

Sunvil

GREECE & CYPRUS 2020

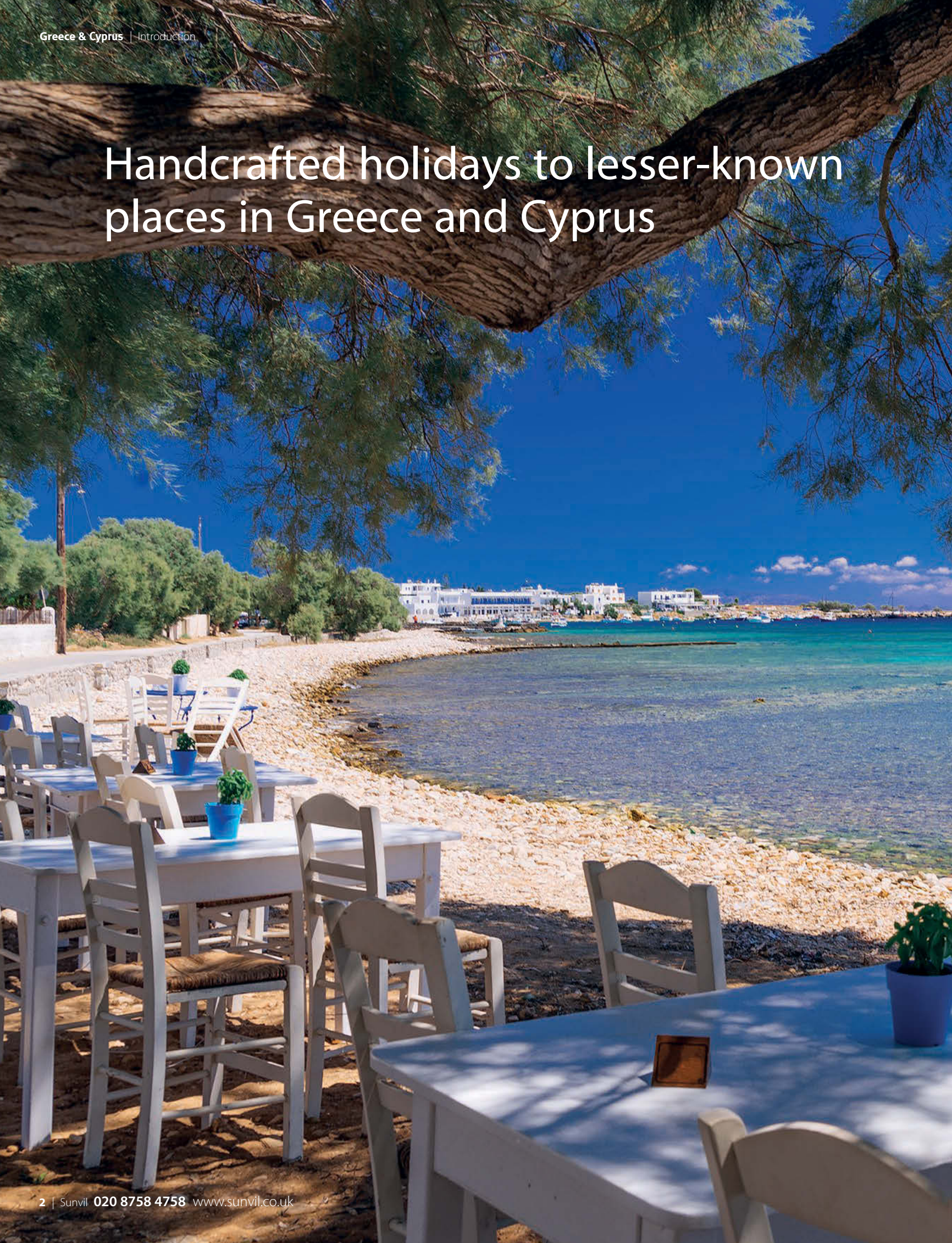
ISLAND HOPPING MULTI CENTRES FLY DRIVES TAILOR MADE HOLIDAYS



find the real country



Handcrafted holidays to lesser-known places in Greece and Cyprus



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100% Financial Protection

Sunvil is a fully bonded tour operator. Our air travel inclusive holidays are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Accommodation and land arrangements are protected by ABTA.

Our promise

We promise to provide great value, expertly tailored holidays in unspoiled destinations across the world, coupled from start to finish with personal service and attention to detail.

