

IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS TO THE GREEK ISLANDS



FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THIS BOOK FROM THE VILLA

IN THIS BOOKLET YOU WILL FIND:

Welcome to Villa Maria	3
About Ionian Island Holidays	4
About Villa Maria	5
Local amenities	6
Health & safety	7
Exploring Lefkada	10
Top places to visit in Lefkada	17
Top beaches in Lefkada	18
Local food	20
Green living	22
Responsible & sustainable tourism	23
Greek animal welfare	24
Your next trip with us & loyalty discount	25
Your next destination	26

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

WELCOME TO VILLA MARIA

Ionian Island Holidays and the property owners would like to welcome you to Villa Maria, near Lefkada Town, Lefkada. We trust that your journey to Lefkada 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 Lefkada. If you have any queries regarding your holiday or if there is anything else you would like to know, please do not hesitate to speak to your Representative.



ABOUT IONIAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

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

ABOUT VILLA MARIA

CLEANING

The property is cleaned on arrival and midweek. The cleaner will dispose of your rubbish.

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

There are four keys provided. 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 will be cleaned during your stay.

WATER

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

INTERNET

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

FIRE NOTICE

Fire drill instructions are provided.

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX

The safe is located in the wardrobe 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.



LOCAL AMENITIES

SHOPS

You will find a plethora of gift and souvenir shops in Lefkada Town, as well as clothing stores. During peak summer season the shops will stay open from early in the morning until late at night.

CAFÉ & RESTAURANTS

You will find many coffee shops, restaurants, tavernas and cocktail bars in Lefkada Old Town.

BANK

Your nearest bank is located in Lefkada Town, as well as a number of ATMs. The branch is open Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 2.00pm.

MINI MARKET

The nearest mini market to your property – Angello Super mini-market – is located a few minutes' walk away from the villa. There is a plentiful choice of other grocery stores in Lefkada Town as well as the larger supermarkets – AB Market, LIDL and Sklavenitis – located on the outskirts of the town.

PHARMACY

Your nearest pharmacy is located in Lefkada Old Town. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

MEDICAL CENTRE

The general hospital of the island is located in Lefkada Town, in the south, close to Agios Ioannis. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

DENTIST

In Lefkada Town you will also find a dentist. For more information or to book an appointment please contact your Representative.

BAKERY

There are plenty of bakeries located among the streets of Lefkada Old Town.

POST OFFICE

The post office is located in Lefkada Town. The opening hours are Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 2.00pm.

PETROL STATION

Your nearest petrol station can be found in Lefkada Old Town.

BEACHES

Amoglossa and Kastro beaches are located across the pontoon bridge, approximately a 30-40 minute walk or a 10-minute drive. Gira and Agios Ioannis beaches are slightly further, approximately 3-4 kilometres from the centre of the old town.

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 LEFKADA

Named by the sailors in ancient times who passed by the dramatic cliffs of Cape Lefkada at the southern most tip of the island, Lefkada or Lefkas simply means “White Island”, due to the impressive stretch of white rocks on the cliff faces and mountains that line the bottom of the island.

Smaller than its more famous neighbour Kefalonia, Lefkada is by no means any less interesting – her diverse nature even stretching as far as its actual identity, being both island, and part mainland. Lefkada is linked to the western coast of Greece by a moving causeway, built in 1986 as a means of allowing easy passage across the 7th century BC canal to the mainland.

The canal was constructed in order to allow easier passage for warships leaving for battle. This period marked the beginning of an incredibly turbulent history for the island as during the 700 years of Corinthian rule, the island witnessed many



Colourful houses in the Island's capital, Lefkada Town.

bloody battles and turbulent invasions, including the Peloponnesian war of 431 BC. However, the island as we know it today did begin to take shape under Corinthian rule, as the capital was formed at this time. Originally Nirikos, now Lefkada Town, the position of the island's capital is as crucial now as the island's entry point as it was at that time. Byzantine rule followed this period and saw the erection of many fortresses, particularly around the causeway as further defense against potential attackers. After further period of turbulence and unrest under Turkish control from 1477, the Venetians then took over in 1684.

