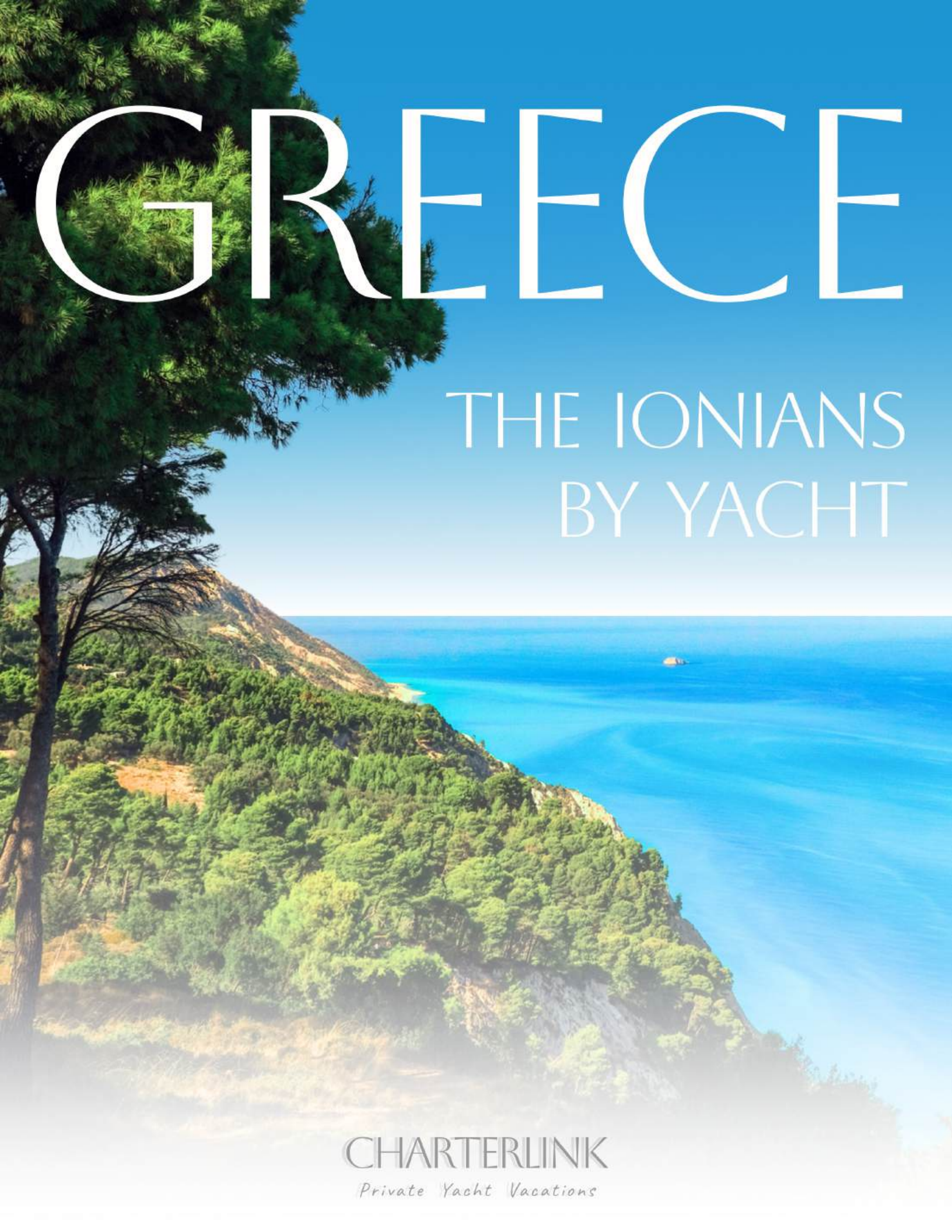




GREECE

THE IONIANS BY YACHT

CHARTERLINK
Private Yacht Vacations



THE IONIANS

The Ionian Islands lie along Greece's western coastline, stretching from Corfu in the north to Zakynthos in the south. Unlike the rugged, windswept landscapes of the Aegean, the Ionian is known for its lush greenery, olive groves, turquoise waters, and mountainous landscape. Influenced by centuries of Venetian rule, the region offers a blend of Greek and Italian character, with elegant architecture, charming waterfront towns, and a relaxed atmosphere. Popular destinations include Corfu, Paxos, Antipaxos, Lefkada, Meganisi, Ithaca, Kefalonia, and Zakynthos, each contributing its own unique character to an itinerary filled with natural beauty and authentic island life.

One of the defining features of the Ionian Islands is the contrast between their sheltered eastern coastlines and their dramatic western shores. The western sides of Lefkada, Kefalonia, and Zakynthos are home to some of the most spectacular beaches in Greece, with towering limestone cliffs, turquoise waters, and stretches of brilliant white sand. Zakynthos is perhaps best known for the world-famous Shipwreck Beach, whilst Lefkada and Kefalonia boast numerous beaches that regularly appear on lists of the most beautiful in Europe.

