

Destination LEFKADA

& its surrounding small islands

2022



fagotto books

Visitor's guide to:
Accommodation | Sailing
Shopping & Dining | Tours & Activities
Cafes, Bars & Nightlife | Culture

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BAR – RESTAURANT COPLA WAS BUILT BY THE ARCHITECT GIORGOS KAVVADAS
"COPLA" IS THE WOOD WASHED ASHORE BY THE SEA.
THE MATERIALS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND THE STRUCTURE ITSELF, ENSURE
THAT COPLA BEAUTIFULLY COMPLEMENTS THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT.

COPLA

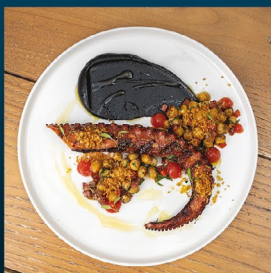
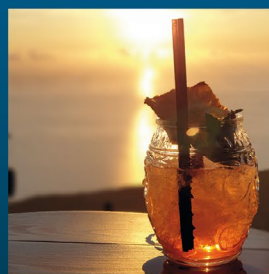
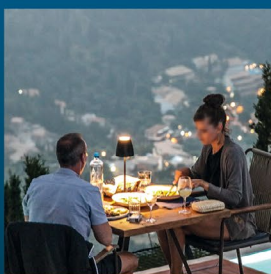
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A large number of areas on Lefkada are of an amazing natural beauty. It is our dream that far more people can enjoy the recreational benefits our island has to offer. Since 2010 we have been working towards making many remarkable places on the island available to our clients, providing the greatest selection of properties in all geographic areas of Lefkada. No matter if you prefer the wonderful beaches of the West Coast, the picturesque bays of the South or the cozy village life of the East Coast – Lefkada is a treasure island

FIND
THE
DREAM
LAND




Lefkas Realty has been guiding buyers and sellers for over a decade. We have an extensive knowledge of Greek law and finance as well as of our local market. Consequently, we provide full brokerage service and complete guidance in all details when purchasing a property in Greece, including the handling of all legal issues. We will be delighted to hear your concerns in order to support YOUR particular needs.


Konstantinos Politis
Real Estate Manager





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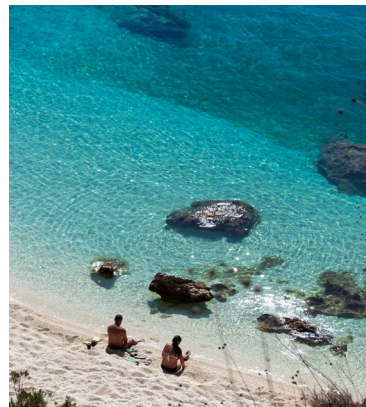
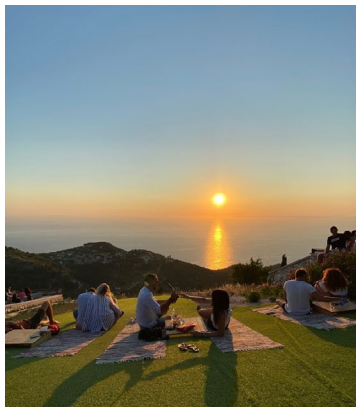
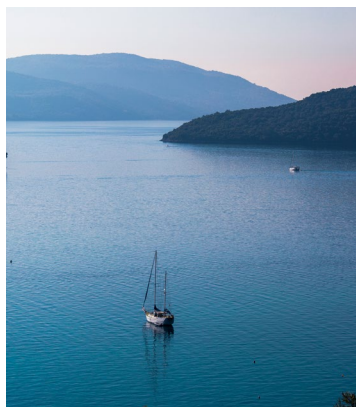


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Travelling to Lefkada

FOR THE FIRST TIME

By air

Flights from/ to Aktion airport

During the summer months there are direct flights to Aktion airport from several European cities.

There is bus connection (route Lefkada-Preveza), as well as taxi available. You can also rent a car from one of the travel agencies at the airport.

Flights from Athens to Lefkada

From June until October, Aegean airlines launches a flight from Athens to Aktion Airport.

How to get to Lefkada from Athens International Airport by car, coach or taxi

There are several car rental companies operating at the Athens International Airport. If you fly to Athens there is a bus X93 (formerly E93 by OASA company) connecting the Eleftherios Venizelos Airport (door 5) with Terminal A, the Athenian bus terminal at Kifisos. There are 3 departures daily from Athens by coach (KTEL of Lefkada).

Otherwise you can take a taxi from the airport. This costs approximately 400 euros for 4 persons (one way).

By car

Lefkada is the only island accessible by car, without the cost of a ferry. It is connected to the Akarnanian mainland by a floating pontoon



for a constant flow of vehicle traffic, and is also a swinging bridge.

If you are driving from Central Europe to Lefkada via Italy you have 4 options

Option 1: Drive your car to Ancona and then catch the ferry boat to Igoumenitsa (trip duration: 16 hours). Then you have to drive from Igoumenitsa to Lefkada (110 km).

Option 2: Drive your car to Brindisi and then catch the ferry boat to Igoumenitsa (trip duration varies from 7hrs 30min to 10hrs depending on the ferry operations). Then you have to drive from Igoumenitsa to Lefkada.

Option 3: Drive your car to Bari and then catch the ferry boat to Igoumenitsa (trip duration varies from 8hrs 30min to 12hrs 30min). Then you have to drive from Igoumenitsa to Lefkada.

Option 4: Drive your car to Venice and then catch the ferry boat to Igoumenitsa (trip duration varies from 25hrs to 28hrs 30min). Then you have to drive from Igoumenitsa to Lefkada.

Driving from the Balkans to Lefkada

You have to drive to Northern Greece and then take the newly constructed Egnatia Motorway until Ioannina. When you reach Ioannina you head to Preveza and then through the Aktio-Preveza undersea tunnel. After 20km you will reach your destination.

By bus

There are 3 departures daily from/to Athens (5 hours) by coach (KTEL of Lefkada) and three times per week from/to Thessaloniki (4.40 hrs). There are also regular itineraries from/to Igoumenitsa (1hr and half) and also one scheduled trip from/to Patra (2 hrs and half).

By sea

Coastal link with Lefkada is not directly possible. The visitors can be assisted through the port of Igoumenitsa and then continue by road (95 km away). Alternatively there is the port of Patra (distance 176 km).

LEFKADA AT A GLANCE

Welcome to Lefkada!

Lefkada's beaches are phenomenal

If crystalline turquoise seawater and golden sand beaches are the first things that come to mind when you hear “Lefkada”, I can't blame you. The island's award winning Blue Flag beaches consecutively top international travel guides for the world's best vacation destinations.

Lefkada's alpine villages elevate your travel experience

Mountainous Lefkada has a vivid traditional character and is the perfect choice for nature lovers. The picturesque stone-built houses and the ceaseless variety of nature in these villages, enchant visitors from the first glance.



When people think of Lefkada, clear blue waters and endless sandy beaches come to mind; but Lefkada is much more than just perfect beaches

Lefkada is synonymous with adventure

If you're in the mood for trekking, just put on your sneakers and join the growing number of genuine nature lovers already discovering Lefkada's lesser known secrets. Devotees of kite and wind surfing will find their mecca at Agios Ioannis and Miloi beaches. Diving and snorkeling are excellent choices for whoever wants to explore Lefkada's underwater kingdom.

A food lover's paradise

Fresh fish straight from the local fishing boat nets, appetizing small shrimp, leafy greens sprinkled with zesty lemon juice and a cold glass of beer right at the water's edge. The gastronomic epitome of summer. Lefkada's food culture will surely seduce your senses and gain your utmost respect.

Conveniently located

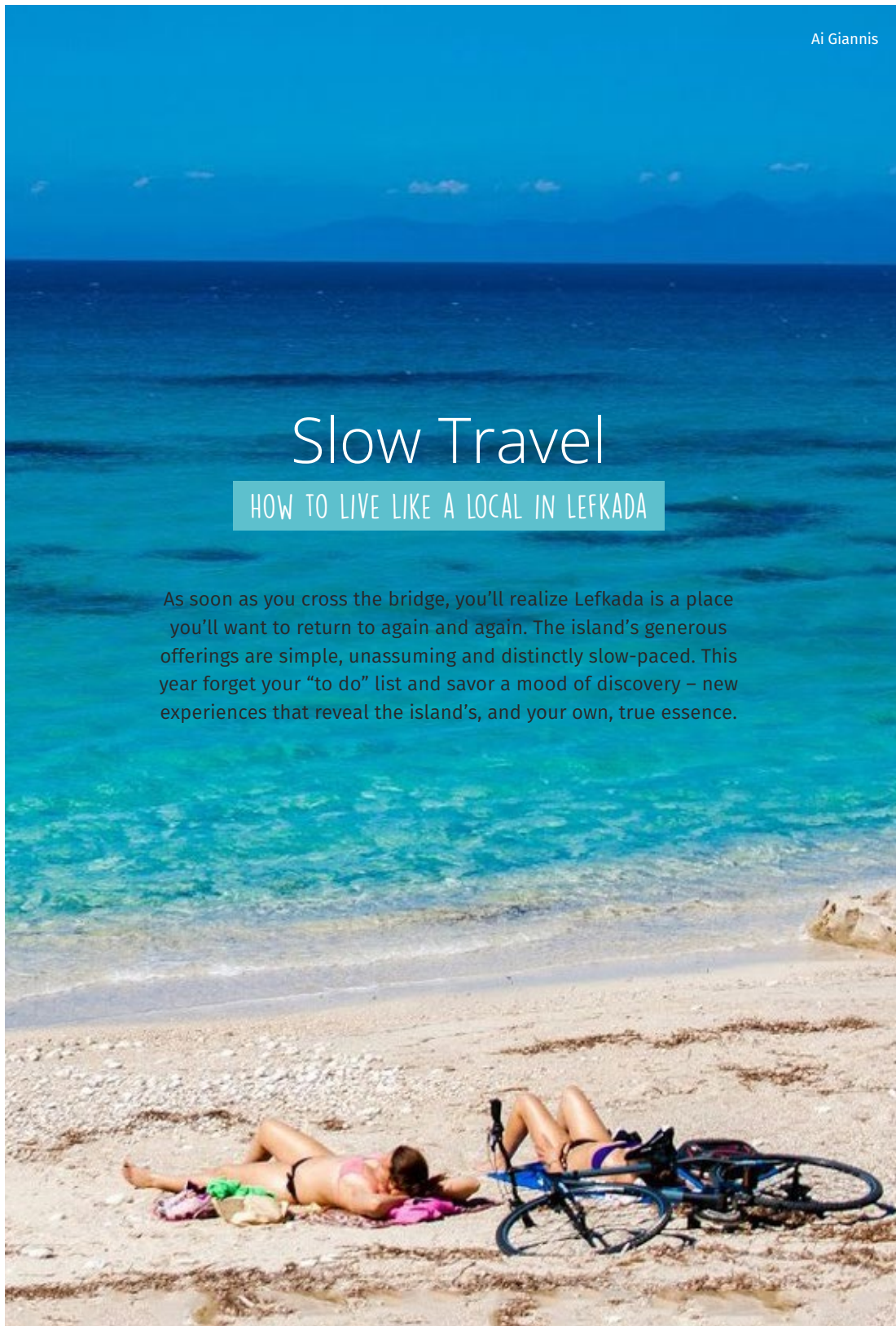
Boat travel in the Ionian Sea is without a doubt a one-of-a-kind experience. Whether by yacht, sailboat or ferry boat, you'll discover a diverse natural mosaic of incomparable beauty.



Slow Travel

HOW TO LIVE LIKE A LOCAL IN LEFKADA

As soon as you cross the bridge, you'll realize Lefkada is a place you'll want to return to again and again. The island's generous offerings are simple, unassuming and distinctly slow-paced. This year forget your "to do" list and savor a mood of discovery – new experiences that reveal the island's, and your own, true essence.



Endless cycling in nature

Initiated natural lovers know that Lefkada is a cycling and trekking paradise. Take a ride from Gyra and Agios Ioannis to the shady Venetian Olive Grove celebrated by the poet Angelos Sikelianos and onwards to Kouzounteli.

A swim at Agios Ioannis and then coffee at Tilegrafos

Slow before slow was invented

If I had to choose just one moment as the epitome of summer in Lefkada, it would be diving from the cannon at Kryoneri and then dashing to Tilegrafo for a cold beer, our bathing suits still dripping, a cool breeze blowing and the cicadas playing their symphony overhead. Agios Ioannis might be synonymous with kite-surfing for most, but those of us who grew up on the island anticipate Tilegrafo's opening as the customary commencement of summer. Chill, laid-back atmosphere, friendly vibes from the staff and a mesmerizing view. This is the place to enjoy simple and savory food.

