

A bit of crystal blue...

Zakynthos

Zakynthos is an island bursting with things to see, explore and enjoy - from the beautiful beaches, lovely traditional villages, picturesque mountain scenery, watersports, sights such as the Shipwreck and Venetian Castle and as if that wasn't enough there are also several interesting museums; an ideal way to learn more about this wonderful place and its distinguished residents.

Zante Vacation

Zakynthos is one of the Greek Ionian Islands located off the west coast of the Peloponnese. The island is one of the greenest and most beautiful in the archipelago and boasts some superb sandy beaches. It's the beaches of Zakynthos that make the island a magnet for the package holiday hordes that migrate here between Easter and October. The busiest seaside resorts rival those of Corfu in terms of their frantic nightlife and all-action beach scene. But if you venture further afield than the main resort areas you'll find some lovely secluded coves, dramatic mountain scenery and unspoilt inland villages.

The island's mega resort is Laganas on the south coast where 14 kilometers of golden sand gently shelves into shallow water. The main beachfront is chock-a-block with bars, restaurants, hotels and apartment blocks and you'll find all manner of watersports and leisure facilities including ballooning and glass-bottomed boat rides. If you're after 24-hour partying, Brit bars, curries and quiz nights then this is the place for you.

You may even find yourself swimming alongside the beautiful loggerhead sea turtles which use the soft sand of the south coast beaches as their nesting grounds. Sadly the turtles, which have been migrating to these shores from Africa for thousands of years, are now one of Europe's most endangered species primarily because of the ravages of mass tourism. Environmentalists are increasingly finding themselves at loggerheads with the tourist industry which has fiercely resisted various controls designed to protect the turtles.

Zakynthos town



Zakynthos town is the capital city of the island and has a rich and colorful history having been captured by many different rulers over the centuries. In 1953 a massive earthquake destroyed many of the original buildings on the island and the town was rebuilt as closely as possible to its original form. Most of the buildings are of Venetian style which dates back many centuries when the island was under Venetian rule.



The Solomos museum is worth a visit named after the Greek poet Dionysios Solomos who wrote the Greek national anthem also the spectacular main church of the island St Dionysios, named after the patron saint of the island has an impressive collection of art and still contains some of the saints' relics.

The town is set along the picturesque harbour and is a wonderful setting to enjoy a coffee or try one of the local tavernas.

You can find everything in Zakynthos town, large supermarkets, banks, tourist office, British consulate, bus station, ferry port, and many shops.

Villages of Zakynthos and Tradition

Well, there are several villages on the island untouched by tourism, which provide an ideal place to visit not just to see beautiful unspoiled scenery but also a chance to witness the Zakynthian way of life. In particular the mountain villages in the north of the island such as Volimes, Kambi and Anafonitria have been particularly unaffected by tourism, as well as other hamlets dotted over the island for instance Loucha, Gyri and Exo Hora. The traditional villages really should not be missed on a visit to Zante, to gain a deeper understanding and picture of the islands history, culture and also to experience some of the famous Greek hospitality and friendliness for oneself

Porto Koukla

Porto Koukla is a tourist resort situated next to Agios Sostis, in the gulf of Laganas. It is a traditional Greek village with plenty of greenery.

Winding little roads lead you to the beautiful sandy beach through olive trees. Some sunbeds and a few quiet beach bars are found nearby but it is mainly a peaceful choice for swimming and sunbathing. Small boats leave from this beach and take you to Marathonisi Island, also known as Turtle Island, where the endangered Caretta Caretta turtle lays its eggs. You can also find some traditional tavernas, restaurants and a few tourist shops dotting the area.

Just 9km from Zakynthos town and very close to Laganas, Porto Koukla is a tourist resort that promises a quiet and relaxing stay along with the choice for more vivid fun in the evening in the neighbouring tourist resorts.

Laganas



Laganas is the largest and liveliest of the island's resorts located on the south coast of Zakynthos. It is also home to the national marine park where the protected species of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) come to nest.

Laganas is famous around the globe for its fantastic nightlife and is a magnet for young people who want to party, here they will be spoiled for choice with its many night clubs open all night long emitting an intoxicating atmosphere.

Just 100m from the resort centre, for sunbathers the sandy, gently shelving beach sprawls for three kilometres and is one of the best on the island. Also you can take a turtle-spotting boat trip from here.

Laganas has a good selection of shops selling clothes, souvenirs, jewellery, leather goods and countless bars, nightclubs and restaurants which offer traditional Greek, English, Italian, Chinese, Indian, Thai and Canadian cuisine

Tsilivi

Tsilivi is a very popular resort with families and couples and is now one of the main resorts on the island of Zakynthos. Located on the north east coast of Zante, Tsilivi is well known for its lovely beach the proud recipient of the prestigious Blue Flag award. The beach is a long (2km) stretch of soft golden sand which gently shelves into the crystal clear warm water meaning it is safe for children and swimmers of all levels. Watersports are also available at the beach, perfect for the adventurous traveller; why not try something new and exciting?!

Tsilivi is an attractive resort rich with olive groves, vineyards and other attractive verdant scenery. It has only recently expanded to become a tourist resort and as such still has pleasant surroundings and a traditional Greek feel. The resort has a very friendly atmosphere with a great range of bars, restaurants and clubs to suit everyone's tastes. Many of the businesses are family run offering exceptionally friendly and helpful service and a chance to experience first hand the famous Greek hospitality.

The nightlife offered by the bars and nightclubs in Tsilivi is highly rated and provides a good alternative from the busier resort of Laganas for a more sophisticated but still lively nightlife. There is plenty of accommodation available in Tsilivi and most has been built in quiet areas, ensuring if you are not out partying that a great night's sleep is obtainable. Tsilivi is only 5 km from Zante town with a frequent bus service to the capital - ideal for a spot of sightseeing and shopping.

The pretty resort of Tsilivi with its friendly atmosphere provides a perfect holiday destination for everyone and a chance not just to enjoy this resort but also the beautiful island of Zante - sure to be an unforgettable dream holiday!

Kalamaki

Kalamaki is a relaxing, but up and coming resort located on the south east coast of the island about 3km from the lively resort of Laganas.

The colonies of loggerhead turtles are the star attraction and, thanks to the friendly locals, there's still a traditional welcome for holidaymakers of all ages.

Kalamaki's long, beach is an extension of Laganas golden sandy coastline and is superb with crystal clear blue water. Apart from pedaloes and canoes, you won't find many watersports as the safety of the turtles takes priority.

The surrounding countryside and olive groves are breathtaking against the mountainous backdrop and are ideal for a stroll or cycle ride.

Nightlife here is low-key, with a good choice of bars, shops, traditional Greek tavernas and restaurants offering international food.

Laganas is only a 5-minute taxi ride away for those looking for more adventurous nightlife

Argassi

Argassi (Argasi) started off as a small suburb of Zakynthos Town growing up around a narrow strip of sand and shingle beach which runs throughout the resort.

