



# Evia & the Sporades

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## Best Places to Eat

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- » Maria's Pizza (p458)
- » To Perivoli Restaurant (p463)
- » Hayati (p470)
- » Taverna Agios Petros (p476)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Villa Helidonia (p458)
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- » Liadromia Hotel (p468)
- » Perigiali Hotel & Studios (p475)

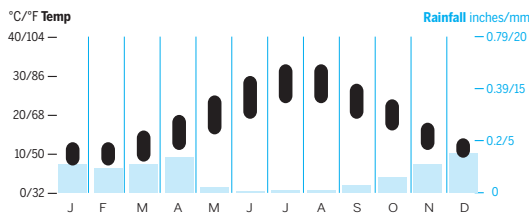
## Why Go?

Evia (Εύβοια) and the four Sporades islands (Οι Σποράδες) remain largely off the beaten island path, though a busy drawbridge at Halkida joins Evia to the mainland. But away from the commercial hubs of Halkida and nearby Eretria, the pace slows as the landscape stretches out, dotted by hill-top monasteries, small farms, vineyards and not a few curious goats.

The Sporades ('scattered ones') seem like extensions of the forested Pelion Peninsula, and, in fact, they were joined in prehistoric times. Skiathos is easily the most developed of the group, but also claims the sandiest beaches in the Aegean. Low-key Skopelos kicks back with a postcard-worthy harbour and forest meadows. Remote Alonnisos anchors the National Marine Park of Alonnisos, protecting the Mediterranean monk seal. Skyros, the southernmost of the chain, is known for its cuisine, woodworking and ceramics, all traditions that date from Byzantine times when these islands were home to rogues and pirates.

## When to Go

### Skiathos Town



**Feb & Mar** Carnival season keeps things warm with plenty of merry-making.

**Apr & May** Spring is in the air and Easter festivities linger long into the night.

**Jun & Sep** Perfect temperatures and clear skies – ideal hiking conditions.



## Evia & the Sporades Highlights

**1** Take a swim in the thermal-fed bay at **Loutra Edipsou** (p637), on Evia

**2** Pick out your favourite from the fresh catch at **Kalamakia** (p654), on Alonnisos

**3** Watch for dolphins, seals and falcons while cruising around Greece's only

national marine park at **Alonnisos** (p651)

**4** Hike across inland meadows of wildflowers on **Skopelos** (p649)

**5** Get up close with the gentle and rare Skyrian horse on **Skyros** (p659)

**6** Listen to one of Greece's best bouzouki players above the *castro* (castle) overlooking **Skopelos Town** (p647)

**7** On Skiathos, discover the serene **Moni Panagias Kounistras** (p644), a secluded 17th-century monastery with some of the most beautiful frescoes in the Aegean