Discover Lefkada's enchanting villages

The island's picturesque stone-built villages introduce us to another facet of life here. In Drimonas and Exanthia, you'll feel as if time has stopped. In Karya you'll savor ouzo like a local in the village square, under a canopy of plane trees. Finally, in Eglouvi, the picturesque village that produces the famed yellow lentils, you'll get to sample these delicious legumes in situ.

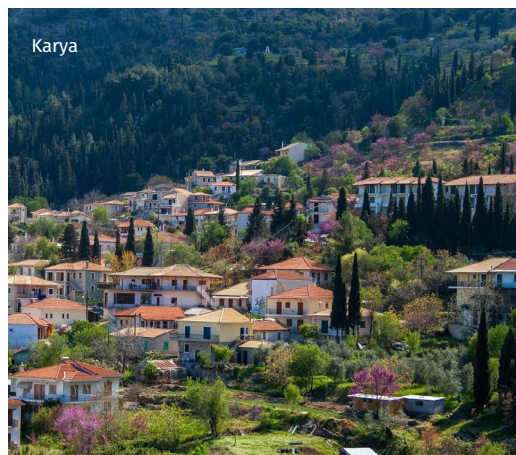


Diving into the big blue

Porto Katsiki, Kathisma, Agios Nikitas and Mylos are undoubtedly the four most enticing beaches of west Lefkada. Their cyan waters tempt you for a dive while the tree-lined coast offers endless spots to cool off and relax.

On the south coast of Lefkada, be sure to see Sivota, tiny Ammouso, white-pebbled Agiofylli and the windsurfers' paradise Vasiliki. Lefkada's eastern beaches are popular with families who appreciate the sheltered, shallow waters and seaside services.

Of course, if you ask Lefkada's old town residents where to go for a swim, they'll point you in the direction of Gyra, Myloi and Agios Ioannis, nearby beaches (with few visitors) where lush terrains caress the deep blue of the sea.



Family holidays

WHY LEFKADA IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

Take a walk

Wonder around in the cobbled streets of the town, see the beautiful quaint houses and make a stop to enjoy a refreshing cold drink or a dessert in the square where the kids can play safely.

Accommodation

Many hotels, villas and rooms to rent in Lefkada offer green open spaces where your children can play safely, swimming pools for kids as well as playgrounds.

Food

In many tavernas and restaurants you will find big green open spaces as well as seats for small children. If you want to combine swimming in the beach with a

meal right after, you can choose a beach bar with an outdoor space that offers comfort and lots of fun for the kids.

Oasis for the kids

Lefkada has many public playgrounds for the entertainment of its young visitors. The most popular ones are located in D. Golemi St., in the marina and the Lakis Sandas square.

Swimming

The east side beaches (Lygia, Nikiana, Nydri and Vassiliki) are ideal for family swimming because their waters are calm, without waves and children of all ages can have hours of carefree fun both inside and outside of the sea.



Safe Water Sports:

Download the free application to find the water sports businesses that are licensed and have all the necessary safety certifications.



Ai Giannis

We also recommend you to visit the golden beach of Agios Nikitas which is very well protected from the wind. You can also swim without any worries in the turquoise waters of the beaches next to the town of Lekada (Kastro, Gyra and Ai Giannis) which are not too deep and normally don't get very crowded, especially during the morning hours.

The beaches of the west side are without a doubt in the spotlight during the summer season (Kathisma, Porto Katsiki, Egremnoi, etc.). However, you should be extra careful because the waters there are deep and should be avoided when there are lots of waves. Many beaches in Lefkada have umbrellas, sunbeds and canteens which offer snacks and juices.

What to do

The archaeological museum

It is a small but important museum, whose findings date from the Middle Paleolithic Age up to Roman Years. There is a separate room exhibiting the findings of Schliemann's assistant, the German archaeologist Wilhelm Dörpfeld.

Orfeas museum of folklore

It exhibits more than a thousand functional objects of Lefkada's farm life, tools of old crafts as well as traditional costumes, embroideries, etc.

The castle of Agia Mavra


At the entrance to Lefkada town the castle of Agia Mavra stands proudly, a model of fortification architecture of the Middle Ages, with a central core in the shape of an irregular heptagon reinforced at its seven corners with bastions and three external ramparts. It protected the capital from the first decade of the fourteenth century until 1684.



6 amazing free things to do in Lefkada city

1 **Uncover the hidden gems of Angelos Sikelianos museum**

The house in which the world renowned poet and literary figure Agelos Sikelianos was born houses the museum which holds its name and was entirely funded by the National Bank and delivered to the local community in 2017. It is a remarkable museum of international standards that does not only exhibit rare manuscripts, photos, books and objects of his life but by highlighting the different phases of his literary life, sheds light into the ideas, the personality and the life of the famous lyric poet.

 *Kyprou, Lefkada city*

Even if you are on a tight budget, Lefkada city is an incredible place to visit, with so many wonderful things to do


2 **Admire art at Theodoros Stamos Exhibition Hall**

This exhibition hall is dedicated to the talented Lefkadian painter Theodoros Stamos, known worldwide for his large-scale gestural abstractions. From April to October, the hall hosts a variety of interesting solo and group exhibitions, displaying the work of local and international artists working within painting, sculpture, installation, photography, textile etc.

 *1 A. Skiadaresi Str., Lefkada city*

3 **Visit Lafcadio Hearn Historical Center & the Folk Festival Museum**

The visitor with the help of texts, photographs, exhibits and audiovisual applications will explore the milestones of the extraordinary life of Lafcadio Hearn along with the cultures of Europe, USA and Japan of the late 19th and early 20th century through the Open mind of Hearn writings, lectures and tales. The Folk Festival Museum is housed in the same building. This tiny museum exhibits items that are directly connected to the long trajectory of the International Folklore Festival.

 *1 Sikelianou Str., Lefkada city*

4 Admire the view from Faneromeni Monastery

Located on a green pine clad hill above the city, this peaceful and inspiring monastery provides a fascinating glimpse into Lefkada's religious traditions. According to the legend, the disciples of St. Paul preached here at 63 B.C. the teaching of Jesus Christ. One can marvel from there the lagoon, the town, the beach of Ai Giannis, the mountains of Epirus and Acarnania and more. Next to the monastery is housed the ecclesiastical museum of Faneromeni with ecclesiastical manuscripts, rare post-byzantine pictures etc. and a small maritime museum with handcrafted wooden ship models and maritime tools from all over the world.

 Frini village, 3km from Lefkada city



5 Explore the stunning Lefkada neighborhoods & visit historic churches

Wander through the picture-perfect neighborhoods of the historic center, explore the prettily cobbled streets with the colorful buildings and the verdant corners and find some time for hanging out in the central square. Another one of the free things to do is to visit the beautiful churches of Lefkada town.

A visit to the Public library should be on everyone's Lefkada bucket list if only to be reminded that Lefkada has a rich cultural heritage. While in the area, be sure not to miss out on Chara-moglios Library (the library is in the Guinness Book of Records) as well as the beautiful tiny cafés that can be found within the district.





A. Sikelianos Museum

6 Spend an afternoon strolling around Gyra and Ai Giannis

A very pleasant stroll starting out from the town of Lefkada is round the western lagoon, the walk of Gyra ending at Ai Giannis beach. It is 7 km long and the great attraction is that all along the views are exceptional, a pleasure for nature-lovers. The lagoon and the town lie to the east and to the west the vast stretch of the Ionian Sea. At a distance of 1200 m. from town you can make a visit to the Castle of Agia Mavra.

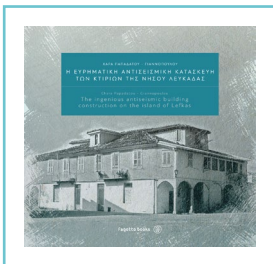
Four windmills, on the right, still survive out of the twelve that once stood there. Nature has granted Ai Giannis perfect 'air fan': a breeze blowing at about one o'clock in the middle of every day during the hot months of the year, ideal conditions for enthusiasts of windsurfing and kitesurfing.

Ai Giannis (Agios Ioannis) is a marvellous beach. It is a joy to swim in clear emerald waters looking at the mountain enfolding Lefkada town, covered in every shade of green: cypress and olive trees and broom. There are taverns and cafes all along the beach to sit at after a swim.



Lefkada's architecture

by Chara Papadatou-Giannopoulou, Architect



From the book: *The ingenious antiseismic building construction on the island of Lefkas*

The building construction in Lefkas is one of the most interesting approaches throughout the Hellenic area as well as abroad. The reason lies in the dual construction form. It is actually a study on the unlimited opportunities, as far as the building construction is concerned, of the preindustrial era as well as the aftereffect of the greek construction tradition throughout the centuries, combined with the aquatic character of the region over which it was created: on actually floating surroundings. Its static system, in particular, within which the two materials (stone and wood) were used statically independently is apparent only to Lefkas. The specific system, along with a wealth of variations, remains immune to the strongest of earthquakes.

Main construction characteristics

It is a mixed structure consisting of stone and wood. The stone is used for the ground floor and the wood for the upper floors. The distinctiveness of this structure is the fact that the two materials are used statically independently. Namely, there is an independent stone structure at the ground floor and an independent wooden one at the first floor or any higher floors, which is supported by a grid of wooden struts with their independent seat.



Streets-cobblestoned pavements

The streets or the “kandounia” in Chora, are radially extended around the central core of the settlement. They are very narrow and look like nerves withing the settlement body. As the width of the city blocks is narrow as well, the coverage in many building lots is 100%. Along these narrow streets, even two-storey buildings seem quite tall. A walk around the side streets of Chora is quite interesting as far as city planning, morphology, structure and construction are concerned.

Lefkas Fortress

The Lefkas Fortress was built on a small islte inside the shoal and is at an approximately equal distance between Central Greece and the island. There are two lagoons. The first, Avlemon is located between the island and Central Greece. The second, Ivvari borders with the deep Ionian Sea and is separated and protected from it by a long sandy beach which encloses the most northern-west top of the island and Gyra, the lagoon.



Having fun in Lefkada

LET'S GET LOUD!

In the summer season, the bars of Lefkada are the center of the island's party scene. During the day you can enjoy a coffee or a refreshing drink in the comfortable chairs and when the sun sets and the party mood turns on you can dance to the music.

The summer season is made for beer, wine and cocktails. When the temperature climbs up, a cold beer is the best option for the lovers of the brew. In the bars of Lefkada you will enjoy beers of every kind but also the finest wines of Greek and international vineries accompanied by an assortment of cheese or charcuterie that will offer you the ultimate wine experience.

In the island you will also find cozy cocktail bars where skilled bartenders will serve you some exceptional and intoxicating cocktails, classics or spiced up ones, with fresh seasonal ingredients that will make your nights in the island very interesting.





THE
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Aggelou Sikelianou 1



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Agios Ioannis, Lefkada



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MAKE FREDDO ESPRESSO OR FREDDO CAPPUCCINO LIKE A PRO

Freddo means 'cold' so freddo espresso is actually the cold version of espresso coffee

How to make freddo espresso:

- 1 make a double espresso
- 2 blend the coffee and the sugar for 10 seconds
- 3 Then add 3-4 ice cubes into the mixture and blend it for 5 seconds
- 4 add 2-3 ice cubes to a glass
- 5 add your mixture

If you prefer the freddo cappuccino version then you have to make all the above steps and one more. You will need cold full fat milk chilled to 3-5°C.

- 1 Put 3-4 ice cubes in a glass and pour enough milk to cover the ice cubes.
- 2 Then use a hand mixer.
- 3 Add your cream to freddo espresso.
- 4 You can add some cinnamon or grated chocolate and a straw.

Enjoy!



Shopping and Wellness

TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

Be prepared for shopping excursions when you visit Lefkada. The island has a wide range of shops for every taste and wallet, from souvenir shops to amazing clothing, shoe and jewelry stores. Your holiday in Lefkada can be the perfect opportunity to get away and concentrate on your well-being: try a massage and a hammam rub, improve your overall look with a new hairstyle, pamper yourself with a refreshing fish spa session and enjoy a manicure and pedicure experience.



Walking on sunshine



1



2



3



4

5



1. Nuxe Merveillance Expert Cream, Aquabella Moisturising Emulsion & Super Serum. **Vandoros Pharmacy** (37, I. Mela St., Lefkada, tel: +30 26450 25620, vandorosv@hotmail.com)
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3. Handmade leather sandals, decorated with “karsaniki velonia”; Lefkas traditional knitting technique. **Eap - Aravani Chara** (Karavella & I. Gazi St., Lefkada, tel: +30 26450 26996, fb: Eap - Aravani Chara)
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A MAGICAL BOOKSHOP EVERY BOOKLOVER MUST VISIT

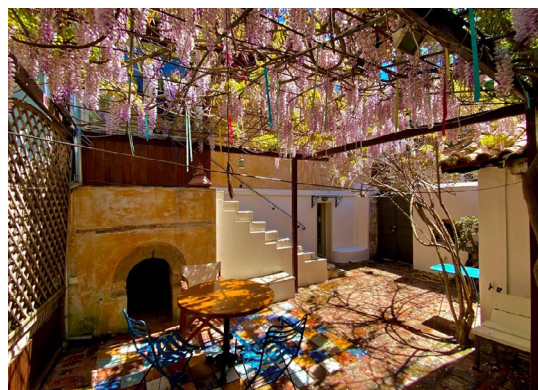
Fagottobooks in Lefkada



Fagottobooks is a super-cute little bookshop in a lovely alley of Lefkada town. It is located on the ground floor of a renovated traditional Lefkadian house and has a beautiful yard where expositions and workshops are being organised during the summertime. The place offers a warm, friendly and relaxing environment to all its visitors.