Argassi has kept its friendly character, becoming popular with the young and lively, and has a great range of typical tavernas as well as restaurants offering international food.

The resort is centred around its one busy street that has a definite buzz that comes with being compact. Everything is easily within reach by foot but if you are looking for larger beaches then you can follow the road out of the resort which takes you to Vasilikos where there are many vast deserted beaches for you to enjoy.

Zakynthos Town is just a five minute taxi ride away and is worth a trip to see the original sights of Zakynthos or to tour the shops.

Alykes

Alykes is undoubtedly the friendliest resort of Zakynthos located on the north east coast of the island. The name Alykes comes from its famous land mark the salt fields, which originally was the main source of income for the local villagers that worked there. Although no longer in production the salt field remain and the literal translation into Greek is the word Alykes.

Once visited this magical place is never forgotten and is the reason why many visitors return to its charm year after year.

Suitable for all ages, couples, families, groups of friends Alykes has something to offer everyone.

Its main feature is the endless golden sandy beach and shallow warm waters which is ideal for children and is definitely one of the best in Zakynthos. With its village atmosphere and stunning scenery, many bars and tavernas, shops and excursions, it really is the complete holiday experience.

Alykana

The friendly resort of Alykanas is located just one kilometer away from Alykes nestled amongst olive groves and surrounded by lush green scenery. The resort is slightly larger than its neighbour Alykes and has many restaurants, tavernas serving local cuisine, bars and souvenir shops.

The beach is a continuation of the coastline from Alykes with its golden sand and clear blue sea; also there are watersports for the more adventurous tourist.

A blend of traditional Greek character and modern amenities make Alykanas an ideal retreat for families and couples looking to unwind by day and enjoy some spirited evenings in a resort where you can gain a real insight into the local way of life.

On the outskirts is the original picturesque village now known as Old Alykanas, scattered with local tavernas serving inviting international cuisine and delicious Greek dishes. A few cafes and eateries lace the soft sandy beach where you can view the shimmering sunsets sinking down into the horizon.

Vasilikos

The Vasilikos peninsula, on the south east coast of the island is reached by a very winding and dramatically scenic drive. The surrounding countryside is just waiting to be explored.

This area deep in the south consists of little settlements and boasts some of the most wonderful sandy beaches on the island, St Nicholas Beach, gently shelving to the sea is a very picturesque setting and is reputed to have the best scuba diving on the island.

Watersports are widely available overall, this is a perfect holiday spot for families and couples alike.

The resort is spread out among winding roads, olive groves and local farms. There are some excellent tavernas selling local delicacies, a few mini markets and bars.

Vassilikos is very popular with visitors from surrounding areas and with its beautiful coves and turquoise sea, it's not hard to see why

Keri Lake



Located on the Southern Western coast of the island and tucked into the corner of Laganas Bay is the pretty fishing village of Limni Keriou (Keri Lake), the waterfront harbour of the mountain village of Keri.

From the shingle beach there a lovely view across the bay to the Vassilikos peninsula and the golden sands of Gerakas beach. The waterfront is dotted with tavernas, shops and bars. The small harbour shelters local fishing boats and day trip boats that offer trips to the stunning Keri Caves and the little island of Marathonisi (Turtle Island).

A stroll down the side streets takes you past accommodation and houses scattered amongst the olive groves. A short drive up into the mountain brings you to Keri, a quaint old village that still has some Venetian buildings that survived the 1953 earthquake.

Quiet and peaceful Keri is the perfect retreat for a relaxing holiday

Amboula

Located between the resorts of Amoudi and Tsilivi is one of the most captivating scenic spots on the North East coast of the island, Amboula - Psarou.

The village is uncommercialised and therefore still traditionally Greek, you will not find a more idyllic spot anywhere on the island. A quiet and peaceful haven located with magnificent views over the Ionian Sea, where on a clear day you can see out to the island of Kefalonia.

The sandy beach with clear blue sea is the perfect spot for sunbathing and relaxing during the day or you can take a stroll through the unspoilt countryside and experience the natural beauty, flowers and wildlife of the area.

The locals are warm and friendly and there are many typically Greek tavernas offering local, home cooked, traditional Zakynthian dishes.

Volimes

The district of Skinari is located on the North coast of Zakynthos and contains several villages including the traditional mountain village of Volimes. The area is also home to the port of St Nikolas, the natural health spa Xigia, Makro Gialos, Mikronisi, The stunning Blue Caves and the most famous landmark of Zakynthos the Shipwreck cove.

Volimes is completely unspoilt and it feels as though you are stepping back in time. The locals are well known for their market that sells traditional handmade products including, rugs and lace and also homemade cheese, wine and natural honey from their own hives.

The scenery is breathtaking with spectacular pine clad mountains and panoramic views over the Ionian Sea it really is a photographers paradise.

From the port of St Nikolas you can take a ferry boat to the neighbouring island of Kefalonia or a trip to the Blue Caves and Shipwreck.

Agios Sostis

Agios Sostis is situated between Laganas and Keri and the sandy beach is named after the small island that you can see from the coast.

The small island of Aghios Sostis is extremely beautiful on account of its peculiar stone, its little coves and its pine trees. Up until a few centuries ago it was connected to the Zakynthos, but was separated from it in the 1633 earthquake. It is named after the church of Saint Sostis that stood here in the sixteenth century.

Lithakia village is 12km from the main town and is a large village in the lower slopes of Megalo Vouno (big mountain). The fertile plain of Laganas and the bay close by have led to Lithakia being one of the richest fertile areas of Zakynthos.

Both Aghios Sosti and Lithakia are beautiful unspoilt traditional villages that give an insight into the Greek way of life.

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Museums

The two best known museums are the Zakynthos Museum of Byzantine & Post-Byzantine Art and the Solomos & Kalvos Museum, both of which are located in Zante town, the capital of the island. The Byzantine Museum has many interesting exhibits but is best known for the hagiographies by prominent Zakynthians, as well as exhibits ranging from the 12th - 18th Centuries.

The Solomos & Kalvos Museum features the personal artefacts of famous Zakynthians. Another museum of interest is the museum of Grigorios Xenopoulos a famous playwright, and journalist; the museum houses many of his personal items, manuscripts and furniture.

On the outskirts of Zante Town, in Bohali, is the Naval Museum reputed to have the best collection of Byzantine vessels worldwide.

The Vertzagio Folk museum in the charming village of Pigadakia is a reconstruction of a traditional Zakynthian house furnished and decorated with elegant and original pieces.

The new Museum of Zakynthos

The New Museum, with artwork in the Byzantine and post- Byzantine style, can be found at Solomou Square.

These famous works of art enjoyed an exhibition in September 1999 in New York/USA.

Museum Solomos & Kalvos



The Museum Solomos and Kalvos contain the skeletons of the national poets Dionysios Solomos and Andreas Kalvos in its mausoleum.

