

Pelion

Little wonder that the ancient gods chose Pelion – home of the Centaurs (Kentavros) – as the place for their weddings and celebrations; for here is a near-perfect synthesis of mountain, forest and sea.



Fresh and green year-round, the peninsula is dominated by mountains reaching a height of some 1600 metres and covered with pine, oak, fir, plane and chestnut. Views are dramatic, particularly on the northeast where mountains plunge dizzily to the sea. The western side is gentler – its hills covered with olive trees and shrubs – yet still remarkably attractive.

Pelion's preserved mountain villages are a joy. Clinging to wooded slopes high above the sea, they share a unique architectural tradition and are amongst the most beautiful in Greece. The old stone-built mansions, with their grey slate roofs and overhanging balconies, blend with their surroundings. Often the only sounds are a babbling brook or birdsong. Everywhere are trees, shrubs, plants and flowers.

The coastline hides some excellent beaches, often of a coarse sand/fine shingle which makes for excellent swimming in clear water. Foreign tourism is still fairly undeveloped, and the small seaside villages – quiet for most of the year, busy over weekends and local holiday periods – remain reassuringly Greek!

Because Pelion is still pretty virgin

territory it does not have the touristic infrastructure of more established areas. ATMs can be hard to find away from Volos (although all shops and tavernas should now accept card payments); the bus service limited and English not universally spoken. Excursions are also limited and run only subject to numbers from Kala Nera and Afissos.

With all this in mind we feel that a car is essential, especially for those

staying in the smaller more remote villages, and so include it in the cost of our holidays other than those to Kala Nera. If you don't mind some very winding roads, it would be a pity not to discover the whole of Pelion. Even Meteora and Delphi are within reach.

A visit to Pelion will refresh the palate of even the most frequent Greek traveller. It did ours, and that takes some doing!



Lefokastro taverna

PELION INFORMATION

Getting to Pelion

Friday flight Gatwick to Volos (outbound flight via Skiathos) or Manchester to Skiathos with 30 min water-taxi transfer to Platanias (prices on request). Then 1½ – 2½ hrs by coach or taxi (Manchester pax 30-60 mins) – see resort pages. For flight details see page 267.

Multi-Centre Options

All areas can combine - why not mix West Pelion with South Pelion, or split your stay between a mountain hotel and a coastal area? Although not far apart as the crow flies they are quite contrasting. Pelion can also be included as part of a northern fly drive itinerary as Volos is only a 2½ hour drive from Thessaloniki.

Car Hire

See pages 268-9 for details.

Representative

Based in Kala Nera – will visit all areas except NE Pelion (on request).

Walking in Pelion

Thickly forested and criss-crossed by stone-paved mule tracks, Pelion is a walker's paradise. For walking holidays here see page 97.

There are a couple of excellent websites full of useful information and downloadable walks - www.pilionwalks.com and www.friendsofthekalderimi.org

Our chosen areas

Western Pelion Kala Nera & Lefokastro

Transfer time 1½-2½ hours from Volos or 30-60 mins from Platania (if flying via Skiathos)

The western side of Pelion has lovely views (and gorgeous sunsets) over the Pagasitic Gulf to the mountains of the mainland. Although heavily wooded, like all Pelion, the west is more typically Mediterranean: here olive and cypress predominate over oak and chestnut.

Although the name **Kala Nera** ('Good Waters') originally referred to the many springs in the area, it could equally apply to the sea here. Directly on the gulf some 18 kms to the south of Volos, the village has lush wooded surroundings and backs a gently shelving sand/shingle beach which has a Blue Flag. Kala Nera's long tree-lined promenade shades an array of restaurants and cafes, perfect spots from which to admire the sunsets here for which the area is famed. It is also not far from the start of the very scenic heritage railway which runs at weekends from Ano Lehonia up the mountain to the gorgeously traditional village of Milies. As everywhere in Pelion there are good walking opportunities - perhaps along the coast to the beach at Boufa.

Kala Nera is a relaxed seaside village with a very Greek atmosphere, a good choice of authentic restaurants and small shops, with some life to it (in a 'bustling taverna' kind of way), especially in season.

