

# IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS TO THE GREEK ISLANDS



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## FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THIS BOOK FROM THE VILLA

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



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## WELCOME TO VILLA NICOLAS

Ionian Island Holidays and the property owners would like to welcome you to Villa Nicolas, Fontana, Paxos. We trust that your journey to Paxos 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 Paxos. 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 the islands, our properties range from villas by the sea, villas with pools, waterside apartments, apartments with swimming pools, boutique hotels, deluxe spa hotels and family run pensions. We operate entirely in Greece & more specifically the Ionian Islands of Kefalonia, Ithaka, Lefkada, Meganisi, Paxos, Corfu and to the mainland Epiros coastline. In the Aegean we feature Skopelos, Alonissos, Skiathos and the mainland Pelion Peninsula. The quintessential Greek Islands; hot sun, warm sea, shaded olive groves, historic monuments, ancient vine terraces, dramatic cliffs, the hum of cicadas and perhaps, most important of all, that timeless quality, uniquely Greek that is 'Filoxenia' or Friendship to Visitors.

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

As a specialist and totally independent tour operator, we have a simple philosophy - "To provide quality holidays to the Greek Islands, backed by solid experience and a high level of customer care". Ionian Island Holidays are part of that heritage. We love our islands, and are determined that their beauty, culture and tradition should not be changed irreversibly by inappropriate development. To this end, we have encouraged the sympathetic restoration of many of the old houses and villas and to fully support all initiatives that maintain this tradition. It is equally important to us that the company should be

very much a part of and contribute to the local economy to the benefit of all the islanders.

### OUR SERVICE

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



Our home in Fiskardo, Kefalonia.



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## ABOUT VILLA NICOLAS

### CLEANING

Housekeeping service is provided every Wednesday and Sunday.

### HOT WATER

The water heater switch is located on the fuseboard.

### ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES: WASHING MACHINE/ DISHWASHER

In the kitchen drawer you will find instructions on how to operate the appliances. If you are having any problem with any of the appliances, please contact your Representative.

### AIR CONDITIONING

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

### 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.

### SWIMMING POOL

The pool is cleaned twice a week in order to keep it in good condition.

### WATER

It is advisable to use bottled water for drinking. However, the property's water is suitable for brushing teeth and cooking.

### INTERNET

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

### FIRE NOTICE

Fire drill instructions can be found at the back of the front door.

### SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX

The safe is located in the closet in the main bedroom. You will there find instructions on how to operate it.

### LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure all personal possessions are packed when leaving your accommodation. Whilst we will endeavour to assist when items are left, unfortunately we are unable to guarantee the return of any items which have been left unattended and will not be liable for any items lost or damaged. If we are able to locate your lost item, postage, packaging and handling fees may apply for the return of the lost items.



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## LOCAL AMENITIES

### SHOPS

You will find several gift shops in the village of Loggos. During the summer season shops are open from 9.00am until late.

### BANK

There is only one bank on the island of Paxos – located in Gaios. The opening hours are 8.00am to 1.30pm, Monday to Friday. You will also find two ATMs in Gaios.

### MINI MARKET

You will find several supermarkets and mini-markets in Loggos – normally open between 9.00am and 1.00pm and 6.00pm to 8.00pm. However, during high season you will find these markets open until later at night.

### PHARMACY

There are two pharmacies in Paxos. One is located in Gaios main square and the other in Lakka village. Paxos also has a Medical Centre should you require anything out of pharmacy hours. Pharmacies are generally open every day, excluding Sundays – from 9.00am to 2.00 pm and 7.00pm to 9.00pm approximately. For more information please contact your Representative.

### DOCTOR

Your nearest doctor is located at the Medical Centre in the village of Bogdanatika. Should you experience any difficulties or require more information please contact your Representative.

### DENTIST

Your nearest dentist is located off the main square in Gaios. Should you experience any difficulties, require more information or want to book an appointment please contact your Representative.

### BAKERY

Your nearest bakery is located at the harbourfront in the village of Loggos. Much like the mini-markets, bakeries stay open from 8.00am until late.

### RESTAURANTS

Gaios has numerous tavernas, restaurants bars and coffee bars to suit all tastes and budgets.

### BEACHES

Your nearest bay is the small pebble beach by the village, in from of the old School House. Levrechio Beach is also close – 200 metres outside Loggos.

