

Boundless blue on a green background 

THE **7** BEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE

# Zakynthos





## 7 reasons TO DISCOVER Zakynthos

- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Culture
- ✓ Hospitality
- ✓ Activities
- ✓ Gastronomy
- ✓ Recreation
- ✓ Beaches

In the emerald waters of the Ionian, at the south-western end of Greece lies Zakynthos, land of poets, artists, music and song.

Homer calls Zakynthos «Yliessa», Plinius «Ylidi» and Virgil «Nemorosa», names associated with the idyllic beauty of the island, its dense forests and verdant nature. Zakynthos can offer an enchanting travel in time for culture lovers, since the island experienced both the Renaissance and the Enlightenment.

The island has been inhabited since the Palaeolithic Age and, due to its prominent geographical location, acted as a crossroads of East and West and attracted the ancient Greeks and Romans, the Byzantines, the counts of the Kingdom of Naples, the Venetians, the French and the English.



Today Zakynthos is an ideal destination. It boasts direct flights to and from the greatest European cities and ferry links to and from the Peloponnese, Kefalonia and Italy.

Its wonderfully warm climate has drawn the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) to the beaches of Zakynthos, where it lays its eggs in the golden sand of some of the most beautiful beaches of the Mediterranean.

Winters are mild, with high temperatures and great sunshine.

The long summer of Zakynthos lasts from May to the end of October.

Heavenly beaches, cosmopolitan entertainment, tasty local cuisine, activities, fairs and festivals, serenades and architecture, villages, long walks and discoveries, cafés and shopping, compose an undoubtedly perfect destination with unforgettable hospitality guaranteed.



*Agios Markos Catholic Church*



*Byzantine Museum*

*Beautiful and lonesome  
Zakynthos overpowers me*

Andreas Kalvos



The Museum of Solomos and Agios Markos Catholic Church



Agios Nikolaos of the Quay



The Venetian Castle

DAY 1<sup>st</sup>

## From the Castle to the Shore

The first tour in the city starts from high up in the Hill of the Castle [Castrolofos] and the **Fortress**, which towers over it, as its silent witness and guardian.

Walk to the **Venetian Castle**, a true monument of the history of the land, with a magnificent view in every direction.

Just below the Castle, lies **the Hill of Strani**. Here, under the trees, amid the fragrances of the countryside and listening to the sound of the cannons of Mesolongi, **Dionysios Solomos** wrote the «Hymn to Liberty» [the national anthem of Greece], in May 1823.

On the way from Bochali to the city lies the **Chapel of Agios Georgios of Filikon**, where **Theodoros Kolokotronis** took an oath as member of the Filiki Eteria. Next to it, lies the **Jewish Cemetery**.



Walkways



Wander off to **Alexadrou Roma** Street, the main financial and social street of the city, which forms the main axis of its urban planning, decorated by the «volta» or «arches», which protect pedestrians from the sun and rain.

Here, you will find a multitude of unique stores selling all sorts of things: clothes, antiques, embroideries, ceramics, liquor, beverages, Zakynthos colognes, jewellery, books, mantolata [nougats] and anything else you can think of.

One of the most significant sights of the city is **Agios Markos square**, a historical and cultural centre of the island, as it is where the Zakyntians burned the record of the nobles, the famous Libro d' Oro.

Visit the **Museum of Solomos and Eminent People of Zakynthos**, where **Dionysios Solomos** and **Andreas Kalvos** rest, as well as the **Agios Markos Catholic Church**. Behind the Cathedral, take a moment to admire the **Church of Our Lady of Angels**.

A pedestrian walkway links Agios Markos square to **Solomos square**, dominated by the statue of our Poet Laureate.

The square is adorned by the **Museum of Zakynthos**, where great works of Ionian art, rare icons and woodworks are on display, the **Cultural Centre**, located where the theatre used to be before the earthquake and accommodating the **Public Library**, the **Historical Records** and the **Museum of National Resistance**, while next to it lies the picturesque **church of Agios Nikolas of the Quay**.

### info

- Municipality of Zakynthos: [www.zakynthos.gov.gr](http://www.zakynthos.gov.gr)
- Holy See of Zakynthos & Strofades: [www.imzante.gr](http://www.imzante.gr)
- Chamber of Zakynthos: [www.zantecci.gr](http://www.zantecci.gr)
- Zakynthos Hotels: [www.zakynthos.gr](http://www.zakynthos.gr)
- Zakynthos Rooms to let: [www.zanterooms.gr](http://www.zanterooms.gr)
- Museum of Solomos and Eminent People of Zakynthos: [www.museum-solomos.gr](http://www.museum-solomos.gr)
- Find the map of the island and the city at [www.maps.google.com](http://www.maps.google.com)
- You can also find information on Zakynthos at [el.wikipedia.org](http://el.wikipedia.org)



The Poet's square

## Oh, my desired Zakynthos

Ugos Foskolos

### Noon coolness

*If you are lucky, you can enjoy a swim along with the loggerhead sea turtles, since the beach is their nesting place.*

If you want to relax and feel rejuvenated, take a swim in the nearby **beach of Kalamaki**.

