

# IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS



EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS TO THE GREEK ISLANDS

FURTHER INFORMATION BOOKLET

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

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# WELCOME TO VILLA PLAKA



Ionian Island Holidays and the property owners would like to welcome you to Villa Plaka, Glossa, Skopelos. We trust that your journey to Skopelos 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 Skopelos. 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, Ithaca, Lefkada, Meganisi, Paxos, Corfu and to the mainland Epiros

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

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

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## OUR PHILOSOPHY

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

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

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

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## OUR SERVICE

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



Our home in Kefalonia



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# ABOUT VILLA PLAKA

## CLEANING

The property is cleaned on Tuesday and Friday. If you wish to empty the rubbish yourself in between visits, you can always use the municipal bins along the main road in Panormos.

## HOT WATER

The water is heated with the use of an electric boiler system. The fuse panel is on the wall in the hallway. If you experience any issues with the water please contact your Representative.

## ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

The washing machine is located in the WC. If you are having trouble with any of the appliances, please contact your Representative.

## AIR CONDITIONING

The air conditioning is operated by a remote control. The 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.

## WATER

The property's tap water is NOT drinkable.

## FIRE NOTICE

Fire drill instructions can be found by the front door.



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## LOST PROPERTY

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

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

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# HEALTH & SAFETY

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

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

## FIRE SAFETY

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

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

### IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A FIRE:

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

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

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

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## BATHROOMS

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

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

## GLASS PANELS/DOORS

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

## SECURITY AND VALUABLES

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

## WATER

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

## PLUMBING

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

## RUBBISH DISPOSAL

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



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## GAS SAFETY

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

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

## SMOKING MATERIALS

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

## KEYS

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

## SUNBATHING

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

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

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

- Where possible, seek natural shade

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## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

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

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

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

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



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## DRIVING

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

Never drink and drive, as it is an offence



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# GREEN LIVING

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

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## WATER CONSERVATION

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



## ENERGY CONSERVATION

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



# EXPLORING GLOSSA

Where the pine forests end, the olive groves begin and where they end the orchards begin! Virtually every fruit tree can be found on Skopelos, although plums are an island speciality. In fact the great Aristotle was moved to state that the wine of Peparethos, the island's name in antiquity, after its king, a son of Ariadne and Dionysios, was renowned for its aphrodisiac qualities, although he didn't record whether he had personally put the claim to the test!



Skopelos harbour - town

Skopelos is the largest of the very pretty Sporades islands. With a total population of just 6,000 it boasts one of the most picturesque and unspoilt harbour towns in Greece where simple whitewashed cottages and elegant balconied town houses tumble down from the 13th Century Venetian hilltop castle through steep, cobbled lanes, past flower filled courtyards.



A beautiful white church in Skopelos town

The unbroken pine forests and olive groves that stretch along a major part of the west coast is one of the island's crowning glories. The magical drive to Glossa on the north west tip of Skopelos, passes through this forest.

The village of Glossa, with a population of a little more than a thousand permanent residents, is located 11km northwest of Skopelos town. In 2008, the village also made its appearance on the silver-screen, with its chapel, Agios Ioannis, being part of the 'Mamma Mia' film production.



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## LOCAL AMENITIES

### SHOPS

You will find plenty of clothing, jewellery and souvenir shops along the water front and in the back streets of Skopelos town. You will also find locally produced honey, dried plums, olive oil and soaps.

### BANK

There are three banks with ATMs in Skopelos town. The Alpha Bank branch is located right opposite to the free parking entrance. Piraeus Bank is on the left heading towards Platanos Square and the National Bank of Greece branch is further along the waterfront, near the Town Hall. The opening hours are 8.00am to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday.

### MINI MARKET

Your nearest mini market is located on the left hand side of the main road as you enter Glossa village. A well stocked super market is located on the main road heading into Skopelos town, opposite Hotel Amelia. Under the hotel you will find a good fruit and vegetable store. During high season you will find them open from early in the morning until late at night.

