

# WELCOME TO SUNVIL



## Welcome to Sunvil and to our specialist Greece and Cyprus programme

After 48 years of creating original and innovative holidays, I am extremely proud to say that Sunvil was chosen for the prestigious Sunday Times Travel Editor's Award for excellence in September 2017. Inside this brochure you will find holidays designed by passionate travellers just like you: experiential holidays in authentic destinations that will allow you to discover the real country. Think culture, gastronomy, wine and unmissable sights and experiences that will forge unforgettable memories. This is a Sunvil holiday - your Sunvil holiday.

Whilst our range of destinations continues to grow, our ethos and customer promise remains unaltered. Our philosophy is based on trust, passion and personal relationships, not only with our customers but with those who live and work in our destinations.

Our reservation experts, many of whom have been with us for years, are passionate about our destinations and, through their personal, first-hand knowledge can answer any questions that you may have. They are well qualified to advise and recommend, based on your own holiday criteria. We can point you to those special, little-known places, some not found even in guidebooks.

Our holidays are trips that we ourselves enjoy and would choose for our friends and family. We endeavour to treat you, our customers, as we would expect to be treated.

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever that we strive to retain consistency and high levels of customer service. I guarantee that our specialist teams will be there from start to finish, that our descriptions are honest, and that every property featured has been vetted. You can, of course, contact me or any of the team directly should you have any questions or issues that you would like to raise.

I hope that Sunvil can introduce you to the real Greece and Cyprus in 2018.

**Noel Josephides, Chairman**  
Email: [noel.josephides@sunvil.co.uk](mailto:noel.josephides@sunvil.co.uk)



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.

#### Foreign Office advice

We've partnered with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Aware campaign to help provide top tips and advice for planning for your trip abroad. It's important to do some research before you travel to learn about any necessary visas and vaccinations required for entry to your destination, understand any unusual laws and customs and to be aware of the latest travel advice for the region. Visit <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/> for further information

## OUR PROMISE

### HANDPICKED ACCOMMODATION

**A HIGHLY PERSONAL SERVICE  
FROM START TO FINISH**

**VALUE FOR MONEY AT THE  
HEART OF WHAT WE DO**

**FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE  
OF OUR DESTINATIONS**

**HOLIDAYS TAILORED  
TO YOUR TASTE**

# Contents

### Our holidays in Greece and Cyprus 4-5

#### Greece

Introduction	6-7
Flexible Greece	8
Island Hopping	10
Active Greece	12
Boutique Greece	14

#### North Aegean Islands

Lemnos	15
Samos	20
Ikaria	32
Thassos	35

#### Ionian Islands

Corfu	44
Paxos	56
Lefkas	64
Meganissi	72
Ithaca	75
Kefalonia	80
Zakynthos	92

#### Greek Mainland

Parga	95
Sivota	100
Halkidiki	109
Ammouliani Island	114
Pieria / Mt Olympus	117
South Peloponnese	120
North Peloponnese	142
Pelion	149

#### Sporades Islands

Skiathos	157
Skopelos	160
Alonissos	165

#### Cyclades Islands

Andros	174
Kythnos	176
Serifos	178
Sifnos	180
Milos	182
Kimolos	183
Folegandros	185
Paros	187
Naxos	188
Santorini	190
Amorgos	194
Koufonissi	195

#### Saronic Islands

Agistri	197
Hydra & Spetses	198

#### Dodecanese Islands

Tilos	200
Halki	204
Patmos	206
Symi	208
Karpathos	210
Lipsi & Leros	212
Kalymnos	214
Telendos	216
Other Islands	217

#### Crete

Mainland Fly-Drives	218
---------------------	-----

#### Hidden Greece

Hidden Greece	233
---------------	-----

#### Cities

Athens	239
Thessaloniki	240
Kavala	241

#### Two Countries, One Holiday

Albania	242
---------	-----

#### Cyprus

Introduction	244
Polis and Akamas	246
Paphos Region	253
Limassol Region	258
Larnaca Region	259
Troodos Mountains	262
Nicosia Region	264

#### Additional information

Cyprus Car & Flight Information	266
Offers, Responsible Tourism	267
Greece Car & Boat Hire	268
Greece Flight Information	270
General Information	271
Travel Insurance	274
Booking Conditions	274

#### Value for money

Our aim is to offer you the very best service and holiday arrangements possible, whether you choose a simple self catering apartment or 5 star arrangements.

#### Customer service

We set high standards for ourselves and our team; we hope that you will find our service levels to be friendly and efficient, with a personal, caring touch.



# Welcome to the real Greece & Cyprus

In over 45 years of arranging holidays to Greece and Cyprus we have not seen the fundamentals change. Both destinations are blessed with a warm sun, a sparkling sea, unspoiled nature and scenery, a refreshingly 'back to basics' island lifestyle, mythology and history wherever you look, food and wine at last acclaimed for its excellence, and - above all - a people famed for their warmth and generosity towards their foreign visitors.

