



CORFU

Practical Guide





Corfu is connected by sea on a daily basis with the ports of Igoumenitsa and Patra as well as with the ports of Bari, Brindisi, Ancona and Venice in Italy (not on a daily basis), while by air, the island is connected with the airport of Athens and the airport of Thessalonica.

Arrival by coach

There are scheduled journeys by coach, from Athens (duration of journey: 6 hours) and Thessalonica (duration: 4 hours) to Igoumenitsa.

Corfu coaches KTEL: 26610 – 28920 / 28924

Igoumenitsa coaches KTEL: 26650 - 22309

Athens coaches KTEL, tel: 210 – 5129443

Thessalonica coaches KTEL, tel: 2310 – 595409, 595473.

Arrival by ferryboat or ship

There are scheduled journeys by ferryboats from Igoumenitsa (almost every hour, duration: 2 hours approx.).

Harbour Office in Corfu, tel.: 26613 – 65200

Harbour Office in Igoumenitsa, tel.: 26650 – 27388, 93100, 22235.

Arrival by airplane

- Olympic Air (Corfu: 26610 38187, Athens: 210-3550500, 801 801 01 01) flies every day to and from Athens (duration of flight: 50 min.) and from Thessalonica

- Aegean Airlines also flies twice per day to and from Athens (Tel.: Corfu 26610 –27100, Athens: 210-6261000, 801 1120 000).

The airport is just three (3) kilometers outside the town of Corfu.

Airport: 26610 – 89600

During the summer period (March – October), Corfu is also directly connected by air with other European cities.

Both in the port and the airport there are taxi terminals from where travelers can be served (cost per drive to the town centre: 5 Euros approx.).

The island of Corfu



MINI DICTIONARY

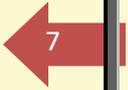
There are some words and phrases that will help in communicating while you are in Greece.
The (') symbol comes before the syllable that is stressed.

English Phrase	Pronunciation in Greek	Greek
Hello / Goodbye	Y i`a sou (singular) / Y i`a sas (plural)	Γεια σου / Γεια σας
Good morning	Kali`mera	Καλημέρα
Good night	Kali`nichta	Καληνύχτα
Thank you	Efchari`sto	Ευχαριστώ
Please / You're welcome / Excuse me?	Paraka`lo	Παρακαλώ
What is this?	Tee`eenay af`toe	Τι είναι αυτό;
I want this	`Thelo af`toe	Θέλω αυτό
I want to ...	`Thelo na	Θέλω να ...
How much is this?	`Poso `kaneef af`toe	Πόσο κάνει αυτό;
I want to go ...	`Thelo na paow	Θέλω να πάω...
How can I get to ...	Pos na paow	Πώς να πάω...
Where is ...	Pu`eenay...	Πού είναι...
How are you?	Ti`kahnees	Τι κάνεις;
I don't know	Then`xero	Δεν ξέρω
What time is it?	Tee`ora`eenay	Τι ώρα είναι;
Excuse me, do you speak English?	Paraka`lo, meela`tay angli`ka	Παρακαλώ, μιλάτε αγγλικά;
What is your name?	Pos se`lene	Πώς σε λένε;
My name is ...	Me`lene	Με λένε
I don't speak Greek	Then mi`laow elleeni`kah	Δε μιλάω ελληνικά
I don't understand	Then kahtahlah`vaeno	Δεν καταλαβαίνω
Do you have...	`Echees ... (singular) / `Echetay ... (plural)	Έχεις... / Έχετε...
Where can I find good food?	Pu`echee ka`low fagee`toe	Που έχει καλό φαγητό;
The cheque, please	To logaria `smow, paraka`low	Το λογαριασμό παρακαλώ
May I have a menu?	Bo`row na `echow to me`nu	Μπορώ να έχω το μενού;
I'm a vegetarian	`Eemay chorto `fagos	Είμαι χορτοφάγος
Yes	Nay	Ναι
No	`Ochi	Όχι
OK	En`tahxi	Εντάξει
Today	`Seemera	Σήμερα
Tomorrow	`Avrio	Αύριο

