



# Evia & the Sporades

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## Best Places to Eat

- ▶ Dina's Amfilirion Restaurant (p449)
- ▶ Taverna-Ouzerie Kabourelia (p454)
- ▶ To Perivoli Restaurant (p459)
- ▶ Hayiati (p464)
- ▶ Stefanos Taverna (p468)

## Best Places to Stay

- ▶ Hotel Nefeli & Skyrian Studios (p467)
- ▶ Atrium Hotel (p456)
- ▶ Pension Sotos (p457)
- ▶ Liadromia Hotel (p463)
- ▶ Perigiali Hotel & Studios (p468)

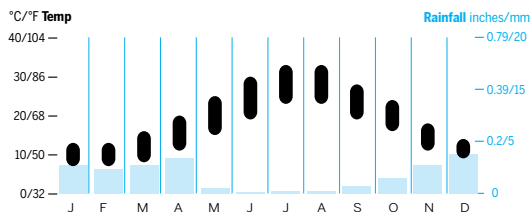
## Why Go?

Evia (Εύβοια) and the four Sporades islands (Οι Σποράδες) remain largely off the beaten path. Although Evia is Greece's second-largest island, it seems hidden in plain view, only separated from the mainland by the narrow Eripos Channel at busy Halkida. Away from this commercial hub, the pace slows as the landscape stretches out, dotted by hilltop monasteries, small farms, vineyards, hidden bays and curious goats.

The Sporades ('scattered ones') seem like extensions of the forested Pelion Peninsula, and, in fact, they were joined in prehistoric times. Skiathos, easily the most developed of the group, 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 the Northern Sporades. Skyros, the southernmost of the chain, is known for its culinary and artistic 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 and swimming conditions.



## Evia & the Sporades Highlights

- 1 Swimming year-round in the thermal-fed bay at **Loutra Edipsou** (p448) on Evia.
- 2 Hiking the lush 10km **Dimosari Gorge** (p451) in south Evia, then cooling off in the sea near trail's end.
- 3 Watching for dolphins and cliff-dwelling falcons while sailing around Greece's

only national marine park at **Alonnisos** (p461).

- 4 Finding crimson poppies and majestic butterflies while hiking the inland meadows of **Skopelos** (p460).
- 5 Nuzzling up with one of the gentle and rare Skyrian horses on **Skyros** (p469).

6 Hearing bouzouki music above the *kaстро* overlooking **Skopelos Town** (p457).

- 7 Dancing with masked revellers at the carnival in **Skyros** (p465).
- 8 Sampling the monks' wine at Moni Evangelistrias (p455) on **Skiathos**.