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Day I

Corfu – Paxos



Journey time 3 hrs approx

Your crew will be delighted to welcome you to your new home for the next week.

Enjoy a leisurely lunch and the beautiful scenery as we set course for your first destination.

Paxos covers an area of some 19 square kilometers and is one of a cluster of picturesque small islands set in the Ionian Sea. It has no airport, can only be reached by ferry boat and recently by Sea Plane, and therefore, has been able to protect itself from the strain of modern tourism.

Paxos is an island of endless olive groves and Anti Paxos one large vineyard. The eastern coastline of the islands is gentle compared to the west coast which is bold and abrupt, with caves, arches and sheer cliffs. The capital of Paxos is Gaios a picturesque village built around a port which is protected by two small islands Agios Nikolas and Panagia. On the Northern side is the village of Lakka and on the east side is the very charming village of Loggos. You will find the pace is still unhurried, very relaxing with genuine friendly Greek hospitality at its best.

The last stop of the day should be Gaios. Known more recently as millionaires' paradise, place of the rich and famous. A bustling little town, filled with shops, bars and restaurants.

Day 2

Ithaca



Journey time 6 hours approx

Your next destination Ithaca.

Home of Odysseus, and perhaps Homer, this tiny island attracts sailors and holidaymakers from all over the world. It is very beautiful, and is surrounded by some of the clearest waters in Greece. Because it is small and a bit difficult to reach, it does not get the mass tourism that the neighboring islands do. Therefore many celebrities like spending their holidays here - either on their yachts or renting a house.

Ithaca is truly a magical place, and stands for the homecoming. Odysseus sailed for a decade to reach his home, and many sailors believe Ithaca is the ultimate goal. Its friendly people will do their best to make you feel welcome, and it is no coincidence that many return here year after year.

Even though Odysseus is the best known name of Ithaca, it was not he that gave the island its name. According to mythology, Ithacis was the son of a Cephalonian king who settled here, and who together with his brother built a fountain that provided the whole island with water.

Day 3

## Cephalonia



Journey time 3 hrs approx

Captain Corelli may have long since strummed the strings of his mandolin but the love affair with the Ionian Island he made his own is getting more powerful by the year. Cephalonia is the largest of the seven-island Ionian group. It has been slow to bite the tourism apple and as a result, the islanders learnt a lot from other people's mistakes.

Development is heavily restricted and low key - there are no buildings above three storeys and no hotels closer than 100 meters to the shore. There is no crime, no unemployment and only one traffic light. It's also surprisingly uncommercialised, and Cephalonians take a lot of pride in their homeland with tasteful buildings, balconies dripping with bougainvillea, and lovely mosaic pavements in the capital.

After swimming in a quiet bay we would suggest, in the evening, cruising to Fiscardo the beautiful and picturesque harbour on the Northern tip of Cephalonia. Of the approximate 365 villages on this large and diverse island, Fiscardo is unique in that it was left virtually undamaged during the great earthquake of 1953, which ruined most of the historic buildings on Cephalonia.

Day 4

Zakinthos



Journey time 5.30 hours

Wake up anchored off the coast of the beautiful island of Zakyinthos. Also called Zante, it is the southernmost of the Ionian Islands and the third largest of the group.

The Venetians had given the island the surname “Fioro di Levante”, meaning “Flower of the Orient” because the island has rich and dense vegetation, its mountains are covered with pines and its plains are particularly fertile.

The island is famous for its unspoiled natural environment home to the endangered species of sea turtle called Caretta-Caretta which goes there during their reproduction period.

Have a swim at the wide sandy beaches in the company of sea turtles, go snorkeling or if you wish we can organise scuba diving between rocks and in underwater caves.

In the evening take a stroll round the main town and return to your yacht for dinner on board.

Day 5

## Elafonisos



Journey time 13 hours approx.

