

# 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.

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# WELCOME TO VILLA BOUGAINVILLEA



Ionian Island Holidays and the property owners would like to welcome you to Villa Bougainvillea, Skiathos Town, Skiathos. We trust that your journey to Skiathos 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 Skiathos. 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.



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# ABOUT IONIAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

We are a small independent specialist tour operator offering exclusive holidays to Greece and its islands - specifically the Ionian Islands of Kefalonia, Ithaka, Lefkada, Meganisi, Paxos and Corfu, as well as the mainland Epiros coastline. 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. In the Aegean we feature the islands of the northern

Sporades in the Aegean, Skiathos, Skopelos, Alonissos, 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 VILLA BOUGAINVILLEA

## CLEANING

The property is cleaned on Tuesday and Friday (changeover day). If you wish to empty the rubbish yourself in between visits, you can always use one of the municipal bins in Achladies.

## HOT WATER

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

## ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

There is a dishwasher in the kitchen, and a washing machine in the laundry below the villa - the instructions for which can be found in the kitchen drawer. If you are having trouble with any of the appliances, please contact your Representative.

## AIR CONDITIONING

The air-conditioning is operated by a remote control. The optimum temperature we recommend is 22oC. All doors and windows should be closed for the air-conditioning to function properly.

## 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.

There is no mains water to the villa, but there is instead a water tank which is kept topped up regularly. In high season demand for water may very occasionally briefly delay delivery. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this does not occur - and with respect to the environment - we kindly ask our clients to be mindful of their water usage.



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### FIRE NOTICE

Fire drill instructions can be found in your property.

### INTERNET

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

### SECURITY BOX

There is a key-operated security box in the downstairs studio bathroom cupboard.

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### 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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# 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

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## 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.



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## 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

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## 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.

