

# The Sporades Islands

The four Sporades islands are remarkably varied, each having its own distinct culture and character. Alonissos is a sleepy backwater for much of the year, perfect for walkers and those who love the sea. Skopelos is larger and forested – the town here is especially attractive with over 100 chapels hidden amongst its narrow lanes. Skiathos is lively, fashionable and has almost 50 superb sandy beaches. Skyros is set apart and is little known despite having plenty of interest, a largely untouched nature and a long history.



## Skiathos

Skiathos has a veneer of elegance and sophistication unusual for a small Greek island. Very compact (only eight miles long) it is heavily wooded and almost unrealistically pretty. Along its undulating coastline hide over fifty beaches, almost all sandy.

Skiathos is almost the perfect 'holiday' island. This small isle really does seem to have everything – direct flights, superb beaches, lush scenery, a pretty port, good nightlife, and interesting boat trips. It is, unsurprisingly, busy.



## Skopelos

Skopelos is a lovely, much underrated island, and a rewarding one to discover. Still very much a working island, it has a more 'Greek' flavour than its glamorous neighbour Skiathos, and a slower pace of life. Strong traditions and considerable beauty, combined with its delightful town - one of the most characterful island ports in Greece - and relaxed atmosphere, make Skopelos an island to savour. There are some very good beaches to choose from, most of them on the sheltered west coast and easily reached from Skopelos Town by bus or hire car.



## Alonissos

Alonissos is the least developed of the northern Sporades; a green retreat in which to swim, walk and gently explore. Around its shores are many coves and beaches, lapped by the clearest of seas and backed by green hills. Inland is a scenic joy, and the network of marked trails through the varied countryside makes for some excellent walking. Alonissos is a quiet, very beautiful island which is quite happy to remain off the main tourist path. Largely traditional, it would suit those looking for an unhurried holiday in natural surroundings, fine views and good swimming.



## Skyros

Ask someone who knows Greece to name the Sporades islands and they will likely tell you Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonissos. Few will mention Skyros, even though it is the largest island of the group. But Skyros is little known, being set apart in the Aegean with very limited ferry links so realistically the only way to come is via small plane from Athens or Thessaloniki.

This relative isolation has resulted in an island that has gone its own way, marked out by its own distinctive culture and traditions. An island for those seeking an authentically Greek escape from the crowds and very quiet outside the main summer season.

These are some of the most relaxing holiday destinations in Greece

# Alonissos

Dive into crystal-clear Aegean waters off Alonissos, an unspoiled island where lush pine forests carpet rolling hills and pristine beaches beckon. There are delightful fishing harbours, pine forests, olive groves and orchards to discover, and whispered tales of ancient myths.

## Mega Nero Cottages Votsi, Alonissos

These two cottages are quietly set at the top of the hill leading down to Votsi. The elevated position enables wonderful views.

The Upper Cottage has a pool. Each cottage has a spacious, air conditioned living room with sofa bed, fitted kitchen area double bedroom with sea facing patio and bathroom with shower. The front terrace and dining area has sea views. The private pool 5m x 3.5m is for Upper Cottage guests only and is set to the rear.

A supermarket is 200m downhill and Votsi and the beach a further 600-800m. The walk back is quite steep so car hire is recommended for non-walkers.

WiFi: Provided 01Jun-30Sep. Outside this period arrangements on request

**Board Basis:** Self Catering  
Guide price from **£1065 per person\***



Private pool, Upper Cottage



## Yalis Hotel Votsi, Alonissos

This fabulous little hotel is built on a small cliff above the sea close to Votsi bay.

There are 20 studio-style rooms and open-plan suites between its three sections. All are very spacious with A/C, WiFi and bath and shower. Ours have a private covered sea view balcony/terrace. The higher the room category, the higher the floor and better the views e.g. the Superior Suites are on the top floor sea facing.

At the top level is reception, lounge and bar. There is a sea water swimming pool (14m x 6.5m).

