

Welcome to Corfu & Villa Oleander



We're here to help

If you need any help, advice or information throughout your stay please let us know. We are resident in Corfu and available to help you make the most out of your holiday.

We have a lot of knowledge about the island and places to visit. If you would like us to plot you a driving route please let us know.

We hope you find this information file useful. It highlights some of the lovely places to visit on the island and much more. **All this information is available at the villa in a file.**

We will visit the villa on a Monday to change the linen, and throughout the week we will come to clean the pool and tend the garden.

We realise privacy is very important in a villa holiday however we can assist you as little or as much as you like. With this in mind please contact us should you require any assistance.

Please telephone or send a text to:

Shay: Greek: +30-69795-38300 & UK: +447880-548548

Or

Stephen: Greek: +30-69771-28802 & UK: +447979-750737

Have a lovely holiday

Stephen Scholes & Shay Logue

Villa Oleander

The villa is equipped with everything you need for an enjoyable relaxing stay. The following points will help you settle in.



Windows

All windows are fitted with fly screens, we recommend you keep them down at all times to keep mosquitoes and flies out. Especially at dusk and evening.

Hot Water/Heating

The hot water and heating system in the villa is run on electricity, there is always plenty of hot water. The temperature of the water is pre set.

Smoking

Please do not smoke inside the villa. We have provided ashtrays which can be used outside. Please do not throw cigarette stubs in the garden and extinguish them in the ashtray.

Forest Fires

Please extinguish any lit materials responsibly, due to the location of the villa and high temperatures in summer, fires can start and spread quickly. The nearest fire extinguisher is in the kitchen.

Rubbish Bin

A green bin is located at the rear of the villa. It is essential to line it and keep the lid on at all times to prevent flies and animals wanting its contents. Bin bags are provided and kept in the kitchen drawer. We suggest you empty the bin on a daily basis to avoid smells with the extreme heat. The bin should be emptied into the large wheelie bins that are located along the road side in the surrounding areas. The nearest bin is in Afra village. Please could you ensure the bin is emptied on the day of departure.

Breakages

We appreciate accidents do happen so please inform us of any breakages so we can replace or repair items.

Flowers & Plants

All the plants in the garden are watered by an irrigation system set with water timers. Please avoid touching the water timers which you may see located around the garden as they have been set for specific times of watering (late evening).

Lighting/Electricity

Please conserve energy where possible, you may experience a powercut which is quite common in the Greek islands.. We recommend you locate the torch which is behind the TV in the lounge. If you need to leave an outside light on in the evening when you go out please do so. When you go to bed and during the day could you please make sure all outdoor lights are switched off.

Door Key

On departure from the villa, please ensure you leave the key for the villa in the Key safe by the archway.

Sun Parasols

To prevent damage and injury to yourself or your party, please could you ensure the sun parasol are down and tied when:

Not in use

When you leave the villa

At night time and

During windy periods.



Outside Cushions

Could we kindly request that the sunbed & bench cushions are put away in the evening and when you go out. Otherwise animals may sleep on them when you are unaware and this is a hygiene hazard.



Drinking water

The local tap water in the area has an extremely high calcium content and we recommend you use an alternative.. Please do not use the tap water in the kettle, coffee maker and iron, as it will coat the elements with hard lime scale and eventually will destroy the appliance.

Mineral water should be used which can be bought from the supermarket or it is free from the wells in Afra or Agios Ioannis which is better and the water is pure.

There are two wells nearby where you can fill up the water container with fresh water:

AFRA WELL: Is in the village. Turn left at the top of the road and follow the road to the village. Turn left at the top in the village and the well is a few hundred meters on the left. It is a modern well with taps and this is the closest and most convenient.

AGIOS IOANNIS WELL: Turn right at the traffic lights into the village and is situated on the right. The wells are clean and modern and you can fill containers straight from the taps. We have provided water container for you to get water from the well.



Water & Electricity power cuts

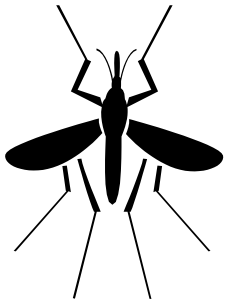
At some point throughout your holiday you may experience electricity and water cuts at the villa. This is not unique to the villa but the village and local area. All over Corfu someone somewhere will experience water or electricity power cuts at some time during the day. These can last from a few minutes to several hours. This is quite common on the Greek islands.

We apologise in advance if it does happen to you.

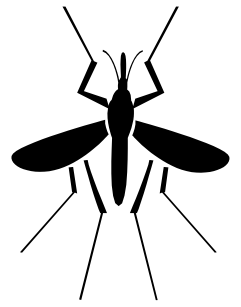
Unfortunately this is totally beyond our control but we will assist you as much as we can if this does happen. We have provided tea lights and matches at the top of the tall cupboard in the kitchen should you need them.

If there is a water failure we advise you to always have water from the well in stock from Afra village. Please could you inform us if you are ever without water or electricity as we will need to reset the pool timer and some of the timers in the garden.

If this does happen we hope this will not cause you too much inconvenience.



Mosquitoes



Wherever you go on the island you will at some point have a fight with a mosquito! You can minimise your contact with mosquitoes by following these few tips:

1. Ideally before you travel you should take **VITAMIN B1** tablets which are quite reasonable from a health food shops. Make sure you are not allergic to these before taking. You should take these approximately 2 weeks before you travel and during your holiday. Vitamin B1 has an effect on your skin which is offensive to mosquitoes but has no trace to humans, so therefore they avoid you. (Buy these before you travel).
2. Always wear some repellent during early evening, just when the sun goes down. This can be a spray or stick, find one to suit you and your skin type. (You can buy these before you travel or locally from the supermarkets in Corfu)
3. If you are not allergic to **CITRONELLA OIL** dap it on your ankles and at the back of your neck, again this can be bought from health food shops. (Get this before you travel)
4. Mosquitoes and bugs are attracted to light. Make sure fly screens are down and keep indoor lights off as much as possible. Keep doors closed to avoid letting them in.
5. Spray **RAID** (Fly spray, which is also very effective on mosquitoes. It can be bought locally in the supermarkets in Corfu) in the bedrooms and keep the doors closed. Plug in the mosquito machines and blue lights which are provided. (Don't leave these plugged in during the day as they get hot and are ineffective until the sun goes down).
6. You can get the **OUTDOOR** mosquito coils from the supermarkets in Corfu which you burn. These are good to have on the floor under your table when eating outdoors. These are to be used outdoor only and should always be put on a guard to avoid fires.

Mosquitoes usually come out in the evening when the sun is setting and the temperature drops. They don't like extreme heat during the day or when it is too cold. If you follow the above tips it will help you avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.



Supermarkets & Bakeries

Most of the supermarkets sell everything under one roof like, bread, alcohol, meat & toiletries etc. They are unique in character and are good for their own individual items. It's just a case of shopping around and becoming streetwise to suit your taste. Whilst on holiday the closest and easiest well stocked supermarket is **ARISTA**.



ARISTA is the best stocked supermarket close to the villa. They have a fresh bread, vegetables, fruit, salad and everything you need for your holiday. They also have a deli counter and excellent butcher. George the butcher speaks fluent English and is very helpful. They also stock wine, spirits and beers. It is an ideal supermarket for a self-catering holiday.



DIELLAS is a well stocked supermarket with a fresh butcher. You can get all sorts of groceries here. It is larger than ARISTA and has more choice. Don't forget to go upstairs as a lot of supermarkets don't have space to display everything on one level so they have a lift you can take your trolley up to the next level with the lift. It is located on the left hand side of the road on the way to the airport from the villa.



This is the best stocked supermarket. This is our favourite for fruit and vegetables as the quality is excellent and there is a good choice. Also good for wine and spirits. We try to buy as much as we can here and then visit other supermarkets on the way back home to get things Lidl don't have. Lidl is located by the airport and you can get to it on the road parallel to the airport road. There is also a Lidl on the Paleokastritsa road on the way to Corfu town just after Kontokali. You will need 1 euro for the trolley. They do sell meat but there isn't a butcher. There is also a large bakery section.

There is also a small mini market in Afra villa which is handy for small items like bread, eggs and milk. You would struggle to do a weekly shop here though.



Feeding Cats and other animals at the Villa



There are a lot of wild cats in the area who will come to the villa looking for food. For the welfare of the cats could we ask you not to feed them in the grounds of the villa. The reason for this is that not everyone likes cats and once they come to the villa and are fed, it is very difficult to get them to leave. They can be quite vocal when you are eating outside and will constantly meow. The food can also attract vermin. We want to avoid complaints from guests about the cats coming to the villa so it is essential you do not feed them as they will keep coming when you leave.

We **totally encourage** you to feed them, buy them food and give them water and would ask you to do this at the top of the road.

Your cooperation with this is essential and hope you can appreciate that we would like to keep all Villa Oleander guests happy and do not want this problem to get out of control.



Instructions for appliances



Hot Water

There is constant hot water which is pre set.

Washing Machine

The washing machine is located in the boiler room, by the archway at the side of the house. It is for your use. We recommend you wash clothes at 40 deg with spin speed of 1400 rpm wash cycle. We have supplied anti-lime scale tablets which are to be used in conjunction with your detergent as this will improve the quality of the water. Full instructions on wash cycles are by the machine. We have provided anti lime scale tablets but not washing powder or fabric conditioner.

Oven

The oven is fan assisted which cooks quickly and has a built in grill. There are 3 controls: 1) Oven function, 2) Timer and 3) Temperature.

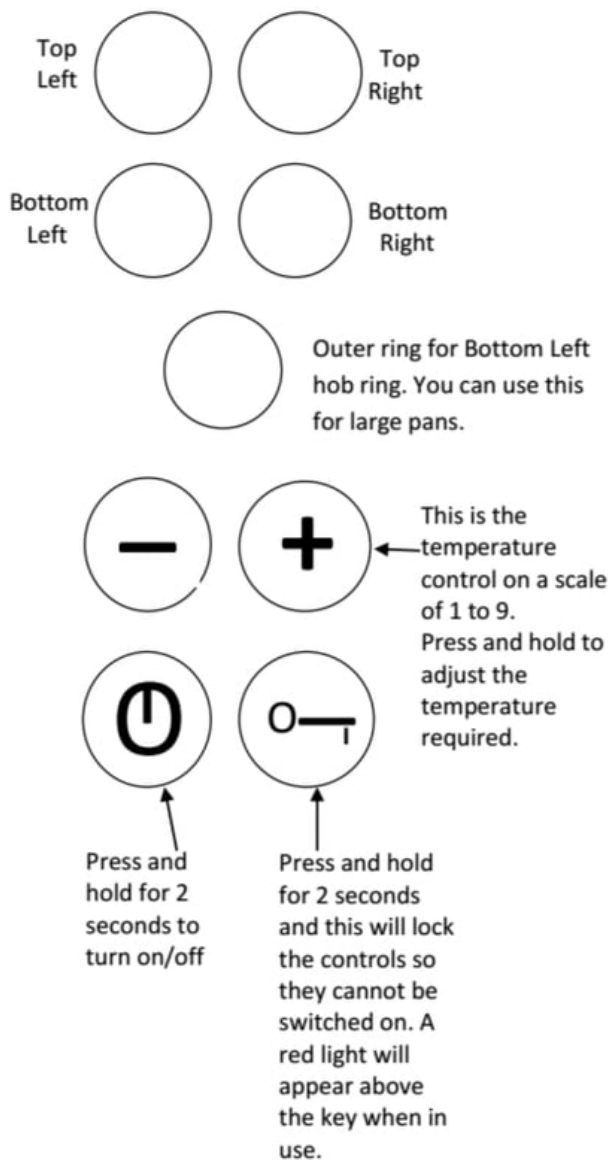
Cooker Hob

The hob is touch sensitive and has a child lock device indicated by a key symbol on the surface by the controls. Should anything be placed over the hob when not in use an alarm will sound (Beep). Please be careful with the hob as it is made of ceramic and retains the heat, it should be cleaned once cold to touch. You will find the instructions on how to work for the hob over the next few pages.

