


Ionian islands sailing guide

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The second part of Click'Boat's sailing guide in Greece takes you to the western part of the country and the stunning Ionic Islands. Like the Sporadices Islands, represented in the first part of our sailing guide, they come in all sizes and shapes, from the large and popular Corfu to the tiny Paxos. Sailing enthusiasts who rent a yacht in Greece will have the opportunity to jump from one island to another and explore the pristine coves and beaches. Sailing in the Ionic Islands with Ulysses Journey by boat to the Ionic Islands is bound to start from Corfu, the island where Ulysses collided with Nausicaa, Princess Phaeacia. The island has many berths to dock your boat; We recommend the old harbor city of Corfu, Port Mandraki (managed by Corfu Sailing Club), or Gouvia in the north of the island. In Corfu, you can admire the Venetian arsenal dating back to 1716. Walkers will enjoy the ascent of Mount Pantokrator with unique views of the Ionian Sea, continental Greece and the Albanian coast. A trip to this cosmopolitan island can take you to the protected bays of Sagaada and Cassopi, facing the Albanian coast, and then to Agios Stefanos and the picturesque city of Paleocastrica in the northwest. About 25 miles from the latter is the southernmost edge of Kavos Island, a city popular with young Britons for its vibrant nightlife. For a day trip we recommend visiting Petriti, a traditional fishing village a few miles from the city of Corfu in the southeast, where you can sample some of the island's local dishes. If you sail on the Ionian islands, you will have the opportunity to follow some unusual zigzag route and a couple of times jump from one of the islands to continental Greece. For example, just five miles from Kavos is the small town of Sivota and further south of Parga, a gem not many guidebooks bother to cover. Sivota, an up-and-coming sailing destination, has a modern promenade for docking as well as a small pier nearby. The beach here is sandy and its crystal clear waters will hold your breath. However, it can be very crowded during the busy summer season. Back on the Ionic Islands, your first stop is Lefkada, a peculiar island separated from mainland Greece by a narrow canal. Walkers are happy to pose to climb to the top of Mount Stavrotas (1158 m). And if you have a day or

two to explore this beautiful island, it's worth visiting the small towns of Nidri and Vliho, where you can moor at night. Five miles south of Lefkada, you find yourself on the home island of Ulysses, the famous Ithaca, separated from neighboring Kefalonia by a narrow canal, the Stano Ithakis. Small and beautiful, it offers a lot of opportunities for sailing enthusiasts remote bays, though you may have to contend with strong NW winds in the summer. The capital, Wathi, is ideal for a quick stop stopping it also has a small harbour to moor at night. Other anchorage options include the small villages of Kioni and Frix in the northeast. Kefalonia, a dreamy place to rent a yacht on the Ionic Islands of Kefalonia, the largest Ionic island and sister of Ithaca, is an island in its own league. Suffice it to say that there are several mountain ranges, Mount Enos (1626 meters) is the tallest and world famous beach, such as Myrtos in the northwest of the island. Parts of it are green and fertile, hosting vineyards that produce the famous Robola wine. As for anchor strut, in the east you can moor in Fiscardo, Sami, Pigs on the eastern part of the island or Asos in the north. Your best option, however, would be the sheltered Argostoli Bay, home to the island's largest cities: Argostoli (capital) and Lixouri, as little gems worth a visit to try the island's most famous delicacy: caramelized almonds, known as mandols. After exploring the breadth and depth of Kefalonia, you have two options: go to zakintos (sante) further south or return to Corfu. If you choose the first one, don't miss the opportunity to stay for a few hours on the small island of Paxos, about 50 miles from Kefalonia and another 30 from Corfu. It is a paradise on earth, encapsulating the beauty of the Ionian Islands and Greece itself. Greek Ionic is one of the best places to sail whether your new sailing is or not. Below I outlined all the anchorages and marinas that we enjoyed while sailing the Greek Ionian Islands. Take a look and see if any of them take your fancy. If you are planning an adventure in this area, perhaps our experience can help you in the direction or away from certain places?! With such a huge area to cover, a sailor can spend years exploring the Greek Ionian Islands. We were lucky enough to spend June on the Greek Ionian Islands and then at the end of the season, we spent most of September in Preveza, Greece - a place on mainland Greece near