The area enjoys some of the most predictable sailing conditions in Greece. During the summer months, a reliable afternoon sea breeze typically develops, often building throughout the day before easing again in the evening. These winds provide enjoyable sailing conditions without the intensity often experienced in the Cyclades. While weather can occasionally influence an itinerary, prolonged periods of disruptive conditions are relatively uncommon. As such, when conditions are suitable, many itineraries focus on reaching these exposed western coastlines whilst incorporating some of the sheltered inner islands such as Meganisi and Ithaca; creating one of the most memorable charter experiences anywhere in Greece.

These islands are renowned for their excellent cuisine, heavily influenced by both Greek and Italian traditions. Fresh seafood, local cheeses, olive oil, slow-cooked meats, pastas and seasonal produce feature prominently throughout the region. Corfu is particularly known for its distinctive local dishes and Venetian-inspired flavours. From waterfront tavernas overlooking quiet harbours to elegant restaurants in historic town centres, the Ionian offers a wide variety of dining experiences that showcase the region's rich culinary heritage.

July and Aug: Busiest and hottest months, with the slightly more wind (84° - 93°F with water temperatures from 77° - 82°F)

June and Sept: Shoulder season with warm weather, and less wind (77° - 88°F with water temperatures from 73° - 80°F)

May and Oct: Quieter, with mild weather and waters, occasional storms (68° - 81°F with water temperatures from 68° - 75°F)

Language: Greek (English widely spoken in tourist areas)

Time zone: Eastern European Time (EET), UTC+2 (summer: UTC+3)

Electricity: 230V, plugs type C and F

Tap water is generally safe on the mainland and in larger towns, though bottled water is commonly used on many islands.

Euro is the currency.

Flights in/out Corfu, Preveza (Lefkada) & Zakynthos.



UNDERSTANDING THE IONIANS

VISITING CORFU

FOR MOTOR YACHTS & POWER CATAMARANS, THE HIGHER CRUISING SPEEDS MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO COMFORTABLY INCORPORATE CORFU INTO A ONE-WAY ITINERARY HEADING SOUTH TOWARDS KEFALONIA OR EVEN AS FAR AS ZAKYNTHOS. FOR SAILING YACHTS AND SAILING CATAMARANS, CORFU CAN BE A LITTLE TOO FAR NORTH TO COMFORTABLY INCLUDE WITHIN A STANDARD SEVEN-NIGHT IONIAN ITINERARY. INSTEAD, IT IS OFTEN BEST ENJOYED AS AN EXTENSION TO A LEFKADA BASED ROUND-TRIP CHARTER, ALLOWING GUESTS TO EXPLORE THE SOUTHERN IONIAN ISLANDS AT A MORE RELAXED PACE.

CORFU IS RENOWNED FOR ITS UNESCO-LISTED OLD TOWN, VENETIAN ARCHITECTURE, AND COSMOPOLITAN ATMOSPHERE. FOR GUESTS NOT INCLUDING CORFU WITHIN THEIR CHARTER ITINERARY, FLYING INTO CORFU AND SPENDING TWO TO THREE DAYS EXPLORING CORFU TOWN, PAXOS, AND ANTIPAXOS BEFORE JOINING THEIR YACHT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. THE CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATERS, CHARMING HARBOURS, AND SOME OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR SWIMMING SPOTS IN THE IONIAN PROVIDE A PERFECT INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION AND ARE OFTEN CONSIDERED HIGHLIGHTS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

DISTANCE

CRUISING DISTANCES IN THE SOUTHERN IONIANS ARE GENERALLY SHORT, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST RELAXED CRUISING REGIONS IN GREECE. MANY DESTINATIONS ARE ONLY A FEW HOURS APART, ALLOWING GUESTS TO SPEND LESS TIME UNDERWAY AND MORE TIME SWIMMING, EXPLORING ASHORE, AND ENJOYING THE YACHT. FOR GUESTS ACCUSTOMED TO CARIBBEAN-STYLE ISLAND HOPPING, THE IONIAN OFTEN FEELS FAMILIAR, WITH NUMEROUS SHELTERED BAYS, SHORT PASSAGES, AND FLEXIBLE ITINERARY OPTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

FLEXIBILITY

THE SPECTACULAR WESTERN BAYS OF THE SOUTHERN IONIANS FEATURE WHITE SAND BEACHES AND DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES, HOWEVER, THEY ARE ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE WEATHER CONDITIONS. ACCESS FOR YACHTS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES ARE ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN THE PREVAILING WIND AND SWELL ARE FAVORABLE, AS THE CONDITIONS MAY BE UNCOMFORTABLE OR UNSAFE. THIS DECISION CAN ONLY REALISTICALLY BE MADE ONCE YOU HAVE BOARDED YOUR YACHT AND REVIEWED THE LATEST WEATHER FORECASTS TOGETHER.

