

Welcome to Real Greece

Welcome to a Greece holiday brochure which we hope is rather different. Within these pages you will not find flowery descriptions and exaggerated claims. What you will find is a range of carefully selected holidays, as individual and unpackaged as we can make them, to some of the loveliest parts of Greece.

Despite Greece's current economic difficulties, the fundamentals of a holiday here remain unchanged - a warm sun, some of the cleanest seas in the Med., unspoiled nature and scenery, a simple island life-style, and some of the friendliest people you could meet. Tourism is essential to Greece's future growth and everyone involved will do their very best to ensure their foreign guests have a holiday to remember.

We are specialists to Greece in the truest sense of the word, and carry only a select number of clients every year. We concentrate on areas we know and love, are still of a size to provide genuine flexibility, and strive to offer a personal service. We enjoy passing on our in-depth local knowledge to help you choose the right area, location and accommodation for your holiday.

2012 sees Sunvil's 43rd year, and our management team still includes those who founded the company in 1970. Over the decades our programme has grown slowly but surely, and now we believe it to be one of the most comprehensive selection of holidays you will find to the loveliest parts of Greece.



Within this brochure you will find a wide selection of tried and tested favourites, as well as pre-bookable activities such as sailing, water sports, sea-kayaking, bicycle and small boat hire, painting and walking.

Wherever we go in Greece we favour areas more off the tourist-beaten track than on, which have retained a genuinely Greek flavour. Our accommodation, be it simple studio or deluxe hotel, is carefully selected and our flights are all by day. Our prices are as transparent, competitive and inclusive as we can make them without cutting corners.

Our aim throughout this brochure is to offer an attractive alternative to the larger mass-market holiday companies, backed up by a friendly, efficient service and product knowledge second-to-none. It is a philosophy which seems to work – 96% of our customers last year, based on a sample of over 4,000, rated their Sunvil holiday experience as 'good' (29%) or 'excellent' (67%).

For four decades our philosophy has been to offer 'real' holidays to the 'real' Greece. Welcome again!



AITO Responsible Tourism rating



Contents

Introduction	4-7
Sailing	8-9
Painting and Activities	10
N & NE Aegean Islands	
Lemnos	11
Samos	16
Ikaria	28
Ionian Islands	
Paxos	31
Corfu	38
Meganissi	48
Lefkas	50
Zakynthos	57
Kefalonia	60
Ithaca	69
Greek Mainland (central & south)	
Parga	73
Sivota	78
Pelion	83
South Peloponnese	90
Tolon	103
Nafplion	108
Sporades Islands	
Skiathos	109
Skopelos	112
Alonissos	118
North Aegean Islands	
Thassos	125
Greek Mainland (north)	
Halkidiki	126
Crete	129
Cycladic Islands	
Andros	145
Paros	147
Naxos	148
Santorini	150
Dodecanese Islands	
Symi	153
Tilos	154
Karpathos	158
Patmos	161
Other Islands	162
Mainland Fly-Drives	
Hidden Greece	164
Athens	169
Car Hire	170
Boat Hire	171
Travel Insurance	172
Flight Information	173
General Information	174-176
The Real Selection	177
Booking Form	178
Booking Conditions	179

100% Financial Protection

Sunvil is a fully bonded tour operator so whatever happens your money is safe.



The air holidays in this brochure are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Our ATOL number is 808.



For non-air holidays we are 100% bonded by the AITO Trust.

Our AITOT number is 1092

Photography We would like to thank the following for the use of their photographs in this brochure: George Agapiou, Jon Banfield, Robin Eley Jones, Tony Fletcher, Rob Jewell, Ian Murdoch (Laskarina Holidays), Nigel Scopes.

Our Chosen Areas



Sailing, Kayaking, Painting and Walking pages 8-10

A wide range of sailing options from Lefkas, for novices and old hands alike. Learn to sail a yacht in the clear sheltered waters of the Ionian; sociable flotilla holidays; or a bareboat charter for the independent. All options may be combined with a week on dry land.

