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GREECE

Discover the beauty

Thrace
Macedonia
Epirus
Ionian sea

- Thessaly
- Central Greece & Evia
- Peloponnese
- Aegean sea
- Creete

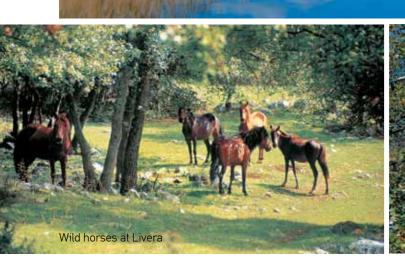


Discover Thrace





- partly for sericulture in a protected environment and partly as production units.
- Enjoying hydrotherapy and spa services at the area of Ancient Traianoupolis, where waters are known for the cure of rheumatism, skin diseases, kidney ailments etc.
- Discovering the island of **Samothrace**, with its conspicuous archaeological sanctuary of the Great Gods, its pristine natural beauty, its exciting morphology featuring waterfalls and stone basins, its thermal springs and, of course, its wonderful heaches





Vistonida Lake

Porto Lagos

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Discover Macedonia





Serres - Kerkini

Images with unique scenery alternate at film speed in Macedonia. Dreamy blue seas in Chalkidiki, Thassos and Pieria give way to the imposing - and almost perennial snowy – massifs of unique beauty of the divine Mt Olympus and the equally awe-inspiring Pangaio, Kaimaktsalan (Voras), and Falakro mountains. The picturesque scenery is no less diverse and exciting when it comes to the water element: some of the most important rivers in Greece flow through Macedonia (the Axios, Aliakmonas, Strymonas, Gallikos or Loudias and Nestos rivers) and are joined by some of the most impressive lakes (such as Mikri and Megali Prespa, Vegoritida, Kerkini, and Orestiada) in forming stunning wetlands and habitats of great significance for the whole of the European flora and fauna. And all that packed with world heritage sites and a unique gastronomic culture.

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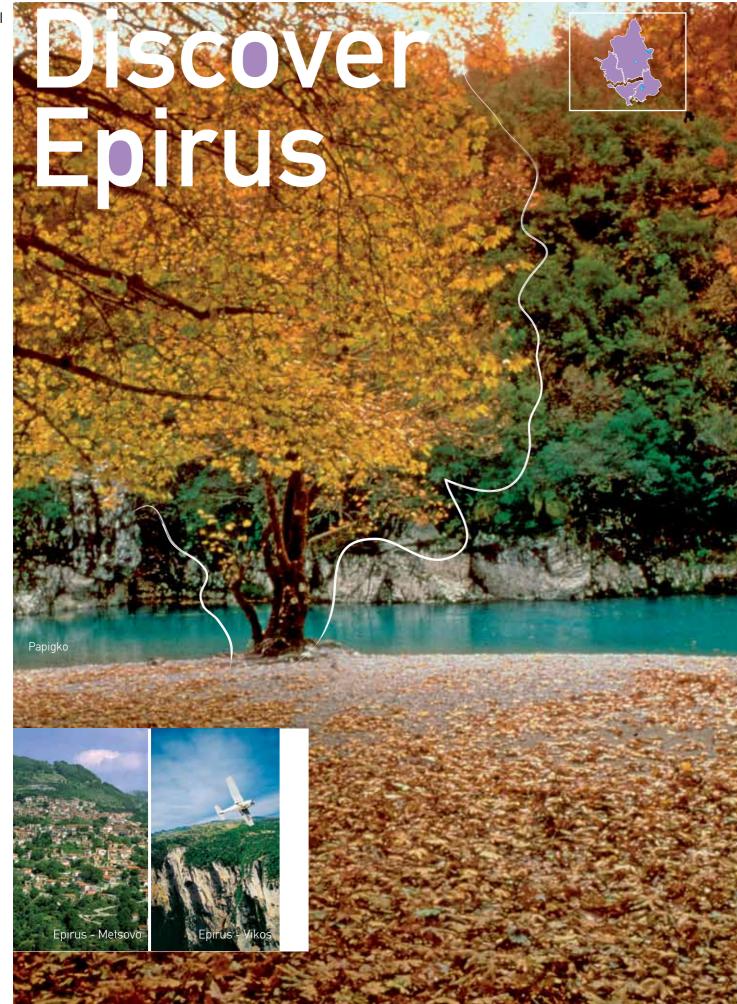


