



Lefkas

Lefkas, also known as Lefkada, is only just an island. Once joined to the mainland, the Corinthians dug a canal in the 6th century BC. Now a swing-bridge links the two again, which means that on Lefkas you have all the benefits of an island atmosphere together with access to some of the most beautiful parts of western Greece.



The east coast is sheltered, pretty and shingly, with pine and olive trees to the water's edge. There are good views too, across to the mainland or the four Prince's Islets in the strait.

The west coast is very different – rugged and open, with sheer white cliffs towering above an azure sea

and fabulous beaches, some only reached by boat. The mountainous interior is delightfully green with many working villages to explore. Some, such as Karia, are known for their traditional crafts (in this case embroidery). All can be easily reached by car. Lefkas is noted for its wine, and an annual festival of folk

dancing, held in August.

There is plenty to do on Lefkas. A good excursion programme includes boat trips to the island of Meganissi and around the pretty Prince's Islands just offshore (including well known Skorpios), the famous beach of Porto Katsiki, and (by coach) around-the-island. You can rent a mountain bike, a small motor boat, even a skippered yacht.

They say Aphrodite was born here; Sappho leapt to her death on Lefkas; and one German archaeologist, having uncovered the remnants of a city dating back to 2000 BC, spent the rest of his days trying to prove that Lefkas was the Ithaca of the Odyssey, and that Homer had it wrong all along! For more visible remains it is best to take a car and go to the mainland – perhaps to Nikopolis, a vast Roman city only partly excavated just to the north of Preveza; or even to Delphi, although we recommend an overnight stay here.

As with all Ionian islands, Lefkas is busy in August. Nevertheless, there are not many Greek islands which have (in effect) direct flights, and yet which have retained their traditions and character to such an extent as Lefkas.

LEFKAS INFORMATION

Getting to Lefkas

Sunday flight Gatwick or Manchester to Preveza. Then 45-60 mins by coach or taxi. For flight details see page 267. We can offer tailor-made arrangements and odd durations using flights on other departure days – please enquire.

Multi-Centre Options

With Meganissi, Parga, Sivota, Zagori, Albania, Fly Drive.

Car & Motorboat Hire

See pages 268-9 for details. Motorboats are available for rental from Nidri.

Representative

Based in Nidri, visits all areas.



Porto Katsiki

Our chosen areas

Nidri

Halfway down the east coast of Lefkas, **Nidri** is the island's most popular resort. Nidri is the best place to be if you want easy access to a wide choice of restaurants, some nightlife, an interesting variety of well-priced boat trips and watersports, and has a broad appeal to a range of ages and nationalities.

Its situation is most attractive, at the head of a sheltered bay with mountains behind and looking towards the islands of Meganissi and Skorpis. Although Nidri is not a large, international-style resort – there are no big hotels for example – in season it is busy and enjoys a lively cosmopolitan atmosphere, especially during the evenings along the length of its colourful harbour front.

To the north Nidri has a long, narrow fine-shingle beach from which all manner of watersports are on offer. Small motorboats can be rented for exploration of the nearby islands and coastline. Nidri is also a centre for yachting. The quay is always lively, and the harbour restaurants and cafés are perfect for watching the various comings and goings. In the evenings the atmosphere can be positively cosmopolitan, especially around the traffic-free high street and harbour areas.

For a change of scene, peaceful Meganissi is just 30 minutes by regular ferry, so it is easy to pop over for just a few hours, enough time for a little exploration and leisurely lunch.

Lefkas Town and Agios Ioannis

Lefkas Town on the northern tip has an attractive Greek character and a wide choice of restaurants, smart cafes, lively bars and good shopping. Buses run to most points and there is often something going on (the town is known for its arts and festivals, especially a dance festival in August).

Agios Ioannis, just to the west of town on the other side of the lagoon, is an area of superb long near-white sand/shingle beaches stretching for some 5 kms. Being so close to town they do get understandably busy at peak times, but are so long you can always find a spot to yourself. There are the usual beach tavernas and bars at various points and often a cooling prevailing wind (the area is known for kite-surfing).