Dishwasher

We recommend you rinse any dirty dishes under the tap before loading the dishes into the washer. Dishwasher tablets are best to use. Salt is already in the machine to soften the water. Please be aware due to the high calcium content of the water it is necessary to wipe away calcium residue from glasses and crockery once the drying cycle is complete. We recommend programme number 5. We have provided citric acid powder which is in a white tube under the sink. Place ONE tablespoon of citric acid in the drum prior to the wash as this will improve the water quality. You will also need to use a dishwasher tablet as well as the citric acid.

Instructions for working the cooker hob



1. Press and hold the on/off switch, this will illuminate the The temperature controls to zero.
2. Press the desired hob ring which you would like to cook on. The zero will then start to flash.
3. Adjust the control to the desired temperature between 1 to 9. You can turn the control up and down whilst the numbers are flashing. When you have the desired number press the hob ring again and this will set the temperature. If you wish to turn the temperature up or down again you must press the hob ring control again until the number starts to flash and then you can adjust the temperature.
4. When you have finished cooking, press the minus Control until the number reaches zero. A 'H' will appear indicating the hob is still hot but will disappear when the hob has cooled down and is safe to touch.
5. When you wish to turn the hob off completely, press and hold the on/off control for approximately 2 seconds. A 'H' will appear and will go when the hob is completely cool and safe to touch.

Please be careful when cooking and don't:

Wipe the hob whilst hot as marks will appear.

Drag the pans across the hob as this will scratch the glass.

Television

We have internet TV (Called FilmOn) which is live UK TV along with French, German, Russian, Slovakian, Indian, Italian, Middle East, Swiss, Hungarian, and Greek TV.

You will need to control the TV with the remote and a wireless mouse.

Use the **REMOTE** for:
Switching the TV on and off
The Volume

Use the **MOUSE** for:
Choosing your channel
Expanding the size of the page
Turning the channels over

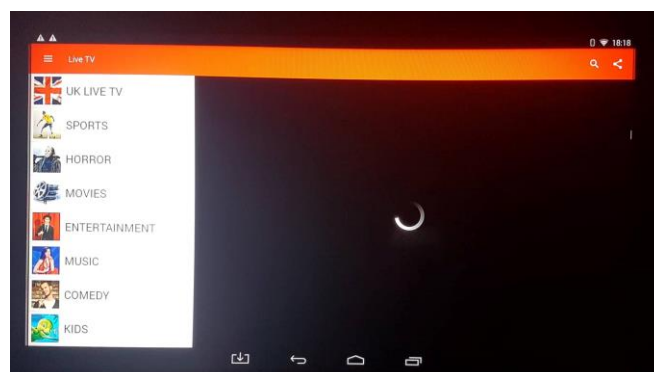


Instructions for using Filmon:

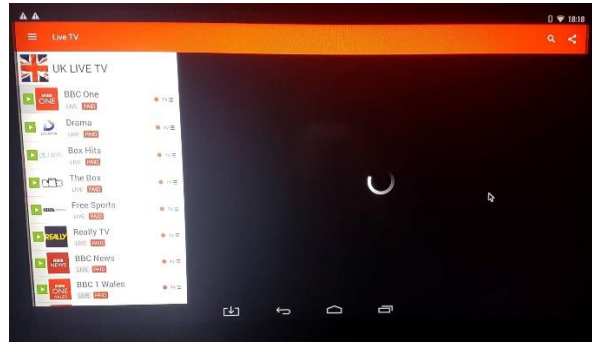
- 1) Switch the TV on with the red button on the top left of the **REMOTE**. This will appear on your screen:



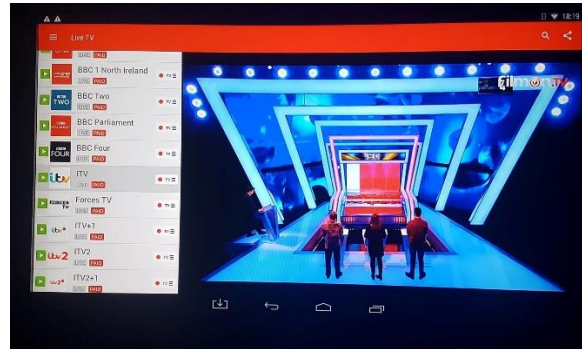
- 2) Left click the FilmOn app with the mouse, and this screen will appear. Left click UK LIVE TV or the TV of your choice and a drop down selection will appear for you to choose your channel:



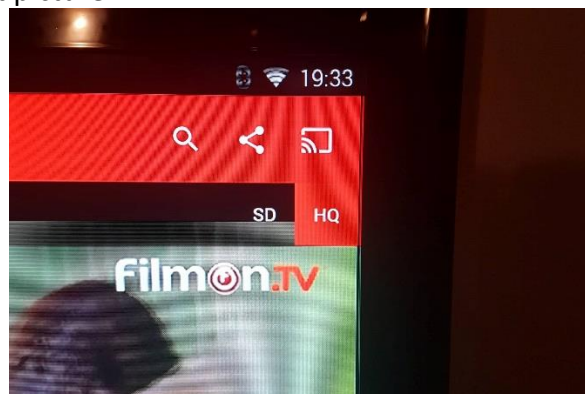
3) Left click the channel you would like to select:



4) The channel you select will load



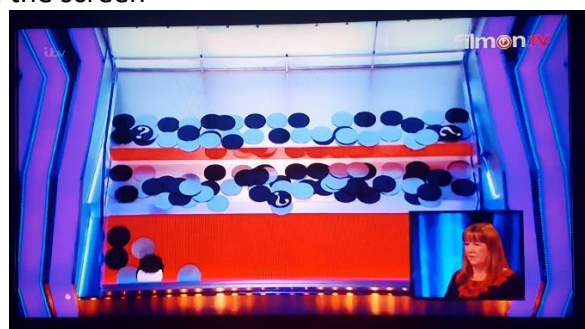
5) Click HD to get the best picture:



6) To expand the page, left click the 4 arrows at the bottom of the right of the screen.

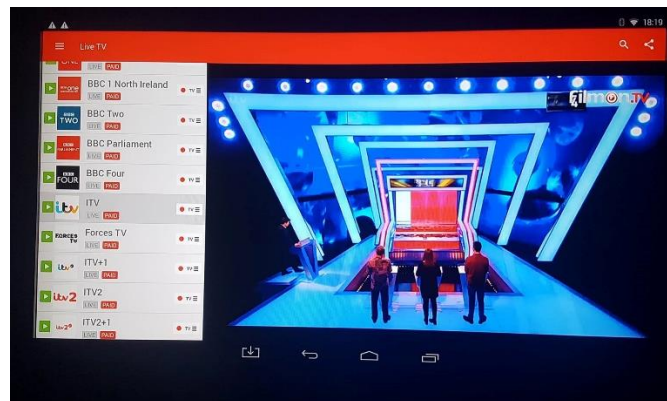


7) The programme will fill the screen



To change the channel:

- 1) Right click the mouse anywhere on the screen and this screen will appear. Left click the channel you wish



- 2) Click the 4 arrows at the bottom right hand side of the screen and it will expand the page to fit the TV in full:



When you have finished watching TV switch the TV off with the remote and FilmOn should still be loaded when you turn the TV back on. If isn't you will need to go back to this page and repeat the process:



Troubleshooting:

Always make sure the TV is set to **HDMI 3** (it is pre set to this but may have been changed by a previous guest).

You may see this screen which is the Home screen. Left click the applications app to get to FilmOn app.



All channels are live so they will be on the same time zone of the country they are screened.

General Information



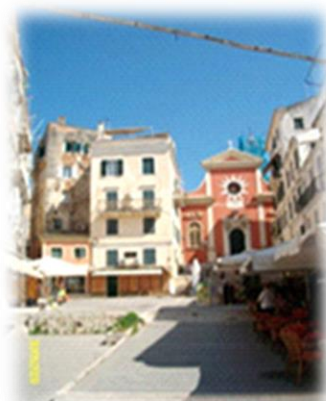
Pharmacies are open during shop hours and there is always pharmacy open in Corfu town at night and at weekends. Greece has 220-volt, 50 cycle AC electric current.

Driving any vehicle whilst over the legal drinking limit is heavily penalised and can result in stiff fines and/or imprisonment.

If you want to hire a car or bike you need to produce a valid driving licence as well as a passport. The law states that seat belts and crash helmets must be worn. Between 14.30 and 17.00 many people have a siesta. Shops are often closed at this time.

The national church is the Greek Orthodox. About 98% of Greeks are Greek Orthodox. Services start around 08.30 on Sunday and last about two and a half hours. If you wish to attend, or to enter any church or monastery, please make sure that you are suitably dressed.

Mount Pantokrator is, at 906m, the island's highest peak. Taxis are fairly cheap, although you will be charged extra for trips to or from the airport or ferry terminal. Insist that all fares are shown on the meter. Drugs are not tolerated. Possession of even small quantities can result in lengthy imprisonment and large fines. Trafficking can mean life imprisonment. The Greek language is probably the oldest in Europe, with a 4000-year oral tradition and a 3000-year written tradition.



Banks exchange all major currencies in cash, traveller's cheques or Eurocheques; the commission is lower for cash. Post offices exchange cash but not travellers cheques, and usually charge lower commissions than banks. Travel agencies and larger hotels change cash and travellers cheques but usually charge higher commissions than banks.

Service is always included in restaurant bills and hotel bills but it is customary to tip the waiter if you are satisfied with the service. The closest point between Corfu and Albania is at the headland of Aghios Stefanos in the north east of Corfu. The distance here is only 2.25 kilometres.

When Greeks go out, they have lunch at about 1.00pm and dinner no earlier than 9.00pm. This is why if you walk around looking for a restaurant patronised by the "locals" as a sign of quality, it is very likely to be deserted before 9.00pm. It is not unusual to arrive at a restaurant at 11:00pm, especially in the summer.

Do not take photographs or make notes near military or official installations. Seek permission before photographing individuals. If you are invited to someone's house for a drink, a meal, or to spend the night do not offer money, no matter how poor the people may be. The suggestion of payment is offensive. Instead offer a gift for the family or for the children. Banknote exchange machines can be found in most tourist areas. Most banks have ATMs where you can access your debit or credit account.





The speed limit is 100 to 120 km/hour (62 to 75 mph) on main roads and 50 km/hour (31 mph) in residential areas. Passengers must wear seat belts. Children under 10 years of age are not allowed to sit in the front seat. As in all of Europe, you must carry a first aid kit, a warning triangle, and a fire extinguisher in the car. Few people in Corfu celebrate their birthdays, but almost everyone celebrates their Name Day. This custom stems from the Greek Orthodox religion in which all children are baptized with a name that is acceptable to the church. This means that most names in Greece are those of saints.

Nude sun bathing is considered inappropriate unless you are on a designated nude beach or in a private remote area where you are not likely to be seen. Topless sunbathing is common in the summer. No one will fine you, but you may offend some people.

