

Kythira

Kythira lies just off the south eastern part of the mainland Peloponnese and is almost a fantasy Greek island. It is hard to think of another that offers so much and yet has such low key foreign tourism. It reminds us of Greece before it got so popular, when accommodation and flights were still limited and the resorts only busy in August.

For this you have to thank the hard-to-reach location off the main ferry routes and the fact that the airport is too small to take large aircraft. But, thanks to improved flight schedules from Athens - from one to two small planes a day - it is now possible to reach Kythira without having to overnight.

Kythira is the 17th Greek island in terms of size (280 sq km), about the same as Kos but with a fraction of the population (c 3500) and numbers of summer visitors. It offers a varied topography hiding many villages and over 30 beaches, and enough history and interest to satisfy the most avid explorer.

Traditionally listed as belonging to the Ionian group of islands, geographically Kythira is closer to the Aegean. This is reflected in the Cycladic style of architecture - flat-roofed whitewashed houses, blue-domed churches and a traditional fortified Hora (capital town) high above the sea for protection against pirate attack.



The island's strategic location at a crossroads between Crete and the mainland has meant a trading past and plenty of conquerors. Its history dates back to pre-Classical times and more recently includes Roman, Byzantine, Venetian, Ottoman and British rulers.

The most well known resort area is **Kapsali** in the south. You will understand why if you go. The village is built behind a pair of horseshoe-shaped bays - the main one of which has an excellent sandy beach - overlooked by the picture postcard whitewashed village of Hora and its Venetian castle high on the hillside above.

Kapsali's beach is backed by an array of taverna restaurants, cafes and small shops and is of course busy in high season. Motor boats can be hired, there is a dive school and some seasonal excursions run by boat, including to the rocky islet of Hytra which has a fantastic sea cave where you can swim in translucent water. The area is also good for walking.

Agia Pelagia in the north east spreads around a couple of sand-shingle bays and has a very laid back Greek holiday feel. It is known for the quality of its tavernas - there are five, plus the usual cafes and shops - and the main beach is organised in parts. A high season boat trip runs (subject to weather, it can be windy here) to the islet of Elafonissos close to the

Peloponnese, which boasts Caribbean-like white sand beaches.

Tiny **Avlemonas**, halfway down the east coast, is charming and picturesque. It is known for its natural swimming pool - a fjord-like rocky inlet which has the clearest of water. The village has made this a centrepiece, with landscaped gardens, paths and seating leading down to it. Ladders lead into the sea, which is very sheltered and therefore a popular swimming spot when the wind blows.

The village has four tavernas, a pair of cafes and a mini-market. A 10-12 minute walk south (1 km) is the well-liked long sandy beach of Paleopolis. Avlemonas is really a very sweet little spot, ideal for total relaxation in a small village atmosphere.

Kythira's interior hides a gently rural landscape and over 50 traditional villages. Walking is a major attraction and kythirahiking.com details 8 walking paths (32 km total). There are monasteries, hundreds of small churches, ruined castles and villages, springs, waterfalls and caves with stalagmites to discover, not to mention some fabulous beaches such as striking Kaladi or the white sands of Diakofti. There is a good value island coach excursion but, to make the most of Kythira, car hire is recommended as the bus service is limited.



KYTHIRA INFORMATION

Getting to Kythira

Flights to Athens from Bristol, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester, Stansted. Then onward domestic flight to Kythira (50 mins) and transfer to accommodation (20-40 mins.). On return the reverse applies. Most early flights out and late afternoon/evening back should connect same day through Athens - if not then an overnight hotel will be booked at Athens Airport or in central Athens with transfers.

Multi-Centre Options

Many options tailor-made via Athens. Alternatively ferries connect Kythira with the SE Peloponnese (Neapolis port) in 75 mins. but you will need to take a hire car over (extra insurance payable) and possibly overnight. Cars can be dropped at Athens and Kalamata airports for a one way hire supplement. For a short side trip from Kythira we recommend the islet of Elafonissos (20 mins from Neapolis plus 10 mins ferry - see P68) and/or stunning Monemvasia under an hour's drive from Neapolis, where we offer hotels from small pensions within the castle walls to the wonderful 5-star Kinsteria Hotel (see P119).

Car Hire

Can be pre-booked and delivery is free - see pages 268/9 for details.

