

# City Breaks

Greece's captivating cities transcend the allure of sun-drenched beaches and glistening azure waters. They brim with a vibrant legacy of history and culture, embedded deeply within their ancient streets, museums and monuments. Unlike seasonal destinations, Greece welcomes city break enthusiasts year-round, catering to diverse interests and preferences. What's more, with excellent transportation connections it is easy to combine a short cultural escape with an island or mainland retreat.





## Athens

For those seeking a city break steeped in history and pulsating with contemporary life, Athens offers an unparalleled experience.

Ascend the slopes of the Acropolis and stand in awe of the iconic Parthenon, a Doric temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. Explore the Acropolis Museum, home to over 4,200 artifacts representing the cultural and artistic achievements of ancient Athens - enjoy panoramic city views from the museum's rooftop café. Beyond the Acropolis, delve into the Athenian Agora, a marketplace where democracy was born.

There is more to Athens than the past, and it continues to evolve and reinvent itself. Find a vibrant art and music scene, culinary experiences that will challenge your preconceptions, vibrant markets, and maze-after-maze of narrow, atmospheric streets in which to get wonderfully lost.



## Kalamata

With mountains on three sides, Kalamata is at the head of the Gulf of Messini. To one side the imposing bulk of Mount Taygetos gives a dramatic foretaste of the Mani; to the other the rolling hills of the Messinian peninsula disappear into the heat haze.

Kalamata is a busy and commercial hub, with some good shopping and excellent restaurants. It is world famous for its olives and olive oil, and also boasts the freshest fruit and vegetables.

The sand-shingle beach is very long (over 2 kms) and the swimming is excellent. Backing it for much of its length is the lively seafront 'paralia', lined with cafes, tavernas and a beach club or two. The old town in the north of the city has a castle, churches and several museums to visit.



## Thessaloniki

In many ways Thessaloniki feels like a big, modern, waterfront city, the second largest in Greece and with a wonderfully cosmopolitan vibe. There are major shopping streets, lively lanes and a university with 150,000 students - cafe culture is a big thing here.

It is also a city with a turbulent past, 15 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a profound history of intertwined cultures, and a lasting legacy from its place at the very crossroads between east and west. This mix of cultures comes alive in regards to food. Thessaloniki is renowned as the gourmet capital of Greece, with a cuisine that fuses Mediterranean, Balkan and Turkish sensibilities.

For the best view of the city head to Ano Poli (Old City), from where you will enjoy far-reaching panoramas over the city and sea towards Mount Olympus.



## Corfu Town

This enchanting island capital is worthy of being more than a gateway and warrants a longer stay. The UNESCO listed Old Town is lively, elegant and has an energy that is guaranteed to enrapture. Wander the cobbled streets lined with pastel-hued buildings and wrought iron balconies. The Old Town is no museum - it remains the vibrant hub of city and family life it has always been.

The Liston is the city's most famous street, a wide pedestrian arcade, bordered by Spianada Park, that harmoniously combines Venetian, French and British influences. Locals come here to meet; visitors come to immerse themselves in Corfiot life albeit for a short time. The Liston is the focus of the famous Easter celebrations on the island.

Do not miss the Old Fortress, a silent guardian overlooking the harbour; the Archaeological Museum and the Byzantine Museum; the 18th century Achilleion Palace and Mon Repos Palace. More so, take a stroll along the waterfront and bask in the atmosphere and your beautiful surroundings.



## Chania

Beyond Crete's sun-kissed shores lies a captivating city break: Chania.

This vibrant port, originally a Mycenaean settlement, has been under the control of the Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Venetians and Ottomans. All have left their mark and add to the intrigue of the city. See and feel the Venetian influence in the harbourfront architecture and appreciate the changing influences at the Church of St Nicholas which possesses a minaret on one side and a Greek Orthodox bell tower opposite.

But Chania isn't just a museum piece. Wander its Municipal Market, a riot of colour, scents and sound. Nearby are beaches, hiking opportunities and the verdant foothills of the White Mountains.



## Rhodes Town

Rhodes has been occupied by Romans, Byzantines, Genoese, Crusaders, Ottomans and Italians. Evidence of most comes in the magnificent setting of Rhodes Old Town, one of the best preserved medieval cities you could hope to see.

Inside its massive walls, the Crusading Knights of St. John had their headquarters for over 200 years. Although the Turks were here for twice that time, it is the silent presence of the Knights that holds sway still.

Rhodes Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it can seem as if the world has indeed come to see it! But in its narrow lanes, away from the busy commercial heart, it is not difficult to imagine the ghosts of the past. Outside the walls there is plenty to see and do. The surrounding modern town is lively and cosmopolitan with long beaches to the west.