### POST OFFICE

There is only one post office in Paxos, situated behind the main square in Gaios. The opening hours are 8.00am to 1.30pm, Monday to Friday.

### PETROL STATION

There are two petrol stations in Paxos; one is located in Gaios and the other in Magazia – they stay open from 8.30am to 2.30pm and 6.30pm to 9.30pm Monday to Saturday. During high season the stations will stay open on Sundays too.



## 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 PAXOS

The people who tend the olive groves have generations of experience, meaning that the Paxos olive trees are the most pampered in the world. They produce a connoisseur's oil, golden smooth and mellow. Not for these trees is the annual back and sides of a severe pruning. They are allowed to grow more or less unrestrained. What's good for the olives is also good for the islanders and their visitors, for Paxos is as much an island of dappled shade, cool glades and peaceful woodland walks as of beaches, hidden coves and wild cliffs.

Visitors have been coming to the island since ancient times, most of them uninvited, until the development of tourism in the latter half of the 20th Century. Somehow the island seems to have avoided much of the bloodshed and strife of its larger neighbours. Anthony and Cleopatra allegedly enjoyed a final romantic meal together on the island before the fateful Battle of Actium in 31BC, candlelit of course, with water lapping against the sides of their quinquereme and the moon silvering the waves!

Since the end of World War II, Paxos' reputation as a peaceful holiday paradise has struck a chord with the British and once visited appears to inspire



a lifelong devotion. There is one family who come to the island every year and are now well into the fourth generation!

The villages of the island are intriguing. Gaios, is considered the gateway to Paxos and its harbour is spectacularly disguised from the sea by the small island of Agios Nikolaos, inhabited only by the local priests. Once around this most holy of islands, the harbour of Gaios opens up magnificently to reveal the waterfront and the patchwork of alleyways and tavernas. Further up the coast one will find Loggos, a picturesque traditional Greek fishing village.

Sleepy by nature, Loggos is a tranquil retreat with four tavernas, a bakery and a mini market. Close by, after a short stroll through the olive trees, you will stumble across the excellent peaceful beaches of Levrechio, Marmari, Kipos and Glyfada – all with white pebbles and crystal clear aqua blue waters. Inland you will find the village of Magazia, a village with tavernas and a mini market set amongst the deepest of olive groves at the crossroads of all the inland lanes that wind round the island.





Aerial view of Paxos.

Paxos has avoided all forms of mass tourism, and whilst Gaios, the capital, and to a lesser extent the smaller villages of Lakka and Loggos, buzz with a cosmopolitan mix of yachtsmen and day visitors from Corfu. Very few people stray further afield. Even in the middle of August, one can wander along any of the hundreds of paths and rarely meet a soul.

With no large hotel complexes, villas and apartments that are mostly set by themselves amongst the olives, the island can never become overcrowded – allowing the native islanders and their seasonal visitors to get to know each other.

This is by no means an island whose sole *raison d'être* is tourism. In fact it is still said that the cultivation of the olive is still the major source of income on Paxos.

To stay here is to enjoy the complete Ionian way of life!

#### A BRIEF HISTORY

Perhaps the reason that Paxos remains one of the most tranquil holiday islands in Greece, is due to its remarkably untroubled history. It might also have something to do with the fact that its larger and more strategic neighbour, Corfu, has always



## EXPLORING PAXOS (CONTINUED)



The old port of Paxos.

been a more important military and economic target for invaders.

Poseidon himself, in a rare moment of calm contemplation, decided he needed an island retreat far from gods and men, where he could dwell in peace with his beloved Amfriti. He struck the southern peninsula of Corfu such a blow with his trident that not only did he break the weapon, but he also formed the island of Paxos. Needless to say that the remains of the trident were subsequently found by the early settlers and since then it has become the emblem of the island.

As time progressed from myth into recorded history, Paxos would have shared some of the trials and tribulations of Corfu, but to a much lesser degree.

The Romans seemed to have found it peaceful enough to spend time lounging beside its clear blue waters, but when the Venetians took control in 1386, they naturally built a couple of castles: St Nikolaos at Gaios – which still stands, though ruined, and Dialetos at Babka near Lakka, which has disappeared. They also realised that Paxos would be perfect for the cultivation of olives, and to this end encouraged the islanders to plant as many as possible throughout the island. This medieval version of a Common Agricultural Policy was so successful that there are now over a quarter of a million olive trees on the island, outnumbering the permanent population by a factor of one hundred! At one time there were over 150 olive presses working here.