Further on you can find in the basement, the Solomos room; the Romas room; the Nicholas and Kolyva room containing important manuscripts of Dionysios Solomos; and also the room of eminent Zakynthians together with a rich collection of portraits of them. Also there is a well-stocked library,

period furniture, a folk and archaeological collection and a large number of photos. The museum was rebuilt in 1957 and is in operation since 1967 and is located at St. Markus Square

Zakynthos Museum of Byzantine and Post - Byzantine Art



The Museum of Byzantine and Post - Byzantine art is located in the capital, Zante Town, on Solomos square. The museum was founded after the earthquake of 1953 and it has a rich collection of ecclesiastical works, hagiographies from the Byzantine age, wooden carvings from the 16th Century as well as frescos and wall paintings ranging from the 12th Century through to the 18th Century.

Of particular interest are the hagiographies by Zakynthian artists Damaskinos, Doxaras, Kandounis, Koutouzis and Tzanes. The museum is open daily, except Mondays and the opening times are from 8am to 3pm.

Xenopoulos Museum of Zakynthos - Holidays in Zante Island

The museum dedicated to Grigorios Xenopoulos, a Greek novelist and play writer who lived from 1867 - 1951.

The museum is near to the Church of Agios Dionysios, in the capital Zante town and houses a collection of manuscripts and personal artefacts of the Xenopoulos

Vertzagio Museum of Zakynthos



A visit to the cultural museum and you will instantly be transported back in time. to over 200 years of Zakynthian History.

The museum situated in the peaceful village of Pigadakia is set amongst the beautiful green countryside. Here you will view how the Greeks used to live years before.

Inside the museum itself you will see a traditional bedroom, lounge, dining room with original furniture and decoration of the

period. Also there is a chance to see a traditional kitchen with all the original utensils and stone oven along with lots of other things associated with a green family its old money, newspapers clothes, linen etc.

Outside of the museum is the original horse-drawn agricultural machinery that was used to grind wheat in to flour, press grapes into wine and also to process olives into olive oil. Here you can purchase traditional gifts and sample

local farm produce.

A visit to this museum is a must as it is full os fascinating features associated with Greek History. You can visit the mseum bu the local "**Trainaki**" (**Village Train**) which departs twice a day from Alykes & Alykanas or if you fancy a stroll by foot. It is around 2 klm from Alykes

Naval Museum of Zakynthos



The Naval Museum is located just outside of Zante Town, on Strani Hill in Bohali.

It claims have the best collection of Byzantine vessels in the world. It covers all aspects of naval history from 1700 to the present day and has an excellent collection of costumes from the Greek civil war, and the first and second world war

Chelmis Museum of Natural History



The Chelmis Museum of Natural History is located in Agia Marina, a beautiful village at the centre of Zakynthos, with an amazing view of Zakynthos town and of Laganas Bay. It houses noteworthy collections with more than 500 specimens from the natural world, such as birds, fish, shellfish from the seven seas of the world, plants, and animals that have become extinct, stones, and minerals.

Ecclesiastical Museum

On the raised ground floor of the new wing, which was inaugurated on November 12, 2000, the new Museum and Sacristy of the Holy Monastery of Strofades and Agios Dionysios. The Museum, a site of culture and historical memory, consists of icons and other treasures of Christian art, which mainly come from the Monastery of Strofades.

Romas Mansion



A home, a family, a history of four centuries linked to Zakynthos, the Ionian Islands, and Greece. It opened its doors to visitors in order for the elders to remember and for the young to learn the size of the gap left behind by the destructive earthquake of 1953. The visitor will have the opportunity to see firsthand, and not through historical narration, and thus to understand better the last remains of a society and an era that had contributed so much to the formation – at various levels – of modern Hellenism, which unfortunately is no longer present.

Museum of Grigorios Xenopoulos



The Museum of the well-known Greek writer Grigorios Xenopoulos (1867-1951) is situated at the district of Faneromeni in the town of Zakynthos.

The Museum contains manuscripts, publications of his work and personal belongings of the writer as well as period furniture from Xenopoulos' family house.

Location: Gaita Street, town of Zakynthos

Town Hall Library



The town hall library is located in a big building in Solomos square. Its story goes back to 1628 and before being destroyed by the earthquake and the fire; it kept unique papers and books of poets of the past. Thanks to the donation of some people of Zakynthos who gave to the library books from their personal and private collection, it was possible to rebuilt the past and give it back to people at their disposal. In the library it is possible to find rare books concerning the history and tradition of Zakynthos, treaties of famous writers, copies of old newspapers and memories concerning the second world war in addition to the pictures of Zakynthos before the calamity happened in 1953.

Exhibition centre of National Marine Park



The Thematic Exhibition Center of the loggerhead sea turtle *Caretta-Caretta* is located in Dafni which is in the municipal department of Vasilikos. The landscaped area of the thematic centre, the exhibition, and information material, the use of multimedia and memorabilia given, gives visitors occasion for information and awareness on loggerhead sea turtles and its nesting beaches of Zakynthos.



Its role is not restricted to the study and promotion of *Caretta - caretta*, but extends to the acquaintance with other priority species and endemic species of flora and fauna, found in Zakynthos, linked to the tradition and history of the island.

The construction of the Thematic Exhibition Center has been funded by the European Regional Development Fund and from national resources.

Churches and Monasteries

St. Dionysios Church



This church, the biggest in the city, is dedicated to the protector of the island and it is located along the seashore of Zakynthos.

It was built in 1948 and it resisted the earthquake in 1953, now its bell tower is very high and stands out among the different buildings recognizable as soon as you enter the port.

Even if it hasn't got any particular exterior characteristics, when entering you are impressed by the quantity of frescos, lamp holders and colours.

Among the artists that contributed to the magnificence of this church there are the painter Doxaras and the chaser Bafas who engraved the silver reliquary in where there are the mortal remains of Saint Dionysios.

The bell tower, being surrounded by numerous bulbs, during the night it is enlightened creating a lovely view

St. Nicholas of the Mole



This church located in Solomos square is the only building in Venetian style that survived the earthquake in 1953 and has been restored keeping its original characteristics.

Originally the church had been built on an island connected to the mainland by a bridge, then the island joined the city.

For many centuries the church belonged to the Sailors Corporation.

Dated back to the 17th Century it is the most ancient building in Solomos square and it was built in renaissance style with the exception of the bell tower that is more Byzantine.

Inside there are the liturgical ornaments of Saint Dionysios, the island protector, that for a period in his life gave his services to this church.

St. Markos Church



Very small it is the only catholic church of the island. Next to the Museum of Solomos and Kalvos, it looks like a single building since built with the same style.

St. Nicholas Kiliomenou Church



As soon as you reach Kiliomeno the majesty of the bell tower strikes the visitor. The church and the bell tower are separated by a street and look like two different buildings even in the exterior aspect.

The bell tower with a squared base has four floors and at the third it is possible to admire two arches and at the last, with a hexagonal base,

numerous decorations in relief.

St. Mavra Church



Located in the centre of Macherado, it is very peculiar both inside and outside.