The area is flat and therefore good for cycling along a network of country lanes, and there is also a circuit around the lagoon.

Nikiana

Nikiana, midway between Lefkas Town and Nidri, has a variety of restaurants and small shops of its own. The harbour tavernas are the best place to enjoy freshly-caught fish.

Nikiana is close to the mainland, and there are lovely views across the straits to the mountains. As everywhere on Lefkas the surroundings are green and wooded. Beaches here are of the small, pebbly, pretty variety, the sea clean and very sheltered.

This is a particularly good area from which to get out and about – buses will take you to Lefkas Town or to Nidri and nearly all excursions pick up from here. Alternatively, rent a mountain bike.

Recommended for a relaxed, very Greek holiday, with plenty to do should you so wish.

Mikros Yialos

The deep indented bay of **Mikros Yialos** to the south of Lefkas hides the finest beach on

the east coast – a long wide stretch of gleaming white pebble mixed with sand which shelves into the beautifully clear turquoise water. Although the beach is inevitably busy on Greek high days and holidays, most visitors come for the day only as accommodation is still limited here.

Also known as Poros, after the traditional village high on the hillside above, Mikros Yialos is some 20 minutes drive to the south of Nidri, the last 7 kms via a long and winding road which snakes down the wooded mountainside.

Although its setting lends Mikros Yialos a somewhat 'away from it all' atmosphere, especially in the evenings, close to the beach are some five tavernas and a mini-market. Boat hire is available if you wish to explore the stunning coastline here.

A peaceful retreat with a super beach in gloriously scenic surroundings, our hotel here is, we believe, the most exclusive on Lefkas. As Mikros Yialos is secluded, car hire is recommended should you wish to see more of the island.



Nidri



Lefkas Town





Palm Trees Hotel Nidri

This super little hotel ticks all the right Sunvil boxes – right on the beach; family-run and friendly; modern, comfortable rooms with brilliant views; yet within a few minutes' walk of Nidri's atmospheric waterfront and a wide enough choice of restaurants, café-bars and shops to satisfy all tastes.

The hotel's 16 rooms are on the first and second (top) floors, served by a lift. Rooms have been completely refurbished (2014) to offer simple smart modern furnishings and fashionably muted decor. All possess twin or double bed (some also have a sofa-bed for a third person), air conditioning, mini-fridge, TV (BBC World), telephone, safety-deposit box (free of charge), updated shower room and generous front covered balcony with retractable sun-blind - the views from here over the gardens to the sea and the scattering of pretty off-shore islands are stunning!

The hotel has three new top floor Junior Suites (2019), reached by stairs up from the 2nd floor lift. These are very high spec units, we think the best in Nidri, and boast unbeatable views from their double-aspect private front terrace, which is furnished with sun beds. Open plan and spacious at 42 sq m, they are twin bedded (can be a double on request) with a walk-in shower and possess, in addition to the standard room facilities already listed, a living room area with full-sized sofa bed, a walk-in shower, and tea-making facilities. Air conditioning is included in the price for these rooms.



Standard room

The ground floor garden terrace is where a continental breakfast is taken each morning. In the daytime the hotel's snack bar means you can enjoy a drink, an ice cream or a light meal served to you either on the terrace or in the pretty gardens leading onto the beach where sunbeds are available at a local charge.

The family who own and run the hotel (Dina and Nikos) have made many British friends over the years, and so you should not be surprised to read that Palm Trees has built up a very loyal clientele with many regular guests, the highest recommendation of all.

Being directly on the beach and with the benefit of a lift the hotel is very suitable for those with mobility difficulties.

Air-conditioning: payable locally at €5 per day.



Suite



Below Palm Trees Hotel



The Hotel:
2 Stars Plus

Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi

Daglas Studios Nidri

The Daglas Studios are virtually on the beach, being situated just behind our Daglas Beach House. They face a small lane which runs the short 20m down to the beach opposite our Palm Trees Hotel.