the island of Levkas (in the Ionian). Our knowledge of the area is not extensive, but the two month stay provided us with a great idea of the area. I realized that while talking to other boaters, there is quite a demand for knowledge of destination and route planning. Several people were asked to choose our brains to identify good anchorages, interesting places to stop, and recommendations for everything from good restaurants, fast internet connectivity zones to favorable diesel prices. So, for you, sailing the Greek Ionian Islands..... I went through our magazine and wrote excerpts that we took, within one month, through the Greek Ionic Islands. The purpose of this article is to point out any messages I wrote regarding our time in Greek Ionian in addition to walking you through our passages. In other this post will act as a center for our time in the Greek Ionian. If you start in Sicily, please read Sailing from Sicily to Corfu Visiting mainland Italy as I describe the route we took to get to the Greek Ionian Islands where we stopped and describing each berth. Here is a chronological list of places we stopped while sailing on the Greek Ionic Islands 1. Palaioastrit, Corfu - anchor (free) 2. Gouvia Marina, Corfu (for clearing customs) - poops up (about 80 euros/night for 56 yacht plus water and electricity) 3. Corfu Town, Corfu - anchor (free) 4. Petriti, Corfu - anchor (free) 5. Ormos Lakka, Paxos - anchor (free) 6. Port Gayos, Paxos - anchor (free) 7. Random Bay, Cefalonia - anchor (free) 8. Fiscardo, Cefalonia - feed to (free - amazing!!! You can pay tavern for water) 9. Nidri, Levkas - strict to (No 12 for our 3rd stay - no water or electricity) 10. Levkas Town Marina, Levkas - strict to (80 pounds plus water and electricity) 11. Port Ateni, Meganisi - anchored with a line to the shore (free) 12. Wathi, Ithaca - feed-to (free) 13. Sami, cephalonia - side by side (8 euros/day - without electricity/no drinking water) 14. Ai Nikolaos, zakintos - side by side (free) sailing the Greek Ionian Islands After sailing the Greek Ionian Islands, we first arrived in Corfu visiting Palajokastrit pictured above (west side), Gouvia Marina (east side), Corfu Town (Ormos Garitsas) and Petriti. I wrote a rather comprehensive article about our stay in Palaioastrita and Gouvia Marina here: Sailing around the Greek Ionian Islands - Corfu. Govey Marina was a necessary stop to clear customs. The article includes tips on both areas. After we left Gouvia Marina, we sailed a very short distance to the city of Corfu and anchored in the wonderfully beautiful Gulf of Ormos Garditsas (bey pictured below to our right). I wrote about the city and the bay in my article entitled: Corfu City is not good and that is why!. After a few days in Corfu, we sailed down the east coast of Corfu and anchored outside the fishing village of Petriti. A few people offered the city to us and I was in the mood for some local, fresh fish. We anchored outside the tiny port and took our tender to one of the free piers outside the tavern. The berths were available for sailboats, space permitting, however, we loved anchor whenever possible. We ate in a restaurant with a wooden patio leading to this sea and an octopus hanging on a rope! During the meal we could watch the tiny fish swim by and enjoy the beautiful sounds of the waves splashing on the shore. Everything we ate was great, our daughters enjoyed playing at the water's edge, and was very quiet and calm. Then we set sail to The Island of Paxos and stopped at Ormos Lacca and Port Gayos. Ormos Lacca is an absolutely brilliant bay with some lovely taverns, shops, shops, Shops. We stayed in the bay for two nights. On our first night, we anchored as far as possible. The bay was very busy and we didn't want too close to the other boats. It's also hard to enter the busy bay and try to anchor when you're new. Everyone is watching and it can often be stressful. Unfortunately, the swelling in our anchorage was very annoying. The boat swayed back and forth all day and all night. In addition, we felt very far from the amenities. During our second evening at Ormos Lacca, we moved our boat closer to shore, despite the bay packed with boats. Unfortunately, we learned a huge lesson about anchor that day. The full story is headlineD And here's my disastrous anchor story... in my article entitled: As a sailboat anchor - what I've learned about anchor so far in the article, you'll hear about what happens when a 60 mph gust of wind hits a bay full of too many boats. Needless to say, Ormos Lakka is a lovely bay, but it's really too busy. If any bad weather is forecast I suggest you think twice about what to say in this harbor. (Photo above the bay when sitting in one of the taverns) Port Gaios was a lovely berth to enjoy a walk, get ice cream, and take your pick out of several great