Here you can find a carefully curated selection of literature, fiction, music and art, children's and philosophy books, as well as books about Lefkada and the Ionian islands, maps, educational toys and music instruments. Our favourite souvenir is their amazing selection of fagottobooks notebooks-flip books.

📍 7 Zakynthou Str., Lefkada town, T. +30 26450 21095
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Accommodation in Lefkada

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STAYCATION

The island of Lefkada, oriented towards milder forms of tourism, has a great selection of accommodation offers according to your aesthetic preferences and your financial planning. In Lefkada you will find exactly what you have been looking for, from rooms for rent to hotels, luxury villas and beautiful traditional dwellings, so you can enjoy the holidays you have been dreaming of.



Mira Resort

GNTD L.N.: 0831K107KG896000



Aeriko Villas

Aeriko villas occupy a superb sea front position on Agios Ioannis beach (Blue Flag Award). Facing to the North West the villas receive a refreshing sea breeze from the Ionian. Each villa has been individually furnished to provide its own character. The open plan living room and kitchen opens on to a garden and patio with private pool and a stone built BBQ with pergola. All bedrooms are generous size, have a balcony and offer a spectacular view to the open sea.

Agios Ioannis, Lefkada · Tel: +30 2645023317 · +30 6974643386 · info@aeriko-villas.gr · www.aeriko-villas.gr



Agrikies Villas

Close to Ag. Ioannis sandy beach, surrounded by silvered olive groves, these two contemporary villas have it all. Each has its own garden with private pool, stone built barbeque among the olive trees, all fresco dining area, stylish furniture, modern designed and well equipped kitchen and spacious bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Every room has air-conditioning (fan coil), TV, WiFi, ensuite bathrooms, shaded dining terrace and are in front of the pool.

Agia Marina, Lefkada · Tel: +30 2645023317 · +30 6974643386 · info@agrikies.com · www.agrikies.com



GNTD L.N.: 0831K91000546701



Hotel Ianos

Our hotel is placed in the heart of Lefkas' Marina, just 200m far from the city center of Lefkada. The benefits of its position include a wonderful view of the city and the sea nearby. Ianos's architecture and its warm and hospitable interior, create a dreamlike setting for a truly memorable stay. Also it is conveniently located just 19km away from the airport of Aktion. An unforgettable stay in a luxury hotel!

Marina Lefkada · Tel: +30 2645022217 · ianoshotel@hotmail.com · www.ianoshotel.com



GNTD L.N.: 0831K013A0008201



Grappolo Villas

Grappolo Villas, located just 2 km from the city center of Lefkada in a quiet and green area named Apolpaina, are there to create the appropriate environment to provide you with a relaxing and unforgettable holiday. The complex consists of three newly built villas/maisonettes, with a modern and minimalistic disposition. They are the ideal solution for those who are searching for a relaxing vacation near Lefkada's town.

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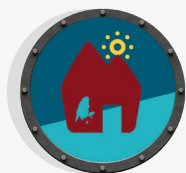
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In the heart of Lefkada's old city, close to east pier



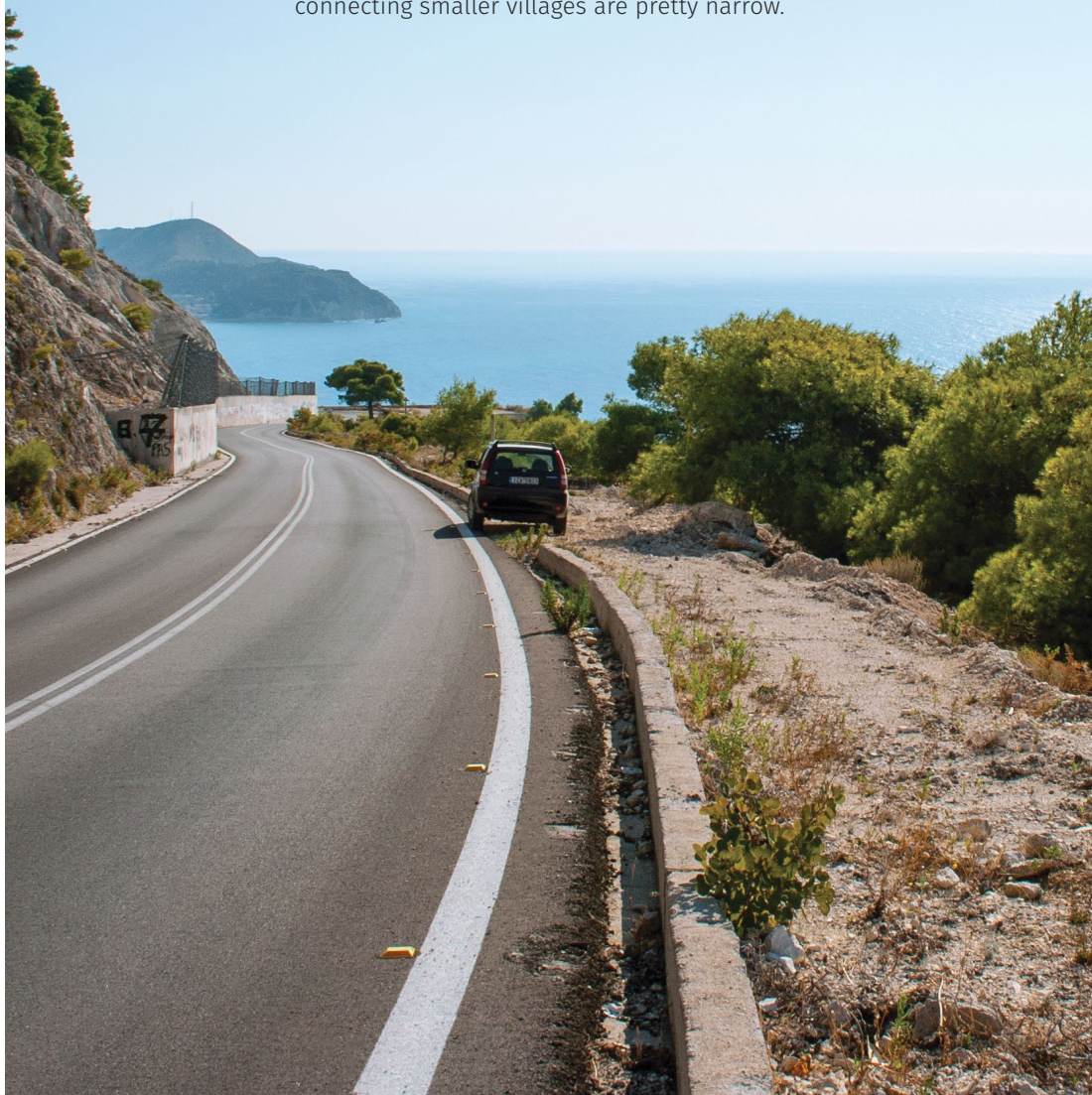
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Road trip to Lefkada

EXPLORE LEFKADA'S AMAZING LANDSCAPE

Exploring Lefkada's amazing landscape by bike, bus, car, or motorcycle is a wonderful way to get around. Jagged coastlines, turquoise waters, waterfalls, wetlands, haughty mountains, verdant routes and lush vegetation. Discover the greatness of Lefkada's nature. The whole island has a good road network but bear in mind that some roads connecting smaller villages are pretty narrow.



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Inner Ionian sea archipelago

IDEAL FOR BOAT RIDES AND SAILING

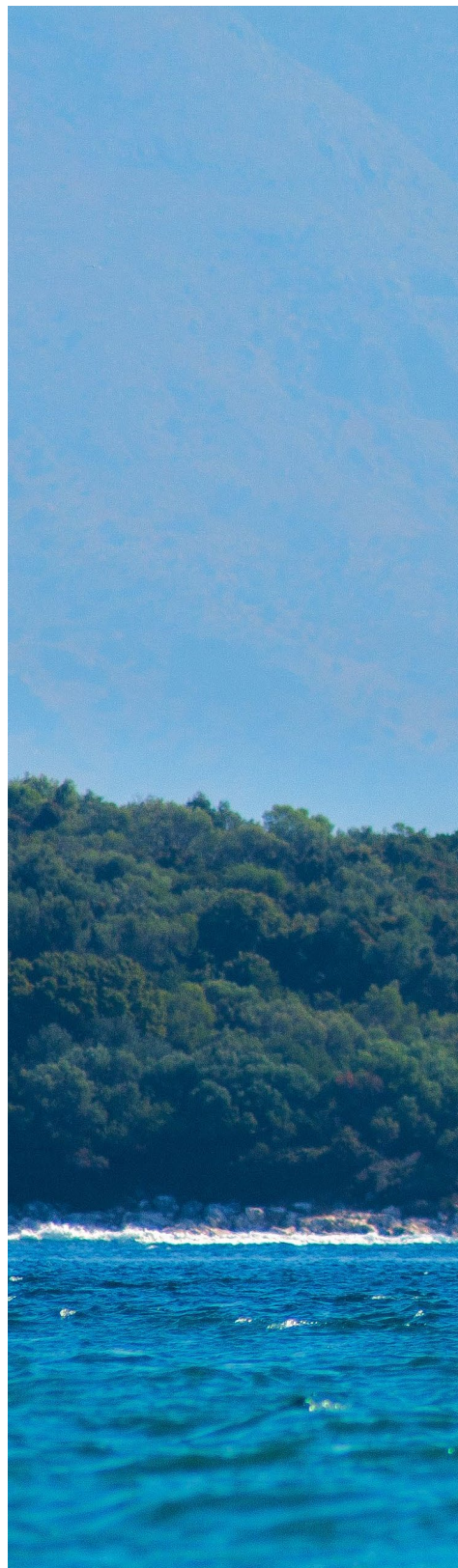
The sea area between Lefkada, Ithaki and the opposite mainland coast is considered by experts ideal for boat rides and sailing. This is due to the safe navigation it provides, as there is no extreme weather, and the great variety of sheltered moorings in picturesque bays, harbours and quiet beaches on many scattered islands.

The inhabited islands are Meganissi, Kalamos and Kastos. Madouri, Skorprios, Atokos are privately owned. The rest of the islands are very small and uninhabited. The coasts of this area are dotted with a great number of underwater and sea caves, which form an ideal habitat for seals (*monachus monachus*).

Starting point for all sailing expeditions is the town of Lefkada, on the hand due to the area's general interest, and on the other, because it boasts of one of the most modern marinas in Greece.

Some of the Lefkada's harbours and bays which are worth visiting by boat are the following: Nydri, Vlycho bay, Dessimi bay, Mikros Gialos, Syvota, Agiofylli, Vassiliki bay.

Sailing around the impressive Cape Lefkatas, visit some of the most famous beaches such as: Porto Katsiki, Egremnoi and Megali Petra.



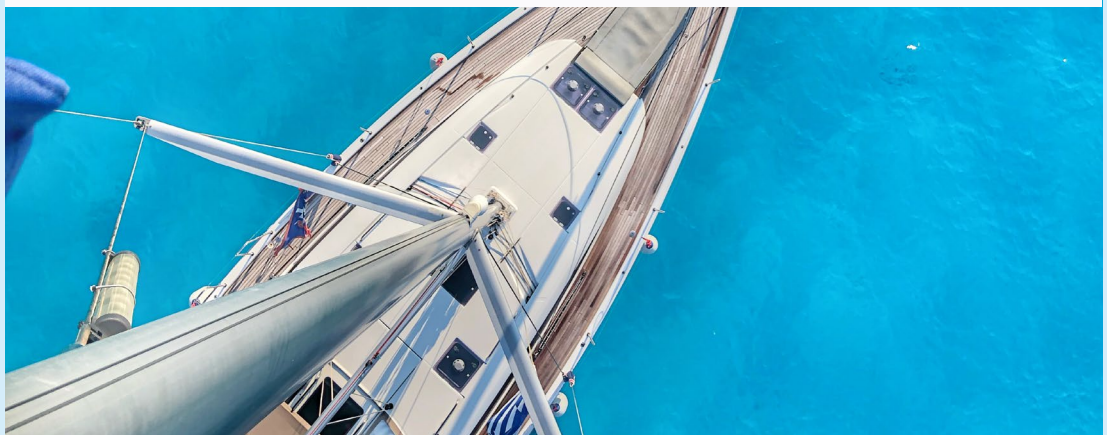




! No matter how calm the sea is on the western side, you shouldn't spend the night there because weather can change suddenly.