ALTERNATIVE ITINERARIES FOCUS ON THE INTERIOR IONIAN ISLANDS WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL GREEN LANDSCAPES, RUGGED COASTLINES, CRYSTAL-CLEAR SWIMMING WATERS AND COUNTLESS SHELTERED ANCHORAGES. YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME CHARMING HARBORS, TRADITIONAL VILLAGES AND TOWNS HOWEVER THE BEACHES ARE OFTEN PEBBLED RATHER THAN SANDY. THE SCENERY REMAINS SPECTACULAR AND THE CRUISING EXPERIENCE, RATHER THAN BE VIEWED AS A DISAPPOINTMENT, IS BEST CONSIDERED A DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE IONIAN EXPERIENCE. THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES, THEIR CULTURE, CUISINE, VILLAGES, AND SCENERY REMAIN EVERY BIT AS ENJOYABLE, AND THE FAMOUS WESTERN BEACHES WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE A COMPELLING REASON TO RETURN FOR ANOTHER VISIT.



THE SOUTHERN IONIAN

WEST COAST ROUTE

160NM ROUTE (16 - 22 HRS TOTAL)
APPROX. 2 - 3 HRS SAILING PER DAY.

THE SHEER VARIETY OF ANCHORAGES, ISLANDS, BAYS, VILLAGES, AND BEACHES THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHERN IONIAN MAKES IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CREATE A SINGLE DEFINITIVE ITINERARY. WEATHER, WIND DIRECTION, SWELL, AND GUEST PREFERENCES ALL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DETERMINING WHERE A YACHT WILL SPEND EACH NIGHT, AND ON MANY ISLANDS THERE MAY BE MULTIPLE EQUALLY APPEALING OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM. IT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THE IONIAN REMAINS A FAVOURITE DESTINATION FOR REPEAT TRIPS AS GUESTS OFTEN RETURN NOT ONLY IN THE HOPE OF EXPERIENCING PERFECT CONDITIONS ALONG THE SPECTACULAR WESTERN COASTLINES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THERE IS SIMPLY SO MUCH LEFT TO EXPLORE.

CHARTERS TYPICALLY BEGIN IN LEFKADA, WHERE GUESTS DEPART THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL LEFKADA LAGOON AND CHANNEL SYSTEM BEFORE EMERGING INTO THE SHELTERED INLAND WATERS SHARED BY NIDRI, MEGANISI, KALAMOS, AND THE SURROUNDING ISLANDS. FROM THE MOMENT YOU LEAVE THE DOCK, THERE IS ALREADY AN ABUNDANCE OF OPTIONS FOR YOUR FIRST EVENING, WHETHER THAT MEANS ENJOYING ONE OF THE LIVELY WATERFRONT TOWNS, ANCHORING AMONGST THE ISLANDS, OR FINDING A QUIET BAY TUCKED AWAY ALONG THE PROTECTED SOUTHERN COASTLINE OF LEFKADA.

FROM HERE THE FOCUS SHIFTS TOWARDS THE DRAMATIC WESTERN COASTLINE OF LEFKADA, WHERE TOWERING CLIFFS, BRILLIANT WHITE BEACHES, AND TURQUOISE WATERS CREATE SOME OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR SCENERY ANYWHERE IN GREECE. CHOOSE TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN ONE OF THE WESTERN ANCHORAGES BEFORE, CONTINUING SOUTH TOWARDS FISKARDO AND EXPERIENCING DESTINATIONS SUCH AS ASSOS AND THE FAMOUS BEACHES ALONG KEFALONIA'S WESTERN SHORELINE.

NO SOUTHERN IONIAN ITINERARY FEELS COMPLETE WITHOUT VISITING ITHACA, THE LEGENDARY HOMELAND OF ODYSSEUS OFFERS A COLLECTION OF BEAUTIFUL BAYS AND CHARMING VILLAGES BEFORE CONTINUING TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF ZAKYNTHOS AT AGIOS NIKOLAOS. EXPLORE THE SPECTACULAR WEST COAST, HOME TO THE WORLD-FAMOUS SHIPWRECK BEACH, DRAMATIC LIMESTONE CLIFFS, SEA CAVES, AND SOME OF THE MOST WORLD RENOWN SCENERY, BEFORE BEGINNING THE JOURNEY NORTH. THE RETURN LEG IS OFTEN SPENT ISLAND HOPPING THROUGH THE SHELTERED EASTERN SIDE OF THE CRUISING AREA BEFORE RETURNING TO LEFKADA TO CONCLUDE THE CHARTER.

EVERY CHARTER THROUGH THE SOUTHERN IONIAN UNFOLDS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY, WHICH IS PRECISELY WHAT MAKES THE REGION SO SPECIAL. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU VISIT, THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER BAY TO DISCOVER.

EAST COAST ROUTE

105NM ROUTE (10 - 15 HRS TOTAL)
APPROX. 1 - 2 HRS SAILING PER DAY.

CHRTERS STILL START AND END IN LEFKADA, WITH CRUISING TYPICALLY REMAINING WITHIN THE SHELTERED EASTERN ISLANDS AND BAYS, SUCH AS NIDRI, MEGANISI, KALAMOS, KASTOS, ARKOUDI, BEFORE HEADING SOUTH TO FISKARDO AND SAMI TO EXPLORE ALL THAT KEFALONIA HAS TO OFFER, AS WELL AS FABLED ITHACA.