Yesterday	Hthes	Χθες
Airport	Aero`dromeew	Αεροδρόμιο
Port	Lee`mahnee	Λιμάνι
Train Station	Stahth`mos `Traynou	Σταθμός Τραίνου
Bus Station	Stahth`mos Layowfo`reeon	Σταθμός Λεωφορείων
Bus Stop	‘Stasee Layowfo`reeon	Στάση Λεωφορείων
Ship	`Pleeoh	Πλοίο
Airplane	Aero`plahnw	Αεροπλάνο
Train	`Traynow	Τρένο
Bus	Layowfo`reeo	Λεωφορείο
Taxi Station	Pee`ahsa Ta`xi	Πιάτσα Ταξί
Ticket	Eesee`teereew	Εισιτήριο
Bus Ticket	Eesee`teereew Layowfo`reeon	Εισιτήριο Λεωφορείων
Hotel	Ksenowdow`cheew	Ξενοδοχείο
Room	Dow`mahteeow	Δωμάτιο
Bank	`Trah pe zah	Τράπεζα
Hospital	Nowsowko`meeow	Νοσοκομείο
Pharmacy	Pharma`keeow	Φαρμακείο
Post Office	Tacheedrow`meeow	Ταχυδρομείο
Doctor	Yia`tros	Γιατρός
First Aid	‘Prowtes Vo`eethies	Πρώτες Βοήθειες
Help	Vo`eetheeah	Βοήθεια
Toilet	Tooah`letah	Τουαλέτα
Restaurant	Essteeah`toreew	Εστιατόριο

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

European Emergency Number	112 For additional information: http://www.eena.org/view/en/AboutEENA/whatisEENA.html
First – Aid (Ambulance):	166
Police:	100 26610 29150
Traffic Police:	26610 29160
Tourist Police:	26610 29168 / 171
Fire station:	2661025369 / 199
Hospital:	26613 60400
OTE:	26610 39199
Post Office:	26610 25544 26610 39604
National Tourism Organization (EOT):	26610 37638, -9, -0
Harbour Office:	26613 65200
Archaeologic al Museum: Vraila 3	26610 30680
Kapodistria Museum: Koukouritsa	26610 32440



Asiatic Museum (China-Japan):	26610-30443 For additional information: http://www.matk.gr
Palea Anaktora Museum of Solomos: 3rd Par.Arseniou	26610 30674
Museum of Antivouniotis sa:	26610 38313
Achillion:	26610 56245 For additional information: http://www.achillion-corfu.gr
Museum of Folklore Art in Sinarades:	26610 54962, 35673
Reading Society:	26610 39528
National Art Gallery (Kato Korakiana):	26610 93333
Municipal Art Gallery:	26610 48690
Mon Repos Estate:	26610 41369



CONSULATES

COUNTRY	HONORARY CONSULS	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	FAX	MAIL
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COST OF LIVING

The average cost for living (except accommodation) in Corfu amounts to 400€ approx. per month.

As an ERASMUS student you have the possibility to get two full meals per day in the restaurant contracted with the Ionian University by paying the reduced price of **2€** approximately per meal directly to the Restaurant.

ERASMUS students can get further information on the contracted restaurant from the Accommodation Office (tel.26610 44385).

Cost of some basic goods (approximately)

1 Kg of bread 2,00 €

1 lt of milk 1,20 €

1 yogurt 1,50 €

Coca-Cola (1 tin) 1,50 €

6 big bottles of water 2 €

1 sandwich 2,50 €

1 roasted chicken 10,00 € (TAKE AWAY)

1 souvlaki 2,20 € (TAKE AWAY)

1 pita 2,50 € (TAKE AWAY)

Cinema 7,50 €

Bank opening hours:

Monday – Thursday: 08:00 – 14:30

Friday : 08:00 - 14:00.

TRANSPORTATION MEANS

Blue Buses' Terminal

The Blue Buses serve the town and the outskirts.

Address: Sanrocco Square.

Tel.: 26610 32158

http://www.ktelkerkyras.gr/?module=default&pages_id=5&lang=en

Green Buses' Terminal

The Green Buses serve Corfu villages and Continental Greece's lines (via Igoumenitsa).