restaurants. It's not often that hubby and I can enjoy the evening alone. My cousin suggested seeing our daughter and staying on the boat (you can see our boat anchored in the picture above) while the hubby and I took the dark to the shore. We enjoyed the cocktail and then passed some sailors who owned the same boat as ours - 56 Oysters. The owners invited us on their boat and we discussed a number of things - how you do. We learned some great tips on how best to handle our boat so hubby and I was happy with the chance encounter. One one led to another, and they invited us to join them for dinner. Knowing it was a 'one' night for hubby and me, we gave up and spent our last moments in Port Guyos enjoying another lovely fish meal. In fact, I would say it was my favorite fish meal in Ionian. With a pain in the head from the wine the night before, we tried to get into Ormos Vasiliki on the island of Levkas. The wind, however, was blowing in the wrong direction and we didn't feel safe - especially after our anchor scare at Ormos Lacca. We then set sail to the island below and tried to get into Fiscardo, Cefalonia, but the port was jam-packed. In the end, we found a small bay not mentioned in the experimental book, south of Fiscardo, and we are anchored. All we could hear was sheep's bangs and bells. I can't say I felt safe. The anchorage was too deep for me (I wasn't happy for our anchor) to feel comfortable and I felt very isolated. The next day we found a place in Fiscardo, Cefalonia, and stayed for a few days. Days. my and my hubby are the most favorite sailing destination. Read the magic of Fiscardo Cephalonia to get a taste for this amazing destination. There are a few tips in the article, so make sure to read them before you go. For us, this place is a must-visit. While in Fiscardo (the entrance to the bay pictured above), we hired a car and explored various locations on Cephalonia. We enjoyed the underground freshwater cave, did some sightseeing around the various villages, and took in the beauty of the island. Then we set sail to Nidri on the island of Levkas. Our intention was to anchor in the bay, but it looked packed. When we looked at the city embankment, we noticed a few open spaces and went strictly. We later realized that the ferries and tourist boats cause quite a bit of movement along the wall, but overall the mooring was fine for a few nights. While my hubby, my mother-in-law and my daughter were cleaning the boat, my cousin and I took a little walk to the restaurant which had the best wifi rating (from the boat). Our usual plan was to get a drink, learn the Wi-Fi code, pay the bill and then go back to the boat so we could use the wifi from the luxury of our own abode. Our wifi hunt, however, took a different turn on this particular occasion. My cousin, Lauryn, and I ordered a 1/2 carafe of wine, poured a little into our glasses and then started downloading emails. As we were connecting ourselves to the internet, our server began to communicate with us. We mentioned the boat we were on pointed at my hubby while tidying up the decks and explained our adventures. To our surprise, our waiter took two glasses from our table, poured two more glasses of wine, jumped on his scooter (parked outside) and took wine to my and his father. We were both amazed by the server's actions! Lauryn and I were also delighted when our waiter brought us another 1/2 carafe of wine for free. Nidri is an interesting place - it's lined with restaurants and taverns all over the waterfront. There are various pirate tourist boats and entertainment. Behind the line of restaurants, there is a main street that has shops, boutiques, and standard things you would expect. There is a bar on the main street called Road House - it plays rock 'n' roll so my cousin and I enjoyed a few drinks listening to some good tunes. After Nidri, we dived into Levkas Town Marina to get out of the storm. To get to the wharf, you need to push a very long channel, and it takes quite a long time. It's also very narrow. When we entered one sailboat was grounded. And of course, there are always motor boats wanting to go fast so they speed along trying to pass other boats. We motored a long canal, and when we asked for a jetty for a yacht to dock, they said that they were not available. I was down. The storm was coming and we wasted all this time going up Then I yelled at the hubby saying, Why didn't you call before we entered the canal? As luck would have it, we called the marina again and said: Are you sure you can't put us somewhere? Marina kindly found us a place. I have never written a review for a marina. There was a shower fee so we took a shower on the boat. The bathrooms were very nice. The whole marina was very well maintained, there were a few places to eat and a supermarket. And the city has surrounded the marina so