GUESTS ARE OFTEN SURPRISED TO DISCOVER SOME OF THE MOST RELAXED SAILING CONDITIONS IN GREECE ARE FOUND WITHIN THESE SHELTERED WATERS. THE SCENERY REMAINS DRAMATIC, WITH LUSH GREEN HILLSIDES, RUGGED COASTLINES, AND COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWIMMING, WATERSPORTS, AND EXPLORATION. AS YOU CONTINUE THROUGH THIS AREA, YOU'LL DISCOVER WHAT DESTINATIONS SUCH AS SAMI, ITHACA, AND KEFALONIA HAVE TO OFFER IN TERMS OF DAY EXCURSIONS, LOCAL CULTURE, AND NATURAL BEAUTY, WHILST THE ISLANDS SURROUNDING LEFKADA REVEAL SOME OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE ANCHORAGES AND CRUISING GROUNDS IN THE ENTIRE IONIAN.





LEFKADA TOWN

For many guests, Lefkada Town serves as the gateway to the Ionian Islands and the beginning of their yacht charter adventure. Unlike most Greek islands, Lefkada is connected to the mainland by a floating bridge, making it one of the easiest island charter destinations to reach. Arriving from Preveza Airport, guests pass beneath the unique underwater tunnel linking the mainland to Lefkada before emerging onto an island renowned for its lush landscapes, calm waters, and exceptional sailing conditions.

The approach to Lefkada Town is defined by its waterways. A man-made channel cuts through the shallow lagoon that separates the island from the mainland, creating a navigable route for yachts that would otherwise be impossible to traverse. As you make your way through the channel, surrounded by wetlands, fishing boats, and passing yachts, it quickly becomes apparent why Lefkada has become one of the most important sailing hubs in Greece.

Today, Lefkada Town is home to several marinas and charter bases, with both private yachts and large fleet operators using the town as a starting point for exploring the Ionian Islands. The marina itself is a hive of activity throughout the season, with crews preparing yachts, guests arriving for their charters, and waterfront cafés and restaurants buzzing with anticipation as new adventures begin each week.

Beyond the marina, the old town is a lively and welcoming place to explore before or after your charter. Pedestrian streets lined with shops, cafés, bakeries, and local boutiques weave through the heart of town, while bustling squares and waterfront promenades create a vibrant atmosphere well into the evening. Visitors will find plenty of accommodation options, making Lefkada Town an ideal place to spend a night or two before embarking on their yacht.



NYDRI

Nestled along Lefkada's sheltered eastern coastline, Nidri is one of the most popular and vibrant destinations in the Ionian Islands. Surrounded by lush green hills and protected waters dotted with small islands, the town offers a very different atmosphere from the dramatic west coast beaches for which Lefkada is famous. Its calm conditions, lively waterfront, and central location make it a favorite stop for both charter yachts and local sailors exploring the region.

The waterfront promenade forms the heart of Nidri, where cafés, bars, boutiques, and tavernas line the harbor. Throughout the day, yachts, water taxis, fishing boats, and excursion vessels come and go, creating a lively atmosphere that feels distinctly nautical. The town is well-equipped with supermarkets, bakeries, pharmacies, and local shops, making it a practical stop as well as an enjoyable one. In the evenings, the waterfront comes alive as visitors and locals gather to dine, stroll, and enjoy the warm Ionian evenings.

Just offshore lie several small islands that define the landscape around Nidri. Among them is Skorpaios, the private island made famous by Aristotle Onassis, whose presence helped place this corner of the Ionian on the international map. The surrounding islands, channels, and protected bays create a stunning cruising area that is ideal for swimming, paddleboarding, and leisurely exploration by tender.

For those wishing to venture ashore, the nearby Nidri Waterfalls offer a pleasant change of scenery from the coastline. A short walk through shaded woodland leads to a natural pool and waterfall, particularly enjoyable during the spring and early summer months. Scenic roads winding through the surrounding hills also provide access to traditional villages and beautiful viewpoints overlooking the Ionian Sea.

Nidri combines the convenience of a well-developed harbor town with the natural beauty that has made the Ionian Islands so beloved among sailors.



MEGANISI

Tucked between Lefkada and the Greek mainland, Meganisi offers a quieter and more intimate side of the Ionian Islands. Covered in olive groves, cypress trees, and rolling hills, the island feels a world away from the busier charter hubs nearby. Its indented coastline is dotted with hidden coves, sea caves, and sheltered anchorages, making it a favorite destination for yachts seeking calm waters and a more relaxed pace of life.

The island is home to three traditional villages, each with its own distinct character. Vathy, the island's principal harbor, is a picturesque waterfront settlement where cafés and tavernas line a naturally sheltered bay. Spartochori, perched high on a hillside, rewards visitors with sweeping views across the surrounding islands and sea, while Katomeri, the island's administrative center, offers a glimpse into everyday local life away from the waterfront. Wandering through these villages reveals stone houses, flower-filled courtyards, and the authentic charm that defines much of the Ionian.

Meganisi's coastline is one of its greatest attractions. Numerous bays and inlets provide ideal conditions for swimming, paddleboarding, and exploring by tender. The island is also known for its sea caves, including the impressive Papanikolis Cave, one of the largest marine caves in Greece. Local legend holds that submarines used the cave as a hiding place during wartime, adding an extra layer of intrigue to an already spectacular natural landmark.

