



Thassos

Thassos is a refreshing combination of pine, chestnut and olive, mountain villages and golden beaches. It is the only island in Macedonia.



This greenest and most northerly of the Greek islands is just 40 minutes by frequent ferry from the mainland. It is the archetypal 'island of contrasts': its 115 kms of coastline has a huge variety of beaches, from small, rocky coves to long, golden sand, whilst inland mountains rise to peaks of 1200m, with dense forests of cypress and pine; and ancient ruins are surrounded by modern facilities.

In the east and south, small resorts have sprung up alongside its array of splendid sandy beaches and crystal clear waters. Many of the beaches are organised - sun beds are generally free, subject to purchasing a drink - but you can, with a car, find plenty which are not.

The beaches being so good of course attract large numbers in high season - so if you can, we'd recommend you avoid the period from mid-July to end of August when the island and roads are very busy - but there are so many beaches here, and some are so long, that is not hard to escape the crowds away from the central resort areas.

All over the island there are places to explore. In the capital itself (known

locally as Limenas rather than Thassos) there is a 5th century B.C. Theatre, as well as an Agora and Acropolis; in the south, at Aliko, an ancient Temple and Sanctuary. As part of its Byzantine heritage, there are monasteries located in the most precipitous spots, like the monastery of Archangelos Michael, clinging to the cliffside near Aliko. High in the mountains, the traditional village of Kazaviti is typical of many, its stone-built houses with wooden terraces and balconies, and a village square complete with plane trees that give shade to a couple of restaurants and the sleepy kafenion.

The island is criss-crossed with mule and goat trails that give you access to the dense colonies of herbs, flowers and shrubs that cover the interior; hawks, white-tailed eagles, owls, greenfinches and doves can be spotted.

Thassos is a relatively easy island to get around independently. A good coastal road encircles the island and there is an island bus service to and from Thassos Town to the main resort areas and villages, although this can be a little erratic and/or infrequent depending on the

season. Car hire is certainly recommended for at least part of your stay in order to explore in your own time.

Excursions include 'around the island' and boat trips to various beaches. More options present themselves on the mainland. A fast hydrofoil service links Thassos Town with the historic city of Kavala in just 45 mins. at a cost of just 10 euros each way in 2019 - a ferry also runs frequently from the port of Skala Prinos in the north west which takes 80 mins and costs only 5 euros each way - so well worth a day trip. Kavala highlights include museums, the beautiful old houses and narrow streets of the old town, the aqueduct, and a fab harbour ringed by smart shops, tavernas and coffee shops. And from here it is just a short bus or taxi ride north to the ruins of the great ancient city of Philippi, now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where St Paul first preached in Europe.

The delight of a holiday in Thassos is that the island has adapted to the needs of the modern visitor without affecting its allegiance to the values and beauties of the past. It is a large

island which rewards exploration, and a very beautiful one from its forested heights to its many miles of white-sand beaches.

THASSOS INFORMATION

Getting to Thassos

Wednesday or Sunday flight Gatwick or Sunday Manchester to Kavala. Then 20 mins transfer to Keramoti port and 40 mins ferry crossing (ferries are very frequent so any waiting time is minimal). Onward transfer to accommodation, see resort descriptions. Transfers may be by taxi which means clients take their luggage the very short distance onto the ferry (the driver can usually assist if required).

Multi-Centre Options

Any Thassos resort with any other. Can combine with Kavala, staying in the 5 star Imaret Hotel (see page 241), Halkidiki (Olympiada and Ammouliani) with car hire or mid-holiday transfer from Kavala airport, or a 'Hidden Greece' mainland fly-drive.

Car Hire

See page 268-9 for details.

Representative

Based in Thassos Town - visits all areas.

Our chosen areas

Thassos Town

Thassos Town, also called Limenas, is at the northern tip of Thassos and where the ferries dock from the mainland. It is a most pleasant island capital. With mountains behind, a sandy beach to one side and a picturesque old harbour, it has a relaxed Greek air, a wide choice of shops, cafes and restaurants, and a vibrant evening atmosphere.

