

# The real Greece

Greece is blessed with a warm sun, a sparkling sea, unspoiled nature and spectacular scenery. Add to these a refreshingly 'back to basics' island lifestyle, mythology and history wherever you look, food and wine at last acclaimed for its excellence and - above all - a people famed for their warmth and generosity towards their foreign visitors. This combination of factors, many intangible, results in a magnetic pull that draws so many people back year upon year. We do not believe any rival holiday destination has a more fiercely loyal customer base.





# Greece

Whichever area of Greece you wish to visit, from Halkidiki in the north to the Mani peninsula in the south, from the Ionian islands in the west to the Dodecanese chain close to Turkey, we can help. Our programme is the most comprehensive you will find. And we have had nearly 50 years to hunt out the best areas and handpick our accommodation, so you can visit Greece safe in the knowledge that the hard work has been done. All you need to do is choose...

## The Islands



### The Ionian

The 7 main islands of the Ionian Sea include some of Greece's most popular. Verdant with fine beaches, forested mountains offer walking trails and villages to explore, and Italianate architecture lends an elegance.  
Pages 14-23



### The Sporades

Lively Skiathos has nearly 50 sandy beaches; Skopelos is larger, forested and boasts a handsome port; Alonissos is a quiet retreat.  
Pages 24-31



### The Saronic

Easy to reach from Athens, upmarket Hydra and elegant Spetses are the best known and car free. But each has its own style and charm. Don't overlook little Agistri, the least known of the group.  
Pages 32-37



### The Cyclades

Whitewashed houses, brightly painted fishing boats, laden donkeys... the Cyclades are the Greek Islands as you've always imagined them to be.  
Pages 38-47



### The North Aegean

These include some of Greece's larger islands that afford plenty of interest for explorers. With a beauty and rich history all of their own, they avoid the crowds and will richly reward those seeking an island adventure away from the mainstream.  
Pages 48-57



### The Dodecanese

14 contrasting islands scattered up the Aegean Turkish coast. Our favourite is Tilos, an eco-friendly paradise for walkers and nature lovers.  
Pages 58-69



### Crete

The largest island of them all, with a rugged, mountainous landscape and a fascinating past. We focus on the verdant western side and the rugged south coast.  
Pages 70-77



Average max temperature °C

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>North</b>	9	10	14	19	24	29
<b>South</b>	16	16	17	20	24	28
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>North</b>	31	30	27	21	14	10
<b>South</b>	29	29	27	24	21	17

# The Mainland



## North Western Greece

Parga is known for its history and beauty; Sivota has a real village atmosphere; Zagori National Park boasts mountain peaks, lush valleys and dramatic gorges.  
Pages 80-83



## Central & Northern Greece

A vast area encompassing some of the mainland's most beautiful areas. Remote Pelion is a heady mix of mountain, sea, forest and preserved villages. Halkidiki is famed for its wooded peninsulas and sandy beaches.  
Pages 84-87



## Peloponnese

A fantastic blend of scenic splendour and evident history almost everywhere you turn, the Peloponnese encapsulates the best of Greece. The variety here means that multiple visits will not disappoint - there is always something new to discover. Pages 88-95

# Sunvil - your trusted companion to Greece

Greece has long been a favourite holiday destination, and with very good reason. Although boasting some 600 Blue Flag beaches, the second highest total of any country, Greece offers far more than sun, sea and sand. No other country can match Greece's combination of world-shaping history, archaeological sites, unique culture and stunning scenery, and all just over a short 3 hour flight from the UK.

## Experience

Did you know that Sunvil only promotes holidays to destinations with which our team has an affinity and to which we have travelled extensively? It is this personal connection and bond with the country that drives us to learn more, seek out its hidden corners and to share our findings with you, our much-valued travellers.

Our holiday programme to Greece began in 1975, but for many of us our love affair with the country started even earlier, thanks to travels in our childhood and teens. It is this connection that drives us to offer innovative, sustainable holidays to the country that benefit those you visit as well as those who travel, and that will stand the test of time.

For us, there is nowhere else in the world like Greece, especially in the summer: the turquoise waters; the friendly buzz of a warm summer's evening by the harbour; the snatch of overheard conversation between fishermen; the tranquillity of a stroll in the shade of the olive groves - and so much more.

