Ionian Islands

**Includes**
- Corfu .............. 472
- Paxi .............. 484
- Antipaxi .......... 487
- Lefkada .......... 487
- Meganisi ......... 492
- Kefallonia ....... 493
- Ithaki ............ 500
- Zakynthos ....... 503
- Kythira .......... 507
- Antikythera ....... 512

**Best Places to Eat**
- Arriva Fish Restaurant (p487)
- Arhontiko (p496)
- Klimataria (p482)
- Irida (p500)
- Il Vesuvio (p478)

**Best Places to Stay**
- Hotel Perantzada (p502)
- Petani Bay Hotel (p498)
- Siorra Vittoria (p478)
- Levant Hotel (p484)
- Torri E Merli (p487)

**Why Go?**

With their cooler climate, abundant olive and cypress trees and forested mountains, the Ionians (Τα Ιόνια Νησιά) are a lighter, greener version of Greece. The Venetians, French and British have all in their own way shaped the architecture, culture, (excellent) cuisine – and the unique feel of Ionian life.

Though the islands appear linked in a chain down the west coast of mainland Greece, each has a distinct landscape and cultural history. Corfu Town has Parisian-style arcades, Venetian alleyways and Italian-inspired delicacies. Kefallonia boasts soaring mountains and vineyards; Paxi’s Italianate harbour villages are impossibly pretty; and soulful Ithaki preserves wild terrain and a sense of history. Zakynthos has sea caves and waters teeming with turtles. Lastly, Lefkada has some of the best turquoise-lapped beaches in Greece, while Kythira feels off-the-beaten-path and mysterious. The Ionians offer something for adventure seekers, food lovers, culture vultures and beach bums alike.

**When to Go**

**Corfu Town**

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Temp</th>
<th>Rainfall</th>
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- **May** Life is still quiet and the wildflowers are abloom everywhere.
- **Jul** Escape the heat in the rest of Greece and head to its coolest islands.
- **Sep** Leaves change colour, and the Robola grapes are being harvested in Kefallonia.
1 Exploring world-class museums, fortresses, restaurants and Venetian, French and British architecture in Corfu Town (p475).
2 Hopping from one gorgeous harbour to another in pastoral Paxi (p484).
3 Treating yourself to top restaurants in Kefallonia’s charming Fiskardo (p499) and striking Assos (p499).
4 Learning to windsurf at Vasiliki (p490; Lefkada) or diving, kayaking and caving in Kefallonia (p493).
5 Ranking your favourite beaches, from the busiest on Corfu or Zakynthos to the quieter joys of Paxi or Lefkada’s west coast (p491).
6 Walking the paths of Homer in Ithaki (p500).
7 Discovering the tiny villages, waterfalls and remote coves of Kythira (p507).