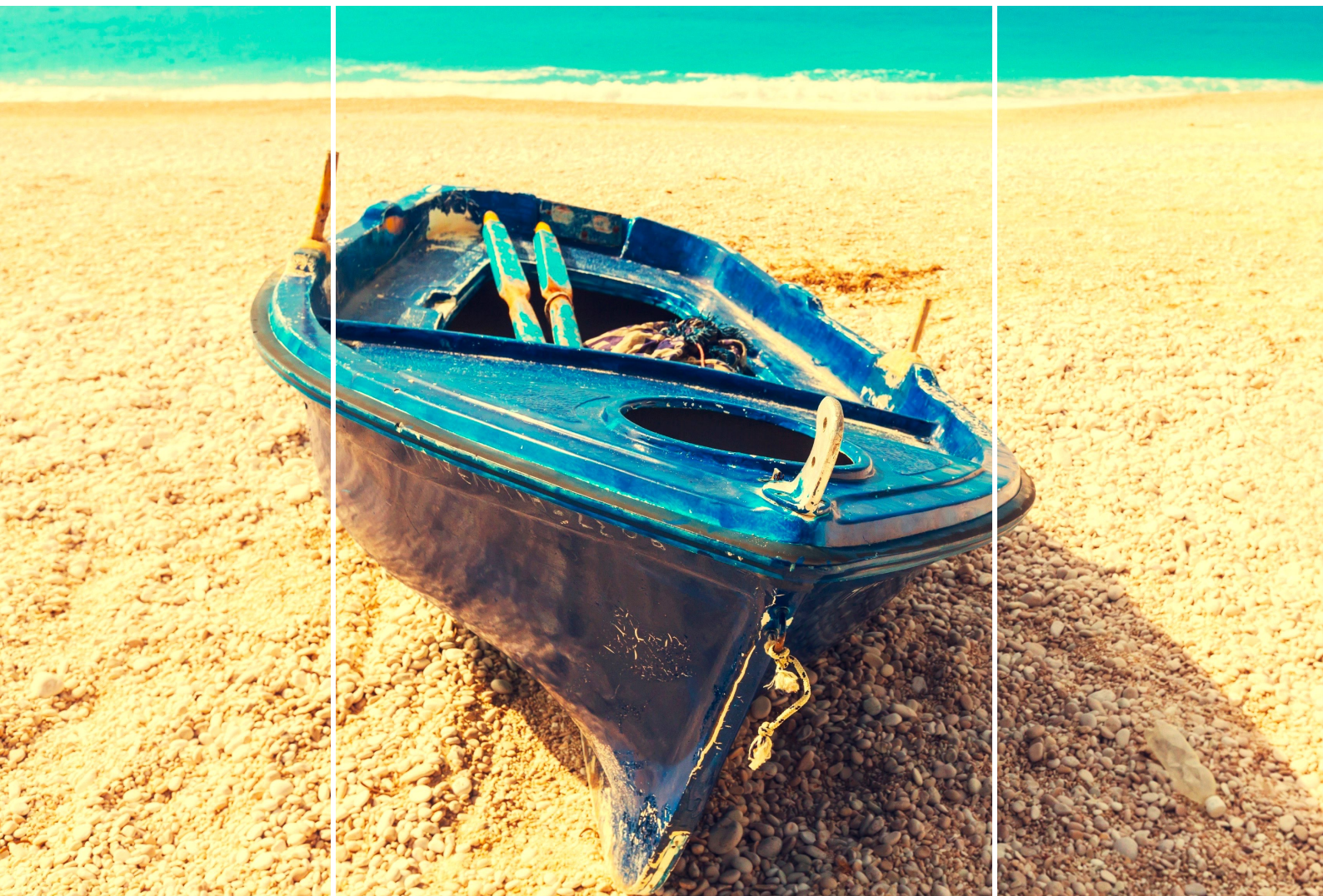


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## DRIVING

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



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# GREEN LIVING

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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

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## 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 SKIATHOS TOWN

Built like an amphitheatre around a sheltered bay, Skiathos Town is a picturesque mixture of red tile roofs, white buildings and bell towers. A cosmopolitan little capital, there is a wealth of restaurants, both Greek and international, tavernas, cafés, bars and clubs.



Aerial view of the port



Skiathos town

During the day it is busy with the hustle and bustle of the locals, their fishing boats and the arrival of numerous ferries. At night the whole area is transformed into an array of waterfront restaurants and cafes welcoming locals and visitors alike.

The harbour front features several cafés, tavernas, and some exceptional seafood restaurants - enjoy the spoils of the crystal blue waters with a bottle of local wine in the vibrant marina area.



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## LOCAL AMENITIES

### SHOPS

You will find plenty of souvenir shops and boutiques in Skiathos town - a 7-10-min drive away. 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 Skiathos town - a 7-10-min drive away. You will find it open Monday to Thursday, 8.00am to 2.30pm and Friday 8.00am to 2.00pm.

### SUPERMARKET

There are several mini-markets in Achladies, selling groceries, beach paraphernalia, and some souvenirs - outside one of which there is a cash machine. The village is a 3-min drive away.

### PHARMACY

There are three chemists in Skiathos town. One in the middle and one at the top of Skiathos main street; the third one is behind the old port.

Opening hours are from 9.00am to 1.30pm and 5.30pm – 9.00pm. One of these three chemists will open out of hours in case of emergency.

### DOCTOR

There is no hospital in Skiathos but the Health Centre deals with most medical problems. It is situated at the top of Skiathos town and is well sign posted. It is manned 24 hours a day, although surgery hours are 8.30am – 2.00pm on weekdays. Afternoons and weekends are for emergencies only. There is a small charge of 5 euros for treatment.

A private doctor's surgery is located in Evangelistria Street just off the main street in Skiathos town.

Opening hours are 9.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Saturday. The doctor will also visit accommodation at any time if required. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

### DENTIST

There are two dentists in Skiathos town. One at the top of the main street in the Acropolis area and one in the middle of the main street nearly opposite the National Bank of Greece branch. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

### BAKERY

There is a large bakery in Achladies, a 3-min drive from the property.

### RESTAURANTS

You will find a selection of restaurants in Achladies, and a plethora of restaurants, traditional Greek tavernas and bars around Skiathos town.

### BEACHES

Your nearest bay is the beautiful, sandy, Achladies beach - a 3-min drive away. Tsaneria beach is a 6-min drive away.

### POST OFFICE

In Skiathos town you will also find a post office. The opening hours are Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 2.00pm.

### PETROL STATION

Four petrol stations can be found on the ring road, one at Megali Ammos, 2km from Skiathos town, and another one at Troulos, 8km from the town. All of them stay open 7 days a week, 8.30am to 9.00pm.



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# EXPLORING SKIATHOS

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Skiathos is deservedly the most popular of the Sporades Islands because, despite its relatively small size, there is something for every one here. Popular beaches, with a wide choice of water sports, a bustling ferry-port and main town, and an interior little changed over the centuries.

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There is much more to the island than its sixty eight famous magnificent sandy beaches, fantastic water sports and resorts offering a cosmopolitan and sophisticated nightlife.

The west coast, for instance is spectacular and almost undeveloped. It appeals to those who enjoy wild and lonely landscapes with hidden valleys, wooded hillsides and cliff top paths. The air is filled with the scent of aromatic herbs and the only sounds are the waves breaking far below or bells sounding from a tiny village church.