Sea kayaking excursions are new for 2012 and can be pre-booked from Alonissos.

Painting is organised in the Peloponnese, Crete, Samos and Alonissos. Suitable for all levels, from beginners to experienced artists, these would also be a good choice for those with non-painting partners as the painting does not dominate the holiday.

We offer pre-booked walks on Alonissos and give a free Walking Guide with every holiday to Amorgos. Walking leaflets are available, also free of charge, for Parga, western Pelion and Zakynthos. Guided walks are now available locally from many other areas (see page resort intros).



Lemnos pages 11-15

You can fly direct to this large traditional island, which has few tourists, excellent sandy beaches and an attractive small port. Why read any further?



Samos pages 16-27

Close to Turkey, Samos is a refreshing combination of pine and olive, mountain and beach. It is large enough to offer plenty of variety, and has an especial appeal for walkers.



Ikaria pages 28-30

Ikaria is remote and little-known, and the island's wild beauty a perfect escape from the pressures of modern-day life. Nature still dominates here, and her forests, mountains and white-sand beaches add up to a heady Greek cocktail.



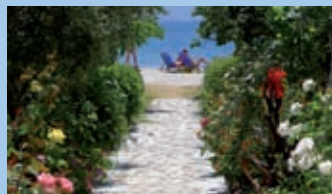
Paxos pages 31-37

Silvery Paxos may be small but it is perfectly formed! Very pretty, wonderful for walking and lapped by the clearest of seas, be prepared to fall under the spell of a truly enchanting isle.



Corfu pages 38-47

Corfu remains one of the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean. Our selected areas avoid the honey-pots and give the chance to discover why Corfu has held visitors in thrall for generations.



Meganissi & Lefkas pages 48-56

Lefkas, linked to the mainland by a bridge, combines a true island atmosphere with access by car to the delights of Epirus. Although only a short drive from Preveza Airport, Lefkas remains largely traditional and unspoilt. Meganissi, just half-an-hour from Lefkas by ferry, offers a peaceful retreat away from the crowds.



Zakynthos pages 57-59

Zakynthos will surprise you. It is a gentle island of wooded hills, rural valleys and a warm-hearted people. Our selected areas, as you would expect, are laid-back and away from the crowds. For lovers of unspoiled countryside as well as sea.



Kefalonia and Ithaca 60-72

Kefalonia boasts dramatic scenery, strong traditions and marvellous beaches. It will reward exploration many times over. Legendary Ithaca is little-visited and sleepy. Was this the home of Odysseus? Judge for yourself...



Parga, Sivota and Epirus pages 73-82

Two Epirot villages in glorious surroundings and with excellent beaches. Parga, well known for its beauty, is popular with Greek and foreigner alike. Sivota has a very pretty waterfront and a real village atmosphere. Head inland to the heart of Epirus to discover a land of mountains, forests, gorges, lakes, rivers and preserved stone-built villages.



The Pelion pages 83-89

Pelion is famed for its beauty. Here mountain, sea and forest hide preserved villages and stunning beaches. Difficult to get to in the past, a direct flight to Volos means you can now discover it for yourself.



The Peloponnese: Tolon, Nafplion and the South pages 90-108

The Peloponnese has a wealth of ancient sites, stunning mountain scenery, traditional villages and miles of beaches. Tolon, an organised resort in the north, is suitable for all ages and a good base for excursions. The south is largely undeveloped and ideal for a quiet, relaxed holiday.



Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonissos pages 109-124

Three green and golden Sporadic Isles. Skiathos has almost 50 sandy beaches, is lively and fashionable. Skopelos is larger – the port is especially attractive with its chapels and narrow lanes. Alonissos is a quiet retreat.



Thassos page 125

Known as 'the Emerald Isle', Thassos is a refreshing combination of pine and olive, mountain villages and golden sandy beaches, with a fascinating history thrown into the mix. And just a 45 minute sea crossing from the mainland.