- The ancient city of Aigai, the first capital of the kingdom of Macedonia in the area of Vergina, whose incalculable archaeological and historical importance accounts for the fact that it was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996
- Lake Kerkini, one of the top European bird watching destinations. Home to 300 bird species as well as to the greatest number of buffalos in Greece, this is also the most important wintering place for the Dalmatian Pelican in Europe.
- Thessaloniki, a sheer open museum. Any walk around the beautiful northern Greek city will reveal some new aspects of its eternal history to the traveller. Ancient memories. Roman influences and Byzantine splendour comprise a uniquely charming mosaic. UNESCO has declared 15 Early Christian and Byzantine "ornaments" of Thessaloniki as World Heritage Sites, recognizing the city as one of the most important ones to the historical memory of humankind.
- The Orestiada (also know as Kastoria) Lake which was listed as a monument of unique natural beauty in 1974 and included in the European "Natura 2000" Network. Enjoy water-based activities in one of the most beautiful lakes in the Balkans.
- Loutraki, also known as Pozar, an area situated at only 40 km from Edessa, the capital of Pella and one of the most beautiful cities of Greece thanks to the water streams that run through it and rush over the cliffs to form imposing waterfalls.

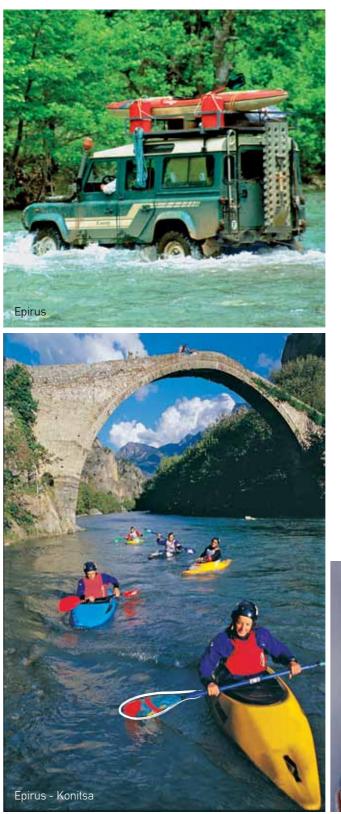


Revitalise your senses at 37 °C amidst precipice rocks, natural waterfalls and wild vegetation.

- The emerald of the Aegean, i.e. the island of **Thassos**, a place of fascinating beauty. With its rich history, archaeological remains, wonderful beaches, variety of activities to do, and good food, Thassos has become one of those islands holidaymakers return to year after year.
- The area of Grevena where over 1.300 mushroom species grow. It is the ideal place for you to participate in organised jeep tours in mountain trails with 4x4 vehicles.
- Chalkidiki, a treat for visitors. Lush green forests that reach right down to the beach; golden sunlight reflected in the turguoise waters; a traditional style with a rich gastronomic and cultural heritage. When there, visit the cave of Petralona, a cave of pivotal anthropological and paleontological importance, thanks to the cranium of the primitive man they found here some 200.000 years after his death.
- The tradition of **wine** in Greece is especially rich and associated with the nutritional habits of the Greeks, as well as with religious, cultural and popular practices. Macedonia is the area par excellence with extensive vineyards and a plethora of wine makers offering you visits to their farms and production units.