Address: Eptanison Street

Tel.: +302661028900

info@greenbuses.gr

<https://greenbuses.gr/el/>

Taxi:

There are taxi terminals on the Sanrocco Square, at Esplanade Square, at Spilia (old harbour) as well as at the airport and the port.

Radio- taxi's are also available (tel.: +30 26610 33811 /12)



The Ionian University's goal is to enable students to benefit educationally, linguistically and culturally from the experience of learning in other European countries. For this reason, all special needs' students have access to all university facilities. In addition, new special equipment will be installed at the University Library.



SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES

<http://www.ionio.gr/central/en/sports>

STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

<http://www.ionio.gr/central/en/associations>



LIBRARY

<http://www.ionio.gr/central/en/library>

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CORFU



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ISLAND

The first literary reference to the island is in Homer's *Odyssey*, where on the island of the Phaeacians Odysseus, recently escaped from Calypso, encounters Nausica, daughter of the King.

A number of archaeological finds leave no doubt that the island of Corfu was inhabited as early as the Palaeolithic period. According to the mythological tradition the island acquired its current name Kerkyra from a nymph of that name, a daughter of Asops.

Zeus fell in love with her and brought her to the island. The island was a colony of the city of Corinth during classical times, and enjoyed great affluence and a flourishing cultural life. At the end of 4th century BC it passed into the hands of the Spartans, and was subsequently ruled by Agathocles, tyrant of Syracuse.

It later became part of the territory of the King of Epirus. A little later the island was occupied by the Romans. During Byzantine period the island enjoyed great prosperity, although it was often subjected to the hostile raids and incursions. The island's vital strategic importance constantly attracted new conquerors.

As the Byzantine Empire entered upon its decline, Corfu was occupied for a short period by the Venetians rule, and there began a period of great importance in the island's history. The Venetians administered the island for 400 years, stamping their mark indelibly on the island's culture. Under the Venetians Corfu enjoyed a period of great distinction in the arts and literature.

On the fall of the Venetian republic, the islands were surrendered to France, whose rule was quickly ended by the Russo-Turkish occupation, followed by a short interval of independence with the creation of the Septinsular Republic.

The 18th century was a period of intense artistic and cultural activity for the island. It had no fewer than fifteen philharmonic orchestras, and a host of painters, writes, musicians and other artists.

Following Napoleon's agreement with the Russians, the island was conceded to the French, and almost immediately afterwards occupied by the British. Along with the other Ionian Islands, Corfu was relinquished by the British and became part of the modern Greek state in 1864.

CLIMATE



The almost heavenly look of the Corfiot nature is due to the mild climate and the high percentage of humidity for the Greek standards (frequent rains from November until March).

The summer heat is moderated by the humidity (highest temperature in July 39oC). The summer afternoons a north-western wind called "maistros" blows, which rarely exceeds the 4 Beaufort scale.

The winters are usually mild. During the winter-time southern winds prevail and their intensity is higher than 8 Beaufort scale.



LOCAL LOCAL GASTRONOMY



For 411 years Corfu was a Venetian harbour, "key" of the Adriatic was proudly named and it was only natural the passing ships to "leave to the Corfiots many and teach them even more". During the century of Renaissance Venice was the European centre of the trading of spices and sugar and distributed luxury and wealth all around Europe. As a consequence of the Venetian domination was the imposition of the Venetian cuisine and the Venetian way of cooking to the Corfiots. The Venetians brought new products and taught the Corfiots how to eat them. Corn, tomatoes, beans, pepper, but also coffee, chocolate and many other products were brought to Corfu by the Venetians. In a very short time, however, these new products

were appreciated by the Corfiots and were thus incorporated in their daily diet, reaching our days almost inalterably.



Local wine, Koumkouat, Corfu Beer

The present-day Corfiot cuisine has the typical Mediterranean characteristics (the common base is the olive oil, the vegetables, the pastas and many herbs and spices) exhibiting the different influences that the island was under. The cuisine of the city is clearly Venetian. The cuisine of the countryside is based on the agricultural products that were cultivated simultaneously with the cultivation of the olives, which was imposed by the Venetians. Common characteristic of all Corfiot dishes is the tastefulness. The food and particularly the bread, was always and still is well salted, and the salt was never absent from each household.