Value for money

Our aim is to offer you the very best service and holiday arrangements possible, whether you choose a simple self catering apartment or 5 star arrangements.

Customer service

We set high standards for ourselves and our team; we hope that you will find our service levels to be friendly and efficient, with a personal, caring touch.

Not all our accommodation is suitable for guests with reduced mobility. Please contact us to answer any questions you may have regarding our properties and to advise their suitability for people with health conditions or impairments.

Foreign Office advice

We've partnered with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Aware campaign to help provide top tips and advice for planning for your trip abroad. It's important to do some research before you travel to learn about any necessary visas and vaccinations required for entry to your destination, understand any unusual laws and customs and to be aware of the latest travel advice for the region.

Visit <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/> for further information.



Welcome to Sunvil

... and our 50th collection of handcrafted holidays to Greece and Cyprus

Sunvil is a family-run travel company, now in its second generation, and we like to think that our approach to holidays is refreshingly unique.

As passionate travellers ourselves, we have chosen to only offer holidays to countries with which we have an affinity and where we have travelled extensively. We believe that it is our responsibility to handpick the best value accommodation and experiences on offer so that you can focus on the most important aspect of travel - that is to look forward to your adventure and to savour each moment. It is a task that we take seriously, hence only properties with character, charm and levels of service that match our own are selected. These are hotels and apartments that we would choose for ourselves, our family and friends.

Our promise is to take you away from the crowds and place you amongst the locals and amidst the most wondrous scenery. We want you to discover the real country and to fall in love with the destinations, and those who live and work there, in much the same way we did.

We cater for individuals and passionately believe that tailoring beats one size fits all. That's where our team of destination experts come in, all dedicated to turning your travel dreams into

reality. So, pick up the phone to us, tell us your must-haves and desires, and let us do the hard work. With more years' experience than we'd like to count between us, we are well qualified to advise and point you to those special, little-known gems.

Don't just take our word for it. As one customer said: "A great break in the late summer sun. Very personal service, good to speak to someone who is clearly experienced." – and we hold Feefo's gold trusted service award, thanks to a 4.7/5 satisfaction rating from guests who have travelled with us.

From Greece and Cyprus to Scandinavia, west Africa and into Latin America, our holiday concept is the same. Travel with us and discover a package holiday with authenticity and personality, one without boundaries and which is designed solely for you. You may never travel the same way again.

I hope that we can welcome you to the Sunvil family in 2020.



Noel Josephides
Chairman





Our Greece and Cyprus holidays

Since 1970 and 1975 respectively, we have offered holidays to Cyprus and Greece and, we believe that our knowledge of these countries is unrivalled. Whilst times have changed and many respected specialists have disappeared, we have remained strong to our brand values, our advocacy of sustainable tourism, and continue to innovate and work with our local partners to introduce new resorts and islands that will excite passionate grecophiles and new visitors alike. Our golden anniversary year is no different.

Greece and Cyprus are blessed with a warm sun, a sparkling sea, unspoiled nature and spectacular scenery. Add to these a refreshingly 'back to basics' island lifestyle, mythology and history wherever you look, food and wine at last acclaimed for its excellence and - above all - a people famed for their warmth and generosity towards their foreign visitors. This combination of factors, many intangible, results in a magnetic pull that draws so many people back year upon year. We do not believe any rival holiday destination has a more fiercely loyal customer base.

Whatever you want from your holiday, we are sure that we can accommodate you. From a simple cottage on a remote Greek island to a 5 star resort hotel; from a Cypriot village inn to a modern villa with a private pool; from a mainland fly drive to a classic island hopping trip; for singles, couples and families alike, for history buffs, nature lovers, artists and walkers – somewhere within our programme is your perfect holiday including, in 2020, Greece by train!

Between our dedicated team in the UK and our some 30 local representatives throughout the countries, some of whom have been looking after Sunvil guests for over 30 years, we can show you hidden gems and breathtaking view points, and also introduce you to communities and places that will turn your holiday into an unforgettable memory.

A week or two, many more, in either country is still the perfect antidote to our busy modern lives, and we are certain that you will return refreshed and with an enhanced zest for life.

