



Kioni

Ithaca

It is Ithaca's distinct lack of mainstream tourism, coupled with its mythological past, which makes it an island well worth visiting. Although many people have heard of Ithaca, few have ever come to stay. For those that do, their reward is a peaceful, strongly traditional Greek island, mountainous and scenic, with some very pretty villages and sparsely populated beaches.

Ithaca divides into two halves. Mount Aetos, which joins north with south, is barely half a mile in width at its narrowest point. The highest peak on the island is Neritos at just over 800 metres. The west coast is very rugged, with sheer mountainside rising steeply from the sea for much of its length. The east side is gentler, and its indented coastline provides several natural harbours, which is where Ithaca's three main coastal villages –

Frikes, Kioni and Vathy – are to be found.

Frikes is the smallest of the three and delightfully sleepy, with a lazy, very Greek air. Four tavernas and a café or two front the sea here, which doubles as the mooring place for a line of colourful fishing boats. With the mountain behind, and green hills to either side, Frikes enjoys a very natural, unspoiled setting and offers good walking country. Some very nice white-pebble beaches can be found within a 15 minute walk.

Kioni is very pretty indeed. Thankfully, Ithaca having no airport, it has not succumbed to over-commercialisation. The horseshoe bay, backed by wooded hills, is lined with neo-classical houses. There is often a flotilla moored up, and a number of good family-run restaurants and small shops around the harbour. The bay itself has three or four beaches dotted around it. With the hire of a boat it is easy – and fun – to discover others beyond it for yourself.

Vathy is the charming island capital. Built along the sides of a long fjord-like bay, Vathy has some lovely old



buildings along its expansive waterfront. There are some good beaches dotted around the peninsula to the east, and in season small water-taxis will take you to and fro.

Was Ithaca really the homeland of Odysseus? There are plenty of clues – certain descriptions and places Homer mentions do seem to fit – and it is fun to do a little detective work and see if you agree.



Ithaca Information

Getting to Ithaca

Saturday Day flight Gatwick or Manchester to Kefalonia. Then 1 hour transfer to port and private charter boat to Ithaca (45 mins). 20-40 minute onward transfer to your accommodation. For flight details see page 173.

Multi-Centre Options

Ithaca with Kefalonia. For multi-centre details see page 6.

Car & Motorboat Hire

See pages 170-171 for details.

Representative

Based in Kioni – will visit.

Early Booking Offers

For departures before 15/7 & 25/8 onwards if booked by 29/2. (Note: excludes 1 wk holidays dep 02/6 & 25/8).

KYPARISSA

- £40 per person off

KALIOPI, LORENZO'S

- £50 off per booking (£200 off 2 weeks dep 25/8)

For conditions see page 7.



Lorenzo's House Kioni

- Self Catering ■ House for 2/4
- Early Booking Offer

Lorenzo's House is in the hilltop hamlet of Rachi above Kioni. Its lofty position ensures magnificent views across the sea to the islands of Lefkas, Meganissi and Arkoudi, and the mountains of the mainland beyond.

The architect owner has renovated the house to preserve the traditional village style yet create a beautiful and comfortable home. The sitting room, with a high vaulted ceiling, and both bedrooms lead to sea-facing terraces bordered by jasmine, lavender, olive and lemon trees.

The house comprises one double and one twin bedroom, each with a fan and opening onto a private pretty garden terrace with BBQ; a spacious open-plan sitting room with kitchen (electric hob, mini-oven, fridge); shower room; laundry room with washing machine; and a wide sea-facing terrace to the front. Due to the location and traditional build the house remains cool and airy through the summer.

Rachi has one basic mini-market, a walk of two minutes from the house. A walk down the hill of c 15 minutes (a bit longer back) brings you to Kioni harbour. The beach of Mavrounas is about the same distance in the other direction.

The location and uphill approach of Lorenzo's would not be suited to anyone with mobility problems. Car hire is recommended for ease of access to Kioni waterfront and nearby beaches.



Agnandio Kioni

- Self Catering ■ Apartments for 2/3
- Air Conditioning ■ Free WiFi

This pair of spacious top (first) floor apartments provides good modern standards and, being on the hillside just above Kioni harbour, spectacular views.

Each comprises an air-conditioned bedroom (twin beds but can be placed together); a spacious, light and airy living room with a kitchen area (microwave, 2-ring hob, fridge) and a sofa-bed for a child; and a nicely tiled shower room. The panoramic views over the village, green hillside and Kioni bay from the sunny open front balcony are gorgeous.

The owner is a goldsmith and his artistic eye is reflected in the simple and tasteful style of décor and furnishings.

There is no additional charge for use of the air conditioning, and the apartments also possess satellite tv, a ceiling fan in the living room, an iron and board and a hairdryer. The owner has also installed free WiFi for his guests.

