cricket pitch. Lined on the western side by the Liston building and at the northern end by the Palace, the Esplanade is adorned with monuments – including the Rotunda built to commemorate Sir Thomas Maitland, now used as a bandstand – where concerts are often performed by the local bands during the summer months and a monument commemorating the union of the Ionian islands with Greece in 1864.



The Esplanade.

a very nice café! Although it's a steep climb, the views from the old lighthouse at the highest point are well worth the effort.

### THE OLD FORT

Built on high land by the Italians and surrounded by a moat, this spectacular fortress was part of the town's immense battlements that formed a huge starlike defense system all around the town. The strategic position of the Old Fort was instrumental in holding out, in particular, against the Turks in 1716 but also against many other endless marauders that tried through the years to take the island. When the Italians left it served for a time as the barracks for the British, who built the Church of St. George on the site and now it houses the town's archives, a small Byzantine museum, the music department of the Ionian University and

### ACHILLEION PALACE

Situated just south of Corfu town on the main road to Benitses, the Achilleion Palace is an impressive house open to the public daily and thus attracting a number of coach tours throughout the day. Don't let that put you off however, as the palace is definitely worth a visit. Dating back to 1890, it is home to a number of portraits, jewellery, displays and personal effects of Elizabeth, Empress of Austria. She originally had the house built as a summer retreat and named it after Achilles, reflecting her passion for Greek literature and mythology. She would visit every summer until



The Old Fort in Corfu town.





Statue of Achilles in the gardens of the palace.



One of the many entrances to the palace.

her assassination in 1898 by an Italian anarchist. Elizabeth was the muchloved queen of Hungary and the Empress of Austria, whose tragic life is well documented and was even made into a film in Austria, 'Sissi' (her nickname), in the 1950s. After her death, the palace was abandoned for a while and then taken over and used as a hospital toward the end of 1919, during which time some of the original artwork, furnishings, and interior were damaged. Fortunately, however, most survived and in 1962 the palace became part of the Greek National Tourist Organisation. It is open from 9.00am – 7.00pm.

### MON REPOS

A 'Royal' villa built in 1831 for the second British High Commissioner, Sir Frederick Adam. It was later handed over to the Greek royal family and still, theoretically, belongs to the exiled King Constantine. The grounds of this mansion have recently been opened to the public amidst much debate and the house is now used as a conference centre. Archaeological digs have established that Mon Repos is built on the site of Ancient Corcyra (Corfu) and at present the Kafsiki dig is continuing.

### THE BRITISH CEMETERY

The British Cemetery is the final resting place for those who died here during the British Protectorate and the two World Wars, as well as some civilians. It is tranquil and beautifully kept and home to over 30 rare species of orchid. George Psaila, who has looked after the Cemetery since 1944, was recently awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition to his dedicated work.

### CORFU TOWN HALL

Built in 1663, the Town Hall is a splendid example of Venetian architecture. It began life as a meeting place for nobility, was transformed into a theatre, and then an opera house. The recently re-vamped Town Hall square is a lovely place to sit for drinks, although you do pay for the privilege.



## LOCAL FOODS

The island of Corfu 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.

### KUMQUAT

British botanist Sidney Merlin brought kumquats to Corfu for the first time in 1860. Nowadays, the kumquat liquor is a delicious Corfiot trademark.



You will also find Kumquat marmalades.

### GREEK COFFEE

There are lovers and there are 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.



### MANDOLES

Mandoles is a sweet snack famous in the Ionian, made of almonds and sugar. Inspired by the famous Italian nougat, you can buy Mandoles either by the kilo or packed.



The greek nougat, known as Mandoles or Mandolato.

### PASTEELI

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.

### 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 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.

### CORFU BEER

Corfu's breweries are known to produce some of the finest beers in the country. Corfu beer is the perfect complement to your summer holidays, especially if you fancy a well-brewed ale.



The refreshing Corfu beer.

## 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 overflow.
- 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°C, 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.



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## 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.





## 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. 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.

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, thank you for any donation you may be able to spare.



For more information visit:  
[www.carecorfu.com](http://www.carecorfu.com) or email  
[mail@ionianislandholidays.com](mailto:mail@ionianislandholidays.com)



## 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%.**



The beach at Paleokastritsa, Corfu.



## 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.



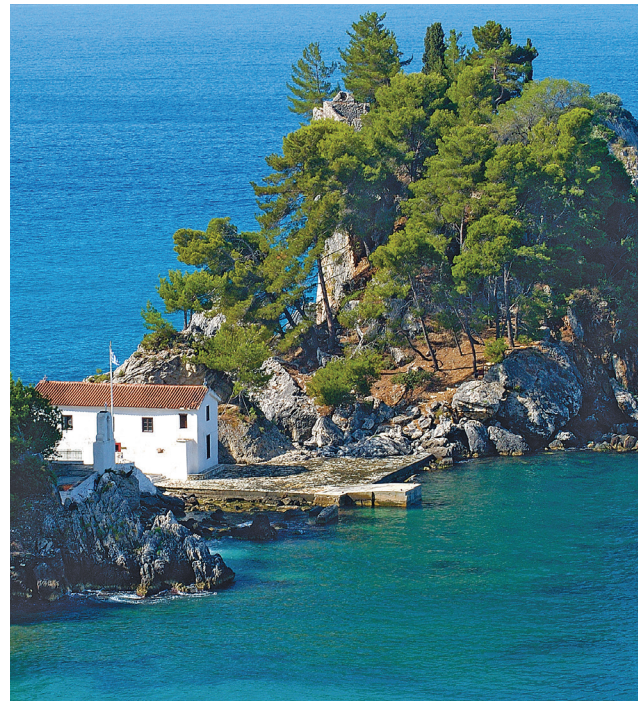
### ITHAKA

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. The rural tradition of centuries lives on in unspoilt villages amongst vineyards and olive groves.



### 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. Inland, flower strewn hill villages nestle in lush, green pine forests.



### PARGA AND THE EPIROS COAST

Justifiably referred to as the jewel of mainland Greece, Parga has a picture-postcard town and beautiful beaches. Dramatic scenery, enriched by a long and interesting history, provide compelling reasons to explore the area.



## PAXOS

Apart from Gaios, the bustling island port and capital, 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 discover shaded paths down to hidden coves.



## SKIATHOS

With its 68 superb beaches lapped by turquoise seas, plus a lush, green backdrop inland, it's easy to see why Skiathos has been a popular destination since its development in the mid 60s. Bustling Skiathos Town has managed to combine its development as a tourist centre and busy port, while maintaining its original character of narrow alleyways, old churches and Venetian houses. This is in contrast to the island's interior which is still rural with olive groves, pine woods and aromatic hillsides that few visitors explore.



## SKOPELOS

Apart from the island's eponymous capital, a bustling harbour with a maze of narrow streets, Skopelos remains remarkably undeveloped. The magnificent, craggy coastline hides secluded bays, each with a sheltered beach fringed by pine forests and olive groves.



## ALONISSOS

The remotest of the four inhabited islands of the Sporades archipelago, this narrow, wooded island is the haven we all dream about when life becomes too stressful. There are many old trails criss-crossing the island leading down to uncrowded beaches.



## PELION

The Pelion Peninsula is truly unique and unsurpassed for exploration on foot. 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 forests of oak, chestnut and beech cover every hillside, valley and ravine.







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