

Ithaca

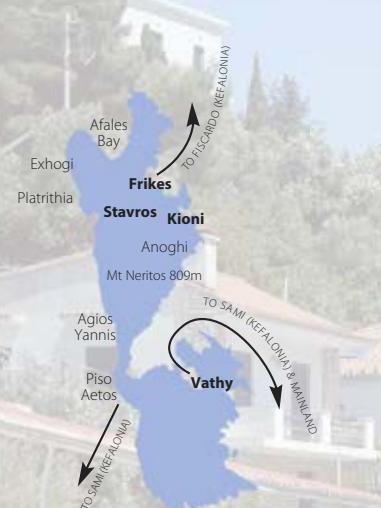
It is Ithaca's distinct lack of mainstream tourism, coupled with its mythological past, which makes it an island well worth visiting. Although many people have heard of Ithaca, few have ever come to stay. For those that do, their reward is a peaceful, strongly traditional Greek island, mountainous and scenic, with some very pretty villages and sparsely populated beaches.

Ithaca divides into two halves. Mount Aetos, which joins north with south, is barely half a mile in width at its narrowest point. The highest peak on the island is Neritos at just over 800 metres. The west coast is very rugged, with sheer mountainside rising steeply from the sea for much of its length. The east side is gentler, and its indented coastline provides several natural harbours, which is where Ithaca's three main coastal villages – Frikes, Kioni and Vathy – are to be found.

Frikes is the smallest of the three and delightfully sleepy, with a lazy, very Greek air. Four tavernas and a café or two front the sea here, which doubles as the mooring place for a line of colourful fishing boats. With the mountain behind, and green hills to either side, Frikes enjoys a very natural, unspoiled setting and offers good walking country. Some very nice white-pebble beaches can be found within a 15 minute walk.

Kioni is very pretty indeed. Thankfully, Ithaca having no airport, it has not succumbed to over-commercialisation. The horseshoe bay, backed by wooded hills, is lined with neo-classical houses. There is often a flotilla moored up, and a number of good family-run restaurants and small shops around the harbour. The bay itself has three or four beaches dotted around it. With the hire of a boat it is easy – and fun – to discover others beyond it for yourself.

Vathy is the charming island capital. Built along the sides of a long fjordlike bay,



Vathy has some lovely old buildings along its expansive waterfront. There are some good beaches dotted around the peninsula to the east, and in season small water-taxis will take you to and fro. Scuba diving, snorkeling and sea kayak excursions can be arranged from Vathy by our island representative.

There is a bus service between the three seaside villages but this is limited so car hire would be a good idea for further exploration of the island.

Was Ithaca really the homeland of Odysseus? There are plenty of clues – certain descriptions and places Homer mentions do seem to fit – and it is fun to do a little detective work and see if you agree.



Beach near Frikes

ITHACA INFORMATION

Getting to Ithaca

Saturday Day flight Gatwick, Birmingham or Manchester to Kefalonia. Then 1 hour transfer to port and private charter boat (main season LGW) or ferry to Ithaca (45 mins). 20-40 minute onward transfer to your accommodation. For flight details see page 267.

Multi-Centre Options

Ithaca with Kefalonia. For multi-centre details see page 8.

Car & Motorboat Hire

See pages 268-9 for details. Mountain bikes and E-bikes can also be rented.

Representative

Based in Kioni – will visit all areas.



Kyparissa Apartments Kioni

The Kyparissa Apartments occupy a prime location just above Kioni harbour, and afford excellent views over the bay. A 2-3 minute walk via a footpath and some steps down the small hill brings you directly down to the harbour-front.

The five apartments here are attractively furnished and offer comfort, privacy and plenty of room. The three 2-bedroom units are on the upper floor. Each comprises a spacious ground floor living room, slightly split-level with guest wc and well equipped kitchen area above (full cooker, fridge, dining table and chairs) and living area 2 steps below. French windows open onto the large open terrace, stepped back from its neighbours for privacy, furnished with sunbeds and boasting fine views over Kioni's horseshoe bay. Stairs lead up to the two bedrooms on the top floor, one double and one twin, each with air conditioning and own balcony (one front sea view, one rear mountain view). Also on this level is the large tiled shower room with hairdryer.

Each of the pair of 1-bedroom garden apartments on the ground floor has its own entrance from the pretty garden. The living room has a fitted kitchen area (same facilities as upstairs) and there is a separate air-

conditioned twin bedroom with a tiled shower room en suite. Each 1-bedroom apartment has its own delightful garden area to the front and side, bordered by flowering shrubs and almond trees, with sunbeds, table and chairs, and you will find plenty of secluded spots with or without shade. Partial sea views are to be had over the garden and rooftop of a house to the front.

Kyparissa has its own parking and motorboats can be moored overnight at the harbour.

The combination of central but quiet location, views, comfort and space makes Kyparissa our number one choice of apartments in Kioni.