Yes, much of the accommodation is still quite simple, the mattresses sometimes harder than we like and the plumbing seemingly unchanged since the days of ancient Greece. But these are trifling considerations when

compared to the larger picture - that unique combination of factors, many intangible, that make Greece and Cyprus so special, and draw so many people back year upon year. We do not believe any rival holiday destination has a more fiercely loyal customer base.

We have had plenty of time to seek out our favourite spots - many off the beaten track and little known even to the locals. Let us use our expertise to steer you to the places we love, and that we are sure you will too.

A week or two in either country is still the perfect antidote to our busy modern lives, and we are certain that you will come back refreshed and with an enhanced zest for life.





## Something for everyone

Whatever you want from your holiday, we are sure that we can accommodate you. From a simple cottage on a remote Greek island to a 5 star resort hotel; from a Cypriot village inn to a modern villa with a private pool; from a mainland fly drive to a classic island hopping trip; for singles, couples and families alike, for history buffs, nature lovers, artists and walkers – somewhere within our programme is your perfect holiday.



## Personal service from start to finish

From the moment you contact us to the moment you return from your holiday, our specialist team is on hand for advice and assistance. Not only in the UK – we have some 30 local representatives throughout Greece and Cyprus, many of whom have lived there for years (and some of whom have been looking after Sunvil guests for over 20 years). They are a mine of local information and really will help you get the most out of your holiday.

**Discover the real Greece and Cyprus with Sunvil – you couldn't be in better hands**



## 48 years expertise at your service

You may know what you want but not where to find it! We can help. Just call one of our team with your requirements and let us do the work. Claire, Dudley, Graeme, Jackie, Justin, Karolina, Mark, Neil, Stella and Tony will be delighted to help, and all of us have an intimate first hand knowledge of various areas.



## Customer satisfaction

Happy customers who want to return again and again with Sunvil are our aim. Since 2011 our post-holiday questionnaires give an average score of 97% of customers rating their overall holiday experience as good or (the majority) excellent.

## Award Winning Holidays

We have won our fair share of awards over the years but none has pleased us more than this year's Sunday Times Travel Editor's Award. Stephen Bleach wrote (September 2017):

*"This year's award goes to a company that's best known for doing something that is, on the face of it, ordinary: providing package holidays to Greece. Lots of companies do this. Few will take you to tiny unknown towns, you invariably fall in love with, to stay in small, family-run hotels. Few strive so hard to put you among locals, rather than in the poshest hotel, away from the action. It's a travel buzzword, but this company pulls it off: its holidays are "authentic", without the hairshirt - or the price tags - that often involves. Now the company has an ever-growing list of destinations, but the Med is its home turf, and we hope it will continue to combine innovation with authenticity there for another 47 years."*



Telephone number **020 8758 4758**  
Email [holidays@sunvil.co.uk](mailto:holidays@sunvil.co.uk)  
Website [www.sunvilco.uk](http://www.sunvilco.uk)

# Greece

Whichever area of Greece you wish to visit, from Halkidiki in the north to the Mani peninsula in the south, from the Ionian islands in the west to the Dodecanese chain close to Turkey, we can help. Our programme is the most comprehensive you will find. And we

have had over 40 years to hunt out the best areas and hand-pick our accommodation, so you can visit Greece safe in the knowledge that the hard work has been done. All you need to do is choose...



## Lemnos

Fly direct to this large traditional island, which has few tourists, excellent sandy beaches and an attractive small port.

[Pages 15-19](#)



## Samos

Samos is a refreshing combination of pine and olive, mountain and beach. It has an especial appeal for walkers.

[Pages 20-31](#)



## Ikaria

Ikaria is remote and little-known, and the island's wild beauty a perfect escape from the pressures of modern-day life.

[Pages 32-34](#)



## Thassos

Green mountainous Thassos is fringed with fabulous sandy beaches and has a fascinating history. And all just a 45 minute sea crossing from the mainland.

[Pages 35-43](#)



## Corfu

Our selected areas avoid the honey-pots and give you the chance to discover why Corfu has held visitors in thrall for generations.

[Pages 44-55](#)



## Paxos

Olive-clad Paxos may be small but it is perfectly formed! Be prepared to fall under the spell of a truly enchanting isle.

[Pages 56-63](#)



## Lefkas & Meganissi

Popular Lefkas combines an island atmosphere with easy access to the mainland. Meganissi offers a peaceful retreat away from the crowds.

[Pages 64-74](#)



## Kefalonia and Ithaca

The large island of Kefalonia certainly rewards exploration. Was little-visited Ithaca really the home of Odysseus? Judge for yourself...

[Pages 75-91](#)



## Zakynthos

A gentle island of wooded hills and rural valleys. For lovers of unspoiled countryside as well as sea.

[Pages 92-94](#)



## Sivota & Parga

Parga is known for its history and beauty, and popular with Greek and foreigner alike. Sivota has a real village atmosphere.

[Pages 95-108](#)

## Halkidiki & Pieria

Halkidiki is famed for its pine forests and white-sand beaches. Avoid the crowds by heading east to Olympiada, an authentic fishing village or to Pieria in the shadow of Mount Olympus. [Pages 109-119](#)



## Ammouliani

Halkidiki's only island is the ultimate 'small and friendly' destination and fringed with Caribbean-like white sand beaches.

