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## GIC The Villa Collection offers the best possible consumer protection

- Our holiday packages including flights offer full financial protection via our Air Travel Organisers' Licence (ATOL 808) with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).
- Accommodation and land only arrangements are protected by ABTA, a Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) approved body.
- If you buy accommodation only with GIC The Villa Collection, any money paid to us is, once again – in excess of Government requirements – fully protected by ABTA.
- We act as a principal, which means we take full responsibility for the actions of our overseas suppliers – we do not act as their agents. If they make a mistake, we take responsibility for it – it's simple and straightforward, with no squirming or avoidance tactics.
- Our public liability insurance policy stands at £10M – it is deemed to be more than adequate to cover any customer claims.

**GIC The Villa Collection is proud to be the best of the best in terms of client protection – quite simply, you need have no concerns whatever.**

**Just enjoy your carefully-crafted holiday with us!**





## WELCOME TO GIC'S VILLA COLLECTION

My team and I are delighted to welcome you to our specialist villa programme to Greece and Cyprus

After 49 years of operating villa holidays to Greece we feel as passionately about what we do as when we first started. We offer properties in authentic and uncommercialised locations, enabling you to discover the real country and escape from the crowds.

Every year my team and I travel extensively throughout Greece looking for properties which meet our standards and criteria. Tastes have changed over the years and I like to think we anticipate the change in trends adding new villas to the programme. Some clients still love the hideaway villas we have always featured, others prefer modern villas nearby resorts where they won't need to hire a car and can easily walk to tavernas, cafes and shops.

Many of our representatives have been with us for years, understand our guests and more importantly enjoy the part they play in your holiday. They are there when you need them but never intrusive. Most important of all, they love the country they are working in and are a font of information.

As many of our regular clients will know, when you book a villa with GIC you are secure in the knowledge that it has been inspected and meets our standards.

Our descriptions are written by us and not by the villa owner who does not need to abide by the regulations laid down for tour operators. Our descriptions are factual and to the point and don't forget that you will always be able to speak to a member of the team who has visited or stayed in a property.

We take great pride in what we have created over almost 50 years in business and I can assure you that I and my team will look after you from start to finish. You will always be answered by a human voice and I too am always at the end of a telephone should you ever have any issues or queries which you would like to raise with me.

If you are a regular then welcome once more and If you've never tried us before, then you won't be disappointed!

Chris Wright  
Managing Director

[chris.wright@sunvil.co.uk](mailto:chris.wright@sunvil.co.uk)

# GREECE & CYPRUS WITH THE VILLA COLLECTION

## The reservations team

Our Reservations team is on hand to advise, recommend and tailor-make your ideal holiday. We are confident in our knowledge of the destinations and proud to be able to offer honest, information as a result of personal experience.

## Our overseas representatives

We pride ourselves on having some of the best overseas representatives, many of whom have lived and worked in Greece and Cyprus for many years. There will be no attempt to organise you. Having met you on arrival and settled you into your villa, we see it as our task to provide, unobtrusively, a range of services on which you can rely should the need arise.

## Your holiday

The guide prices shown in this brochure are for seven and fourteen night breaks, inclusive of flights, transfers and, more often than not, car hire. If, however, you do wish to travel for an odd duration, with flights from a different airport or just want to book a villa on its own, please ask us as anything is possible.

## Your holiday villa

Each and every GIC villa offers something unique that makes it that extra bit special – whether it be a cottage close to the sea with a boat mooring, a child-friendly villa with pool or a village home where you can truly immerse yourself in the local community. Properties are handpicked for their privacy, standards of comfort and proximity to the sea.

## The destination

The Greek mainland, bordered in the north-west by Albania and Macedonia, and by Bulgaria and Turkey in the north-east, stretches its mountainous fingers southwards into the Mediterranean Sea. On the western coast of Greece, the Ionian Sea laps around its olive-tree-clad islands while, off its eastern shoreline, the Aegean Sea boasts three groups of islands – the Sporades, the Cyclades and the Dodecanese. Well over two thousand islands lie within Greek waters, yet only a hundred or so are inhabited. Each island has its own history, character and charm. Each in turn adds to the overall beauty of the country of Greece, just as its mythical gods and goddesses, its philosophers, writers, mathematicians and scientists have contributed to the culture, language and knowledge bank of the world over many centuries.