The Greek flag consists of nine horizontal stripes, alternatively blue and white, and a white cross on a blue square field. The striped flag has been in use since 1822, and was approved in 1833. The nine stripes are said to stand for the nine syllables of the Greek patriots' motto "Eleftheria i Thanatos" meaning "Freedom or Death." The white cross symbolizes Greek Orthodoxy, the established religion of the country.



Banks, shops and most museums close for the following holidays and celebrations:

New Year's Day, Epiphany 6th January
the first Sunday in Lent February
Greek Independence Day - 25th March
Good Friday & Easter Sunday - March/April
Labour Day - 1st May
Feast of the Assumption - 15th August
Ochi Day - 28th October
Christmas Day and St Stephen's Day - 26th December
Some businesses close on St Spyridon's Day - 12th December



Boat hire in Corfu

Feel like a millionaire and take your family and friends to one of the many small coves which you can only reach by boat. One of the best ways to see the island is to be your own Captain. You can hire a speed boat upto 30 horse power without having to have a licence. Full briefings will be given to you by fluent English speaking staff so you will be confident for your day on the water.



All boats have comfortable cushions and sun canopies to shield you from the sun if you wish. They have all the ingredients for a memorable day on the water. You can hire a boat from Barbati beach and go up the North East Coast as far as Agios Stephanos and from Paleokastritsa and see the spectacular deserted beaches of the West coast.



Have a look at the next few pages for inspiration.....

Paleokastritsa – West Coast Beaches



A contrasting day is to see the West coast beaches from the beauty spot of the island Paleokastritsa. Visit some of the deserted beaches on the West which you can only get to by boat and enjoy the refreshing turquoise waters.



Most of the beaches are isolated and don't have tavernas so it will be a good idea to take a picnic, drinks and some sun shade. There is also a water taxi service in Paleokastritsa which will take you to some remote beaches and you can arrange a drop off and pick up time.



Barbati – North East Coast



Cruising along spectacular North East coastline with tiny bays and harbours. You can call into some of the little bays for swimming and snorkelling or moor up and have lunch at one of the water front tavernas.



A fantastic way to explore the Ionian waters and take in this spectacular coastline with its wonderful views. Cruising from Barbati you will pass Nissaki, Karisia, Kalami, Koloura, Rothchilds bay and San Stefanos.



Two very different coastlines offering two very different days.

In high season it is important to reserve your boat a few days before as boats are in big demand.

For more information on pricing contact-Barbati - Spiros or George on 26610-91460

Paleokastritsa – Angela 6973277151

Corfu Town

Corfu town for all its hustle and bustle is still both an elegant and charming capital. You will stumble upon a fine array of European architecture, cobbled stone streets with small but exquisite restaurants. Shopping is fabulous, although a little expensive, from hand crafted jewellery to designer clothes. The best way to explore the capital is by foot, as many of the streets are pedestrian only. Amongst the many places of interest to visit are the following.



Old Town Centre



Its unique beauty is the product of the mixture of architectural styles left behind by the various occupying civilizations. Its streets wind and wander with no discernible order. The 'catounia' (cobble stoned alleyways), interrupted by graceful churches, statues and fountains are only accessible to pedestrians. You can find Neapolitan alleys, houses in French style, buildings with arcades or in Georgian English style, Byzantine churches and fortresses, Venetian stairs and French balconies.

Esplanade and Liston

The Liston, built by Napoleon, is a stunning walkway with a colonnade of arches along the building front, small cafes, bars and restaurants line the street allowing you to sit and watch the world go by or join the locals strolling in the evening sun.



One of Corfu's 3 cricket pitches adjoins the Liston. The Esplanade Square is the largest in Greece. During the summer month free, classical or jazz, concerts are held in the top of the square with bands performing in Bandstand of the Esplanade.

Old Fortress

Originally, Corfu was a fortress-state whose inhabitants lived within the walls of the Old Fort. The Contra Fossa, a moat, separates this Fort from the rest of town.

Towering proudly over the Esplanade and the entrances to the ports of Corfu town stands the fourteenth century old fort. Visitors can admire panoramic views from the coffee shop situated in the summit; inside you can explore the deserted military barracks and its church. During the summer months there are regular 'sound and light' concerts held in the fortress



Shop opening times are: Monday to Saturday 08:30 – 14:30

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 17:30 – 20:30

Most tourist shops are open from 08:30 until 22:30 in the summer season.

New Fortress

Built in the sixteenth century, the new fortress is now a naval base. It has a typical Venetian entrance gate and the British constructed the inner buildings.

It is situated by the port and its ancient walls can be seen stretching around the fortress from the marketplace to the port areas. The area in which the marketplace is located was originally a dry moat, overlooked by ramparts and connected with the Fortress as part of its fortifications. There is a coffee shop and small gallery within the summit walls. The views over Corfu Town, from the summit, are magnificent.



Church of Saint Spiridon



The church of St. Spiridon is the most famous shrine on Corfu. The mummified remains of St. Spiridon, the patron Saint of Corfu and one of the great saints of the Greek Orthodox religion, are enshrined in a silver sarcophagus adorned with stones. Saint Spiridon performed a great number of miracles; the faithful considered him a saint even before his death. He drove away the Turks, saved them from cholera and brought them grain to eat. Four times each year the remains of the saint are paraded throughout the town to commemorate the four miracles he performed. Palm Sunday – for saving the island from a deadly plague in 1630. Easter Saturday – in thanks for the relief from famine in 1550.

First Sunday in November - for saving of the island from plague a second time in 1673. 11th August – in memory of saving the island from invasion from the Turks, in 1716. The church is open every day 07.00 - 19.00.

The Palace of St George and St Michael

The Palace was built of Maltese stone between 1814 and 1824 in Georgian style, at the northern end of the Esplanade. During the period of the British Protectorate, it was the official residence of the Commissioner. It has two wings, dedicated to the Archangel Michael and Saint George, and a colonnade in Doric style fronts the main entrance that looks towards the square. The Palace was once a residence of the Greek royal family, was completely restored in 1994, to host the European Leaders Summit Conference.



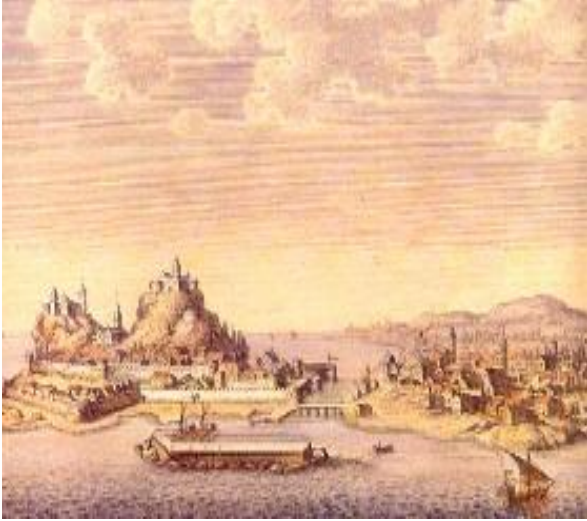
The Museum of Asian Art is located inside in the Palace. It is the only museum of its kind in Greece. It holds 11000 objects donated from private collections, with provenance mainly from the Far East and the Indian continent (Nepal, Tibet, Indochina, Pakistan, India, Japan, Korea and Chin). Especially interesting is the unique Hellenic Buddhist collection with sculptures from Gaddara in Pakistan. This underlines the Hellenistic influence in the region. Open daily 08.30 - 15.00, closed Mondays.

The local market

From Monday to Saturday morning the market operates from early hours until around 13.30. This is for fresh food produce, fish, locally grown vegetables and fruit, flowers and plants ONLY. They don't sell cloths or leather goods. You will find the market behind Sarrocco Square and next to the wall of the New Fortress.



History of Corfu



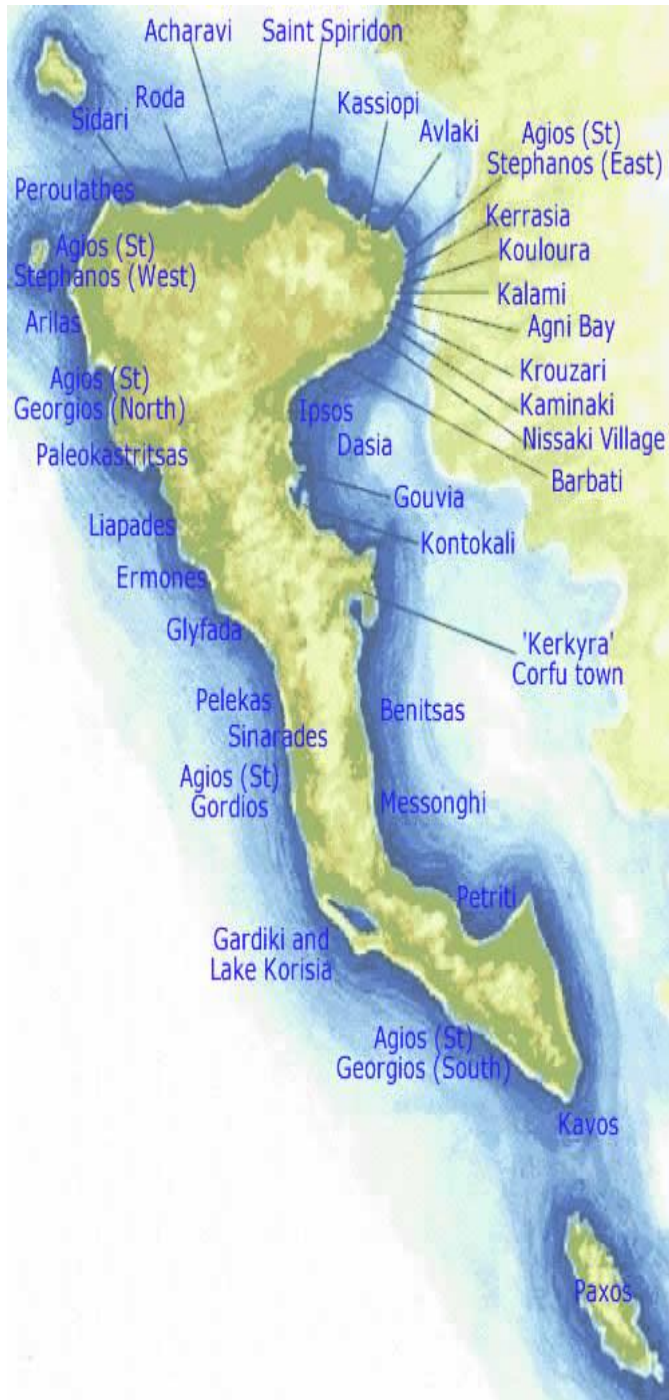
Corfu is mentioned frequently in Greek Mythology. The modern Greek name Kerkyra comes from the nymph who was the daughter of the river-god Asopus. Posideon, the god of the sea fell in love with her and made love to her on the island, giving birth to the race of the Phaeaceans. The name is also tied in with the demonic deity Gorgyra or Gorgo, perhaps a mythological predecessor of Artemis whose image can be found on a pediment on the ancient temple to Artemis.

The name Corfu comes from the word coryphi, which means peak and was used for the acropolis of the capital city. The name Kerkyra is only used in Greece. To the rest of the world the island is known as Corfu. In the Odyssey, the hero Odysseus is washed ashore with the help of the Goddess Athena and awakens to the laughter of princess Nausica and her friends washing clothes in a nearby stream. He was taken home to the Phaeacian Palace and after revealing his identity to King Alcinous he is given a ship to take him safely to Ithaka. However during the return trip the Phaeacian ship is turned to stone by the God Posideon who was angry at them for helping Odysseus. Jason and the Argonauts also visited here with the Golden Fleece and it was here that he married Media.