[Pages 114-116](#)



### South Peloponnese

The scenic south Peloponnese has mountains, traditional villages and miles of beaches, and is perfect for a quiet, relaxed holiday.

[Pages 120-141](#)



### North Peloponnese

At the heart of historic Argolis, family-friendly Tolon has a safe sandy beach, free bikes and boats, friendly tavernas and easy access to atmospheric Nafplion.

[Pages 142-148](#)



### Pelion

Remote Pelion is famed for its nature and beauty. Here mountain, sea and forest hide preserved villages and stunning beaches.

[Pages 149-156](#)



### The Sporades

Lively Skiathos has nearly 50 sandy beaches; Skopelos is larger, forested and boasts a handsome port; Alonissos is a quiet retreat.

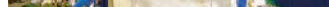
[Pages 157-170](#)



### The Cyclades

Whitewashed houses, brightly painted fishing boats, laden donkeys... the Cyclades are the Greek Islands as you've always imagined them to be.

[Pages 171-195](#)



### The Saronic Islands

Easy to reach from Athens, upmarket Hydra and elegant Spetses are the best known - but do not overlook tiny Agistri.

[Pages 196-198](#)



### The Dodecanese

14 contrasting islands scattered up the Aegean Turkish coast. Our favourite is Tilos, an eco-friendly paradise for walkers and nature lovers.

[Pages 199-211](#)



### Crete

The largest island of them all, with a rugged, mountainous landscape and a fascinating past. We feature the verdant western side and the rugged south coast.

[Pages 218-233](#)



### Hidden Greece

Our mainland fly drives are as flexible as you wish to make them and feature areas rarely found in a holiday brochure.

[Pages 233-238](#)



### Athens, Thessaloniki & Kavala

Greece's two major cities have sites and museums that should be seen at least once. Kavala is an historic city in the north and home to one of Greece's best hotels.

[Pages 239-241](#)



## Flexible Greece

Our holidays can offer great flexibility.  
Here are just a few of the possibilities.



### Multi Centre Holidays

Many islands and resorts in this brochure can be combined and some of the most popular pairings are shown on the Resort Information panel at the start of each section. All transfers are included unless otherwise stated and it is usually, but not always, the case that you need to spend a week in each centre. Please contact us for a costing as our additional admin. and transfer costs vary considerably from area to area. Unless you have been to the resorts or islands before we strongly recommend you book the quieter resort or island as your second centre (please ask us if in doubt).

For other combinations and for holidays of a longer duration or of more than two centres please call us.

Depending on the area, mid-holiday transfers may be effected via the Airport which will inevitably mean a wait of a couple of hours. If you would like to avoid this please check with us. Private taxi transfers can be arranged in some areas – supplement on request. An alternative option may be self transferring by hire car.

For **Island Hopping** see next page.

### Two Countries, One Holiday Greece & Albania

Why not combine a holiday in Greece with a visit to one of her close neighbours? It is simple to do - we make all the arrangements - and makes for a fascinating and contrasting holiday experience.

It is now possible to transfer directly into Albania from the airport of Prevesa in western Greece and our resorts served from there.

We offer a private 6-day cultural tour of the south, as well as selected hotels in the busy port of Saranda, gateway to south Albania. The town is an excellent centre and there is much to see within a short drive, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites. We can arrange privately guided day trips at reasonable prices.

Albania can combine with Lefkas, Meganissi, Parga or Sivota and transfer time is 2-3 hours by taxi. We'd recommend visiting Albania first and Greece second. It is not necessary to twin centre with Greece. See page 242 for more details.



## Extended Stays

Most holidays can be extended over and above the normal fortnight at a reasonable cost. Please call us for a quote.