Early Booking Offer
Up to £100 off per apartment per week (max discount £200) for bookings made by 31/1. Conditions apply - see page 267.

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



Kyparissa location above the harbour (top left)



Kioni

Agnandio Kioni

This pair of spacious top (first) floor apartments are on the hillside above Kioni harbour and enjoy breathtaking views – amongst the best in the village.

Each comprises an air-conditioned double bedroom; a spacious, light and airy living room with a kitchen area (microwave, 2-ring hob, fridge) and a shower room. Each also has a sofa-bed for a child.

The panoramic views over the village, green hillside and Kioni Bay from the sunny open front balcony are gorgeous.

The apartments have simple tasteful décor and furnishings. Each also possess a TV, a ceiling fan in the

living room, an iron and board, hairdryer, WiFi and a private parking space.

The walk into the village takes 5-6 minutes via a stepped pathway down the hillside (a little longer back), so not suited to anyone with walking difficulties without a hire car. There's a small pebble beach about a two minute walk from the waterfront and three other pretty beaches within walking distance further around the bay.

Low Season Offers
Reductions apply for stays completed by 22/6 or commencing 28/9 onwards if booked by 31/3. Please enquire or check online availability.



The Apartments: Self Catering Apartments for 2/3 Air Conditioning Free WiFi

Kaliopi Apartment Kioni

Kaliopi Apartment is set back from the village street and is just a minute's walk away from the waterfront. The apartment has been attractively finished in pine and ceramic floor tiles.

It comprises one twin-bedded room with air conditioning and French windows to back veranda; open-plan kitchen with full cooker and

breakfast bar and sitting room leading to front veranda; and a bathroom with bath and shower and hairdryer.

Two verandas provide both sun and shade throughout the day with views over village rooftops to Kioni Bay and the olive-clad hillsides. A hired boat can be moored in the harbour nearby.



The Apartment: Self Catering for 2 Air Conditioning

Early Booking Offer
Up to £100 off per apartment per week (max discount £200) for bookings made by 31/1. Conditions apply - see page 267.



Georgakis House location

Georgakis House Kioni

One of Kioni's traditional houses which line the village's attractive waterfront, Georgakis House enjoys superb and unobstructed views across the bay.

All the accommodation is on the first (top) floor (the ground floor is used only for storage). Entrance is into a spacious high-ceilinged living room, very traditionally furnished, with a full kitchen open-plan to one side. Off this is one double and one small twin bedroom (each with air

conditioning as well as a ceiling fan) and a good sized shower room with wc.

French doors open from the living room onto a narrow front balcony overlooking the waterfront where it is too easy to while away the hours watching the various harbour comings and goings.

To the rear of the house is a delightful terrace, bordered by fruit trees of pomegranate and lemon and furnished with sun beds.



Early Booking Offer
Reductions for bookings made by 31/12 (excludes 1 week holidays dep 25/5). Conditions apply - see page 267.

The House: Self Catering Traditional House for 2/4 Air Conditioning

Small Boat Hire

We can pre-book small fibreglass motorboats licensed for up to 5 persons from Frikas, Kioni and Vathy (no previous experience required).

Please see page 269 for details.

Exclusive Villa Escapes

Our sister-company, GIC - The Villa Collection, has a wide range of private villas and houses available on Ithaca, many with a swimming pool. This is a very selective programme aimed at those looking for high levels of comfort, privacy and fine views in quiet, natural surroundings.

Please see www.gicthevillacollection.com for details, or telephone 020 8232 9780.

Nostos Hotel Frikes

The Nostos is a friendly family-run hotel – the only one in Frikes. It stands up the valley towards the back of the village just a three minute walk from the harbour, where you will find a selection of tavernas.

The hotel has 30 rooms on its three floors. All have been recently (2013) very nicely refurbished in an attractive light modern style and possess air conditioning, ceiling fan, tv, fridge, shower room and balcony with views to the sea, pool or mountain.

The ground floor houses a bar, lounge and a (very good) terrace



Frikes

restaurant offering home-cooked Greek specialities.

The large freshwater swimming pool to the front (14.5m x 6.5m) has a snack bar serving refreshments and light meals during busier times.

Your hosts Nicky and Andreas are a mine of information about the area, and are happy to give advice and directions for their own carefully researched walking trails, for which they will also supply packed lunches.

Early Booking Offer
Reductions apply for stays completed by 27/7 or commencing 31/8 onwards if booked by 31/3.
Please enquire or check online availability for a costing.

The Hotel: 2 Star Superior Bed & Breakfast Air Conditioning Swimming Pool Free WiFi



Pelicata Cottage Stavros

This top quality country cottage is quietly situated 7 minutes' walk from the centre of Stavros in northern Ithaca. The house offers privacy, comfort and charm in equal measure, and is very well equipped.

