



POINTS OF INTEREST IN KEFALONIA



Here are some of the places we recommend visiting while in Kefalonia. There are also a few ports that will give you access to surrounding islands.





DESCRIPTION OF PLACES AND ACTIVITIES



Agia Efimia

A quiet and quaint picturesque fishing village that is very popular with the yachts that dock at the long harbour and its cafes and bars. There is a walking path from here to Myrtos Beach.



Kefalonia Airport (EFL)

It receives domestic flights from Athens (~45min) all year round and international flights in the summer. The airport is located near Svoronata which is about 15 minutes from Argostoli and our base-camp.



Antisamos Beach

A long white pebbly beach with great scenery, good for swimming and a short walk away from the town of Sami.



Argostoli

There are a few museums and sites of historical interest in the capital Argostoli. It is also the best place on the island for shopping, has a number of cafes, bars, and restaurants.



Assos

A small picturesque village resting on top of the peninsula. Towering above the village are ruins from a Venetian fortress, while the bay is ideal for relaxed swimming.



Drogarati and Melissani Caves

Drogarati is a large limestone cave with a fantastic array of stalactite and stalagmite formations. Melissani is a deep underground lake with boat trips available by local guides.



Fiskardo

A picturesque Venetian waterfront village with a popular marina for sailboats and yachts and many bars and restaurants. It is one of a few places on the island that was not destroyed by the earthquake in 1953. Check out their diving school as well.



Gentilini Winery

This winery has been open since 1984 and makes 6 different wines from their 10 hectares of certified organic vines.



HMS Perseus Submarine

Depth 34-52 m. Built in 1929 and lost in 1941 during the Second World War to an Italian mine. Almost intact and perfectly upright at the sea bottom.



Kefalos Horseback Riding

Founded in 1999, this horseback riding facility in Lixouri has been hosting trail rides to visitors from all over. Many enjoy the trails along the beautiful beaches.



Lassi

Life is centered around the beach or pool by day and taverna by night. Beaches are ideal for sunbathing, snorkeling and water-sports.



Lixouri

It's located on the peninsula opposite Argostoli and is the second largest town. To get here, just take the 30min ferry from Argostoli that runs several times a day in the summer.



Lourdas Beach

A beautiful long stretch of beach, which can be a bit windy but still very popular with many cantinas and good beach-front restaurants.



Monastery of St. Gerasimos

The small church of Saint Gerasimos has been built above the tomb and the cave where he lived. A new and remarkable church of the Saint was completed in 1992 and is also within the Monastery grounds.



Mounda Beach

An underdeveloped and very long beach. The Posidonia meadows make it a great snorkeling location, while the gentle slope of the shoreline allows you to wade further out than expected.



Mt. Ainos

A national park having the highest point on the island with an elevation of 1628 meters. Lots of biodiversity, beautiful endemic fir trees, wild horses, and great views.



Myrtos Beach

The most photographed beach on the island and one of the most famous in Greece. Worth seeing from the top at least. If you do swim, be careful of waves and currents.



Pessada

A very small traditional Greek village. Ferries run twice daily through the summer months from Pessada to Skinari on the island of Zakynthos (Zante). There is no bus service to the port of Pessada; a taxi is recommended.



Poros

A small village with interesting Mycenaean tombs and a ferry connection with the mainland (Killini). The oldest monastery of Kefalonia, Monastery of Zoodoghos Pigis or 'Virgin of the life giving spirit', is on a hill 3 km from Poros.



Robola Winery

Primarily producing Robola wine from vines planted as early as the 1900s on their 100 hectares of vines. The biggest winery in Kefalonia, it is open Monday through Friday for tours and wine tastings.



Sami



This is the 2nd largest port in Kefalonia and known as the filming location of Captain Corelli's Mandolin. Its long tree-lined waterfront offers wonderful views across to the island of Ithaca. This is also a popular location to go horseback riding.



Sissia Monastery

The 13th century ruins of the old monastery can be found near the new monastery and Sissia beach. The Sissia beach is about 20 min walk from the old monastery and is worth the walk.



Skala

Known for its great restaurants and night life. A long and beautiful beach with water sport centers, beach volleyball and other activities.



St. George's Castles

It was originally built in the 12th century by the Byzantines but its external walls were built in 1504 by the Venetians. Much of the walls and buildings are well preserved.



WWII German Landing Craft

Depth 9-15m. This German vessel was bombed by Italians in 1943. Its debris is scattered over a 250m long and 38m wide area with a large variety of aquatic life.



Xi Beach

One of the best beaches in Lixouri and noted for its red sand, Xi is popular for sunbathing, watersports, and general relaxing days by the sea.

GETTING AROUND THE ISLAND

Kefalonia is a beautiful island and we want you to have the opportunity to see as many places as possible. We are happy to offer a few tips on how best to get around, because not everything is accessible by Wildlife Sense's bikes. Your mode of transportation will change based on the proximity of the place you seek to explore, so pay close attention to the transportation that is recommended.