For those who enjoy exploring ashore, a network of quiet roads and walking trails connects much of the island. Gentle hikes lead through olive groves and countryside dotted with traditional chapels, while elevated viewpoints provide beautiful panoramas across the Ionian Sea. The island's relatively small size makes it easy to explore, whether by foot, scooter, or simply wandering at a leisurely pace.



ARKOUDI & ATOKOS

Arkoudi and Atokos are two of the Ionian's smaller islands, yet both have become favorite stops for yachts exploring the waters between Lefkada, Meganisi, and Ithaca. While neither island is known for bustling villages or major attractions, both offer exactly what many charter guests come to the Ionian in search of: crystal-clear water, peaceful anchorages, and a sense of escape from the more developed destinations nearby.

Arkoudi is a small inhabited island located south of Lefkada and west of Meganisi. The island's tiny harbor and waterfront settlement provide a charming stop for lunch or an afternoon ashore, while the surrounding coastline offers excellent swimming and snorkeling opportunities. A short walk inland rewards visitors with beautiful views across the Ionian Sea, and the island's relaxed atmosphere provides a glimpse into a quieter side of Greek island life that has changed little over the years.

Atokos presents a very different experience. Privately owned and largely undeveloped, the island is known for its dramatic coastline, rugged hills, and remarkably clear water. There are no towns, shops, or tourist facilities, giving the island an untouched quality that is increasingly rare in the Mediterranean. Most visitors arrive by yacht to enjoy the scenery and spend time swimming in its beautiful bays before continuing on their journey.

The island's most famous anchorage is One House Bay, where steep white cliffs plunge into turquoise water and a solitary building sits at the edge of the shoreline. The bay has become one of the most photographed locations in the Ionian and is a popular stop for swimming, paddleboarding, and relaxing on board. As a privately owned island, facilities are extremely limited and overnight access may be restricted depending on local arrangements and ownership policies, making Atokos best appreciated as a day stop and one of the Ionian's most memorable swimming destinations.



KALAMOS & KASTOS

Kalamos is one of the Ionian's hidden gems, an island where time seems to move a little more slowly and traditional Greek island life remains firmly intact. Covered in dense pine forests that stretch almost to the water's edge, the island offers a striking contrast to many of Greece's more arid destinations. Its combination of lush greenery, quiet anchorages, and authentic village life has made it a favorite among experienced sailors seeking a more peaceful side of the Ionian.

The island's main settlement and harbor share the same name, Kalamos. Built around a picturesque waterfront, the village is home to traditional tavernas, small cafés, and a handful of local shops serving both residents and visiting yachts. Fishing boats bob alongside sailing yachts in the harbor, while waterfront restaurants offer a relaxed setting to enjoy fresh seafood and watch life unfold along the quayside.

Much of Kalamos remains wonderfully undeveloped. Forested hills rise behind the village, while quiet roads and walking paths lead through olive groves, pine woods, and small rural settlements. Visitors looking to stretch their legs will find numerous opportunities to explore ashore, with elevated viewpoints providing beautiful panoramas across the surrounding islands and the Ionian Sea.

Just a short distance away lies Kastos, the smallest inhabited island in the Ionian. Home to only a small year-round population, the island revolves around a picturesque harbor lined with traditional tavernas, fishing boats, and a handful of waterfront cafés. Visitors can wander the quiet lanes, explore the surrounding coastline, or simply enjoy the relaxed atmosphere that has made Kastos a favorite stop among sailors for generations.

Both coastlines are equally appealing, with secluded coves and sheltered bays scattered around the island. Many of these anchorages are accessible only by boat, providing ideal conditions for swimming, paddleboarding, snorkeling, and enjoying the crystal-clear waters for which the Ionian is renowned. The combination of calm seas and natural beauty makes these stops particularly rewarding to explore from the water. Together, Kalamos and Kastos offer a glimpse into a slower, more traditional side of the Ionian that feels increasingly rare elsewhere in the Mediterranean.



LEFKADA WEST

The west coast of Lefkada is home to some of the most spectacular scenery in all of Greece. Unlike the calm, protected waters of the island's eastern shoreline, the west coast faces the open Ionian Sea, where dramatic limestone cliffs plunge into impossibly turquoise water and some of the country's most famous beaches stretch beneath towering rock faces. It is a landscape that feels wild, untamed, and strikingly different from the sheltered cruising grounds found elsewhere in the Ionian.

Among the highlights is Porto Katsiki, widely regarded as one of Greece's most beautiful beaches. Framed by sheer white cliffs and brilliant blue water, the beach has become one of the most photographed locations in the Mediterranean. Nearby, Egremni Beach offers a similarly breathtaking setting, with a vast stretch of white sand and crystal-clear water backed by dramatic cliffs. On calm days, arriving by yacht provides a perspective few visitors experience, allowing guests to appreciate the scale and beauty of these iconic locations from the sea.

Further north, Kathisma Beach combines stunning natural scenery with a more lively atmosphere, while hidden coves and smaller beaches scattered along the coastline provide countless opportunities for swimming and exploration. The contrast between the white limestone cliffs, deep green vegetation, and vivid shades of blue water creates some of the most memorable coastal scenery in the Ionian Islands. When conditions cooperate, the west coast of Lefkada is often a highlight of an Ionian charter.