Greek dishes, Greek pita, Souvlaki

After so many centuries the names of the Corfiot traditional dishes remain almost unchanged. The emigrations of the Greeks from the mainland Greece, even after the Union, left almost no stamp in the local cuisine. The mass spreading of classic Greek cuisine (which contained many influences from the Turkish conquerors) took place after the Second World War.

Special corfiot dishes:



Pastitsada, Bourdetto, Sofrito

PASTITSADA

It is the most popular Corfiot dish and is served at the formal dinners and celebrations. In the city it is made with beef meat (usually from the leg) stuffed with chopped garlic, parsley, salt and pepper. For the tomato sauce is used olive oil, onion, cinnamon, cloves, salt, pepper, nutmeg, cumin and laurel leaves. The rural pastitsada is made with cock, it is said that it is well-made only when the sauce is so thick that it dyes the moustaches. There are seafood pastitsada variations like "lobster pastitsada".

STIFADO

Food cooked in a well-closed saucepan and left on the 'stua' (a special small stove at the side of the fireplace), which boiled for many hours or even for the whole night. It consists of pieces of beef that were all night marinated in wine, onion, finely chopped garlic, carrot, celery, rosemary, sage, thyme, marjoram, laurel leaves, salt and pepper. Sautéed with olive oil and minced pantseta (smoked ham) is then cooked on the 'stua' with all the marinade, adding some sugar. It is eaten with polenta.

SOFRITO

Sofrito consists of thin slices of fried beef, with white sauce from finely chopped garlic, parsley, white pepper, white wine, salt and vinegar. It is served with rice or potatoes.

BOURDETTO

Bourdetto or Bourdetto is the most famous fish dish of Corfu. It is made with different sorts of fish (scorpion fish is said to be the best) cooked in a spicy tomato sauce, with or without potatoes.

Local drinks

TSITSTIBIRA (GINGER-BEER)

This refreshment is well-known all over the Ionian Islands since the time of the British rule. Today is made nowhere else than in Corfu. Made from lemon juice, natural lemon-essence, top quality ground ginger, white raisins, water and sugar, today is prepared by a small family-industry of the island, which 'kneads' in its caldrons the historical refreshment. Tasty and refreshing it is ready to be drunk after three weeks of fermentation and is served in the cafes from Easter until the autumn. Because of the great demand for the product in Corfu, it is always fresh and is best served ice cold.



KumQuat liqueur, Tsitsibira, Nouboulo

CORFU BEER

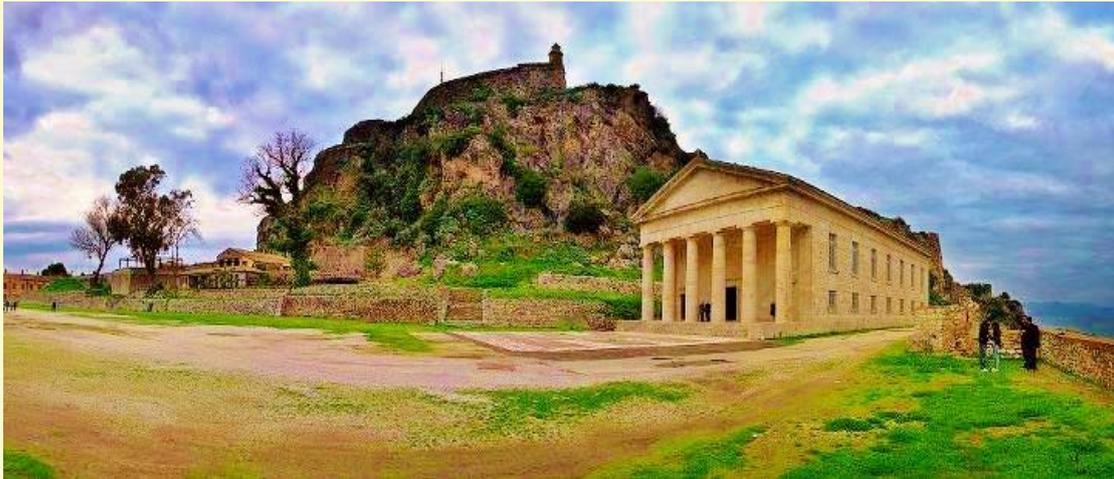
In northern Corfu, in Arillas, the small but modern Brewery produces five types of Ionian beer: Ionian Epos, Real Ale Bitter, Real Ale Special, Royal Ionian, Ionian Gold.