Artifacts from the Paleolithic period (30,000 to 7,000BC) have been found in a cave at Gardiki in the southwest part of the island. There is also evidence of habitation from the Mesolithic period and several Neolithic (6000-2600 BC) settlements have been found including an important one near Sidari. During the Geometric period the Illyrians inhabited the island, sometime before the 8th Century BC. The Greeks did not arrive until around 750 BC, a colony from the city of Eretria on the island of Evia. Corfu supplied the Eretrians with lumber for ships and became an important stepping stone to the west. In 734 BC the Eretrians were driven out by the Corinthians who brought great wealth and culture to the island as well as the first of many colonies at Croton in southern Italy. But in 664 Corfu fought with her mother city of Corinth in what Thucydides described as the first sea battle in Greek history. It was not the last battle between the two cities who were at odds over economic matters for centuries. In the late seventh century BC, Periander, tyrant of Corinth succeeded in conquering the island but this began a period of extensive building and creativity, including the construction of the temple of Artemis at Agia Theodori and cenotaph of Menecrates. The island prospered with trade and by the end of the 7th Century was minting its own coins and has a population of over 10,000 people.



Geography of Corfu



Corfu is the most northernmost and second largest after Cephalonia of the Ionian islands. Its area covers 592 square kilometers and the length of the island is 217 kilometers. It is mountainous with the highest mountain being Mt. Pantokrator (914 meters) but there are several flat areas, the largest being the Ropa valley.

The island of Corfu, also known as Kerkyra, in the northwestern corner of Greece is the greenest and in the eyes of many, the most beautiful island in the country, if not the world. With more rainfall than any other island there is a variety and abundance of plant life like few other places in Greece.

The island is a few hours by ferry from Brindisi Italy and for many tourists is the only part of Greece they see. Well, if you are only going to see one place in Greece, Corfu (also called Kerkyra) is not a bad choice. Some of the most amazing beaches in the world are in Corfu and though tourism has completely taken over most of the coastal areas, the mountain villages are as unspoiled as the most remote in Greece.

There are two lakes, Korission and Antinioti, and four small rivers often dry in summer at Potamos, Sidari, Messogghi and Lefkimi. The climate is mild without being bitterly cold in winter and the summers are humid. The heavy rainfall and the high humidity encourage the profuse growth of vegetation

Therefore the island has a lot of greenery, even in summer. It is the most densely populated area in Greece after the great urban centers of Athens and Thessalonika. According to the latest census figures, the population of the island is 105.000 with 35.000 people living in the town.

People who are afraid they may not be able to handle the heat of southern Greece. It is also one of the most popular islands in Greece and if you want to experience its natural beauty without the people you need to come between October and May. But if you like people then you will find them in some of the most beautiful resorts and hotels in Greece. On the Eastern side of the island, facing Albania, the land slopes gently to the sea and there are long beaches and bays. But the western side is much more dramatic, steep and rocky with deep coves and beaches. Corfu has many small islands around it like satellites around a planet. Cooler than most islands in the summer and with mild winters, Corfu is a nice choice for people who are afraid they may not be able to handle the heat of southern Greece. It is also one of the most popular islands in Greece and if you want to experience its natural beauty without the people you need to come between October and May. But if you like people then you will find them in some of the most beautiful resorts and hotels in Greece.

Heading North along the East Coast



More than one million visitors descend on Corfu every year, the vast majority of them package tourists heading for the beach resorts along the island's east coast. If the crowded beaches at **Gouvía**, **Dassia** and **Ipsos** don't appeal it's best to head northeast to **Nissaki** and **Kainaki**, with its tiny pebble beach or nearby **Agni**. The beaches of **Kalami** are far more crowded than when Lawrence Durrell and his wife stayed there in the late 1930s but today's views of neighbouring Albania are still as good. Nearby there's the pretty little Venetian harbour of **Kouloura** and the harbour-resort village of **Kassiopi**, still bearing visible traces of its Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Venetian past.



Along the North Coast



Beyond Kassiopi the road continues along the north coast of the island and leads to **Acharavi** and **Roda**. For a glimpse of the formerly idyllic appearance of resort towns like Roda and **Sidari**, visit the tiny, unspoilt fishing village of Astrakeri. The next stop is the sprawling package resort of Sidari and the famous **Canal d'Amour**. From Sidari take the road to the south, passing through **Sfakera**, **Klimatia**, **Troumbeta** and Skripero. This road takes you close to **Angelokastro**. You can enjoy a bird's eye view of **Paleokastritsa** from the lookout at Bella Vista, high up in the village of **Lakones**.



Down the West Coast

The 3km sandy beach of **Agios Georgios** is a haven for water sports enthusiasts, and nearby **Afionas** has Neolithic ruins and sweeping coastal views. The west coast's largest resort is **Paleokastritsa** with sandy beaches and pebbled coves, a verdant mountain backdrop and unparalleled snorkelling in grottoes and caves. At Paleokastritsa you can swim in the crystal-clear bay, and climb up to the 12th Century monastery with its photogenic whitewashed courtyard, icon museum and ornate church.



Corfu's best beaches are on the west coast including **Pelekas**, with its hill-top village, spectacular sunsets and range of accommodation from pensions to a country club. **Mirtiotissa** is Corfu's unofficial nudist beach. Both **Glyfada** and **Agios Gordis** have long sandy beaches popular with tourists and Greeks alike.

Heading South

10km south of Corfu Town, close to the village of Gastouri, is **Achillion Palace**, built by Empress Elizabeth of Austria. This lovely Italianate summer palace featured in the James Bond film "For Your Eyes Only", and serves as a casino in the summer months.



A few kilometres further on is the small fishing village of **Benitses**, once popular with the young holiday makers who now favour Kavos at the southern tip of the island. Two fabulous beaches are **Halikounas** and **Issos** on the South West. The Boukaris-Kavos stretch of coastline with pebbly beaches and a few fish tavernas makes a pleasant diversion from the main road to Lefkimmi.





Corfu's fabulous Beaches

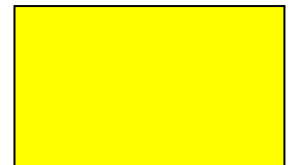


The flag system is not operated on all of the beaches in Corfu. If a flag system is in operation please take note of it:

The Yellow flag

Meaning: Medium Hazard

Moderate surf and/or currents are present. Weak swimmers are discouraged from entering the water. For others, enhanced care and caution should be exercised.



The Red Flag

Meaning: High Hazard

Rough conditions such as strong surf and/or currents are present. All swimmers are discouraged from entering the water. Those entering the water should take great care.



East Coast

Most east coast beaches are a combination of shingle, pebble and some sand. The water is usually quite deep making it an ideal coastline for boating. It has amazing backdrop with Mount Pantokrator dominating the landscape.

Barbati

Barbati is located towards the northern end of the east coast, just as the island widens. It clings to the steep green slopes of magnificent Mount Pantokrator where they plunge to the sea. There are fine views across the bay towards Corfu Town. There is a long, white pebbly beach which is sheltered and safe but shelves quite steeply. It can be reached by foot or car via a rough track which leads down steeply down from the coast road. There is a selection of water sports, pedaloes and dinghies available. There are several tavernas. You can also hire speed boats from the beach and go along the North East coast which has breathtaking scenery.



Nissaki Bay

Nissaki is on the north-east coast facing Albania and clinging precariously to a steep mountainside, strung along a stretch of road skirting the mountain with the beach below. The beach is small but in a lovely situation, the sea is very clear and good for snorkelling. It is shingle and there is a restaurant on a jetty, and a few other lovely waterfront tavernas nearby. An excellent place to stop for lunch.



Kaminaki

Kaminaki nestles at the foot of the olive and cypress-clad slopes of Corfu's north-east headland. A hamlet of a few dozen quaint buildings, it is reached by a steep side road running down from the main coast road. It has its own secluded pebble beach, which inclines gently down into the warm, blue-green water and is perfect for young children. A marvellous spot for exploring the coves and inlets of the north-east by boat, as it has its own jetty, Kaminaki also makes a good base for exploring the many coves along this beautiful stretch of coast. Kaminaki has two tavernas and water sport activities are available on Kaminaki beach.



Agni Bay

A drive down a winding mountain road will bring you to one of the most secluded bays in Corfu. The beach is pebbles and the sea is very deep close to the shore hence the jetty where you can almost always see a yacht moored up. If you feel like a relaxing quiet day then this could be the place for you. There are 3 tavernas with an excellent reputation. An ideal place for lunch or to celebrate a special occasion.



Kalami

Kalami is a fishing village along a beach, surrounded by olive groves. Perfect for those seeking no more than the beach, the location and a couple of tavernas. The beach is sand and shingle, fairly shallow and suitable for children. There are several tavernas and bars along the beachfront. another deep bay with large white pebbles and many tavernas. Main feature is the house of Lawrence Durrell, the White House which has a lovely waterfront location taverna.



Kouloura

Kouloura is situated next to Kalami. Although there is not a lot here it is very picturesque and idyllic. One of the most photographed views in Corfu. It is worth stopping off at and there is a small house at the edge of the sea which sells refreshments. The road down to the village is very narrow and steep, it's difficult to turn cars round so you'd be better off walking down. There is a small bay where you can relax, but there are no sunbeds to hire. There are great views of Albania too, which is only 2 kilometers across the water.



Karasia Beach

Kerasia is a quiet cove situated between Kouloura and Agios Stephanos. It is mainly just one long sweeping beach and is quite stunning. There is just one Taverna and a scattering of villas. During lunchtime, the occasional day trip boat may arrive - but they soon depart!



Agios Stefanos



The small resort of Agios Stefanos is renowned as one of the most attractive and the most upmarket north east coast of Corfu. Agios Stefanos has its own small beach and there are wooden jetties that you can sunbathe or fish from, and bays. There are wonderful views across to the mainland and Albania. Retaining a traditional feel, this picturesque fishing village offers a good selection of upmarket waterside tavernas with an excellent choice of Greek Meze, fresh fish, and locally produced dishes.

Kassiopi



Kassiopi stands in the foothills of Pantokrator mountain and is approached from either side by scenic coast roads. It's an established resort which started life as a fishing village but now offers every type of holiday facility. The harbour is very picturesque and the ruins on the headland date from Roman times. There are shingle and pebble bays on either side of the harbour which provide safe swimming. Eating out ranges from tavernas to sophisticated restaurants.



Agios Gordios - Blue Flag

Midway down the west coast of the island, this is a peaceful setting against a backdrop of tree-covered hills and approached by a steep road. There is an authentic Greek atmosphere and fishing and farming come ahead of tourism in the local economy. Around the beach, though, it's a busy holiday resort, crowded with visitors. It's a dramatic picture, a great curve ending at a steep craggy islet, and is a good base for walkers and nature lovers as well as seekers of a quiet beach holiday. Accommodation is provided by villas, apartments and good class hotels. The beach itself is one and a half kilometres of sand and pebble. There are pedaloes and sun beds for hire. There are some lovely beach front tavernas, renowned for their local produce and fish, as well as fast food and tourist eateries.