The next hundred years the marked a time of cultural growth on the island, as writing, recording and icon-painting began to flourish. Although due to the devastating earthquake of 1953, little of the Venetian architecture remains, there are still many stunning painted icons dating back to this time that can be visited on the many churches on the island.

The arrival of Napoleon in 1779 saw the end of the Venetian rule and for the next twenty years the French ruled the island until 1810 when the British took control of the island along with the rest of Greece. It was another 54 years before Lefkada, and indeed all of Greece fell back to Greek independence.

Whilst tourism has helped the prosperity of the island, it is still remarkably unspoiled, combining a unique blend of bustling harbour towns, a more cosmopolitan capital and the traditional villages that have barely changed in hundreds of years.

The island's summer-long music festival is just one example of the unique nature of Lefkada's cultural appeal. Not only are there also numerous literary works to be found in the impressive library just outside of Lefkada Town, but 25,000 of the works to be found here were actually written in Lefkada. The literary history of the island dates back as far as the poet Sappho who allegedly dramatically took her life from the white cliffs of the southern cape, right up to the writer Lefkadio Hern – a well-



One of the many beautiful spots in Lefkada Town.

travelled Lefkadian who later became famous for composing the Japanese national anthem.

The White Island is famous for its great beaches and spectacular cliffs. If you like mountains, then head for the centre. And if you like mountains, but don't particularly like climbing them on foot, then you can drive up some of them! East there are busier resorts like Nidri, with tavernas and action, but in a beautiful setting, or Vasiliki which is one of the best bays for windsurfing and dinghy sailing in the world. West are some of the best beaches in the Ionian, and luckily they are also one of the Ionian's best kept secrets!

LEFKADA TOWN

The island capital is also the most interesting town on the island. Situated between a freshwater lagoon and the foothills of the stunning Mount Stavrotas, the town is small and cosmopolitan, made up of narrow streets, and an excellent blend of shops, restaurants and boutiques. The architecture of the town; which like neighbouring Kefalonia and Ithaka was destroyed in the earthquake of 1953; is attractive, with rows of houses dotted with flowers on their balconies and window ledges. Interesting use has been made of corrugated iron in some of the narrower streets. As a precaution against future earthquake damage, no building in the town was built above three stories high – indeed the only remaining buildings to have survived the quake are a number

EXPLORING LEFKADA (CONTINUED)

of small private chapels just outside of the town, making virtually impossible to see a picture of the town's history.

For eating out there is a wide choice, ranging from traditional to the more tourist orientated restaurants towards the North of the town. Most of the action takes place around the main square however, where a selection of bars and tavernas can be found. The town also has the advantage of three banks, all of which have ATMs, an impressive library, a number of internet cafes, a launderette and a post office.

The port is usually full of yachts and traditional caiques and the people watching potential in the harbour is huge. In high summer there are often boat jams waiting to pass through the canal and its swing bridge, which makes highly entertaining viewing from the comfort of a harbour-side taverna or café.

For those searching for a more in depth look at Lefkada's past there is a choice of three museums, probably the best of which is the archaeological museum which also contains an on-site nautical museum open in high season only.

The archaeological museum is separated into four different departments covering the various aspects of traditional life on the island. Traditional techniques of weaving, and bread, oil and wine making can be viewed, along with representations of local and national mythology and history. There is also a wide range of pottery, jewellery and various artefacts from recent digs in the area. The museum is open 8.30am to 3.00pm daily and is easily located ten minutes walk along the seafront towards the lagoon.

The other two museums are the Folklore and the Phonograph museums, which have free entry, but which opening times vary throughout the season – please check with your representative for the times during your stay.

In the summer there is an international festival of traditional music and drama. This festival has been running for almost the last fifty years and different groups travel from all over the world to see it. The festival was originally during a three week period in August, but has now been extended to last from June through to September, with various musical and theatrical events throughout the season. Please ask your rep for further details.



The turquoise water of Egremni beach.