### PHARMACY

You will find two pharmacies in Skopelos town - one off Platanos Square and the other on the ring road opposite the medical centre. Pharmacies are generally open every day throughout the week - from 8.30am to 2.00pm and 6.00pm to 9.00pm approximately. Pharmacies work on a rota basis on Sundays. For more information please contact your Representative.

### MEDICAL CENTRE

The medical centre in Skopelos town usually has three doctors on duty during

the day. There are three other private doctors in town as well. Should you require more information please contact your Representative.

### DENTIST

The medical centre also has a dentist. However, it is advisable to see one of the private dentists on the island. Should you require more information or want to book an appointment please contact your Representative.

### BAKERY

Your nearest bakery is located on the main road. Skopelos town has many more to choose from. Much like the mini markets, bakeries stay open from 8.00am until late.

### RESTAURANTS

Your nearest restaurants are situated by the square in Glossa - mostly traditional Greek tavernas, open from 11.00am until late at night.

### BEACHES

The nearest beaches to Glossa are on the north east coast, where you will find some quiet shingle coves. Loutraki port also has a town beach.

### POST OFFICE

The post office is located on a small street in Skopelos town, 150m off Platanos square. The opening hours are 8.30am to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday.

### PETROL STATION

Skopelos town has four petrol stations. Heading out of the town and turning left at the T junction you will find an ELIN station, with another one 20m away on your right. You will also find an EKO station nearby and another one on your way to Panormos.



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# EXPLORING SKOPELOS

Skopelos is renowned for the charm and courtesy of the local people, stunning beaches. The vast array of local dishes served in picturesque waterfront tavernas and, of course, the therapeutic tranquility created by the unique, relaxed pace of life here.

In the evenings, why not join the friendly locals, who can be found relaxing and people watching in the charming harbour front tavernas, 'kafeneons' (cafés) and ouzeries playing backgammon (tavli) under the avenue of plane trees.

The beaches around the island are many and varied with crystal clear waters a visit to Stafylos, a popular family beach close to Skopelos town is well worth it.

There is a fine pebble beach at Agnondas is surrounded by dense, verdant pine forests whose remarkable range of colors provide a stunningly beautiful backdrop.

Limnonari is an expansive crescent of white sand, smooth sandstone rocks and considered one of the best beaches on the island; the beach is sheltered and therefore popular with families and children. Panormos is a beach with a view! A magnificent, naturally protected bay, it was once the site of an ancient city and sections of the old town wall still remain today.

Behind the pretty harbour front of Skopelos town awaits a maze of cobbled streets and alleyways, which, incredibly,

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The unbroken pine forests and olive groves that stretch along a major part of the west coast is one of the island's crowning glories. The magical drive to the other main village, Glossa on the north west tip of Skopelos, passes through this forest.

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'Panagitsa Tou Pirgou' old church

conceal over 120 individual churches and monasteries. Some of the most interesting to visit are Zoodochos Pigi which has an icon attributed to St. Luke, the dramatic 18th Century church of Panagia Eleftherotria with its lovely fountain and traditional slate roof endowed with brightly painted ceramics and the Episkopi, a fortified Venetian monastery abandoned incomplete when the Ottomans invaded.

Just above the town, Mount Palouki is home to the church of Evangelistria, which clings to the rocky hillside enjoying magnificent views over Skopelos town and boasts a huge, impressive gold plated altar originating from 14th century Constantinople.



Glossa, Skopelos' second town, sits proudly in its stunning position high over the sea. Ruins here date far back as 400BC alongside more recent Byzantine remains. This unspoilt, picturesque village simply oozes charm. A short drive from Glossa, on the east coast brings you to the picture postcard monastery of Agios Ioannis, perched high on rocks that jut out into the Aegean Sea, overlooking a delightful small cove.



Nearby Agios Taxiarchon is also well worth a visit, as is the amazing Gourouni Cape at the most Northern tip of the island and home to a handsome lighthouse. There are also several beautiful beaches nearby including Perivolio and Hondros Georgos.

Skopelos is a walker's paradise with many marked trails and routes. Many a pleasant hour can be spent rambling through the abundance of olive groves and plum orchards that are strewn all over this fertile island.