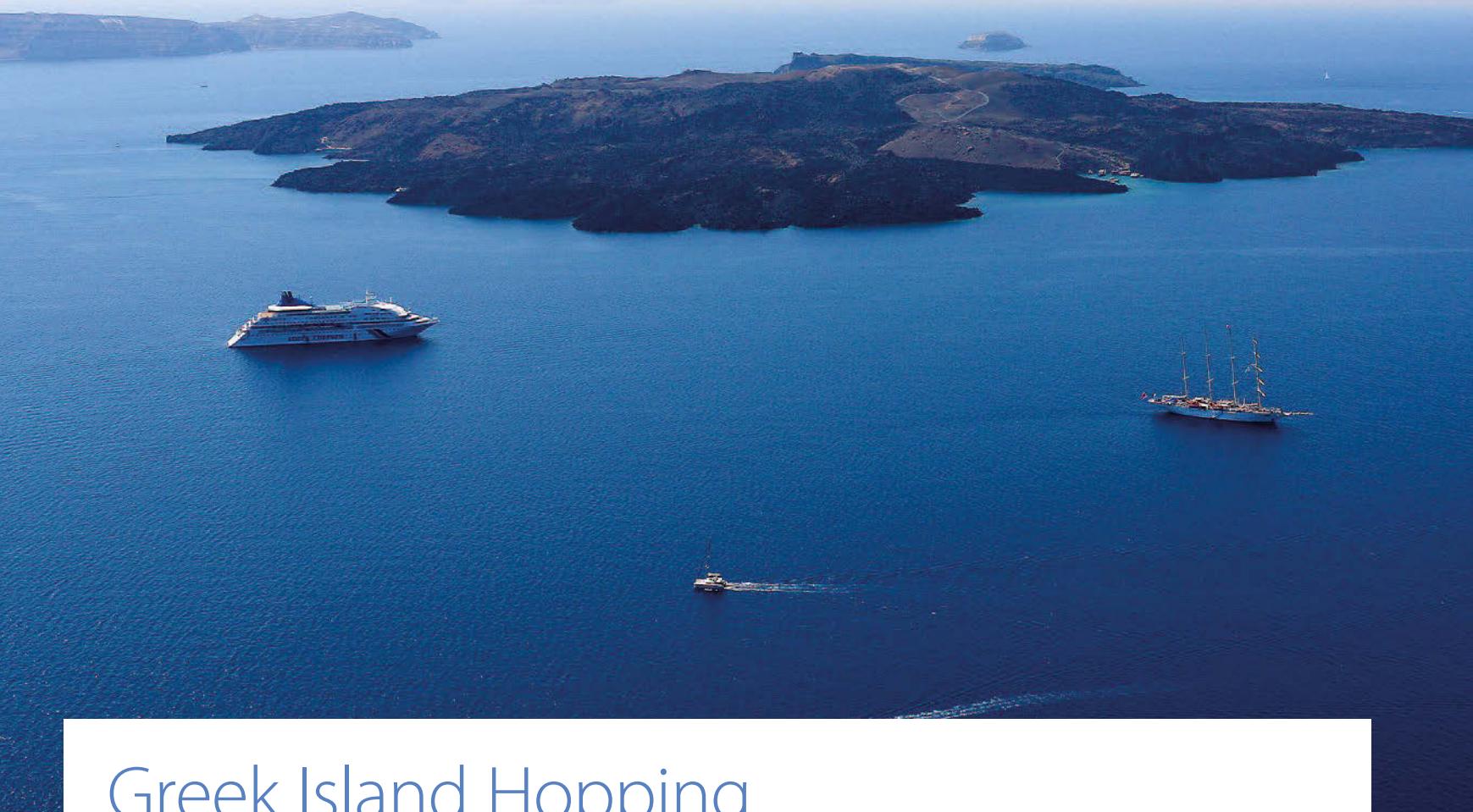


## Tailor Made Holidays

If you wish to design your own holiday – perhaps you would like a duration of other than a set week or two, prefer Heathrow over Gatwick, or simply want to mix areas/islands not normally possible from our regular flights – we can help.

Once you have an idea of what you would like to do our tailor-made department is happy to advise and quote. There are of course some restrictions – some accommodation may have set change-over dates or a minimum stay – but within these you can do pretty much as you please.

One call to us will save you considerable time and effort, give you invaluable advice and provide you with the security of ATOL bonding and back-up on the ground from our team of experienced local agents and our own representatives.



# Greek Island Hopping

The classic Greek holiday! But if you are no longer feeling up to making your own way, battling with the vagaries of Greek ferry timetables and booking accommodation which may or may not be as advertised, then let us take the strain.

We will organise the whole thing - including all transfers and ferries - leaving you to simply enjoy your trip with no worries. Our team of local agents and reps on the ground are there if needed, and we will rebook ferries and accommodation automatically at no additional cost in the event of ferry schedule changes, delays or cancellations.

So let Sunvil take the island hopping out of island hopping and have a holiday to remember for all the right reasons.

## Eastern Cyclades

### 7 nights

Paros (3), Naxos (4)  
Guide Price - May £719, Aug £1221

### 10 nights

Paros (3), Naxos (4), Santorini (3)  
Guide Price - May £876, Aug £1488

### 14 nights

Mykonos (3), Paros (3), Naxos (4), Santorini (4)  
Guide Price - May £1119, Aug £1847

## Western Cyclades

### 7 nights

Milos (4), Sifnos (3)  
Guide Price - May £737, Aug £995

### 10 nights

Milos (4), Folegandros (3), Sifnos (3)  
Guide Price - May £937, Aug £1379

### 14 nights

Milos (4), Sifnos (3), Folegandros (3),  
Santorini (4)  
Guide Price - May £1092, Aug £1767

## Small Cyclades with Amorgos/Naxos

### 7 nights

Koufonissi (3), Amorgos (4)  
Guide Price - Jun £810, Aug £943

### 10 nights

Koufonissi (3), Schinoussa (3), Amorgos (4)  
Guide Price - Jun £861, Aug £1039

### 14 nights

Koufonissi (3), Schinoussa (3), Amorgos (4),  
Naxos (4)  
Guide Price - Jun £1250, Aug £1450

## Extended Cyclades

### 21 nights

Milos (3), Sifnos (3), Folegandros (2), Santorini (3), Ios (2), Naxos (3), Paros (3), Mykonos (2)  
Guide Price - May £1533, Aug £2415