Gialiskari

Gialiskari beach is ideally located 15 km west of Corfu Town. This beach uniquely combines the lush green setting with the blue crystalline bay making Gialiskari one of the most picturesque areas of Corfu. Its tropical setting is much preferred by the tourists who are amazed by this beautiful Corfiot landscape. The beach is small yet quite well-organized with sunbeds and umbrellas. Water sports facilities are also available for the more adventurous types. The magnificent rocky background offers natural shade and the wider area guarantees peace and quiet. There is a taverna (very good fish) for meals and local wine.



Pelekas (Kontogialos) – Blue Flag

On the west coast, near to the village of Pelekas and accessible via a free minibus service, is the beach of Kontogialos with its golden sand gently sloping into the sea. There are four tavernas along the beach and a new hotel behind it. The beach can be accessed by one of three roads and there is adequate parking at the northern end. Although not the 'hippy paradise' it was in the '70s and '80s, outside the high season in August it is still a quiet and beautiful spot. As at Glyfada the beach is monitored by lifeguards and a warning flag system is in operation .



Glyfada – Blue Flag



The steep descent to the beach offers fine views of the bay backed by towering slopes. Glyfada has developed as a tourist resort by virtue of its long sandy beach which is the great attraction, although the sea can be a bit rough when the west wind blows. There are canoes and pedaloes for hire. Less than three miles away is the mountain village of Pelekas, famous for its sunsets. There are a few beach front tavernas and restaurants. Locals consider this to be one of the best beaches on the island.



Mirtiotissa



Mirtiotissa is still described by some enthusiasts as the most beautiful beach in Europe. Sheer cliffs covered with trees and shrubs drop directly to the sand creating a sense of wonderful isolation. At both ends of the long beach curl rocky promontories offering marvellous snorkelling in crystal blue water. Mirtiotissa is unofficially recognized as the island's nudist beach. There is a nearby taverna.

Ermones

On the west coast, Ermones Bay is surrounded by sheer rocks and is supposedly where the shipwrecked Odysseus was washed ashore towards the end of his epic journey. The beach is sufficient for the limited size of the resort and consists of coarse sand and shingle. It can get quite busy in high season. The water deepens quickly and is frequently murky. It is essentially a quiet place, for relaxation and enjoying the pleasures of the countryside and coast. There are some apartments and small hotels as well as the vast Mediterranean Hotel complex reached by a cable lift! Nearby activities include an 18-hole golf course, rock climbing and scuba diving. There are a handful of reasonable tavernas.



Liapades Bay

Liapades beach, with its blue crystal water, is surrounded by green hillsides creating unique scenery. The beach is about 100m long, covered with sand (mostly) and shingle, with taxi boats, sun beds, umbrellas, motor boats, and canoes for rent. There are about 15 hidden small beaches to be explored. Some of them can be reached only by boat while others by foot as well. There are organized boat trips covering most of these hidden beaches as well as the famous small caves of Paleokastritsa.



Paleokastritsa



Paleokastritsa (Which means old castle) or commonly know as Paleo is hilly and nestles beneath the folds of steep verdant slopes of olive groves and citrus orchards. Paleokastritsa enjoys a spectacular setting on five small, enclosed bays. In the harbour, yachts from all parts of the Mediterranean are berthed. At the northernmost promontory is a 12th-century monastery. Magnificent views are obtained from both the monastery and the hills above, particularly from the village of Lakones. The main beach is of shingle. The crystal clear blue-green water is usually icy-cold due to underground freshwater streams. It is deep and unsuitable for young children. There are many other small, shingly coves, some reached only by boat. Paleo is one of the most beautiful parts of the island and is well worth a visit.



Halikounas – Lake Korission

The breathtaking Halikounas Beach ideally located to the south western coast of the island. This beach in more ways than one acts like a protective cushion to the shimmering Lake Korission from the turbulent Ocean. The best part of the Halikounas beach is that it has soft sand dunes and is perfectly safe for swimming. What is more, there are no modern hotels, bars etc. facing the sea which goes a long way in maintaining the beauty of the beach. Also, it is one beach which is comparatively less crowded than its counterparts elsewhere on the island of Corfu even in the busy summer months. Halikounas, a stunning beach in a very natural landscape, bordered by the sea on one side and lake Korission on the other. Sunbeds & umbrellas for hire and a few beach huts selling refreshments. The sandy stretches for quite a few kilometres so there is plenty of room even in high season you can find a quiet corner. Here is also a Kite surfing school.



Issos Beach

This is a beach which you should definitely visit. An endless sandy beach with the unique Mediterranean dunes, the cedar forest and finally the Korission Lagoon . It is 35 km south of Corfu town and the airport. Clear water and an endless sandy beach offer a safe place for the children to play. The dunes, the cedar forest and the lagoon are interesting to explore on foot , paying a little effort which will be rewarded with a unique and wonderful landscape . Surrounded by sand dunes you feel more like you are in Sahara desert rather than in greenest island of Greece. For those who love nature and tranquility this is the pure paradise. Very popular among windsurfers since it windsurfing schools are at your disposal.



Agios Georgios

The two beaches at Agios Georgios are on the south-west coast. They are surrounded by olive groves, and reached by a narrow country lane off the main road. This is a great place for those looking for sunshine and uncrowded beaches. They are good for children as the swimming is safe and there is little road traffic. Both beaches are wide and sandy with sun beds and parasols. One of them has sand dunes but there is very little shade. There are a few local tavernas.



Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara is one of the most popular beaches of Corfu located 40 km south of the main town. The beach is set on a fabulous location surrounded by wild rocks and crystal clear waters. There are facilities available like sunbeds and umbrellas. The waters are deep yet clean and safe. Despite its beautiful surrounding, there are no shady areas around the beach. Within a short walking distance there is a mini market as well as taverns and beach bars for food and drink. The beach is easily accessed by car but parking is limited. It is better to park on the roadside and walk down to the beach.



Marathias

Marathias is a beautiful coastal resort in the southwest coast of Corfu. The beach is highly recommended by the locals for its crystal waters and the golden sand. The long sandy beach surrounded by the imposing hill forests is ideal for all tastes. Numerous tourist facilities, like umbrellas and sunbeds are set on one side while the beach offers some dining proposals with a beautiful panoramic view of the sea. However, just a few meters away from the mass tourism, you will find some privacy at the long beach of Marathias that extends for 2 km



Acharavi

Situated on the northern coast of Corfu, Acharavi is a growing resort with an 8km long sandy beach joining it to Roda. It is ideal for families since the beach, gently shelving into the sea, is very safe for children. There are a variety of water sports on offer including fun-rides, windsurfing and pedaloes, as well as water-skiing and para-gliding. There is a good selection of tavernas and restaurants at the beach.



Roda

Roda is on the north coast of Corfu at the far end of the bay and 3km from neighbouring Acharavi. There is a town beach of compact sand. The pebble beach begins towards Acharavi. There are numerous tavernas and some restaurants. Roda is an old fishing village and a small family beach resort, it is mostly used by the British package tour operators. There is a super 'cove' type sandy beach. The original town has developed, but you will still find locals continuing their everyday life.



Agios Spyridon (North)

Agios Spiridon is situated at the north-east corner of Corfu and has an attractive beach, set in a charming bay with sand, rocks and emerald waters. It is a great place for those looking for a quiet spot. In the same area there is a small lake and behind the lake some smaller, even quieter beaches. There are several tavernas nearby.



Sidari



At the western end of the long north coast Sidari lies on a gently curving bay of the same name, in a flat area with green hills rising inland. The unusual cliffs of soft sandstone have eroded to create numerous inlets and sandy coves. The farther ones are less frequented and often used for gaining all-over tans. One of the larger eroded channels is known as the Canal d'Amour. There are long, narrow stretches of compact sand and shingle as well as small shingle coves between the low eroded cliffs to the west. The sea is very shallow and warm. Various water sports include pedaloes and canoes. Over 40 tavernas offer varied menus.



Agios Georgios

Located at the northern end of the west coast, between two headlands in a horse-shoe shaped bay, this is a secluded resort approached by a steep, narrow road. Small and untouched by the crowds it is exclusively a tourist development with no native village life and very quiet in the low season. The beach of golden sand is one of the best on the island, with a range of water sports in the high season. Fresh breezes make it especially good for windsurfing. There are some local tavernas specialising in fish.



San Stefanos



This beach is located at the north-west corner of the island where low hills protect a sheltered bay. It is long and sandy but often a bit windswept. There are a few tavernas near the small harbour towards the top end of the beach. Framed with lush green hills, olive groves and an unspoilt rural valley, San Stefanos beach (known locally as Agios Stefanos) is over a mile long and offers shallow, clear blue waters and a broad stretch of golden soft sand and is the final stop to the west of our coastal limits. This safe, spacious and relatively undeveloped beach is popular place for family. Agios Stefanos was once quiet fishing village that has added tourism over the last twenty years while keeping its identity and village feel.

Arillas

Arilas is on the other side of the headland from Agios Stefanos (West). It is a favourite place for couples and families looking for a quiet beach holiday. The beach itself is a narrow, 200 metre strip of sand with some shingle, separated from pebbly Afionas Beach by a small stream. It is framed by picturesque headlands. There are limited water sports on offer and it can be rough when a west wind blows. There are a couple of tavernas.



The Greek Kitchen

Greeks do not expect quick service and often frown upon food that is too hot! (Try ordering a coffee and you must stipulate that you want it hot, else you could end up with a frappe!) Waiters will not rush you and will rarely deliver food in the same order as it was placed. Dishes sometimes arrive as and when they are ready - just sit back and relax and you will soon adjust to the Greek way of life! Becoming anxious or stressed in a Taverna is a sure way to ruin your experience which is to be savoured, not rushed!



Firstly, and maybe surprisingly, fish tends to be expensive. Prices are usually per kilo not per portion. When looking at the menu, do not assume that everything listed will be available! The golden rule - if the price has been removed then it is not on. Most Greek establishments work on a 'seasonal availability' basis, as most produce is local. In some of the more traditional places, it is usual (and fun) to go into the kitchen to be shown what is available; great for those who can never decide from looking at menu. Greek menus by law have to be in Greek and English. Some of the translations may cause you some amusement. As a guide, you will be offered:

The locals tend to take their main meal after midday 13.00 onwards. When eating out they take their food seriously and when dining out in the evening, rarely go out before 21.00 and then take their time over a leisurely meal, usually with a large group of friends and family.

Taverna is a simple restaurant. Taverna's specializing in fish are called **Psaro taverna**.

Estiatorio is slightly more up market than a taverna.

Ouzeri is more of a café serving drinks with small dishes of food to accompany the drinks.

Mezethopolio serves a large variety of small dishes, usually you order as you go along adding more dishes to the table during the evening.

Zacharoplastio is a cake shop, often-selling homemade ice cream as well.

Kafenion can be found in all villages where you can enjoy anything from a traditional Greek coffee, Ouzo to soft drink.

Starters

Taramosalata

A fish roe dip made with garlic, onion, breadcrumbs, olive oil and lemon juice. Homemade versions are light salmon in colour and a delight. If you are offered an artificial bright pink sludge, then it has been bought in; drink up and find somewhere else to eat!

Tzatziki

The famous yoghurt, cucumber and garlic dip. Scooped up with fresh bread, it makes a refreshing snack.

Feta Cheese

Many locals enjoy a thick slice of feta with a drizzle of olive oil and a dash of paprika.

Dolmades

Vine leaves stuffed with rice or meat - normally served cold. Fresh ones are only available early in the season (May, June) when the vine leaves are fresh.

Tiropitta

Filo pastry pies stuffed with feta cheese - they are a delight. Also look out for Spanakopitta - which are the same but with a little spinach added

Saganaki

A hard Greek cheese which is battered and shallow fried. Served with a large chunk of lemon.