These fruits are fundamental to the economy and sacred amongst the locals. Whilst idling away a pleasant afternoon along one of these paths, it is

more than likely you will come across some of the handsome old farmhouses known as 'kalivia' which are scattered throughout the countryside.

Kafeneons (small traditional cafés) are commonplace around the villages of Skopelos and are mostly frequented by men drinking their Greek coffee, frappe or drinking nothing at all! You will also find that most of the customers play cards, backgammon or simply argue about politics or football - a favourite pastime in Greece! We highly recommend that you add to your holiday experience by sharing a Greek coffee in one of these, you will be truly welcomed.

## A BRIEF HISTORY & MYTHOLOGY

The island was inhabited probably in the Neolithic period. Its ancient name was Peparethos and is mentioned by the pre-Hellenic people of Asia Minor who settled in the Aegean region in the period 2800 - 2000 BC. This name is mentioned likewise by Thoukydides.

Around 1600 BC, the Cretans, whose leader was the mythical King Stafylos, son of Theseus and Ariadne, settled on the island.

As tradition reminds us, Theseus, son of Aegeas King of Athens, was sent with 7 young boys and 7 young girls to the Cretan King Minos, as a duty demanded by Athens, intended to be offered as sacrifice to the Minotaur (a strange creation of mythology, half man, half bull) who lived in the labyrinth underneath the palace of Knossos in Crete. There, Theseus became acquainted with Ariadne, Minos' daughter. Ariadne fell in love with him and helped him, giving him a ball of wool, to escape from the labyrinth and to survive. Theseus found the exit, kidnapped Ariadne and left Crete.

But on the island of Naxos he abandoned Ariadne, who in her loneliness discovered God Dionysos, who in turn fell in love with the girl and took her to Lemnos. In Lemnos Ariadne and Dionysos had four sons, Thoantas, Oinopianos, Stafylos and Peparethos. Peparethos was the first to settle on the island of Skopelos. Until today his name survives in this place full of olive trees and pine forests.

At the end of Stafylos bay there is a peninsular. At the tip of this peninsular the tomb of King Stafylos was discovered containing his sword and many other artifacts, representing some of the most important finds of workmanship from the Mycenaean and Minoan period. The sword handle is covered in gold, a precious sword for a precious King Stafylos.



One of the many secluded beaches on the island of Skopelos

## ANTIQUITY

Skopelos, an Athenian colony, took part in the Greek athletic games. In fact, Agnondas, an athlete from Peparethos, had won the running competition in 569 BC and to honor him, today's bay of Agnondas was given his name.

Peparethos had important ancient towns too, such as Knossos, Panormos and Selinos. Today a large part of the castle of Panormos is preserved. Knossos' name was changed to Glossa, Selinos' name was changed to Loutraki, where some remains of an ancient castle and an ancient settlement are still visible today.

During the 13th century BC, King Ikon of Pellas captured the island. Skopelos remained stagnant for quite some time until the 6th century BC when the export of wine and olive oil began. This brought back prosperity and progress to the island.

In classical times, people of Peparethos, were allies with the Athenians, but after the battle of Chaironia in 338 BC, the island passed into the hands of the Macedonians until 146 AD when the Romans conquered Greece.

The name Skopelos appears for the first in Ptolemaios' writings, dating back to the 2nd century AD. The name is most probably a reference to the many shoals and reefs that protrude around the island.