Our Promise

Handpicked accommodation

A highly personal service
from start to finish

Value for money at the
heart of what we do

First hand knowledge
of our destinations

Holidays tailored
to your taste

Greece

Whichever area of Greece you wish to visit, from Halkidiki in the north to the Mani peninsula in the south, from the Ionian islands in the west to the Dodecanese chain close to Turkey, we can help. Our programme is the most comprehensive you will find. And we have had nearly 50 years to hunt out the best areas and handpick our accommodation, so you can visit Greece safe in the knowledge that the hard work has been done. All you need to do is choose...



Paxos

Olive-clad Paxos may be small but it is perfectly formed! Be prepared to fall under the spell of a truly enchanting isle.

Pages 15-23



Corfu

Our selected areas avoid the honey-pots and give you the chance to discover why Corfu has held visitors in thrall for generations.

Pages 24-33



Lefkas & Meganissi

Popular Lefkas combines an island atmosphere with easy access to the mainland. Meganissi offers a peaceful retreat away from the crowds.

Pages 34-43



Kefalonia and Ithaca

The large island of Kefalonia certainly rewards exploration. Was little-visited Ithaca really the home of Odysseus? Judge for yourself...

Pages 44-60



Zakynthos

A gentle island of wooded hills and rural valleys. For lovers of unspoiled countryside as well as sea.

Pages 61-62



Kythira & Elafonissos

Large, varied and traditional, Kythira is beautiful yet little known. Neighbouring Elafonissos with its white sands is a beach lover's dream.

Pages 63-69



Epirus: Parga, Sivota & Zagori

Parga is known for its history and beauty; Sivota has a real village atmosphere; Zagori National Park boasts mountain peaks, lush valleys and dramatic gorges.

Pages 70-81



Halkidiki

Halkidiki is famed for its pine forests and white-sand beaches. Avoid the crowds in Olympiada, an authentic fishing village within striking distance of Mount Athos.

Pages 82-87



Ammouliani

Halkidiki's only island is the ultimate 'small and friendly' destination and fringed with Caribbean-like white sand beaches.

Pages 88-90



Pelion

Remote Pelion is famed for its nature and beauty. Here mountain, sea and forest hide preserved villages and stunning beaches.

Pages 91-97



South Peloponnese

The scenic south Peloponnese has mountains, traditional villages and miles of beaches, and is perfect for a quiet, relaxed holiday.

Pages 98-119



North Peloponnese

At the heart of historic Argolis, family-friendly Tolon has a safe sandy beach, free bikes and boats, friendly tavernas and easy access to atmospheric Nafplion.

Pages 120-126



Samos

Samos is a refreshing combination of pine and olive, mountain and beach. It has an especial appeal for walkers.

Pages 132-137

Ikaria is remote and little-known, and the island's wild beauty a perfect escape from the pressures of modern-day life.

Pages 138-140

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
North	9	10	14	19	24	29
South	16	16	17	20	24	28
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North	31	30	27	21	14	10
South	29	29	27	24	21	17



The Sporades

Lively Skiathos has nearly 50 sandy beaches; Skopelos is larger, forested and boasts a handsome port; Alonissos is a quiet retreat.

Pages 147-162

Whitewashed houses, brightly painted fishing boats, laden donkeys... the Cyclades are the Greek Islands as you've always imagined them to be.

Pages 163-193

The largest island of them all, with a rugged, mountainous landscape and a fascinating past. We feature the verdant western side and the rugged south coast.

Pages 194-207



Hidden Greece

Our mainland fly drives are as flexible as you wish to make them and feature areas rarely found in a holiday brochure.

Pages 233-238

Greece's two major cities have sites and museums that should be seen at least once. Historic Kavala is little known and fascinating, and home to one of Greece's most unique hotels. [Pages 239-241](#)

Flexible holidays

Fly-drives, island-hopping and twin country holidays

Travel is greatly enriched when people have a personal, authentic experience of a place. That's why, with us, there are no fixed holiday durations or rigid routes – of course, a traditional seven- and fourteen-night stay is available at all of our properties.



Fly-drives

Explore the Greek mainland, its mountainous peninsulas and archaeological sites on a fly-drive holiday. Itineraries can incorporate a few nights' stay in Athens or Thessaloniki and driving directions are provided throughout.

Combine Athens with Delphi, Olympia, and Nafplion on a 7 night tour (from £1038 per person based on 2 sharing and including flights, transfers on arrival, hire car and BB hotels); Thessaloniki with Halkidiki and north western Greece, or the city of Kalamata with the Peloponnese. New to our Greece programme in 2020 is the island of Elafonissos, where you will find whites and beaches reminiscent of the Caribbean, which is the perfect extension to a touring holiday of the Peloponnese and Kythira. See page 233/8 and our website for further proposals.

