



★ *Destination* GUIDE ★

Greece: Sporades Islands

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP



# CENTRAL GREEK ISLANDS

GREECE

- ① ATHENS
- ② EVIA
- ③ SKIATHOS
- ④ SKOPELOS
- ⑤ ALÓNISSOS
- ⑥ MARINE PARK
- ⑦ SKYROS

The pace of life is leisurely in the Sporades Islands, scattered off the eastern coast of mainland Greece. The archipelago is ideal for unhurried yachting and a flexible itinerary that allows for the unexpected; an invitation to a home, an unexpected village celebration, a detour to an ancient ruin. In the villages, women patiently sweep the streets spotless, men drink little white cups of black coffee and argue over backgammon, and people link arms to promenade along the waterfront. Imagine relaxing on deck, sipping a soothing beverage as you glide past aromatic pine mountains and quaint whitewashed towns, radiant in the Aegean sun. Drop anchor and swim ashore to an uninhabited beach in Piperi. Dive the ruins of the Neolithic city of Eikos. Photograph the castles, monasteries and architecture of Skiathos. Join the circle of dancers and kick it up a notch at the local taverna in Glossa. The Sporades are an easy cruise from the Athenian metropolis, yet this enchanting destination seems worlds away.



“My first port of call is always Karystos. The town is in the middle of a beautiful horseshoe bay at the base of Mt. Ohi. The water is calm, shallow and especially warm, perfect for young children and water sports. There are also shipwrecks and caves for diving or snorkeling that are easy to reach by tender.”

— Captain Antonio Katsonis

## *Evia*

Evia parallels mainland Greece for nearly 100 miles, and the channel between provides a flat water, scenic passage north. The forested mountain range that runs its length cascades down from 5,719 feet at the highest point in Dirfi, a landscape of steep cliffs, golden beaches, farming villages and fishing ports. Accessibility by bridge makes this island a popular seaside escape for well-heeled Athenians. The beautiful village of Kymi sits high above the port of Kymi, the only natural harbor on the craggy east coast, which is inhospitable when the meltemi wind blows. Houses and streets built by hand with local stone are especially striking. Eretria, Evia's most historic location, offers the chance to promenade along the harbor lined with waterfront shops and restaurants. A glass of local wine from ancient vineyards usually arrives with a complimentary meze (meh-ZEH), a small plate. For large plates, the Variety of Seafood platter at Remezzo Taverna is superb. Farther north at Edipsos you can indulge in a luxurious soak in ancient thermal springs with medicinal healing properties.

Thermae Sylla Spa, Edipsos — [www.thermaesyllaspa-hotel.com](http://www.thermaesyllaspa-hotel.com)

Remezzo Restaurant, Ancient Theater 44, Eretria, Greece, Tel: 222 906 144

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP



“Lalaria is a white pebble beach on the north coast that often has big waves that are fun to play in, but it’s best to have rubber shoes to protect your feet. I also like to take guests to swim, snorkel or dive through two amazing sea caves, Galazia and Skotini, all the more remarkable for giving bathers eternal youth.”

— Captain Dimitris Christopoulos

## *Skiathos*

Thick pine forests cap the mountain ridge that sharply descends past a scattering of medieval ruins and a profusion of 600,000 olive trees to reach a sea level of tranquil bays and 65 beaches of golden sand. Koukounaries and Aghia Paraskevi are Skiathos’ best beaches and great fun if you don’t mind seasonal crowds. For service and exclusivity, the Princess Resort on Platinias beach has upscale facilities and a worthy menu of spa treatments. Opposite Skiathos’ southeastern tip on tiny Tsougria, the perfect spot of white sand beach invites a picnic. The crew launches all the water toys, organizes beach games, and spreads an outstanding buffet complemented by a bottle or two of rich, dark red, Skiathian wine. Skiathos Town has almost reached the status of Mykonos and Santorini as a party hub, and the nightlife on “Club Strip” has become legendary. Dock in Skiathos Marina near the Old Port. Find live music for every age and taste from bouzouki to blues set in a posh décor of scattered cushions, canopied daybeds, suspended chairs and hammocks with a view. Or opt for a snifter of Metaxa Grande Fine on deck. The razzle-dazzle of lights on the water and the exotic, comingled strains of music can be hypnotic.