Most of the island's anchorages are on the northern coast, while there are quite a few on the east coast as well. The south coast is rocky and steep, with very deep waters. The west coast is particularly exposed to northwest winds that blow in the afternoon; however, you can anchor at the beaches near Thileia island, and also at the north-western end opposite Kithros islet with its interesting beach named "Beretta".

The small bays which are protected from all sides at the northeast, are ideal and from there you can visit the island's villages on foot. In Spartochori, Vathy and Katomeri you will find all you need. You just need to be careful only when entering the small harbor of Atherinos, on the reef of the right as you come in.



Book your **Sailing holidays**
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Boat cruises

HOP ON HOP OFF THE COAST OF LEFKADA

The island is a mosaic of landscapes of incomparable beauty that wait for you to explore them. Surely you will not be able to discover all its magnificence at once but a day trip is a very good start to get a taste of its diversity. With Lefkada as a starting point enjoy an idyllic daily cruise to the most popular beaches of the island and/or to the neighboring Ionian islands.



Porto Katsiki





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Lefkada's sports mecca

THERE IS NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN LEFKADA ISLAND

Lefkada is a destination that dazzles with its sand beaches and vibrant ambience. Discover pristine footpaths and off-road routes perfect for cycling or walking, all types of sea sports including sailing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, kayaking, jet skiing and ringo riding, even paragliding and scuba diving for the more daring. So if you're looking for unforgettable travel experiences this summer, you've found your place!



Myloi



Water, wind and sail at Agios Ioannis

Myloi and Agios Ioannis are an adrenaline lover's paradise. Essentially two "sister beaches", these beauties stretch across 5 kilometres of coastline, fringed with crystalline turquoise waters, just a breath away from Lefkada's old town. Mylos traditionally draws a kitesurfing crowd while neighbouring Agios Ioannis is preferring by windsurfers. The area is renowned for its steady thermal winds, a local phenomenon that's sought especially by freestyle kitesurfers. From spring to autumn, roughly from noon to dusk, the winds blow from the west and northwest.

Vasiliki, Greece's California

Located in Lefkada's southwest coast, Vasiliki is the kingdom of surf from April to October. Here the Eric phenomenon, that results from the area's unique terrain, provides ideal weather conditions for all skill levels: steady winds that increase gradually in force. Beginners usually practice in the morning while more experienced athletes slalom and surf freestyle in the afternoon. Vasiliki is among the top windsurfing destinations worldwide and, naturally, hosts many of the sport's world championships.

Water sports means playtime

If the sea, for you, is synonymous with playtime, you'll find innumerable options in Lefkada. If you love speed and water, jet skiing is your perfect match. Play with the waves for hours or beach-hop and explore Lefkada's magical coastline. Have a ball riding the Ringo across Lefkada's ethereal sapphire seas, enjoy hours of laughter on the Crazy UFO or entertain your friends and family while admiring Lefkada's singular landscape on the Banana. The Pedal Boat is a great choice if, in addition to having fun, you want to burn the calories from the ice-cream you ate. The same goes for riding the Flying Fish, both a sport and highly entertaining.. pun intended.

SUP means in the mood to paddle

The SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard) has become especially popular in recent years and enjoys a fanatic following in Greece, not without reason. Its roots reach back to prehistory with evidence of indigenous peoples that travelled, fought and fished standing up. In its contemporary incarnation, SUP is a super-fun sport that takes 10 minutes to learn, will get you fit and tanned, enhance your balance, strength and stamina and doesn't require much practice. You can SUP in all weather conditions depending on your skill level. So take your time discovering Lefkada as you learn to steady the board.



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Paddle and we're off!

An exceptionally refreshing activity for you to try this summer is kayaking, a sport that combines the love of exercise with the desire for exploration and is ideal for all ages. Aspiring paddlers will find it difficult to choose which places to tour along Lefkada's amazing coast. Are you ready?

Underwater exploration in the Ionian sea

Lefkada is one of Greece's top destinations for recreational diving. The impressive seabed and surreal visibility of the seawater will mesmerise divers of all experience levels. Colourful fish, beautiful coral reefs, stunning starfish and a plethora of seashells welcome visitors straight away. Gorges and valleys, rock formations and caves are just a few pieces of the magnificent underwater mosaic waiting to be explored. What you might not know is that scuba diving is both safe and undemanding, a sport for all ages and fitness levels. So if the aquatic world intrigues you, just visit the diving schools in Nikiana, Nydri and Vasiliki. Their experienced divers will make you feel safe and welcome in the kingdom of Poseidon.

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Take me to the mountains

Cycling is undoubtedly the best way to tour the island from coast to coast. Meander through the old town's quaint streets and see it from every angle. In the villages, take a little time to meet the locals and get fit as you pedal along. Lefkada offers routes of varied difficulty perfect for both recreational and athletic cycling. If you want to pair a short ride with a swim, bike from the old town to the Venetian olive grove, Agios Ioannis and Gyra. A different route for heartier riders starts from the cycling path in Vasiliki, traverses the valley to Roupakia and continues onwards towards Syvro. A great alpine route follows the road towards lush Melissa gorge, Kerasia springs and Dimosari waterfalls where you can cool off with a dip.

Aloft to see the island

Imagine flying like a bird and seeing the blue-green sea of Kathisma glimmering below. Paragliding is ideal if you want an unforgettable experience and are willing to go the extra mile. Flight duration is approximately 20 minutes and no prior experience is necessary. It might surprise you to know that paragliding is one of the safest sports you can try. Just place yourself in the experienced hands of these certified trainers and enjoy the ride.



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Lefkada is an island with
rich cultural heritage

LET'S CELEBRATE





Lefkada has multiple names but none as appealing as the ‘the island of poets’.

The name stems from the famous poets and writers who have been born or lived in the island such as Valaoritis, Sikelianos, Hearn etc

I doubt one could find a house in Lefkada without, at the very least, a single musician, artist or philosopher. Whether on account of the climate, or its Venetian past, this patch of land is blessed with a cosmopolitan and musical vitality. Lefkada boasts the second oldest marching band in Greece, innumerable conservatories, cultural societies, dance troupes, literary and theatrical clubs. And they don't miss a chance to share their passion by hosting events and fiestas throughout the year. It's little wonder that the prominent Literature and Arts Festival was first organized here in the 1950's, followed soon after by

Lefkada's International Folklore Festival, an important cultural landmark that still takes place each August. It is thanks to the festival that significant artists have performed in Lefkada; the great Maria Callas, in 1964, made an unscheduled appearance in the town's square, in what was to be her last live performance in Greece. This "island of poets", as it's commonly called, is surely favored by the Muses. One could even characterize the whimsical "Heptanese temperament", as an enticing cocktail of Apollonian and Dionysian spirit, one that keeps visitors coming back for more.




















Lefkada, basic orientation map




LEFKADA TOWN & ENVIRONS
 EAST
 SOUTH
 WEST
 INLAND

Lefkada's perfect beaches



NORTH

Ai Giannis				
Myloi				
Gyra				
Kastro				
Ammoglossa				

EAST

Lygia				
Episkopos				
Nikiana				
Perigiali				
Nydri				
Dessimi				






SOUTH

Mikros Gialos/Poros				
Ammoussa/Amouso				
Agiofylli				
Vassiliki				
Ponti				

WEST

Pefkoulia				
Agios Nikitas				
Mylos				
Kathisma				
Avali				
Kavalikeyta				
Megali Petra				
Gialos				
Egremnoi				
Porto Katsiki				

KEY

	sand		pebbles		blue flag
	parking		bar/tavern/cantine		

East

Kalligoni, Karyotes

The east side is predominantly green with tranquil landscapes and calm seas. Setting out from Lefkada town in the direction of Nydri, is the community of Kalligoni, built on the site of ancient Nirikos, the island's first capital from antiquity to the 13th century AD, when it was given the name of Lefkada. There are still clear traces of the enormous masonry blocks of the Cyclopean wall at the site called Koulmos and the remains of houses, the aqueduct, water reservoirs and vaults.

Karyotes is the next village along the route. It was built in its present location in the 50s, and before then stood higher on the hill up above. The ruins are still there.

Archaeologists have recently uncovered the ruins of an almost unknown ancient Greek theater in the area of Koulmos hill. Little is known so far about the sizeable theater but we will learn more in the future as the excavations continue.



Geni, Agia Kyriaki





Nikiana



Nydri



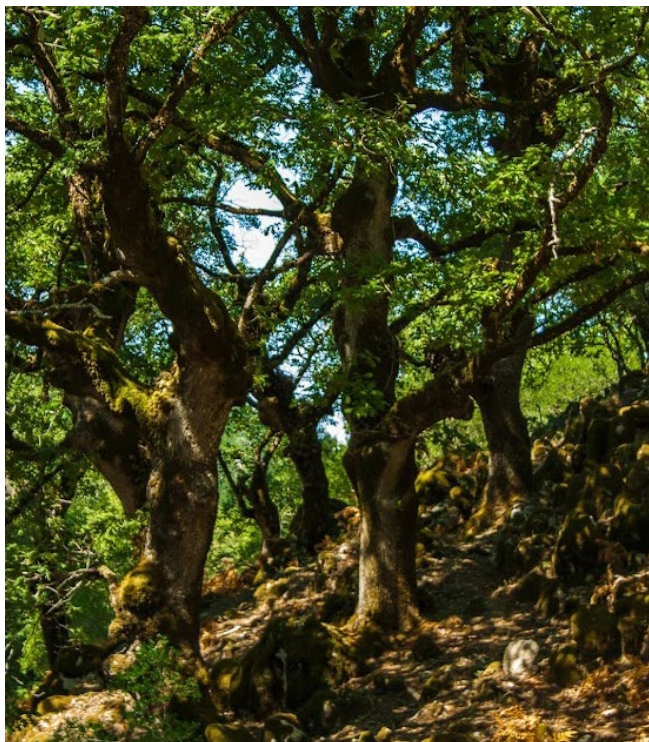
Katouna, Lygia, Episkopos, Nikiana, Perigiali, Skaros hill, Nydri

Moving south from Karyotes, you come to the picture-perfect harbour of Lygia, the outlet to the sea of the mountain village of Katouna. It is one of Western Greece's most important fish-wharfs. Nowadays, besides fishing and farming, the inhabitants find a lot of employment in the tourist sector and there is a number of newly-built hotels, rooms to let and seafront taverns serving fresh fish and a variety of other dishes.

It is worth making a detour from Karyotes area towards the Alexander's Salt Marsh to see the remains of the old salt works which were particularly important to the economy of Lefkada in the past. The scenery here is interesting and unusual. The beaches of the eastern side begin just after the picturesque harbour of Lygia which is 6 km from Lefkada town. As far as Nydri you will find

countless and quiet beach spots. The scenery is striking, especially in the Nikiana area and the greenery reaches almost to the water's edge. There are restaurants and lodgings all along the coastline.

Skaros hill is one of the best spots in the interior of Lefkada with rare plants, a forest of a rare species of oak with spectacular geological formation. The top of the journey will reward you with a magnificent view over the islands of Lefkada. Nydri is the most cosmopolitan part of the island. Once a quaint fishing village, it is today the destination of most tourists for their stay. In front of it is the bay of Vlycho with the many islands for which it is known, and mountain Elati forms the backdrop.



ADRIATICA

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Alisahni Studios

Alisahni studios invites you to experience an unparalleled level of comfort, elegance and convenience. Our renovated complex, provides a perfect relaxing atmosphere as it is ideally located within walking distance from the beaches and is the perfect base to explore Lefkada's natural beauty. All rooms have fully equipped kitchenettes, private balcony, bathroom with cabin shower, air-conditioning, TV and free WiFi internet.

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GNT0 L.N.: 0831K11K0239800



Digenis Studios

Digenis Studios is located, at the seaside village of Lygia, only 5 km from Lefkada town. It is an organized, family business, which in recent years, has been accommodating people in its spacious and comfortable apartments. Located 300m from the sea and away from the noisy roads, it is the ideal place for relaxing holidays. Digenis Studios can be the perfect base, to discover the magnificent island of Lefkada.

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GNT0 L.N.: 0831K32K02810000

Avra Hotel

If you seek a beautiful and also easily accessible destination you should come to Avra Hotel in Lefkada, Greece. Our family hotel is located in a beautiful fisherman's village on the east coast of the island, named Lygia just 4.5 kms away from Lefkada town. The innumerable natural beauties of the island of Lefkada and the hearty hospitality of our family hotel guarantee you a wonderful stay and an altogether unforgettable vacation.

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Matina Studios

Overlooking Nikiana beach, Matina Studios is a complex of accommodations with beautiful views over the the Ionian Sea. Enjoy your family holidays in our pleasant rooms and studios which feature terraces or balconies, and free WIFI throughout. Matina Studios is just 200 meters from the beach and 500 meters from Nikiana village.