EXPLORING THE WESTERN COAST

Lefkada is famous for its excellent beaches, the best of which are located along the West coast. Yira at the northern-most tip of the island makes a nice walk of around 30 minutes from Lefkada Town, and will bring you to the beach of Agios Ioannis. This is a great stretch of sand/shingle around 4km long, where moving north along the beach will bring more seclusion - the northern-most part is usually deserted, which is great if you are looking for somewhere to develop an all-over tan! Further south there are fish tavernas and a couple of small complexes of apartments, and there is also a campsite at the back of the south-western most part of the beach, which in peak season will be quite busy.

Higher up into the mountain and well worth a visit is the charming monastery of Faneromeni which is also an easy and enjoyable walk from Lefkada Town. Once inside the courtyard of the monastery, the public are welcomed to wander around and visit the chapel with its beautiful stained glass windows and the museum. There are

also a bookshop and public toilets! The monastery is tended to by one remaining monk and is open to the public from 8.00am - 2.00pm and 4.00pm - 8.00pm. Entry is free of charge, although out of respect it is advisable to make sure knees and shoulders are covered when you enter - if you do not have anything with you then capes are provided by the entrance. Walking in this area is also excellent as there are several signposted walks from the monastery.

Further south along the western coast is the pretty village of Tsoukalades where two very good although small, sandy beaches can be found just a kilometre or so away from the village. The village itself has a small selection of tavernas and restaurants and makes an appealing alternative to Lefkada Town for an evening out.

Four kilometres from Tsoukalades is the larger beach Pefkoulia - the largest stretch of beach in the North western area, this is a sand and pebble beach and is a good spot for swimming and snorkeling. The only access is from a narrow road



The beautiful village of Vassiliki.

which passes through a small selection of tavernas and shops, although the island's bus service does stop by this beach also.

Popular for its picturesque qualities, yet not at all spoilt due to its out of the way location and pedestrianised town centre, Agios Nikitas is a pretty fishing village with a good choice of restaurants, cafés and tavernas. The beach here is fairly small and is a pebble beach which makes it ideal for snorkeling, or alternatively it is fairly easy to reach the beautiful blue flag beach of Milos which boasts a stretch of sand a kilometre long. Boats leave for Milos from Agios Nikitas beach and are fairly regular throughout the day. Bus services run regularly to and from Lefkada Town to Agios Nikitas and there is also a service to Nidri on the East coast from here.

By far the best beach on the island is Kathisma – a stunning stretch of golden sand amidst crystal turquoise waters. Kathisma has been named one of the best beaches in Europe and is served five times daily by the island bus service. The beach

boasts a huge stretch of golden sand which reached south along the west coast as far as Kalamitsi, the next town, although visitors tend to remain around the Northern end of the beach where a small selection of tavernas are located. Kathisma has little natural shade so it might be worth taking a beach umbrella.



View of the lighthouse in Lefkatas.

Kalamitsi is the last main settlement along the western coast of Lefkada and the best representative of the island's more traditional culture, where the way of life hasn't changed for many years and you can still find a lot of the more simplistic traditional style houses. The village itself has a small selection of three tavernas, a few shops and a couple of bars. There is also a fairly popular taverna just outside the village, serving fresh seafood and boasting some spectacular views. Kalamitsi has an impressive, but small sandy beach, which stays pretty quiet throughout the year.

The southwest tip of the island, Cape Lefkada, boasts high cliffs, no crowds and some fantastic surf. Right on the tip of the cape is Sappho's Leap, a dramatic drop so called after the lady who took her own life for the sake of unrequited love. Of course this all happened a few thousand years ago, but for a long time afterwards criminals were also 'encouraged' to take the same treacherous leap. If they lived, then they were pardoned, although not really surprisingly, not all that many did! Later a cult of sorts developed which saw young priests hurling themselves over, sometimes with wings attached, most of which again didn't work. Today, the other people you may see leaping from this stunning cliff face are the BASE jumpers and parapent pilots that sometimes visit the site.