## BYZANTINE

During the Roman and Byzantine period the island was in decline. The Byzantines used it as a place of exile. After the conquest of Constantinople by the Franks, the island was united with the



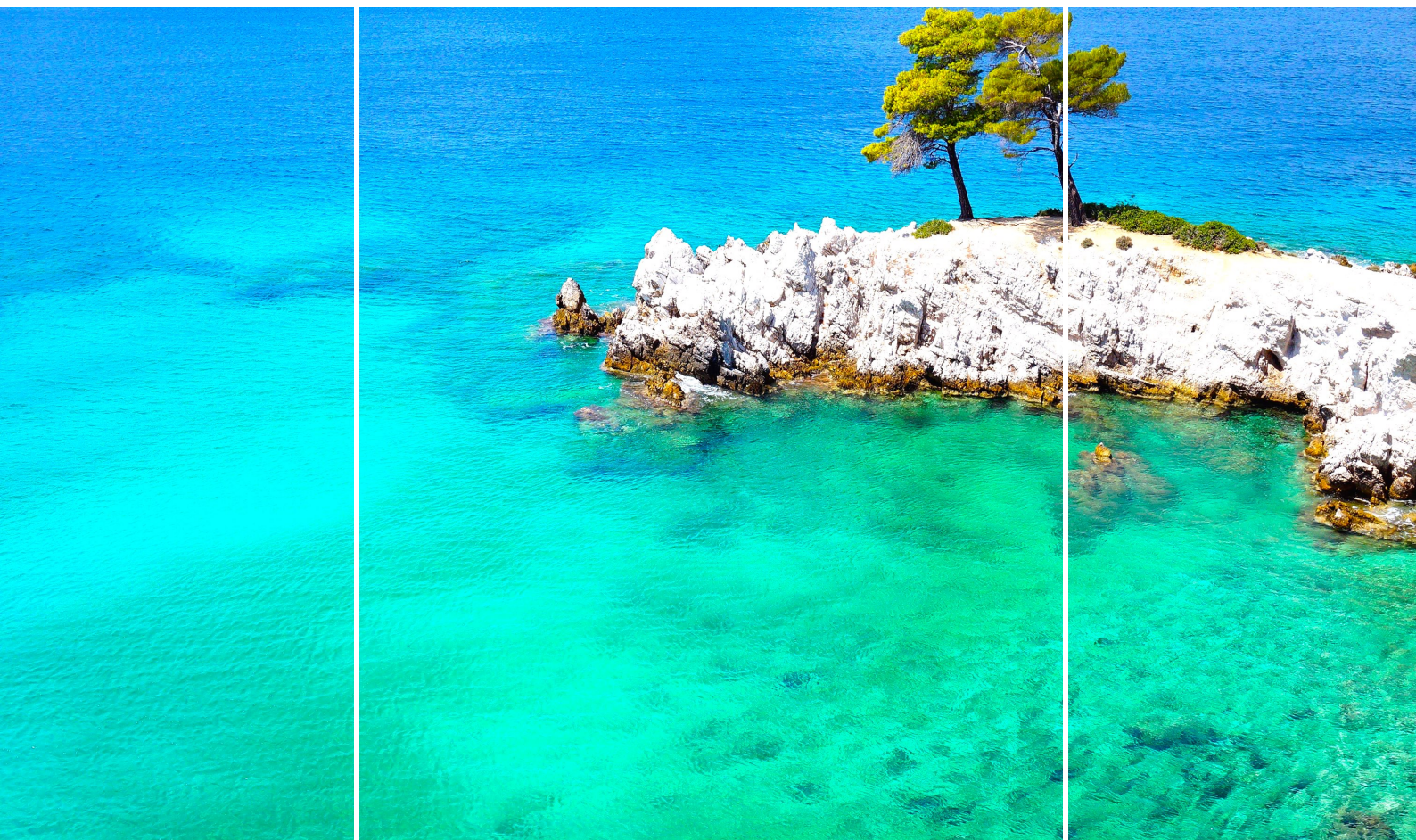
Dukedom of Naxos and later passed into the administration of Guizi in the years of the reign of emperor Michael H' Palaiologos. It remained in his possession until 1453 AD when the inhabitants offered their island to the Venetians in order to escape the Turkish occupation.

In 1538 the Algerian pirate Barbarosa came to the island and slaughtered the inhabitants. Around 1600 survived and escaped to Evia and Thessaly but later returned to the island. Then the Turkish occupation started, though the Turks treated the island's population more gently. The inhabitants were self governed and simply had the duty to pay their taxes and to assign 30 sailors to serve one year in the Turkish fleet. No citizen of Turkish origin ever settled on the island.