10 kms to the south, via the attractive (but often busy) resort village of Afissos and a narrow country lane through the olive groves, is **Lefokastro**. This tiny seaside hamlet is pretty as a postcard - a delightfully tranquil wooded bay, with a ribbon of houses fronting the water, a safe fine-shingle beach and a sole taverna (luckily it is a good one!). For alternative dining venues popular Afissos is just a 10 minute drive away and has a good range of taverna restaurants and small shops.

Lefokastro offers an authentically Greek 'away from it all' holiday in unspoilt green surroundings, with good swimming and fewer visitors. The countryside is hilly and full of olive trees, so offers fine walking (gentler than in the east).



Kala Nera

South Pelion Katigiorgis & Lafkos

Drive time 2-2½ hours from Volos or 20 mins from Platania (if flying via Skiathos)

The wooded hills of the south-eastern corner of Pelion are less steep than the more mountainous north and the area more sparsely populated. The distance from Volos means it lessens the Greek holiday crowds who would otherwise flock to the beautiful sandy beaches and coves here (undoubtedly amongst the peninsula's loveliest), although day-trippers may visit from Skiathos for a few hours by excursion boat.

The pick of the places to stay is the small seaside hamlet of **Katigiorgis**. We have heard it called Kati-gorgeous as it is so pretty! Comprising simply a compact but delightfully sandy beach facing Skiathos - the bay enclosed by rocky arms sheltering the village fishing boats - and a cluster of houses, its two tavernas are known for fresh fish.

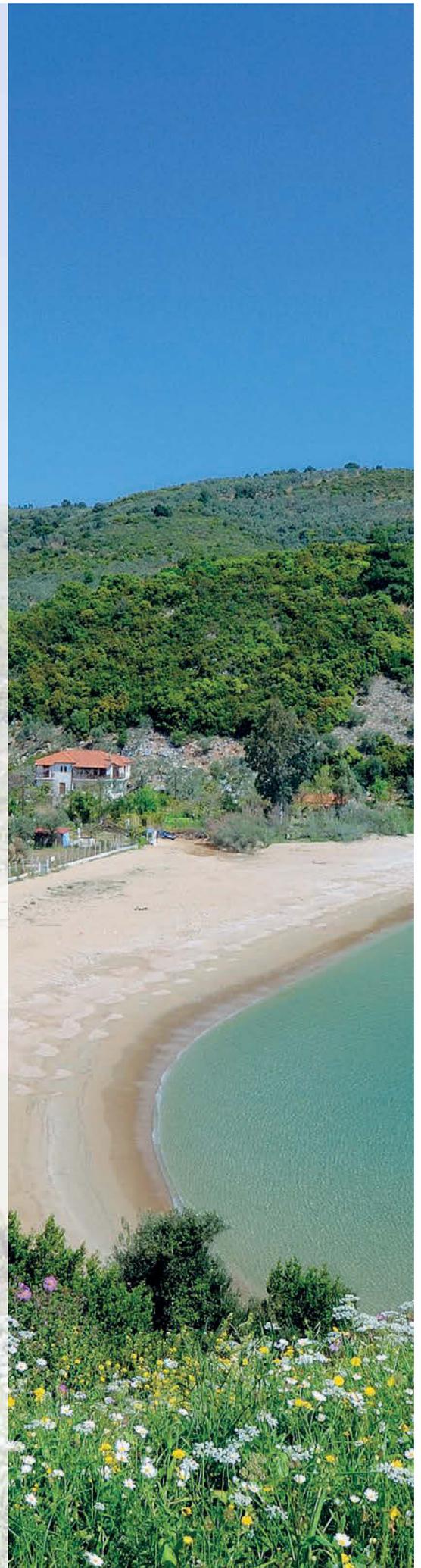
There is also a café with WiFi and a mini-market - all you should need for a complete escape. Some fine beaches lie in either direction, ranging from tiny coves to longer stretches of sand, and can be found on foot (walkers only). A car is included in our holidays here and enables you to discover more wonderful beaches to the north and south.

Inland, the pretty hill village of **Lafkos**, has a lovely traditional main square and you will find five village tavernas, as well as a traditional cheese maker, a sculpture gallery and (weirdly) a radio museum! It is a wonderful base for walking - many local stone paths start from here - and we would urge walkers to visit the excellent website by Friends of the Kalderimi. The nearest beaches are a 10 minute drive away to the west near Milina - however a very wide choice of some truly fabulous sandy beaches can be found within a 20-30 minute drive.