## Sporades

### 7 nights

Skopelos (4), Alonissos (3)  
Guide Price - May £810, Aug £1092

### 14 nights

Skopelos (5), Alonissos (5), Skiathos (4)  
Guide Price - May £1036, Aug £1595

## North Aegean Islands

### 7 nights

Ikaria (4), Samos (3)  
Guide Price - May £906, Aug £1086

### 14 nights

Ikaria (4), Patmos (5), Samos (5)  
Guide Price - May £1168, Aug £1494

## Dodecanese

### 7 nights

Rhodes (3), Symi (4)  
Guide Price - May £745, Aug £1085

### 10 nights

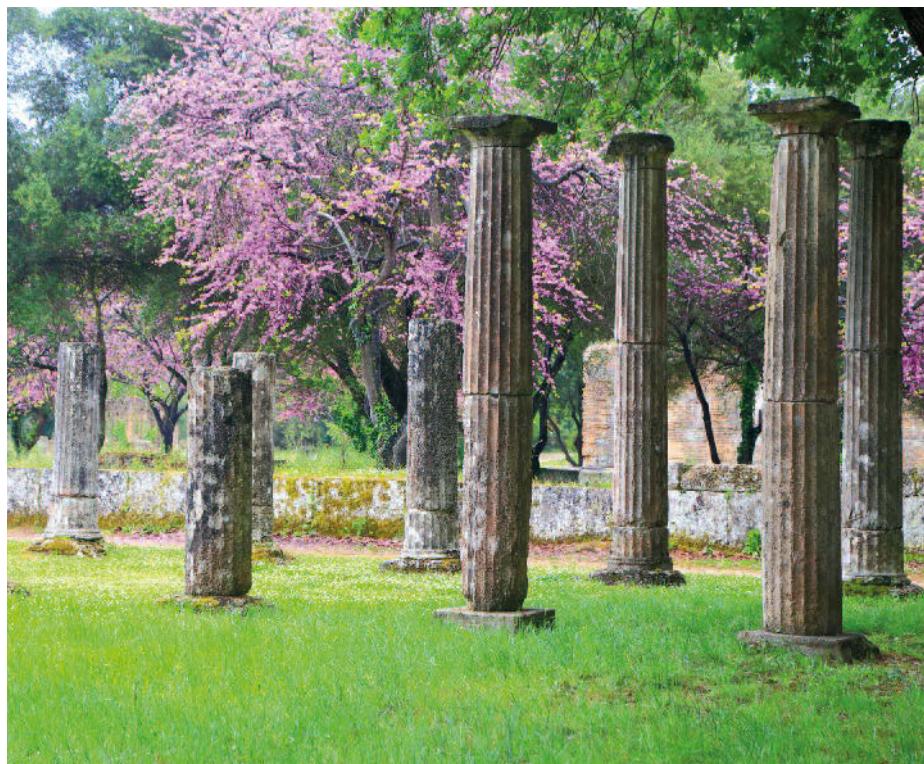
Kos (1), Lipsi (3), Leros (3), Kalymnos or Telendos (3)  
Guide Price - May £1036, Aug £1164

### 14 nights

Rhodes (1), Tilos (5), Halki or Nissyros (2), Lipsi (3), Kalymnos or Telendos (3)  
Guide Price - May £1469, Aug £1693

### 21 nights

Rhodes (3), Symi (3), Patmos (3), Lipsi (3), Leros (3), Kalymnos or Telendos (3), Kos (3)  
Guide Price - May £1756, Aug £2195



### Booking, pricing, flights and ferries

The first step is to contact us to discuss your proposed itinerary and obtain a price quote. This cannot be done instantly but we endeavour to revert within 24 hours (may take a little longer if we need to request hotel rates for any reason). Should you accept the price we will then request the hotels. Please note that the hotels on these islands are small and so it can take a few days for confirmation, especially during the winter when they are closed. We do not book the flights until the finalised itinerary is in place in case dates or prices change. Once the hotels are booked we will reconfirm the final price and ask for a deposit before booking the flights - this deposit will include payment for the flights which are non-refundable, so do ensure you have adequate travel insurance in place in case of cancellation.

Please note that the price guide is just that - a guide - because we base these holidays on 'bought in' flights, usually on low cost airlines, which can vary considerably in price from one day to the next. In order for us to source the best value flights for you it is advisable to give us as flexible a date range as you can at the time of enquiry (first day you can travel out and last day back). By the same token, these price indications were based on flight prices in November 2017 and will increase as time goes by. We will give you a current price quote at the time of enquiry. Ferry timetables are not always published early so we may base them on the previous year. Even when published they are subject to change and we will amend itineraries accordingly at no additional cost should this become necessary.

## Hidden Greece Fly Drives Olympic Itinerary

We offer similar flexibility on our Hidden Greece fly drives for those who would like to explore the mainland (see page 232). There is not space here to go into detail - however we would like to highlight a special itinerary we created for the Olympic Games in 2016.