The beach is sandy and popular, and can fill up. But it is easy to hop on one of the water-taxis (seasonal) to larger Makriammos a little down the coast, or to Marble Beach (once daily).

It is also littered with reminders of its past as the modern-day town is built on the site of the ancient city as evidenced by the Macedonian, Hellenistic and Roman remains still visible. The most evident site is the ancient Agora near the old harbour, whilst above the town is a tremendously located amphitheatre. There is an excellent museum where you can see finds from all over the island.

For a big name site, guided excursions run to famous Philippi not far away on the mainland, close to Kavala.

Skala Panagia (Golden Beach)

Transfer time from Thassos Town c 20 mins

Skala Panagia, also called Chrissi Ammoudia ('Golden Beach'), certainly lives up to its name with a wide and very long beach of fine sand which stretches around the bay for 1500 metres. It is one of the best on the island and has been awarded a Blue Flag. With its backdrop of steep green mountains, the setting is unmatched.

Being on the north east coast, it is not far from Thassos Town which can be quite easily reached by hire car, bus or taxi.

With such a location and attributes, you will not be surprised to read that Skala Panagia is a popular destination for all nationalities, but to date has remained blessedly laid-back. The usual small resort infrastructure of tavernas, cafes and small shops is mostly to be found in the valley between beach and mountain. It is not a densely developed area and there are no big hotels here.

The old village of Panagia is on the hillside above, for those who enjoy a more traditional change of scene.

Limenaria and Pefkari

Transfer time from Thassos Town c 50-60 mins

The south of Thassos is home to some of the island's loveliest beaches. There is a whole string of them, not just in front of the resort areas but tucked away down dirt tracks and hidden behind headlands. Between Aliki in the east and Limenari in the west there are at least a dozen excellent sandy beaches, plus many small coves and bays.

Limenaria enjoys a relaxed small town feel, with a good selection of cafes and restaurants lining its attractive seafront and good shops/facilities. At its heart it is a fishing port and has a large attractive harbour to one end. To the other its seafront backs a long sandy beach that continues on well after the last cafe.. A good bus service runs up the west coast to Thassos Town and all points between. There are some stunning beaches close by, such as Tripiti 3 kms to the west, or glorious Metalia just over the headland.

Pefkari, some 2.5 kms to the east (a pleasant 40 minute walk above the sea), is a delightfully low key little spot comprising simply a very good sandy beach backed by three tavernas plus a couple of cafes and a mini-market. The lively small resort of Potos is only 800m away over the headland - about a 10 minute walk - so a change of scene is easy. The good thing about Pefkari is that most visitors don't realise it is there and drive straight past, meaning Pefkari escapes the worst of the high season crowds and is always relaxed. Water sports are available.



Thassos Town



Skala Panagia

The West Coast Skalas

Transfer time from Thassos Town c 20-30 mins

Thassos' sheltered west coast is less busy than the south and east, which have the island's 'big name' beaches, and there are no established resort areas. Instead a string of small traditional fishing villages dot the coastline, all called Skala something!

We feature (north to south) Skalas Prinos, Sotiros, Kallirachi and Maries. All have a working harbour, a number of local tavernas and shops (often a bakery too), a church and a square with an 'old-man' cafe. In other words the coastal villages here have a more traditional Greek flavour, and the landscape gentler (lots of olive trees!) than the steeply forested east coast. And of course the west coast is also the place for beautiful sunsets over open sea.

Beaches there are - plenty of them, usually of a coarse sand and shelving gently into the sea, which is sheltered here. Most are backed by a cafe or taverna.

Prinos is the port for ferries to the historic mainland town of Kavala - they run 3-5 times a day and take only 75 minutes, making day trips easy. Sotiros has a very nice beach in its centre, backed by a couple of laid back beach bars. Kallirachi has the biggest harbour and its the sardine festival at the end of July attracts the crowds. Maries is the most conventionally pretty of the four, being built on the hill above three bays - again each one with a good sandy beach.

There is a very good bus service linking them all with Thassos Town in the north and Limenaria in the south. None of the villages are particularly old - for those you need to go up into the hills behind where you will each one has a related 'original' village. There are excellent walking opportunities inland from all of them (e.g. the 11 km Kallirachi Trail) and walking information can be easily found online.