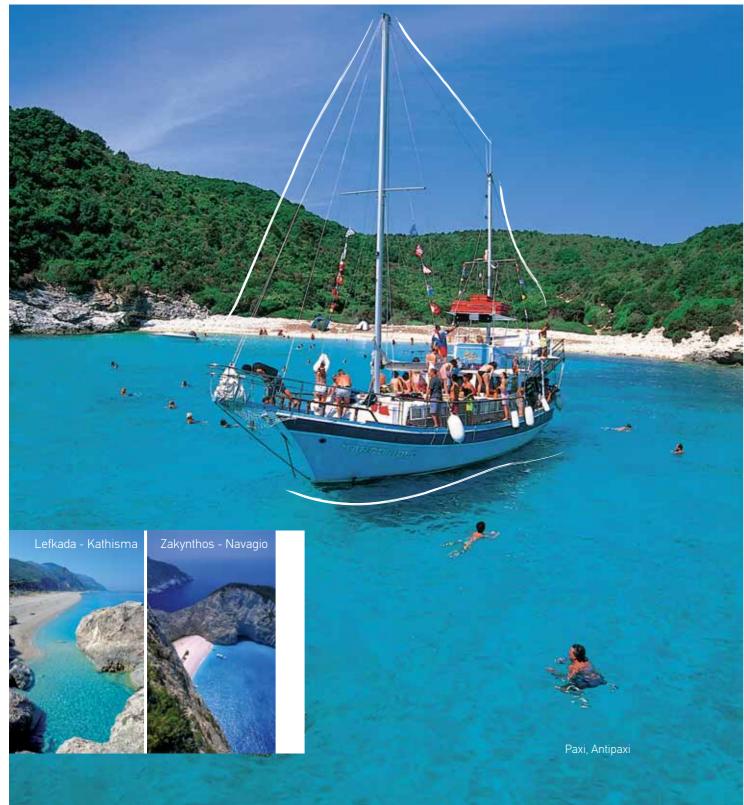
Epirus lies in the NW Greece, between the Pindos mountain range and the Ionian Sea. It impressively combines mountain vistas and enchanting seaside locations. The entire region is criss-crossed by mountains and rivers, the latter spanned by magnificent arched bridges. Going from north to south, the mountain ranges are interrupted by fertile plains and valleys. Epirus is considered the ideal region for a wide range of alternative tourism activities. The pristine Pindos Mountains with their sprawling, non trodden forests, the mountain lakes and the vertical mountain slopes offer the chance for numerous activities (mountaineering, climbing, downhill skiing, hiking, camping, etc) in landscapes of unique beauty.



- Rafting and kayaking in some of Greece's most beautiful rivers, such as the **Arachthos**, the **Aoos**, and the **Voidomatis** rivers.
- Paying a visit to the **Zagorochoria** district, consisting of 46 villages located all over the slopes of the mountains. In close proximity visitors find **Vikos canyon**, the second deepest in the world, with an ecosystem of 1.700 plants and 182 animals.
- Crossing the historic **stone bridges** of Epirus, where legends, local traditions and tragic stories leave their mark on these architectural masterpieces of superb craftsmanship.
- Walking around in the castle town of the beautiful city of **loannina** and taking a romantic stroll or a biking ride around the city's natural wonder of a lake.
- Trekking in the unspoilt paradise of **Valia Calda**, a national park that is one of the most attractive trekking destinations in Europe featuring a unique ecosystem that encompasses mammals, rare bird species and reptiles.
- Visiting **Dodoni**, the place where a famous oracle used to be in ancient times, as well as another worldwide known monument, the ancient theater of Dodoni, the largest in antiquity, with 55 tiers of seats and a capacity for 18,000 people.
- Staying at the area of **Parga**, a village built in a verdant location strongly reminiscent of an island, with marvellous beaches and a cluster of small isles around it. Excursion boats connect Parga with destinations along the coastline, Syvota, Paxoi, Antipaxoi and Corfu.
- When in Parga, taking a day boat trip to the **Acheron River**, the mythical "gate to the underworld".
- Tasting some of the most delicious **feta**, the cheese par excellence of Greece. Epirus is probably the leader in quality and taste when it comes to the shepherds' cheese that is known and enjoyed throughout the world.
- Experiencing the greatness of Greek mountainous nature at the **Tzoumerka mountain chain**, a Natura 2000 European Network entrant where all kinds of mountain activities can be performed.
- Enjoying winter at its best in the heart of **Metsovo** area and its two ski resorts, where the snow season lasts really long. Cheese and wine not to be missed while here.