The ancient Olympic Games date from 776BC but Olympia was only one of four linked venues which together are known as the Panhellenic Games. This itinerary gives you the chance to visit all four sites - Olympia, Delphi (the Delphian Games), Nemea (the Nemean Games) and Corinth (the Isthmian Games), plus a day in Athens to visit the museum where many of the artefacts from these sites are now housed.

**Itinerary** (7 nights) - Athens (2), Delphi (1), Olympia (1), Nafplion (3). The price is from £989 per person (based on 2 sharing) and includes flights, transfer on arrival, hire car and BB hotels. Please contact us or see our website for details.

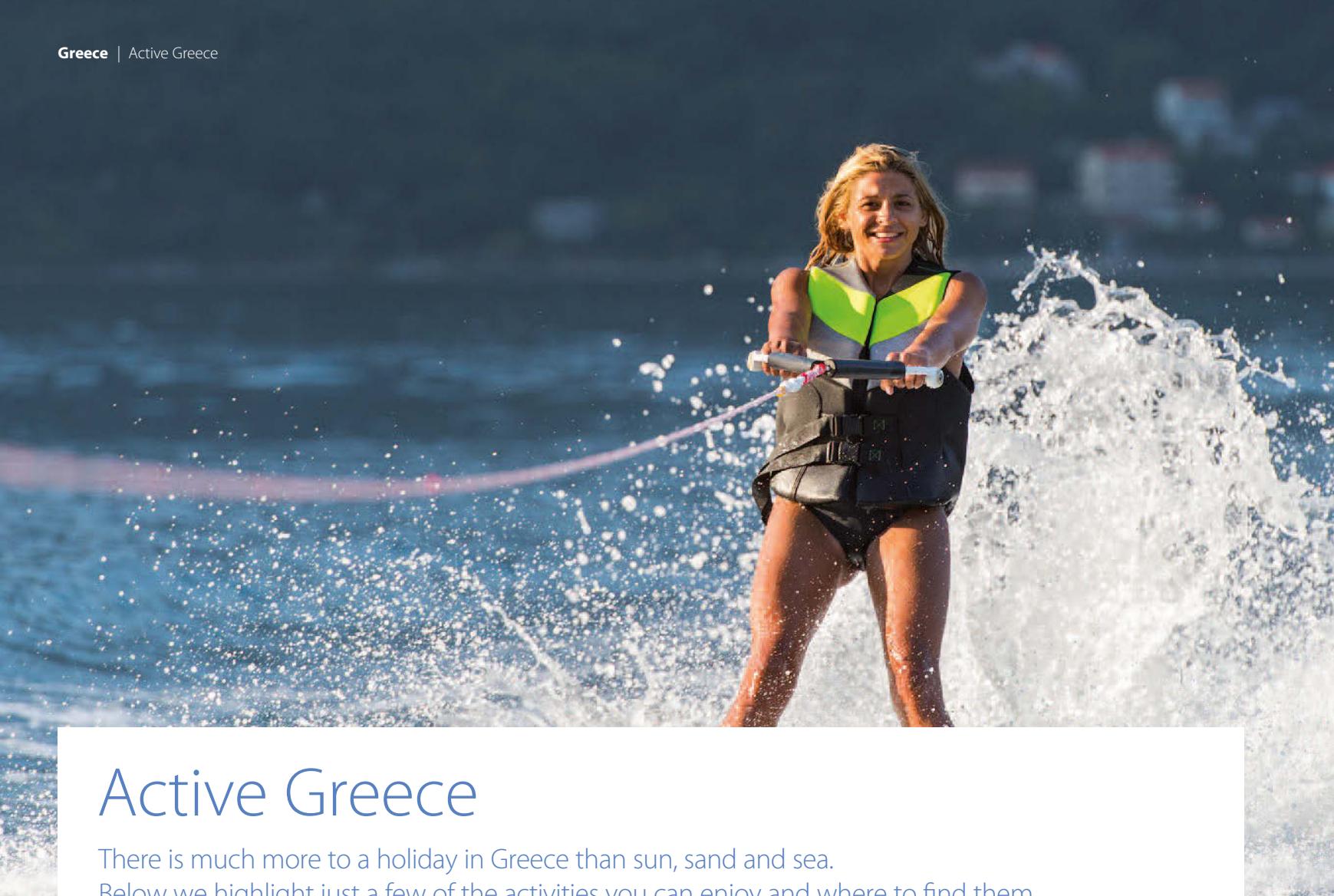
## Private Tours from Athens

If you prefer not to drive, and an organised coach tour does not appeal, we can arrange private tours. Using comfortable Mercedes minivans for up to 6 persons (plus English speaking driver and, if required, an official guide) they are suitable for day tours as well as longer bespoke trips.

Popular day tours include Athens (half or full day), Cape Sounion (can combine with Athens), Delphi, Marathon, Corinth and Argolis (Corinth, Nemea, Mycenae, Nafplion, Epidavros). Please enquire for prices.