Villa Fotini Thassos Town

Villa Fotini is set in lush and well maintained gardens with a good-sized pool at their centre, just a 10 minute easy walk (no hills) from the heart of Thassos Town. The 12 rooms and apartment-style suites here have been completely renovated and upgraded to offer a high standard of modern accommodation.

They are a mix of Classic rooms with pool view, Standard rooms (a little larger with sofa) with garden view and lovely 2-room Superior Suites which have a separate living room with a sofa bed (in our view worth the upgrade). Furnishings are light, contemporary and attractive.

All bedrooms have double beds, a safety deposit box, hairdryer, air con,

TV & mosquito screened windows and doors, which open onto a good-sized balcony. They have light kitchen facilities - kettle, sandwich toaster, fridge - although breakfast can be ordered by the pool at a local charge. Bathrooms are also very nice, with a trendy rainwater shower and cabin.

The freshwater pool has steps in and depth of 1.0m-2.25m.

The nearest taverna is 300m and there is a supermarket opposite. It is 500m to the beach from here (7 mins walk) and there is a bus stop on the main road to the front (note: this road can be busy in season - some road noise is possible, mainly from the pool area and pool view rooms).

In our view this is one of the nicest small units in Thassos Town.



Thassos Town Old Harbour

The Hotel: Air Conditioning
2 Star Plus Swimming Pool
Room Only / Free Wifi
Light Self Catering



Mare Monte Boutique Hotel Skala Panagia

Standing on the green hillside a 6-7 minute walk from the beach, this intimate hotel offers all the ingredients for complete relaxation in peaceful surroundings – a high level of personal service; modern comfort, décor and design; and beautiful sea and mountain views.

The 8 suites are housed on 4 floors, all with very pretty décor, king or queen-size bed (with luxury bedding), shower room with amenities, TV, fridge, tea/coffee-making facilities, hairdryer, room safe and views over the bay from the balcony or patio.

Those on the ground floor (Honeymoon and Superior) open directly onto the pool terrace and have shared patio space. We recommend the Junior and Deluxe suites on the first and second floors with private sea view balcony (Deluxe possess two balconies). Breakfast is served to the room.

Occupying the top floor is the Executive Apartment (45 sq m) which has a king-size double bed, a kitchen, a comfortable sofa-bed and a spacious balcony with panoramic

views over the bay.

The decked freshwater pool to the front measures 25 sq m and has pool towels provided.

The Mare Monte is very well run – nothing seems to be too much trouble – with high standards maintained throughout.

It is a 3 minute walk down the hill (steep in parts) to the resort area and you will find some half-dozen restaurants nearby. Golden Beach is also a few minutes' walk from here (500m from the hotel) – beach towels provided on request.

The Hotel: Swimming Pool
3 Stars Plus Free WiFi
Bed & Breakfast No children under 6
Air Conditioning

Early Booking Offer
Reductions apply for bookings made by 31/3 for stays completed by 25/6 or commencing 04/9 onwards.

Akti Hotel Pefkari

The Akti is a great example of a hotel that has significantly upgraded its rooms to a standard well above its official category. Coupled with its fantastic location almost on beautiful Pefkari beach, a holiday here should tick all the right boxes.

The hotel has 23 rooms on three floors (no lift). All have been upgraded to a very tasteful light modern style with good quality furnishings and fittings. All are double-bedded (some triples) with modern shower room and have AC,



TV (BBC World), fridge, and safety deposit box included in the price. Balconies have mainly side-sea or pine tree views (note front sea view rooms can be requested at a supplement - most contain a double plus a single bed. Please enquire).

To one side is the attractive 50 sq m swimming pool (depth 1.20m). Sunbeds on the beach are free of charge if you buy a drink, snack or meal from the hotel's well-liked taverna above. The beach is of sand and has water sports and boat rental. Within a few minutes walk you will find two other restaurants, as well as a couple of cafés and small shops.

For a change of scene 800m brings you to the bustling resort village of Potos just over the headland.