Should you prefer to be driven we can arrange for tours from Athens in a luxury minivan with guide/driver – please enquire.

There is no better way to explore the heart of Cyprus than by car. Head to Nicosia, the capital of the island, before winding along tree-lined roads and through villages almost untouched by time. Discover painted churches, fields carpeted with wild flowers and uncrowded bays. Prices for a 7 night fly-drive are from £778 per person (based on 2 sharing) and includes flights, hire car and BB hotels.



Two country holidays

It seems only natural that we should offer a combination between Greece and Cyprus, and thanks to a new direct flight between Athens and Paphos the two countries are easier to link than ever before. Spend 3 nights in the Greek capital and explore its antiquity treasure trove, before flying east to the sunshine island. The price for a 7 night holiday is from £925 per person and includes return flights, all transfers and BB hotels.

Alternatively, why not combine a holiday in Greece with a visit to one of her close neighbours, Albania? It is simple to do with the airport of Preveza serving as the gateway to the Epirus region and the Ionian islands of Lefkas and Meganissi as well as being only 3 hours drive from Saranda in southern Albania. We offer a 6 day cultural tour of the country as well as hotels in Saranda itself.



Greek island-hopping

The classic Greek holiday minus the hassle! We will organise the whole thing – including all transfers and ferries – leaving you to simply enjoy the journey. Our team of local agents and reps on the ground are there to provide support and information if and when needed, and we will re-book ferries and accommodation automatically at no additional cost to you in the event of ferry schedule changes, delays or cancellations.

There are myriad island hopping combinations - too many to list here so we have grouped together the islands that combine most easily i.e. that have the most frequent/reliable ferry connections and are not too far apart.

Please feel free to design your own itinerary or call us for advice - the holidays are very flexible and you are not tied to 1 or 2 weeks (except for Sporades). For those willing to go the extra mile and take their time there are no boundaries.

Prices can vary considerably depending on a number of factors, including class of hotels, seasonality and flight prices (which increase as time goes by), so we will have to quote on a tailor made basis each time. As a very rough guide expect 1 week to cost from c £850 per person and 2 weeks from c £1250 pp, based on low season rates and booking early.

Please see the relevant resort pages for island and hotel descriptions.



Saronic (via Athens)

- Group 1: Agistri, Aegina
 - Group 2: Poros, Hydra, Spetses
- (note: can combine the groups with a change of ferry at Piraeus)

Western Cyclades (via Athens or Mykonos)

- Group 1: Sifnos, Serifos, Milos, Folegandros
- Group 2: Andros, Tinos, Syros (also Mykonos)

Eastern Cyclades (via Mykonos or Santorini)

- Mykonos, Syros, Paros, Naxos, Ios, Santorini
- (note: can combine with Western Cyclades Group 1 in season)

Small Cyclades (via Mykonos)

- Koufonissi, Schinoussa, Amorgos (also with Naxos)
- (note: can combine with Eastern Cyclades or Western Cyclades Group 1 in season)

Sporades (via Skiathos, weekly durations only)

- Skopelos, Alonissos, Skiathos

Dodecanese (via Rhodes or Kos)

- Rhodes, Symi, Kos, Kalymnos, Leros, Lipsi, Patmos
- (can combine with Ikaria and Samos. Tilos and Halki are also possible to include but more tricky as the ferry schedules do not link very frequently with the rest of the island chain)

Active and cultural holidays

There is much more to a holiday in Greece and Cyprus than sun, sand and sea. These are destinations with year-round appeal, and some may argue a greater beauty in low season than in the height of the summer. Think turquoise waters, lapping against empty white pebble beaches, and with a backdrop of lush hillsides alive with the colour of wild flowers, citrus and olive groves and lofty peaks hiding crumbling settlements.

Our website contains an array of walking and painting holidays plus details of special interest experiences that we can arrange on request. Below is a synopsis of some of our most highly-praised trips.



Walking on Kythnos and Serifos

Our walking holidays are the best ways to get under the skin of these charming and little-known Cycladic islands. Over the course of a week we include five guided walks, ranging from 11 kms to 14 kms, and provide ample time for independent exploration, the beach and the opportunity to partake in any village festivals that may be taking place. See page 180 and our website for further information.