KEFALONIA WEST

The west coast of Kefalonia is among the most dramatic and scenic stretches of coastline in the Ionian Islands. Defined by towering limestone cliffs, deep blue water, hidden coves, and spectacular viewpoints, this rugged shoreline offers a striking contrast to the gentler landscapes found elsewhere on the island. Cruising along the coast provides a constant procession of dramatic scenery, with steep mountains rising directly from the sea and some of Greece's most famous natural attractions never far away.

One of the highlights of the region is Myrtos Beach, widely considered one of the most beautiful beaches in Greece. Its brilliant white pebbles and vibrant turquoise water have become iconic with an elevated viewpoints above the beach provide breathtaking panoramas. Approaching from the water offers an equally impressive perspective of the immense cliffs that frame the bay.

Further south, visitors can explore the island's remarkable geological features, including the famous Melissani Cave and Drogarati Cave. Melissani is particularly renowned for its underground lake, where sunlight streaming through an opening in the cave roof creates extraordinary shades of blue beneath the surface. Together, these natural wonders offer a fascinating glimpse into the geological forces that have shaped Kefalonia over millions of years.

The west coast is also dotted with secluded bays, sea caves, and quiet swimming spots that are best accessed by boat. Many of these locations remain difficult to reach by land, allowing yacht guests to enjoy areas of coastline that see relatively few visitors. The clarity of the water, combined with the dramatic backdrop of cliffs and forests, creates exceptional conditions for swimming, snorkeling, and spending time on the water. Its combination of natural beauty, geological wonders, and spectacular coastal landscapes makes it a highlight of any visit to Kefalonia.



FISKARDO

Fiskardo is one of the most charming and recognizable harbor towns in the Ionian Islands. Located on the northern tip of Kefalonia, the village is known for its colorful Venetian architecture, elegant waterfront, and lively atmosphere. Unlike much of Kefalonia, Fiskardo survived the devastating earthquake of 1953, allowing many of its historic buildings to remain intact and giving the town a distinctive character that sets it apart from other Ionian destinations.

The harbor is the focal point of village life, where yachts, fishing boats, and waterfront cafés create a vibrant yet relaxed atmosphere throughout the day. Boutique shops, galleries, bakeries, and local stores line the waterfront, making Fiskardo one of the best places in the Ionian for a leisurely stroll and a little shopping. Visitors can browse for locally produced olive oils, handmade crafts, artwork, jewellery, and other Greek specialties before settling into one of the many cafés or tavernas overlooking the harbor.

A short walk from the village leads to the Venetian Lighthouse at Fiskardo, which offers beautiful views across the entrance to the bay and toward neighboring Ithaca. The surrounding coastline is equally attractive, with shaded walking paths, small coves, and crystal-clear swimming spots scattered around the headland. The area combines natural beauty with an easy-going sophistication that has made it a favorite stop among both sailors and visitors exploring Kefalonia by land.



ASOS

Nestled within a horseshoe-shaped bay on Kefalonia's northwestern coast, Asos is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful villages in the Ionian Islands. A narrow isthmus connects the village to a small peninsula that stretches into the sea, creating a naturally protected harbor surrounded by colorful houses, cypress trees, and steep green hillsides. The setting is remarkably picturesque, and many visitors consider Asos one of the highlights of any visit to Kefalonia.

The village itself is small and easily explored on foot. Pastel-colored Venetian buildings line the waterfront, while narrow lanes weave between traditional homes, flowering gardens, and quiet squares. Life here moves at a slower pace, making Asos an ideal place to spend a relaxed afternoon wandering through the village, enjoying a coffee by the water, or settling into one of the waterfront tavernas for a leisurely lunch.

Dominating the landscape above the village are the impressive ruins of Asos Castle, one of the largest Venetian fortifications in Greece. Constructed in the 16th century to protect the island from piracy and invasion, the fortress occupies the entire peninsula above the harbor. The walk to the castle is a highlight in itself, passing through pine trees and olive groves before reaching the extensive ruins and some of the most spectacular views on Kefalonia. From the fortress walls, visitors can look down over the village, the surrounding coastline, and the deep blue waters of the Ionian Sea stretching to the horizon.

The sheltered bay below is equally appealing from the water. The calm conditions and beautiful surroundings make it a favorite stop for yachts cruising the region, while the crystal-clear water invites swimming and paddleboarding throughout the day. The combination of dramatic scenery, historic architecture, and natural protection creates one of the most attractive anchorages in the Ionian Islands.

As evening approaches, Asos takes on a particularly special atmosphere. The waterfront restaurants begin to fill, lights reflect across the bay, and the village settles into a peaceful rhythm rarely found in larger destinations. Whether exploring the Venetian fortress, enjoying dinner overlooking the harbor, or simply spending a quiet evening at anchor beneath the surrounding hills, Asos offers a memorable blend of history, scenery, and authentic Ionian charm.