Halkidiki pages 126-128

Halkidiki is famed for its long white-sand beaches. We have discovered the small pretty village of Olymbiada away from the crowds. The village has an authentic atmosphere, a good choice of local tavernas, excellent sandy beaches and even its own ancient site – ancient Stagira, birthplace of Aristotle! Ouranoupolis to the south is known as the gateway to the ‘monk’s republic’, Mount Athos.



Crete pages 129-142

The largest island of them all, with a rugged, mountainous landscape and a fascinating past. We feature the west, particularly the area in and around historic Chania and the remoter south coast (including car-free Loutro which can only be reached by boat).



Cycladic Islands pages 143-152

Whitewashed houses, gaily painted fishing boats, laden donkeys... the Greek Islands as you always imagine them to be. We feature Andros, Paros, Naxos, Santorini and remote Amorgos.



Symi, Tilos, Karpathos & Patmos pages 153-161

Four contrasting islands of the Dodecanese chain, randomly scattered up the Aegean Turkish coast. Symi boasts one of the Aegean’s most stunning ports. Tilos is our favourite, an eco-friendly paradise for walkers and nature lovers. Karpathos is remote and wildly beautiful. Tiny Patmos is famed as the place where St John wrote the Book of Revelation and is dominated by the imposing monastery here.



Other Islands 162-163

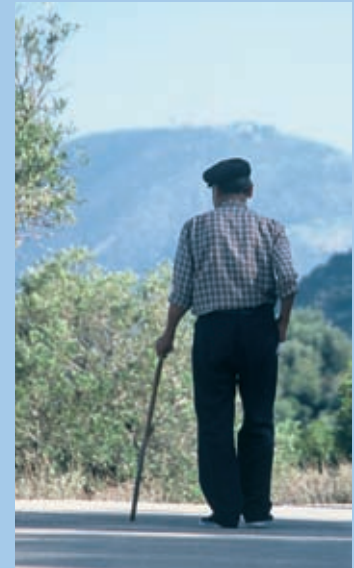
Six of the remaining Dodecanese islands - Rhodes, Halki, Lipsi, Leros, Nissyros, Astypalea - plus the car-free Saronic isle of Hydra. All are featured in more depth on our website (see also for Kastellorizo and Kassos).



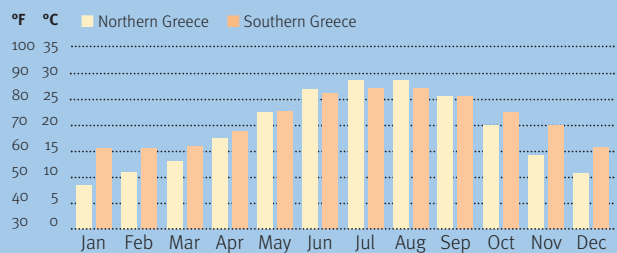
Hidden Greece Fly-Drives and Athens pages 164-169

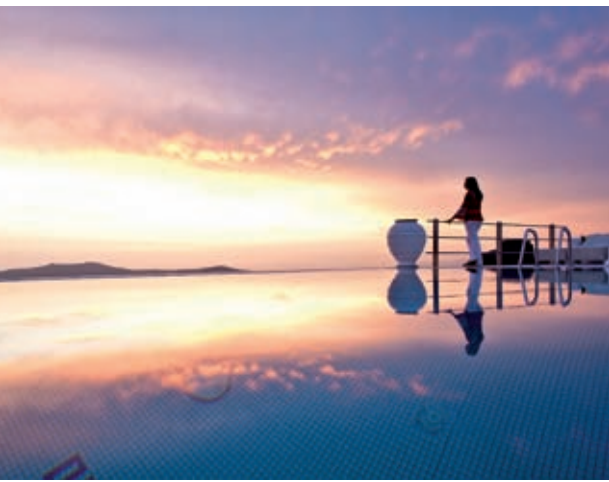
Our mainland fly drives are as flexible as you wish to make them and feature areas rarely found in a holiday brochure - a very different face of Greece. Athens contains treasures which should be seen at least once and a few nights here can be tailored into many of our holidays.

