

ALONISSOS "Nothing to worry about... So many things to remember"

Alonissos

Nothing to worry about...

So many things to remember!

COUNTRY: GREECE

PREFECTURE: MAGNESIA

COMPLEX OF ISLANDS: NORTHERN SPORADES

DESTINATION: DREAMY



The Municipality of Alonissos was awarded a QualityCoast Gold Award 2012, for excellence in the categories Environment and Nature, by an International QualityCoast Jury, appointed by the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)

Welcome to Alonissos Island!
Everyday life here is full of new experiences,
fishing, hiking, canoe, kayak, diving, leisure
and daily visits to the islands of the largest marine park in Europe!

We are looking forward to seeing you in Alonissos,
one of the last eco-paradises left
in the Mediterranean Sea.



HISTORY

The name of Alonissos dates back to the early years of the independent Greek state. Interestingly enough, modern Alonissos was called “Ikos” in ancient times, whilst ancient references to “Alonissos” had probably to do with the neighbouring island of “Kira-Panagia”.

During the Classical period, Ikos probably comprised two cities. These two cities were likely to be located nearby modern Kokkinokastro (where there are nowadays ruins of ancient walls) and the Old Village of Alonissos, respectively. That was an era of great prosperity for the island. Ikos became well-known throughout the ancient world for its vineyards and excellent wine. Local wine was exported in amphorae bearing the inscription “IKION” on one of their handles.

In a few words, this is a place of mythic heroes, old shipwrecks and ancient cities lost in sea. Nature has endowed this privileged part of the world with fertile land. Alonissos is a charming island renowned, since ancient times, for its excellent wine. No wonder the island’s history is its most precious asset



BEACHES

According to a famous travel show host, daily visits to different beaches never end in Alonissos, even if one stays here for two months time... Clear blue waters, organized or non-organized beaches and beautiful places to explore, relax or... take summer photos! Agios Demetrius, Kokkinokastro and Chrissi Milia are some of the most popular local beaches.



National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades

Quoting Giorgos Katsadorakis, "We should all hope for our offspring to experience the beauty of this special complex of islands and their particular features that are nowhere else encountered in the Aegean Sea. These are islands of rare beauty, natural resources, long history and interesting culture."

Far from being a "closed" protected area, the National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades is currently the largest protected marine area in Europe (approximately 2,200km²). Visitors are allowed to travel within the marine park as long as they comply with a series of regulatory provisions for the protection of the ecosystem.

The National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades is one of the most important nature reserves for the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*), one of the most endangered mammals in the world.



ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

NATURE TOURISM

Alonissos' landscape is ideal for day trips and long walks in nature. Enjoy local forests and wildlife; visit the chapels and bays found on the island. And to refresh yourself, have a swim in the crystal blue sea!

It's also a nice idea to walk along some of the most beautiful ravines, such as Vathi Rema rising from Megalo Chorafi and flowing into Megali Ammos beach. Or, you could also explore the fascinating ravine of Kastanorema that cuts the north-eastern part of the island in half before flowing into Strovili beach.



ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

ADVENTURE TOURISM

Get in touch with nature and adventure!

Canoeing and kayaking are two of the most popular water sports to enjoy nature and explore the local marine park.

Go hiking or bike-riding with your friends and family, and enjoy the beautiful natural scenery or join one of the local hiking and bike-riding clubs.

Fishing and boating tours help your body and mind feel refreshed!

Last but not least, mountain walking is a great alternative for nature lovers.

Travel agencies and outdoor activities clubs make special offers for adventure-loving tourists.



ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

DIVING TOURISM

The sea world has so many new experiences to offer! The largest natural marine park of the Mediterranean Sea is found in Alonissos. Its impressive wildlife and amazing landscape give the feeling of intact natural surroundings. It's no coincidence that Alonissos is the natural habitat of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and other rare wildlife species forming the precious ecosystem of Northern Sporades.

Incomparable natural beauty meets ocean myths and legends. Marine archaeology has verified the existence of old shipwrecks of historical interest dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries or the Byzantine period. Since 2011, there are 14 spots in the marine park where diving is allowed. Experienced and properly trained professionals provide all support and services necessary for a magnificent scuba-diving experience.



ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE

The International Academy of Classical Homeopathy (IACH) (www.vithoulkas.com, www.vithoulkas.edu.gr, www.vithoulkasbooks.gr) sits in Alonissos. IACH is the only institution in the world dedicated exclusively to the teaching of Homeopathic Medicine. The aim of the International Academy of Classical Homeopathy is to train medical students, doctors and other health professionals in order to become certified classical homeopaths, according to the principles of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann.

Every summer, doctors from all over the world (Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, Russia, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, India, Mexico, Brazil, Greece, etc.) are trained at the International Academy of Classical Homeopathy. Since 1980, the International Academy of Classical Homeopathy has provided training to 9,000 doctors and homeopathic practitioners from 32 countries.

The International Academy of Classical Homeopathy plays a significant role in promoting Medical Tourism in Alonissos. Furthermore, it serves as point of reference for the implementation of similar actions at national level. In addition to being the founder and initiator of the Academy, George Vithoulkas is an Alternative Nobel prize winner professor of Homeopathy, truly devoted to his object of study and Homeopathic Medicine in general. Thanks to his lifelong efforts, the island of Alonissos is identified with knowledge for thousands of doctors around the world.



ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

RELIGIOUS TOURISM

If you feel like exploring the landscape of Alonissos, its chapels and ravines, or visiting the best view spots on the island, there are several places that are really worth visiting.

Most chapels are found in locations with amazing views; after all, there are countless spots wherefrom you can enjoy lovely views all over the island. If you like heights and think about spicing up your stay, set off on a mountain trip as lovely scenery and ease of approach make up a very fine outing.



ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

HONEYMOON TOURISM

Picturesque churches and beautiful chapels within lovely natural surroundings make up the perfect scenery for honeymooners or couples looking for an idyllic place to renew their wedding vows or celebrate their wedding anniversary. Well-organized facilities and experienced professionals create all prerequisites for... a happy married life!



CULTURE & TRADITION

Alonissos is a place to celebrate nature. Driven by this natural festive spirit, visitors can't miss local festivals and traditional customs revived. Annual events combine local culinary, historical and religious background with natural surroundings and the genuine spirit of local people.

For a short travel back in time, visit the "Traditional House of Alonissos" and find out more about traditional needlework, looms, well-preserved furniture, antiques, rare utensils and other tools used in the past.



CULTURE & TRADITION

In Alonissos, natural surroundings blend perfectly with people's feelings and everyday life. Traditional wedding ceremonies revive as a typical expression of Greek tradition, reminding of old rituals. The wedding ritual begins with the best man visiting the groom's house accompanied by traditional musicians. The groom's family treats them all to jam, wine, "tsipouro" and other delicacies... They all then go to the bride's house. According to traditional customs, the door of the bride's house shall not open until the groom promises a gift to his future mother-in-law! With a promise made to the mother-in-law, families and friends join the wedding procession to the church. The bride wears a traditional dress called "morka". Following the wedding ceremony, guests are treated to a traditional goat and pasta dish. The wedding party carries on until early morning hours...





TRADITIONAL CUISINE

Local cuisine is based on traditional recipes. Fresh fish and seafood appeal to even the most demanding culinary tastes. Fish soups, lobster pasta, traditional cheese pies and desserts can certainly season your stay on the island!

Enjoy fresh fish every day! Give in to the temptation of local fish soups, rice puddings, nut-cakes, macaroons and other delicacies... Night life in Alonissos suits all tastes; relax by the sea listening to lounge music or join a feast with your friends!



FOT THEIR PHOTOS AND TEXTS, SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Professor Georgios Vithoulkas, Head of the International Academy of Classical Homeopathy, www.vithoulkas.com
 Panagiotis Dendrinis, Head of the MOM Research Department for the Study and Protection of the Mediterranean monk seal, www.mom.gr
 Yannis Drosakis, photographer
 Filitsa Themeli, photographer, www.flickr.com/photos/anarrousa/, www.filitsathemeli.gr
 Konstantinos and Angela Mavrikis, owners of the Historical and Folklore Museum of Alonissos, photos generously granted www.alonissosmuseum.com
 Laura Meletopoulou, photographer, and ikiondiving; photos generously granted
 Vangelis Beltzenitis, photographer, www.vangelisphotography.com
 Giorgos Nikolidakis, journalist / Glossy magazine "De Griekse Gids" / websites "www.grieksegids.nl" and "www.grieksegids.tv"
 Magda Fevga, photos generously granted
 Chris Browne, walker
 Bente Keller and Elias Tsoukanas, authors of "The Alonissos Guide"
 Management Body of the National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades, www.alonissos-park.gr
 MTC GROUP, marketing and consulting company, www.mtcgroup.gr

EDITOR & ART DIRECTOR:
 Alexiou Maria, Marketing Assistant
 e-mail: alexioumaria@ymail.com

Useful Phone Numbers

Police Station, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-65205
 Fire Brigade, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-66097
 Port, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-65595
 Health Centre, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-65208
 Town Hall, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24243-50201, +30 24240-65555
 Alonissos Association of Rental Rooms, Apartments & Holiday Homes, Patitiri (Port) - Tel: +30 24240-65577
 Alonissos Hotel Owners Association, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-65212
 National Bank of Greece, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-65777
 Post Office, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-65560
 Management Body of the National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades - Tel: +30 24240-66378 / 66388 / 66419, Fax: +30 24240-66376
 MOM Information Centre, Patitiri - Tel: +30 24240-66350

How to Get Here

Alonissos Travel, Patitiri
 Tel: +30 24240-66000, +30 24240-65188, Fax: +30 24240-65511
 E-mail: book@alonissostravel.gr, Web: www.alonissostravel.gr

Alkyon Travel, Patitiri
 Tel: +30 2420-65450, Fax: +30 24240-65195
 E-mail: athens@alkyontravel.com, Web: www.alkyontravel.com

Albedo Travel, Patitiri
 Tel: 24240-65804-5, Fax: +30 24240-65806
 E-mail: info@albedotravel.com, Web: alonissosholidays.com

www.hellenicseaways.gr

www.sne.gr

ALONISSOS



www.alonissos.gr

www.alonissos.gov.gr

τηλ: 24240-65555 fax: 24240-65207 e-mail: dimosalo@otenet.gr

2013 MUNICIPALITY OF ALONISSOS • TOURISM PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