ARGOSTOLI, LASSI AND LIXOURI

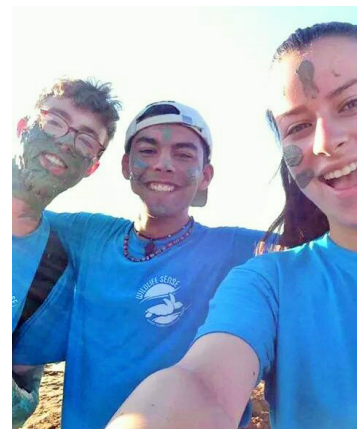
- **Argostoli** is easily accessible by bike. This is where the harbour that hosts our local sea turtle population is. Argostoli is the capital of the Island and therefore the most populated and with the most tavernas, cafes, bars etc. This is also where you'll find several different banks to withdraw cash and stores to pick up some of those items you may have left at home. The main tourist area is located along an entire street, called the Lithostroto. This street has lots of touristic shops with plenty of souvenirs, postcards, and a variety of other items you may want from Kefalonia. Souvlaki is the meal of choice, being only around 2-4 euros around here. There are plenty of grill houses and each will make their souvlaki a bit different, so you will end up having a favourite place by the time you leave. No worries, they do make vegetarian souvlaki!



- **Lassi** is another very a touristic area. The main road is riddled with restaurants and bars, with every side street having hotels and apartments with rooms to let. This is a great place to have a nice dinner and a night out. Some of the restaurants even have Greek dancing nights where you'll be able to learn how to Greek dance and have traditional food as well. At the far end of Lassi is where you'll find Makris Gialos Beach. This beach has a very nice large beach bar with free WiFi, beach cabanas and beds to layout on. The beach also has a water sports center. While Lassi is accessible by bike, it is just a 10 euro taxi ride away. Split that amongst friends and you've got a pretty good deal.



- **Lixouri** is a ferry ride away and the ferry that will take you there leaves from Argostoli every 30 minutes. The ferry ride costs 3 euros each way. Once you arrive in Lixouri town from the ferry, you will not be close to beaches like Megas Lakkos or Xi. Both will require a bike or a taxi ride. Lixouri town offers a nice change of scenery with different bakeries and tavernas. You may even find that your spanakopita (spinach pie) tastes different in Lixouri than it does in Argostoli, as each area has its own special way of making dishes and pastries. Xi beach is worth the ride as its sand has a reddish tint and the back of the beach is made of clay that many come just to smear on their faces - consider it a spa day. There are also water sports and a large obstacle course in the sea.



GETTING TO OTHER AREAS ON THE ISLAND

There are several other places on the island to visit, but you will need to find transportation to get there. We recommend renting a car for a day or two. While you can't use this transportation to get to your Wildlife Sense shifts, it can be a great way to explore places that are hard to get to. Although the public transportation can be difficult to figure out, we do recommend it for getting to places like Fiskardo, Sami and Skala. Please keep in mind that their schedule is infrequent (1 or 2 times per day) to many locations. One last consideration is local travel agencies, who may have island tours running daily.



ACTIVITIES AND PLACES WE RECOMMEND



DIVING

- **Pirate Divers Club** - a diving center located in Lassi, very close to our base-camp. He even picks up volunteers from the campsite on occasion in addition to offering the volunteers a discount, but you must confirm this as things change season to season.

Phone: (+30)694 088 0871 Email: info@pirate-divers-club.gr
<http://www.pirate-divers-club.gr/>

- **Fiskardo Dive Center** - a dive center located in Fiskardo, which is on the northern-most tip of the island. It is a great dive center with very well trained staff. However figuring out transportation may be a bit tricky.

Phone: (+30)6970206172 Email: fiskardodivers@yahoo.com
<http://www.fiskardo-divers.com/>



KAYAKING

- **Sea Kayaking Kefalonia** - they organize day and multi-day kayak trips as well as sea kayak courses in the crystal clear and warm Mediterranean waters of the Ionian. A great way to explore the sea and learn more about marine life. One of their popular deployment spots is in Fanari, just a 5 minute walk from our base-camp. They could even offer you a discount if you ask nicely.

Phone: (+30)6932904360 Email: info@seakayakingkefalonia-greece.com
<http://www.seakayakingkefalonia-greece.com/>

- **Elements** - run by a young adventure enthusiast. Elements is new to sea kayaking, but just as fun and knowledgeable. They also offer several other activities like paddle boarding, caving, jeep safari tours and much more.

Phone: (+30)6970206172 Email: info@kefalonia-elements.com
<http://www.kefalonia-elements.com/>



RIDING

- **Bavarian Horse Riding Stables** - Their stables are located in Sami and run by a qualified F.N. German Horse Riding Teacher. They offer a variety of horse riding activities, catering for beginners, experienced riders young and old. They have Western, English and Trekking saddles for the different equestrian activities.

Phone: (+30)6977 533203 Email: cornelia@kef.forthnet.gr
<http://www.kephalonia.com/>

- **Kefalos Horse Riding Center** - Run by a former Romanian national champion in dressage and show-jumping, both as a junior and senior rider. They offer 20' to 30' lead-rein, pony and donkey rides for beginners, kids or teenagers, one hour beginners' hacks through the fields and hills, or on the beach, two hours novice hacks and, on request, hacks of three hours or longer, always attended by a proficient guide.