In addition to the many frescos there is an icon representing the saint to whom the church has been dedicated; according to the legend the icon is dated back to the third century a.c. and comes from Egypt where Saint Mavra lived and underwent martyrdom

Virgin Keriotissa Church



In the small mountain village of Keri, south of the island, there is a very big church surrounded by a park. It is easy to be found since from the huge bell tower, the bell dongs are heard all over the town and stress the passing of the hours in a village where the time seemed to

have stopped a century ago.

Church on the sea



In this very religious island you can find churches everywhere, even at sea...

Once in Agios Nikolaos, beach in the south part of the island (pay attention there is another town with the same name in the northern part) on your left you'll notice a thong of land on which lies a small white church.

The church has neither name nor other information and it is not possible to enter.

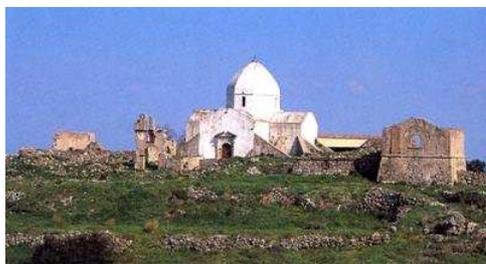
St. Elipos Church



Along the road from Zakynthos to Kalamaki you may find, among the olive trees on the left, a small church raised up the hill; the small white and light blue bell tower with two small bells and a cross on the top plus a small part of the main body is what remains of the original church.

It looks like a whole with the rock and this renders it unique and to be visited

Virgin Skopiotissas monastery



At the top of the Skopos mount, at the back of the town of Argasi, there is a small monastery castled build in honour of the Holy Mother in the 15th Century.

From this monastery, surrounded by nature, it is possible to view the entire island, an Unforgettable landscape that the Venetians appreciated and to which they gave the name of Belvedere. It was built on the ruins of the ancient temple of Artemis in Byzantine style; the cross plant and the interiors rich of frescos render the church very characteristic

Spilotissas monastery



North of the island in a small village of the outback, Orthonies, it is possible to visit the monastery of the Holy Mother of the cave (Spilotissa) that was built in the 16th Century.

This monastery looks like if it has been built at the edge of a gully and it is surrounded by greenness and the landscape is rich in vegetation.

In this moment is possible only to look at it

externally because the inside is not accessible

Yperagathou monastery



To reach this monastery you have to pass the town of Kiliomeno and take a side road on the right. The road to be run is long but in the green with flowered fields on both sides.

Once there you reach a small monastery founded in the 17th Century and dedicated to the Holy Mother. Not much remains of the splendour of the past but the feeling of peace here is complete

St. George Krimnon monastery



In the town of Anafonitria besides the Monastery of the Holy Mother there is the one of St. George Krimnon built on a promontory from where you can look at the sea. Entering the courtyard of the monastery it is possible to admire on the left the abodes of the resident inhabitants of the monastery, in the middle the tower and on the right a small church.

We do not know when the church was built, but it was destroyed by pirates in 1553 and

then rebuilt in Venetian style.

The circular tower was built to defend the monastery from assaults.

Virgin Anafonitria monastery



Located in the greenness it is a stop for many tourists.

The medieval tower of the 15th Century that you can see immediately at the entrance is very interesting.

The tower, in part destroyed, has at the top four arches and a cross and it is used as bell tower whereas in the past had been built as a defense.

Inside the church there is an icon of the Virgin

dated back to the 15th Century and it is of high value, coming from Constantinople; there are many frescos on the walls too.

Here St. Dionysios took refuge and lived as a monk

Elefheotria monastery



As soon as you leave Macherado, going north you reach on the left the monastery of the Liberator Holy Mother (Eleftherotria).

From outside it looks more like being in a castle than in a monastery and the towers battlements are very

characteristic so as the white and red of the windows and the arches of which the building consists.

The view from the monastery is toward the plain of Zakynthos and you are charmed by the rich vegetation.

St. John Baptist monastery



In the past this post Byzantine monastery, located on the mountain north of Alykes, in the past has been used for its position has a rest area for the pilgrims even though the masterpieces that are there are of great value.

It is possible to see the icons of the famous painters Poulakis and Bafas and precious wood faldstools. The complex includes a simple abbey, a two floors building and a tower with circular base, built in the past as a defense

Monuments



There are many monuments to remember distinguished personalities of the past born or who lived in Zakynthos.

The past has to be remembered and the people of Zakynthos display, especially in the big square of Solomos, many statues and busts



Among those there is the statue of the national poet Dionysios Solomos at which base it is engraved a line of his poem “Hymn to Freedom”; the statue, representing the Glory to which the national poet is addressing his poems, is flanked at both sides by two cannons and the that remembers the writings of another poet



very much loved by the people of Zakynthos, Kalvos.

To remember Ugo Foscolo, famous Italian poet born in Zante in 1778, there is a bust in It is also possible to see, in the street to him dedicated, the cenotaph of Foscolo with the statue of the “Weeping Angel”

Then on the Strani Hill at the back of the city there is another bust of Solomos and it is said that the poet used to find peace here and that the incomparable view inspired his compositions. It is also possible to admire the commemorative stele of the patriotic secret society “Filiki Eteria” that fought to free Greece from the foreign domination

Historical Sites

Venetian Castle



Another building proving the remarkable influence of the Venetians on this island it is the castle located in Bochali at the back of the city of Zakynthos.

Almost nothing remains of the ancient building, only the walls but it is worth visiting the ruins that are in the greenness of a grove and from where it is possible to admire from the top the entire chief town of the island.

In the past where now there are the ruins of the castle there was the medieval town of Zakynthos which consisted in many houses and twelve churches of which after the many earthquakes and wars nothing remains. In 1970 the walls were consolidated since, after the numerous earthquake, they risked to fall down and in 1984 thanks to the diggings many churches dated back to the 11th and 18th Century and other ruins that go back to the Byzantine period and the English occupation came back to light.

Castle of Zakynthos



If you want to delve into the history of Zante then the **Castle of Zakynthos** is a place worth a watch. This Venetian Castle located on the Bochali hill was built in 1480 upon the ancient ruins of an acropolis. Bochali the highest point of Zante Town gives a marvelous view of the harbor. In summers you can sit up with an ice-cream to enjoy the view and later on local dishes, cheeses, cold meat cuts and semi-dry wine (mastelado) in dinner to complete Venetian feel. Once you are engulfed by its beauty everything seems different In Zante. You may just fall in love with the musical stories of tavernas and feel intoxication at the historic wineries. The world seems

endless on a Zante holiday with so much for every one of us to explore

Kabi Cross

A cement cross of such dimensions to be spotted even at kilometers of distance from the town where it is located, Kabi.

The cross strikes for its dimensions but it represents and remembers those who passed away in the civil war. It is impossible to forget them with a symbol that is visible from the sea even though located on a promontory more than three hundred and fifty metres from the sea level.