Representative

We have representation on Kythira c/o our local agent and you will be visited at your accommodation shortly after arrival.

Porto Delfino Hotel Kapsali

The Porto Delfino is on the hillside behind Kapsali and enjoys super views over the second bay to the open sea and the rocky egg-shaped islet of Hytra (not Hydral!). It is a 10-15 minute walk down the hill to the seafront and beach.

The hotel's 24 rooms are housed in three separate 2-storey buildings. All possess twin or double bed, AC, TV, fridge, bath and/or shower and hairdryer - there is a safe in reception for valuables. Balcony doors and windows have insect screens. Superior rooms have a small second room with sofa-bed. All rooms are south facing and

enjoy divine views from their good-sized balcony terraces. Furnishings are simple and traditional (dark wood).

The main building has a lounge and a large sea facing terrace where breakfast is taken or a drink/snack from the bar. In the evenings the hotel will provide dinner with a little notice.

The infinity pool below is of filtered seawater, has steps in and measures c 100 sq m (depth 0.80m-1.40m) - it has an adjacent pool bar in high season.

The hotel is happy to provide advice on the good walking opportunities from here - from 30 mins. up to the monastery on the cliff behind to 4-5 hours - and can provide picnic lunches and a walking guide. Yoga and massage treatments are also on offer.

We have read very good reports of the excellent, friendly service here.



The Hotel: 3 Stars
Bed & Breakfast

Swimming Pool
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi (public areas)



El Sol Hotel Kapsali

Built on the hillside above Kapsali, with the most spectacular 180 degree views to the Venetian fortress in Hora and the distinctive rock of Hytra out at sea, the El Sol's location is quite stunning: a crow's nest position overlooking everything.

The pool area affords panoramic vistas (spectacular at night). From here steps lead to the 24 bungalow style rooms at different levels in the gardens. All are spacious, with fine views from their terrace to Hora's floodlit castle or over the hillside to the open sea.

All rooms possess double or twin beds, bath or shower, fridge, tea-making facilities, TV, hairdryer, air conditioning and free Wifi. Standard rooms are for 2/3 persons. Junior Suites for 2/4 persons are open plan and have a living room area containing two sofa beds - they have two balconies. The Studio Suites are similar but even more spacious and can accommodate up to 5 persons.

The pool measures 12m x 8m (depth 0.90m-1.90m, has steps in) with adjacent cafe/restaurant serving snacks and light meals. Breakfast includes local produce, home made jams and pastries. Elsewhere there is a basketball area, children's playground, table tennis and a fitness room.

The family and helpful staff are ever willing to share knowledge about their island.

El Sol is 900m from Kapsali (a 12 min. walk down but longer and all uphill on the way back). For Sunvil guests the hotel offers one daily complimentary transfer to either Kapsali or Hora. All you have to do is ask when you want to leave and then ring from wherever you are when you want to return. Even so, car hire is recommended for non-walkers.

The Hotel: 3 Stars
Bed & Breakfast

Air Conditioning
Swimming Pool
Free WiFi

Kyriaki's House Kapsali

There are two bays at Kapsali, one with the sandy beach and the cafes and the other, the fishing harbour which is more residential and quiet - the road ends there. Right at the far end of this bay, and a 5 minute walk to the main beach and restaurants is this one-up one-down house, 15 metres from the sea across the road. The beach here is pebbly with some rocks so is difficult for swimming.

The ground floor studio has a double bed, bathroom with shower, an alcove for luggage and a kitchenette with a 2-ring hob, fridge, central heating and air conditioning,

television and free WIFI. The covered balcony is to the front. Up 14 steps brings you to the upper studio with identical facilities. This is a simple but very conveniently located accommodation, quiet and with fine views close to all the restaurants, tavernas, cafes, shops and beach

The House: Studios for 2
Self Catering Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Kyriaki's House is third from the right with grey shutters



Xenon Nostos Hora

Mrs Alexandra will tell you that this listed, charming and very traditional guesthouse was the house of her grandfather. It is set amongst the narrow winding streets of the capital, Hora, which has a grill house restaurant, a pizza place, a 2 or 3 cafe-snack bars and a bar. The Venetian fortress towers above.