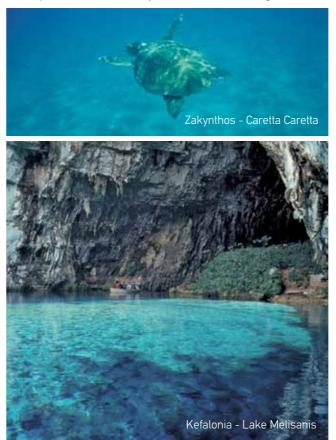


Discover the Second



The Ionian Islands have sea waters as deep as they are refreshing, verdant mountains, a rich cultural heritage and a carefree spirit; the ideal combination for your holidays during which you will enjoy a well-developed tourism infrastructure, hotels, restaurants, water sports centres, cultural events and numerous sights, historic monuments, and museums.

This beautiful aquatic neighbourhood is endowed with a mild and temperate climate which makes it the ideal location for vacation or residence. In winter, the mountains of Central Greece stop the cold northerly winds from reaching the islands while, in summer, the heat is tempered by the meltemia, the soft, northwestern winds, and the sea breezes. Due to the air currents prevalent on the Ionian Islands, many of the island beaches have developed into internationally acclaimed windsurfing centres



- The beaches! On all of the Ionian Islands there are golden beaches and crystal azure exotic waters like nothing you have ever seen before. Amongst them, allow us to mention the beach of Myrtos on Kefalonia, the beach of Porto Katsiki on Lefkada and the beach of Navagio (=shipwreck) on Zakynthos.
- The city of **Corfu**, Greece's largest preserved medieval town and one of the most beautiful in the Mediterranean which, as of 2007, has been on the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The tastes of the island of Corfu which is brimful of age-old olive groves, fruitful vineyards, and all kinds of citrus fruits that provide exquisite ingredients for specialties ranging from aperitifs to spoon sweets, and from dairy products to unique meat dishes.
- The lacy beaches, small coves, green hills with olive trees, imposing cliffs, sea caves and particularly interesting hewn stone cisterns dotting on the island of **Paxi**.







- Antipaxi, the stunning miniature of an island, southeast of Paxi, known for its fantastic beaches.
- Vassiliki, **Lefkada's** tourist hub with abundantly flowing streams and a vibrating nightlife, widely known as a wind-surfers' paradise.
- The Melissani Lake cavern on **Kefalonia**, once the worship site for god Pan's ancient cult, near Karavomylos, accessible by small boat. The sunlight, entering through the cave's collapsed part of the roof, turns everything within the cave into a fairyland of iridescent light.
- The National Marine Park of **Zakynthos**, one of the most important loggerhead sea turtle Caretta Caretta nesting areas in the Mediterranean.
- The mythical gorgeous island of Ithaca. After all, you should "Keep Ithaca always in your mind. Arriving there is what you are destined for" (Cavafy, Ithaca, translated by Edmund Keely/ Philip Sherrard).

Discover Thessaly The Region of Thessaly is located at the geographical centre of Greece and there is always a good reason for visiting the area: Mountains (Olympus, Kissavos, Pilion, and Othrys). Rivers (Pinios and tributaries). the famous Plastira Lake and Lake Karla (Voiviida) the valley of Tempi, unique Meteora, the beaches of Larissa and Magnesia, and the renowned islands of the Sporades (Skiathos, Skopelos, and Alonnisos). The exciting Thessalian natural landscape is complete with archaeological sites, Byzantine monasteries and churches, traditional settlements and ski resorts, making it one of the most famous holiday destinations.