Venetian tower



In order to see the small Venetian Tower you have to reach the town of Exo Chora, North of the island, and then go from the town centre to a road on the left to drive for some kilometers. Up to a certain point the road isn't asphalted anymore and you have to carry on to the promontory where the scout tower is.

The tower is of small dimensions and it is more or less very well preserved. In the past it was used to spot the enemy coming from the sea.

The position is perfect since from here it is possible to view the larger part of the western coast of the island.

After the tower the road carries on but we suggest not to drive down it since in very bad conditions and without exit

Argasi Bridge



In Argasi, a town close to Zakynthos, it is possible to see a bridge dated 1800 that it half lays on the sand and half in the sea. It is uncommon to admire such a ruin of the past a few kilometres from huge hotels areas even this is unique in Greece.

Sarakina House



Close to the town of Mouzaki, it is possible to visit the ruins of an English Villa that resisted the earthquake in 1953. The Villa, named Sarakina, belonged to the Lunzi's family and it is a typical example of refined house, built in neo-classic style, typical of Zakynthos houses before the catastrophe. Only the facade of two floors with the main entrance and seven windows at the first floor remained intact.

In this moment is possible only to look at it externally because the inside is not accessible

Vrysakia aqueduct



The area around the town of Argasi presents some remains of ancient buildings such as the bridge on the beach, the ruins of a church and the remains of an aqueduct used in the past to supply water the entire area.

This magnificent bridge is 15m high and has a series of archways bearing the pipes which brought water to the main town. It was constructed during the period of British rule and legend has it that Kolokotronis, who lived on

Zakynthos 15 years before the 1821 war of independence, was very fond of this place and used to ride his horse over the bridge

Zakynthos Parks

National Maritime Park – Thematic Centre for the Sea Turtle



In order to inform visitors fully about the Caretta – Caretta and all the significant ecosystems of the Bay of Laganas, in the area of Dafni Vasilikou there is a special. Exhibit Center devoted to the sea turtle, where, with the use of multimedia and guided tours by specialized tour guides, children and adults “travel” to the world of the National Maritime Park of Zakynthos.

Askos Stone Park



The only one of its kind in Greece, a natural park for the exploration of flora and fauna. This is a park of 500,000 square meters where all the flora and fauna of the island are gathered, as well as trees and animals from other parts of the world (for example deer, raccoons, llamas, ponies, and chinchillas). The areas of the park have become protected and are now a unique ecological reserve for the island. Approximately 200,000 trees, plants, and shrubs belonging to 120 different species, approximately 1,500 animals (45 different species), kilometres of traditional stone structures, cobblestone paths, and various stone and woodwork compositions in complete harmony with the natural environment.

The largest flag in the world



At the southwest edge of the island, very near the lighthouse of Keri and above the Myzithres islets, a flagpole 50 meters high has been built, on which the largest raised flag in the world waves; it was certified for the Guinness Book of World Records on May 20, 2007. Visible from 20 miles away, 670 square meters of the blue and white Greek flag are waving with the blue sky, the green landscape of Keri, and the calm and sometimes troubled Ionian Sea in the

background. With the sound created by this huge fabric in the wind causing awe, by itself it constitutes one more reason to visit western Zakynthos

Zakynthos Beaches

The island of Zante is well known for its beaches. There are plenty of beaches (more than 36) to appeal to everyone: from unspoilt beaches, to beaches with water sports, secluded beaches - the list is endless. Many of the beaches in the south of the island (such as Gerakas & Sekania) are also breeding grounds of the endangered Caretta Caretta turtles, which lay their eggs in the soft sand and the baby turtles hatch about 8 weeks later.

Zante is definitely a beach lover's paradise, with such a wide variety of beaches on offer!

Tsilivi Beach



Tsilivi beach is fairly large, wide and long with soft sand that gently shelves into the sea. It is ideal for children as the water is shallow and they can splash and play in safety. It has very clean waters and the beach as a whole is exceptional. This has been recognized as it has been awarded the prestigious international Blue Flag award - only given to a select few beaches that manage to meet many strict criteria. Water sports are available on

this beach, such as pedaloes, paragliding, Jet Skis, windsurfing etc, as well as sunbeds and parasols. Although it is popular it does not feel overcrowded.

Refreshments are available at this beach and the centre of the resort is nearby with a wide selection of shops, supermarkets, bars and restaurants.

The beach is easily accessible from anywhere on the island, as it is well signposted and parking is plentiful

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 6km/ 10 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 12km /20 min

Alykes Beach



Alykes (Alikes) is one of the best beaches in the north of Zante, being a long stretch of soft golden sand. It is an ideal family beach as the sand gently shelves into the water making it safe for young children and swimmers of any level.

There are sunbeds and umbrellas to hire and a good range of beach bars, restaurants and tavernas. The friendly resort of Alykes is just behind the beach, which means all the resort's amenities are within easy reach - such as shops, supermarkets, etc, as well as plenty of parking spaces. This is a great beach to spend all day at and the cool off shore breezes make sunbathing a pleasure while also making it a good area for windsurfing. Water sports are available here as well as boat trips to the Blue Caves and the Shipwreck.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 17km / 23 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 22km / 35 min

Amboula Beach



Amboula beach is an uncrowded, quiet sandy beach. Sunbeds and umbrellas are available to hire and there is a taverna and a beach bar at either end of the beach.

Beach shoes are advised as there are pebbles at the water's edge - the sea is an inviting crystal blue colour and calm making it ideal for swimming.

The beach has a friendly atmosphere as well as offering picturesque views over the Ionian Sea and across to the neighboring island of Cephalonia. This beach is easily accessible as it is located along the coastal road between Tsilivi and Alykes.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 16km / 20 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 22km / 30 min

Argassi Beach



Argassi beach is a lovely sandy beach, perfect for children and families and although it is fairly narrow it does stretch for over one kilometer so it never feels too crowded. It is in the south- east of the island and there are many coves near this beach - great for exploring. A wide range of water sports are available, ideal for a fun and memorable experience. The resort of Argassi has developed around the beach and although now it is one of the

most popular resorts on the island it is compact so all amenities are within easy reach of the beach. Argassi beach is easily accessible and parking is available nearby.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 3km / 5 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 8km / 15 min

Dafni Beach



Dafni beach is located in the south of Zante, in the area of Vassilikos.

The beaches in this area belong to the Zakynthos Marine Park, which protects the wildlife in the vicinity. This beach is long, wide and sandy, breathtakingly beautiful, with splendid views across the gulf of Laganas. The famous and unfortunately endangered Caretta Caretta turtles nest their eggs here, which is why the beach is

protected and at times some parts are off limits to the public in order to protect the turtle's nests (which are also caged to prevent damage). No visitors are allowed on this beach at night.

There are a couple of tavernas on this beach but no water sports are available so as not to disturb the habitat of the turtles. This beach has a special designated parking area, as no cars are allowed directly on the beach. A free mini bus service takes visitors to the entry point of the beach - where there is also a barrier to prevent cars.