Votsi bay, with tavernas and beach is a 5 minute walk. Five minutes in the other direction is the popular beach of Rossoum.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast  
Guide price from **£1281 per person\***

## Atrium Hotel Near Patitiri, Alonissos

Set amongst the pine trees at the back of Patitiri, the Atrium has stunning views out to sea. The harbour of Patitiri (shops and tavernas), is a 15 minute downhill walk, and it's a similar distance to the very nice beach of Rossoum. The return from Patitiri is uphill, and may not be suitable for those with mobility issues.

The Atrium provides good facilities and a high level of comfort from its 29 double or twin-bedded rooms.

Most rooms possess A/C, WiFi, hydrojet shower and a sea view balcony. There are two swimming pools (one for children) and a pool bar - pool towels are provided.

An attractive location with excellent views from almost everywhere.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast  
Guide price from **£1088 per person\***



## Glyfa Beach Cottages & Apartments Steni Vala, Alonissos

These delightful cottages and apartments are peacefully located amongst olive trees steps away from the pebble beach of Glyfa. Steni Vala fishing harbour is a 5 minute walk.

The pair of stone-built cottages are set in mature gardens each with double bedroom, A/C lounge with one or two extra beds and a kitchen area, a shower room, WiFi and front veranda with views to the sea over the garden.

To the side is a ground floor studio and first floor apartment. The studio is double-bedded, with shower room, kitchenette, A/C, WiFi and sea view veranda.

The apartment has a double bedroom, A/C lounge and kitchen, WiFi and shower room. Both rooms open to the front balcony with fabulous sea views.

**Board Basis:** Self Catering

Guide price from **£1123 per person\***



## Hippocampus Apartments Votsi, Alonissos

Hippocampus is on the front row of the cliff above Votsi Bay and has superb views. It is a five minute walk down to the harbour in one direction and Votsi's pretty beach in the other. There are several tavernas and a mini-market

The 5 studios are mainly double-bedded and all possess a ceiling fan in addition to A/C, WiFi, kitchenette, shower room and a spacious front terrace with sunblind and fine views over the bay.

Apartments have a double bed and sofa bed, a rear living room, two regular balconies, one front and one rear. Kitchenette, bathroom and amenities are as per the studios.

Decor is pretty and furnishing simple.

Due to the location we would not recommend this property to those with mobility problems.

**Board Basis:** Self Catering

Guide price from **£1163 per person\***

## Liadromia Hotel and Studios Patitiri, Alonissos

In a prime position above Patitiri's harbour, the Liadromia has beautiful views over the harbour and bay. The standard of accommodation, welcoming hospitality and fabulous location is a winning combination.

The hotel has 10 double rooms and 2 suites on its upper floors and 4 studios on the ground floor. All rooms have A/C, WiFi, shower room, and ours enjoy wonderful views from their terrace/balcony.

There is a small bar and breakfast area for both rooms and studios.

The harbour tavernas are a 5 minute walk away as is the beach. The lovely Rossoum beach is a 10 minute walk. There is no lift, so not suitable for those with walking difficulties.

We have worked with Maria, the owner, since she first opened her hotel and know that she takes excellent care of her guests.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1223 per person\***



\* Guide prices are based on 2-sharing a lead-in room type for 7 nights in May and include return flights and transfers. Prices are subject to change and increases in airfares. Please visit our website for our latest prices and important further information on these properties, as well as more accommodation choices.

# Skopelos

Limited development means that Skopelos remains beautifully green and wooded, with pine, oak and plane trees hiding some fine beaches along the sheltered west coast. On the east coast is Skopelos Town, the heart of the island and one of the most characterful and loveliest island ports in Greece.

## Aperitton Hotel Skopelos Town, Skopelos

The Aperitton is a welcoming small hotel located 600m from the harbour - a steady uphill walk but nothing very steep and no steps. It has 28 rooms on its first and second floors. Front rooms overlook the lawn and pool with views to the verdant hills. Rear, partial sea view rooms look over the town rooftops and port to Alonissos. Rooms are twin or double bedded with A/C, WiFi, shower room and covered balcony. Furnishings are attractive and simple.