Scorthalia

The Greeks love dips and this one is a very garlicky potato based one. Served cold and it is yummy.

Gigantes

Large butter type beans, baked in a thick seasoned tomato, onion and garlic sauce.

Keftethes

Fried meatballs with garlic and herbs.

Loukaniko

Spicy local sausages - usually grilled.

Xhoriatiki

A Greek salad Literally translated means 'village salad' and is pronounced horiatiki which includes tomatoes, cucumber, onion, lettuce or cabbage, topped with feta cheese, olives and sprinkled with dried herbs. There are many variations though - so expect anything

Tomato and Cucumber

You get exactly what you would expect - and nothing more!

Chef's salad

Usually similar to a Greek salad but without the cheese and instead topped with ham and garlic mayonnaise.

Horta

Wild bitter greens. Locals go mad for these. Dandelion looking weeds are carefully collected, cleaned and then boiled. They look similar to spinach when cooked.

Main course

Mousaka

Layers of fried aubergine and minced meat (usually beef) topped with a creamy béchamel sauce.

Stifado

A meaty red wine stew with baby onions and tomato. The meaty chunks are soft and tender and the baby onions go soft and sweet - to be eaten with lots of bread.

Sofrito

Tender beef steak cooked in a garlic and wine sauce.

Yemista

Stuffed vegetables, usually tomatoes and green peppers. The filling is usually a vegetable and rice mix with a little cheese. Sometimes beef mince is added.

Kelftiko

Lamb slowly baked in the oven until it is so tender it just falls from the bone. Served with Greek roasted potatoes.

Souvlaki

Barbequed pieces of chicken, pork or beef on a kabab skewer

Gyros

Spit grilled meat served in pitta bread with salad, chips and Tzaziki

Prawn Saganaki

A rich creamy dish with king-size prawns, feta, tomato and a little garlic.

Astakos - Lobster

Local lobster is very expensive and best eaten lightly grilled with a little butter. Even though the menu says lobster, you will normally be served a 'crayfish' - basically a lobster without claws - just as good though.

Kalamari

Baby squid, usually fried with a dusting of flour, but better grilled. Fresh ones are normally only available when there is no moon - as they are caught with a powerful 'gas lamp'.

Oxtapothi

(Oxto means 8 and Pothi means leg) Octopus, is often boiled and served in what the locals call a 'salad'. Actually these are small pieces in olive oil - with no salad in sight! It is though very tasty. Grill.

Kakavia

Fish soup - often this will include vegetables, bones and heads! But it is always excellent.

Atherina

White bait. Tiny fish that are fried and usually eaten whole.

Marithes

Sardine sized fish which are fried and yummy. Incidentally, sardines and (many other fish which are also caught at night) are not available when there is a full moon. The reason is that the fish can 'see' the nets and simply avoid them.

Vegetarian

For those preferring not to eat meat, then you will be pleased to know that you will not miss out. There is a wide range of tasty salads and vegetables available - although some will of course be seasonal. Look out for bean dishes such as fasolakia or gigantes.

Generally in Greece though, but mostly in the mountain villages, the idea of not eating meat is somewhat foreign and you may be encouraged to eat something that has 'just a little bit of meat' in it! Persevere and explain that eating meat is like going against your religion - it will work eventually.

Tavernas in Greece do not automatically serve desserts or coffee - you normally have to ask. The following is often available, but a small platter of fruit is more usual Greek choice and often more refreshing:

Desserts

Baclava

Filo pastry layers with chopped walnuts cinnamon and steeped in honey. Homemade versions are not too sweet and excellent - bought in versions are not!

Kataifi

Something resembling a 'shredded wheat' stuffed with nuts and honey.

Galactoboureko

Milk custard pie with filo pastry and a little honey.

Chalva

A very traditional sweet from the mainland, made with semolina, olive oil, almonds and a honey.

Greek Yoghurt

Thick and creamy and usually served with a little honey or fruits.



Drinks



The most popular drinks in Corfu are Wine, Metaxa, Ouzo and Retsina; these are popular with both tourists as well as locals. Ouzo is a clear alcoholic drink prepared from vine stalks; aniseed is often used to add flavour to the drink. It is normally diluted with water, lending it a milky colour, and tastes best when accompanied with olives and meze. Retsina is a white wine flavoured with pine resin and is best had chilled. It can also be had with a dash of soda to lessen the strong flavour of resin. Greek wine has improved considerably over the years, and today, several palatable wines are readily available. As for beer, mostly lager style beer is available, which is served chilled.



Ouzo – Aperitif – an aniseed taste similar to Pernod. Made from whatever is left of the grape after the winemaking. Traditionally drunk neat or with a little water and ice, always an accompaniment to a meze.

Brandy – neat with coffee or mixed with coke, the most popular brands are Metaxa or Botry's.

Retsina – resinated wine – matured in pine barrels, which give this wine its particular flavour.

Local wine – most taverna's have their own locally made wine on the menu sold by the kilo or half kilo which is the equivalent of ½ or 1 litre.

Greek wine – has come a long way over the last 20 years. All supermarkets or Cava's have a large selection of red, rose or white wine to choose from.

Raki or Tsipouro – home made alcohol consumed as a shot with a meze

Beer – Mythos (lager) being the local brew. There are also many imported beers available.

Greek coffee – café – served, glyko (sweet), metrio (medium) or sketo (no sugar).

Ice coffee – many varieties readily available everywhere in the summer.

Frappe – cold coffee made from instant coffee

Freddo Cappuccino / espresso – iced cappuccino made with milk or espresso coffee

The Greek Kitchen

Greeks do not expect quick service and often frown upon food that is too hot! (Try ordering a coffee and you must stipulate that you want it hot, else you could end up with a frappe!) Waiters will not rush you and will rarely deliver food in the same order as it was placed. Dishes sometimes arrive as and when they are ready - just sit back and relax and you will soon adjust to the Greek way of life! Becoming anxious or stressed in a Taverna is a sure way to ruin your experience which is to be savoured, not rushed!



Firstly, and maybe surprisingly, fish tends to be expensive. Prices are usually per kilo not per portion. When looking at the menu, do not assume that everything listed will be available! The golden rule - if the price has been removed then it is not on. Most Greek establishments work on a 'seasonal availability' basis, as most produce is local. In some of the more traditional places, it is usual (and fun) to go into the kitchen to be shown what is available; great for those who can never decide from looking at menu. Greek menus by law have to be in Greek and English. Some of the translations may cause you some amusement. As a guide, you will be offered:

The locals tend to take their main meal after midday 13.00 onwards. When eating out they take their food seriously and when dining out in the evening, rarely go out before 21.00 and then take their time over a leisurely meal, usually with a large group of friends and family.

Taverna is a simple restaurant. Taverna's specializing in fish are called **Psaro taverna**.

Estiatorio is slightly more up market than a taverna.

Ouzeri is more of a café serving drinks with small dishes of food to accompany the drinks.

Mezethopolio serves a large variety of small dishes, usually you order as you go along adding more dishes to the table during the evening.

Zacharoplastio is a cake shop, often-selling homemade ice cream as well.

Kafenion can be found in all villages where you can enjoy anything from a traditional Greek coffee, Ouzo to soft drink.

Starters

Taramosalata

A fish roe dip made with garlic, onion, breadcrumbs, olive oil and lemon juice. Homemade versions are light salmon in colour and a delight. If you are offered an artificial bright pink sludge, then it has been bought in; drink up and find somewhere else to eat!

Tzatziki

The famous yoghurt, cucumber and garlic dip. Scooped up with fresh bread, it makes a refreshing snack.

Feta Cheese

Many locals enjoy a thick slice of feta with a drizzle of olive oil and a dash of paprika.

Dolmades

Vine leaves stuffed with rice or meat - normally served cold. Fresh ones are only available early in the season (May, June) when the vine leaves are fresh.

Tiropitta

Filo pastry pies stuffed with feta cheese - they are a delight. Also look out for Spanakopitta - which are the same but with a little spinach added

Saganaki

A hard Greek cheese which is battered and shallow fried. Served with a large chunk of lemon.

Scorthalia

The Greeks love dips and this one is a very garlicky potato based one. Served cold and it is yummy.

Gigantes

Large butter type beans, baked in a thick seasoned tomato, onion and garlic sauce.

Keftethes

Fried meatballs with garlic and herbs.

Loukaniko

Spicy local sausages - usually grilled.

Xhoriatiki

A Greek salad Literally translated means 'village salad' and is pronounced horiatiki which includes tomatoes, cucumber, onion, lettuce or cabbage, topped with feta cheese, olives and sprinkled with dried herbs. There are many variations though - so expect anything

Tomato and Cucumber

You get exactly what you would expect - and nothing more!

Chef's salad

Usually similar to a Greek salad but without the cheese and instead topped with ham and garlic mayonnaise.

Horta

Wild bitter greens. Locals go mad for these. Dandelion looking weeds are carefully collected, cleaned and then boiled. They look similar to spinach when cooked.

Main course

Mousaka

Layers of fried aubergine and minced meat (usually beef) topped with a creamy béchamel sauce.

Stifado

A meaty red wine stew with baby onions and tomato. The meaty chunks are soft and tender and the baby onions go soft and sweet - to be eaten with lots of bread.

Sofrito

Tender beef steak cooked in a garlic and wine sauce.

Yemista

Stuffed vegetables, usually tomatoes and green peppers. The filling is usually a vegetable and rice mix with a little cheese. Sometimes beef mince is added.

Kelftiko

Lamb slowly baked in the oven until it is so tender it just falls from the bone. Served with Greek roasted potatoes.

Souvlaki

Barbequed pieces of chicken, pork or beef on a kabab skewer

Gyros

Spit grilled meat served in pitta bread with salad, chips and Tzaziki

Prawn Saganaki

A rich creamy dish with king-size prawns, feta, tomato and a little garlic.

Astakos - Lobster

Local lobster is very expensive and best eaten lightly grilled with a little butter. Even though the menu says lobster, you will normally be served a 'crayfish' - basically a lobster without claws - just as good though.

Kalamari

Baby squid, usually fried with a dusting of flour, but better grilled. Fresh ones are normally only available when there is no moon - as they are caught with a powerful 'gas lamp'.

Oxtapothi

(Oxto means 8 and Pothi means leg) Octopus, is often boiled and served in what the locals call a 'salad'. Actually these are small pieces in olive oil - with no salad in sight! It is though very tasty. Grill.

Kakavia

Fish soup - often this will include vegetables, bones and heads! But it is always excellent.

Atherina

White bait. Tiny fish that are fried and usually eaten whole.

Marithes

Sardine sized fish which are fried and yummy. Incidentally, sardines and (many other fish which are also caught at night) are not available when there is a full moon. The reason is that the fish can 'see' the nets and simply avoid them.

Vegetarian

For those preferring not to eat meat, then you will be pleased to know that you will not miss out. There is a wide range of tasty salads and vegetables available - although some will of course be seasonal. Look out for bean dishes such as fasolakia or gigantes.

Generally in Greece though, but mostly in the mountain villages, the idea of not eating meat is somewhat foreign and you may be encouraged to eat something that has 'just a little bit of meat' in it! Persevere and explain that eating meat is like going against your religion - it will work eventually.

Tavernas in Greece do not automatically serve desserts or coffee - you normally have to ask. The following is often available, but a small platter of fruit is more usual Greek choice and often more refreshing:

Desserts

Baclava

Filo pastry layers with chopped walnuts cinnamon and steeped in honey. Homemade versions are not too sweet and excellent - bought in versions are not!