EASTERN LEFKADA - VASSILIKI TO THE NORTH

One of the two main ports of the island and located on the southern coast of the island is bustling resort of Vassiliki - a windsurfer's heaven! The town is quite small but very international and often full of bronzed surfers with sun bleached hair. If you want to race across the bay on something a bit more stable, there are dinghy sailing clubs with everything from Mirrors up to Lasers and Hobicats. These often overtake the old ferry as it sails across from Kefalonia! Don't come for the beach alone, the main attraction here is the wind; steady and gentle in the morning and perfect for beginners, it builds up in the afternoon to give the true aficionados a creaming ride across the waves. There is also a wide range of other watersports available such as ringos, banana boats, waterskiing and jet ski from the beach.



By the harbour of Nidri.

A good choice of tavernas and bars are available here, being one of the island's most popular resorts, but be warned, this is not the place to escape the crowds! Sivota and Mikros Gialos further along the southern coast of Lefkada are two charming bays, each with a small settlement and scattering of tavernas. Sivota is a firm favorite with sailing flotillas and as such, this pretty bay has gained popularity in recent years, but has still managed to maintain its traditional charm. Sivota is best visited to enjoy the waterside tavernas rather than the beach, which is fairly small and pebbly. Likewise, Mikros Gialos has a small offering of traditional fish tavernas and a small but clean pebble beach, which boasts excellent clear waters and is great for snorkeling.

Nidri is the most popular holiday resort on the island, the harbour town of Nidri is basically one street wide - albeit a very long street! There is nightlife with a wide choice of bars and nightclubs, although those wishing to escape the crowds and tourists may wish to avoid this area in high season. With around twenty to thirty tavernas, Nidri is a very friendly town, but the action in high season never really slows down. A regular street market is on offer during the majority of the summer months, the entertainment is extensive and varied with stalls selling a range of handmade gifts, plus stands offering hen tattoos and even English tarot card readings!

EXPLORING LEFKADA (CONTINUED)



A rural landscape in Lefkada.

The town however, is essentially a harbour town, and it is possible to take many trips to other islands and around Lefkada, and one of the most popular boat trips from the port is a full day visiting Skorprios, Meganisi and its caves, and the inner islands near the coast. For the less adventurous, the harbour in Nidri is often full of impressive yachts, and it's a great place for armchair sailors to sit and watch the world go by at one of the many waterfront tavernas.

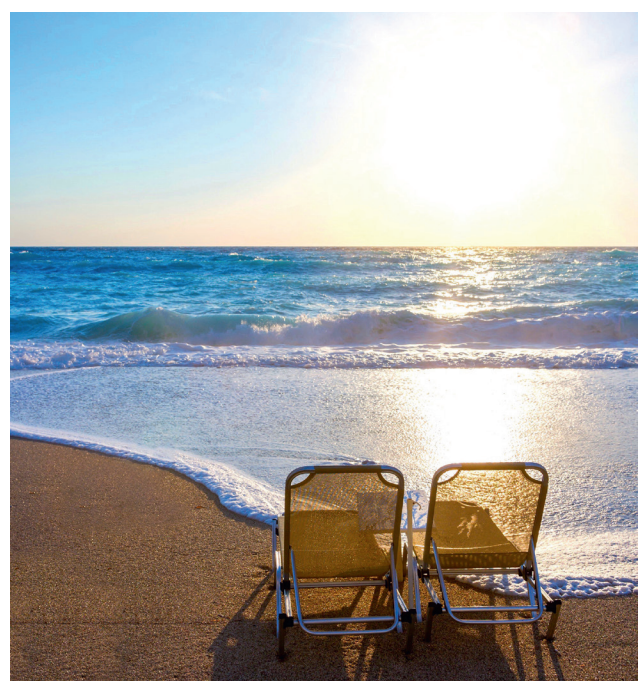
For walkers there is an excellent trail from Nidri to view the impressive waterfall around 45 minutes walk inland from the town. This trail will bring you past an array of pretty olive, orange and lemon groves and has shade along the way, although it is best to take the walk earlier in the morning or in late afternoon to avoid the strong midday sun. There is a taverna situated halfway between Nidri and the falls for refreshments should you need them.