The pool is of a good size. There is a low key pool bar. The town beach is a 10 minute walk. Buses run regularly to others. Parking is available. Due to the location and the steps within the hotel ( no lift) the hotel is unsuited to those with mobility issues. A traditional, friendly, family-run hotel. **Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast  
Guide price from **£1340 per person\***



## Aeolos Hotel Skopelos Town, Skopelos

The Aeolos occupies a super location facing Skopelos Town, an easy 600m level walk above the sea around the bay. Its 60 comfortable, air-conditioned rooms are simply but tastefully furnished with shower room and balcony, most with sea and town views. Rooms are twin-bedded and most can take an extra folding bed for a child. WiFi is available. The hotel has a lift, lounge, bar and breakfast room (complete with

ancient olive tree). The large pool measures 13m x 7m and is on a raised terrace to the front, which also has a snack-bar and a separate children's pool. Ideal for those wanting a comfortable stay with fine views and only a short walk (no hills!) from all the attractions of Skopelos port. **Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast  
Guide price from **£1140 per person\***

## Glifoneri near Skopelos Town, Skopelos

Glifoneri enjoys a lovely, secluded position close to the beach and has terrific views. Located at the back of Skopelos Town, Glifoneri beach is just a 4-5 minute walk down. Recently renovated it has a light fresh style whilst preserving its traditional flavour. It has a large L-shaped living/dining room, a sofa-bed and a separate kitchen area. The bedroom is air conditioned with a double bed and en suite shower/wc. A new luxury 3-bedroom apartment is built above and behind, with

access via a separate path - see website for details. A taverna is a 2 min walk and another by the beach (5 mins.). It is a steep (in parts) 10-15 min walk to the top of the Old Town from where a 15 min walk down narrow lanes brings you to the harbour. Shops are all in town. A very popular property. **Board Basis:** Self Catering  
Guide price from **£1332 per person\***



# Skopelos & Skiathos

Along Skiathos' undulating coastline hide over fifty beaches, almost all sandy. Whichever beach you choose, the swimming is first rate and the sea crystal-clear. Fast, efficient catamarans and ferryboats link Skiathos with Skopelos and Alonissos making multi-centre holidays simple.

## Pera Apartments Skopelos Town, Skopelos

Situated 800m from Skopelos Town's waterfront - a pleasant 10 minute walk above the sea - these are well appointed and peacefully located apartments with fine views. The Junior Suites have a double bedroom, living room with kitchen area, a full-sized sofa bed and shower room. Sea view units have a generous balcony affording lovely views over the bay. The garden view unit is on the ground floor and has a lovely little sitting out area in the garden with partial views to Skopelos Town.

The mezzanine apartments are similar and also have fine sea views. They can sleep up to 5 persons with the addition of a twin bedded sleeping gallery above the living room via a spiral staircase.

There is a large freshwater pool. The walk to town is largely flat - the final 100m a little uphill. As there are many steps within the hotel it is not suitable for those with mobility issues.

**Board Basis:** Self Catering  
Guide price from **£1165 per person\***



## Thea Home Skopelos Town, Skopelos

Thea Home enjoys fabulous views over the town and sea from its position at the top of the old town. It is a ten minute walk down to the harbour (500m) via steps and narrow lanes.

The rooms are modern and mostly double bedded. Each has WiFi, TV, A/C, a mini-fridge, shower room and a furnished balcony or terrace with garden, pool or sea views. Economy rooms are smaller, studios and two-room suites have some kitchen facilities, and there is a larger open-plan Family Suite for up to four.

Beside the reception is a delightful terrace with shade, seating and spectacular views where a buffet breakfast can be taken (paid locally). Below is the freshwater pool measuring 7.5m x 3.5m.

Due to the location and number of steps we do not recommend it to those with mobility difficulties.