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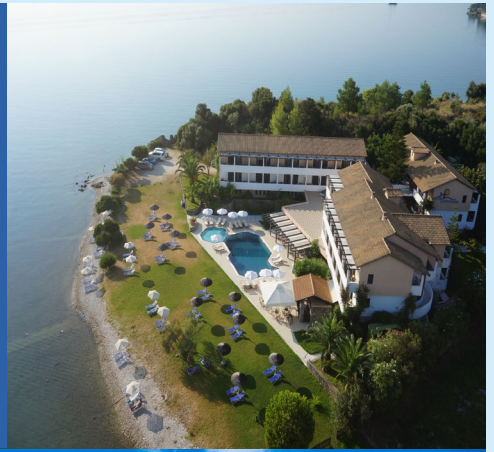
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Nikiana



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Eva Beach

The hotel is situated in an ideal location on the beach of Nydri and close to all amenities. The hotel has modern and comfortable rooms and offers a warm and friendly atmosphere. All rooms are spacious offering sea and mountain views and are equipped with all modern amenities. The rooms offer free WiFi, air conditioning, TV, fridge, hairdryer, bathroom and balcony or terrace overlooking the sea or mountain views. There are studio-type rooms that feature a kitchenette.

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Nydri Beach Hotel & Beach Bar

Nydriion I & II offer panoramic views to the nearby islands of "Onassis" Scorpios & "Valaoritis" Madouri. With a total of 32 rooms both hotels offer indoor bar, snack-cafe beach bar. All rooms are equipped with free Wi-fi, telephone, air-conditioning, satellite TV, mini bar-fridge, bath/shower, w.c., individually controlled central heating, safe, hair-dryer and balcony with view to the sea or mountain view.

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Akrogiali Studios

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Beyond the beaches

DIMOSSARI WATERFALLS IN NYDRI

Dimossari waterfalls (aka Nydri waterfalls) are located in the eastern part of Lefkada island, on the outskirts of Nydri. So if you want to get there, you should follow the road to Nydri. Before you get in the centre of Nydri you will see in your right the ring road of Nydri. You should follow that road and after a while you will see on your right a sign that leads to the waterfalls. The water in this amazing natural spot is refreshingly cool, the place is usually not crowded and the hike that will get you there is equally amazing. Bear in mind that the best time to visit Dimossari waterfalls is from May to September.





South

Mikros Gialos, Sivota, Ammouso

Below Poros village, on the road to the sea, there is the pretty little beach of Mikros Gialos, a peaceful and attractive beach with pebbles where the sea is unpolluted, in sheltered Rouda Bay. Being an organized beach, it is on the top of the visitor's list.



On the main road, some 6 km from Poros, a road goes down to the sea and to Sivota. This enchanting village is built right on the shore in the embrace of green hills. It offers mooring and refuelling for many boats and a rest for the crews. According to Dörpfeld's theory, this is where Odysseus landed on his return home. Today it offers some of the island's best known fish tavernas serving delicious fresh fish, lobster and seafood. Ammouso is a beach worth visiting on the southern coast, that usually attract fewer visitors. You get there by a detour of the main road after Marantochori. It is small, with pebbles and there is a taverna and a cafe with a nearby camping site.



Vassiliki



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Vassiliki

Vassiliki is a magnet for tourists for its beautifully beaches, the greenery crowding right down to the pretty houses of the harbour, organized hotel complexes and rooms to let, camping, tavernas and nightlife.

It also enjoys the advantage of cool currents making it one of the best seas in the world for windsurfing.

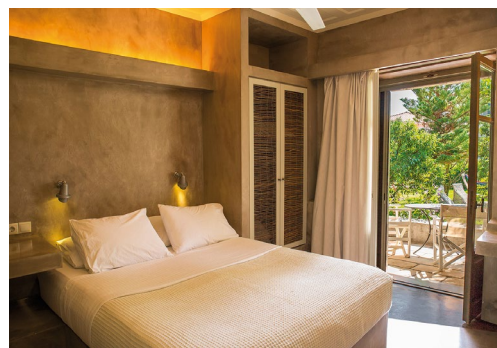
It is a good place for a stopover, for a meal, a swim (it is worth taking the boat to Agiofylli, a super beach) or a cup of coffee by the sea. Remains have been found on the plain of Vassiliki indicating the existence of an ancient city. The plain of Vassiliki is ideal for bicycle tours and hikes.

There are ferries to Ithaca and Kefalonia or small boats to beaches in the vicinity and Cape Lefkatas.

For nearly 30 years Vassiliki has been home to some of the top sailing and windsurfing holiday companies and centres in the world, and it is on the back of this reputation for watersports excellence that has seen Vassiliki grow from a very sleepy fishing village into one of the best loved and most returned to spots on the island.



Vassiliki



GNT0 L.N.: 0831K121K007200

Stavlos Cottage

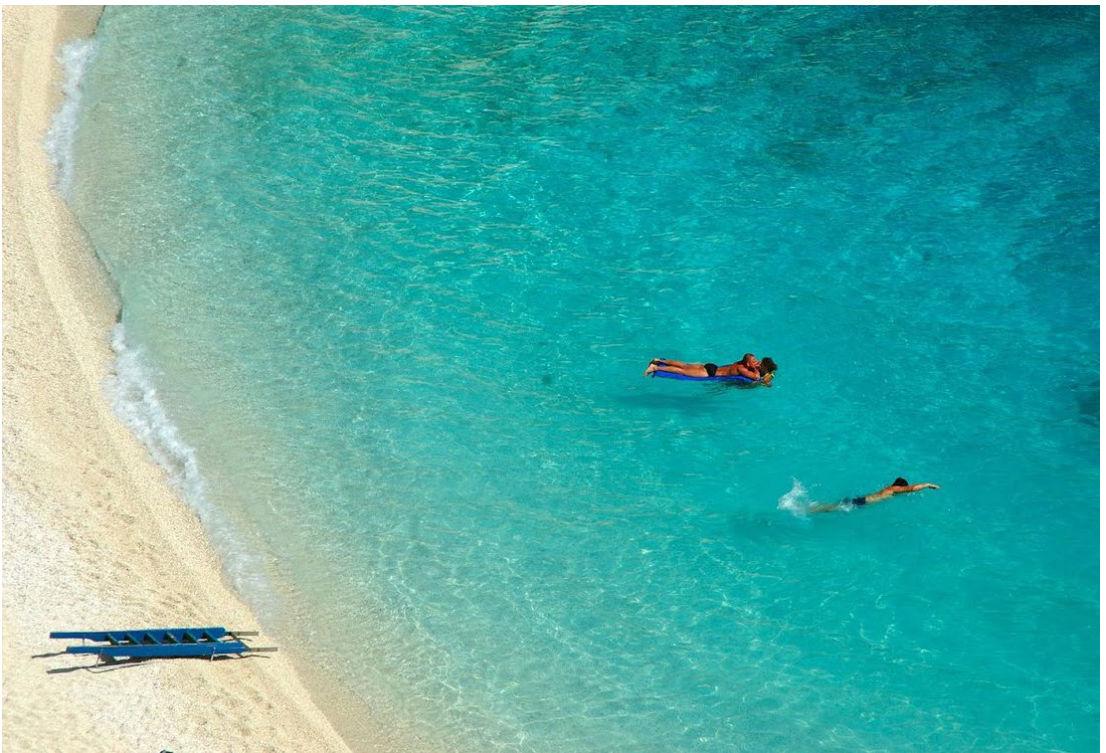
Stavlos Cottage is situated in the middle of Vassiliki beach just a few minutes away from the market on foot and 38 km away from the city of Lefkada. It includes four Lux apartments, fully renovated in February 2011, in the middle of wonderful scenery which offers you many recreational activities and an interesting night life. Each apartment is 35 sqm with one bedroom and one kitchen with cooking equipment. There is also one single and the option of one folding bed.

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LEFKADA'S PERFECT BEACHES
AGIOFYLLI





Where've you been so long, Agiofylli?

You'll fall in love with Agiofylli at a glance. Lilliputian, charming, divine, it's just what you need to unwind this summer. This south coast beach resembles Porto Katsiki. Though it's not included in Lefkada's 3 super-star beaches, it's not to be missed, with its dreamy emerald water and sparkling snow-white pebbles cradled by lush green vegetation that clings to the coast. Always sheltered from the prevailing winds, the cove's deep water remains unruffled and clear, perfect for swimming and frolicking underwater. The innumerable fish and impressive seabed are perfect for snorkeling so don't forget to bring your mask and fins.

Take your beach umbrella!

A portion of the beach is free while the rest is organized with beach umbrellas and lounge-chairs (the cost is 15 Euros for a set of two lounge-chairs and one umbrella). In July and

August, it's completely packed so come early in the morning or in late afternoon to avoid the crowds. There's no natural shade here until the sun starts to set, so you'll need an umbrella.

How do I get to Agiofylli?

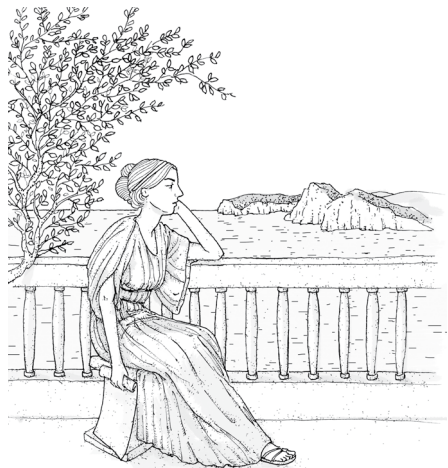
During the summer months, boats depart Vasiliki for Agiofylli about once an hour. The dreamlike 20-minute journey costs 7 Euros round trip. You can also reach Agiofylli on foot. Drive southeast from the marina at Vasiliki. Take care as the dirt road is rough and narrow in places. There is a private parking area close to the beach where you can leave your car for 7 Euros.

You can also park it anywhere you find space without paying and walk the rest of the way. Note that if you come on foot, you must descend several steps to reach the beach. There is a canteen near the parking area that offers cool refreshments and snacks.



Cape Lefkatas

From Athani, the last stop has to be Cape Lefkatas or Kavos tis Nyras or Kavos tis Kyras. The landscape takes your breath away. Sheer cliffs and bottomless, ranging seas create scenery of unimaginable wildness. They say that it is these white cliffs that gave Lefkada its name. Cape Lefkatas gives the impression of having been touched by a divinity, evoking in the contemplator a feeling of eternity: here the most ancient legends meet





The most fantastic view is from a spot shortly before arriving at the destination: just before the lighthouse there is a stretch of scree on the right

the mystical breath of nature. According to legend, Sappho, the most significant poetess of antiquity, jumped off from the Cape of Lefkada for the love of Phaon. Sappho was highly regarded by all ancient savants and Plato characterized her as the “tenth muse”, while coins were minted and sculptures were made in her honor. In her poetry she praised the beauty of love, the gods and marriage and she set her poems to music playing the harp.

West

Faneromeni, Tsoukalades, Pefkoulia

Starting out from Lefkada town, follow the signs to Agios Nikitas village, passing the monastery of Panagia Faneromeni, the 'Island's Palladium'. There is an exceptional view to be enjoyed to the right.

You reach the village of Tsoukalades, built on a height and hemmed in by olive trees. There are gorgeous views from there of the Ionian Sea from a number of different angles.

Continuing along the asphalt road, a few kilometres further on there is a breathtaking sight of the vast Ionian Sea.

The first beach on the route is one of the best: Pefkoulia. Here the pine trees descend down the slopes all the way to the seashore. The sea is wonderfully clear and the strand is of fine, rice-like grains as on almost all the beaches on Lefkada's west coast, a caress for bare feet and easily flicked off the skin.



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An aerial photograph of a beach with turquoise water. A person is standing in the surf near the shore. The text 'LEFKADA'S PERFECT BEACHES' and 'PEFKOULIA' is overlaid on the image.

LEFKADA'S PERFECT BEACHES
PEFKOULIA

The only problem visitor's encounter in Lefkada is choosing between so many incredibly beautiful beaches. Let's take Pefkoulia, for instance, a stunning beach that has the "misfortune" of being situated on Lefkada's superstar west coast. This year come see for yourself why Pefkoulia deserves to be on your "must visit" list.

At the cusp of an emerald green pine forest and the infinite blue of the Ionian sea lies the small earthly paradise aptly named Pefkoulia. This cool oasis of golden sand, sparkling pebbles and crystal clear water in every shade of blue is the postcard perfect beach you'll never forget, perfumed by the scent of pine. A portion of the beach is organized with umbrellas and sun loungers, while the rest is free. There is little natural shade, so if you don't intend to rent an umbrella, be sure to bring your own. The perfect spot for basking endlessly under the hot August sun, cooling off with a plunge and, naturally, exploring.

