



Elafonissos

For Caribbean-like white sands shelving into a multi-hued turquoise sea, this speck of an island is a beach lover's dream.



Historically remote and difficult to get to, we can now arrange stays here as a side trip from nearby Kythira (either with a car or transfers); combine it with any of our Peloponnese resorts (car hire required); or as part of a touring fly-drive itinerary.

Not to be confused with the better known Elafonissi in western Crete, Elafonissos lies just off the south eastern shore of the Peloponnese and measures just 19 sq. kms. Outside Greece it is little known, being far from an international airport or mainstream holiday area. But the island is far from unknown to the mainland Greeks, who come in numbers at weekends and during Greek holiday periods (August is definitely to be avoided!). Why? For the simple reason that Elafonissos is home to a pair of beaches that regularly appear on 'best in Greece' lists.



This is no idle claim. Both Simos and Panagia (aka Kato Nisi) beaches are long and wide, with near-white sand shelving into turquoise-hued water offering safe, sheltered swimming. They are organised with sun beds available, but also plenty of space for those who prefer their own towel. Thankfully there is no major development behind these beaches - Simos in particular has a protected area of sand dunes - although there is a sprinkling of chilled cafe-bars.

Elafonissos is also popular with Greeks because, for them, the island can be reached very cheaply and easily. Small ferryboats run frequently (every 30 minutes in summer) from Pounta on the mainland, take 10 minutes and cost last year just €1 per person and €10 per car. Pre-booking is not possible - it's a shuttle service so you just turn up and get on the next available boat. There are rarely long queues - only at peak weekend and bank holiday times.

The ferry docks at the only village on the island, also called Elafonissos. The village has a large working harbour, home to a substantial fishing fleet and overlooked by a photogenic little church. There is a perfectly good sandy beach to one side for those who don't wish to travel out to the star names, which are a few

kilometres out of town. Most Greeks bring their cars over, as there is no bus service and only one taxi. If you do not have a car then our hotels can arrange transportation to/from the beaches (local charge) or the taxi fare is c €7 each way.

The harbour is lined with cafes, small shops, ice cream places and tavernas, which together engender a buzzing Greek holiday atmosphere in the evenings.

If you visit Elafonissos with a car we recommend you take your snorkelling gear and explore the oldest submerged town in the world... 5,000 years of history beneath you. Pavlopetri is directly opposite the island, just off the beach and next to Pounta where the ferries go from.

Discovered in 1967 and subsequently explored and excavated, this underwater town dates from 2,800 BC but the remains which can still be seen are Mycenaean, from between 1680 BC and 1180 BC. Pavlopetri was an important trading port and controlled the entire Laconian Gulf.

The submerged town, covering over two acres, lies 3m to 4m beneath the waves. You are not allowed to scuba dive here, but to snorkel is thrilling!

ELAFONISSOS INFORMATION

Getting to Elafonissos

FROM KALAMATA
Self-drive with a hire car (3-3½ hrs) - an overnight hotel is recommended in Kalamata on arrival and departure. Local ferry from Pounta (10 mins. - paid locally).

FROM KYTHIRA

Either with transfers or hire car. Ferry from Kythira to Neapolis (75 mins. - Sunvil will pre-book this), 20 mins. drive to Pounta (13 kms.) for the ferry to Elafonissos (10 mins. - paid locally). If you do not wish to return to Kythira at the end it is possible to book one way car hire with pick-up Kythira and drop-off Kalamata or Athens, or vice versa - please enquire.

Multi Centre Options

With Kythira, Monemvasia, other Peloponnese resorts with a car, mainland fly drive.

Car & Boat Hire

Not available on Elafonissos, only from Kythira, Kalamata, Athens.

Representative

We have no local representative on Elafonissos - our hoteliers speak good English and are happy to give advice and assistance if required. Our Kythira representative can always be contacted if necessary.

Berdoussis Hotel Elafonissos

The family run Berdoussis Hotel is in a quiet location a three minute walk from the harbour front and so within easy reach of shops, tavernas, cafes and restaurants. It is an excellent base from which to explore this tiny island.

A modern property of 17 Rooms on three floors, the hotel has olive trees to three sides and parking to the rear. Rooms are nicely decorated in a contemporary style (mostly double bedded) and the hotel has a couple of Junior Suites on the first and top floor.



All rooms are with balcony or terrace (top floor standard rooms share a large furnished terrace area) and have air conditioning, TV, fridge, hairdryer and room safe. Bathrooms are with shower. Some of the higher rooms and suites have sea views. Please note there is no lift.

The ground floor houses a resident's bar and the breakfast room - breakfast includes much local produce.

The beaches of Simos and Panagia are a 10 minute drive away and the local sandy town beach of Kontogoni is a 6-7 minute walk (550m).

This is a very friendly, owner-managed hotel - a property which very much reflects Sunvil's values.

The Hotel: Bed & Breakfast
2 Stars Plus Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Kato Nisi (Panagia) beach



Elafonissos harbour

Elafonissos Resort Elafonissos

Located at the back of the village, an easy five minute walk through the narrow lanes to the harbour and a minute or two longer to the beach, this hotel opened in 2012 and is the best in town.

It has 20 ground and first floor rooms housed in various stone-built low rise buildings set behind the pool. Classic rooms are mostly double bedded with a queen sized bed - there are a couple of twins - and have stylish furnishings and fresh light decor. All possess AC, fridge, hairdryer, TV, WiFi, a good sized modern bathroom with shower, insect-screened balcony doors and windows, and an open balcony or terrace with village or pool views. The Suites also have a living room space with a sofa-bed, and a second terrace.

The attractive swimming pool measures 12m x 5m and is between the accommodation and the reception building. It has comfortable sun loungers on the surrounding terrace and drinks and snacks can be had from the pool bar during the day (seasonal). There is parking to the rear of the hotel. Despite its rather grand name the hotel is family run and has a personal atmosphere. It offers a good standard of accommodation in a quiet location just a short walk from the centre and beach.

The Resort Air Conditioning
3 Stars Swimming Pool
Bed & Breakfast Free WiFi

ELAFONISSOS		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 Wk		
Berdoussis (Incl car)	Standard Room 2 BB	925	1262	1042	1496	1089	1584	1157	1653
Elafonissos Resort (Incl car)	Standard Room 2 BB	996	1405	1201	1769	1201	1777	1726	1812

Prices are based on flights Gatwick to Kalamata and car hire from the airport. Side trips from Kythira and/or the mainland Peloponnese start from £70 per room per night. Ferry costs are payable locally. 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 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).