**Board Basis:** Room Only  
Guide price from **£1325 per person\***

## Mandraki Village Hotel Koukounaries, Skiathos

The Mandraki Village offers high quality and comfort combined with good service close to the most famous beach on the island.

40 rooms and suites are in small 2-storey buildings scattered around acres of pretty gardens. Well furnished and decorated in contemporary light pastel shades, all possess air conditioning, WiFi, shower room and balcony/terrace with garden views.

There is a pool and restaurant in the gardens. A pool snack bar operates

during the day. More restaurants are within a 10 minute walk.

Spectacular Koukounaries beach is a 5 minute walk with further, lesser-known, beaches accessible within 25 minutes.

Skiathos Town can be reached by local bus (25 mins) or by water taxi from Koukounaries beach.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast  
Guide price from **£1211 per person\***



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# Skiathos & Skyros

Venture beyond the beach on Skiathos and explore the lush interior and charming Skiathos Town, where whitewashed houses with colourful bougainvillea cascade down to the lively harbour. Skyros, by contrast, is largely untouched by tourism and ideal for anyone seeking an authentically Greek escape away from the crowds.

## Achladies Beach Cottages Skiathos

Just 15 metres from the beautiful sandy beach of Achladies and only 3 km from Skiathos Town, this pair of charming cottages are tucked quietly away up a narrow footpath.

Beach Cottage I is closest to the footpath with one double and one single bedroom, air-conditioned living/dining room with single sofa-bed (child only), kitchenette and bathroom with shower. WiFi is provided.

Beach Cottage II next door is accessed from the same gate. With

the same floor space and description except only one double bedroom (no single) - the living room is larger and has a sofa bed for a child.

Tavernas, bus stop and mini-markets are within a few minutes walk and water taxi services to Skiathos town.

**Board Basis:** Self Catering  
Guide price from **£1184 per person\***



## Antigoni Hotel Magazia, Skyros

Situated directly above the start of sandy Magazia beach below Chora, the Antigoni Hotel, run by Katerina offers a warm atmosphere, charm and comfort - and far reaching sea views.

The 17 rooms are attractively furnished. Each room has double or twin beds, air conditioning, WiFi, shower room and a covered sea view balcony. Superior rooms are larger. There are 2 Family Rooms. The beach is just a minute's walk

away and tavernas 10 minutes. Chora above can be reached in around a 15 minute walk up the hill. Local produce features in the breakfasts.

From your balcony all you will hear is the sound of the sea.

Really a super little hotel - we like it very much indeed!

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast  
Guide price from **£1370 per person\***

## Skyros Nefeli Hotel Chora, Skyros

The Nefeli is our chosen, peacefully located hotel in Chora set around the gardens and pool area. All have a double bed, A/C, WiFi, shower (some with bath), and balcony.

Standard and Deluxe rooms have a modern style. Skyrian and Stone Residences are split level modelled on the Island's traditional houses. The Suite has 2 bedrooms and a private pool.

The a la carte restaurant features products from the owner's own farm.

The seawater pool measures 22m x 12m and has a low key pool bar adjacent.

Located at the entrance to the town, it is a five minute walk up the hill to the centre where there are restaurants, cafes and artisan shops. The hotel has parking and is a 5 minute drive from Magazia beach.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast  
Guide price from **£1191 per person\***



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# Island hopping in the Sporades

Skiathos | Skopelos | Alonissos

Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonissos perfectly complement each other on an island hopping holiday, each with its own distinct charm. This two week itinerary has been designed to showcase the diversity of the archipelago whilst providing time at leisure for independent exploration and relaxation. We can, of course, alter the itinerary to suit tastes and budget. As with all our island hopping itineraries, nothing is set in stone. It is even possible to add the unspoiled Pelion region on the Greek mainland.

## Day 1 - Arrival on Skopelos

On arrival at Skiathos Airport, transfer to the port for your onward ferry crossing to Skopelos (1 hour).