you can get everything and everything you expect in the city. Overall, our stay at Levkas Town Marina was perfect - nothing exceptional. But then again, I'd rather be anchored in a quiet bay or stern to a free waterfront village. Sailing in Greece is so inexpensive, so it hurts when you have to duck into the marina and pay a high price. Leaving the busy waters around Levkas, our next port of call was the quiet bay of Port Athena, on the island of Meganisi. This was another one of our favorite places - we anchor and then ran a line ashore to keep us from swinging (see picture below). The trees are all green, the water is clean and it is relatively quiet. We could easily take our tender to the entrance next to us and enjoy one of the two lovely taverns. The tavern owners on the right have kids so my daughter played with the kids the whole time we were on the beach. It was fun to see her running around the back area playing with the kids and their toys while we enjoyed a drink and ate some lovely food. A short walk away is a small town with several grocery stores, as well as some restaurants and bars. We found good wifi and I enjoyed making a few Skype calls home to the family. We made some Greek burgers - just put the feta cheese in the middle! After the silence of Meganisi, we got word that the friends we met at the Sicilian wharf would be in the area. We agreed to meet our friends in Wathi on Ithaca Island. What a visit! After our initial hugs and greetings, it didn't take long for the Italians to feed us a plate full of pasta - of course! We had some drinks caught up, and eventually arranged a taxi to take us to a lovely traditional Greek restaurant at the top of Ithaca. We enjoyed great food, amazing service, and in the end some of us had time to dance on the tables. It was so amazing to hook up with friends we met at the beginning of the season. We ate, drank, laughed, and everyone had a great time together. The next day, we had to click on the city of Sami on Cephalonia The Daily Mail (UK Tabloid newspaper) was with a journalist flying down to interview us on a boat so we agreed to meet in Sami. Prior to the arrival of the journalist, we also Time to clean the boat, relax for a few days, and have downtime. City, if Sami has the usual things -- grocery stores, a butcher, a bakery, and a few restaurants, restaurants, And a coffee shop. We enjoyed a meal at several taverns and my daughter tasted as many ice cream flavors as she could. We moored along the wall and it was an easy walk to the restaurants. One thing we really missed was the nice beach nearby. After a week in Sami, we knew it was time to start heading to the Corinth Canal - a waterway that has reduced mainland Greece into two. We ended our stay in the Ionian Greek Islands on the island of zakintos in Ormos Ai Nikolaos and what a pleasant stay it was. At the entrance to the harbour we initially tried to anchor, however we were told that we would be prevented from ferrying. Luckily a very tall Greek man on the wharf waved to us and helped us tie the Britican side to the wall (pictured below). The gentleman gave us his map and explained that his family owned a tavern on the beach and that they would like to see us there. We later discovered that this man's family seemed to own the whole city! After settling in, an elderly gentleman came down on his tractor to sell us olive oil and wine. My cousin managed to ride a tractor! Later in the week, we went out for a 'Greek night' at the tavern on the beach. We enjoyed traditional Greek music, dancing and applause. Each of us got up and danced around the dance floor (below you can see the back of my husband and daughter). My daughter had a great time and I couldn't help but have Perm-a-green all evening. The food was great, the entertainment was great and the local and visiting guests were all in a great mood. The next morning I woke up early and went for a run. I run three times a year if it is ... but on this particularly beautiful morning I just wanted to stand on a higher ground to see the sun and the sea. I ran/walked for three or four miles and enjoyed the most wonderful sights - the sea and the countryside. In general, the Greek Ion islands provide many anchor stands, harbors, eateries, landscapes and like-minded people. We found other tourists, sailors, locals, and everyone else to be kind, friendly, helpful and grateful to enjoy the delights of the area. I highly recommend sailing vacations or extended cruising stays on these islands! Check out some other areas in Greece and the Mediterranean if you want a breakdown of all the places we visited while sailing across the Mediterranean, please read our destination review: Sailing Mediterranean. Otherwise, check more reports about our time spent in Greece. Greece.

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