

Trip Dossier for Greece – Ionian Beach Club

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You'll be based in a small, locally-owned club on a sandy beach located in historic Achaia, in the northwest of the Peloponnese. The price includes use of sailing and windsurfing facilities, with a variety of boats to try – Picos, Toppers, Darts, Catamarans (all brand new). There's even a 32' sailing yacht where you can take a 'try sail' or pre-flotilla course. We include a 2-day sailing or windsurfing course for every booking. A team of qualified Seafarer instructors are on hand to assist and supervise. You can also hire a car to explore nearby towns, fishing villages and ancient sites like Delphi, Epidauros or Olympia.

Itinerary and Beach Club details:

Day 1 Fly to Athens; transfer to Ionian Beach Club

Fly to Athens where you will be met and driven to the Ionian Beach Club on Araxos Beach. On the way, there should be time for a stop at the spectacular rock-cut Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean and Ionian seas. The journey to the club takes approximately three hours, including stops. The Ionian Beach Club is situated in a quiet position on the historic coast of Achaia, in the north western Peloponnese. Overlooking the Ionian Sea, the club has 80 bungalows and is set in extensive gardens of over 10 acres and directly adjacent to a long beach of sand and pebbles. **Beach club bungalows (buffet-style breakfast and dinner included) - seven nights.**

Days 2 – 7 Beach and water activities at the Ionian Beach Club

Is it to be sailing or the beach? Each day you can take advantage of the team of qualified sailing instructors and safety crew who are on hand to assist you with a variety of boats to try: Picos, Toppers, Darts and catamarans are all available as are windsurfers. Use of all sailing equipment and some tuition is included (see below) in the price of this holiday. You might even like to take a 'try sail' course on a 32-foot yacht. While the children are busy messing about in boats, you can relax by the pool or have a game of tennis. And there's lots to do outside the club as well.

Nearby there's another hotel, which is less secluded, but which offers other watersports (Banana Boat, Jet-skiing, Water-skiing and other mechanised water-sport activities).

The local hamlet of Lakopetra is within easy reach (15 - 20 minute walk), or the farming town of Kato Achaia is only a 10-minute drive and there are some traditional local workshops, plenty of shops and an authentic fishing village and tavernas.

Further afield, there are the lagoons of Araxos and Metochi, part of a protected wetland region. Also the ancient site of Olympia (the birthplace of the Olympics), an extensive site with a stadium and museum set amidst grassy banks and streams. This is just over one hour's drive (80km). The big port city of Patras is also worth a visit, with plenty of shops, an 'old town' and the excellent Achaia Klaus wine museum. Further on is the huge recently completed Rio Andiro suspension bridge, which connects the Peloponnese with the mainland, and now makes a great day's excursion to visit the ancient oracle at Delphi; there are lots of pretty coastal towns on the way, such as Nafaktos or Galaxhidi, and the mountainous setting of the temples and shrines at Delphi is dramatic and atmospheric. Another point of interest locally is the medieval monastery of Kalavrita, connected by the famous cog railway which was featured in Great Railway Journeys of the World. To the west are the Araxos and Metochi lagoons, protected wetlands of international repute. Island-hoppers can jump on a ferry to visit the islands of Zakynthos or Cephalonia.

Day 8 Transfer to Athens Airport for return flight to the UK

You will be transferred to Athens airport for your return flight to the UK.

Athens extension

We recommend that you extend your stay by a few days to explore Athens. Days 1–7 as above.

Day 8 Drive to Athens

You will return to Athens and be driven to your hotel. The next few days are at leisure to enjoy this ancient yet vibrantly modern city. **Hotel – 2 nights (breakfast).**

Day 9 In Athens

You may find it hard to know where to start today as you explore the magic of Athens. Almost certainly you will want to visit the Acropolis which dominates the city perched on its rocky mount, and crowned by the Parthenon.



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In contrast the area known as the Plaka, clustered haphazardly around the foot of the Acropolis, which dates from the 19th century is a charming mix of Greek and Turkish styles with narrow lanes, bazaars, museums and dozens of cafes. The National Archaeological Museum, with its incomparable collection, will help you make sense of all the antiquity.

Day 10 Return to the UK

You will be transferred to Athens airport for your return flight to the UK.

This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets.

Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.

This holiday is operated in conjunction with Seafarer Ltd.

Facilities at the Ionian Beach Club

This family holiday village has excellent facilities, with all water-sports and some tuition included.

On-site facilities include: a terrace restaurant overlooking the beach; a lively club-house bar which stays open until late and has a pool table, darts and a large beachside terrace; the beach bar; and a snack bar overlooking the large freshwater swimming pool. There are two tennis courts, table tennis, crazy golf (or mini-golf), a reception offering money exchange (cash only) and a mini-market/gift shop. You have free use of the sailing and windsurfing equipment and Families Worldwide includes in the price one free two-day sailing or windsurfing tuition course for every two persons booked.

The beach is two to three miles long. Free sunbeds and parasols are available. The beach is popular with locals, so it's a lively place, not silent. However, the Beach Bar is quiet after 10pm.

Accommodation and Meals

The accommodation is 'low-rise', all in bungalows with a terrace. The rooms have en-suite bathrooms, air-conditioning, colour TV and mini-fridge; each accommodating two or three people. A small number accommodate two adults and two children in bunk beds. Superior sea-front and pool-front bungalows are available at a supplement (details on request).