The picturesque port of Skopelos is a classic, Greek island amphitheatrical town. It is one of the most characterful island ports in Greece, with narrow climbing streets and over 100 tiny chapels. Mulberry trees line the waterfront and shade the many restaurants, cafes and several chic shops. The island is green and very heavily wooded with pine, oak and plane trees which reach right down to the sea.

Overnight on Skopelos.

## Days 2, 3, 4 and 5 - Explore Skopelos

There are very good, long beaches and secluded coves on Skopelos, which you can reach by bus. The waters are sparkling and beaches a white shingle. Try Stafilos Bay, Panormos, Agnondas, Milia or Kastani. Walking is excellent, as is mountain biking and sea kayaking. Historic churches and monasteries dot the countryside. Then, of course there's the tiny chapel of St John The Baptist, made famous by the ABBA film Mamma Mia!

Overnight on Skopelos.

## Day 6 - Transfer to Alonissos

Transfer to Skopelos port and then by ferry to Alonissos (30 mins), the least developed and in many ways the most mysterious of the three islands; one that is quite happy to remain off the beaten tourist track.

Overnight on Alonissos.

## Day 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Explore Alonissos

Alonissos is a long (20 km) and narrow (4 km) island with the charming fishing villages of Votsi and Steni Vala near at hand and easily reached by bus. Along the coast you will find a string of beaches - all shingle - with crystal clear waters.

Patitiri is the main town and ferry port but Old Alonissos, high above Patitiri and reached by bus, has stunning views. Abandoned in the 1960s, now most of the old houses have been restored and are frequented by artists and writers and you will find tavernas. The old town is very atmospheric in the evenings.

The seas around Alonissos are designated a National Marine Park, the largest in Europe and protect the rare and indigenous Monk Seal. The organised boat trips through the marine park are a must.

Overnight on Alonissos.

## Day 11 - Transfer to Skiathos

Transfer to Skiathos (90 mins).

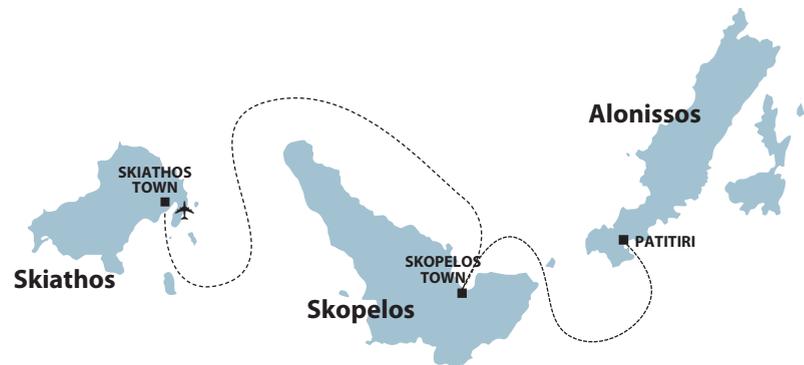
Overnight on Skiathos

## Day 12, 13 and 14 - Explore Skiathos

Skiathos is green, picturesque and all about its 50 sandy beaches, the sea, water sports, boat trips and beachside tavernas. Over your 4 days, apart from relaxing on the beach, you should visit the old town and harbour and generally stroll around. Skiathos Town will be busy and vibrant and you can easily spend a day there - good and varied nightlife too. There is a bus service from Skiathos Town, which runs along the coast to the western tip of the island at Koukounaries. You can take a boat excursion to the medieval castle and the sea caves. Car hire will enable access to remote beaches. Then there is the 19th century Monastery of Panagia Evangelistria, set in rich vegetation, 5km north of Skiathos Town, which has great historical significance.

## Day 15 - Day of departure

Transfer to Skiathos Airport for your return flight to UK.



## Duration

14 nights

## Itinerary includes:

- Return flights to Skiathos
- 5 Nights Skopelos - Bed and Breakfast
- 5 Nights Alonissos - Bed and Breakfast
- 4 Nights Skiathos - Bed and Breakfast
- Transfers and ferry tickets throughout

## Guide price

Based on 2 sharing from **£1450 per person\***

Alonissos