Walking in the Pelion

The Pelion is a walker's dream and laced with 'kalderimi' - old cobbled donkey paths that linked the villages. In recent years a restoration programme has led to many being opened up for walkers, and in early 2019 the final part of the south Pelion trail - some 55 kms of linked paths via inland villages - was completed. See page 97 and our website for further information.



Walking on Cyprus

Cyprus is not only a sun and beach destination. The mountains are heavily forested with pine and cedar and their villages untouched by tourism. The Akamas National Park is a virtually unblemished Mediterranean landscape, much the same now as it was two thousand years ago. Our itineraries on the island are self-guided, with a map to the trails supplied with your booking confirmation and our local representative, Angela on hand to offer further assistance if needed. See our website for further information.

Walking on Crete

Crete is well known as a walking destination. Our holidays here enable gentle exploration on foot of the quiet western end of the island near Kastelli. See page 206 for details. Walking holidays can also (on certain dates) be combined with painting.



Activity holiday on Lemnos

Our experienced local representative, Annette has been introducing our guests to the delights of Lemnos for many years, sharing her extensive island knowledge and insider tips. Her passion for the island is intoxicating and now shared by those who choose to return year-on-year. Our 7 night activity and experience holiday on Lemnos has been designed by Annette, based on the feedback and requests she has received. There is no high recommendation than that of a valued, repeat visitor. See page 128 and our website for further information.



Painting in Pelion and Crete

Greece is famed for the quality of its light, which attracts artists from the world over. Our painting holidays operate to areas offering wonderful scenery and plenty of subject matter. For details see page 97 for Pelion and page 206 for Crete. The Crete painting weeks may also be combined with walking on certain dates.

Insight week on Crete

This 7 night holiday is intended to give guests a genuine insight into Cretan culture and life through a mix of activities, visits and hands-on demonstrations. Try your hand at sketching, Greek dancing, cooking local delicacies; explore the north coast of Crete on a guided walk, take a boat trip and visit a local winery, an olive oil factory and Chania's botanical gardens – all in the company of excellent and knowledgeable hosts. See page 206 and our website for further information.



The Nemean Games

Every four years a revival of the Nemean Games – first staged in 573 BC and one of the original four Pan Hellenic Games that included the Olympics in Olympia – takes place in Nemea, in the Peloponnese. Participants can take part in a 100m barefoot run or compete in a 7.5km race in the original stadium, after which there is a celebratory village feast. The event will take place on 27 June 2020 and we will be offering our Tolon guests the chance to participate or observe the spectacle. See page 125 and our website for further information.



Family holidays – Active kids

Greece is great for families – warm safe waters, children welcomed in restaurants and even a lot of old stones to clamber over thus ticking the guilt-relieving 'educational' box. We'd like to highlight the resort of Tolon in the north Peloponnese for families. In our opinion, or as the Bradt Guides has described it, it is the "bees knees for families". Water sports, motorboat hire (2 hours free for Sunvil guests), free bicycles, a very safe sandy Blue Flag beach with shallow seas, and waterfront tavernas – what could be more perfect! And have we mentioned the wealth of history in the area?

Greece by train



Have you ever wished that you could take some time out before embarking on your much-needed sunshine break; time for you to reconnect with your life and with your surroundings? You are not alone. In recent years we have noted an increasing trend from our guests for 'slow travel' options, holidays which embrace an unhurried pace of travel and enhance the connection with those you meet and the natural environment; holidays which provide you with the opportunity for you to regain balance in our fast-paced world.

For 2020 we are proud to introduce our first rail holidays to Greece. Travelling from London St Pancras (or your regional train station) you will journey through France, traversing the Alps, to the Italian city of Milan before continuing to Bari and onwards by ferry to Corfu and Igoumenitsa. You can take as long as you desire to complete your journey, with each trip tailored to suit by our expert team.

Destinations in Greece available by train with Sunvil: Corfu, Paxos and AntiPaxos, Lefkas, Parga and Sivota.

Prices for a 9 night journey – 2 nights travelling plus a 7 night stay on Corfu – is from £1,099 per person and includes train and ferry transportation to Corfu, a return flight to the UK and SC accommodation on Corfu. Holidays including return train travel are also available – give us a call to discuss your perfect break.