Kataifi

Something resembling a 'shredded wheat' stuffed with nuts and honey.

Galactoboureko

Milk custard pie with filo pastry and a little honey.

Chalva

A very traditional sweet from the mainland, made with semolina, olive oil, almonds and a honey.

Greek Yoghurt

Thick and creamy and usually served with a little honey or fruits.



Drinks



The most popular drinks in Corfu are Wine, Metaxa, Ouzo and Retsina; these are popular with both tourists as well as locals. Ouzo is a clear alcoholic drink prepared from vine stalks; aniseed is often used to add flavour to the drink. It is normally diluted with water, lending it a milky colour, and tastes best when accompanied with olives and meze. Retsina is a white wine flavoured with pine resin and is best had chilled. It can also be had with a dash of soda to lessen the strong flavour of resin. Greek wine has improved considerably over the years, and today, several palatable wines are readily available. As for beer, mostly lager style beer is available, which is served chilled.



Ouzo – Aperitif – an aniseed taste similar to Pernod. Made from whatever is left of the grape after the winemaking. Traditionally drunk neat or with a little water and ice, always an accompaniment to a meze.

Brandy – neat with coffee or mixed with coke, the most popular brands are Metaxa or Botry's.

Retsina – resinated wine – matured in pine barrels, which give this wine its particular flavour.

Local wine – most taverna's have their own locally made wine on the menu sold by the kilo or half kilo which is the equivalent of ½ or 1 litre.

Greek wine – has come a long way over the last 20 years. All supermarkets or Cava's have a large selection of red, rose or white wine to choose from.

Raki or Tsipouro – home made alcohol consumed as a shot with a meze

Beer – Mythos (lager) being the local brew. There are also many imported beers available.

Greek coffee – café – served, glyko (sweet), metrio (medium) or sketo (no sugar).

Ice coffee – many varieties readily available everywhere in the summer.

Frappe – cold coffee made from instant coffee

Freddo Cappuccino / espresso – iced cappuccino made with milk or espresso coffee

Olives and Olive Oil



Greece has become the world's most important exporter of quality olive oil. The love and high esteem of the Greek olive-grower for the olive tree is passed on from generation to generation and from family to family. With the birth of a child an olive tree is planted which will grow and develop along with the child. When the child starts school at the age of six, the olive tree is ready to produce its fruit. The tree grows up with the family, only it will have a much longer life and will still be around to be tended by the next generation, and the one after that. Each year, it yields its annual crop of olives in return for the labour and love expended on it.

Olives in Corfu are harvested from November until April, six to eight months after their spring blossoms appear. Olive trees require very warm average temperatures and grow successfully in Corfu, with its mild winters and long, hot summers. In many regions, olives are beaten from the tree with poles and caught in large nets. Other olive farmers now use machine harvesting, including trunk and branch shakers. However, in Corfu growers collect olives that fall naturally to the ground, or are helped on their way by wind and rain. Once collected, the olives are taken at once to an olive press, since, if they are not pressed immediately they begin to oxidise and ferment. Thousands of years ago, crushing was done by hand in spherical stone basins. Today, in a similar method, olives are crushed by mechanical stainless steel grindstones.



Did you know?

- Olive oil is said to be an aphrodisiac!
- Olive oil is the only oil that can be consumed as it is removed from the fruit.
- Despite its size Greece is the worlds third largest exporter of olive oil - about one third of the total production is exported
- Greeks consume more olive oil per head than any other nation.
- A Greek soap containing pure olive oil is said to help people suffering with eczema and psoriasis.
- The olive oil market in Britain is growing at a rate of 25% per annum.
- Only one tablespoon of olive oil has wiped out the cholesterol raising effects of two eggs.
- 4 or 5 tablespoons of olive oil daily dramatically improves the blood profiles of heart attack patients
- 2/3 of a tablespoon of olive oil daily lowers blood pressure in men.
- Greece produces about 300,000 tonnes of consistently high quality olive oil each year.
- Olive oil consumption in Britain is 1.3 litres per person per year while in Greece it is 25 litres.
- 70% of Greek olive oil production is Extra Virgin Olive Oil.
- Half of Greek Extra Virgin Olive Oil production is exported to other olive oil producing countries.
- Olive oil is an antidote for ammonia poisoning.
- The olive tree has a revered place in Ancient Greek mythology - the goddess Athena was believed to have created the first tree during her battle with Poseidon, god of the sea, for the city of Attica. Up on the Acropolis, it was decided that the one who gave the city the finest gift should become its patron. Poseidon struck the ground with his trident to create a spring, and Athena planted an olive tree. While the water in Poseidon's spring was salty, and therefore of little value, Athena's olive tree provided the people with food, oil and wood. The city was renamed Athens.
- Olive oils are graded and judged according to their level of acidity. Extra virgin olive oil is the product of cold pressing, a chemical-free process. This oil contains no more than 1% acid, and is considered the finest and fruitiest of all.
- Some olive trees are known to live for thousands of years. The philosopher Plato founded his academy in an olive grove, and legend has it that an original tree from the grove was alive (though no longer producing olives) until the 1980s - making it more than 2,300 years old.
- Olive oil was originally burned as the "eternal flame" of the Olympic torch, but over the years it was replaced by various substances that often proved to be inefficient and dangerous. After the 1956 Olympics, in which burning chunks of magnesium and aluminium scorched a runner in the final relay, the flame was replaced with much safer lightweight liquid fuels.



Corfu Weather and Climate

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High (°C)	14	14	16	19	23	28	31	31	28	23	18	15
Average Low (°C)	5	6	7	9	13	16	18	18	16	13	9	7
Sea Temperature (°C)	15	15	15	16	18	21	24	25	24	21	19	18
Daily hours of sunshine	5	6	7	7	9	10	11	12	9	6	4	3
Number of rainy days	13	11	13	7	5	2	1	1	1	9	12	15
Precipitation (mm)	132	137	99	61	35	15	7	17	76	147	180	90
Humidity (%)	67	66	66	62	60	52	47	44	44	67	67	66

Unlike the stark and often treeless islands of the Aegean, Corfu is covered with luxuriant vegetation, thanks to its winter rainfall - 240mm average in December - and is the wettest place in all of Greece. Tropical orchids, wildflowers, eucalyptus and acacias combine with northern European greenery such as oaks and maples. Despite its lush vegetation and high precipitation, Corfu can be stiflingly hot and muggy, as the humidity-reducing meltemi wind passes it by. To compensate, winters are less severe than on the mainland.

Spring and autumn are the best times to visit Corfu. Conditions are perfect between Easter and mid-June - the weather is pleasantly warm in most places, but not too hot. Beaches are relatively uncrowded and accommodation is cheaper and easier to find than in the mid-June to end of August high season. Conditions are once more ideal from the end of August until mid-October as the season winds down.

Local names for the winds

North Winds - Vorias, Boreas, Tramonata.

NE Winds - Vorias Anatolikos, Gregorio, Grego.

SE Winds - Anatolikos, Levante, Ageliotes.

East Winds - Notios Anatolikos, Sirocco, Souroko, Euros.

South Winds - Notios, Ostra.

SW Winds - Notios Ditikos, Garbis.

West Winds - Pounente, Ditikos, Zephyros.

NW Winds - Vorias Ditikos, Maistro, Schiron.

Northerly Winds - Etesians, Meltemi.

Trivia about Corfu

Insects

Naturalists have recorded 83 species of butterflies on Corfu. Corfu has 40 species of dragonflies, out of 41 species recorded in the whole Ionian. Corfu is a beetle-watcher's paradise. One beetle, *Agapanthia schurmanni*, is only found on Corfu and in parts of Northern Greece and Macedonia. The island has 64 species of crickets and grasshoppers, among them the bizarre Mole Cricket, which as its name suggests digs burrows, in locations with moist soils, for its eggs.

The First Bank in Greece

The Ionian State Bank was established in 1839, to finance trade between the Ionian Islands (a British protectorate) and Great Britain. This makes the bank the oldest in Greece. The bank received a 20-year grant of the exclusive privilege of issuing and circulating banknotes for the Ionian Islands. The bank soon changed its name to Ionian Bank and initially only operated in the Ionian Islands, opening branches in Corfu, Zakynthos and Kefalonia. In 1845, a year after the bank received a UK Royal Charter, it established agencies in Athens and Patras, and appointed special agents in Venice and Trieste. In 1864, the Ionian Islands united with Greece and Ionian Bank converted its agencies in Athens and Patras to full branches. It then extended its operations to the rest of Greece. The Athens office took over as Head Office from the Corfu office in 1873. By 1880, the bank lost its legal monopoly position in the Islands, but gained an extension to its (no longer exclusive) right of note issue. In 1883, the bank gave up its Royal Charter and registered as a limited liability company.

Corfu's Historic Lighthouse

The first lighthouse in Greece was built in Corfu by the British in 1822, to light the way to their principal naval base in the Ionian Islands. The (now rather decrepit) round stone tower with lantern and gallery, attached to a small one-storey stone keeper's cottage, still stands within the Old Fortress. Up until 1864, when the Ionian islands were united with Greece, further lighthouses were built around the Ionian Islands, many of which still operate today. Greece's first floating lighthouse was also in Corfu; it was built in Lefkimi in 1825.

Corfu's Twin Cities

Corfu is twinned with Krusevac, Serbia; Paphos, Cyprus; Famagusta, Cyprus; Meissen, Germany; Troisdorf, Germany; Asha, Cyprus; Brindisi, Italy; Vathi, Samos Greece; Carovigno, Italy; Verona, Italy; Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia; Saranda, Albania; Tremetousia, Cyprus; and Ioannina, Greece.

Corfu's Blue Flag Beaches 2009

Agios Georgios (South); Agios Georgios (West); Agios Gordios; Agios Ioannis; Agios Mathaios; Agios Spyridonas; Agios Stefanos (North-West); Almyros; Alykes; Astrakeri; Avlaki; Barbat; Benitses; Canal d'Amour; Dasia; Ermones; Gimari; Glyfada; Gouvia; Ipsos; Issos; Kalamaki; Kalamiones; Kerasia; Kommeno; Kontogialos; Kontokali; Marathias; Nisaki; Paleokastritsa; Roda; Sidari.

Italian Occupation of Corfu

During the Greco-Italian War, Corfu was occupied by the Italians in April 1941. They administered Corfu and the Ionian islands as a separate entity from Greece until September 1943. During the Second World War the 10th infantry regiment of the Greek Army, composed mainly of Corfiot soldiers, was assigned the task of defending Corfu. The regiment took part in Operation Latzides, which was a heroic but ultimately unsuccessful attempt to stem the forces of the Italians. After Greece's surrender to the Axis, the island came under Italian control and occupation. On the first Sunday of November 1941, high school students from all over Corfu took part in student protests against the occupying Italian army; these student protests were among the first acts of overt popular Resistance in occupied Greece and a rare phenomenon even by wartime European standards. Subsequently, a considerable number of Corfiots escaped to Epirus in mainland Greece and enlisted as partisans in ELAS and EDES, in order to join the resistance movement gathering in the mainland.

Kaiser's Bridge

German Kaiser Wilhelm II was fond of holidaying in Corfu. Having purchased the Achilleion Palace at Gastouri in 1907, he built a bridge (called "Kaiser's Bridge" by the locals) to access the nearby beach without crossing the road forming the island's main artery to the south. The bridge, arching over the road, spanned the distance between the lower gardens of Achilleion and the beach. The bridge's central section was, ironically, demolished by the Wehrmacht during the German occupation of World War II to allow for the free movement of its vehicles. The bridge's remains can still be seen on each side of the road.