The small island of Elafonisos is probably one that doesn't immediately spring to mind as a famous Greek Island. Though this island is relatively small, and maybe not as glamorous as some of the others, it is well worth visiting. The island is one that is very popular with Greeks, and is not one that has embraced mass tourism on any kind of scale. This is what makes this island so special, and a delight to visit.

Elafonisos is where you will find some of the best beaches in the whole of this part of Greece. Simos is a huge bay of white sand, and offers visitors a truly beautiful beach on which to relax and enjoy the crystal blue waters.

The island offers a selection of restaurants and tavernas where you enjoy a very tasty meal, especially fish that is caught on a daily basis. Or why not ask your crew to organize a picnic ashore.

Elafonisos is ideal and its charm and simplicity is something that you will appreciate the moment you arrive.

## Day 6

### Monemvassia



Journey time 3 hours approx

On the journey to our next port of call we suggest stopping in one of the beautiful bays for a leisurely swim. We will leave this to the Captain to choose the perfect spot for you to enjoy the crystal clear waters of the Aegean. We should aim to be in Monemvasia in the early evening as a stroll around this medieval fortress is a must.

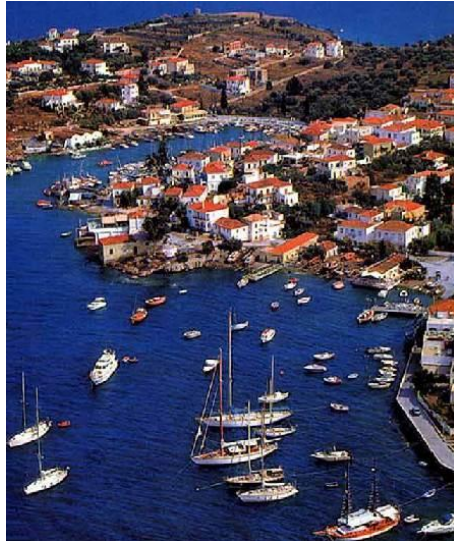
Monemvasia is located on a small peninsula off the east coast of the Peloponnese in the Greek prefecture of Laconia. This fortified city with the one and only gate as its name suggests (Moni=sole, Emvasia=entrance) turns a dream into reality.

The site on which the rock now stands was called Minoa and was probably used by ancient Cretans seafarers as a base. That was where Greeks sought refuge from Slav invaders. They fortified the site using it as a harbour. In subsequent years, they faced frequent raids. Normans tried unsuccessfully to seize Monemvasia in 1147. In 1249 William Villehardouin conquered it after a three-year siege. In 1460 it came under the authority of the Pope, while Venetians followed up to 1550. Turks seized it in 1715 and it was liberated in 1823.

The church of Agia Sofia overlooks the region at the bleakest part of the rock and is one of the most beautiful worship spots in Greece. Old stone built mansions now used as inns and hotels form arcades over steps and greenery creating an environment of superb beauty

Day 7

Spetsai



Journey time 3.5 hours

The attractive town of Spetsai is one of the most elegant and dignified island capitals. It has an ambience of the “good old days”, which is created by the Neoclassical houses and is enhanced by the absence of motor vehicles and the circulation of horse-drawn carriages.

The heart of the small town is the historical Dapia Square with the cannon emplacement that brings to mind the struggles against the Ottoman Turks. Here, around the picturesque harbour, are the old coffee shops, many restaurants, patisseries, shops etc.

Put your walking shoes on or take a horse drawn carriage along the coastal road to the old harbour. En route are numerous Neoclassical houses and the metropolis (Greek Orthodox cathedral) of Aghios Nikolaos standing in a lovely setting and worthy of a visit

Stop for drinks on the terrace of the newly restored Posidonia Hotel and then should you feel in the mood for a meal ashore head for the Old Harbour and enjoy dinner at one of the fish restaurants by the sea. Afterwards why not visit one of the numerous bars and enjoy yourselves into the early hours

<b>Day 8</b>	<b>Athens</b>	Journey time 5 hours Disembarkation 12:00 hrs
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