# City Break Hotels

## Herodion Hotel Athens, Attica

This is Sunvil's traditional hotel, where we all like to stay when we are in Athens. Low key and very conveniently located in a quiet, upmarket residential area below the Acropolis (300 metres), the Acropolis museum (200 metres) and Plaka. Syntagma square and the shopping district is a 15 minute walk.

The majority of staff have been there for many years. The hotel has a roof garden, restaurant and bar with probably the best views of the Parthenon. The reception area,

lounge area, the Atrium restaurant and bar have a homely and relaxed feel.

There are 90 rooms including standard, superior (Acropolis view) and junior suites (Acropolis view) with A/C, WiFi and bath or shower.

A welcoming, central Athens hotel and a very good base from which to explore the city.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1096 per person** (3 nights)\*



## The Excelsior Hotel Thessaloniki, Central Macedonia

A neoclassical, 34 bedroom hotel of 5 star comfort, the Excelsior combines intimacy with contemporary style. Set in downtown Thessaloniki, this privately owned and run hotel is steps away from the commercial area of Tsimiski Street and picturesque Aristotelous Square. It is within easy walking distance of the important sites of the city; the Archaeological museum, White Tower, Byzantine Museum, Aghia

Sofia church and the Arch of Galerius. The vibrant city centre and the promenade are all within a short walk. There are bus stops right across the street.

Accommodation features double and deluxe rooms, junior suites and excelsior suites, all with A/C, WiFi and bath or shower. There is a roof garden and restaurant.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£919 per person** (3 nights)\*

## Doma Hotel Chania, Crete

This most civilised hotel has an old-world elegance. It was the British Consulate, and is across the road from the sea, 1km from the town and a 15 minute walk from the harbour.

Personally run by the genteel sisters, Rena and Ioanna whose family home this once was, the hotel is full of antiques, family heirlooms and photographs, historical prints and generally fascinating Cretan ephemera collected over many years.

The 24 rooms and suites are all with A/C, WiFi and shower room. The hotel has three 1st floor suites and a Penthouse Suite with a huge roof-terrace and views to the sea and town.

The breakfast room has views over the sea to the harbour. The hotel has a small 'secret' garden littered with pieces of pottery and sculpture.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£809 per person** (3 nights)\*





## Elektra Hotel Kalamata, Messinia

Located in Kalamata's old port area, the Elektra is a comfortable town hotel suitable for long or short stays. The rooftop restaurant, bar and swimming pool offers panoramic views over the city and sea to the heights of Mount Taygetos behind.

The 30 rooms are mostly doubles (with twin mattresses), and all have A/C, WiFi, shower room and balcony, the majority with side sea views.

It is a 3 minute walk to Kalamata's seafront with its cafe-bars and

restaurants, and a couple more to the start of the town's, very long (2 km plus) pebble beach (Blue Flag certified). The marina is a 10 minute walk away, a quieter place with its fish restaurants. Kalamata's 'old town' is a short taxi ride.

Being at the head of the gulf here you can explore both Mani and Messinian peninsulas.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£829 per person** (3 nights)\*



## Bella Venezia Hotel Corfu Town, Corfu

The charming 3 star Bella Venezia, although quietly located, is only a few minutes' walk from the heart of historic Corfu Town.

The building is a restored 19th century neoclassical mansion and has 30 rooms served by lift. Classic rooms are mostly on the ground floor, and the top floor houses the Venetian Loft rooms under the eaves, plus the Master Suite.

Rooms possess A/C, WiFi and walk-in rainwater shower. Rooms have town views.

The hotel has a lounge and snack bar and a garden where breakfast is usually taken.

It is a 3 minute walk to bustling Spianada square (more like a small park), 6 minutes to the elegant Liston arcade and the old town, and a small pebble beach lies 5 minutes away from where you can swim under the castle walls.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£897 per person** (3 nights)\*

## Avalon Boutique Hotel Rhodes Town, Rhodes

Sited within the walls of Rhodes' medieval Old Town, close to the Street of the Knights and the Grand Master's Palace, this super little hotel has been carefully converted from a 14th century manor house and has 6 luxury suites plus 2 standard rooms.

Although all suites differ, they all have a double bedroom, a living room, bathroom with jacuzzi/hydro-massage bath and shower, A/C, WiFi and balcony/terrace with views over the garden courtyard or the old

town. There is a bar for drinks and snacks during the day. Many restaurants are nearby.

The standard rooms are in an adjacent building and have a double bedroom with shower but no separate living room or balcony.

A short stay here can be combined with many of the Dodecanese islands we feature.

**Board Basis:** Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£894 per person** (3 nights)\*



\* Guide prices are based on 2-sharing a lead-in room type for 3 nights in May and include return flights and transfers. Prices are subject to change and increases in airfares. Please visit our website for our latest prices and important further information on these properties, as well as more accommodation choices.