ARGOSTOLION

Argostoli, the capital of Kefalonia, is a vibrant waterfront town that combines the energy of a modern Greek city with the relaxed atmosphere of an island destination. As the island's administrative and commercial center, it remains active throughout the year, giving visitors a genuine sense of local life beyond the summer tourist season. Elegant squares, palm-lined promenades, bustling cafés, and a picturesque harbor create a lively yet welcoming atmosphere that makes Argostoli a popular stop both before and after a yacht charter.

The town's waterfront is one of its defining features. Visitors can stroll along the palm-lined promenade, browse local boutiques, enjoy waterfront cafés, or simply watch the fishing boats and ferries moving through the harbor. Loggerhead sea turtles are frequently spotted around the waterfront during the morning hours, particularly near the fishing boats, providing a memorable experience for many visitors. The central squares and pedestrian streets are equally enjoyable to explore, with a wide variety of shops, bakeries, and local markets offering everything from artisan products to traditional Greek delicacies.

Argostoli also serves as an excellent base for exploring the wider island. Scenic coastal roads lead to some of Kefalonia's most famous beaches, viewpoints, and villages, while scooters, bicycles, and rental cars provide an easy way to discover the surrounding countryside. Visitors can explore nearby vineyards, traditional mountain villages, and spectacular coastal scenery, all within a relatively short distance of the town.

The dining scene is among the best in the Ionian Islands. From traditional tavernas serving fresh local seafood to sophisticated waterfront restaurants showcasing modern Greek cuisine, Argostoli offers options for every taste. The town has become increasingly recognized for its culinary offerings, and several highly regarded restaurants have helped establish Kefalonia as a serious destination for food lovers. Long lunches overlooking the harbor and relaxed evening dinners beneath the lights of the waterfront are an integral part of the Argostoli experience.



SAMI & THE CAVES

Sami occupies a privileged position on Kefalonia's eastern coast, surrounded by mountains, forests, and some of the island's most remarkable natural attractions. Set around a large natural harbor, the town serves as one of the island's principal ports, yet it retains a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Its waterfront promenade, lined with cafés, tavernas, and local shops, provides a pleasant place to stroll while enjoying views across the bay toward nearby Ithaca.

The area surrounding Sami is home to two of Kefalonia's most famous natural wonders. The first is Melissani Cave, a spectacular underground lake where sunlight enters through a collapsed section of the cave roof, illuminating the water in extraordinary shades of blue. Visitors explore the lake by small rowing boat, gliding beneath the cavern's vast ceiling while learning about the mythology and geology that have made Melissani one of Greece's most celebrated natural attractions. Nearby, Drokarati Cave offers a completely different experience, descending deep underground into a vast chamber filled with impressive stalactites and stalagmites formed over millions of years. The cave is renowned for its remarkable acoustics and immense scale, creating a fascinating contrast to Melissani's flooded cavern.

Beyond the caves, Sami is surrounded by some of Kefalonia's most beautiful countryside. Forested slopes climb toward Mount Ainos, the highest mountain in the Ionian Islands, while scenic roads and walking trails pass through vineyards, olive groves, and traditional villages. The nearby Antisamos Beach, framed by steep green hills and crystal-clear water, gained international recognition as a filming location for Captain Corelli's Mandolin and remains one of the island's most beautiful beaches.



ITHICA

Ithaca is one of the most storied islands in Greece, forever linked to Homer's *Odyssey* and the legendary home of King Odysseus. Whether or not the island described by Homer was precisely this Ithaca remains a topic of debate, but there is no denying that the island's dramatic landscapes, secluded bays, and timeless atmosphere make it easy to understand how these stories were born. Compared with many neighboring islands, Ithaca feels quieter, more authentic, and deeply connected to its history and traditions.

The island's capital, Vathy, sits at the head of one of the largest natural harbors in the world. Surrounded by green hills and colorful Venetian-influenced buildings, the town is both picturesque and welcoming. The waterfront promenade is lined with cafés, boutiques, and tavernas, making it an enjoyable place to spend an afternoon shopping, dining, or simply watching life unfold around the harbor. Small museums and local galleries provide further insight into the island's maritime and cultural heritage.

On the northern side of the island lies Kioni, often considered one of the most beautiful villages in the Ionian. Built around a sheltered bay, its waterfront is lined with traditional tavernas and elegant houses climbing the hillside above. The village's relaxed atmosphere and postcard-perfect setting have made it a favorite stop for yacht charters, while nearby walking trails lead through olive groves and countryside that has changed little over the centuries.

Ithaca's fertile landscape has supported olive cultivation, winemaking, and agriculture for generations. Visitors can find locally produced olive oils, honey, wines, and traditional products throughout the island, while several family-run estates and producers offer opportunities to learn more about the island's agricultural traditions. Scenic roads and walking paths connect villages, churches, viewpoints, and hidden coves, making the island particularly rewarding to explore beyond its waterfront settlements.



ZAKYNTHOS WEST

The west coast of Zakynthos is one of the most dramatic stretches of coastline in the Mediterranean. Towering limestone cliffs rise hundreds of feet above impossibly blue water, while sea caves, hidden coves, natural arches, and secluded swimming spots create a landscape that feels almost surreal. Cruising this coastline by yacht provides access to some of the island's most spectacular scenery, much of which is difficult or impossible to fully appreciate from land.