Half Board: £91 (adult), £63 (child under 12) per week

The Hotel:	Air Conditioning
2 Stars Plus	Swimming Pool
Bed & Breakfast	Free Wifi



Moonbeam Apartments Pefkari

Run by the friendly Dimitris, these spacious apartments offer minimal frills but enjoy plenty of peace and quiet and fine views. They enjoy rural surroundings and are built on a small hill 600m from Pefkari beach via a short cut – a 10 minute walk – and a little further to lively Potos.

The 12 units here are on the first or second floor and a mix of studios and apartments. All are very spacious, double or twin-bedded, and possess a basic kitchen unit with rings and fridge (please note cooking facilities are minimal), a good sized shower room and a large balcony with panoramic views over the olive trees to the sea and even to Mount Athos. AC, TV (BBC World), hairdryer and Wifi are provided at no extra charge.

The 1-bedroom apartments (same facilities) possess a double bedroom and a separate living room (A/C here) with two full-sized beds – each room opens onto a terrace, again with a wonderful view.

All studios and apartments are simply furnished and have light decor.

On the ground floor is a spacious lounge and terrace where you can purchase breakfast or a drink from the bar.

Below in the gardens is the 70 sq m freshwater pool (depth 1.30m-1.90m) and children's pool (depth 1.20m).

An unmade road leads you down the hill to the main road below (450m) where there is a well stocked supermarket. Although not a steep walk back up, the lane is largely unlit, so do take a torch with you for late night returns.



Pefkari Beach

The Apartments:	Air Conditioning
Self Catering	Swimming Pool
Studios for 2/3	Free Wifi
Apartments for 2/4	

Second Home Apartments Skala Sotiros

This pair of spacious, modern apartments offers high standards. They are located up a small lane just 100m from the beach and 300m from the centre of the village.

The apartments are on the top floor. Each comprises an AC living room with fitted kitchen area (full cooker, fridge), dining table, comfy chair and sofa (can be a bed) and a good sized front terrace with fine views to the sea, olive groves and mountains. The bedroom is a double, also with a balcony, and the bathroom is with shower above a small bath. Amenities include a TV, room safe, hairdryer and Wifi. They are nicely furnished throughout, light and well equipped.

A 2 minute walk brings you to a pair of sandy bays and from here it is a further 3 minutes to the centre, the harbour and the main beach, a very nice 200m strand with sun beds and backed by a couple of cafe-bars. Within the village you will find two tavernas, a good bakery, a supermarket and bus stop. The old village of Sotiras is 3 kms inland - a 45 minute walk - and has a traditional square, church and taverna.

The charming owner, Mrs Sotiria, takes equally good care of her apartments and her guests, and will do all she can to ensure that Second Home lives up to its name!



Beach 100m from Second Home

The Apartments:
Self Catering

Apartments for 2/4
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Toutoula Studios Skala Maries

Just 30m up the hill from Maries' very nice sandy central beach and the heart of the village, Toutoula's slightly elevated position enables fine views.

The five studios are ground or first floor (18 steps up). Entrance is into a small kitchen area with light cooking facilities (2 rings, fridge). They possess twin beds, AC, TV, hairdryer, room safe, shower room and good sized front balcony terrace with sunblind and lovely views over the beach, village and bay. Doors and windows are mozzie-netted and the studios are furnished in dark wood, cool and spacious.

One of the first floor studios is more like an apartment suitable for families of up to 4 as it has a second twin bedroom, although still open plan (i.e. no door between the rooms). The other has a sofa bed for a third person.

For those wanting to be close to the beach and all the facilities of this pretty village, Toutoula is ideal.

We also offer the nearby **Rigas Apartment** which is modern and spacious – see our website for details.

The Apartments:
Self Catering

Studios for 2/4
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Skala Maries

Inspira Boutique Hotel Skala Prinos

Just a minute's stroll from the beach, this adult-only hotel affords couples a quiet relaxing break away from the crowds.

