



Armenistis

Ikaria

Ikaria is one of the most beautiful and unusual Greek islands we have ever set eyes upon. Its mountains, forests and beaches combine with the island's many legends, foibles and traditions in a heady Aegean cocktail. All the more wonder then that Ikaria is so little known.

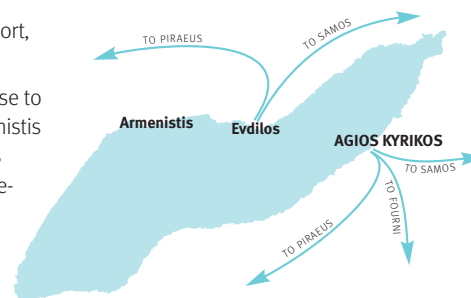
This is largely because it is remote, and historically an island of exile until remarkably recently. Neglected by Athens for many years and ill-served by ferries, Ikaria was left to go its own way. Now, with an airport (thankfully not large enough for jets) and improved ferry and hydrofoil links, it is easier to reach; but the 'away-from-it-all' mood here will not, we hope, change too much.

Named after Ikarus, who flew too close to the sun and plunged into the sea here, Ikaria is 40 kms long but never greater than 8 kms wide. With Atheras soaring to over 1000 metres, this means some tortuous roads and dizzy drops, especially when crossing

the island from the main port, Ayios Kirikos, in the south.

Our accommodation is close to the fishing village of Armenistis on the north coast, 57 kms from Ayios. With long white-sand beaches to the east and lush mountain behind, it is the prettiest seaside spot on the island, and the centre of what limited tourism there is. The village has just the right number of tavernas, cafés and small shops to give enough variety. Five more (very good) restaurants can be found above the beautiful sandy cove at Nas 3 kms to the west, which has the remnants of a Temple of Artemis behind. Armenistis has a small beach of its own but, apart from when the meltemi blows, most people head for long Livadi or Messakti beaches just outside the village. Please be aware that Ikaria has some strong off-shore currents and it is not always safe to swim.

The forest on the mountainside directly inland from Armenistis is a natural paradise, full of the sounds of birdsong, rushing water and rustling pines. It hides lakes, monasteries and



traditional villages, four of which (collectively known as Rahe) have produced a 25 km walking trail, split into sections, which starts just behind Livadi beach – but try not to reach Christos before the afternoon as the locals sleep for much of the day!

There is limited public transport on Ikaria and taxis can be hard to find, so car hire is highly recommended (4wd if going much into the mountains) – there is a lot to explore. Excursions do run, subject to numbers; some by jeep or 4wd minibus.

Ikaria is famous amongst Greeks for its Panayiri's (Saint's Day festivals), natural beauty, local wine, fresh fish and sunsets. It is not famous at all elsewhere, which is why we would urge a visit to this magical, wild and quite unique island.



Ikaria Information

Getting to Ikaria

Thursday Day flight Gatwick or Manchester to Samos (note: inbound Gatwick flight via Lemnos). Then 3 hours by ferry, and 30-90 minutes (depending on which port the ferry docks) by taxi or minibus. Please note there is an early morning departure time on your return transfer. For flight details see page 173.

Multi-Centre Options

Ikaria with Samos. For transfer reasons Samos should be booked as your second centre. For multi-centre details see page 6.

Car Hire

See page 170 for details.

Representative

We do not employ a resident representative on Ikaria but have a local agent based in Armenistis.

Exchange Facilities

There is no bank in Armenistis and exchange facilities are limited so take a good supply of Euros. The nearest ATM is Evdilos, 30 mins by road.



Erofil Hotel Armenistis

- 3 Star Superior
- Bed & Breakfast
- High Season Air Conditioning
- Swimming Pool
- Internet Access

The Erofil is the highest category hotel on Ikaria and occupies one of the best locations – just on the edge of Armenistis, directly above the sea, a three minute walk from the centre of the village in one direction and to the start of beautiful Livadi beach in the other.