Longer tours are bespoke, so the itinerary is entirely up to you. A popular option is the same route as the Olympic Fly Drive (see above) which can be done in a week and includes a couple of nights in Athens at the start. Suggestions for going further afield could include the south Peloponnese and Monemvasia, the 'monasteries in the air' of Meteora. Hotels would be our standard 3 and 4 star fly drive options on a BB basis. We need to quote prices individually for these tours so please enquire.

Official guides will add a lot to your trip but are, understandably, expensive and so are an optional extra. They can be booked for the whole trip or just on the main sites.



## Active Greece

There is much more to a holiday in Greece than sun, sand and sea. Below we highlight just a few of the activities you can enjoy and where to find them.

### Walking

Greece is famed for its wonderful walking opportunities, especially in early and late season.

#### Crete - Sep, Oct from £1208 pp

We offer walking holidays in a very unspoiled region of western Crete. The price is based on 2 sharing (single supplement applies) and includes flights, transfers, BB accommodation and materials. Please see page 231 for details.

#### Kythnos - all season (April to October) from £985 per person

Discover this most traditional and unspoiled small Cycladic island on foot. We call this Walking Plus, as most dinners are included in a local taverna, as well as the opportunity to partake in any village festivals that may be taking place. See page 176 for details.

#### Locally guided walks

Guided walks available locally in Ithaca, southern Pelion, Naxos, Skopelos and Olympiada (Halkidiki).

#### Soft walking from your resort base

Our local representatives have been collecting walking information for many years, and have routes and directions to hand for our guests who want to walk from their resort base.



#### Walking information

Our holidays to Amorgos and Kythnos include a walking guidebook and we can send a free walking leaflet on request to clients staying in Olympiada (Halkidiki). In addition to the above areas good independent walking opportunities are available almost everywhere, as mentioned in our resort descriptions and much useful information can be gleaned with a quick internet search.



## Painting Holidays

Greece is known for its wonderful conditions for artists, from the quality of her light to the wide variety of subject matter, and such vibrant colours! So we are pleased to offer painting weeks in Western Crete.

The holidays are suitable for painters of all abilities, especially novices who will receive excellent one-on-one guidance and tuition. Our artist leader will guide you to the best painting spots.

### Crete - Jun, Oct from £1208 pp

We offer painting holidays in a very unspoiled region of western Crete. The price is based on 2 sharing (single supplement applies) and includes flights, transfers, BB accommodation and materials. Please see page 231 for details.

## Combined Walking & Painting Holidays

### Crete - May, Sep, Oct from £1208 pp

We also offer combined walking and painting weeks. These would suit those who prefer shorter walks or painting sessions – or perhaps couples with different interests. See page 231 for details.



## On and in the sea

### Water sports, kayaks, snorkeling

Water sports are pretty much guaranteed in Skiathos, Parga, Thassos, Tolon, Lefkas, Corfu, Paros, Naxos. On Lemnos there is a Club Hotel on Plati beach that is happy for non-residents to hire its equipment.

Sea kayaking trips can be had from Skopelos (Elios), Agistri and Ithaca.

Snorkeling excursions are available from Samos (Kerveli), Ithaca and Tolon.

### Scuba diving

Available last summer in Agistri, Alonissos (Patitiri), Crete (Chania, Paleochora, Panormos), Corfu (Aharavi), Kefalonia (Fiscardo and Ag Efimia), Ithaca, Lefkas (Nidri, Nikiana), Lemnos, Naxos (Ayia Anna), Parga, Paxos, Pelion (Afissos), Peloponnese (Pylos/Gialova, Finikounda, Kardamili, Tolon), Samos (Kerveli, Pythagorion), Sivota, Skiathos and Zakynthos. This is not a complete list so please enquire for other areas.

### Motor boat hire

Can be pre-booked in many areas - see page 269 - and no prior experience is required. In Tolon all our guests are entitled to 2 hours free per party - see resort pages. Could be more practical (and definitely more fun!) than hiring a car. Motor boats are available for local hire in many other areas - please enquire.

## Greek cooking

Cooking lessons/demonstrations are available on Samos (Kerveli Village Hotel), Olympiada (Halkidiki) and Western Crete (Almirida Beach Hotel). Minimum numbers may apply.

## Bicycles

Offered free of charge to guests staying in Tolon and at our hotels in Olympiada. Bikes may be rented locally in many other areas, including Lefkas, Lemnos, Parga, Zakynthos and the south Peloponnese (Stoupa, Kardamili, Chrani and Gialova).

## Horse Riding

Horse and/or pony riding can be arranged in the following areas: Agistri, Corfu (various), Crete (Kalives, Almirida, Georgioupolis, Nopigia), Halkidiki (Olympiada), Kefalonia (Sami, Lefkas Town, Lemnos, Pelion (Kala Nera, Tsangarada), Peloponnese (Chrani, Tolon/Nafplion), Katelios), Samos (Kerveli), Thassos (Skala Prinos). Our local representatives can give further information and assist, or look online.

## General

Insight weeks in Crete include walking, sketching, Greek dancing, cooking and language, a boat trip and visits to a winery, an olive oil factory and Chania's Botanical Gardens - see page 231

Other areas that offer a good range of activities include Tolon, Agistri, the Kerveli Village Hotel (Samos) and Olympiada (Halkidiki) - please see individual resort descriptions.