A beautiful uncrowded beach, well worth visiting.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 18km/ 30 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 25km/35 min

Shipwreck Beach



Navagio beach, also known as Shipwreck and Smugglers Cove, is the best known sight on Zante and one of the most famous beaches in

Greece. It is also one of the most photographed beaches in the world and has been featured in many holiday brochures and travel books. This beach is a must see on any holiday to Zante.

It is only accessible by boat, as it is surrounded by cliffs and driving or walking to the beach is not possible. However there is a viewing platform where the beach can be viewed from above and is very impressive, the platform is near the village of Anafonitria and is well signposted. Boats to the shipwreck run from many parts on the island, Zante town, Alykes, Agios Nikolaos, Skinari to name just a few.

The story of the shipwreck is that in 1983 a boat that was trying to smuggle cigarettes and alcohol illegally into Greece, was tracked by the Greek Navy and due to poor weather it hit rocks which led to it being washed up on the beach. The shipwreck lies in the middle of a breathtaking bay, dominated by white limestone cliffs and surrounded by turquoise water - the colour of the water has to be seen to be believed.

During the boat trips, passengers are allowed to spend around an hour at the Shipwreck.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 30km/ 45 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 30km/ 45 min

Porto Zoro Beach



Porto Zoro is a lovely beach in the south of Zante, unspoiled, tranquil, and sandy. It is known for the interesting rocks just out to sea, which are the shape of mushrooms and lend a sight of interest to the beach.

There are plenty of sunbeds and umbrellas, it is easily accessible and has parking space available nearby.

Located in one of the most picturesque areas of Zante, rich with lush green vegetation and the deep blue hue of the sea, any nature lover will thoroughly enjoy a day at this beach.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 15km/ 20 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 20km/ 30 min

Keri Lake beach



Keri Lake is the beach in the area of Keri and is so called Keri Lake after a lake that used to be here, but has long since dried up.

Keri Lake is a small beach lined by bars, cafes and tavernas - all offering good quality refreshments, fresh fish and traditional Zakynthian delicacies. There is a diving school at Keri Lake which is popular with many visitors; also

snorkeling in this area is fantastic.

Boats are available to rent from here to visit the nearby Blue Caves as well as the island of Marathonisi (also known as Turtle Island) which has lovely beaches as well as providing the chance of catching a glimpse of the magnificent Caretta Caretta turtles.

This beach is easily accessible being well signposted and there is parking available on the road behind the beach as well as near the little harbour.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 21km/ 30 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 16km/ 25 min

Amoudi Beach



The beach at Amoudi is sandy being a continuation of the wider known beaches of Alykes and Alykanas and has crystal clear waters superb for a refreshing swim. This is also a great place for snorkeling with a wide variety of fish to see. This beach is ideal for a tranquil and relaxing day as it is not as busy as some of the other beaches in the area and has a sense of serenity. The area of Amoudi remains traditional and unspoiled and there are a handful of tavernas, bars and accommodation in the area

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 16km/ 20 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 20km/ 30 min

Gerakas Beach



Gerakas is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful beaches on Zakynthos. It is a long sandy beach and is a nesting place for the Caretta Caretta turtles. Like other beaches on the south coast of the island it belongs to the National Marine Park which works hard to protect the wildlife in the area. No water sports or beach bars are available in order to keep noise and disruption to the turtles to a minimum; this has also helped maintain the beauty and serenity of this splendid beach. It is also forbidden to stick umbrellas in the sand because of turtle nests in certain parts of the beach.

Just a short walk from the beach are several snack bars and restaurants, but visitors would be advised to take a bottle of water.

This beach is well signposted, easy to drive to and once you arrive there has a designated parking area.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 18km/ 35 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 23km/ 25 min

Banana Beach



Banana beach has the distinction of being the longest beach on the island and is popular with locals and tourists alike. The water here is shallow and crystal clear.

There are well organized beach bars offering snacks and refreshments as well as sunbeds and umbrellas available.

This beach is a sun - trap and rarely has sea breezes so it can get hot, ideal for those who love sunbathing. It is easy to reach, as there are many signs on the road to help you out and there is plenty of parking space in the area.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 15km/25 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 20km/ 35 min

Porto Vromi beach



Porto Vromi is a splendid beach in the north of Zante. Picturesque, with soft white sand and crystal clear waters set in a bay sheltered by limestone cliffs which have made a natural harbour for small ships to moor.

Boats and pedaloes are available to rent from this beach and also boat trips run from here to the Blue Caves and the Shipwreck, with the trip taking half an hour.

Families with small children should supervise them carefully as the water is deep. There is a small canteen for snacks and refreshments.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 35km /60 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 38km/ 65 min

Xigia Beach



Xigia beach is a picturesque pebbly beach that is unique on the island due to the water having high sulphur content, giving the beach a distinctive sulphuric aroma.

The sulphur comes from a nearby cave and this beach is a great place for anyone with aches, pains and arthritis to bathe as the sulphur in the water helps ailments.

It is also reputed to be good for skin problems and helps remove cellulite. This

beach is easily accessible by car and parking is available nearby.

There are a handful of good tavernas in the vicinity although there are no facilities actually on the small beach, so make sure you take water and other necessities with you.

Distance from Zante Town (Port): 23km/ 40 min

Distance from Zante Airport: 28km/ 45 min

Kryoneri Beach



Kryoneri beach is the closest to the island's capital, Zante Town.

It is easy to walk or drive to, and there is designated parking space for visitors to the beach. Just 1 km north of this pebbly beach is popular with locals who live in the capital and feel like a quick dip in the sea.

Nearby is the yachting club, tennis courts and children's playground as well as

some kiosks to buy refreshments. Although it is not one of the best beaches on the island, anyone staying in Zante town who just wants to listen to the sound of the sea and have a short visit to the beach will find this beach a handy place to visit.

The water is calm and safe for children to swim and therefore this beach is suitable for families

Time from Zante Town: 5 minutes

Distance from Zante Town: 1 km

It worth the visit!

Marathonisi Island



Marathonisi is a small uninhabited island, just off the coast of Laganas bay.

The island's shape resembles a turtle and it is also a nesting area for the Caretta Caretta turtles which is why it is affectionately known as Turtle Island.

There are two main beaches on Marathonisi, one is where the turtles lay their eggs in the soft golden sand and the other beach is pebbly with two coves nearby which are fun to

discover and explore. Marathonisi can be reached from either Laganas beach or Keri Lake by hiring a boat.

It is a lovely place to visit for a tranquil day of swimming and sunbathing. There are no facilities on this beach, so it is preferable to have water and anything else you might need during your swim.

Marathonisi Island is part of the National Marine Park!