The interior is rural with olive groves, pine woods and hillsides that few explore. Small, traditional houses can be found whose architecture blends in with the

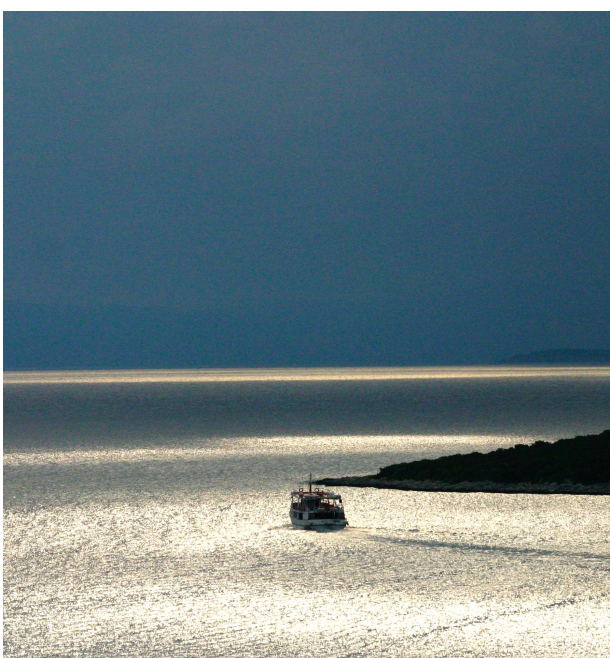
classical mansions in graceful Venetian styles.

The beautiful island of Skiathos is small enough to allow you to explore fully the outstanding beauty of the area steeped in history and seemingly quite unchanged by the passing of time. Breathtaking scenery and gentle tracks and pathways lead you into an aspect of Greece you imagine from literature and photographs. Here is a place to unwind and relax, yet you have the advantage of some of the most beautiful beaches rivalling any elsewhere in the world. On this island there are in fact over sixty sandy beaches for you to choose from!

The history of Skiathos is also fascinating. The Cretans were amongst the earliest settlers here and its present name may be derived from the Cretan “Skiathos” or Dionysis. The Ionians came here in the 8th century BC and must have been pleased to discover an island as green and fertile as their own!

Over the following centuries up until the birth of Christ, the island allied itself at different times with Sparta and Athens. It was during this period that Skiathos became famous for the quality of its ships, shipwrights and sailors, using timber from the magnificent pine forests that covered the island.

This tradition continued into the Byzantine era, but unfortunately the island’s reputation for the quality of its timber and boat building, as well as its



A boat to Skiathos

natural produce, became a magnet for the pirates that terrorised the Aegean. In fact, the islanders invited the Venetians to take possession of the island and the first major fortress at Bourtzi was built by two Italian brothers. The site is now a popular and interesting cultural centre that is well worth a visit. The island changed hands regularly over the next three centuries according to the fortunes of the Ottoman and Venetian Empires.



In 1807, the first Greek Flag was designed, woven, blessed and raised at the Monastery of The Annunciation on Skiathos, the island became a special place in the history of the Greek struggle for independence.

Modern Skiathos is very much like its larger Ionian counterpart, Corfu. It has magnificent beaches, bustling resorts with a cosmopolitan and sophisticated nightlife on the one hand, but also quiet, secret valleys, wooded hillsides and cliff top paths the air filled with waves breaking far or a bell sounding the hours from a tiny village church. An island of contrast with something for everyone.

## EVANGELISTRIA MONASTERY MONASTERY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Founded during the Byzantine period, the monastery is set in a beautiful and dramatic location up on a hill and surrounded by pine and cypress trees. In 1807, the first Greek flag was designed, woven, blessed and raised here, marking a special place in the history for the island during the Greek struggle for independence from the Turks. Topped by three domes, the interior boasts a number of frescos and an amazing iconostasis. There is also a museum with exhibits which include Byzantine icons, liturgical vessels, vestments, and so on. The monastery is situated 4km north of Skiathos Town and is accessible by car or by the local bus service.

## KASTRO

Built in the 14th Century and enlarged during the Venetian occupation, this ruined city on the north east tip, was the former fortified capital of the island. It's dramatic hilltop setting provided a necessary vantage point looking out to sea for pirates and other invaders. Only the original gate of the old fort, two churches, and a section of the fortress wall, remain, but it makes for an interesting visit. Day trip boats stop on the beach below and there are long flights of steps to take you up, or you can walk there along the dirt tracks through the forests above Skiathos Town.

## OPEN-AIR CINEMA ATTIKON

Just off the port in Skiathos Town, this open-roofed hall with bougainvillea growing up the walls and director's chairs for seating, shows 3 different movies twice a day during high season. A bar at the back allows you to buy drinks or light



snacks to enjoy whilst watching the film. Screenings of Mamma Mia! are popular and can end up with audience members getting up to dance!

### PAPADIAMANTIS HOUSE MUSEUM

One of Greece's most celebrated authors and a simple, religious man, Alexandros Papadiamantis (1851-1911) was born and died on the island. His home in Skiathos Town has been turned into a museum with displays relating to his life - well-worth a visit.