The hotel is designed in bungalow style, its 20 rooms housed in a number of small two-storey buildings in the gardens with a pool to the front. Rooms possess king-size double bed, air conditioning, flat-screen TV, WiFi, room-safe, hairdryer, mini-fridge, tea/coffee-making equipment and a walk-in shower. All rooms have a good-sized front covered balcony with garden views, stepped back from one another for privacy. Comfort rooms measure 20 sq m., Deluxe rooms 24 sq m (and have a canopy bed). Furnishings are fashionably minimalistic and décor light.

The swimming pool is set in the lush gardens and measures 22 sq m (depth 1.4m-2.4m). Bar service is available, and pool towels are provided free of charge. Sunbeds are free also on the beach if you patronise the cafe-bar here.

A 6-7 minute easy walk brings you to the small port of Skala Prinos where you will find six tavernas, cafes and small shops, as well as the ferry to Kavala (a day trip is easy). Other tavernas and cafes can be found close to the beach in either direction. A good bus service runs north to Thassos Town and south to Limenaria, and bicycle hire is available from reception.

Early Booking Offer
Reductions apply for bookings made by 31/3.

The Hotel: Swimming Pool
3 Stars Free WiFi
Bed & Breakfast Adults Only hotel
Air Conditioning (16 years plus)



Kavala & The Imaret Hotel

The historic city of Kavala is just 75 mins. by frequent ferry from Skala Prinos port on Thassos, so it's easy to visit and well worth a day trip.

Kavala is also home to one of Greece's most uniquely atmospheric and impressive hotels, the 5 star Imaret. Converted from an Ottoman building dating from 1817, the hotel has 3000 sq m of inner gardens and water features. We can arrange short stays here from - we'd recommend this is best done at the end of your holiday with a direct transfer back to the airport (30 mins.) - or as a 1 or 2 week holiday in its own right.

Please see page 241 for full descriptions and ask for a price quote.

THASSOS Guide prices per person in £s departing during

ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - early Jul & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (mid Jul - early Sep)			
		From		To		From		To	
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wk
Akti	Standard Room 2 BB	892	1051	1020	1322	1049	1366	1200	1544
	Standard Sea View 2 BB	996	1260	1202	1706	1251	1781	1426	1995
Inspira Boutique	Comfort Room 2 BB	928	1123	1137	1600	1210	1701	1402	1968
	Deluxe Room 2 BB	948	1163	1178	1681	1250	1782	1450	2064
Mare Monte	Honeymoon Suite 2 BB	1040	1348	1204	1696	1238	1730	1356	1856
	Superior Suite 2 BB	1060	1388	1252	1805	1299	1852	1418	1978
	Junior Suite 2 BB	1100	1468	1322	1955	1380	2013	1500	2142
	Deluxe Suite 2 BB	1120	1508	1406	2140	1480	2215	1602	2348
	Summer Home 2 BB	1140	1548	1498	2313	1562	2376	1684	2512
Executive Apartment 2 BB	1140	1548	1498	2313	1562	2376	1684	2512	
Moonbeam	Studio 2 SC	905	1064	993	1226	993	1272	1205	1540
	1 Bedroom 2 SC	994	1241	1090	1420	1090	1536	1410	1951
	3 SC	913	1080	982	1205	982	1281	1232	1595
	4 SC	873	1000	928	1097	928	1154	1143	1417
Second Home	1 Bedroom 2 SC	966	1188	1034	1311	1037	1326	1179	1488
	3 SC	894	1045	945	1132	947	1142	1078	1287
	4 SC	859	974	900	1042	902	1050	1028	1186

ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - early Jul & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (mid Jul - early Sep)			
		From		To		From		To	
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wk
Toutoula	Ground Floor Studio 2 SC	RQ	RQ	928	1110	990	1223	1102	1334
	First Floor Studio 2 SC	RQ	RQ	968	1177	1011	1264	1122	1376
Villa Fotini	Classic Room 2 RO	965	1202	1022	1301	1088	1416	1199	1528
	Standard Room 2 RO	985	1242	1042	1342	1110	1462	1222	1574
	Superior Suite 2 RO	1028	1328	1084	1426	1169	1580	1281	1692

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 at prices available in November and 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 flight 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).