Accessed by boat from Nidri, Skorprios is world famous as Onassis's island. The famous Greek billionaire bought it many years ago, chopped off the top of a small mountain to build his helipad, and then built various villas for his family and wives. Thoughtfully, he also constructed mausoleums so that they didn't ever have to leave. Maria Callas, the famous opera singer stayed on the island, and Jacky Onassis (Kennedy), his last wife is also buried here. Even though there is only one surviving member of this tragic family, a boat still leaves Nidri every day full of staff to keep the house and gardens immaculate. Fresh sheets are even laid, just in case Christina decides

to visit! Onassis may have bought himself a private island kingdom, but he couldn't change the Greek law that guarantees everyone the right to land on any beach, so you might end up enjoying a million dollar swim or sunbathe! Meganisi is simply another world, tranquil, almost sleepy and very relaxing! However, its west coast is extremely rugged with cliffs honeycombed with caves – some of them big enough to hide boats (even submarines!). You may even be lucky enough to spot the extremely rare, and protected, Mediterranean Monk Seal.

Just five minutes drive from Nidri is the charming Geni peninsula or aptly named "tranquil" bay. This makes a lovely alternative for an evening out, with a selection of 6 or 7 tavernas, some of which are situated right on the waterfront. Just 5 to 10 minutes walk from the bay is a pretty church which is built into the rock face and can only be reached by foot or by boat.

Driving North from Nidri will bring you to the attractive and relatively unspoiled waterside towns of Nikiana and Ligia, which are both pretty fishing villages, with a good choice of tavernas and attractive pebbly beaches. Access to both of these beaches is easy either by car or by bus, as they are both situated just off the main road between Nidri and Lefkada Town.



Lefkada has some of the most beautiful beaches.

TOP PLACES TO VISIT IN LEFKADA



Near Nidri, the waterfalls of Dimossari are a popular tourist attraction.

DIMOSSARI WATERFALLS

Lefkada has plenty of high mountains and a rich storage of underground waters. The combination gives birth to thriving greenery and gorgeous waterfalls. One such beautiful waterfall is located right outside the village of Nidri. During hot summer days you will find many fellow tourists freshening up and even taking a swim at the lake where Dimossari Waterfall ends up into. You can't quite blame them as the lake's waters are crystal clear.

CASTLE OF AGIA MAVRA

Located close to Lefkada Town, Agia Mavra Castle was built in the 14th century by the Venetians. According to historians, the island wasn't always known as Lefkada. The isle was formerly known as Agia Mavra, clearly after the castle, which in English translates to Saint Black. Built right next to the Lefkada Town by the former rulers of Sicily, the castle's main purpose was to protect the island's capital.

EGLOUVI STONE HOUSES

Right above the village of Eglouvi there is a mountain village consisting of Neolithic stone houses, originally built as homes for the farmers

and a storing place for their produce. At only 3km from Eglouvi and 5km from the village of Karya, this mountain village and its stone houses are unique to the island as they are to the rest of the world – such houses are not known to exist elsewhere in the world.

THE LIGHTHOUSE – SAPPHO'S LEAP

Located in the south of Lefkada – the most southerly cape on the island – Lefkatas, or else Sappho's Leap, is admittedly a sightseeing highlight. This is the spot where Sappho, the lyric poet, took her life by jumping off the cliff and into the sea. Sappho decided to give an end to her suffering of her unrequited love for Phaona.



Sappho's leap, Lefkatas.

TOP BEACHES IN LEFKADA



A view of the idyllic Porto Katsiki.

PORTO KATSIKI

Among the top ten beaches in Greece, Porto Katsiki is certainly one of Lefkada's main attractions. At 45km southwest of Lefkada Town, Porto Katsiki, with its clear blue waters, is an idyllic landscape surrounded by lush vegetation. If you don't feel like driving to irresistible beach, you can always hire a taxi-boat from Nidri, a few minutes away from Perigiali.

EGREMNI BEACH

Not too far from Porto Katsiki and at 40km southwest of Lefkada Town lays the beautiful Egremni beach. Its white sand and crystal turquoise-blue waters paint a true exotic setting.

KATHISMA BEACH

Kathisma beach is arguably one of the major attractions that Lefkada has to offer. Kathisma is the island's longest beach and like Egremni beach, its white sand and turquoise waters attract hundreds of tourists daily. However, the beautiful backdrop surrounding the beach will offer you a feeling of tranquility and isolation. Kathisma is located at 15km southeast of Lefkada Town and a few minutes away from the village of Agios Nikitas.