Strofades islet



Strofades is a complex of two small rocky islands at a distance of 25 nautical miles southern to Cape Keri of Zakynthos and some 45 nautical miles far from Katakolo at the opposite coast of the Peloponnese. The islands, isolated in the open sea, appear suddenly, like emerging from the waves. Both of them are flat and very low, no place on them is higher than 11 meters. According to the ancient author Apollonius the Rodian; it is because of this

landscape that they were called "Plotai Nissoi" ("floating islands"). Today, their names are Stamfani (the bigger one) and Arpeia (the smaller one). Virgilius in the *Aenaede* suggests that the islands have been called Strofades (meaning "the island which turn") because of the following myth: "Zetis and Kalais, the sons of Voreas (the northern wind) and Orithia, were after the Harpies, who lived on these islands. When the two men arrived near the islets, they suddenly left the pursuit and "turned back"; the islands got their name as a memory of this event."

A narrow strip of land hardly covered by the seawater links together the two rocks. The old British maps mentioned the place as Strovathi, and the Venetian ones as Stiphali.

In 1241 the Byzantine princess Irini, daughter of the emperor Theodoros the First, Lascaris, established an impressive fortified Monastery, dedicated to Jesus Christ's Transfiguration on the bigger of the islets. Dedicated also to Virgin Mary, the monastery is also known as the Monastery of "Panaghia Pantohara" (Virgin Mary, the joy of everyone). It is this Monastery that Aghios Dionyssios, the protector saint of the island lived as a monk for several years.

The complex of the buildings is really impressive. In fact the monastery is strongly fortified, to avoid the pirates invasions, very common in the past; Strofades have always been an ideal shelter for the pirates in cases of bad weather. The walls of the Monastery, 25 meters high, were really a good protection for those invasions and an impressing spectacle for the visitors of today. Stamfani has also an old lighthouse, constructed in 1887, one of the older lighthouses of Greece.

Until the earthquake of 1886, Stamfani had also a water spring, with potable water. The water seemed to come from the opposite land, the Peloponnese, as it was shown by the plane leaves emerging along with the water.

A few monks and two or three lighthouse-keepers were the residents of the islets before the World War II. After the war the lighthouse became automatic and no monks live here anymore. Thus, the islets are uninhabited today. Only tourists are visiting them in summer.

Access to the islets is possible by excursion boats in summer. The boats depart from the port of the town of Zakynthos. Of course, if you have a yacht, private or rented, you may visit the islets any time of the year

Agios Sostis Island



The small island of Agios Sostis is in the cove of Laganas. It was named after the church of Agios Sostis. The island was connected to Zakynthos until 1663, when an earthquake separated them. Today the island can be reached through a small bridge. The island of Agios Sostis is extremely beautiful with dense vegetation and caves that impress every visitor

Island Peluzo

Islet of Peluzo is situated within the Laganas Bay, 2 nautical miles far from the opposite beach of Dafni. The sea is wonderful with crystal clear water and the sand of the beach is so fine and white that you think it is flour. You will not find any other traces of human presence on the island, apart from an old ruined building. But you will come across turtles and several kinds of fish.

The islet is rocky and there is a small cute cave at the southwestern coast.

Everything here is perfect then. Everything? Unfortunately not, because you will face two major problems. Firstly you cannot access the islet by boat, as it is found within the area of protection of sea turtles and navigation is not allowed. Secondly, for the same reason, staying on the islet after sunset is forbidden.

Blue Caves



On the northern part of the island is Cape Schinari, and to the east of the cape are the Blue Caves in the region of White rock, a series of geological formations that have created a unique seascape. Apart from the natural arches that have been carved out by erosion, these caves are famous for the colour of the water in its deepest hollows, a deep azure colour which is most striking in the morning when the light is at its brightest. The

biggest of the caves is the Kianoun cave. In order to reach there you can hire a boat which sails from the port of the town or the port of St. Nicholas in Volimes.

Smugglers Cove - Navagio



Smugglers cove gets its name from the shipwreck that lies in between the dominating cliffs. When you hear Smugglers Cove the first thing that springs to mind is of smugglers of a bygone age but in actual fact the shipwreck is only ship full of illegal cigarettes that lost its engines and was washed ashore in 1983.

Keri Caves



Keri Caves are located on the south west coast of Zante in the peninsula of Keri.

These caves are characterised by high arches eroded from the limestone cliffs. The colour of the water here is a vivid azure blue, due to the reflection of the sun on the white pebble ground below the water.

Many organised boat trips visit these stunning caves, and the smaller boats are able to sail through the high arches.

Snorkelling and diving is very popular here, there are many secret passages between the caves and these go deep into the mountains. There are many caves, cracks and tunnels to swim in.

Keri Caves are also the habitat for rare Mediterranean monk seals which are an endangered species.

At the end of the Keri Caves, there are two large rock formations in the sea called Myzithres.

Zakynthos Wine

Zakynthos' wines are famous for their great aroma and taste!

Wine is widely produced in Zakynthos by many local producers like Komoutos, Solomos, Verdea, Voulitsos, Alitzeroinos and the Co-op of Zakynthos wine producers. Favourite varieties include goustolidi, skiadopoulo, pavlos, asproudi, areti, katsakoulias, agiomavritioko, violento, robola and avgoustiatis to name a few

The most well-known producer on Zakynthos is the noble Komoutos family, who have been making wine there since 1638. Their Verdea is made with most of these varieties with Pinot Gris. The Verdéa of Theodoros Voultos (marketed under the Kalliniko label) contains Goustolidi, Skiadopoulo, Robola and Pávlos. The local Zakynthos cooperative uses only Pávlos and Skiadó poulo in its version

Callinico Wines



Traditional Wine Factory – Museum. On the beautiful Ionian Island of Zakynthos, in the central village of Kalipado, lies the Callinico Winery belonging to the Voultos family. If you look around the local area you will see many vineyards that belong to the family or its cooperative producers. In Zakynthos there are 19.000 square meters of vineyards in which grow more than 110 different varieties of grapes. Of these grape varieties, 25 of them are used to produce 80% of the wine produced here. Varieties such as Gustulidi, Pavlos Skiadopoulos etc are used for the production of white wine. Augustiatis, Black Rombola, and Katsakulias are used for the red wine. The

typical wine of Zakynthos is Verdea. The production of Verdea began around 1800. Verdea is white table wine that is produced from different varieties of grapes. The wine has historical importance in Zakynthos and its name comes from the Italian word ' Verde ' meaning green. The grapes used were yellow - green and unripe - but the alcohol they produced was strong. The wine was amber in colour and had a spicy taste.

Komoutos Wine Estate



The most well-known producer on Zakynthos is the Komoutos family, who has been making wine there since 1638. Their Verdea is made from the local variety Goustolidi, often with some combination of Robola, Skiadopoulo, Pavlos, Asproudi or Areti. The Verdea of Theodoros Voultos (marketed under the Kalliniko label) contains Goustolidi, Skiadopoulo, Robola and Pavlos. The local

Zakynthos Co-operative uses only Pavlos and Skiadopoulo in its version.

Zante- food challenge paradise!

Zakynthian cuisine



The traditional Zakynthian cuisine is consistent with the Mediterranean values of local produce (vegetables, fish, meat, cheese, olive oil and wine) and homemade recipes passed down from generation to generation both nationally (from mainland Greece) and locally (distinctive Zakynthian dishes).