Cyprus, in many ways very similar to Greece, is the third largest island in the Mediterranean and offers a wide variety of landscapes, activities and natural splendour. With sandy beaches on which turtles nest, wild unspoiled countryside, the Troodos mountains and national parks to explore – on foot, by bicycle or four-wheel drive vehicle – plus a myriad of historical sites, both mythical and real, Cyprus offers outdoor experiences galore.

Once you get to know these magical destinations with their warm hospitality, like us, you too will be equally passionate.



## GIC Premier

Over the years, as the collection has grown and tastes have changed, our range of properties has become quite diverse. Some may be a little more rustic than others, but their location or setting means that they are still firm favourites with our regular customers. There are some properties, however, that stand out from the crowd, offering a higher standard of comfort, with quality furnishings and stylish interiors. These properties are selected each year based on feedback from both our specialist team and our customers and form part of our Premier collection. Look out for the GIC premier logo displayed throughout the brochure.

### Skopelos

Thalassa Vista  
Villa Lena  
Villa Joanna

### Lefkas

Villa Amberlina

### Meganissi

Villa Kalisti  
Villa Kala Petra

### Alonissos

Villa Paparouna  
Villa Manolia

### Paxos

Villa Somnium  
Erimitis View  
Nassos House

### Kefalonia

Villa Harmony  
Villa Kamini  
Sunset House

### Peloponnese

Sea View Villa



# THE JOURNEY

In these times of DIY travel, we are still of the opinion that, if travelling from the UK, you should leave the travel arrangements to us. Not only can you relax, safe in the knowledge that all of your holiday arrangements are covered should anything unexpected occur but, if flying from London Gatwick, you will also benefit from our own chartered flight.

With our representative available at check-in, you can rest assured that we are on hand to assist from the start of your journey.

Unusually for short haul flights, we include 20 kilos of baggage and complimentary catering.

For an additional charge you can also select where you sit on the aircraft and pre-book access to the No1 lounge at Gatwick. All of this can be booked via the [flyextras.com](http://flyextras.com) website.

Of course we understand that not everyone wants to fly from London Gatwick and so we are also able to offer departures on other carriers from Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and other regional airports.

Over the past few years we have received repeated requests from clients wanting to travel to Greece by rail and so, we have now introduced an overland travel option.

Whether because of a fear of flying, looking for a more environmentally friendly way to travel or just looking for a journey with a difference, taking the train adds a new dimension to a holiday in Greece. One way journeys by train start at £1,650 per person. For those looking to travel in style, why not include a journey on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. London to Venice is a classic journey through the Swiss Alps on board this world famous luxury train. Prices start from £3,200.

Please enquire at the time of booking for further details.

## Guests with reduced mobility and those with special needs

Special assistance is available to passengers who may need help to travel such as the elderly, those people with a physical disability, such as wheelchair users, and those who have difficulty with social interaction and communication, such as those with autism or dementia.




Help is available from the moment you arrive at an airport and can cover:

- Your journey through your departure airport
- Boarding the aircraft and during the flight
- Disembarking the aircraft
- Travelling through your destination airport.

Overseas, unfortunately, not all our accommodation is suitable for guests with reduced mobility. Our intimate knowledge enables us to answer any questions you may have regarding our properties and to advise their suitability for people with health conditions or impairments.