Built into the hillside on four floors (please note there is no lift) all 31 rooms possess fridge, satellite tv, hair-dryer, safety-deposit box, tiled shower/wc, air-conditioning in July/August and a spacious balcony (four have a garden patio) – those to the front have panoramic vistas over sea and coast. Furnishings are of excellent quality and décor tasteful.

At the lowest level there is a filtered seawater pool of some 90 sq m (depth 1.0m-3.20m) and a small path leads down to the rocks and sea below.

The hotel has an airy reception/lounge/bar which leads onto the large sea-facing



terrace where you may take breakfast. The hotel also operates an internet corner and an indoor thalassotherapy pool with jacuzzi (local charge).

The stunning views of blue open sea and green mountain coastline alone would make a stay here worthwhile. Coupled with the high level of comfort and the convenient location, we consider the Erofil to be worth the premium they ask.

Low Season Offer

Reduction c.£80 (double room) or c.£66 (single) for 2 week holidays departing 5/5, 12/5, 19/5 and 22/9.

Valeta Studios Armenistis

- Self Catering
- Studios for 2
- Family Units for 4/5

Beautifully located directly above the sea, the Valeta Studios are on a small headland between two of the best beaches on Ikaria – Livadi and Messakti. They are a ten minute walk via Livadi beach (twenty minutes walk by the road) from Armenistis village.

Studios are ground floor (double plus single bed) or first floor (twin beds). Each is spacious and open-plan containing a kitchenette area with mini-oven, rings and fridge, a fan, TV, tiled shower room with wc, and large front balcony or terrace with wonderfully open views over the sea and, to the side, the village. Furnishings and decor are modern, comfortable and of good quality.

Each pair of studios shares a common entrance hallway with an outside door and can therefore be combined for parties of up to five (one ground floor, one first floor).



Livadi Beach and location of Valeta Studios (right)

High standards, superb views and convenient for both beach and village.

Painting with Paul

Of all the Greek islands, Ikaria is one of the most beautiful and offers a vast choice of subject. For this reason Paul Lewis has chosen Armenistis from which to lead painting weeks during June and September.

The cost is £180 per week on top of your normal holiday price, and covers 5 days per week for 3-4 hours each day. Suitable for artists of all levels (beginners are welcome), and also for those with non-painting partners as these are not group painting holidays – you are free to stay in any accommodation you choose, and



there are no minimum numbers required. Participants should be reasonably fit due to Ikaria's terrain. Those unable to prebook for 5 days may join locally for 50 euros per session.

Painting weeks will be starting 9th June and 22nd September. Please see page 10 for further details.





Nas Beach

For more choice see www.sunvil.co.uk

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

Muses Cottages (S/C).

Stepped down the hillside directly above the sea, these five individual cottages enjoy serenity, high levels of comfort and fantastic views. And being within a few minutes walk of three excellent tavernas and Nas beach, you will have little reason to stir from here!



Cavos Bay Hotel

Eftichia Studios Nas

■ Self Catering ■ Studios for 2/3 ■ Air Conditioning

For those looking for a complete escape in beautiful natural surroundings, four studios should suit.

3 kms to the west of Armenistis, Nas comprises simply a gorgeous beach overlooked by the remains of an ancient Temple of Artemis (7 BC) at the foot of a lush river gorge. On the cliff above are four excellent tavernas all offering fresh organic fare and splendid sunset views. Please note that Nas has a somewhat 'alternative' feel and that the beach is (unofficially) naturist.

The six studios here are spacious and furnished in a simple traditional style. All are twin-bedded with tv, air-conditioning (or fan if preferred), light cooking facilities (rings), shower room with wc and large open front verandah boasting wonderful views over the gorge, temple, beach and open sea!

It's a five minute walk down the steps to the beach (not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties) and tavernas and a



seasonal mini-market for essentials are close to hand. A ten minute walk inland (650m) takes you to the start of a super 5 km walk via mule-path up the Halaris Gorge to the mountain village of Rahes.

Cavos Bay Hotel Armenistis

■ 3 Star ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ High Season Air Conditioning ■ Swimming Pool

The Cavos Bay is built directly above the sea, a short 3 minute walk from the centre of Armenistis and 10 minutes from the start of near-perfect Livadi beach.