Meals are provided on a Half Board basis, with continental breakfast and dinner served daily. If you want a change at any time, food can be bought locally at shops and supermarkets (the nearest village is within easy walking distance - approx 2k). A minibus based at the site also runs at pre-set times and taxis are available.

Kids' Club

Between 21 July and 31 Aug, a Kids' Club is available for ages 3-12. Activities vary according to the age of the children. It is run in the morning and afternoon for two to three hours. There is also a baby-sitting facility, which can be arranged locally and costs 8 Euros per hour.

Sailing and Windsurfing

A team of English-speaking Seafarer instructors and safety crew run the Sailing and Windsurfing Club. Equipment includes: 12 windsurfers, with a choice of rigs. Sailing dinghies include: 4 Picos, 4 Toppers, 4 Lasers, 2 larger dinghies and a day boat. Free advice and regular twice weekly sailing clinics for beginners and intermediates alike. The Club operating times are daily 0930-1300hrs, 1400-1730hrs, when the safety patrol and beach staff are on duty.

Tuition

Families Worldwide includes in the price one free 2-day sailing or windsurfing tuition course for every two persons booked.

In addition, optional two-day sailing tuition courses (recommended for beginners/intermediate) are available as follows:



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- Introduction to sailing / windsurfing: Beginners course for adults or children nine and over - £69 pp
 - Level II - intermediate skills courses for dinghy sailors and windsurfers - £69 pp
- These courses are bookable in advance or locally

Crew

Four Safety Crew and two rescue boats are always on hand during Club operating times.

Is this right for your family? Our club base has 80 bungalows, all with en-suite, air-con rooms. Most sleep 2/3 people, but you can request a bungalow for 4. Facilities are excellent: a terrace restaurant overlooking the beach; a large beachside terrace, beach bar and snack bar, two tennis courts, table tennis and a large freshwater swimming pool. A team of qualified instructors and safety crew are on hand to assist and supervise, and a number of sailing courses are also available - beginners, intermediates or pre-flotilla. There's also a Kids' Club (ages 3-12) in peak season.

Pre-bookable car hire is available from £160 per week for a medium sized car.

Superior Sea-front or pool-front bungalows are a supplement of £50 per person per week.

Climate

An outstanding feature of the Greek climate is the large amount of sunshine. This varies from four to five hours a day in midwinter to as much as twelve to fourteen hours a day in midsummer. Rain tends to be heavy when it occurs and rarely lasts for very long except in the mountains or along the wetter west coast. Around the coasts and on the islands the summer heat is greatly tempered by fresh or strong daytime breezes. During the three summer months a persistent northerly wind, known as 'the etesian', blows in the Aegean, and it may, on occasion, reach near gale force. It is strongest by day and drops to a near calm at night, making this ideal sailing weather!

The climate for Athens is given below:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °C	13	14	16	20	25	30	33	33	29	24	19	15
Min °C	6	7	8	11	16	20	23	23	19	15	12	8
Rainfall (mm)	62	37	37	23	23	14	6	7	15	51	56	71

Local Costs

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£0.50
A large bottle of mineral water (1 litre)	£0.80
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£1.00
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£1.50
A bottle of beer	£2.00
A light lunch time snack – sandwich for example	£4.00
A two course meal* - excluding drinks	£10.00
A three course meal* - excluding drinks	£18.00

*Based on a mid-range tourist restaurant.

Currency The unit of currency in Greece is the Euro. The current exchange rate is €1.15 = UK£1 at the time of writing (August 2009). We recommend that you bring Euros or change money at the airport as the beach club has no ATM (but will change pounds sterling). Credit cards are accepted in the resort hotels and many restaurants and souvenir shops. Food and drink at the beach club can be charged to your room and settled with a card.

Tipping This is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. Please remember that tips should be a way for you to thank staff for good service. As a guideline, tipping in restaurants is 10%.

Language Greek is the official language, but English, Spanish, French and German are widely spoken.

Time Greece is GMT +1 hour (in summer - end of March to October – this changes to GMT + 2 hours)

Packing List Please refer to our separate "packing list"

Clothing & Equipment List for Greece – Ionian Beach Club

Light-weight, comfortable casual cotton clothing is recommended. You may wish to bring smart/casual clothing for the evenings.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Trainers	1 pair – all purpose wear		Soft-sided bag/Rucksack 50 – 80litres	
Sandals	1 pair			
Deck shoes/old trainers	1 pair – for sailing			
T-Shirts/Polo shirts	4+		Lightweight Daypack – 25 litres	
Long casual trousers	2+		Sunglasses (with cord)	
Short Trousers	2+		Personal First Aid Kit	
Wind-proof jacket	1		Camera, Film and Accessories	
Long Sleeve Shirt	2+		Reading Material	
Sunhat / Baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Guidebook	
Thin Fleece or Sweatshirt	1+		Washing Kit – wet wipes useful & refreshing	
Swim Wear	2		Beach Towel	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa		Small sewing kit & safety pins	
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Money/Travellers Cheques		Notebook/diary/pen	
Cash Cards/Visa		Guide book & map	
Insurance Documents		Snorkel, mask & fins	
Trip Information and Itinerary		Insect Repellent	
Money Security Belt/Pouch		Sunscreen – lots of it	

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions**, please visit www.baa.com for details