The Petegolia (the Gossip)

Re-enacted in the Old Town on the last Thursday of Carnival every year, the custom of The Corfiot Petegoletsia dates back to an old tradition of street theatre. Corfu Town's narrow cobblestoned streets - called "kantounia" - are lined by tall houses. Actors, playing local housewives, stand in their windows exchange scurrilous gossip about local affairs, in authentic Corfiot dialect. The performance culminates with traditional songs and mandolin music.

Corfu's Harbours

Agni - Avlaki - Benitses - Corfu Town (Old Port)- Corfu Town (New Port) - Gouvia - Imerolia - Ipsos - Kalami - Kassiopi - Kouloura - Lefkimi - Mandraki - NAOK - Kerasia - Paliokastritsa - Pentati - Petriti - Queens Quay - San George - San Stefanos (Avliotes) - San Stefanos (Sinion).

The Judas Tree

The Judas Tree can be found all over Corfu and is one of the first harbingers of Spring. According to Christian tradition, it is the tree from which Judas hanged himself after denouncing Christ. Guilt-ridden, it has been made to blush with shame ever since - a reference to the pink flowers that erupt from the bare stems and trunk before the leaves appear. Judas Trees flower from March to April.

A.O. Kerkyra

Corfu's top football club, A.O. Kerkyra, was formed in 1967 following the merger of three local teams. The club's colours are maroon and blue, the colours of the island, and its badge is an ancient Corfiot trireme, the island's emblem. Home matches are played at Corfu's National Stadium which is situated next to the airport. After 36 years in the lower divisions A.O. Kerkyra managed to reach the First Division in 2004 having climbed three divisions in four years. Although the club was relegated after its first season in the top flight, the next season ended in 2006 with Kerkyra celebrating another promotion to the newly formed Greek Super League. Once again relegation followed and today Kerkyra are still playing back in the Second Division. Fans of A.O. Kerkyra are nicknamed Vourligans, a hybrid of "Vourlismenos" ("crazy" in Corfiot dialect) and "Hooligans".

Lazaretto Island

Lazaretto Island, formerly known as Aghios Dimitrios, is located two nautical miles northeast of Corfu. The island has an area of 17.5 acres and comes under the administration of the Greek National Tourist Organization. During World War II the Axis Occupation of Greece established a concentration camp there for prisoners of the Greek National Resistance movement. Remaining today are the two-storied building that served as the Headquarters of the Italian army, a small church, and the wall against which those condemned to death were shot. During Venetian rule in the early 16th century, a monastery was built on the islet and a leprosarium established later in the century, after which the island was named. In 1798, during the French occupation, the islet was occupied by the Russo-Turkish fleet, who ran it as a military hospital. During the British occupation, in 1814, the leprosarium was once again opened after renovations, and following union with Greece in 1864 the leprosarium again saw occasional use.

Ginger Beer

Ginger beer, or tsin tsin birra to give it the proper Corfiot name, is still available in Corfu and can be bought at the cafes on The Liston. A legacy of the British protectorate, the drink is made in traditional fashion using the finest ingredients of grated ginger, lemon juice, lemon oil, water and sugar. The mix is brewed in large cauldrons and is best taken fresh, though traditionally it was stored for long periods in stone bottles that were sealed with little glass marble stoppers and kept in the cool waters of the island wells.

Ochi Day - October 28

Celebrated throughout Greece on its anniversary each year, Ochi Day commemorates Greek dictator Ioannis Metaxas's rejection of the ultimatum made by Italian dictator Mussolini on October 28 1940. This ultimatum, which was presented to Metaxas by the Italian ambassador to Greece, demanded that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or otherwise face war. It was allegedly answered with a single word: *όχι* or no. In response to Metaxas's refusal, Italian troops stationed in Albania, then an Italian protectorate, attacked the Greek border. Metaxas's reply marked the beginning of Greece's participation in World War II.

Eating Places

Estiatorio - a restaurant offering international cuisine.

Taverna - serves traditional Greek food.

Psistario - a spit-roast and charcoal grill taverna.

Psarotaverna - a fish taverna.

Kafenio - a village café.

Zaharoplastio - a café-patisserie.

Kumquat

This is a famous Corfiot liqueur. It is distilled from the tiny kumquat, a citrus fruit that looks like a miniature orange. It is native to South East Asia and was introduced to Corfu in the 1860s. The standard kumquat drink is bright orange, the colour being from the rind; it is very sweet. There is a colourless distillation of kumquat juice which is far more potent and adventurous and can be identified by the twig with attached crystals that floats inside the bottle. All manner of other drinks, candies and sweets are produced using kumquats.

HRH Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh

Prince Philippos of Greece and Denmark was born on 10 June 1921 at Villa Mon Repos on Corfu. His father was Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark, the fourth son of George I of Greece and Queen Olga. His mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg. The Prince was baptised a few days after his birth at St. George's Church in the Palaio Frourio ("Old Fortress"). His godparents were Queen Olga and the Corfu community (represented by Alexander S. Kokotos, Mayor of Corfu, and Stylianos I. Maniarizis, Chairman of Corfu City Council). Prince Andrew and Princess Alice remained in residence on the Island of Corfu for 18 months. Greece was politically unstable, and it was expected that the monarchy would soon be overthrown. On 22 September 1922, Constantine I was forced to abdicate the throne. A revolutionary court sentenced Prince Andrew, his younger brother, to banishment for life. Fortunately for the family, George V ordered that the Royal Navy vessel, HMS Calypso, evacuate the family, and Philip was carried to safety in a cot made from an orange box.

Easter Sunday in Corfu

2019 - 28 April
2020 - 19 April
2021 – 02 May
2022 – 24 April
2023 - 16 April
2024 – 05 May
2025 – 20 April
2026 – 12 April
2027 – 02 May
2028 – 16 April
2029 – 08 April
2030 – 28 April

Consulates in Corfu

The following countries have Consulates in Corfu: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

National Service

Military service in Greece is obligatory for all able-bodied Greek men between the ages of 18 and 45. The duration of service is 12 months. Greek women are not obliged to serve in the military. They may, however, join as professionals. Conscientious objectors are required to complete community service for 23 months unarmed military service for 18 months. The Greek government had promised that mandatory military service would be reduced by 2008 or even abolished completely. Too few volunteers for the professional military, however, have forced the government to reconsider.

Some Greek Cheeses

Feta:traditionally made from goat or sheep's milk and stored in barrels of brine.

Kasseri:a mild, sharp tasting cheese with a creamy texture. Pale yellow in colour.

Mizithra:unsalted and made from a combination of whey, full fat milk and cream.

Kefalotiri:very hard in texture and used for grating over spaghetti.

Kefalograviera:a cross between Kefalotiri and Graviera.

Graviera:mild in taste, this cheese resembles Gruyere in texture.

Corfu Locations in "For Your Eyes Only" (1981) James Bond film

Corfu Town - Bond and Melina 'shopping'.

The Old Fortress - Kristatos' Albanian warehouse.

Vlacherna - Melina arrives by boat.

Villa Sylva - the 'Spanish' villa of hired hitman Gonzales.

Danilia Village - the church where Bond met Q.

Kalami Bay - where Sir Timothy Havelock and his wife are assassinated.

Near Spartilas - where Bond stops his Lotus to look at his road map.

Around Kastellani - this is the road used in the 2CV car chase scenes.

Near Vatonies - used in the first scene after Bond leaves Moneypenny's office.

Pagi - Bond and Melina's yellow Citroen 2CV races some baddies in Peugeot.

Achilleion Palace - the casino scene.

Agios Georgios & Lake Korission - on these dunes Countess Lisl von Schlaf is murdered.

Herbs and Spices used in Corfiot Dishes

Basil - Vasilikos
Bay Leaves - Dafni
Celery - Selino
Dill - Anitho
Fennel - Maratho
Marjoram - Madjourana
Mint - Dyosmos
Oregano - Rigani
Parsley - Maindano
Rosemary - Dendrolivano
Allspice - Bachari
Cayenne - Kokkino Piperi
Cinnamon - Kanella
Nutmeg - Moschokarydo
Paprika – Paprika

Names of fish

Cod - Bakaliaros
Sole - Glossa
Red Mullet - Barbouni
Swordfish - Xifias
Mackerel - Skoubri
Sea Scorpion - Skorprios
Tuna - Tonos
Sea Bream - Fagri
Grey Mullet - Kefalos
Gilthead - Tsipoures
Red Snapper - Sinagrida
Sardines - Sardeles
Herring - Renga

Corfu Airport (LGKR)

Named after Ioannis Kapodistrias, Corfu born diplomat and first Greek president (1827)

IATA Code - CFU

Position - 39°36'32"N, 019°54'51"E

Elevation - 13m (42ft)

Runway - Heading 17/35. Length 2,375m (7,791ft)

The Ionian Islands

Ithaki (Ithaca)
Kefallonia (Cephalonia)
Kerkyra (Corfu)
Kythira (Cerigo)
Lefkada (Lefkas)
Paxi (Paxos)
Zakynthos (Zante)

Some Greek Proverbs

Act quickly, think slowly.
All things good to know are difficult to learn.
An open enemy is better than a false friend.
Eat and drink with your relatives; do business with strangers.
If advice will not improve him, neither will the rod.
Learn to obey before you command.
No need to teach an eagle to fly.
Painless poverty is better than embittered wealth.
Success has many friends.
The heart that loves is always young.
Think not on what you lack as much as on what you have.
Young wood makes a hot fire.

Name Days

In Greece it is customary to celebrate your name day instead of, or besides, your birthday. Every day of the year is dedicated to the memory of a saint or martyr. If someone is named after a saint they celebrate on that day. (Those who are not named after a saint celebrate on All Saints' Day, 8 weeks after Easter.) Below are some examples

Alexandra/Alexandros August 30
Andreas November 30
Anna December 9
Antonis January 17
Christina July 24
Christos December 25
Dimitra/Dimitris October 26
Giorgos April 23
Helena May 21
Ioannis M January 7
Katerina November 25
Konstantina/Konstantinos May 21
Maria August 15
Michalis November 8
Nikos December 6
Panagiotis August 15
Sofia September 17
Spiros December 12
Stavros September 14
Stefanos December 27

Greek Gods

Aphrodite - Goddess of love
Apollo - God of light, medicine and poetry
Ares - God of war
Artemis - Goddess of hunting and childbirth
Athena - Goddess of crafts, war, and wisdom
Cronus - ruler of the Titans and father of Zeus
Demeter - Goddess of growing things
Dionysus - God of wine, fertility, and wild behavior
Eros - God of love
Gaea - Symbol of the earth and mother and wife of Uranus
Hephaestus - Blacksmith for the gods and god of fire and metalworking
Hera - Protector of marriage and women. Sister and wife of Zeus
Hermes - Messenger for the gods
Pluto - God of the underworld
Poseidon - God of the sea
Zeus - Ruler of the god

Some Famous Visitors to Corfu

Goethe - writer
Napoleon - French Emperor
Oscar Wilde - poet/writer
Gerald Durrell - writer
Lawrence Durrell - writer
Alfred Sisley - artist
Edward Lear - poet/artist
Wilhelm II - German Emperor
Elisabeth ("Sissy") - Austrian Empress
George Best - footballer
Lord Sainsbury - business magnate
Lord Rothschild - business magnate
Prince Charles - heir to British throne
Diana - Princess of Wales
Madonna - singer
Nicholas Cage – actor
Rita Ora - Singer