The Windmill Restaurant, Skiathos Town — [www.skiathoswindmill.gr/index.htm](http://www.skiathoswindmill.gr/index.htm)

Skiathos Princess Resort & Spa, Platinias Bay — [www.skiathosprincess.com](http://www.skiathosprincess.com)

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP



“ I recommend anchoring the yacht for the night in Panormos on the west coast of the island. Take the tender to reach the beach and lots of tavernas that promise a fun, traditional Greek evening. From here you can get to know the entire coastline of Dasia islet, including deserted shores to the northeast and Trypiti cave. ”

— Captain Antonio Katsonis

## *Skopelos*

On Skopelos, pine woods, vineyards, and orchards of olive, plum, almond and walnut emit a heady fragrance and blanket the landscape in a patchwork of green. In antiquity this intoxicating island was named Peparethos, after the son of Dionysos (god of wine) and Ariadne. An archeological treasure trove of artifacts from the Mycenaean tomb of prince Stafylos (meaning grape), testify to an ancient wine tradition. The sparkling white houses of Skopelos town rise up the steep hillside to the ruins of an ancient fortress. The yacht can dock off the promenade, in the center of shops, restaurants and galleries. Even with a different church at almost every corner, getting lost is easy in the confusion of backstreets that have not been christened with names. In the northwest highlands Glossa is the most authentically Greek town in the Sporades. Dock in Loutraki and hike the scenic two miles up. Nikolas, the owner of Agnanti Restaurant in Glossa, will arrange complimentary transportation for guests who prefer to ride. Make new friends, savor traditional fare and enjoy amazing views. An afternoon cruise south to Panormos beach allows time for SeaBobs and water skis. The western exposure makes this bay a perfect place to celebrate the sunset. Raise a glass of the island's famous aphrodisiac wine in salute to a grape with an ancient and distinguished pedigree.

Agnanti Restaurant, Glossa — [www.agnanti.com.gr](http://www.agnanti.com.gr)

Anatoli Ouzeri Nightclub, Old Kastro — [www.anatolixintaris.gr](http://www.anatolixintaris.gr)

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP



“The northwest coast of the island is rocky and many places can't be reached overland because of the craggy terrain. This means that you can usually find an empty pocket beach to anchor off. We set up the beach games, lay out a picnic buffet, and let the guests enjoy the afternoon just being together.”

— Captain Takis Seferis

## *Alonissos*

The jagged coastline of this remote island is dotted with beaches, some just large enough for a private yachting party. Tranquil beaches along the eastern shore opposite Peristera Island offer calm refuge in case of strong Meltemi winds. The southern half of the island is the pastoral landscape of farmers and fishermen, with winemaking traditions founded in mythology. The transparent water of the National Marine Park on the southeast coast is declared the cleanest in the Aegean. You will likely see dolphins, rare monk seals and seabirds from the deck. Divers need not go deep to see sponges, corals, and a variety of fish, amphorae shards, caves and shipwrecks. Patitíri is a crescent shaped harbor with colorful fishing boats, markets, restaurants and shops. From the seaport adventure inland to the Hóra of Alónissos, the old capital, situated high above sea level. Experience this traditional, close-knit, Greek village that dates back to antiquity, where everyone knows you're a visitor and warmly beckons you into their world. For swimming, sunning and local cuisine Eleona's on Leftos Gialos beach is a favorite. Drop anchor off Kokkinokastro Beach, about 6.5km from Patitíri. The submerged remains of Eikos is swimming distance from shore. Dive or snorkel through the remains of the ancient city walls and necropolis, eerily at rest beneath your bow.

Eleonas Cafe, Leftos Gialos Beach — [www.eleonas-alonissos.gr](http://www.eleonas-alonissos.gr)

Hayiati Pastry Shop & Piano Bar — [www.hayiati.com](http://www.hayiati.com)

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP



The area around Skopelos, Alonissos and the Marine Park have the second largest concentration of ancient and medieval shipwrecks in the world. The most famous sunken ships have been discovered off the coast of Peristera Island where the findings are stunning.

## *Kyra Panagia... Yioura... Psathoura... Peristera*

Luxuriate on the sundeck as you cruise through the astonishing Northern Sporades marine park. Scan the waters for playful dolphins and the hillsides for wildlife. These secluded islands are the safe haven of vanishing species and the summer retreat of some of the world's most prestigious yachts. The large island of Kyra Panagia has been abandoned to rare wild goats and a monk, described by Captain Antonio as "a very nice gentleman and a scholar". On Aghios Petros Bay, Byzantine sailors moored their vessels for safety, but one such ship that did not escape Poseidon's wrath. Advanced divers can explore the unexcavated wreck in the depths of the bay. The Monk seal, Ibex wild goats, rare birds live on Yioura. On Psathoura, island home of the Sirens in Homer's Odyssey, you can visit the largest, brightest lighthouse in the Aegean, with a beam visible 18 miles out to sea. Experienced divers can explore the remains of an ancient city and volcano submerged off the southern coast. Peristera is an island covered in olive trees and ringed by sandy beaches. Other than some placid goats, you can count the resident population on one hand. The small island is a beach lovers paradise and excellent for windsurfing.