- The islands group of **Sporades** (Skiathos, Skopelos, Alonissos) a unique destination with dense vegetation, rocky landscapes, and pure azure seas. Go island-hopping in a paradise island complex!
- The marine park of Alonissos, a refuge for rare seabirds, dolphins and, most importantly, the Mediterranean monk seal, Monachus Monachus.





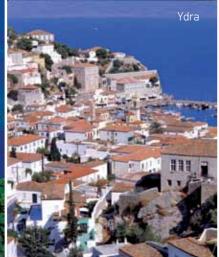
- **Meteora**, the most photogenic spiritual site of the country, famous for the massive stone pinnacles that reach a height of 400m to be topped by imposing monasteries.
- The breathtaking image and important wetland of **Lake Plastira**, set against an idyllic landscape of unspoiled natural beauty that steals visitors' hearts as soon as they set eyes on it.
- The enchanting city of **Trikala** and the nearby picturesque villages of **Elati** and **Pertouli** which are in the list of the top winter destinations throughout the country.
- The stunning valley of **Tembi**, the narrow passage where the **Pinios River** runs through the mountains of Olympus and Kissavos to form a landscape of unique beauty and host some peculiar floral and faunal species including flamingo birds.
- Mountaineering on Olympus, the adobe of the Gods and highest mountain in Greece.
- The thermal spas of **Smokovo**, whose almost 40°C sulphurous alkaline water's healing properties make a visit to the anyway beautiful area worthwhile.
- The all year round attraction of Mt **Pilion** with the scenic villages, the delicious local cuisine, the great mountainous landscape, the ski resort and the gorgeous golden sandy beaches with turquoise waters. To see part of the area, use the oldest railway in Greece which first operated in 1895.
- Tasting the strong local spirit called **tsipouro** in one of the dozens of traditional Greek tavernas of the seaside city of the Centaurs, **Volos**.

Discover Central Greece

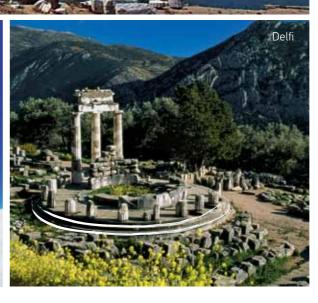




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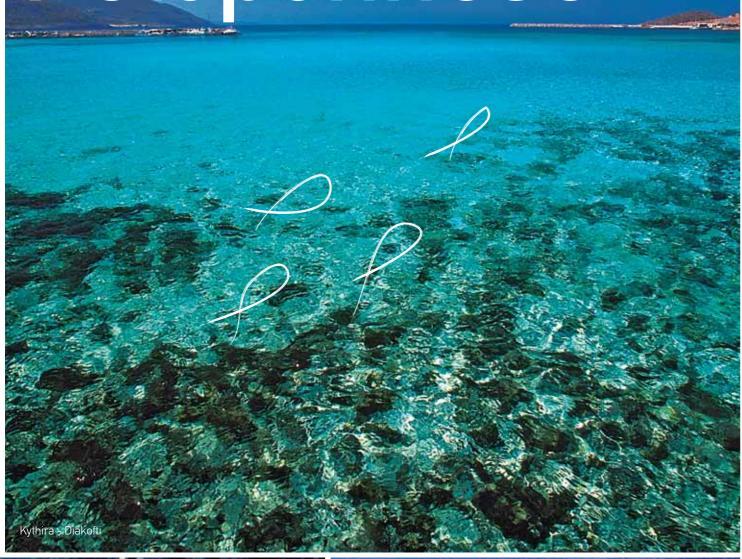