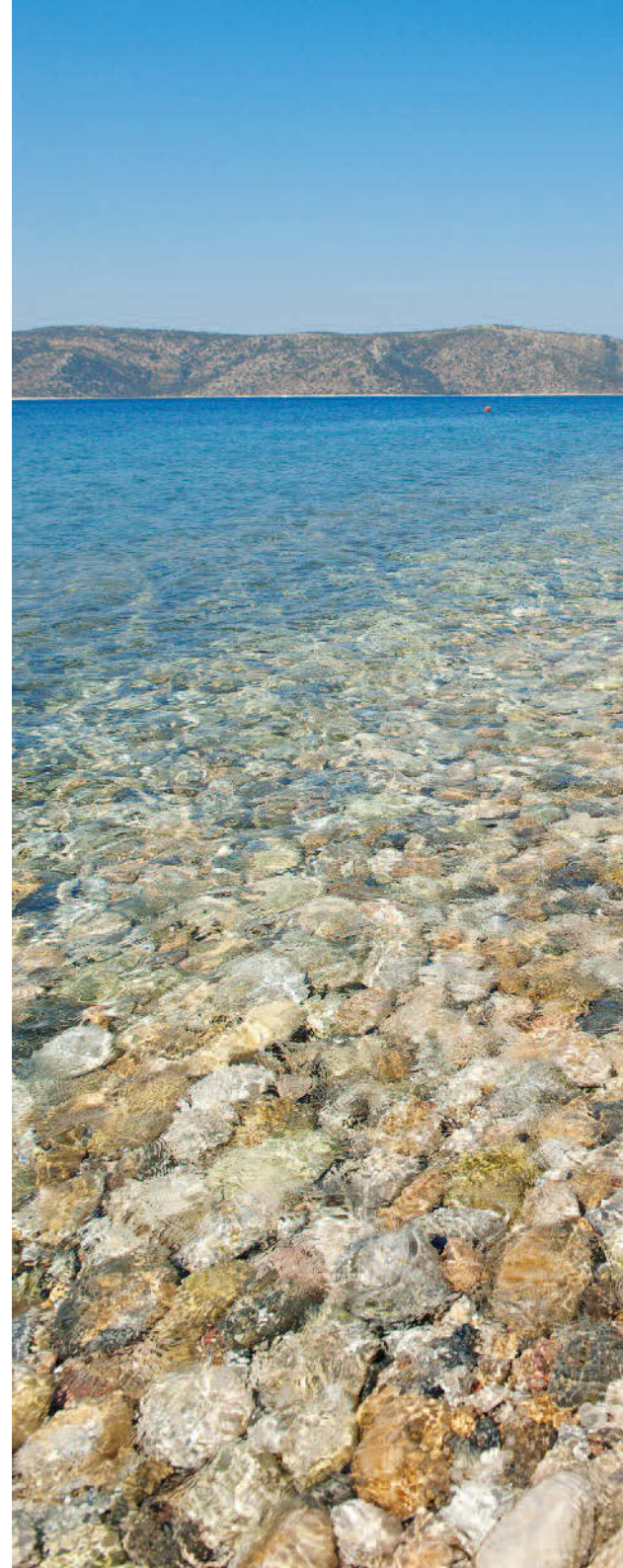
## KEY

To make it easier to find suitable properties while reading through the brochure, we have added some logos and codes.

-  Total number of people a property can sleep including extra beds
-  Number of bedrooms
-  Sofa beds and extra beds

### Key to Bedroom Types

- D = Double room
- T = Twin room
- S = Single room
- F = Family room
- TR = Triple room





# MULTI-CENTRE AND TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

Many of the islands and resorts we feature can be combined on one trip and some of the most popular combinations are detailed below. You will need to contact us for an exact costing but we can book all flights, transfers and accommodation as required.

**Corfu and/or Paxos and/or Anti Paxos and/or Corfu Town.** As well as offering a week on each island using our own flights, we can utilise easyJet flights to make multi centre holidays on these islands more flexible - a few nights in Corfu town could be added onto the end or the beginning of a villa stay. Corfu town with its winding narrow shopping streets, beautiful mix of architectural styles and impressive fortresses is, perhaps, the most elegant island capital in Greece.

**North Corfu and South Corfu.** A two centre in Corfu should not be overlooked. The south with its long sandy beaches contrasts well with the pebbly coves and dramatic scenery of the north.

**Kefalonia and Ithaca.** Ithaca, rich in historical legend, is a 45 minute ferry journey from Sami in Kefalonia.

**North and South Kefalonia.** Kefalonia is the largest of the Ionian Islands and has a varied landscape. Some of the best beaches in Greece are here - from sandy beaches in the south to pebble beaches in the north, including Myrtos beach which has been voted one of the top ten beaches in the world. The drive from north to south is around 2 hours.