KUMQUAT LIQUEUR

A kumquat liqueur mixes the fruit with vodka or other clear spirit. Kumquats are also being used by chefs to create a niche for their desserts and are common in European countries. Culinary uses include candying and kumquat preserves, marmalade, and jelly. Kumquats can also be sliced and added to salads. In recent years kumquats have gained popularity as a garnish for cocktail beverages, including the martini as a replacement for the more familiar olive.

SIGHTS OF CORFU TOWN





Old Fortress, Corfu town

If we had to present everything worth visiting and seeing within the town, we would certainly have to give you only the most important monuments and places to be, just a hint to further investigation and planning according to your own interests and mood. Let's start from the church of Agios Spyridon; the protector saint of Corfu town, the church is a one-aisle basilica with wooden roof, established in 1589.

The relics of the saint are kept here within a gold-plated reliquary, decorated with precious stones. It is also worth seeing the icon screen of the church made of marble, the icons and a lot of religious souvenirs and votive offerings. Once visiting the church, the locals will ask you if you have seen the bell tower, of which they are very proud. For additional information: <http://www.corfuchurches.com/content/view/58/70/lang,en/>

And they are right, as it is really impressive, the highest in town. Apart from this historic church it is also worth visiting the church of Panaghia Spiliotissa, a three-aisle basilica built in 1577 to replace an even older one; the church is the cathedral of the town since 1841 and it has an important collection of Byzantine icons, some of them made by the eminent hagiographers Damaskinos and Tzannes. The Catholic and Anglican churches add up to the cosmopolitan character of the city and you may also see the Jewish Synagogue, housed in a beautiful building of the 19th century.

Numerous buildings and monuments from the period of the Venetian domination are preserved in the town. Certainly, the most important of them is the impressive Old Fortress, built at a natural stronghold site. It is a Venetian construction of the 15th century, built on the older Byzantine walls of the 13th and 14th centuries; the Venetians completed the fortification with a moat, which resulted to transform the place to a small, artificially made, islet. Several buildings are preserved within the castle, as the central gate (dated to 1550), the bastions of Martinengo, Savorgnian and Mandraki, some towers, the Anglican church of St. George (a basilica imitating an ancient Doric temple), built in 1840, the Catholic Chapel, known

as "the Romanic Church", the buildings of the prisons, the British military quarters and the military hospital, the lighthouse and the clock tower.





Old Town, Corfu

Most of the buildings house actual activities and services of the town, as the Central Municipal Library, the Historic Archives, the Byzantine Collection, a Conference Centre and the shop of official copies of the Archaeological Service.

The Venetian period is also represented by the New Fortress, upon the hill overlooking the old port, which actually houses the Museum of Pottery and an open theatre, you will also see the Municipal Hall, a very nice building of the late 17th century, known as the "Arcade of the Nobles" or "Loggia", the palace of the Latin Archbishop, actually housing the branch Agricultural Bank, the building of the Ionian Academy, built in early 17th century to house the Military Governor, up to 1824 when it was used to house the Ionian Academy. Also, don't miss to visit the Catholic Church of St. James (Domos), built in the 16th century and serving as the Cathedral of the Catholics since 1632.

Finally, you will certainly see the most characteristic complex of multi-storey buildings with the series of arches at Spianada; it is the famous Liston, the meeting-place of the Corfiots, but also of the tourists, as it is a place often used as a natural scenery for films and TV serials and it is full of life with its numerous trendy cafes and bars.