Phone: (+30)6972921088 Email: silvanadepounti@gmail.com
<http://www.rideahorse.gr/seite-f.html>

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

- **Car rental:** Great for getting to beaches (e.g. Myrtilos, Assos, Agia Efimia etc.), caves, and the top of Mt. Ainos.
We recommend: <http://www.pefanis-carhire.com/> and <http://www.expressrentacar.gr/>
- **Taxi:** When traveling as a group, a taxi can be a cheap option to get to a specific place at a certain time. Rates do vary, but we strongly recommend booking in advance and negotiating the rate before getting in the taxi. Look on their websites and get an estimate for one-way or round-trip.
We recommend: <http://www.kefaloniataxi.gr/> and <http://taxi-kefalonia.com/>
- **Public Bus:** KTEL bus station is located in Argostoli, just after the harbour if you are walking from our base-camp. You must make sure that you have their weekly updated schedule as times can change. Bus fare is normally below 5 euros. You can always call them to check their bus times as well. Phone: (+30) 26710 22276
http://www.ktelkefalonias.gr/sites/www.ktelkefalonias.gr/files/3._routes_-_local_argostolil_en.pdf



NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS



Ithaca – A neighbouring island east of Kefalonia. Daily ferries from Fiskardo and Sami. Ithaca is generally identified as the home of Odysseus whose heroic actions have been described by Homer in the Odyssey. Its discrete pebbly coves matched with mountainous terrain and filled with olive groves makes for a serene scenic island.



Lefkada (Lefkas) - A neighbouring island just north of Kefalonia. Daily ferries from Fiskardo, semi-weekly from Sami and many private tour boats offer more departure locations. Egremni beach is the most famous of all and has been featured as one of the top ten beaches in Europe by The Guardian.



Zakynthos (Zante) – A neighbouring island just south of Kefalonia. Ferries travel daily to this island from Pessada and private tourist boats offer more departure locations. This island is very touristic and is known for its night life. Navagio beach is the most frequented beach of the island, but is only accessible by boat.



GETTING TO NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS

ZAKYNTHOS

- **Port Pessada:** You must get to Pessada (via Taxi), which is located about 35 min from the eastern part of the island. From Pessada the ferry goes to Agios Nikolaos in Zakynthos. This is most likely not the part of the island you will want to be at (Northern-most) so you will need to take another taxi to the South. Consider a day trip instead of the ferry!
Fare: 8 euros per person and 31 euros for a car Ferry Company: Ionian Pelagos

LEFKADA AND ITHACA

- **Port Fiskardo:** You must get to Fiskardo (via Taxi or Bus), which is located about 1.5 hrs from our base camp. From Fiskardo the ferry will take you to Lefkada (Vassiliki) and then it will continue on to Ithaca.
Fare: 8 euros per person and 35 euros for a car Ferry Company: West Ferry (Captain Aristidis)



ACTIVITIES AND PLACES WE RECOMMEND



RIDING

- **Donkey Trekking Kefalonia** - Located in the village Grizata, close to the harbour city Sami. Take your chance and get off the beaten path. You can discover the beauty and rich history of Kefalonia the traditional way. Enjoy amazing views over the bay of Sami, evergreen valleys of the area and dive into the history of the island.

Phone: (+30) 6980059630

<http://www.donkeytrekkingkefalonia.com/en/>



OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Drogarati Cave** - Located near Sami. The cave is 150 million years old. The entry fee is 7 euros. Despite partial damage by earthquakes, the polychrome stalactites hanging from the roof like curtains still remain in the large underground chamber, which is 37 meters below ground. The second part of the cave is accessible for tourists and a great place to take photos.
- **Melissani Lake** - Located 5km from Sami. Entry to the cave is a walk down an underground tunnel and costs 7 euros per person. For this you get about 10 minutes being rowed in a boat around the cave. Sounds a bit pricey but the cave is an interesting geological phenomenon and there's no other way to see it. Fantastic colour of blue water and the effect of rippling light on the walls of the cave, best seen around mid-day when the sun is overhead.
- **Sunset Cruises** - These cruise vessels vary every year, but we can guarantee that there will be at least one company offering a wonderful cruise with dinner and the best scenery. Many volunteers have enjoyed this and we highly recommend it.
- **Day Trips to other islands via tourist boats** - There are cheaper and more efficient alternatives to see nearby islands. There are plenty of boats that dock at the Harbour of Argostoli or in Skala on the eastern part of the Island that conduct day trips to different islands such as Zakynthos, Ithaca and possibly even Lefkada. We recommend: Fiskardo Captain Vangelis boat tours in Skala or walking along the Argostoli Harbour to see what local boats are available



There are many other places to go and ways to travel. It may seem old school, but you may want to contact a local travel agency to see what local tours they conduct and if they have any tours to other Islands. With a travel agency you may get discounts or conveniences that you would not otherwise get. We can recommend Ainos Travel and Katsouris Travel