The Nostos has wooden floors and high traditional ceilings. There are seven double or twin bedded rooms. Two have sea views and the others have either views over the square or to the Venetian kastro that dominates Hora. Due to the age of the building there are no balconies, and bathrooms are small with shower only, but rooms are comfortable, and mod cons include air conditioning, TV, Wifi, mini-

fridge, hairdryer and room safe. There is a cozy cafe-bar and breakfast room on the ground floor. The walk down to Kapsali takes around half an hour and a taxi back (it's a steep climb!) costs c. €6. So car hire is not essential, especially for walkers, but is recommended for easy access to the beach and greater restaurant choice of Kapsali, as well as to explore further afield. Parking is usually possible 100m-200m from the hotel. An overwhelmingly hospitable guest house with bags of character.

The Guesthouse: Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



View over Kapsali from Hora

Neromylos Agia Pelagia

One of the two stone buildings here was originally an old watermill dating from 1830. Surrounded by lush pretty gardens, Neromylos is located towards the end of a quiet lane and enjoys peaceful rural surroundings yet is an easy 5 minute walk from the beach and centre of the village.

The four apartments here have been carefully and tastefully done to give a flavour of old Greece but with modern comforts. They are kept cool through the use of local stone and wood, and have a traditional design (archways etc.).

Three apartments are on the ground floor, each with a private furnished terrace opening onto the

gardens – one apartment ('Milos') is first floor and has less floor space but enjoys a large open sun terrace with a side sea view. All have a double bedroom, a living room with basic kitchen area, fridge and modern shower room. Amenities include air conditioning, Wifi, hairdryer and room safe.

Other than in Milos, the apartments can sleep a third person on a sofa bed or in a small single bedroom (AC but no window). There is a common open terrace above where sun beds can be provided.

All the amenities of this friendly little seaside village are close to hand (400m), including a choice of taverna restaurants, cafes, small shops and the main beach (there are others to the south).

Note: Neromylos does not accommodate children under 10 years of age.

The Apartments : Self Catering (with light continental breakfast)
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Agia Pelagia



Filoxenia Hotel Agia Pelagia

Quietly located towards the southern end of Agia Pelagia, the Filoxenia is within easy reach (3-4 minutes' flat walk) of the centre of the village and the main beach.

The hotel has 27 rooms housed in two buildings with a pretty courtyard garden between them.

Our favoured rooms are the Junior Suites, spacious at 30-40 sq m. Although open plan they have a glass 'wall' separating the bedroom area with a living room space. They have king size or twin beds, a sofa bed in the living area, a good-sized shower room, and balcony with garden, mountain, sea or side sea views. Decor and furnishing is in the attractive minimalist modern Greek style.

Other room types include studios, sea view suites, family suites and maisonettes.

Amenities in all rooms include AC, TV, fridge, room safe and hairdryer. Tea-making facilities can be provided on request. Please note rooms are on three floors and there is no lift.

The hotel has a freshwater pool (depth 1.30m-2.85m) with adjacent pool bar serving drinks and snacks.

Family run and friendly, the Filoxenia makes a quiet comfortable base in a very convenient location.

The Hotel: 3 Stars
Bed & Breakfast
Swimming Pool
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi (public areas)



Agia Pelagia

Maryianni Apartments Avlemonas

These beautiful all-suite apartments occupy a central location just a minute's walk from the village centre and the natural 'swimming pool' here, reached by steps and a path. Paleopolis beach is 1 km - a 12 minute walk.

There are just 7 very spacious apartments here (most are 47 sq m), very well furnished and equipped.

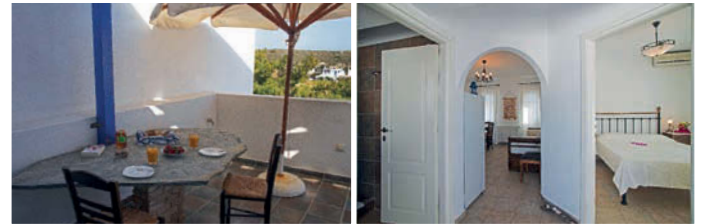


Avlemonas

Each has an air conditioned bedroom with queen-sized bed, a separate living room with full kitchen and a sofa bed, a very nice shower room and a large furnished terrace. Ground floor rooms overlook the garden, most of those on the first (top) floor have some sea views. All units have WiFi, a hairdryer and a room safe. Furnishings and decor are traditional throughout.