## Active kids?

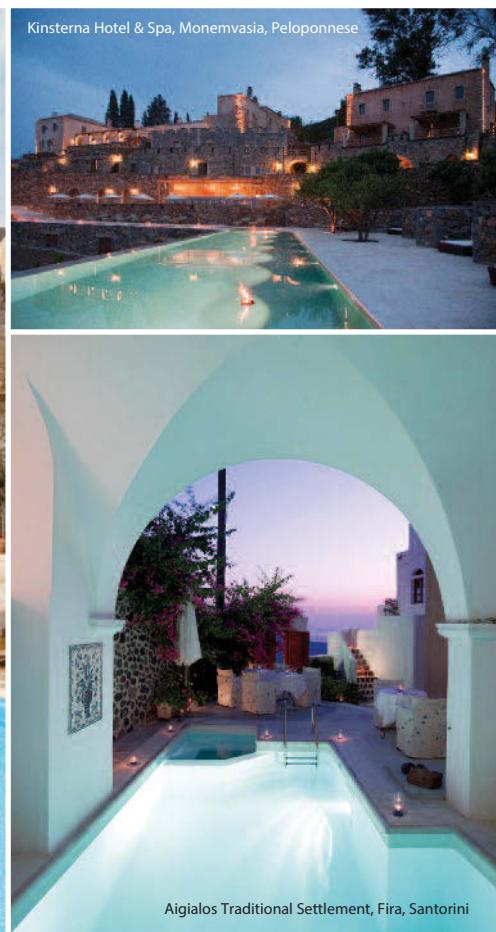
Greece is great for families - warm safe waters, children welcomed in restaurants, and even a lot of old stones to clamber over thus ticking the guilt-relieving 'educational' box! However the choice of islands and resorts can be bewildering.

We'd urge you to look at our resort of Tolon in the north Peloponnese. With water sports, motorboat hire (2 hours free for Sunvil guests), free bicycles, a very safe sandy Blue Flag beach with shallow seas, and waterfront tavernas where you can sit with a drink and watch the kids splashing around in the shallows just below - what could be more perfect! And have we mentioned the wealth of history in the area? Tolon is without doubt the best placed resort in Greece for a little historical exploring.

Plus boat trips to Spetses and Hydra, an hourly bus to atmospheric Nafplion and its castles, pedalo to the island in the bay...we could go on. See page 143.



Kyrimai Hotel, Gerolimenas, Peloponnese



Kinsterna Hotel &amp; Spa, Monemvasia, Peloponnese



Aigialos Traditional Settlement, Fira, Santorini

## Boutique Greece

One of the attractions of a holiday in Greece has traditionally been the simple lifestyle – an 'away from it all' back to basics holiday which is reflected in comfortable albeit 'no frills' accommodation.

However, the past few years has seen a growth in smaller, deluxe properties which are at least the match of those found for many years in rural Italy, Portugal and Spain. This new breed of small upmarket hotels can be found in some unexpected places - often in locations of outstanding natural beauty away from the crowds.

So we are delighted to join forces with the Yades group of hotels - a consortium of rather special properties which, although each is very different, have much in common. All are privately owned and aim to combine a distinctly Greek heritage with an intimate atmosphere, five star rooms and a high level of personal service. Many have noted restaurants, which offer contemporary Greek cuisine and the finest Greek wines. Yades hotels are linked with Historic Hotels of Europe and 'Heritage and Hospitality' is the Yades motto.

The Yades Hotels you can find featured within our programme are Kyrimai in deepest Mani (Peloponnese); Serenissima in the heart of Chania's Venetian quarter (Crete); Avli Lounge (see website) in the historic town of Rethymnon, Crete; Aigialos and Esperas on Santorini; and Cotommatae in Hydra (see website).

Of course not all of Greece's best boutique hotels are necessarily members of Yades. Kinsterna Hotel and Spa near beautiful

Monemvasia in the remote south west Peloponnese is equally fabulous and highly recommended, as is the superb Imaret Hotel in the historic town of Kavala. Other hotels in our programme which we would consider 'boutique' in many respects are the San Nicolas on Lefkas, the Mare Monte on Thassos, Agnadi Suites on Lefkas, Niriedes Suites on Sifnos, Anemomilos on Folegandros (see website), and various in the Old City of Rhodes.

Please note it is not necessary to commit to a full 7 or 14 night stay. Nearly all are happy to offer short stays, so for that special occasion we can easily tailor-make a few nights, perhaps with a car, within a holiday elsewhere in the region and without breaking the bank, or incorporate them within a fly-drive on the mainland or Crete. Or you could split a one week stay between Kyrimai and Kinsterna.

One word of advice for short stays - if you can it is better to avoid Friday and Saturday nights as these properties are not large and are often busy at weekends with the Greek market.

Member of the



Avli Lounge, Rethymnon Old Town, Crete



Anemomilos, Chora, Folegandros, Western Cyclades