The ground floor comprises a spacious open-plan lounge with comfortable sofas, TV, safety deposit box, bathroom (bath with shower, hairdryer, washing machine) and full kitchen (dishwasher, full cooker and fridge). French windows open out to a covered terrace overlooking the olive grove with views to the mountain.

Upstairs are two bedrooms – one twin, one double, each air conditioned and with its own covered balcony boasting fine views over the trees to mountain and sea – and a second bathroom with shower/wc.

The house has light attractive décor and modern tasteful furnishings. Set in an olive grove it has a BBQ and a dining area under the trees. Sunbeds are provided.

Stavros, high above Polis Bay to the west and c 2 kms inland from Frikes, is a thriving village. Dominated by an imposing church, and well endowed

with restaurants, cafés and small shops, it has a museum and even an ATM, and is a great base for walking. For beaches, Polis and Frikes are a 30 minute walk down the hill (but doubtless longer back).

As Ithaca attracts so many walkers we have made car hire optional, albeit recommended.

WiFi Note: WiFi is provided by a Mobile WiFi device. The service is reliant on the mobile telephone network and data download limits apply. As such it is only intended to be used for checking of emails and light web browsing and not for the streaming of films or downloading large files. 8GB is included for each booking - you may top this up with an extra local charge of c 10 euros.

Early Booking Offer
Reductions apply for bookings made by 28/2 for stays completed by 6/7 or commencing 31/8 onwards. Please enquire or check online availability for a costing.

The Cottage: Self Catering House for 2/4 Air Conditioning Free WiFi



Captain Yannis Vathy

Overlooking the sea at the quiet southern side of Vathy Bay, a ten minute walk from the central square, this smart little complex is built on three levels in the gardens. All rooms have recently (2011) undergone a full renovation and upgrade to a high specification.

The lowest level houses the attractive 120 sq m seawater pool (depth 1.15m-2.20m) with accompanying snack bar and covered seating area above the sea. A path and some steps (or a ramp for wheelchair access) lead to the 11 Junior Suites and apartments. These are all ground floor, housed in several small blocks.

The Junior Suites are slightly split-level, with a living area below containing a sofa-bed for a child, a shower room off and a double-bedded sleeping area two steps above. All possess lcd tv, air conditioning, hairdryer, mini-fridge and tea-making equipment, and are beautifully furnished

in a sophisticated modern style. All, too, possess a wide covered front terrace with views over the gardens, pool and sea to the far side of the bay. The apartments are similar with the addition of a good-sized separate living room (can sleep 2 children) and kitchenette for light meals.

More steps lead up to the 12 double rooms which, being at the highest level, enjoy the best views. These have the same facilities as the Junior Suites and are, again, individually and stylishly furnished - the views over the bay from each room's front balcony or terrace are stunning. Upper floor rooms have double beds, first floor rooms are twins.

You can swim nearby but most people walk 10-15 minutes around the bay to sandy Loutsas beach. Further excellent beaches can be found the other side of the headland, best reached by small motorboat which can be moored outside the hotel.

Early Booking Offer

Reductions apply for bookings made by 28/2 for stays completed by 20/7 or commencing 24/8 onwards. Please enquire or check online availability for a costing.

The Hotel:

Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Swimming Pool
Free WiFi (pool area)

ITHACA		Guide prices per person in £s departing during										ACCOMMODATION	
ACCOMMODATION		PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - early Jul & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (mid Jul - early Sep)				ACCOMMODATION		
			From 1 Wk	To 2 Wks	From 1 Wk	To 2 Wks	From 1 Wk	To 2 Wks	From 1 Wk	To 2 Wks			
Agnandio	1 Bedroom	2 SC	823	995	986	1260	986	1400	1151	1564	Nostos	Standard Room	2 BB
Captain Yannis	Standard Room	2 BB	885	1128	1004	1322	1004	1376	1082	1455			1013
	Junior Suite	2 BB	900	1158	1038	1424	1071	1516	1155	1600			963
	1 Bedroom	2 BB	900	1158	1055	1458	1087	1554	1176	1641			1277
Georgakis House	2 Bedroom	2 SC	844	1017	1206	1679	1206	1816	1368	1979	Pelicata	2 Bedroom	2 SC
	3 SC	787	905	1049	1367	1049	1459	1166	1576			844	
	4 SC	760	850	972	1212	972	1280	1065	1374			828	
Kaliopi	1 Bedroom	2 SC	920	1179	1020	1310	1020	1326	1062	1366		4 SC	791
Kyparissa	1 Bedroom	2 SC	846	1020	908	1074	908	1084	968	1118			926
	2 Bedroom	2 SC	948	1242	1023	1303	1023	1319	1109	1380			1001
	3 SC	862	1055	926	1110	926	1121	1007	1177			1217	
	4 SC	819	962	878	1014	878	1022	956	1076			927	
												1136	

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 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).