**Lefkas and/or Meganissi.** Meganissi is a 30-40 minute ferry ride from Nidri in Lefkas. Sivota is in the stunning Epirus region of the mainland and is a 2.5 hour drive from Lefkas (Lefkas is connected to the mainland by a causeway).

Epirus is recognised as one of Europe's prime areas of outstanding natural beauty. Why not spend a few nights in either Ioannina, the lakeside capital of the region or in Mikro Papingo in the heart of the mountains where we can pre-book accommodation? Ioannina is a 1.5 hour drive from Sivota and Mikro Papingo 2.5 hours.

**Skiathos and/or Skopelos and/or Alonissos.** A regular flying cat service connects all three islands making these islands easy to combine.

**Crete and Santorini.** There is a high speed ferry connection (1.5 hours) from Heraklion on the east of Crete to Santorini. The drive time from our villas in the north west of Crete to Heraklion is around 2.5 hours.

**Athens.** Athens has flight connections to Crete, Corfu, Kefalonia and Skiathos so we can arrange a short stay in an Athens hotel followed by a stay in a villa on an island (or vice versa). In some instances the flight back to the UK may need to be routed via Athens. Short breaks in Athens can also be arranged.

**Fly-Drive – Hidden Greece.** A fly-drive holiday on the mainland offers the opportunity to discover some of the most beautiful areas of Greece where those interested in history, archaeology or local flora and fauna will be well catered for. A fly-drive allows you to explore areas rarely featured in holiday brochures, and will well reward the independent traveller in search of more adventure than the normal holiday provides.

# DESTINATIONS

## THE AEGEAN ISLANDS

### Samos pages 14-17



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 a special feel for walkers.

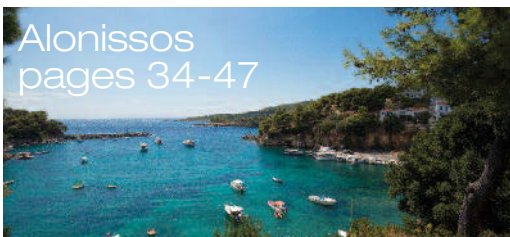
## THE SPORADES ISLANDS

### Skopelos pages 18-33



Rich, green hillsides of pine and olive sweep down to enticing beaches. Skopelos is an island for those wanting to explore by boat, car and foot and to have a wide choice of intimate waterfront tavernas.

### Alonissos pages 34-47



Slow and quiet, Alonissos appeals more to the escapist who wants the simple pleasures of a friendly community, unspoilt surroundings, deserted beaches and good tavernas.

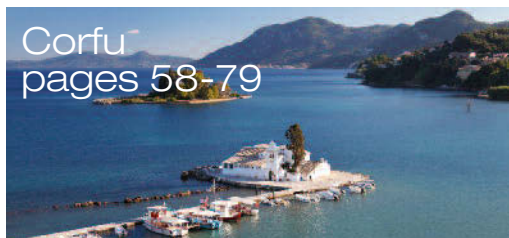
### Skiathos pages 48-57



Skiathos offers a colourful variety of spectacular beaches, well organised watersports, good Aegean food, relaxed or vibrant nightlife in town, wonderful scenery and a cosmopolitan atmosphere.

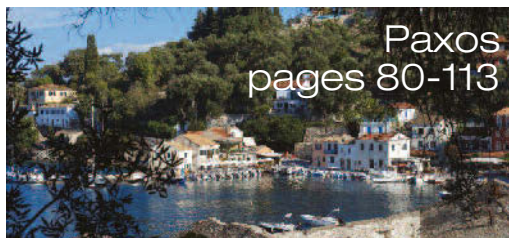
## THE IONIAN ISLANDS

### Corfu pages 58-79



An undulating interior of olive and pine-clad hillsides hiding hamlets and villages. A beautiful coastline of small coves and large beaches. A capital of stunning Venetian architecture.