Break your journey in Italy

Sunvil has offered holidays to Italy since 1982, with an emphasis on agriturismo, fly-drive holidays and multi-centre itineraries by rail. We also offer stays in Italy's cities including Milan, our proposed overnight location. Milan is a stylish, bustling and wealthy city with a vast range of churches, museums, palaces and a castle; don't miss Da Vinci's painting of the last supper at the Santa Maria Della Grazie Church.



Sample accommodation: De La Ville Hotel, Milan

This four star superior hotel is situated in the historic centre of Milan and within walking distance of the Gothic Cathedral and La Scala Opera house – two of the city's iconic monuments. Each room is unique, with silk tapestries and classic or contemporary décor. There is a rooftop terrace with whirlpool - unusual for a city hotel, which has a retractable glass dome so that guests can use it throughout the year. The terrace also boasts an impressive panorama over the rooftops of Milan, including the Duomo spires.



Domestic train travel within Greece: Athens – Meteora – Thessaloniki

Train journeys are becoming ever the more popular and, of course, have a lower impact on the environment. The Greek railway system, however, is limited. The main railway route is Athens to Thessaloniki in the north. Alexandroupolis, Florina and Kalambaka - the gateway to the monasteries of Meteora - are also served by trains from Athens and via Thessaloniki.

One of the attractions of travelling by local trains is that the pace tends to be slower. Some of the scenery on the route between Athens and Thessaloniki is spectacular. The route traverses mountains and valleys, crosses bridges and plunges through tunnels. The train journey itself becomes an integral part of the holiday.

Last paragraph: Prices for a 7 night journey combining Athens, Meteora and Thessaloniki is from £1,406 per person and includes return flights, transfers on arrival and departure, train tickets and BB hotels.



Find the real Greece and Cyprus

Sisters Irene Valyraki and Ioanna Koutsoudaki have welcomed Sunvil guests to the Doma Hotel in Chania, Crete since 1988

In 2017 Sunvil received the Sunday Times Travel Editor's Award, and we could not sum up our approach to holidays in a more eloquently than that described by the then editor Stephen Bleach: *"Few [companies] will take you to tiny unknown towns, you will invariably fall in love with, to stay in small family-run hotels. Few strive so hard to put you among the locals, rather than in the poshest hotel, away from the action. It's a travel buzzword, but [Sunvil] pulls it off: its holidays are 'authentic'..."*

Inside this brochure, and on our website, you will find a carefully picked collection of accommodation. New properties sit alongside our trusted favourites and properties with whom our relationship has gone far beyond that of business partners, having evolved into friendships.

Fifty years after offering our first holiday to Cyprus, little has changed when it comes to selecting our featured accommodation. We do not feature all-inclusive hotels, ours are chosen for the warm welcome our guests receive, their

charm and location. We know that our customers appreciate our approach to holidays as so many choose to return year-after-year, not solely for a resort's attractions, but to meet with the friends that they have made.

The Romvi Hotel in Tolon (page 123), north Peloponnese, represents the epitome of what Sunvil looks for in accommodation. It is owner managed by a local family and we have worked with them since 1976. We know that the money we pay stays in the local community and the owners play a significant part in introducing our clients to the local culture - many become their friends for life. Adonis, the manager, is a true star.

Trusted customer review by Bill: *"Romvi Hotel and Restaurant exceeded expectations. The room was spacious, clean, comfortable and well-equipped. Meals in the restaurant were excellent, and superb value for money. The staff - all of them - were welcoming, friendly and helpful. I would certainly return here."*



Villa Penny, Samos

Other properties which clearly represent our values and what we look for in our partners.

Alongside each property you'll find a review from a client who has stayed there in 2019, these reviews are available to read on our website.

Miljes Apartments, Olymbiada (page 85):

"We have been holidaying with Sunvil for 15+ years to Greece, their choice of destinations is very good. Miljes apartments were excellent and the owners Paul & Maria could not do enough for you, probably the best we have ever experienced."

Villa Penny, Samos (page 137): *"A perfect location, so easy to walk down to the beach and town, lovely quiet location, beautiful views and the most comfy bed ever, best sleeps on the holiday. The host was kind and left you to your own needs but was still kind and there if you needed him."*

Palm Trees Hotel, Lefkas (page 37): *"A quality holiday based in tasteful accommodation in a great location. Hotel owners' lovely people who go out of their way to make you feel welcome. Spacious balcony with sea view. Would use Sunvil again based on our experience."*



Romvi Hotel, Tolon



Palm Trees Hotel, Lefkas