Through continuous exploration and the support of our local partners and representatives, we believe that our knowledge of Greece is unrivalled. We can show you hidden gems and breathtaking view points, and also introduce you to communities and places that will turn your holiday into an unforgettable memory.



## Variety

Whatever you want from your holiday, we are sure that we can accommodate you. From a simple cottage on a remote Greek island to a stylish boutique hotel; from a traditional village apartment to a modern villa with a private pool; from a mainland fly drive to a classic island hopping trip; for singles, couples and families alike, for history buffs, nature lovers, artists and walkers - somewhere within our programme is your perfect holiday.

Over the coming pages, you will gain an insight into the 'real' Greece through the eyes of those who know it best. In each region we have highlighted a selection of our favoured properties and proposed a series of tailor-made itineraries and activities. Please visit our website before booking as it contains more detailed information about the properties, resorts and transfers, as well as a wider choice of accommodation. Please remember that the majority of our holidays can be tailored to suit the requirements of your party: holiday duration, departure airport, budget and style of travel.

## Handpicked accommodation

Some fifty years after offering our first holidays to Greece, little has changed when it comes to selecting our featured accommodation. We avoid all-inclusive resorts, preferring smaller hotels chosen for their warmth of welcome, charm and location, which also benefits the local tavernas, cafes and shops. We know that you, our travellers, appreciate this approach as so many choose to return to the same hotel year-on-year, not solely for a resort's attractions but also to reunite with their hosts.

Our latest collection includes new properties as well as our trusted favourites, with whom our relationship has gone far beyond that of business partners, having evolved into friendship.

### **Liotopi Hotel, Olymbiada, Halkidiki**

"The hotel was first class. The owner, Loulou, was a legend, the room was spotless and attractive and the location excellent. The breakfasts were outstanding." (Trusted customer)

### **Liakoto Hotel Apartments, Kardamili, South Peloponnese**

"This hotel is a gem. We would have no hesitation in returning. While self catering, we enjoyed the support and service one would normally receive in a top hotel. Nothing was ever too much trouble for our hosts". (Mr Hand)

### **Villa Afroditi Hotel, Lemnos**

"We have stayed at Villa Afroditi for many years. The owners and staff are wonderful and the hotel is well equipped and always spotlessly clean. Wonderful pool and gardens and just a few minutes walk from the beach." (Mr Jacobs)



## Local representatives

Sunvil is much more than a highly-respected name in travel. It's about an expert team of passionate travellers in the UK. It's about our loyal, knowledgeable Sunvil representatives in our much-loved areas of Greece who always go the extra mile. It's about numerous agents, ground handlers and expert guides across the country who understand our ethos, who value our customers and who appreciate the benefits that tourism delivers to their destinations. Plus the longstanding airport teams and our transfer and car hire partners. We all play a part in delivering the dream.

What does this mean?... Always greeted at our destination airports, a named contact throughout and the support of a 24/7 duty office. Our overseas teams open the doors to our featured regions and are a font of knowledge.

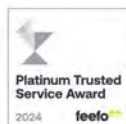
## Award winners: A highly personal service from start to finish



Sunvil is a Which? Recommended Provider - Smaller Holiday Companies, December 2023

To say that we are thrilled would be an understatement. The entire team strongly believes in our mission: to create your perfect holiday at a fair price, including the best available accommodation and experiences to suit your needs, leaving you free to savour each moment. The Which? accolade is a reminder that this commitment and dedication is not only valued by our clients but also sets us apart from most other holiday companies.

The report recognises our high levels of customer service, consistency and reliability. With 54 years' experience under our belt and an eye to the future, these are the fundamentals of our business that we value and are looking to strengthen in 2024 and beyond.



Feefo Platinum Trusted Service Award

We closely monitor our customer satisfaction scores and use our guest feedback to improve and enhance our holiday offerings. Each holiday is independently reviewed using Feefo, the results of which are visible for all to see - see the verified hotel reviews on our website.

We hold Feefo's Platinum Trusted Service Award as testament to the high levels of customer care and satisfaction.