The hotel has 65 rooms built on four floors (there is a lift). Most are twin-bedded and all possess telephone, fridge, hairdryer, fan, satellite TV, high season air-conditioning (July/August) and tiled shower room/wc, and most enjoy the most wonderful views from the balcony across open sea – the sunsets behind Mykonos are magical. Furnishings are simple. These rooms are sold with breakfast.

The hotel also has some studio rooms of a similar description, all with excellent sea views and the addition of light cooking facilities. Studio rooms are sold on a self catering basis – breakfast, if required, can be had for a small local charge.

Entrance is into the 3rd floor level containing open-plan reception, bar, lounge and terrace. The breakfast room below also has a large sea-facing terrace.



At the lowest level are stepped terraces with seating areas under the trees and, at the far end, two seawater swimming pools – the larger measures 6m x 13m (depth 1m-2.5m). The hotel has a restaurant, poolside in the summer months, serving light meals and snacks through the day. With a really friendly atmosphere to boot, we could not recommend the Cavos Bay more highly.

IKARIA		Prices shown are in £'s per person departing on or between dates shown																															
ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	01 MAY		19 MAY		26 MAY		02 JUN		23 JUN		30 JUN		07 JUL		14 JUL		21 JUL		18 AUG		25 AUG		01 SEP		08 SEP		15 SEP		22 SEP			
		18 MAY	25 MAY	01 JUN	02 JUN	23 JUN	30 JUN	07 JUL	14 JUL	21 JUL	18 AUG	25 AUG	01 SEP	08 SEP	15 SEP	22 SEP	18 MAY	25 MAY	01 JUN	02 JUN	23 JUN	30 JUN	07 JUL	14 JUL	21 JUL	18 AUG	25 AUG	01 SEP	08 SEP	15 SEP	22 SEP		
Cavos Bay	Sea View	2	BB	747	845	762	860	771	883	785	897	785	939	827	981	839	1063	909	1140	937	1168	931	1050	838	932	813	932	804	923	783	881	762	860
		3	BB	736	822	751	837	762	860	776	879	776	907	813	953	825	1012	888	1096	916	1126	910	1046	827	909	802	909	793	900	772	865	753	842
	Studio Sea View	2	BB	747	845	762	860	771	911	813	953	813	988	848	1023	860	1105	930	1182	958	1210	952	1092	859	974	834	974	825	965	804	902	762	860
		3	BB	736	822	751	837	762	879	795	916	795	939	827	981	839	1040	902	1124	930	1154	924	1074	841	937	816	937	807	928	786	879	753	842
Eftichia	Studio	2	SC	752	843	767	862	780	874	780	874	780	895	801	916	813	1019	904	1121	935	1152	929	1027	829	902	804	902	795	893	774	869	771	862
Erofilii	Full Sea View	2	BB	789	889	804	986	855	1037	855	1037	855	1107	925	1177	937	1189	937	1336	1105	1504	1099	1365	985	1142	876	1058	867	1049	846	986	804	904
	Side sea view	2	BB	789	889	804	965	834	995	834	995	834	1072	911	1149	923	1161	923	1238	1021	1336	1015	1260	964	1107	862	1030	853	1021	832	972	804	90
Valeta	Studio	2	SC	735	808	750	827	762	857	780	874	780	902	808	930	820	942	820	1019	918	1117	912	1108	927	1000	804	902	795	876	757	834	753	827

Payment by Credit or Charge Card will incur a 2% processing charge (note: should this change due to the credit card companies increasing their charges to us, you will be advised at the time of booking). Manchester Flight Supplement £39. Departure date determines basic holiday cost. Prices include all airport/fuel charges & taxes known at the time of printing – for surcharge policy see booking conditions on page 179. To add: any room & board supplements (see text – single room prices on request), Travel Insurance (see page 172). An optional Carbon Offset charge will show on your invoice – if you do not wish to pay this simply deduct it from your final payment. Please reconfirm prices with us at the time of booking in case of errors or changes.