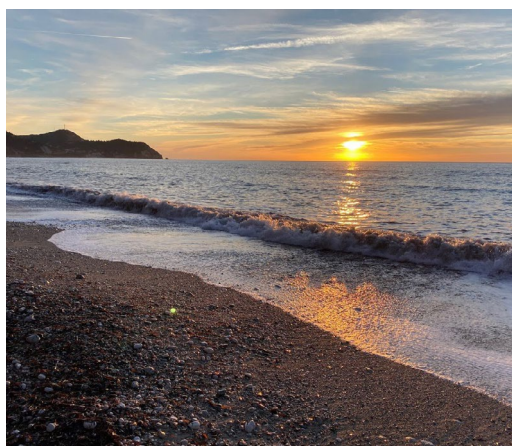


Pefkoulia - Bikini, 1 - 0

There's room for everyone on this spacious beach cohabited by families and groups of friends, romantic couples and naturists. Even in August, you'll find a secluded niche. If you like to skinny-dip and bask in the sun just as you came into this world, the clothing optional "section" is just past the large boulder on the left.

You'll come for the sunset (too)

The magic doesn't end with the aquamarine waters. Make sure you plan to stay until sunset and see the iridescent sea awash in every imaginable shade of orange and red.



How do I get to Pefkoulia?

Pefkoulia lies on the island's northwest coast, between Lefkada's old town and the seaside village Agios Nikitas. The beach is just 10km from the town and the road there is excellent. There is a free parking area as you approach, but from mid-July to mid-August, it's likely you'll have to park on the roadside. If you don't have your own vehicle, take one of the buses that run frequently along this route in the summer months.

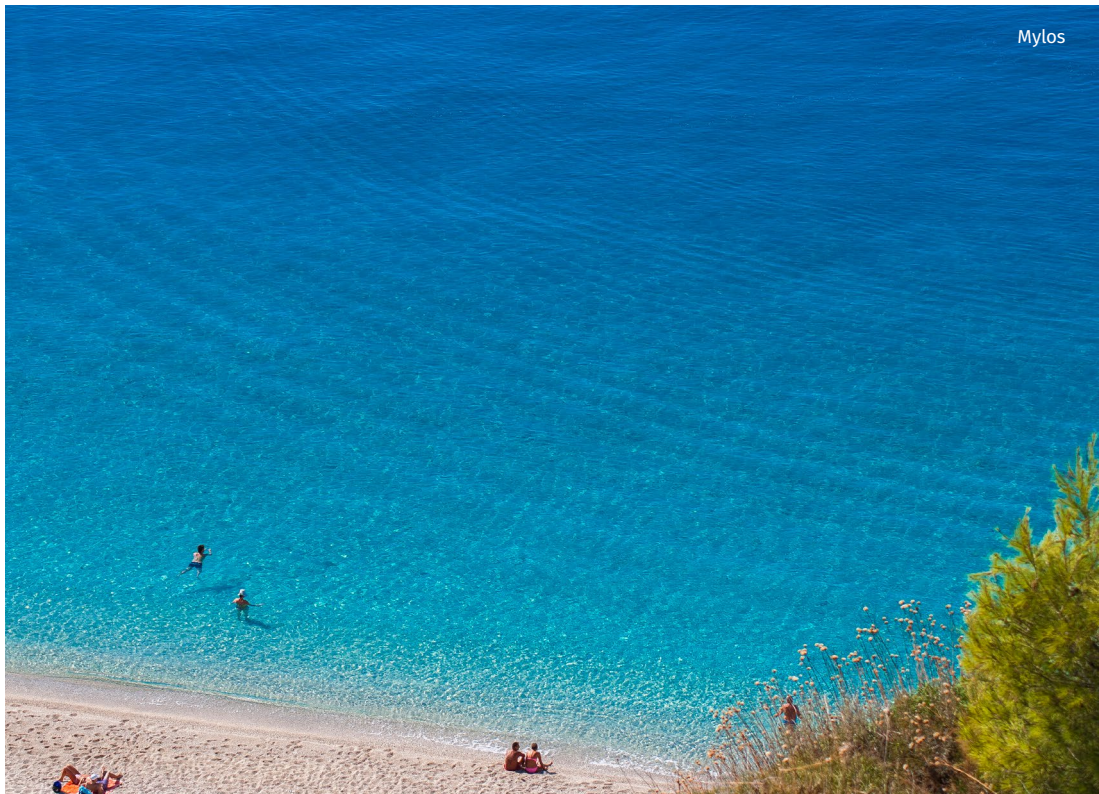


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Agios Nikitas, Mylos

A few kilometres further on is Agios Nikitas, listed as a village of the national heritage. It has attractive stone-built houses, shouldering one another with their roofs almost touching, not only because of limited space but also facilitating escape in case of the pirate raids of the past. Despite the unavoidable additional buildings in the surrounding area, the village preserves its charm. The sea that laps the seafront is crystal-clean and is a joy to swim in, with the added enjoyment of its setting amid enchanting scenery.

From Agios Nikitas there is the shuttle service of a water taxi departing from the water-front to the next beach, Mylos, considered by some one of the two loveliest of the island. Its rather difficult access has saved it from the crowds and its endless stretches of immaculate beach and waters can be enjoyed with plenty of space from other bathers.



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AGIOS NIKITAS

Just 15 minutes away from Lefkada's old town is one of the island's most enchanting traditional villages, the seaside fishing hamlet of Agios Nikitas. Located on the northwest coast between Pefkoulia and Kathisma, it's a harmony of simplicity and sophistication. Here, amid the amphitheatrical cluster of stone houses, the meandering cobblestone streets, the gardens that overflow with bougainvilleas, geraniums and basil plants and the tiny crystal cove that beckons visitors for a refreshing dip, you'll feel as if you've travelled back in time.

Swimming in an earthly paradise

Agios Nikitas beach is a favourite for Instagramers and, when you set eyes on it, you'll understand why. Refreshing cyan waters, awarded Blue Flag status year after year, golden pebbled sand and lush green as far as you can see. The small cove offers shelter from the prevailing winds, making Agios Nikitas the perfect beach for families with small children. Of course, the sea is quite deep here, as is the case at all of Lefkada's west coast beaches where care should be taken by inexperienced swimmers. The beach has very little natural shade, in the afternoon only, and there are no beach umbrellas/loungers for rent. So make sure you bring your own umbrellas, mats, hats and sunscreen, of course! Also keep in mind that this small beach usually draws a large crowd between mid-July and mid-August, so come early in the morning or in late afternoon to enjoy this singular place.

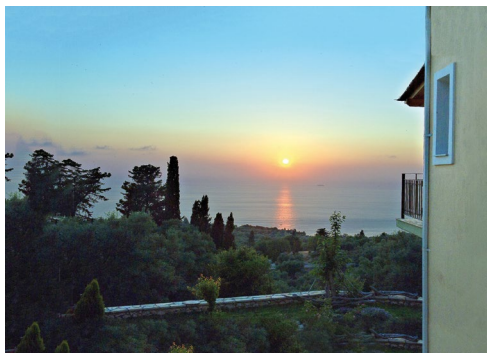


From Agios Nikitas to Mylos

It takes approximately 20 minutes by foot, along a beautiful shady path, to walk from Agios Nikitas to Mylos beach. The route is marked and begins at the pedestrian street west of the village. Alternatively you can take one of the small boats that run every half hour and enjoy the same route by sea. Mylos beach, named for the old windmill at its edge, will take your breath away with its wild terrain, its sparkling thick sand dotted with white pebbles and its diaphanous cyan waters.

How to get to Agios Nikitas

A 12km route leads to Agios Nikitas within a lush green landscape. You can leave your car in the parking area just over the road, or park roadside. Keep in mind that cars are not allowed inside the village. Another, greener option is taking the bus, in which case you won't need to look for a parking space. Just check the timetable for the next, frequent, departure when you're ready to go. Find the entrance to the village after the stoplight or use the central pedestrian street and walk down to the square.



Porto Katsiki Guest Houses

Porto Katsiki Guest Houses are built in a magnificent location, at the picturesque village of Athani. The area around the complex is full of olive trees, while the unique view to the sea enchants all visitors. The Porto Katsiki Guest Houses are the ideal place for those wishing to relax and enjoy the marvelous beaches of Lefkada island. The complex offers all modern comforts in order to satisfy even the most demanding ones.

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Kathisma

Kathisma, Porto Katsiki, Egkremnoi & Gialos

Kathisma wears different colors throughout the day and is well worth the stay until sunset when you'll see the sky adorned in pink.

Porto Katsiki, is undoubtedly the crown jewel of the island's remarkable coast. Steep cliffs lace the pebbled shore and cyan waters of this aptly named "Goat Cove", which was, until its recent discovery, inhabited exclusively by adorable *katsikia*. Your awe will remain undiminished, no matter how many times you return.

Egkremnoi is definitely one of the best silky, milky-powder-white sand beaches of Europe with perfectly translucent clear waters and dramatic white limestone cliffs. For more than 6 years the only way to reach remote Egkremnoi was by boat, but now the beach is again accessible by foot. Those who don't enjoy travel in small boats can take the picturesque winding road to Gialos, a beach very similar to Egkremnoi.

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LEFKADA'S PERFECT BEACHES

KATHISMA

With its sweeping sand beach and heavenly cool water, Kathisma aspires to become your favorite seaside destination this summer. As soon as you set eyes on this sun-bathed earthly paradise - with its stark, almost “Caribbean” antithesis of turquoise and white - you’ll discern the unique aura that keeps people coming back for more. If you’ve been dreaming for months about working on a deep summer tan, you can rent a lounge-chair and umbrella set or just lay your beach towel anywhere there’s room in the golden sand. After all, this queen of cosmopolitan beaches is over a kilometer long, so there’s room for everyone. You’ll get your fill of sunbathing, swimming,

diving and non-stop snorkeling while paragliders launch from the lush slopes above and land on the beach. Whenever you feel like having a bite or just want a break from the hot August sun, you’ll find beach bars, sophisticated restaurants and cafes to choose from right by the beach.

Another of the beach’s highlight attractions is the instagrammable sunset that paints the horizon a scarlet red. If you visit the beach in the afternoon, take care to prolong your heliotherapy until dusk and experience this mesmerizing spectacle. As the sun strokes the boundless sea, you’ll whisper the vows of your eternal connection with Lefkada.



FYI - Kathisma Beach

- There is a lifeguard on duty at Kathisma Beach, but extra care should be taken, especially if you are escorting children, as the sea deepens abruptly.
- Often, if it's windy, the waves are quite steep, so even if you consider yourself a good swimmer, you should probably avoid testing your skills in these conditions.
- “Don't forget your hat. The sun really burns at Kathisma!” is what our mothers would say when we went to the beach, and they were right. Remember to take your sunscreen too, unless you prefer the lobster look.



How to get to Kathisma

Starting from the Old Town, a lush 15 kilometer route through enchanting villages and dense, aromatic vegetation takes us to the incredible beach that tops the charts of tourist guides across the globe. Follow the sign for Kathisma to the right, after the village of Agios Nikitas. The road is paved and an easy drive, but you may have some difficulty finding space to park* between mid-July and mid-August, something you can avoid by going early in the day. If you don't feel like driving, you can take one of the frequent buses there.

** Restaurants and cafes have their own private parking areas, but are reserved for patrons only.*



LEFKADA'S PERFECT BEACHES
A V A L I



Avali, the postcard perfect beach with crystalline waters, white pebbly sand and golden green cliffs has for years attracted a small tribe of fanatic devotees. It's the ideal choice if you're seeking a secluded refuge away from the August crowds but aren't willing to forego the unsurpassable natural beauty of Lefkada's west coast beaches. Avali is the quintessence of Greek summer - carefree, authentic and liberating simplicity. Don't expect to find an organized, cosmopolitan

beach with umbrellas and lounge-chairs. This sanctuary, defined by the absence of human intervention, is the perfect place to indulge in hours of reading or simply surrender to summer's sweet tranquility.

For the past several years, Avali boasts an unconventional canteen that serves coffee, cold beer and remarkable food in a laid-back atmosphere of sublime taste.

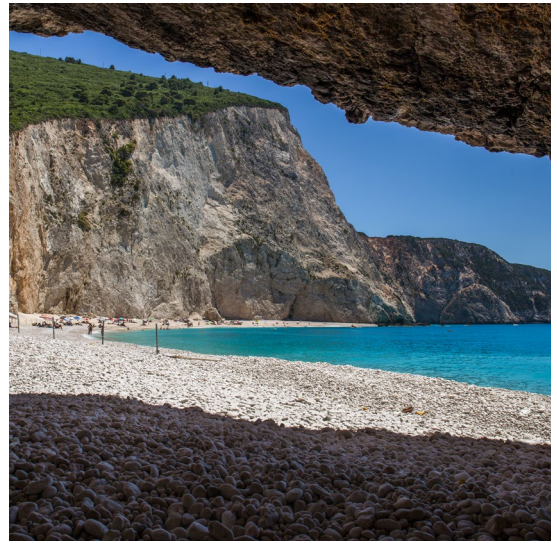
Sunset at Avali

A mysterious ambiance drapes Avali at dusk, prelude to a transcendental experience for those who remain on the beach to witness sunset. The horizon takes on a deep pink as the sun dips into its liquid canvas and the myrrh-scented breeze strokes your hair to the quiet rhythm of the cicadas and the lapping waves.