During 1750 AD the first Greek partisans and guerrilla fighters started to come to the island from Olympus, Chalkidiki and Thessaly. But from 1810 onwards there were fights between the locals and the guerrillas of central Greece. During the revolution of 1821 the captains of

Skopelos helped their brothers wherever they were needed. When the revolution failed in Thessaly and Macedonia, 70,000 people, men, women and children settled again on the island - exhausted by epidemics and poverty.

Finally, Skopelos became part of the Greek state in 1830.





## ELIOS or NEO KLIMA

Surrounded by a thick pine forest, Elios, or Neo Klima village, lies 19km west of Skopelos town. This relatively new village - built in 1981 after being destroyed during the 1965 earthquake - is set in a lovely location with a picturesque harbour and a selection of local shops and fish tavernas. Ruins of the old village, Palio Klima, remain, from where you can catch stunning sunsets.



Aerial view of Panormos

## LOUTRAKI

This is the small port for Glossa village, from where the ferries to Skiathos leave. It is located on the remains of the ancient city of Selinounda. Information boards on the waterfront describe the remains that can be seen, which include a temple and some Roman baths.

## DITROPON

Ditropon, is a typical Skopelos rural settlement set amongst the fields and orchards that have been farmed by the same families for generations. Its location means that the fabulous beaches at Panormos and Milia are only a short drive away. By contrast the dramatic West coast of the island is also easily reached. Here goats graze on the wild thyme and rosemary, amidst rugged cliff scenery.



Skopelos old town as seen from the sea



# TOP BEACHES

## LIMNONARI BEACH

This is a small sandy sheltered bay with very clear waters is regarded as one of the best beaches on the island. It can be easily reached from Agnondas by car or on foot. The bus will stop on the main road, you will need to take the small road signposted down to the beach which is approximately 800m. There are two tavernas, sun loungers and parasols are available to rent.



Limnonari beach

## AGNONDAS BEACH

Approximately 7kms from Skopelos town lies the lovely, tiny fishing village of Agnondas. The harbour here is extremely sheltered and is sometimes by the ferry companies as an emergency port. There is a small shingle bay and three tavernas on the waterfront, but no amenities on the beach.



Agnondas beach

## PANORMOS BEACH

This magnificent, naturally protected bay used to be the site of an ancient city and sections of the old town wall can still be seen. There are various tavernas there, as well as sun loungers and parasols to rent. To one side of the bay is a small beach called Adrina which is shaded by the pine trees and can be reached by foot from Panormos' main beach.



Panormos beach

## STAFYLOS BEACH

This sand and shingle beach which is good for snorkelling - especially off the rocks at the far end - just 4km from Skopelos town, is one of the most popular on the island, and can be reached by car, taxi, bus or on foot. There is a beach bar and also sun loungers and parasols for hire, with a taverna above the beach.



Stafylos bay



## PERIVOLI BEACH

This rough half sand, half shingle beach is situated in a lovely isolated spot on the north coast, accessible by car from Glossa. The area is also ideal for walking, but can be prone to winds and a tricky northerly swells.