The Alónissos Marine Park — [www.alonissos-park.gr](http://www.alonissos-park.gr)

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP



“The best kept secret in the vicinity of Linaria, the port of Skyros, are several hidden sea caves with gorgeous jade green water and spectacular stalactites. Jet Skis are the best way to scoot around the arched openings in the rocks and explore the area just outside the port.”

— Captain Takis Seferis

## *Skyros*

The white-washed, flat-roofed Cycladic style houses of Skyros Town, draped over a high rocky bluff, dazzle in the Aegean sun. Mythical heroes and historical conquests are integral to the warp and weft of local tradition, custom and architecture. Theseus, king of Athens, died and was buried here. Achilles set off for Troy from the Bay of Achili. History includes Pelasgian farmers, Dolopian pirates and Venetian princes, among others. The Skyros landscape is rocky, steep and inhospitable, yet deeply indented bays and sandy beaches protected by cliffs are idyllic anchorages. Calm, transparent water is perfect for swimming, snorkeling and launching the yacht toys. Marine conditions permitting, the scenic north-northeast coastline is worth exploring. Anchorages on the west-southwest coasts are popular and well-sheltered. Windsurfers and kite boarders can sail for miles across the tranquil waters of Kalamitsa Bay. Anchor in Linaria and head up to Skyros Town. Get lost in the back alley maze of shops that sell locally hand-made embroidery, ceramics, woven materials, rugs, clay and copper utensils, carved furniture and Skyrian food. Visit the Archeological Museum and the Faltaits Museum of island history and folklore. On your meander through town, note the unique architecture of the houses, many with intricately pebbled entrances.

Manos Faltaits Museum — [www.faltaits.gr](http://www.faltaits.gr)

Nightclub Calypso Jazz Bar, Agora, Skyros Town

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP



COUNTRY	VOLTAGE	PLUG
Greece	220 V	Euro & French 2-pin
Turkey	230 V	Euro 2-pin

**TIME ZONE:** UTC +2: Daylight saving time is observed: +1hr begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

**ECONOMY:** Tourism, Industry, Agriculture

**DRESS CODE:** Dress is conservative, business casual or resort wear. When visiting museums and churches wear clothing that covers the arms and meets the knee.

**DRIVING:** Motorists drive on the right side of the road as in North America. In Turkey, cell phone use while driving is prohibited.

**GOVERNMENTS & POLITICAL SYSTEMS:** Greece, parliamentary republic; Turkey, republican parliamentary democracy

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:** Greek, Turkish

**OFFICIAL CURRENCY:** Greece: Euro, banks only open in mornings, credit cards rarely accepted. Turkey: Lira (TRY); prices often quoted in € or \$ due to high inflation.

**MELTEMI WINDS:** These strong, dry north winds can occur from May through October and peak in July and August. Speeds can reach 30 knots with wave heights over three meters. Certain straits in the Dodecanese and Cycladic islands can become dangerous due to these high velocity winds and currents.

## When to visit:

April through June the weather is sunny and spectacular, the islands are in bloom, but the water temperature stays below 70 degrees at least until mid-May. Easter is the biggest church holiday in Greece. Many shops, museums and sites are closed Good Friday through Easter Sunday and local people go on holiday to the country and the islands. In September and October yacht charter rates decrease, the weather is dry and warm, and the water is about 85 degrees, ideal for water sports.

CLIMATE DATA FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High °F	56	56	59	67	75	82	88	87	81	73	65	59	71
Average Low °F	45	46	47	52	60	68	72	71	67	60	54	47	57
Average Rainfall (mm)	45	49	43	25	17	7	7	9	10	48	53	67	32

## Climate:

The eastern Mediterranean has hot, dry summers and it is warm eight months out of the year. Winters are mild and wet with temperatures above freezing. Swimming season begins in mid-May and ends in September.

VISA INFORMATION

[www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com)



LUXURY *Sacht* GROUP

Discover our traditions...