How to get to Avali

Take the road towards Kalamitsa, turn left at the sign and continue for another 4-5 kilometers until you reach the parking area for the beach. It's a winding road, but you'll be amply rewarded for the somewhat dizzying drive.





LEFKADA'S PERFECT BEACHES

PORTO KATSIKI

A strip of pure white sand at the foot of a towering white rock: the picture is familiar as it was awarded the prize of the loveliest beach in Greece. The most impressive of all the beaches in Lefkada, with an extraordinary natural landscape. Follow the downward road with the 100 steps that starts

from the parking space (which is full of canteens). You can also get to the beach by taking a small boat from Nydri or Vasiliki. However, when there are high waves, you should pay extra attention even if you are an experienced swimmer.



DELIGHTFUL SMALL VILLAGES

Mountainous Lefkada



As the island bathes in the noonday sun and before your swimsuit has even dried, take a break for a bit of tsipouro and delicious mezé where there's always a cool breeze - under the shady plane trees in the village square of Karya. Its warm-hearted residents will make you feel like one of the family. Once you've had a few tumblers, enjoy a stroll among the beautiful stone houses, friendly satiated cats and well-groomed gardens where old women sit creating their renowned silk-thread Carsanic embroidery. Then head west to Drimona, a traditional village with cobblestone streets, well-preserved stone houses and lush Wisterias that adorn the idyllic scene with their lilac blossoms, each year, in celebration of spring.

Next stop is Exanthia. According to local lore, its name refers to the six families, literally "six flowers", that founded the village centuries ago. Here the scent of wild oregano and sweet lemon verbena abounds and grapevines cling to the freshly white-washed houses like a lover's embrace.

The village, built amphitheatrically, feels like a suspended dream-balcony with arguably the best view to be found in the Ionian Sea. One of the island's oldest villages, Englouvi, is also the village with the highest elevation in Lefkada. Here lentils are still grown according to generations-old farming traditions. The well-deserved fame of these local legumes is indisputably a matter of taste best described as love at first bite. Hiking uphill along the footpath you'll reach St. Donato, a beautiful small church. Each year on August 6th, the eve of St. Donato's feast, women from the village gather to prepare their traditional lentil soup in earthenware pots. The age-old recipe is served to locals and visitors, accompanied by riganada, salt-cured sardines and garden tomatoes. St. Donato is also the site of the famed "voltos", the vaulted stone huts believed to be built during Venetian Rule and used by lentil famers as temporary shelter during the summer months.

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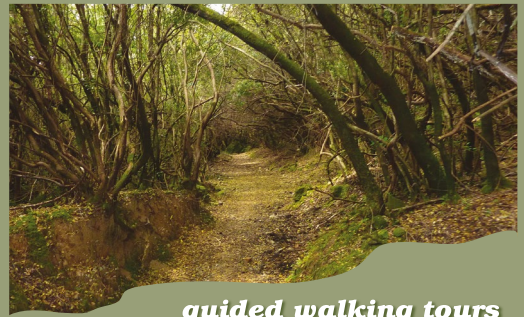
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The Flora of Lefkada

Text: Aris Kokotsis

Lefkada, the 'white island' by its name, is in fact very green. This is also the first impression of Lefkada: from its coasts to the summits of its mountains, it is covered in rich flora. Beginning from the west coast, where the pine trees reach down to the sandy beach, we find the sea lilies, a rare species protected in other countries. Also samphire, a succulent plant belonging to the fennel family, which in Crete is pickled. This is kept company by the small cacti of the genus *Lycopod* and higher uphill, amongst the thyme, is the strawflower an ancient plant of healing and worship with its silver stalks and yellow flowers that never fade. Climbing the mountain slopes we are bemused by the odorous pine and cypress trees. In Athani, rosemary, thyme and oleander mingle with the conifers and olive trees. In spring, from March until May and early June, the olive groves constantly change colour in the undergrowth: first mauve from the wild geraniums then white from the daisies and later, chamomile blooms. A plethora of flowers add their own note: wild gladioli and carnations, blue borage and the yellow flowers of the asfakia or Jerusalem sage. On the mountainsides facing Nydri and Skorpios, and up to Vassiliki, sage is the dominant plant with its pervasive odour. The thickets and ravines of Lefkada are a mass of pournari – holm oak, hawthorn and the cypress trees, tree medic and Judas trees. In the area between Drymonas and Chortata, in April the Judas trees paint the mountainsides mauve with explosions of flowers before putting out leaves. Next to these are the ornamental acacias with their clusters of white flowers.



Babis Lazaris



Babis Lazaris



Babis Lazaris

In May, in the fields of Alexandros and Kolyvata, elderflower trees dress as a bride with glorious white inflorescence. The roadsides are decorated by balsam with small flowers like yellow suns, together with wild garlic and the wild carrots' bouquets of tiny white flowers among bright red poppies. On the slopes under the flowering broom and the majestic phlomos, rock-roses spread their mauve or white flowers like wrinkled blouses, oregano and hyssop diffuse delightful scents. In the ravines, the bay and strawberry trees challenge us to be singled out until Christmas, when the strawberry trees decorate the scene with their striking red and yellow berries. White-flowered wild roses steal attention. In the little springs of Akoni, maidenhair fern sprouts amongst the rocks.

At the start of spring and on Nikiana's ascents towards Agioi Pateres, blue iris makes an appearance, under the myrtle and the wild mastic trees and the terebinth trees. In autumn the latter wear their red and yellow leaves making the moody season more cheery. In spring, under your footsteps, there are tiny wild orchids, be careful where you tread, and the satyrium with its glowing pink inflorescence.

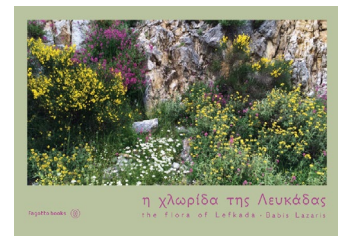


***Lefkada,
the 'white
island' by
its name, is
in fact very
green***

On the plateau of Egklouvi and Chortata where the renowned lentils and the Vartzami grapevine are cultivated, is where they say wild coral peony grows. If you look low, close to the ground, you will find tiny wild pansies, and early in the summer in the fields the blue cornflowers, a species that has now disappeared in northern Europe. The first autumn rain brings out a second blossoming, which holds until December. Crocuses, white, mauve and yellow, decorate the footpaths to the monastery of Agios Ioannis on the road from Lazarata to Alexandros. Cyclamen flower on the rocks of Cape Doukatos under the bushes, and after Christmas, narcissus blooms in profusion. Lefkada's trees are a world of their own, with their own history, since once upon a time the land was intensively cultivated. From Nydri to Vassiliki lemon and orange trees shade large expanses. Of course the olive tree reigns supreme, olive oil being the main produce of the island. Above Nikiana, on the Skaroi range, there are also oaks—one of the few forests on the island which is unfortunately still not sufficiently appreciated.



Almond and wild pear trees grow in the thickets, birches and plane trees in ravines and stream beds, willows by the waterfall in Rachi. And, finally, pomegranates and quince tangle in the hedgerows with clematis and honeysuckle. All of this and many more herbs, flowers and bushes make up a fascinating world, a paradise for nature lovers. A few years ago a visiting botanist discovered a formerly unknown flower in the sands of Gyra which he called *Arenaria Lefkadia*. For those who are interested in such information, from spring to autumn Aris Kokotsis organize botanical tours and seminars on therapeutic properties of plants. On these tours, with our senses for guides, we enter into contact with the wonder-world of therapeutic plants for healing and learn how to use them.



More information on the flora of Lefkada you can find in the book **"The Flora of Lefkada"** by Babis Lazaris, © 2014 Fagotto-books Editions.



FAMOUS AND UNIQUE PRODUCTS

Local Products

The most famous products of Lefkada are Englouvi's lentils, thyme honey from Athani, sausages and wine. Also interesting are the local pies as well as mantolato and pasteli which used to be a specialty of the barbers! Ivári has excellent quality avgotaracho (roe) despite the fact that these are produced in small quantities. Also famous is the embroidery of Lefkada and the remarkable "Karsaniki" stitch which doesn't exist elsewhere in Greece.

In the villages pies are ubiquitous and easily made. In addition to the vegetable pie with aromatic wild greens, also worthy of note are the rice pie, pasta pie made with eggs and milk, olive oil and cheese, as well as the 'briani', pie made with thick green courgettes.



Pites tis mamas & Once upon a pie

Pites tis mamas*, which means Mother's pies, is a bakery that offers traditional products of Lefkada, made with care and with the purest ingredients.

You also can visit **Once upon a pie**** and enjoy our traditional handmade delicacies and coffee! Our two shops offer a wide range of homemade pies, delicious cookies, seasonal and traditional sweets.

*28 Ir. Politechniou St., Lefkada • Tel: +30 2645025779

**3 Stratou Tsegjou St., Lefkada • Tel: +30 2645400554

***You can't leave without tasting
this unique golden nectar***

The truly exquisite honey of Lefkada is mainly being produced in Athani, a small village close to Porto Katsiki. In Lefkada island you can find delicious varieties including thyme, pine or flower honey. A small jar will easily fit into your suitcase so you have to take some home with you to drizzle over your yogurt. If you want to try something different choose pasteli (the perfect energy bar), a Greek traditional type of nougat based on sesame and honey.



Thyme area of Athani

Thyme honey | Royal Jelly | Raki+honey | Pollen | Organic Olive oil
Athani, Lefkada | Robotis Kostas | Tel: +30 6973906583

Wine from Lefkada

The most reclaimed, traditional wine varieties that grow in Lefkada is Bertzami and Bardea. Grown on the municipal units of Sfakiotes, Karia, Apollon and Ellomenos at an altitude of 200 to 700 meters and considered among the best varieties our country produces. In recent years, thanks to the tourism development in Lefkada, young winemakers with expertise and modern facilities undertook the task to highlight the local wine varieties, even succeeding special awards at wine fairs.



Your leading specialist in quality Greek wines & Greek micro-brewery beers
Private villa wine tastings available



de Blanck
Wine shop, Nidri Mainstreet 105
Wine & Champagne Bar, Nidri Harbour

- ☎ +30 2645092023
- ☎ +30 6946003320
- @ info@lefkaswine.com
- @ www.lefkaswine.com
- f deblanckwineandchampagnebar
- 📷 @deblanckgreekwines



Just like mom's

A RICH CULINARY TRADITION

You only get to truly know a place when you taste its cuisine. Lefkada, with its rich culinary tradition that follows the authentic Ionian cuisine, has to present some great dishes that will make you swear that they are one of the most delicious you ever had. There are countless food options in the island of Lefkada ranging from traditional taverns, cozy ouzeri and grills for yummy greek mezedes, to alternative restaurants serving ethnic cuisine and gourmet dishes.



seven islands

tavern

homemade greek dishes



Tavern Seven Islands is a nice and cosy family restaurant situated in Lygia, just 2 m. from the sea! There is an extensive menu, you can order local fish, very nicely done on the grill with fresh herbs, or a traditional Greek dish prepared by the mother of the owners. In addition there is a variety of meat as well as vegetarian dishes available.

Lygia · Lefkada
(Little street next to Shell)

+30 26450 71747
@ contact@taverna7islands.gr
www.taverna7islands.gr

 Tavern
Seven
Islands



Cuttlefish in their ink, cooked with rice

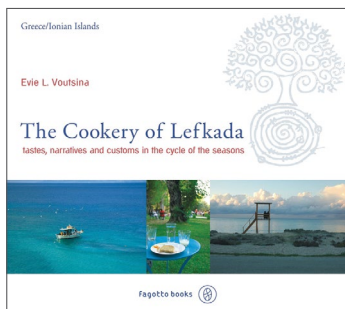
by Evie Voutsina

Ingredients:

1 kg cuttlefish
 1 medium-sized grated onion
 150 ml olive oil
 Very little salt
 Lots of black pepper
 1 wineglass white wine
 1 glass white rice

Preparation:

Wash the cuttlefish thoroughly and cut them into pieces. Heat the olive oil and lightly sauté the onion. Add the cuttlefish and sauté all together. Pour the wine over and add the ink (the whole quantity or less if you don't want the dish to be too black). Add some water, pepper and a minimum of salt and cook until the cuttlefish are almost soft and left with their sauce. Then add the rest of the olive oil and three cups boiling water, and when it comes to a boil add the rice, well rinsed in a colander. Stir, add some salt for the rice, and boil for 13-14 minutes. Check for salt and serve immediately.