Please see the **Flights and Transfers** note on the accommodation pages.



Katigiorgis



Pegasus Hotel Kala Nera

The friendly, family-run Pegasus is a well-liked small hotel in the heart of Kala Nera, just 30m from the sea and the start of the village's main beach. It has a lift, so would be a perfect choice for anyone with limited mobility looking for a comfortable base with everything close to hand and on the flat.

The hotel has 20 attractively furnished rooms, not large but comfortable with everything you should need. Mostley twin bedded all possess AC, TV, mini-fridge, safety deposit box, hairdryer, shower room and small balcony with sea, side-sea, village or mountain views.

Although central in the village, the hotel is set a little back from the

seafront and so it is not noisy. To the front is a spacious terrace for the hotel's popular café where breakfast can be taken. There is also a seating area above the sea: the perfect spot for a traditional 'ouzo mezedes' whilst viewing the sun setting over the gulf, which is often spectacular from here.

Kala Nera means 'good water' and you will find a clean sea just a stone's throw from your room. The beach here has sun-beds and umbrellas for a small daily charge. A wide choice of local tavernas, cafes and small shops can be found within a very short walk in either direction from the hotel.

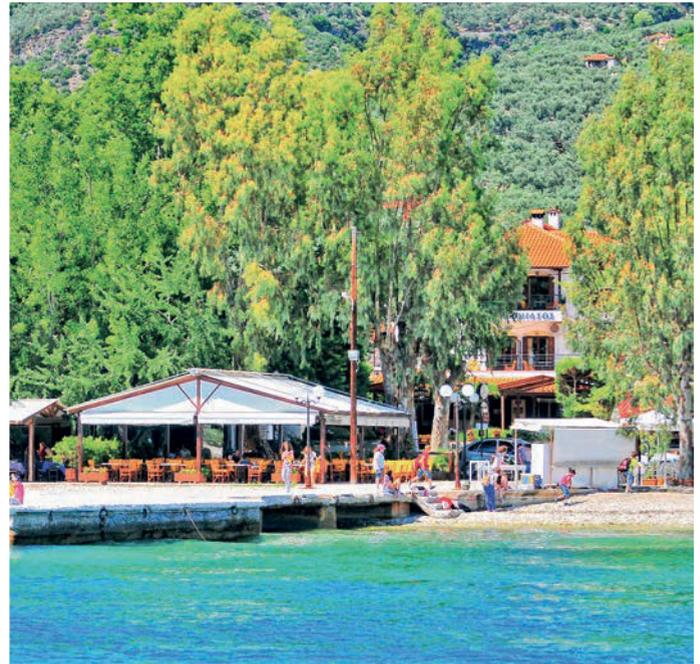


Kala Nera

Early Booking Offer

Reductions available for stays completed by 10/7 or commencing 11/9 onwards if booked by 30/4 - please enquire or check our online availability for a costing.

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



1 Bedroom apartment

Melograno Apartments Kala Nera

The highly recommended Melograno Apartments are very quietly situated in semi-rural surroundings, but a short 4 minute walk via a country lane (300m - no hills) brings you to Kala Nera seafront and beach. They are newly built, spacious and offer good modern standards of comfort.

The studios are on the ground floor and comprise a twin-bedded sleeping area, a good kitchenette with full cooker and fridge, a nice tiled shower room, and a generous furnished patio overlooking the garden.

Apartments are on the ground or first floor and have a double bedroom, a separate nicely furnished living room with kitchen

area and sofa (an extra folding bed can be made up here if required for a child), and large covered front terrace or balcony with fine views over the countryside to the green hills behind.

In-room facilities include AC (all rooms), TV (local channels), room safe, hairdryer and Wifi, and windows and patio doors are mozzie-netted.

All the studios and apartments are very nicely furnished and decor is light, fresh and modern.

Many of our guests have commented on the high standards here, with the bonus of occupying a lovely location with easy access to village and beach.



Studio

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

Citrus Garden House Lefokastro

Just a minute's walk via a footpath from the sea and Lefokastro's beach, this individual house is set in a large private garden full of orange and lemon trees. It offers plenty of space, peace and quiet and good standards as the house is newly built (2019).

