



# The Greek Islands

Think of Greece and you think of islands. Not surprising as there are well over a thousand of them, scattered from the Ionian islands in the west to the Dodecanese in the east, with the mainland in between.

Many are very small (some are little more than a large rock) and home to only lizards and sometimes goats. But over 200 are inhabited - and we feature 60 of them, which by our reckoning is more than any other tour operator.

Which begs the question, which one to choose?

After all, they nearly all possess wonderful beaches lapped by a clean and sparkling sea, pretty fishing villages, gleaming white chapels, delicious cuisine (often locally sourced and organic) and are wonderfully scenic. But the joy of the islands is their variety. Although they do share common characteristics no two are alike - even neighbouring islands have their own atmosphere, traditions, food specialities and culture.

It is these differences which bring many people back year on year, eager to try a new island as each one offers a unique holiday experience. Which is why twin-island and island hopping holidays hold such appeal.

Greece's islands are divided into six groupings plus Crete. In this brochure we have a section for all of them, and give a general overview of the distinctive characteristics of each.

But even after you have decided which grouping you are interested in there are still choices to be made. (In the Cyclades alone we feature 18 islands). Which is where we can help. Using our extensive knowledge built up over many years we can guide and assist you to narrow the options down to the islands that should suit you best.

There are direct flights to many islands, others involve a ferry journey or a connecting flight from Athens. Of course nearly all islands receive plenty of visitors in the high season. However, as a rule of thumb the more difficult an island is to reach the less busy it is likely to be, albeit on the larger islands it is quite possible to find quieter spots.