A great read is 'The Cookery of Lefkada', a book about cooking as well as about the people of Lefkada, written by Evie Voutsina



KANIORIA

family tavern

As you walk down the pedestrian area of Lygia by the sea, you will find our tavern. When night falls, and especially under a full moon, the place is magical. This is the sea where "Kanioria fish" is caught - the local name for blue fish. We cook them in a soup or with fresh tomato. Our cuisine focuses on dishes of Lefkas. These are the tastes we grew up with and have been serving with special care for years. Fresh fish from our sea - big or small - is our daily care.

Lygia, Lefkada

+30 2645 072229

Ta Kanioria

Google Maps

Find us on
tripadvisor



CAPE OF Lefkatas

Athani, Lefkada



+30 26450 33149

+30 6932 611106

www.lefkatas.gr

Lefkatas



Kyma

The restaurant Kyma, meaning “the wave” guarantees its visitors, fresh quality traditional Greek cuisine. Its specialty is fresh fish and shellfish. The restaurant also offers a rich selection of wines (local and otherwise) and excellent homemade sweets, made with care. Its large exterior and interior are ideal for families with children.

Finikas sq., Lefkada • Tel: +30 2645022280



Tilegrafos

Here you can enjoy a wide range of our Greek cuisine cooked fresh from our own private farms. For those interested in the bar life, we serve various drinks and fresh fruit juices. Tilegrafos rooms are located right across the street from the beautiful sea view of Agios Ioannis beach.

Agios Ioannis, Lefkada • Tel: +30 2645024881 • contact@tilegrafos.eu • www.tilegrafos.eu



Kollokas Tavern

Kollokas Tavern offers authentic Greek - Mediterranean cuisine. It is located in the village of Katouna, just 8 kilometers from Lefkada town. A family tavern that offers both meat and fresh fish, and of course delicious traditional dishes. Everything is made with care and vegans have also many options. Mouthwatering dishes cooked to perfection and great hospitality.

Katouna • Tel: +30 2645071787 • +30 6947671790 • kollokasp@yahoo.gr



Xouras Tavern

When we dream of fresh fish, lobsters, shrimps, squids... When our appetite asks for home made food, then we eat at Xouras tavern. Apart from the fish, there are also varieties of meat and other cooked traditional dishes. For twenty years now, Xouras tavern promises you unique flavors. The owner is experienced and “lover” of the good food. The tavern is built on the sea, at Lygia’s harbour.

Lygia • Tel: +30 2645071312 • xouras@gmail.com



Breath of Zorbas



Zorbas' breath is one of the oldest and the most picturesque restaurants by the sea, located in Niki-ana. Taste delicious dishes with fresh fish, seafood and local meat, all cooked according to traditional, greek recipes, accompanied by the famous wine or drinks of Lefkas.

Nikiana · Tel: +30 2645071449 · +30 6951148881
panagiotisdamianis@hotmail.com



Tom's Sea Side Restaurant

Tom's Seaside Restaurant is located right on the beach of Nydri with a perfect view of the Princess islands. Tom's approach is 'Simply Greek' and you will find nice home cooked Greek dishes and fresh fish here. Tom's is a must-visit during your stay in Lefkada.

Nydri · Tel: +30 2645092928 · tom_skylakos@yahoo.com ·
www.tomsseasiderestaurant.gr

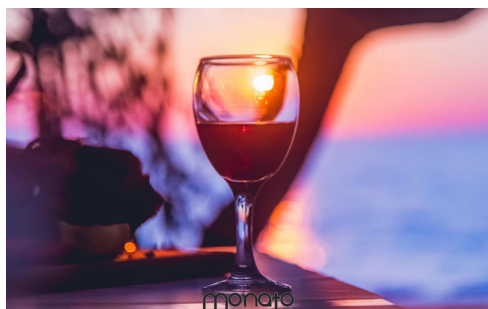


Monato



Located at Kathisma beach, famous for the beautiful crystal waters and the amazing sunset, Monato offers a modern take on traditional Greek cuisine and local flavours. Here you can enjoy your lunch or dinner in a magnificent location which is in perfect harmony with its surrounding landscape.

Kathisma · Tel: +30 26450 097094 ·
info@monato.gr · www.monato.gr



Ionio Tavern

Where the sky meets the sea, giving you the impression of an endless horizon, this is where you will find us. Enjoy a unique view, while savouring our superb dishes. Mrs Dina and her family will offer you the Lefkadian hospitality and food specialities, prepared with family recipes. Fresh fish on the grill, lamb or rooster cooked the Greek way, Lefkadian cheesepie, and many other house specialities.

Egkremnoi · Tel: +30 26450 33000 ·
info@taverna-ionio.gr · www.taverna-ionio.gr





Find the house of your dreams in Lefkada

THE PLACE WHERE YOU BELONG

If spending your vacations in Lefkada is not enough and you feel that this is the place where you belong and you are ready to face all the challenges of living in a small place then be welcome! You are a person of great courage and endurance, someone who knows what is best and is ready to go after it. From now on a great adventure will start! Maybe you will ask yourself a couple of times why you did it but be sure that by the end it is all worth it. A piece of advice from us: trust your instinct.

There is by now a considerable colony of Europeans from other countries, most of them having chosen to live on the island permanently. Some have businesses of their own or are employed in island businesses, others are pensioners who enjoy its beauties to the full.

It is well known that celebrities from the world of the arts, fashion and business have invested in the purchase of a home, all over the extent of Lefkada's territory.

The economic crisis in Greece enabled opportunities for the acquisition of moderately priced property, as opposed to former years. The value of real estate is estimated to have fallen some 30 percent.

New legislation has established the possibility for persons from other countries wishing to acquire property in Greece to have permanent resident status, renewable every five years as long as they are of the following categories:

- 1 Citizens from other countries intending to purchase property in Greece, with the means – documented and substantiated – to acquire such property of a minimum value of 250,000 Euro.
- 2 Citizens from other countries who have contracted rentals of a duration of at least ten years in hotels or furnished tourist accommodation in composite tourist resorts, if the minimum rental amounts to 250,000 Euro.
- 3 Family members of the above categories.

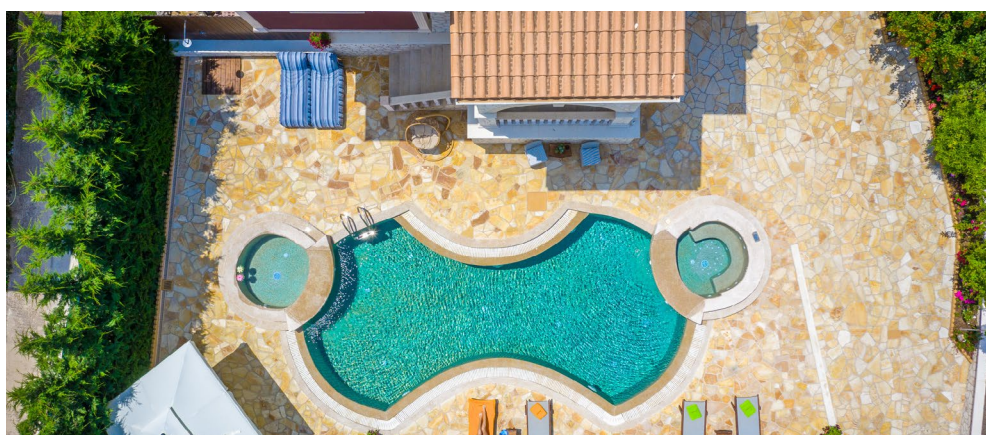
Lefkada disposes of efficiently organized bureaus undertaking the search for or construction of a dwelling in Lefkada according to your specifications.

New legislation has established the possibility for persons from other countries wishing to acquire property in Greece to have permanent resident status



The Ionian Project

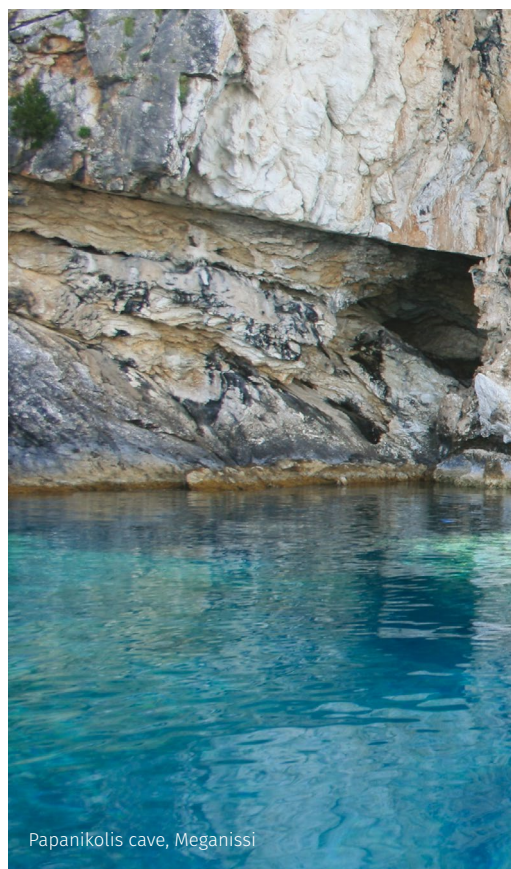
REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES | LUXURY VILLAS MANAGEMENT | DEVELOPMENT



www.theionianproject.gr ☎ +30 6980990338 / +30 210 3009174 @ info@theionianproject.gr

Explore the hidden gems of the Ionian Sea

Scattered like pearls across the sea, the beautiful islands of Ionian are calling you and you want to explore them all. And guess what lucky guy? With Lefkada as your starting point you can go for an excursion to the nearby islands of the Ionian Sea easily. Local ferry companies and private boats connect neighbouring islands and islets, so you can plan your trip or adapt it according to your preferences. From Lefkada, day-trip to the private island of Skorpios, owned by Aristotle Onassis, then to Madouri, the tiny uninhabited island with the large pine trees, carry on to the magical Kefalonia famously known by the “Captain Corelli’s Mandolin” movie and then to the picturesque Ithaca, the home of Odysseus. Visit Paxos and Antipaxos, the small islands with the endless olive groves, the rolling hills and the unspoiled beauty. Hop a boat to Kalamos, which abounds in beautiful landscapes and stunning blue waters and after that visit the magnificent island of Kastos which will seduce the more discerning travelers.



Papanikolis cave, Meganissi



Fanari, Meganissi



**LINES TO
LEFKADA /
/ KEFALLONIA**

**Lefkada
Nidri or
Vassiliki**



**Kefalonia
Fiskardo**



DIONI TRAVEL
Shipping & Tourist Agency

- Ferry tickets to Zakynthos - Killini Aegean - Italy
- Accommodation
- Daily cruises to Lefkada - Kefalonia Ithaca - Meganisi - Skorpis
- Yachting services
- Motor boats and sailing boats rentals
- Taxi transfers - Minibus
- Taxi boats
- Activities

Island hopping in the Ionian

>>> Lefkada in the middle

>>>> BY AIR

airline Sky Express:

Corfu ↔ Aktio (Lefkada)

Kefalonia ↔ Zakynthos

- Other flights: Aktio ↔ Sitia (Crete)
- Zakynthos ↔ Kythira

>>>> BY SEA

Line connecting Ionian Islands
Everyday during summer with Azimut high speed

Corfu (Kerkyra) - Paxoi (Gaios) - Lefkada -
Ithaki (Pisaetos) - Kefalonia (Sami) - Zakynthos

Ferries from Kyllini, Patra, Astakos, Igoumenitsa

Kyllini to Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Ithaki
Patra to Ithaki, Kefalonia
Astakos to Ithaki, Kefalonia
Igoumenitsa to Corfu, Paxoi

Local boats
Connections between nearby islands

Corfu to Othonoi, Erikoussa, Mathraki, Paxoi
Lefkada to Ithaki, Kefalonia, Meganisi, Kalamos, Kastos
Kefalonia to Ithaki, Zakynthos

- Sailing options to all Ionian islands

>>>> BY LAND car/ bus using boat connections:

From Igoumenitsa directly to Lefkada
To Kalamos/Kastos via Mytikas
From Igoumenitsa or Lefkada to Kefalonia/Zakynthos via Kyllini
From Kyllini to Ithaki via Poros (Kefalonia)
From Patra to Ithaki

- air
- sea
- land



Information offered by

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SLOW
GUIDE



www.lefkadaslowguide.gr

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Music / Exhibitions / Nightlife / Sports / Local Life / Celebrations

Today only a few areas remain in Mediterranean Europe of such outstanding and unspoilt beauty as the island of Lefkas. See our exceptional portfolio:

REAL ESTATE

www.lefkas-landbroker.com



Your International and multilingual team of estate agents, architects, engineers and solicitors offering you a complete service in the land and the property market

Lefkas Landbroker

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 info@lefkas-landbroker.com