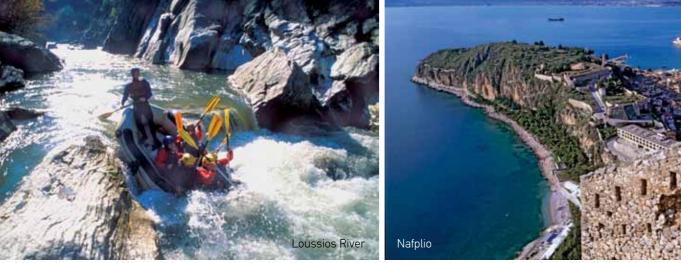


Central Greece is the mainland of Greece and has been inhabited since ancient times. It is one of the most historically significant regions of Greece. Its forested mountain ranges, rivers, lakes, rich biodiversity, and remarkable archaeological sites attract year round Greek and foreign visitors alike.

- Visiting the **Acropolis of Athens** and the Parthenon, one of the landmarks of humankind, the monument of classical monuments.
- Biking past the antiquities of Athens and up on **Mt. Parnitha**, strolling alongside the **Athens Riviera**, or marveling at the island-like seaside of Attica district on your way to cape **Sounion** and the temple of **Poseidon**.
- Making the best of the vicinity of Athens to some gorgeous islands: hop on a boat at Piraeus port and hop off at **Aegina**, **Agkistri, Poros, Hydra**, or **Spetses**, to live your own authentic Greek island experience.
- Touring around the green-clad Northern **Evia** with the wonderful beaches and the spa resort of **Aedipsos**. Further to the South, go to Kymi and sail to the island of **Skyros**, where some of the most characteristic traditional customs of Greece revive at Carnival.
- Stopping over **Thermopylae** on your way to the city of Lamia, not only for the spa centre there, but also because this is the celebrated place where King Leonidas and his 300 Spartans heroically lost a fight over the Persians in 480BC. A monument stands there to remind of their bravery.
- Paying a visit to the lagoon of Messolonghi, the largest wetland complex of Greece, a natural paradise of islets, dunes, forests on the banks and a rich flora and fauna that provide salt and fish to the locals; taste the precious secret of its salty and shallow arms, the renowned *avgotaraho*, a Greek version of caviar.
- Going rafting and kayaking at the **Evinos River**, as well as canyoning at **Vothonas**.
- Visiting the area of **Karpenissi**, for the towering snow-capped mountains; the deep ravines; the fast-flowing rivers and lakes; the impressive gorges; the Byzantine monasteries and the tiny mountain villages making up an alpine landscape that promises to offer the ultimate winter experience.
- Getting to two of the most romantic destinations in Greece, Nafpaktos and Galaxidi, to walk through cobbled narrow roads and past captains' mansions and marvel at a venetian castle and the attractive seaside. And all that at a stone's throw from Delphi, the most famous oracle of ancient Greece and centre of the world in those times.
- Skiing at **Mt Parnassos**, one of the highest mountains in Greece, whose spectacular geomorphology and rich biodiversity deservedly place it among the country's most important mountain environments. It is here that you will find the biggest downhill ski resort in Greece.

Discover Peloponnese







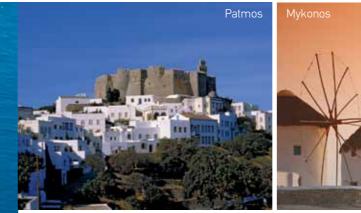
Peloponnese is a section of the Hellenic landscape that is resplendent with monuments from every period in Greece's turbulent history. It is the ideal destination for vacations and entertainment, sightseeing, sports and contact with history and culture. There are significant archaeological sites such as ancient Olympia, Epidaurus, Mycenae, Tiryns, Byzantine churches, unique villages and alluring castles amidst stunning natural beauty, mountains and forests, rivers and caves. And all that surrounded by the celebrated Greek sea and by sandy and smooth superb beaches on the western shores, and rocky and indented beaches in the eastern section. It is no coincidence, especially during the summer months, that a multitude of tourists from all over the world commence their vacations with a tour of Peloponnese, which has become an exceptionally widespread and popular destination.