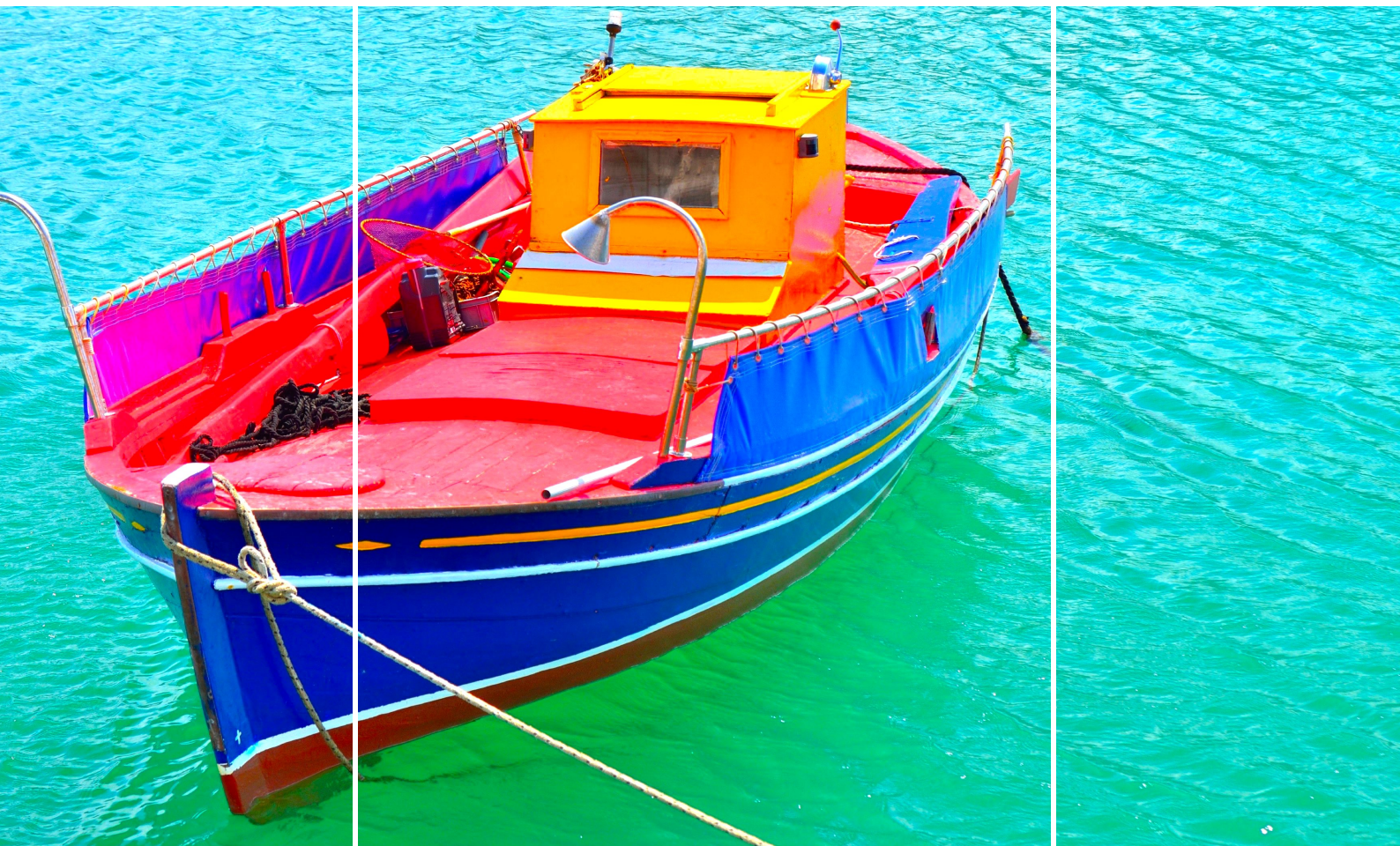
Sunset in Skopelos



Milia beach

## MILIA BEACH

The largest and considered to be one of the most beautiful beaches on the island, this tree-lined beach of pebbles and sand, boasts spectacular crystal clear waters, and views of the tiny, pretty, pine-clad islet of Dasia just a short distance away. Even in the busiest months you will find plenty of space. There is a beach bar, and a taverna near to the parking area, and the public bus stops on the main road leaving only a 500m walk down to the beach itself.





# TOP PLACES TO VISIT

## AGIOS IOANNIS PRODROMOS MONASTERY

This picture postcard monastery, just a short drive east of Glossa, is perched high on rocks that jut out into the Aegean Sea, overlooking a delightful small cove. Only 300m from Agia Varvara, it is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and was rebuilt during the 18th century, on the top of older foundations. Its church is built in the style of Mount Athos, where the monastery was founded. It has two choirs and a gilded altar screen of woodcarvings with rich decorations of vine leaves, birds, animals and fifteen



Agios Ioannis

illustrations of the main orthodox celebrations. Also, of importance are the icons, which date back to the 16th, 17th and 18th century AD. The Monastery is also the custodian of many documents dating back to the Turkish occupation. Originally male, it was taken over by nuns in 1920 and is still inhabited by a few so is only opened during its feast days: September 23 – Conception; January 7 – The Synaxis; February 24 – First and Second Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist; May 25 – Third Finding of the

Head; June 24 – the Nativity; August 29 – the Beheading; September 5 is the Commemoration of Zechariah and Elisabeth, St. John's parents.