These are high quality, roomy apartments in a prime location. The helpful owner, Captain Manos (ex-airline pilot, not fisherman!), cannot do enough for his guests.

The Apartments: Suites for 2/4
Self Catering Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Anemes Hotel Apartments Avlemonas

Quietly situated at the southern end of this very pretty little village, the Anemes is an easy 5 minute walk from the centre and less than 10 minutes from long Paleopolis beach in the other direction.

The hotel has just 12 rooms in two buildings with gardens to the front. All rooms are double bedded with AC, WiFi, TV, basic 2-ring kitchen facilities with fridge, shower room, hairdryer and room safe. Each has a generous front terrace with sea views over the gardens. Standard studios are ground or first (top) floor are 25 sq m and have a traditional air with stone floors and dark wood furniture; the Premium Studios on the first floor are even larger (35 sq m) and have a modern minimalist decor.

Furnishings are of good quality and decor light and fresh.

A well reviewed buffet breakfast containing home made treats and local delicacies is laid out every day, a reflection of the care and attention the personable owners, Mema and Pashalis, pay to their hotel and guests.

Early Booking Offer
Reductions apply for bookings made before 31/1.

The Apartments: Air Conditioning
Bed & Breakfast Free WiFi
Studios and Suites for 2 No children under 6

KYTHIRA

Guide prices per person in £s departing during

ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - end Jun & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (early Jul - early Sep)				
		From		To		From		To		
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wk	
Anemes	Studio Ground Floor	2 BB	870	1070	900	1098	2540	2746	1086	1411
	Studio First Floor	2 BB	910	1150	940	1178	2563	2808	1126	1490
	Standard Premium	2 BB	930	1189	960	1217	2574	2840	1146	1530
	Deluxe Junior Suite	2 BB	946	1238	1000	1286	2597	2902	1253	1745
El Sol	Standard Room	2 BB	955	1212	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	1120	1464
	Studio Suite	2 BB	1010	1488	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	1226	1842
		3 BB	851	1169	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	1021	1432
		4 BB	771	1010	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	918	1226
Filoxenia	Junior Suite Open Plan	2 BB	1017	1378	1068	1440	1154	1528	1285	18091
	Junior Suite with Glass Separation	2 BB	1092	1530	1143	1592	1230	1678	1360	1960
	Superior Suite Sea View	2 BB	1128	1601	1179	1664	1260	1745	1384	2008
	Maisonette	3 BB	1094	1580	1211	1727	1312	1829	1463	2164
		4 BB	1037	1446	1127	1560	1209	1642	1332	1904
	Apartment Suite	3 BB	1094	1580	1211	1727	1312	1829	1463	2164
	4 BB	1037	1446	1127	1560	1209	1642	1332	1904	
Kyriakis	Studio	2 SC	887	1077	922	1126	988	1202	1092	1408

ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - end Jun & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (early Jul - early Sep)				
		From		To		From		To		
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wk	
Maryianni	Suite Garden View	2 SC	951	1204	1026	1316	1094	1410	1199	1624
	Suite Sea View	2 SC	1002	1308	1073	1412	1138	1503	1238	1703
Neromylos	Apartment	2 SC	1017	1350	1028	1361	1102	1436	1217	1674
		3 SC	945	1207	956	1218	1017	1279	1113	1464
Porto Delfino	Standard Room	2 BB	961	1272	1020	1345	1090	1415	1198	1634
Xenon Nostos	Standard Room	2 BB	918	1180	968	1219	1012	1286	1086	1411

Prices shown are indicative only and variable due to offers, changing flight prices and seasonal supplements. Please call or check online for a confirmed costing (note: not all holidays can be checked online). Prices based on Gatwick flights as sourced from Easyjet in November and are likely to increase as time passes. Prices include transfers or car hire (see text), accommodation as described; and all airport/fuel charges & taxes known at the time of printing - for our surcharge policy see booking conditions at the back of this brochure. To add: regional price supplements, room and board supplements (see text) - single room prices on request. 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.

Not included: Overnight Stay Tax of €0.50 to €4 per room, apartment or villa per night payable locally - the amount varies according to the category of the accommodation (i.e. most self catering and 1-2 star hotels = €0.50, 5 star hotels = €4).