Car Hire, Boat Hire, Insurance, General Information & Booking Form pages 170-180



Greece maximum average air temperature





Holiday Flexibility

Multi-Centre Holidays

Many islands and resorts in this brochure can be combined and some of the most popular pairings are shown below. It is usually, but not always, the case that you need to spend a week in each centre. You will have to contact us for an exact costing as our additional administration, local agent handling fees and transfer costs vary considerably from area to area. As a rule of thumb we recommend you book the quieter resort or island as your second centre (please ask us if in doubt).

- **Corfu and Paxos**
- **Crete**
 - north and south coast
 - Paleochora and Loutro

(see transfer note on resort pages).
- **Cyclades: Paros and/or Naxos and/or Santorini**
(note: in 2011 there was also a direct ferry connection 4 times weekly between Andros and Naxos during the period 20/6 to 30/9).
- **Dodecanese: Symi and Tilos**, but there are many other combinations, please enquire.
- **Kefalonia and Ithaca**
- **Parga and/or Lefkas and/or Meganissi and/or Sivota**
(note: we are also planning to offer a stay in Saranda, Albania in combination with these areas. Details were still being arranged as we went to press and will be on our website when finalised - please enquire).
- **West and East Pelion**
- **North and South Peloponnese**
- **Samos with Patmos or Ikaria**
- **Skiathos and/or Skopelos and/or Alonissos**
- **Athens** can be combined with many islands/areas but amongst the easiest are **Andros, Naxos, Paros, Santorini, Hydra, Tolon** and most **mainland fly-drives**.

For other combinations and for holidays of a longer duration or of more than two centres please call us.

Depending on the area mid-holiday transfers may be effected via the Airport which will inevitably mean a wait of a couple of hours whilst formalities are completed for our departing/arriving passengers. If you would like to avoid this wait please check with us. At an additional cost, private taxi transfers can be arranged in some areas, either for the whole mid-holiday transfer or (if via the airport) for the second part – supplement on request. An alternative option may be car hire for your second week, either from your first resort or the airport. Please note a Welcome Pack (if applicable) is only provided in your first centre.

Extended Stays

Most holidays can be extended over and above the normal two weeks at a reasonable cost (note: a Flight Extension charge of £45 to £250 will also be payable, depending on the date). Please call us for a quote. Only a limited number of extended stays are available.

Tailor-Made Holidays

If you wish to design your own holiday – perhaps you would like a duration of other than 7, 14 or 21 nights, prefer Heathrow over Gatwick, or simply want to mix areas/islands not normally possible from our regular flights – we can help.



Once you have an idea of what you would like to do, our tailor-made department is happy to advise and quote. There are of course some restrictions, but within these you can do pretty much as you please.

These holidays are based on daily scheduled flights into Athens or Thessalonika, so the duration is up to you. Any island or area we feature which is easily accessible from Athens can be included.

Mainland areas include Tolon or Nafplion (2 hours from Athens by taxi or self-drive), Halkidiki (1¼ hrs from Salonika), the South Peloponnese and Pelion (self-drive 4-5 hours). Many of our featured islands have domestic flight connections from Athens. Ferries also connect daily to the Cyclades and flights from Gatwick to Santorini and Mykonos are several times weekly and can be mixed.

All of these options can also be combined with a mainland fly-drive itinerary and/or a few nights in Athens. We can advise you of any restrictions that may apply (e.g. some accommodation may have a minimum stay or set changeover days).

One call to us will save you considerable time and effort, and probably cost no more (in the end) than trying to arrange it all by yourself. Most important of all, it is much safer: we are fully ATOL-bonded so your money is 100% protected, and by law we take full responsibility for our arrangements, which is not necessarily the case with 'internet only' operations who act only as 'agents'.

We firmly believe that, taken together, these benefits will allow you to make the most of your designer holiday with complete peace of mind!

Children

Child Reductions

In addition to reducing the cost for all other members of the party (if self catering) children under 12 years of age on the date of return travel to the U.K. and sharing a room, studio or apartment with a minimum of two adults qualify for reductions as follows.