The walk into the village takes five or six minutes via a stepped pathway down the hillside (a little longer back), so not suited to anyone with walking difficulties without a hire car. There's a small pebble beach about a two minute walk from the waterfront and three other pretty beaches within walking distance further around the bay.



Kaliopi Apartment Kioni

- Self Catering for 2 ■ Air Conditioning
- Early Booking Offer

Kaliopi Apartment is set back from the little village street and is just a minute's walk away from the waterfront. The apartment has been attractively finished in pine and ceramic floor tiles.

It comprises one twin-bedded room with french windows to back verandah; open-plan kitchen with breakfast bar and sitting room leading to front verandah; and a bathroom with bath and shower. The bedroom has air-conditioning (included in the price).

Two verandahs provide both sun and shade throughout the day with views over village rooftops to Kioni Bay and the olive-clad hillsides. A hired boat can be moored in the harbour nearby (see page 171 for details).



Small Boat Hire

We can pre-book small fibreglass motorboats licensed for up to 5 persons from Frikes, Kioni and Vathy (no previous experience required). Prices are from £36 per day with a minimum of 3 days.

Please see page 171 for details.



Kyparissa location above the harbour (top left)

Kyparissa Apartments Kioni

- Self Catering ■ Apartments for 2 and 2/4 ■ Air Conditioning
- Early Booking Offer

The Kyparissa Apartments occupy a prime location just above Kioni harbour, and afford excellent views over the bay. A 2-3 minute walk via a footpath and some steps down the small hill brings you directly down to the harbour-front.

The five apartments here are attractively furnished and offer comfort, privacy and plenty of room. The three 2-bedroom units are on the upper floor. Each comprises a spacious ground floor living room, slightly split-level with guest wc and well equipped kitchen area above (full cooker, fridge, dining table and chairs) and living area 2 steps below. French windows open onto the large open terrace, stepped back from its neighbours for privacy, furnished with sunbeds and boasting fine views over Kioni's horseshoe bay. Stairs lead up to the two bedrooms on the top floor, one double and one twin, each with air conditioning and own balcony (one front sea view, one rear mountain view). Also on this level is the large tiled shower room.



Each of the pair of 1-bedroom apartments on the ground floor has its own entrance from the pretty garden. The living room has a fitted kitchen area (same facilities as upstairs) and there is a separate air conditioned twin bedroom with a good-sized tiled shower room en suite. Each apartment here has its own delightful garden area to the front and side, bordered by flowering shrubs and almond trees, with sun-beds, table and chairs, and you will find plenty of secluded spots with or without shade. Partial sea views are to be had over the garden and rooftop of a house to the front.

Kyparissa has its own parking to the rear and motorboats can be moored overnight at the harbour (see page 171).

The combination of central but quiet location, views, comfort and space make Kyparissa our number one choice of apartments in Kioni.



For more choice see www.sunvil.co.uk

We have a selection of additional properties on Ithaca available. Please see our website for details. Including:

Nostos Hotel (3 Stars, B/B)

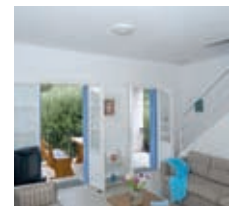
Friendly hotel located in the valley a 3 minute walk from Frikes harbour. Popular with walkers (advice, maps and picnics available), the hotel has a good restaurant and a large swimming pool to the front.



Pelicata Cottage Stavros

- Self Catering ■ House for 2/4 ■ Air Conditioning

This top quality country cottage is quietly situated 7 minutes' walk from the centre of Stavros in northern Ithaca, close to the village's small archaeological museum. The house offers privacy, comfort and charm in equal measure, and is very well equipped.



The ground floor comprises a spacious open-plan lounge with comfortable sofas, sat TV, dvd and cd player, safety deposit box, bathroom (bath, shower, hairdryer, washing machine) and modern country-style kitchen (dishwasher, full cooker and fridge). French windows open out to a covered terrace with a bench table overlooking the olive grove with views to the mountain.

Upstairs are two bedrooms – one twin, one double, each air-conditioned and with its own covered balcony boasting fine views over the trees to mountain and sea – and a second bathroom with shower/wc.

The house has light attractive décor and modern tasteful furnishings throughout.

The cottage is set in an olive grove and has a BBQ and a terraced dining area under the trees.

Stavros, high above Polis Bay to the west and c 2kms inland from Frikes to the east, is a thriving village. Dominated by an imposing church, and remarkably well endowed with restaurants, cafés and small shops, it has a museum and even an ATM, and is a great base for walking. For beaches, Polis and Frikes are a 30 minute walk down the hill (but doubtless longer back). Unusually beach towels are provided.

We would normally include a car with such a location, but as Ithaca attracts so many walkers we have made car hire optional, albeit recommended.