In 1797 the French took over the island, but only for 2 years until a Turkish/Russian siege was successful and Paxos became a “Septinsular Republic” with its own constitution. Seven years later it was back under French control, finally falling to the British



The tropical Lakka.





The village of Loggos.

fleet under Captain Richard Church in 1814 after a prolonged siege, partly aided by the Paxiots themselves, who, fed up with losing their olive trade, killed the island's commander, Count Dimakis Makris. The French had briefly quelled the revolution and the ring leaders were given the ultimate punishment: taken off the island in chains and shot in Corfu Castle. Final victory came when the Greek freedom fighter, Theodoros Kolokotronis stormed the fortress of St. Nikolaos.

The British ruled, in their inimitable and rather stern way, until 1864 when Paxos and the rest of the Archipelago were formally amalgamated with an independent Greece. From the middle years of the 20th Century onwards, the island has increasingly developed tourism, all the while maintaining its essential ambience of tranquillity and unspoilt scenery.

#### LAKKA

Although a mecca for yachtsmen and windsurfers, Lakka is still very much a fishing village, as a meal at one of the local tavernas will attest. There are a few tavernas here and a small selection of shops, although there are also travel agencies that can change money for you, and also sell stamps and operate payphones.

#### LOGGOS

Considered by some as the prettiest of the three main villages of the island, the houses here are all painted in traditional pastel shades, and cluster around the head of a small horseshoe bay. The main thoroughfare passes along the waterfront and here chairs and tables from the different eating establishments spill out across the tarmac – a particularly Greek solution for the provision of extra covers! The surrounding hillsides, with their magnificent gnarled olive trees and rows of cypresses, are well worth an hour or two's gentle exploration. Few would argue that a holiday on Paxos can be the perfect way to recharge the batteries or to escape from the demands of a busy world, but if a further boost is required then perhaps a visit to the Zoodochos Pigi church in Loggos with its frescoes from another age and its fountain might be in order. The name means Fountain of Life and will undoubtedly put a spring in your step for the short journey back to your accommodation!

#### DHENDHIATIKA

A small Venetian hamlet to the north of Levreichio Beach, Dhendhiatika can be reached up steps leading from the disused factory on the beach. The views are stunning from this point, however there is nowhere to buy refreshments, so make sure to take a bottle of water with you. You can also reach the village along the signposted road.



## TOP BEACHES IN PAXOS



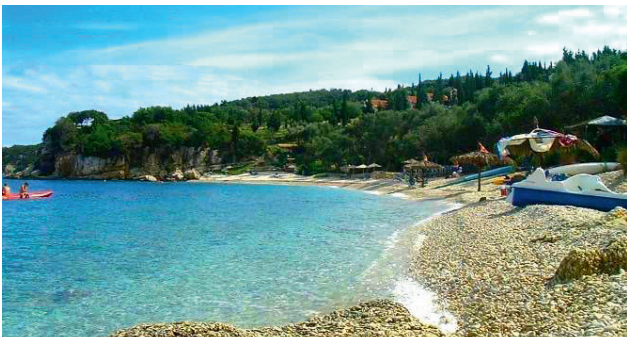
The mesmerising colours of Antipaxos.

### ANTIPAXOS

A regular boat service leaves from Gaios to the neighbouring island of Antipaxos where are two stunningly beautiful sandy beaches and two traditional tavernas. The small island of Antipaxos is located 3km south of Paxos and has to offer arguably some of the best swimming experiences in the country.

### GLYFADA & MONODENDRI

These two beautiful bays provide safe swimming in idyllic surroundings. The latter is often used by naturists. For those who do not like lying on sand or pebbles, there are gently sloping limestone slabs, perfect for sunbathing. The bays are accessible by a short stroll north from Loggos, or can be combined with an excellent coastal walk from Lakkos.



Egremni beach.

### MONGONISSI

Located 3km from Gaios is the tiny island of Mongonissi which is connected to Paxos by a narrow causeway. On the island there is a

small sandy beach, with stunning green waters, beautiful verdant cliffs surrounding it and a taverna that perfectly complements the bay, offering some delicious local produce.