Self Catering Holidays

A reduction of £25 for one week and £50 for two week holidays is given for one child travelling per two adults.

Please note, child reductions do not apply to Early Booking Offers, nor to Family Units (unless occupying the third bed in one of the rooms) as these are usually interconnecting studios and charged as two rooms.

Hotel Holidays

Children are granted a reduction, usually of at least 15%, if they occupy the third bed in a room. (Please note, this is often a folding bed and may make the room cramped). As hotel child discounts vary, please ask us for a quote.

The hotels which offer the most generous family rates are highlighted above the description. **Please note:** our invoicing system does not show hotel child reductions as a separate item. Instead it divides it amongst all persons sharing the room. However, the overall holiday cost for 2 adults and 1 child is always lower than that for 3 adults!

Child reductions do not apply to interconnecting rooms or Family Suites (unless occupying the third bed in one of the rooms) as these are priced as two rooms.

Infants

Under 2 years of age on the date of return travel are charged a flat rate of £50, which includes any cot charges in our self catering accommodation (hotels may make a charge which is payable locally). Cots should be requested on the booking form. All food is payable locally. Infants do not qualify for a seat on the aircraft, nor any baggage allowance. Please note cots, high chairs and car child seats supplied locally may not meet British Safety Standards.

Note: The CAA has approved certain types of child car seats for use in aircraft. Should their use become mandatory infants will require their own aircraft seat and be charged accordingly.

Unaccompanied Children:

Many charter airlines do not allow children under 16 to fly unaccompanied by an adult. If this may apply to your party please check with us at the time of booking.

Insurance

Our special Family Rate insures up to four dependent children under 18 **free of charge** if travelling with two insured adult family members – see page 172.



Booking

Early Booking Offers

To thank our regular clients and to encourage early bookings in the off-peak months, we have selected various properties to which we are offering incentives to those booking before 29th February.

The offers include:

- 2 weeks for the price of 1
- Up to £40 off per person

The offers apply to most departure dates before mid-July and from end-August onwards. See resort pages for details.

The following conditions apply:

- Offers apply to holidays using our regular charter flights only (see page 173)
- Offers are limited to one per person per holiday, and cannot be mixed or combined with any other discount
- 2 weeks for the price of 1 is valid only in conjunction with a minimum 2 week stay in the same accommodation. (For an extended duration or multi-centre holiday staying in relevant accommodation please ask us for a quote).
- Supplements are payable in full
- Further child reductions do not apply
- We reserve the right to limit capacity per departure for these holidays and to amend or extend selected offers at our discretion.



How to Book

Our holidays can be booked through selected travel agents (excluding the multiple chains of Tui/Thomson or Thomas Cook).

Alternatively you can check the availability of many holidays and book online via our secure website.

Should you not find what you are looking for (not all holidays can be booked online), prefer not to book online or simply wish to speak to a human being, please call us Monday to Saturday during normal working hours. Once confirmed your signed Booking Form and deposit should be received by us within the next 7 days. For bookings within 8 weeks of departure, the full holiday amount is payable.

A Holiday Confirmation will then be sent giving full holiday details and the balance due (payable 8 weeks before departure). Please check this carefully. No final invoice or statement will be sent. Your tickets and travel documents will be sent 10-12 days before departure. Again, please check these as flight details may have slightly altered.

Welcome Packs

In all Self Catering accommodation in our main resorts we will be providing a Welcome Pack of basic provisions for your arrival in Greece with our compliments. It should save rushing to the shops before you have even unpacked.

This service is provided only in areas where we have a resident representative and excludes some of the more isolated properties.

Clients on a multi-centre holiday please note that a Welcome Pack will be provided in your first resort only. Welcome Packs are not provided for bookings made within 7 days of travel, nor for 'Accommodation Only' bookings.

Responsible Tourism

Tourism has the enormous potential to benefit local communities, their economies and their environment. However, we must not forget that the industry can also have a negative impact on its destinations if not properly managed.

At Sunvil we are passionate about the areas in which we specialise and the local people with whom we work. We therefore feel that it is our responsibility to help minimise any adverse effects.