Entrance is into an air conditioned living room with kitchen area (full cooker, fridge), off which are the two bedrooms (one double, one small twin) and shower room. Amenities include TV, Wifi, room safe and parking. To the front, is a large raised open terrace with sun

loungers, which can also be placed in the garden below if you prefer to have natural shade from the trees.

Although new the house has a traditional style with use of stone and wood. Privacy is good but not total as there are other houses nearby. Views are of the garden or the mountain behind.

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



Lefokastro



Lefokastro Beach Cottage Lefokastro

This beautifully modernised fisherman's cottage is just 10 metres from the sea at the start of Lefokastro's beach.

The house is open-plan and air conditioned (included). The living room contains sofas and tv, with tiled shower room off and an archway leading to the fully fitted modern kitchen with electric oven, hob and full fridge. Other facilities include an iron and board, hairdryer and WiFi.

Steps lead up from the living room to the sleeping gallery above with a double platform bed.

The house is very nicely restored and furnished, the thick stone walls and wooden ceiling keeping it cool and combining well with the modern comfortable furnishings, high quality fittings and tasteful decor. There is no front terrace or balcony due to the age and location of the house but a large picture window in the living room does look to the sea. Between the two is the narrow beach road, a cul-de-sac.

The rear garden patio has a BBQ, space for sunbathing and a seating area shaded by a pergola. There is natural shade on the beach to the front provided by tamarisk trees, and here sun beds are provided for guests.



The Cottage: Air Conditioning
Self Catering Free WiFi
House for 2 Car included from Airport

Seralis Hotel Koropi

The Seralis is a very friendly small hotel in the west coast hamlet of Koropi, between the larger seaside villages of Kala Nera (3 kms) and Afissos (2 kms). With only 7 rooms here and lush green countryside all around, the hotel engenders an intimate atmosphere, and offers plenty of space in which to relax in the pretty gardens and attractive pool area.

Rooms are not large but prettily furnished in a fresh bright style and well equipped. All possess double bed, AC, TV, mini-bar/fridge, tea-making equipment, safety deposit box, hairdryer, shower room and covered balcony with country, sea, pool or mountain views.

Above the pool the hotel's snack bar serves drinks and light meals through the day, and dinner in the evenings if pre-ordered. The owner, Maria Seralidou, is a very good cook – so half board may be an idea – and also provides a rich breakfast buffet that includes many home-made specialities.

In fact the way Maria looks after both her hotel and her guests, in the best tradition of small and friendly Greek hotels, ensures many guests return every year.

Lovely Paradisos beach is 600m away - a 7 minute walk - and has (in season) sun-beds and a café/snack bar. However for brighter lights and a wide choice of tavernas and shops Afissos and Kala Nera can be quickly reached by car in around 5 minutes, and the famous mountain village of Milies is a 10-15 minute drive.

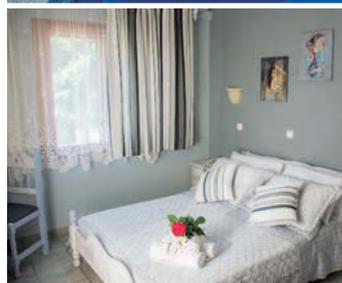
Half Board: £112 per week

Early Booking Offer

Reductions available for bookings made by 30/4 - please enquire or check our online availability for a costing.

The Hotel:

2 Stars Plus
Bed & Breakfast
or Half Board
Swimming Pool
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi
Car included



Stoikos Hotel Vizitsa

This small family hotel is set on the edge of Vizitsa and should appeal to walkers, nature lovers and those wanting to experience this very different side of Greece.

Vizitsa epitomises Pelion's preserved mountain villages with its traditional mansion houses, narrow cobbled lanes and plane tree shaded main square, home to two tavernas. At an elevation of 500m the village offers fabulous vistas over the Pagasitic Gulf. A network of restored walking paths on the forested mountainside links Vizitsa with other villages, as well as Kala Nera on the coast below.

The hotel is designed in the distinctive Pelion style - there are no balconies although some ground floor rooms have a terrace - and

comprises two buildings housing 16 rooms and suites on three floors (there is no lift). Furnishings and décor are simple and traditional, and all rooms (bar one suite) enjoy lovely views over the gulf.