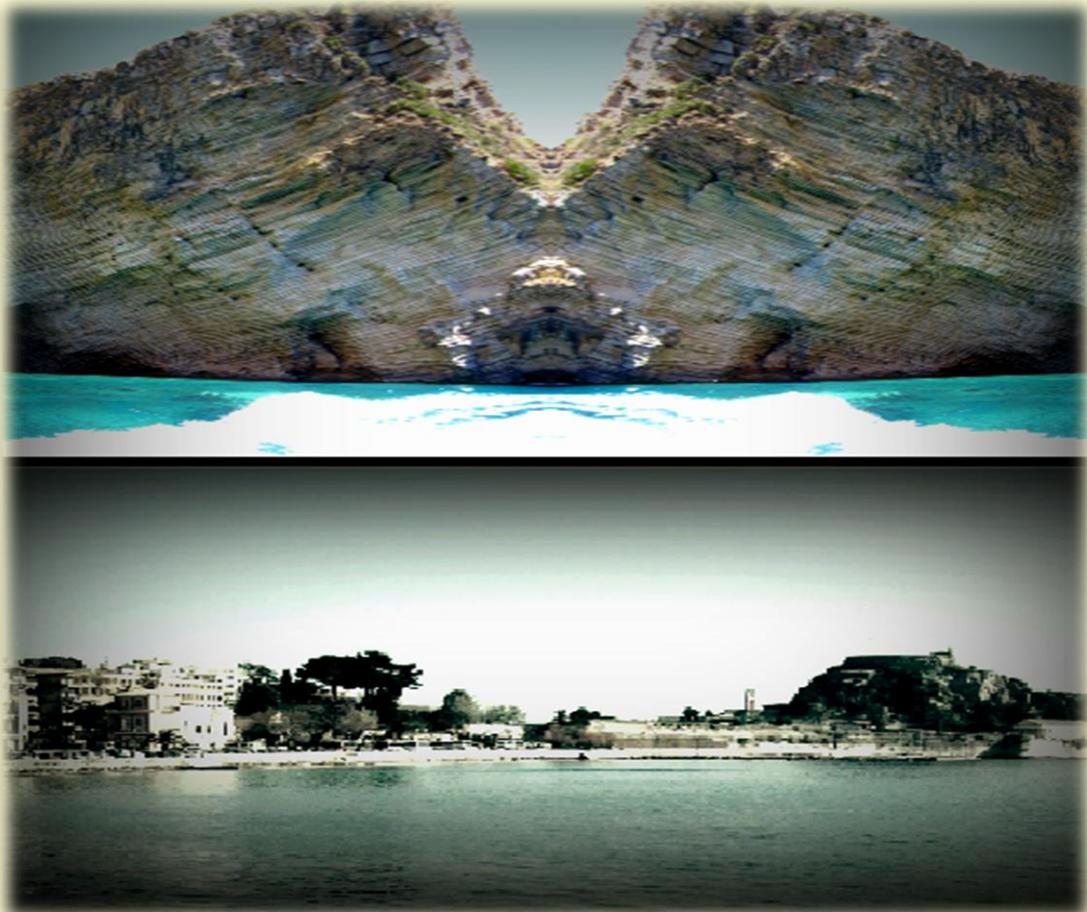
Within the same central square you will also see the impressive Palace of St. Michael and St. George, built during the early years of the British domination and served as the seat of the British High Commissioner on the island, of the Ionian Senate and of the battalion of St. Michael and St. George. From 1864 up to the abolishment of monarchy in Greece, the building served as summer palace of the kings of Greece. Nowadays, it houses the Municipal Gallery and the Museum of Asian Art. In front of the building, you may see the statue of the British High Commissioner, Adam.



Old Town, Corfu

Several other buildings, apart from the military ones within the fortresses, are: the old house of Kapodistrias, built in 1845; the building was the seat of the Prefecture until 1969, whereas today it houses the Ionian University. The building of the Ionian Parliament (where it has been declared the incorporation of the Ionian Islands to the Greek State), the park and the neoclassic building of Mon Repos, initially the residence of the British High Commissioner and later the summer residence of the kings of Greece, are some more buildings dated to the period of British domination.