The four open-plan studios, for couples only, are all twin-bedded with air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, safety deposit box, light kitchen facilities (2 rings, fridge) and shower room. An iron and board can be provided on request. Each opens onto a shared, furnished, covered front terrace. The sleeping, living and kitchen area of the studios have been fully refurbished (2016) and offer a smart, light modern ambience.

Just steps from the beach, and only a few minutes walk (no hills) from the centre and the harbour, the Daglas Studios make a comfortable, well priced and superbly located base from which to make the most of all Nidri's various attractions and, with just 4 steps up, suitable for those with mobility difficulties.

Air-conditioning: Available at a local charge of €5 per day

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



Nidri



Daglas Beach House Nidri

Individual houses right on the beach, yet close to all resort facilities, are difficult to find so we are very pleased to offer Daglas Beach House. Refurbished and updated in 2018, it is a simple little Greek house, with a typically colourful garden leading directly to the sea.

The house is compact and comprises three air conditioned bedrooms (one double and two twins), a new (2017) large modern shower room with wc and a separate smaller ensuite shower/wc to one of the bedrooms, a separate kitchen with a full cooker, hob and fridge, and a lovely wide covered front terrace above the garden with beautiful views over the sea to pretty Madouri island just off-shore. Facilities include TV, iron and board, hairdryer and safety deposit box (no charge). Four sun beds are provided for terrace, garden or beach use.

A few minutes' walk along the beach brings you to Nidri's attractive bustling harbour front or, via the small lane to one side of the house, to the centre of this small resort where you will find a wide array of restaurants, café-bars and shops. Water sports are also close to hand.

A very sweet comfortable little beach house, in a location which is hard to beat and suitable for those with mobility difficulties as there are just a few steps up to the terrace.

Air-conditioning: Available at a local charge of €8 per day (3 AC units).

The House: Air Conditioning
Self Catering Free WiFi
Beach House for
up to 6 persons

Lefkas Blue

Lefkas Town/Agios Ioannis area

The luxurious Lefkas Blue offers exceptional standards. Its walled garden, hiding a super pool, really is a little natural paradise, yet it is within easy walking (or cycling) distance of town and beach.

Beautiful lawns and gardens front the building which houses eight apartment suites on its ground and first floors. Opulently appointed and very spacious - the minimum size is 50 sq m - each comprises a bedroom with queen sized bed, AC and ceiling fan; living room (also AC) with twin or double sofa-bed; fully equipped kitchen area; walk-in shower; and at least one large covered balcony or terrace with garden or pool views. Facilities include large sat TV, DVD and CD

player, safe box, hairdryer, Wifi plus fixed ASDL line and a netbook if required.

Common facilities include the large pool (18m x 8m, depth 0.80m-2.20m), a BBQ and free use of a washing machine and bikes. Although you should not expect hotel levels of service, the owners are always on hand if you need anything.

There is a mini-market an 8 minute/650m walk away as is the closest taverna. The centre of lively Lefkas Town is a 20 minute walk (1500m) where you will find a good choice of shops, supermarkets and restaurants. The same distance in the other direction is the beautiful beach of Agios Ioannis, backed by cafes and snack bars - the beaches here stretch for 5 kms. The area around Lefkas Blue is flat and is easy for walking and cycling.



Agios Ioannis beach

The Apartments:
Self Catering

Apartments for 2/4
Air Conditioning
Swimming Pool
Free WiFi



Yesemi Villa Sivota

Tucked away on the olive tree covered hillside above the small pretty harbour of Sivota in the undeveloped south east corner of Lefkas, this chic and well-equipped house offers a romantic hideaway for couples looking for privacy and comfort.

The villa has an open-plan layout and comprises a sleeping area with large double bed, a dining and kitchen area and a bathroom with shower. To the front is a large covered furnished terrace with unforgettable views over the sea to Meganissi island. In fact great sea views can be had from all areas of the house including the bed.