There is a ground floor terrace, also with fine views, where breakfast may be taken, or a drink from the bar.

For a greater restaurant choice simply go to the larger village of Milies just a couple of kilometres down the road. The beaches of Kala Nera and Afissos can be reached in 20 minutes.

The Hotel:

3 Stars
Bed & Breakfast

Air Conditioning
Free WiFi
Car included



Daisy's Place Katigiorgis

Panoramic views over the sea to Skiathos are to be had from this modern, light top floor apartment. It is less than a five minute walk down a country lane (take a torch) from Katigiorgis' sandy beach, pair of tavernas and small shop, and a ten minute walk through pines and olives in the other direction to lovely Vromoneri beach.

The apartment comprises an open-plan living room with a comfortable corner sofa and a fitted kitchen containing electric oven and hob, fridge-freezer and microwave; a double bedroom (with a fan); and a tiled shower room. Well equipped, the apartment comes with hairdryer,

iron and board and a washing machine. It boasts three spacious balconies – two to the front boasting marvellous sea views and one to the rear shaded by trees.

Daisy's is an excellent accommodation, furnished to a high standard and quietly located with super views, yet close to tavernas, shop and a choice of beaches.

Please note the unmade road leading up to Daisy's from the village is rough so, other than for your luggage or booking a 4x4 car, we ask guests to park in the village and walk for 5 minutes or so.

WiFi Note: WiFi is provided by a Mobile WiFi device intended to be used for checking of emails and light web browsing. 4GB is included for each booking - you may top this up with an extra local charge.

Flights & Transfers: Please see the note on this page.



Katigiorgis

The Apartment:	Apartment for 2
Self Catering	Free WiFi
	Car included



Athina Cottages Katigiorgis

These four delightful cottages are newly built (2017) and set in private gardens at the back of the tiny hamlet of Katigiorgis. An easy walk of two minutes leads to the idyllic waterfront with its beach of golden sand, and a pair each of tavernas, cafes and mini-markets.

The cottages are built in the attractive traditional Pelion style, with sloping grey slate roofs, and spacious. Each one is open plan and can sleep 2 adults plus 1 adult or 2 small children on a double sofa bed. They are a mix of double or twin beds. A good sized covered terrace overlooks the garden area dotted with olive trees.

Furnishings and decor are light, modern and comfortable, and each cottage has air conditioning, hairdryer, iron, TV and WiFi. The kitchens are equipped with a 3-ring mini-oven, kettle, coffee machine, toaster and a full size fridge. All have a bathroom with shower.

Katigiorgis is off the beaten track and is an excellent location for those looking to escape for a quiet holiday in very pretty Greek surroundings and with access to some truly fabulous beaches.

The Cottages:	Air Conditioning
Self Catering	Free WiFi
Cottages for 2/4	Car included

Flights & Transfers for South Pelion

Clients flying from **Gatwick** have a choice of transfer arrangements on arrival. The default option included in the holiday price is fly to Volos and drive from there in your hire car. The drive takes c 2-2½ hours and is very scenic. Alternatively, for a supplement of £65 pp you can fly via Skiathos, transfer to Koukounaries beach (20-30 mins) and take a 30 minute shared water-taxi (not recommended for the infirm) to the SE Pelion port of Platania, where your car

will be waiting for you (20 mins drive to accommodation). This routing means you not have a long drive after your flight and should reach your accommodation c. 2 hours earlier than flying via Volos. Departure flight is from Volos in the afternoon.

Clients flying from **Manchester** can only fly via Skiathos in both directions - please call us to check prices, availability or to book as only Gatwick departures are currently available to book online.



Lagou Raxi Country Hotel Lafkos

Lagou Raxi (pronounced 'Rahi') is a stylish country hotel situated on the edge of the picturesque and unspoilt village of Lafkos high amongst the green rolling hills of south Pelion. It is a wonderful location for walkers (see resort intro pages) and for those who love a view, as the hotel has gloriously sweeping views over the Pagasitic Gulf.

The hotel has 20 rooms, family rooms and suites. Completed to a high modern standard, each room has its own character and decor. All possess double or twin beds (four-posters in some Junior suites), bath or shower, mini-fridge, ceiling fan, tea-making facilities, TV, room safe and sea, garden or pool views. Junior Suites and Suites have a balcony or terrace - a balcony for Standard rooms is on request. Hairdryers can be provided on request from reception. Some rooms can combine via a removable balcony divider, and some are adapted for the disabled.