- Attending the festive atmosphere of the carnival in **Patras** that will titillate your senses. Get to the exciting city through the bridge of Rio-Antirrio, one of the longest multi span cable-stayed bridges in the world, which connects Peloponnese to Central Greece.
- Visiting one of the most sacred places in the whole wide world, ancient **Olympia**. Feel the thrill of being at the place where the Olympic Games were born thousands of years ago and where the Olympic flame starts its global journey for the summer and the winter games alike.
- Strolling along the narrow cobblestone alleys of one of the most romantic towns in Greece, Nafplio. Not far from there, pay a visit to the archaeological site of Epidaurus, one of the most famous ancient theatres worldwide. In the summer, grab the chance to attend a show staged in it.

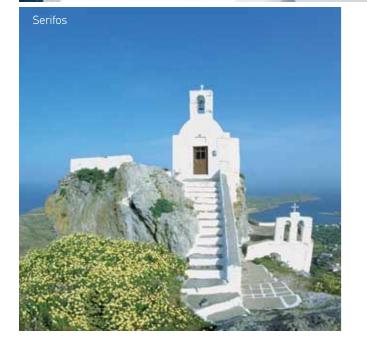
- Hiking along the E4 European path through the natural wonders of the mountainous part of mythical **Arcadia**. Rafting and kayaking at the **Loussios** River are some excellent choices at store. The rewarding landscape will leave you in awe while canyoning at the gorge or the **Alfios** River too.
- Swimming at the beach of Voidokoilia in the historical area of Pilos. Symmetrical as if it was drawn with a pair of compasses, the beach is nothing but a circular gulf with thin golden sand and crystalline azure-green waters.
- Getting to know the Byzantine town of Mistras, one of the largest and most significant medieval towns in Greece that has been designated as an International Heritage Monument.
- Spelunking at **Diros bay** where the caves of Alepotripa and Vlihada are internationally renowned for the abundant archaeological findings and the impressive water courses between the stalactites and stalagmites.
- Wine tasting at the winemaking area of **Nemea**, where you will sip at the king of the red grapes in the Peloponnese, Agiorgitiko. Combine the palatal feast with a visit to **Mycenae** and **Tiryns** to marvel at the remnants of the Mycenaean civilization, one of the most important civilizations ever to see the light of day.
- Exploring the breathtaking medieval tower town of **Monemvasia**, and peering into the history of the fortress –the so-called "Gibraltar of the East"– which had been occupied by the Byzantines, the Crusaders, the Venetians, and the Turks in the past.
- Taking a trip to **Kythera**, the "island of sweet secrets, of the hearts festivals!" by Charles Baudelaire, as getting there is the symbol of a burning desire, of hankering for beauty.

Santorini

Discover the Aegean islands







Floating in the Aegean Sea there are some of the most beautiful and famous islands in the world. The coexistence of charming white and blue Cycladic architecture, traditional lifestyle, insular gastronomic habits, warm hospitality, bare landscapes with whitewashed churches, amazing coastline and excellent beaches on the Cycladic islands go hand in hand with green hillsides, beaches with clear crystal waters, traditional villages, and a rich history on the other islands of the Aegean: all together they guarantee an island touring experience of a lifetime!

- Rock climbing on Kalymnos, one of the most important climbing destinations worldwide.
- Scuba diving in the underwater richness of Folegandros.
- Dancing at the feasts of Ikaria, the place with the highest longevity rate in the world.

- Lesvos Amorgos
 - Visiting the villages of Chios which are the only place in the world where mastic trees grow. Mastic is a natural, aromatic tear-shaped resin that perfumes, relieves and heals.
 - Trying the luscious tastes of the cuisine of Sifnos.
 - Sightseeing on Delos, the island where the light was born.
 - Having a romantic sunset moment at one of the most famous places in the world for such a moment: Santorini.
 - Enjoying the beaches on the lunar landscape of Milos.
 - Partying on the ever young island of los.
 - Shopping and spending cosmopolitan days and nights on Mykonos.
 - Strolling through the medieval town of Rhodes.
 - Basking on the wonderful golden beaches of islands such as Karpathos and Naxos.