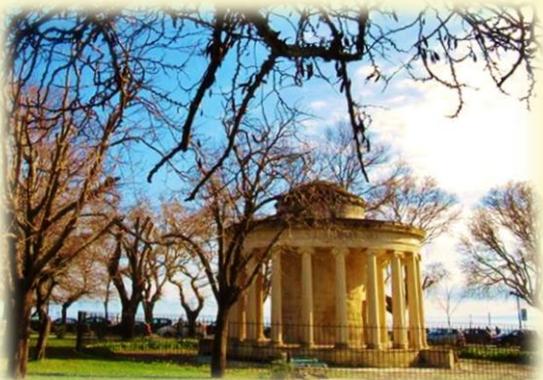
Several monuments of Classical and Roman period, as well as Byzantine buildings and churches are also worth seeing in the town.





Mouragia, Corfu town

The most important of them are the monument of Menecrates (dated to 600 b.C.) situated at the ancient cemetery at Garitsa, the sanctuary of Apollo Corcyraios, close to Mon Repos, the archaeological site of Palaeopolis, the ancient city of Kerkyra, a part of the ancient wall (the “Nerantziha tower”), close to the airport and the ruins of the temple of Artemis (Diana), also close to the airport. In what concerns the Byzantine period, the most important monuments are the church of Aghios Iason and Sossipatros (dated to 1000 A.D.) and the ruins of the Early Christian (5th century A.D.) basilica within the archaeological site of Palaeopolis.



Old Town, Corfu

There are also several more recent monuments worth seeing as the monument in honour of the Unification of the Ionian Islands with Greece, at Spianada, beside the polygonal Venetian well, the Lecturers’ Society of Corfu, established in 1836, the Library of Ioannis Kapodistrias, the Municipal Theatre and the theatre “Phoenix”, the Cultural Centre, the very characteristic windmill upon the homonymous hill, the Monastery of Panaghia Vlaherna, accessed via a pedestrian bridge, the islet of Vido (or Ptyhia), with luxurious green and interesting fauna and flora, accessed via the excursion boats. Finally, you should not miss to visit the famous Pontikonissi, the “trade mark” of Corfu, with the small Byzantine church of Pantocrator.

Excursion boats will get you to the island, either from Perama, or from the Vlaherna Monastery.



Pontikonissi Island

Corfu town is full of Museums. One of the most important among them is the Archaeological Museum, containing almost all finds of the excavations on the island. The Byzantine Collection, housed at the Church of Panagia Antivouniotissa is also very interesting: there are displayed several Byzantine and Post-Byzantine icons, along with other religious objects.

The very interesting Museum of Asian Art, unique in Greece, is housed in the Palace of St. Michael and St. George. There is also the Solomos Museum, housed in the house where lived and died the National poet of Greece Dionyssios Solomos (1798-1857) (the poet of the Greek Anthem). It is in Corfu that the poet has written the most important of his works; the Museum contains several souvenirs of the poet and many old editions of his works, mainly of the “Hymn to Liberty”, a part of which became the National Anthem of Greece.

The love of the locals for music and arts can be seen also through their fair and festivals. Musically the Corfiots have been influenced by the West, Italy primarily. Cantatas, belcanto and opera belong to a large and impressive musical and theatrical tradition. In addition, there are many philharmonic societies which participate in all ceremonies and festivals of the island.



The whole island is full of monuments and unique places where nature and history combine in harmony. The western coastline of central Corfu is an area very rich in images of peaceful farming villages and superb beaches. Nature has ornamented these coastlines with truly unique gems the best being the triple bay of Paleokastritsa, which according to Greek mythology, was where the town of the Phaeacians was where Odysseus made his last stop before his return to Ithaca. In addition, the island of Corfu has an ornament that is different than all the rest. It is the Achilleion Palace, the creation of the queen of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Elisabeth, better known as Sissy.



Achilleion Palace



Corfu Beaches

The island of Corfu is full of magnificent beaches and tiny harbors. The underwater world is hugely attractive to spear fisherman and divers.