### Paxos pages 80-113



On an island 7 miles by 3 miles you are never far from anywhere. An undulating landscape of silver olives, many sheltered coves and pretty fishing villages – Paxos offers an enchanting escape from the crowds.

### Antipaxos pages 114-117



The tiny satellite island, just one mile off Paxos, offers a rarely found Robinson Crusoe experience. Sandy beaches, valleys of vineyards and just four tavernas.

### Lefkas pages 118-133



Lefkas will attract explorers to her green, mountainous interior and those wanting peaceful seclusion close to her beautiful beaches.

### Meganissi pages 134-143



A beautiful, unspoilt island just off Lefkas' east coast. Deserted bays and a simple village lifestyle will appeal to those wanting to forget the outside world.



Ithaca  
pages 144-157

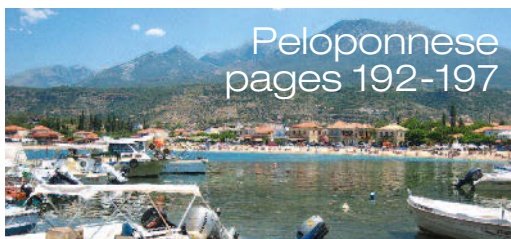
Ithaca has remained untouched by tourism because, like Paxos, it has no airport and can only be reached by ferry from neighbouring islands or the mainland. A holiday in Ithaca is for those who seek a relaxed break in a friendly environment.



Kefalonia  
pages 158-191

Kefalonia, the largest of the Ionian islands, is popular for its superb beaches and stunning scenery. Kefalonia caters for both the explorer and the seeker of variety.

## THE MAINLAND



Peloponnese  
pages 192-197

About 75 minutes drive from the airport, Stoupa is a small, but growing resort with excellent sandy beaches and a wide choice of restaurants, bars and small shops.

## CRETE



pages 198-211

An island suited to those who want a more sophisticated choice of holiday activities. An extensive coastline of fishing villages, towns and beaches and a dramatic interior of unique beauty.

## CYPRUS



pages 212-217

An island of great diversity with something to please everyone from nature at its wildest to historical sites of great magnitude as well as a myriad of activities and international cuisine.

## WEDDINGS IN GREECE OR CYPRUS

Imagine small, friendly fishing villages, olive groves, beautiful beaches and sunlit azure waters. Turn your dream wedding into an unforgettable reality in any one of the romantic locations we can offer.



Through our in-house wedding planners we are able to provide tailor-made arrangements for those wanting a special wedding in Greece or Cyprus.

From a romantic, guitar-serenaded arrival at Corfu's historic town hall to a beach wedding on the beautiful island of Kefalonia or the opportunity to exchange your vows by the poolside of your private villa in Cyprus, we can offer a wealth of ideas ranging from the classic to the most unusual nuptial venues. Tailor-made advice and information is available regarding all types of wedding ceremonies and receptions with options to suit all tastes and budgets. Full support with legal paperwork is provided and personal consultations with couples always available.

Together with our sister company Sunvil Holidays we have one of the largest selections of accommodation in Greece and Cyprus to suit all tastes and budgets. The bride and groom may want to stay in one of our private villas (some of which can also host the reception) or a deluxe hotel, whereas some wedding guests may only want studio accommodation. Whatever the budget, we are ideally placed to provide the full package.



# LUXURY YACHTING

What better way to explore the Greek Islands but on a private luxury yacht.  
Just sit back and enjoy and prepare to be pampered – no experience required!

## What's included

Comfortable, air-conditioned, ensuite cabins, a professional skipper and private chef to prepare tasty meals. Add a speedboat with waterskis, wakeboard and wet-ride ringo, paddleboards and windsurfers, snorkelling and fishing gear - plus a deck massage.

## Eat when and where you please

You will be sailing around some of the most beautiful bays and beaches in the Mediterranean, in harmony with nature. Breakfast and lunch are included and dinner (choose your menu) can either be on board or in any number of traditional tavernas in the picturesque harbours.