The village of Glossa

## AGIOS IOANNIS

Used as the location for the wedding in Mama Mia and consequently made famous, this tiny chapel is located on the north coast a 15min drive from Glossa or an hour's walk. Perched 100m above the sea on the top of an small outcrop of rock, it has a shingle bay at its feet and a winding climb of 202 steps leading up to it.



Skopelos Town



## MOUNT PALOUKI MONASTERIES

The steep mountain opposite to Skopelos Town called 'Palouki' (meaning the Finger) has several of Skopelos' most interesting monasteries, the predominance of which has given rise to the epithet the holy mountain. It is forbidden to hunt here, so it is a paradise for small animals and birds.



Entrance to a monastery in Skopelos





## LOCAL FOOD

The island of Skopelos 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

### TRADITIONAL CHEESE PIE

This curly, snail-shaped goat cheese pie is a popular choice among the islanders' breakfast. You will find the 'Skopelitiki' cheese pie in bakeries across the island.



Known simply as 'Skopelitiki' – meaning 'of Skopelos'

### GREEK COFFEE

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



Greek coffee in a pot

### GALAKTOBOUREKO

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



A delicious Greek version of the French mille-feuille



## PLUMS

Skopelos is known as the plum island. More than 8 varieties are grown on the island with the black, red and yellow being the cash crops.



The mouth-watering Skopelos plums

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



The sweet and creamy Bougatsa

## PASTELI

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



Fresh Pasteli

## HONEY

The islanders produce their own high quality - and of exceptional taste - honey. The island's biodiversity and environmental state promote the yield of such unique produce.



Skopelos-produced honey

## BOUGATSA

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

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# GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE

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

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## HOW IT WORKS

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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

## OUR INVOLVEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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

## SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMY OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

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

## PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

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

## INCREASING CLIENT AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL ISSUES

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

## WORKING CLOSELY WITH OWNERS AND LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES

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



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## YOUR NEXT TRIP WITH US...

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

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

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

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## LOYALTY DISCOUNT

### EXCEPTIONAL SAVING WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON QUALITY

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

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

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# YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



## KEFALONIA

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



## LEFKADA

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



## CORFU

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



## PARGA

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



## PAXOS

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



## ITHAKA

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



## MEGANISI

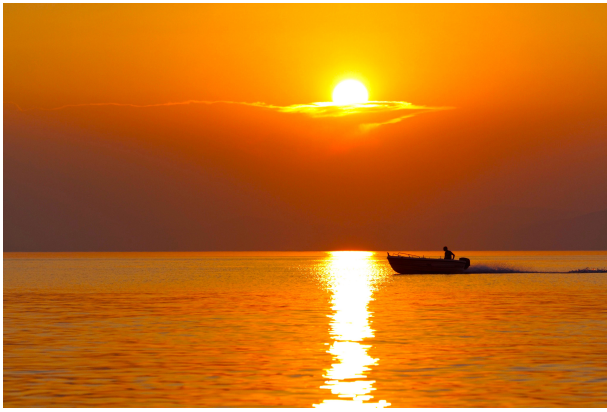
A unique island of where tradition and relaxation are combined to create a small, peaceful island where time really does stand still.



## PELION

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





### ALONISSOS

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



### SKIATHOS

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

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

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







## IONIAN & AEGEAN ISLAND HOLIDAYS

Olympia House, Armitage Road  
London NW11 8RQ

tel: 020 84590777

email: [mail@ionianislandholidays.com](mailto:mail@ionianislandholidays.com)



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Company registration No. 04352657