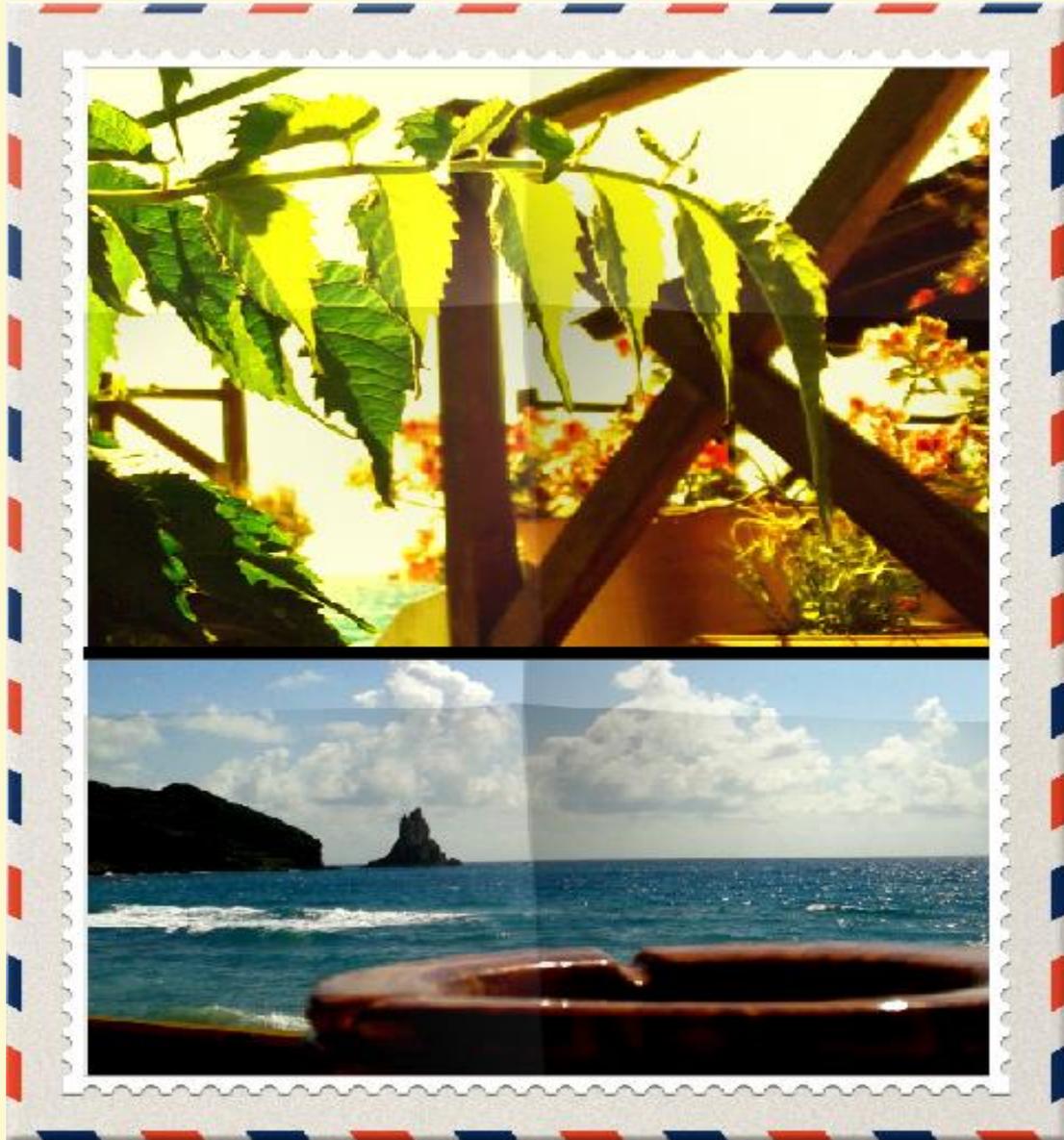
Kerasia Beach, Paleokastritsa

Fine sand and pebbles as far as the eye can see, water that gets gradually deeper, sparse vegetation (eucalyptus and glasswort), Corfu is considered to be a small paradise on earth.



Molos Lefkimi Beach





Corfu Nightlife



Walking and lounging around Corfu town and the general area at night is just excellent. During the day, you will be constantly busy seeing all the sights and be exhausted from the heat but when the sun sets over the Ionian Sea is when the fun begins. Corfu nightlife is not only about clubbing or bar hopping -- it is also about eating out, wine drinking and admiring unique scenery.

See you...there!!

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