## Our Guarantee

All our holidays have 100% financial protection. All air-inclusive holidays are fully bonded by our ATOL licence (our ATOL number is 808), the only government-backed scheme guaranteeing 100% customer financial protection. There is no extra charge for these guarantees.



## Our Promise

Handpicked accommodation

A highly personal service from start to finish

Value for money at the heart of what we do

First hand knowledge of our destinations

Holidays tailored to your taste



# Flexible holidays

Travel is greatly enriched when people have a personal, authentic experience of a place. That's why, with us, there are no fixed holiday durations or rigid routes – of course, a traditional seven- and fourteen-night stay is available at all of our properties.



## Twin Centre Holidays

Two holidays for the price of one! A twin centre holiday - most commonly split as one week in two different places - has the advantage of allowing you to experience contrasting islands or areas at a leisurely pace. They are usually not far apart from one another, meaning reasonable transfer times between them will not steal too much valuable holiday time. We of course make all mid-centre transfer arrangements, or in some areas you can self transfer by hire car.

Some twin centres are easier than others so please contact us if you'd like any advice.

We can also arrange twin centre holidays between Greece and Cyprus or Greece and Albania - see the 'Two Countries One Holiday' section at the end of this brochure.



## Island Hopping

The classic Greek holiday minus the hassle! We will organise the whole thing – including all transfers and ferries – leaving you to simply enjoy the journey. Our team of local agents and reps on the ground are there to provide support and information if and when needed, and we will re-book ferries and accommodation automatically at no additional cost to you in the event of ferry schedule changes, delays or cancellations.

There are myriad island combinations but generally you should stick with islands in the same geographical group. We have some sample itinerary suggestions at the end of each island section to give a starting point but of course are happy to adapt these or advise on other combinations. We recommend a minimum stay of 3 nights per island in order to have time to explore. If you book fewer nights, please be aware that ferry times are subject to change and it can happen that you arrive late on the island and depart early.



## Fly Drives

Explore the Greek mainland, its mountainous peninsulas and archaeological sites on a fly-drive holiday. Itineraries can incorporate a few nights' stay in Athens or Thessaloniki and driving directions are provided throughout.

Gateway airports on the mainland are Athens, Thessaloniki, Kalamata and Preveza. To avoid hefty one way car hire charges it is best to fly in and out of the same airport. We have suggested some itineraries towards the end of this brochure. These are just to give ideas and to be used as a starting point as itineraries are invariably adapted to personal tastes and interests. You may also combine a fly drive itinerary with a longer resort stay for some R and R at the end of the trip.

For those who do not wish to drive but would like to tour a little, we can arrange escorted coach tours from Athens ranging from just a day trip (e.g. to Delphi) to a 3 day classical tour or longer. Tours from Athens can also be arranged on a private basis with an English speaking driver in a comfortable Mercedes MPV. Please enquire.

We also offer fly drives to Crete, which is almost a country in itself.



## Activity holidays

We offer walking and painting holidays on Crete, Kythnos, Sifnos, Serifos and Pelion, and island special interest weeks with a variety of excursions on Lemnos and Crete. Please see the section at the end of this brochure.



## By train

In recent years we have noted an increasing trend from our guests for 'slow travel' options, holidays which embrace an unhurried pace of travel.

We introduced our first rail holidays to Greece in 2000. Travelling from London St Pancras (or your regional train station) you will journey through France, traversing the Alps, to the Italian city of Milan before continuing to Bari and onwards by ferry to Corfu and Igoumenitsa. The following destinations are available by train: Corfu, Paxos and AntiPaxos, Lefkas, Parga and Sivota.



## Cruises

We offer 7 night cruise itineraries on wooden gulets from various ports including Corfu and Zakynthos. The gulets sail around the Ionian islands offering historical sightseeing with daily beach and swim stops and breakfast and lunch stops in air conditioned en-suite cabins with WiFi.

The spectacular, tall ship Star Clippers sail under sail, offer an intimate and relaxed atmosphere and focus on customer service, education and attention to detail. They offer 7, 10 and 11 night cruises covering the Cyclades, Sporades and combinations of Greece with Turkey, Croatia and Montenegro.

All cruises can be combined with land arrangements. Speak to our destination specialists on 020 8568 4499.