## Flexible arrangements

Book exclusively for friends and family or simply take a cabin on a cabin-charter week. Long weekends in low season are from as little as £560 per person.

Prices for 7 nights Saturday to Saturday sailing from Corfu start from £1,120 per person. The only extras are for on board dinners if required and alcoholic drinks. Prices do not include flights full package prices available on request.

For more information, please contact one of the team on 020 8232 9780 or visit [www.gicthevillacollection.com](http://www.gicthevillacollection.com)



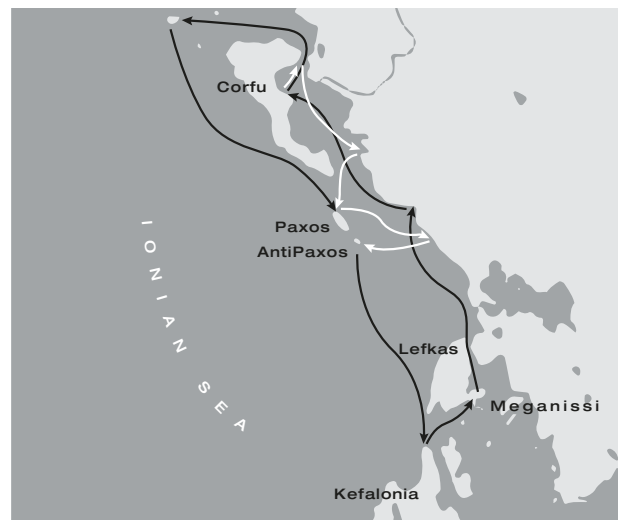
Argentous is both a stunning 65 foot yacht and a luxury floating holiday home. She has 4 double cabins, 3 of which are ensuite and air-conditioning throughout. With fine dining and a great sailing experience, Argentous gives private access to some of the most beautiful parts of the Greece.



Jeannous is a stylish 57 foot yacht with the service of a boutique hotel. She has 3 double cabins, all ensuite, air-conditioning throughout and acres of space to dine, sunbathe and relax. Imagine a private villa where you wake up in a different, beautiful location every morning.



Newly launched in 2016, Aourous, a sleek catamaran, brings a new level of comfort and space to luxury sailing. She has 5 ensuite cabins, interior and exterior dining for up to 10 people, a fly-bridge "roof terrace" and helm station for the king-of-the-sea views.



The Ionian is one of the most beautiful sailing arenas in the world with dramatic scenery, idyllic coves, and a myriad of picture postcard fishing villages. Whether you are looking to maximise the time spent sailing or finding a quiet bay where you can just relax and enjoy the watersports we can plan the route accordingly.

# GIC HOTEL VILLAS

Clients have often commented to us that one of the drawbacks of staying in a secluded, private villa is that they miss the variety that a hotel offers and their children do not have the opportunity to meet and make new friends.

Our solution is to feature properties that have private villas attached, yet offer all the facilities of the hotels to those holidaying in the villas. So, you will have privacy and peace in luxury villas while at the same time benefitting from access to a high standard of hotel services, excellent restaurants, bars, sports facilities, a variety of swimming pools and, in most cases, world class spas.

For more information, please contact one of the team on 020 8232 9780 or visit [www.gicthevillacollection.com](http://www.gicthevillacollection.com)



## Costa Navarino

Peloponnese – Greek Mainland

Set amidst olive groves and overlooking the Ionian Sea, this luxury environmentally friendly aware resort is luxuriously appointed to create a distinctive and inspiring environment of heartfelt hospitality.

## Elounda Beach Hotel & Villas

Elounda – Crete

As the first hotel on Crete's northeast coast, this resort has long been considered one of Greece's finest. An accolade it justifiably deserves.



## Grand Resort Lagonissi

Athens – Greek Mainland

Grand by name and by nature, the Grand Resort Lagonissi is nestled within a 72 acre peninsula on the Athenian Riviera, 45km south of the Greek capital.

## Aphrodite Hills Resort

Paphos – Cyprus

Dramatically located in the hills above Paphos, The Aphrodite Hills Resort, with arguably the best golf course on the island, offers a luxury experience like no other.