What is it that makes the cuisine of the Ionian Islands different from that of any other part of Greece? The answer, naturally, is the local recipes, the historic circumstances of the past, the economic possibilities, and the materials available. The cuisine of the Ionian Islands is mainly in fact Mediterranean, dominated by the use of virgin olive oil, and neutralizes the acidity of tomatoes and lemon with intense garlic and prefers aromatic herbs to hot spices.



A “national” dish could be considered to be Sartsa, that is, beef cooked in a pan with tomatoes, garlic, Ladotyro cheese, and a little oregano.

Another dish that is established in the collection of recipes from Zakynthos is Skordostoupi, which is made with eggplant and large amounts of garlic.

The specialties of Zakynthos also include local



Ladotyri cheese, a spicy cheese made from sheep’s milk, which is preserved in clay pots filled with olive oil, but also local Myzithra cheese, salted or unsalted. The latter, in fact, is eaten with sugar or honey. The homemade bread of Zakynthos is also renowned, as are its sweets, such as mandolato – Zakynthos is considered its

homeland – which is made with egg whites, toasted almonds, sugar or honey, and pasteli, an ancient Greek dessert made of sesame seeds, honey, and almonds.



Cuisine features pure and original dishes and flavors, and has really fascinated each tester. The traditional dishes of the past years are available until today even from the large restaurants in the tourist areas. You may enjoy the exquisite local dishes, in the Taverns together with the local music, kantades and arekies songs, and together with the pure local wine of your preference. The variety of Taverns and Restaurants in Zante is large and apart from the traditional restaurants, there are many choices for International, Italian, Polynesian and Chinese Restaurants.



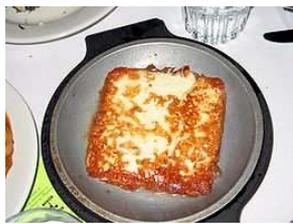
There are numerous family- run tavernas and good quality restaurants, like traditional zakynthian

restaurant Menou Menou, to choose from whether you are a fish lover, a meat-eater or a vegetarian. A general rule for choosing the best place to eat is to always go for traditional meat tavernas in the mountainous villages (where agricultural farming thrives) and fresh fish restaurants when you find yourself by the sea.

Some Traditional Greek food served in Zante



Tzatziki (A mixture of yogurt with finely cut garlic, cucumber, olive oil and a little pepper). Taramosalata (Fish roe blended into a creamy pink dip of pureed potatoes with olive oil, parsley, lemon juice and finely chopped onion)



Saganaki (Melted cheese)

Gyros (beef, lamb, or pork meat that is served on round pita bread with lettuce, tomato, onions, French fries and tzatziki).

Moussaka (Baked lamb and eggplant casserole covered with a thick layer of

béchamel sauce)

Kleftiko (Shoulder of lamb cooked slowly for around 24 hours in a clay oven with lemon juice)

Stifado (Beef or rabbit stew casseroled with wine, vinegar, onions and spices)

Greek Salad (tomatoes, green peppers, black olives, onions, cucumber with a slab of feta cheese on top, dressed with olive oil and oregano.

Zakynthian Beef (with red sauce).

Papoutsakia (stuffed aubergines with mince meat and béchamel).

Koupepia (also known as Dolmades) (Vine leaves stuffed with minced meat and rice seasoned with mint, onions and spices)

Zakynthos Shopping

There are many famous jewellery (jewelry) shops located in every resort of Zante Zakynthos island. There, you can buy gold, silver or watches of almost all famous brand names, in very interesting prices. Also you can stay in fashion with the clothing stores to suit the summer look.

Nightlife

Nightlife in Zakynthos has two different kinds, depending on your preferences. If you wish to pass a quiet evening, Zakynthos Zante Town center and Vassilikos village are the best locations. You can enjoy your dinner under the sounds of Cantada (traditional zakynthian music) in many of the local restaurants. These resorts are full of restaurants, tavernas and cafeterias for those who prefer a relaxing night. If you are fun of crazy entertainment, the suitable resorts are Argassi, Tsilivi, the famous Laganas, Alykes and Kalamaki. These are famous and cosmopolitan tourist centers and during summer are full of crowd. For this reason there are concentrated many bars, clubs and discos. The entertainment is ongoing; the party begins early in the evening and continues (most of times) till sunrise! The music is loud and dancing never stops! Tip: Zakynthos Zante nightlife is crazy and exciting!!!!

Activities

During your holidays in island, you can enjoy yourself with many activities, such as scuba diving, horse riding, sailing, tennis, water sports, climbing, etc

Weddings? Why not in Zakynthos ?

Have you ever dreamed of being able to have a luxury wedding?



Surrounded by the natural environment of beautiful flowers, along with sandy beaches, and most importantly the guaranteed weather makes getting married in Zakynthos (Zante) the perfect solution... Imagine your wedding in private colorful gardens, on the beach with the sea splashing against your feet, on a cliff top with the sun setting in the background, hire your own private little island, exchange vows in front of our tiny picturesque chapel or choose your own venue.



Why not treat yourself to a horse and carriage, surprise your guests with fireworks, have your own private BBQ beach party, have a Greek band and dancers for entertainment, sail off on a cruise liner, walk down the red carpet aisle with a traditional quartet of serenaders.....the list is endless.....the choices are yours! This will be an event that all your family will rave about for many years to come.

How to get

By bus

The national bus company (KTEL), runs a daily coach service with direct connections to the cities of Athens, Patras and Thessaloniki via a short journey on the Zakynthos-Kyllini ferry.

The travel Athens - Kyllini lasts roughly 4 hours and 30 minutes. From Kyllini there is direct correspondence by ferryboat to Zakynthos

The distance is 18 naval miles. The travel lasts roughly 1 hour.

Because the itineraries change often, please contact the ticket offices by phone a few weeks before your travel

By air

All year round flights leave daily from Athens airport at El Venizelos Airport which take approximately 45 minutes. During the tourist season (April to October) there are direct charter connections between Zakynthos and a number of European cities. The Dionysios Solomos Airport, Zakynthos is found in the area of Ampelokipi 3 km from the city. The transportation from / to the airport becomes only with taxi.

Transportation

Zakynthos has a quality network of roads that covers the entire island. There is a public transportation bus service for almost all destinations.

The buses fares are very cheap and are collected in the bus.

The central bus station is situated in the island's capital, Zakynthos, one parallel behind the waterfront (42 Filita Street) and prices, departure times and other information may be found there.

There are buses from Zakynthos Town to:

Argasi - Xerokastelo - Vassilikos - Porto Roma - Tsilivi - Planos - Tragaki - Kipseli - Alikanas - Alikes - Katastari - Orthonies - Anafonitria - Volimes - Exo Hora - Kambi - Agios Leon - Agios Nikolaos - Maherado - Galaro - Gyri - Keri - Agala - Lithakia - Laganas.

The Local transportation also proposes organised tours around the island with stops in the main villages and resorts.