Below the house to the side is your 36 sq m infinity pool and there is a BBQ by the pool terrace.

Yesemi's amenities include air conditioning, a CD player, TV with DVD, full kitchen with dishwasher and microwave, a washing machine and a room-safe.

A 5 minute drive brings you to the little port of Sivota which has a choice of restaurants, cafes and a couple of mini-markets. For brighter lights the large village of Vassiliki (known for its long pebble beach and windsurfing) is a 15 minute drive.

The Villa:
Self Catering
1 bedroom Villa for 2/3

Private pool
Air Conditioning
Car included



Sivota

Agnadi Suites near Nikiana

The Agnadi enjoys a blissfully peaceful setting directly on the sea. It offers an exceptionally high standard of accommodation and combines the comfort and atmosphere of a small luxury boutique hotel with the freedom of self catering.

The ten rooms and suites are housed on three floors, and each has individual decor and furnishing. Mostly double-bedded, room facilities include a well equipped kitchen (full cooker, fridge-freezer); air-conditioning; a beautifully tiled shower room (two also have a bath); plasma tv with dvd/cd player; and hairdryer. All have a generous open furnished balcony with lovely country, sea or mountain views; and a couple (front and rear) can interconnect.

There are three open-plan Grand Suites. Two on the top floor have a living area to the front and a balcony front and back (sea view and mountain view respectively). The ground floor Suite (also spacious at 55 sq m) is split level, with a queen-sized bed downstairs and a large single bed on a sleeping gallery above (open-plan) - plus a large sea facing terrace above the garden.

Hotel facilities include Wifi and use of a PC and printer, DVD library, a safe at reception, a small fitness room, laundry service (at cost), a games room and use of a sa una - spa and massage treatments can be booked. A lawn with sun beds and garden furniture leads to the narrow pebble beach, where beach towels and snorkelling equipment are provided.

Agnadi Suites are ¾ of a mile from Nikiana - there is a bus stop and a bakery nearby, and the hotel provides a grocery shopping service, but car hire is recommended for ease of access.

Early Booking Offer

Reductions apply if booked by 30/4. Please enquire or check online availability for a costing.

The Hotel:

Boutique
Aparthotel
Self Catering

Rooms and Suites for 2/3 (interconnecting for 4/5)
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Nikiana Beach

Eleana Hotel Apartments Nikiana

Eleana offers high modern standards and an excellent location in the village. It is within a minute's walk of the main road, where you will find a choice of restaurants and small shops, and just a couple of minutes' from the beach (150m flat walk).

The 25 units here are housed on three floors, served by a lift. The studios comprise an open-plan bedroom with comfortable twin beds (can be placed together); flatscreen TV with DVD player; hairdryer; safety-deposit box; kitchen area with light cooking facilities (rings) and fridge; Jacuzzi bath, shower and wc; and a wide balcony or sun terrace with views either over the pool or the verdant mountainside to the rear.

The Junior Suites enjoy the same facilities and comprise a double bedroom plus a separate spacious living room containing a double

sofa-bed and a guest wc off. The Superior Loft apartment would be good for a family as it comprises a double bedroom/living room down and a twin-bedded sleeping gallery, open-plan, above. An extra bed can be placed downstairs for a child.

The ground floor houses reception, bar (seasonal) and lounge, and the freshwater swimming pool to the front is a good size (13m x 7m, depth 0.9m-1.70m) with a children's section and covered seating area where you can enjoy a hearty buffet breakfast (recommended), a drink or a snack.

Guests are well looked after here. Due to the location and the lift the Eleana is suitable for those with mobility difficulties and a couple of studios are adapted for disabled use.

Breakfast supplement: £49 (adults), £28 (child under 12) per week.

The Apartments:
Self Catering
Studios for 2/3

Apartments for 2/4 and up to 5
Air Conditioning
Swimming Pool
Free WiFi