Below is the good-sized swimming pool (towels provided). The hotel has a restaurant (home grown

organic local produce), a library, a cozy lounge bar, a tennis court, beautiful Mediterranean gardens and terraces. A 5-10 minute walk brings you to the heart of Lafkos where you will find five tavernas (see resort intro pages). With a car you are well placed for exploration of beautiful south Pelion - and the fact that the hotel's rooms are individually named after different local beaches tells you that you'll need a 3 week stay to get around every one!

Flights & Transfers: Please see the note on page 96.

Early Booking Offers

Reductions apply for bookings made before 15/4 for stays completed by 10/7 or commencing 28/8 onwards.

The Hotel:	Swimming Pool
3 Stars	Tennis Court
Bed & Breakfast	Free WiFi
	Car included



Lafkos

Walking & Painting Holidays

We are delighted to offer walking and painting trips to this beautiful and little visited area of Greece. Participants will stay at the comfortable Lagou Raxi Hotel on a half board basis. Please note for these holidays transfers are included, not car hire. Travel will be on Fridays (Gatwick clients - see transfer note).

Walking

Pelion is a walker's dream and laced with 'kalderimi' - old cobbled donkey paths that linked the villages. In recent years a restoration programme has led to many being opened up for walkers,



and in 2019 the final part of the South Pelion Trail - some 55 kms of linked paths via inland villages - was completed. This holiday allows you to explore 5 of these trails over 1 week with transportation to and from the

start and end points each day. It is self guided (maps and directions will be given by the hotel) - however a walking guide is strongly recommended and can be provided on request at a reasonable £40 per day.

Departures weekly throughout the season. Prices are from €1190 per person in a double room and include flights, transfers, half board (breakfast and dinner), 5 walking days with packed lunch, transportation to and from the walking trails. Min. 2 walkers - prices for non walkers on request.

Painting

These courses are led by experienced tutor Maggie Niagassas. They are

suitable for beginners and intermediates and comprise 6 painting days (watercolour and sketches) based at the Lagou Raxi Hotel with some local excursions. Materials (including board) are provided but feel free to bring your own.

12/6-19/6:

Pelion Village Watercolours - secret mansions and shady corners

Prices are from €1295 per person in a double room and include flights, transfers, 6 days painting with tuition, half board (breakfast plus 6 dinners and 1 lunch). Supplement for single rooms on request. Non-painters are welcome and reductions apply - please enquire.

THE PELION

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
Athena Cottages (incl car)	2 SC	855	1103	895	1167	899	1217	968	1286
	3 SC	785	964	819	1023	831	1068	888	1126
	4 SC	743	879	772	931	785	964	830	1010
Citrus Garden House (incl car)	2 Bedroom 2 SC	996	1385	1016	1409	1020	1502	1132	1614
	3 SC	880	1153	900	1185	911	1259	998	1345
	4 SC	813	1019	833	1048	841	1104	912	1174
Daisys (incl car)	1 Bedroom 2 SC	933	1229	959	1266	963	1284	1026	1346
Lagou Raxi (incl car)	Standard Room 2 BB	955	1315	991	1388	1011	1415	1041	1444
	Junior Suite 2 BB	1031	1469	1071	1578	1120	1635	1152	1666
	Suite 2 BB	1063	1533	1099	1635	1148	1691	1180	1724
Lefokastro Beach (incl car) Cottage	2 SC	945	1253	972	1291	976	1309	1040	1373
Melograno	Studio 2 SC	799	932	823	961	823	969	880	1027
	1 Bedroom Apartment 2 SC	845	1027	872	1059	872	1070	932	1130
	3 SC	782	900	807	929	807	936	863	992

ACCOMMODATION

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
Pegasus	Standard Room 2 BB	798	975	851	1091	883	1127	910	1156
	Standard Sea View 2 BB	831	1039	883	1157	915	1193	943	1221
Seralis (incl car)	Standard Room 2 BB	861	1129	922	1259	950	1293	980	1322
Stoikos Hotel (incl car)	Standard Room 2 BB	897	1202	917	1226	921	1235	951	1264

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).