- Visiting the volcano on the wonderful island of Nisyros.
- Having sardines and ouzo on Lesvos, the top ouzo producing place in Greece.
- Tasting the delicious cheeses of Lemnos (or Limnos).
- Becoming one with the Big Blue of Amorgos, the island where the famous Luc Besson film has been shot.
- Sipping at the awarded sweet wines of Samos.
- Entering the port of Symi, the island that beats all professional photographers and makes photoshop-like programmes look like kids' toys.
- Doing all kinds of sport activities in the sea of Paros.
- Bird-watching on the super eco-friendly island of Tilos.
- Experiencing the pristine beauty of the so-called "little Cyclades", i.e. a group of five (Donoussa, Schoinoussa, Irakleia, Koufonissia, Keros) gorgeous exotic-coloured islands.

Discover Crete

Crete is the combination of the crystal clear blue sea, the rough but imposing mountains, the renowned museums and ancient settlements, the impressive caves and precipices that have been known since prehistoric times, the frescos with the lively colours, the mild climate, the enchanting coasts with the ultramodern hotels, the charming mainland with the picturesque villages, the traditions and warm hospitality, and the excellent local cuisine (composed mainly of meat, virgin olive oil, fruit, vegetables and legumes) that has been proven by scientific research to dramatically increase the average life expectancy. It is a unique place and the largest island in



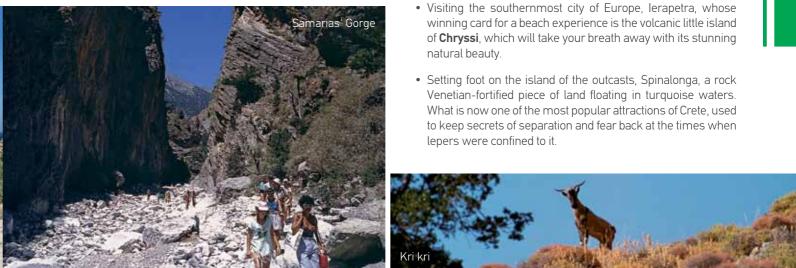












- Strolling around the old Venetian town of Chania with the fortress and the lighthouse. Visit the market of the city and taste the drooling culinary delights of Crete as well as their strong drink, raki.
- Basking at the golden exotic beaches facing the Libyan Sea all along the Cretan shore, from Falassarna in the west to Vai in the East, where one feels they are on a tropic island while still being in Europe. Vai is also known for its exotic forest of palm trees.
- Diving at the spectacular underwater cave of the Elephants, owing its name to the bones of elephants found there. It is not far from the port of Chania called Souda.
- Participating in agrotourism activities in the Vamos peninsula and Milia traditional village in Chania district.
- Taking pedalo rides at Kournas Lake, the only natural lake of Crete and an important wetland too.
- Feeling the joys of the mountain at Psiloritis, whose Geopark is part of the UNESCO network. Springs, lakes, gorges and caves wait to be explored.
- Visiting Idaion Antro, the cave where mythology puts the bringing-up of Zeus. Not far from there you can visit mountainous villages like Anogeia and get to know original Cretan culinary traditions, such as meat skewered to the ground and grilled against a burning fire.
- Taking part in the carnival activities in the city of Rethymno, or biking through it to admire Venetian architecture.
- Canyoning at the Samaria gorge and exploring an impressive array of flora and fauna exceeding 500 species some of which endemic to the Cretan land.
- Taking a cultural safari around the Minoan antiquities where the palace of Knossos holds the reigning position with its worldwide famous bright colourful architecture.
- Getting familiar with the mysteries and marvels of the seas in Cretaquarium, one of the best places in Europe for an acquaintance with hundreds of marine species.
- Golfing and giving into luxury in Elounda, a place hosting some of the most high-end hotel units in Europe.





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