The undisputed highlight is Navagio Beach, better known as Shipwreck Beach. Nestled beneath soaring white cliffs and accessible only by sea, the beach is home to the rusting remains of the MV Panagiotis, which washed ashore in the early 1980s. The contrast between the brilliant white pebbles, turquoise water, and dramatic cliff backdrop has made Navagio one of the most photographed locations in Greece and one of the most recognizable beaches in the world.

Further south, the coastline becomes a playground of sea caves, rock formations, and crystal-clear anchorages. The Blue Caves, carved into the limestone cliffs by centuries of wave action, are particularly impressive, with sunlight reflecting through the water to create vivid shades of electric blue beneath the rock arches. Exploring these caves by tender or paddleboard allows visitors to venture into areas inaccessible to larger vessels and experience the coastline from a completely different perspective.

Among the many highlights are Porto Limnionas and Porto Roxa, two dramatic inlets carved into the cliffs that have become famous for their swimming, snorkeling, and cliff-jumping opportunities. Further south, the Keri Caves offer another collection of spectacular sea caverns and rock formations, while the nearby Mizithres sea stacks rise dramatically from the water, creating one of the island's most iconic coastal landscapes. Natural arches, hidden grottos, and countless swimming spots are scattered throughout the region, ensuring there is always another corner of the coastline worth exploring.



CORFU

Corfu Town is one of the most elegant and culturally rich destinations in Greece. Influenced by centuries of Venetian, French, and British rule, the town possesses a character unlike anywhere else in the Greek Islands. Grand arcades, pastel-colored buildings, historic fortifications, and bustling piazzas combine to create an atmosphere that feels distinctly European while remaining unmistakably Greek. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Corfu Town offers a fascinating blend of history, architecture, and vibrant modern life.

At the heart of the town lies the Liston, a beautiful arcade lined with cafés and restaurants overlooking the expansive Spianada Square. Nearby, a maze of narrow alleyways known as the kantounia winds between historic buildings, boutique shops, artisan stores, galleries, and traditional cafés. Visitors can spend hours exploring the old town, discovering hidden courtyards, churches, local markets, and some of the finest shopping found anywhere in the Ionian Islands.

The town is dominated by two impressive Venetian fortresses. The Old Fortress stands proudly on a rocky peninsula overlooking the sea, while the New Fortress rises above the town and offers spectacular views across the harbor and surrounding coastline. Together, these fortifications helped protect Corfu for centuries and remain among the most significant historic landmarks in Greece.

Corfu Town is also renowned for its lively culinary scene. Traditional tavernas sit alongside sophisticated restaurants, elegant cocktail bars, and waterfront dining venues. Influences from Italy and Venice can still be found throughout the local cuisine, while the town's numerous cafés and squares provide the perfect setting to sit back and watch the world go by.

Whether exploring centuries-old alleyways, browsing boutiques and local artisan shops, visiting the fortresses, or enjoying dinner in one of the town's lively squares, Corfu Town offers an experience that feels both cosmopolitan and authentic. Its combination of history, culture, shopping, dining, and architectural beauty makes it one of the most rewarding destinations in the Mediterranean.



PAXOS & ANTIPAXOS

Paxos may be one of the smallest inhabited islands in the Ionian, but it is also one of the most enchanting. Covered in ancient olive groves and surrounded by remarkably clear water, the island has developed a reputation as one of Greece's most desirable destinations. Its relaxed atmosphere, charming harbors, beautiful coastline, and understated elegance continue to attract visitors from around the world.

The island's principal harbor, Gaïos, is built around a naturally protected channel created by a long offshore islet. Arriving in the harbor is a memorable experience as boats navigate the narrow entrance before emerging into one of the most picturesque waterfront towns in Greece. The harbor is lined with colorful Venetian-style buildings, boutiques, artisan shops, galleries, bakeries, and waterfront cafés, making it one of the most enjoyable places in the Ionian for a leisurely afternoon of shopping and exploration. Visitors will find everything from handmade jewellery and artwork to locally produced olive oils, soaps, ceramics, and traditional Greek products. Elsewhere on the island, the smaller settlements of Lakka and Loggos offer equally charming waterfront settings, each with its own distinct character and collection of cafés, restaurants, and independent shops.

The western coastline of Paxos presents a dramatic contrast to its sheltered eastern harbors. Towering limestone cliffs rise from deep blue water, punctuated by sea caves and natural arches carved by centuries of wave action. Exploring these caves by tender is one of the highlights of any visit, with sunlight reflecting off the water to illuminate the rock formations in brilliant shades of blue. The scenery along this coastline is among the most spectacular in the Ionian Islands.

Just to the south lies Antipaxos, a tiny island famous for its extraordinary beaches and Caribbean-like waters. Voutoumi and Vrika beaches are particularly renowned for their brilliant white sand or white pebbles and dazzling turquoise water, often drawing comparisons to destinations far beyond the Mediterranean. The island itself is largely undeveloped, with vineyards, walking paths, and a handful of traditional tavernas providing a simple backdrop to some of the most beautiful swimming spots in Greece.