A company that arranges holidays using aircraft and promotes car hire in resort can never hope to call itself 'green' or 'eco-friendly'. However, for many years we have striven to behave as responsibly as possible – long before 'green credentials' became fashionable.

Responsible Tourism is the current buzz word for the industry but what does it mean? In general terms Responsible Tourism aims 'to create better places for people to live in, and better places for people to visit'. For us, at Sunvil, this means building close relationships with our destinations and working alongside our local agents and the host communities to develop a sustainable and culturally sensitive tourism industry that aims to bring long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. We are not a company that introduces a destination only to remove it after a couple of years – we are dedicated to the destinations that we feature!

We use local suppliers wherever possible, and we encourage our suppliers, through many initiatives, to protect and treasure their local environment. During The Travel Foundation's 'Make Holidays Greener Week' in June 2011, for example, our resort representatives arranged collections of plastic bottles and glass for recycling, encouraged use of local produce and crafts, and fund-raised for local charities, amongst other things. We don't always win, but we try.

Despite growing commercial pressures we refuse to feature All Inclusive hotels in the Mediterranean, as we believe strongly that they are detrimental to the local businesses and economy.

In addition, we believe that it is our responsibility to learn about and respect the customs and culture of the destinations that we visit. In turn we aim to encourage our clients to participate and experience local life, thus providing a more enjoyable and rewarding holiday experience.



As a recognition of our commitment to Responsible Tourism, Sunvil has been awarded the maximum 5-stars by the Association of

Independent Tour Operators (AITO). For more information on Sunvil's Responsible Tourism policy, please visit our website www.sunvil.co.uk and select the 'About Sunvil' heading.



Climate Change & Carbon Offsets

We are of course acutely aware that the holiday flights our customers take are damaging for the environment – there is increasing recognition that the carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by aircraft fuel emissions is contributing to climate change.

The flights taken by Sunvil's 30,000 customers generate about 12,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year – around the same as 3,500 cars. One return flight to Greece means about 0.5 tonnes of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere.

Together with Carbon Offsets Limited, the company entrusted with administering the ABTA/AITO carbon reduction programme 'Reduce my Footprint', Sunvil can help you offset some of the damage these emissions cause. Offsetting is straightforward. Donations made will be invested in verified offset projects, such as renewable energy, that generate CO₂ savings to balance out your flight emissions. Full details can be found on our website under 'About Sunvil'.

On your holiday confirmation invoice you will see that we have added £3.00 per person, which represents the average cost of offsetting a flight to Greece. This is, of course, a matter of personal choice – should you not wish to do so then please simply deduct this amount from your final balance.

At Sunvil all our staff air travel is offset.

For further information please visit the website www.carbonoffsets-limited.com and www.reducemyfootprint.travel



The Travel Foundation

The Travel Foundation is a UK charity that cares for the places we love to visit.

Your holiday can make a real difference to your favourite destinations. It can help protect the natural environment, traditions and culture – the things that make your visit special. And it can improve the well-being of local families – so that more people benefit from your visit. All of which can make your holiday experience even better!

Most importantly, it can help ensure that there are great places for us all to visit – for generations to come.

Sunvil, along with several other travel companies, is supporting the work of The Travel Foundation by donating 50p from every holiday booked direct to the charity, and providing help in kind in the way of complimentary flights, accommodation and other services in order to help the workings of the charity.

On your holiday confirmation you will see that we have added £1 in case you should also want to make a contribution. Should you not wish to do so simply deduct this amount from your final payment.

For more information, please take a look at The Travel Foundation's website at www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk



Blue Flag Beaches

379 Greek beaches were awarded Blue Flag status in 2011 – more than any country

other than Spain. This worldwide scheme is operated by a non-profit NGO (the Foundation for Environmental Education) which awards a coveted 'blue flag' only to beaches that fulfil 32 mainly environmental criteria, including water quality. For further information please see www.blueflag.org.

Animal Welfare

For our animal welfare policy see page 171.