There are a few little islands lying just off the coast of Skiathos, opposite Skiathos Town, which are accessible by regular boat trips (caique) from Skiathos Town, or by motorboat which you can hire privately.

### TSOUGRIA

The largest and most visited of these islands, Tsougria, has a couple of lovely, quiet, shallow beaches with crystal clear turquoise waters and a cantina on each with drinks and light snacks.

### TSOUGRIAKI or 'BIRD' ISLAND

This small, rocky and secluded island is nicknamed 'Bird Island' due to the number of birds nesting here. A quiet little place with small beaches, but perfect to get away from it all.

### ARKOS

This little island has great views of Skiathos, including Skiathos Town, and late-opening cantina offers an alternative evening out.





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# TOP BEACHES

## KOUKOUNARIES BEACH

This is the most famous beach of Skiathos, therefore the most crowded. A kilometer long, it is well-known for its extremely fine white sand and its fragrant pine tree forest from which the region took its name. It is considered as the most unspoiled natural beach of the Mediterranean and is a protected



Koukounaries beach

environment. The beautiful, crystal-clear, deep blue waters are a real pleasure. The beach, being well organised, offers many water sports, chairs, parasols, and beach bars.

The region around the beach is full of restaurants, tavernas, and hotels. A local bus links this beach to the capital every 30 minutes. A biotope can be found in the pine forest bordering the beach where different plant and bird species are protected. This place, as well as the beach, is developed for ecotourism, financed by the Municipality and the EU.



Sunset in Platanias beach

## AGIA PARASKEVI/PLATANIAS BEACH

Near the hill village of Kolios, and named after the little church of Agia Paraskevi (Saint Friday), this large, golden sandy beach boasts tavernas, watersport facilities such as waterskiing and jet skiing, as well as motorboat hire.





## ACHLADIES BEACH

Situated 2km from the capital, this sandy beach is situated in a small cove. It is fully equipped with sunbeds, parasols and a cantina/taverna. Its clear waters are suitable for all kinds of water sports: windsurfs and water skis can even be rented here. It is reachable on foot, by car, by local bus, or by boat leaving regularly from Skiathos town.



View of Achladies beach

## LALARIA BEACH

Accessible only by boat, this beautiful white pebble beach with crystal clear waters may not have any facilities, but it more than makes up for that in natural beauty. The cliffs at the right hand end of the beach have been sculpted by wind and sea erosion into a stack and arch.

## BANANA BEACH

Another dirt road from Koukounaries continues further south and splits in two: one leads to the sandy cove called Banana, because of its shape. It is fully equipped with sunbeds, parasols and a cantina/taverna and offers a wide range of water sports. The other end of the dirt road continues up to the little bay called 'Little Banana', a nudist beach separated from Banana Beach by a huge rock. It is smaller and quieter than its neighbour, with fine sand and crystalline waters.



The exotic Banana beach

## VROMOLIMNOS BEACH

Vromolimnos beach is a simply beautiful 700m long sandy beach with the clearest emerald and turquoise waters plus a fabulous beach restaurant.





## LOCAL FOOD

The island of Skiathos 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

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# GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE

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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.

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## 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.



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

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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!



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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.





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## 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!

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## 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%**.

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# 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

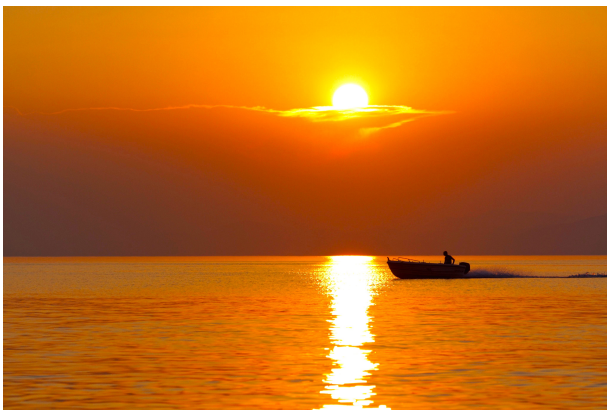
A unique island of where tradition and relaxation are combined to create a small, peaceful island where time really does stand still.



## 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.





### ALONISSOS

The remotest of the three inhabited islands, this is the haven we all dream about when life becomes too stressful. This narrow wooded island, once called Ikos is about relaxation and tranquility. There are many old trails, criss-crossing the island leading down to the uncrowded beaches.



### 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.

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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!







## IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

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Ionian & Aegean Island Holidays and Aegean Island Holidays are trading names of Ionian Island Holidays Ltd  
Company registration No. 04352657



Ionian & Aegean Island Holidays are delighted to have been voted 'Best Holiday Company to Hellenic Europe', as well as winning silver for 'Best Villa Holiday Company'. We've been winning awards for the past 8 consecutive years, from 2011 to 2018.