### KANONI & HARAMI

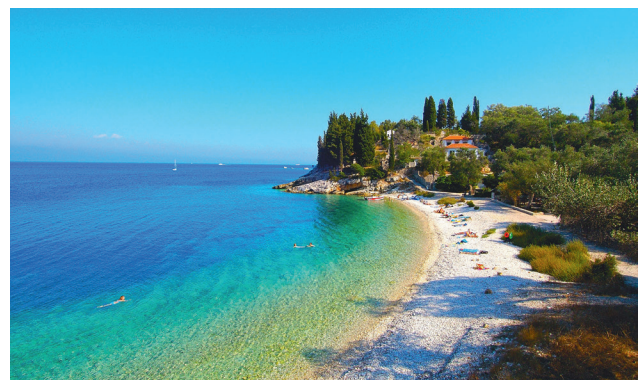
These two pebble beaches are on the western side of the bay from the village of Lakka. Kanoni is the smaller and quieter of the two, while Harami has a taverna and watersports are available to the public. The beaches can get quite busy here in peak season, but a short stroll out to the headland, Cape Lakka, passes a number of smaller, more secluded beaches in delightful surroundings and ideal for children.



Harami beach.

### LEVRECHIO & KIPOS

Levrechio beach, of dazzling white pebbles, is a 10 minute walk from the village of Loggos. It can get crowded in high season, but Kipos beach is only a short walk away. Kipos is one of the quietest beaches on the island, a perfect spot for swimming and diving as the bay shelves steep into the waters. This pebbly beach is again a few minutes away from Loggos.



Levrechio beach.



## TOP PLACES TO VISIT IN PAXOS



Voutoumi beach in Antipaxos.

### ANTIPAXOS

Regular boat services leave from all three of the island's main villages to the tiny neighbouring island of Antipaxos. Famed for its stunning coves and excellent snorkeling, the island does get very popular with day trippers, especially in peak season, but it is well worth a visit – try heading south to avoid the crowds. There are three tavernas on the island but no shops or other facilities.

The sea caves are said to be some of the finest in the Ionian, and legend has it that an Allied submarine was even harboured here during World War II. As well as independent travel to the island by sea taxi or caique, there are many round trip mini cruises from Gaios throughout the day.

### FOLK MUSEUM

Gaios' folk museum is situated in an old school building on the seafront about 200m south of the square. Exhibits include an 18th century bedroom containing period furniture and costumes, in addition to various items on display from different periods in history – ranging from musical instruments to guns and firearms. The museum is open daily from 11.00am to 1.00pm and from 7.30pm to 10.30pm.



The main square, Gaios.

### MAGAZIA & ERIMITIS CLIFFS

Magazia village nestles beneath the island's highest point at 248m. It is a small piece of civilisation in the wild grandeur of the Erimitis Cliffs, which fall in a vertiginous sweep of white limestone to the sea far below. There are picnic tables and benches here, and a short stroll down leads to an excellent viewpoint for the caves of Achai Bay – only accessible by sea.



Erimitis cliffs.



## LOCAL FOODS

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



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## RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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

### OUR INVOLVEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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

### SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMY OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

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

### PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

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

### INCREASING CLIENT AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL ISSUES

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

### WORKING CLOSELY WITH OWNERS AND LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES

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





## GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE

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

### HOW IT WORKS

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

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

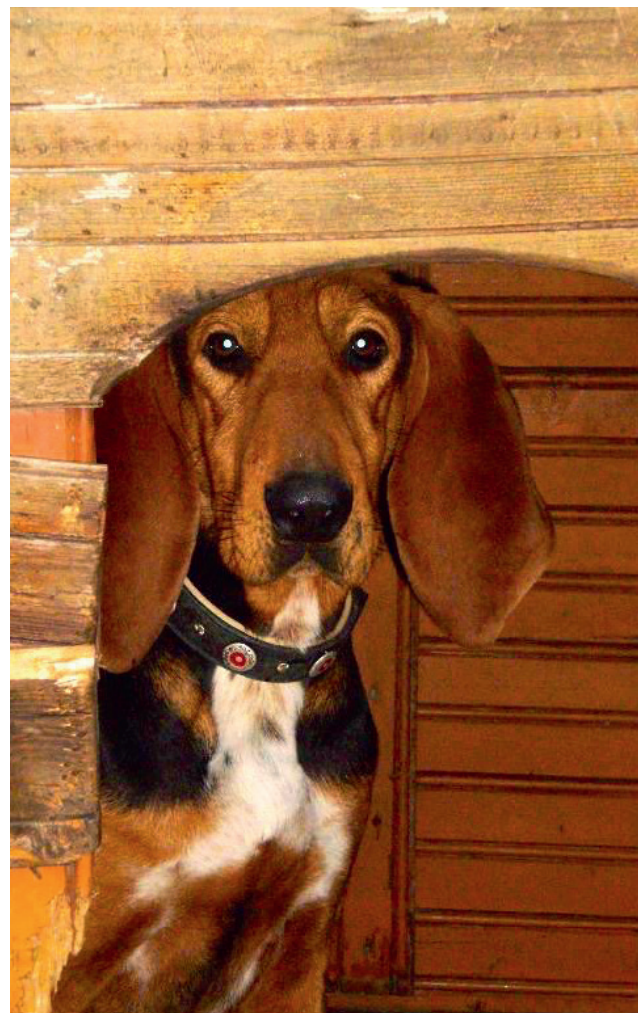
Your donations will save the many lives of dogs, cats even donkeys, mules and horses and as all our chosen charities are run by volunteers all the donations go directly to helping the animals.

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

CARE (Corfu Animal Rescue Establishment) were alerted and they immediately took Sasha to the local vets where she was placed on medication for all the ailments she was suffering from. Sasha was in such poor condition that it was felt she would be best looked after by one of the volunteers from CARE who took her in and fostered her. Sasha was very well looked after and received the specialist attention and care she needed to recover.

Now some months later, Sasha has made a remarkable recovery. A bounding lively girl, Sasha is 10kgs heavier and full of energy, exhibiting all the characteristics one would expect to see from this fascinating breed. The kind volunteers from CARE have found Sasha a loving permanent home in Corfu. Your donation has had a direct impact on this dog's life – in fact the money donated actually saved her life.

This is just one story how your donation will help make happy endings! From all of us at Ionian Island Holidays and on behalf of the many volunteers of the charities, thank you for any donation you may be able to spare.



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



## YOUR NEXT TRIP WITH US...

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

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

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

### LOYALTY DISCOUNT

#### EXCEPTIONAL SAVING WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON QUALITY

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

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



The harbour, Loggos.



## YOUR NEXT DESTINATION

### KEFALONIA

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



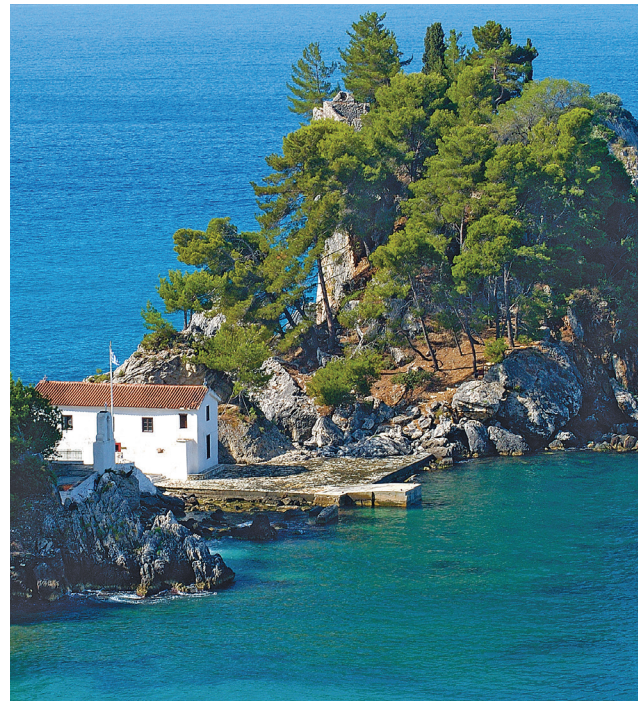
### ITHAKA

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



### MEGANISI

A unique island of where tradition and relaxation are combined to create a small, peaceful island where time really does stand still. The rural tradition of centuries lives on in unspoilt villages amongst vineyards and olive groves.



### LEFKADA

Known as the White Island, Lefkada is wild in the west, with perfect beaches, a turquoise sea and rugged mountains above fertile eastern valleys. Inland, flower strewn hill villages nestle in lush, green pine forests.



### PARGA AND THE EPIROS COAST

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



## 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.







## IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

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