AGIOS IOANNIS

Agios Ioannis is the nearest beach to the island's capital and it's another exotic setting that Lefkada has to offer. This long, golden sanded, well-organised beach attracts many windsurfers throughout the summer. Together with the water sports centres you will also find a few cafés along the beach as well as the whitewashed Church of Agios Ioannis.

AMOUSA BEACH

Amousa beach is located 40km from Lefkada Town - at a 30 minute drive. With fine white pebbles and some of the clearest waters surrounding the island, Amousa beach is an idyllic place for families and for those who want to enjoy a piece of serenity and a refreshing swim.

MILOS BEACH

Located in the northwest part of the island, Milos is another sandy beach adding to Lefkada's long repertoire of beautiful bays.



The beach of Agios Ioannis.



Milos beach.



Egremni beach.

LOCAL FOODS

The island of Lefkada 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.

SPINACH PIE

The Spinach pie is the trademark delicacy of Greece. Homemade crust, filled with feta cheese and spinach.



The trademark Spinach Pie.

FLAOUNA

Mainly an Easter pastry, Flaouna is cheese filled dough with raising and sesame seeds. The making of the Flaouna, normally prepared on a Good Friday and eaten on the Sunday, is usually a family 'team effort' with the children helping their parents as sous-chefs.



Freshly baked Flaounas.

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.



The very fine Aliada dish.

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 buy 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.

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. Complement your Greek coffee with some pastries from the local bakery.



Greek coffee is boiled in a pot.

GREEN LIVING

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



WATER CONSERVATION

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



ENERGY CONSERVATION

- Switch off lights when not in use.
- Kettles use lots of electricity – so only boil what you need and don't overfill.
- Don't leave TVs/DVD-players/Radios on standby – this still uses a lot of electricity.
- Don't leave your mobile phone or other device charger plugged into the socket when not charging, as this still draws on electricity.
- If it's not too hot, instead of using the air-conditioning, open doors and windows and let the cool summer breezes in.
- To maximise air-conditioning, ensure external doors and windows are shut (air-conditioning in some properties will not work otherwise).
- Optimum air-conditioning temperature is 22-24°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.

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.lawslefkada.gr/en or email
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%.**



A panoramic view of Nidri.

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.



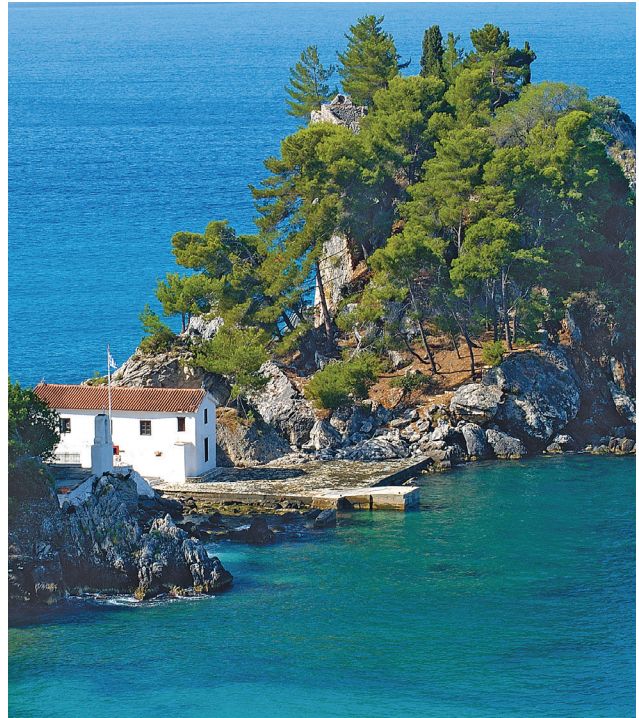
MEGANISI

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.



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.



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 and rich architectural and archaeological heritage. We operate solely to the beautiful bays and harbours of Corfu's idyllic north eastern coastline.



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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