If you are lucky, you can enjoy a swim along with the loggerhead sea turtles **Caretta caretta**, since the beach is their nesting place.

You can also board a glass-bottom boat, to admire the seabed of the island and the sea turtles in their natural habitat.

Then you can unwind, enjoying your meal, in one of the local tavernas, while, if you love water sports, you can have fun with beach volley, a game of rackets or pedaloos and canoes.

Beach of Kalamaki





Serenades in a taverna



View from Bohali

### Afternoon in Bochali.

Go uphill to **Bochali**. Relax and admire the magnificent city view under the night lights, and try the «frigania», a delicious and light local dessert served everywhere in Bochali.

### Quartet dinner

End the day with some **local music** and enjoy **serenades** and **arekies** in one of the city tavernas, trying delicious local dishes, such as «garlic mush» and «zakynthos stew».

### Drinks by the sea

Start the night with drinks in one of the various cafés and bars, located along the coastal street of the city.

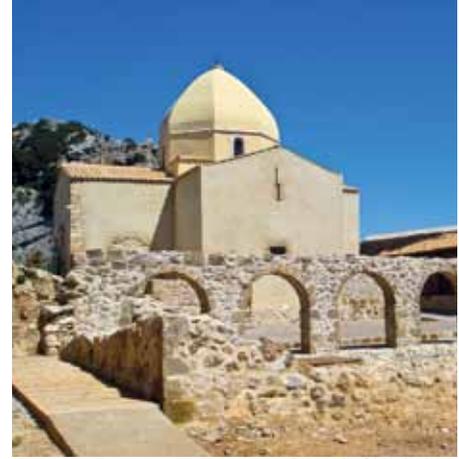




*Tower of Domenegini*



*Venetian Aqueduct*



*Panagia Skopiotissa*

## From Argasi to Vasiliko

**Argasi** is the tourist resort closest to the city, with sandy, safe beaches and many tourist services.

In Argasi, the “**Vrisakia**”, was the city's main source of water supply during the Venetian rule.

**The tower of Domenegini** hosted many of the meetings of the **Filiki Eteria** members of the island. Young **Ugos Foskopos** took shelter here, when persecuted by the authorities after defending the Jews of Zakynthos.

At the south of the island lies **Skopos**. In ancient times, it hosted the **shrine of Artemis**, while in its place there now stands the monastery of **Panagia Skopiotissa**.

The area of **Vasiliko** boasts some of the most beautiful beaches on the island and the most significant habitats of the loggerhead sea turtle [Caretta caretta], such as **Sekania** and **Dafne**, where the **Turtle Museum** is located.

**Zakynthos National Marine Park**  
[info: nmp-zak.org]

The most beautiful beaches, with fabulous **beach bars**, on this side of the island are: **Kaminia, Porto Zoro, Porto Azzuro, Ionio, Banana, Plaka, Agios Nikolaos, Mavratzis, Porto Roma** and **Gerakas**.

If you enjoy **water sports**, have fun with water ski, Jet Ski, windsurfing, pedaloes and parasailing.



*Pentakamaro in Argasi*



*Sea turtle nests in Dafne*



Banana - Ionian



Agios Nikolaos



Porto Zoro - Azzuro

Gerakas





## A relaxed ride

An afternoon tour of the city, the “chora” of Zakynthos, by carriage will allow you to see its most significant sites:

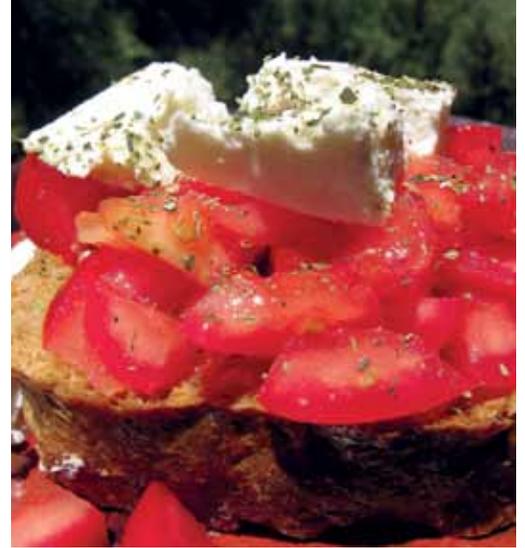
The **church of Faneromeni**, one of the most significant churches of Zakynthos, a monument of art and culture, the “**Xenopoulos**” **Museum**, the church of the Patron saint of Zakynthos **Agios Dionysios**, with its lovely steeple piercing the sky, the **Ec-clesiastic Museum**, located just next to

the new wing of the **Holy Monastery of Agios Dionysios and Strofades**. Look for the small elegant religious souvenirs on sale here.

Try a local medieval snack, the fitura, which along with the pasteli [sesame bar], are the main sweet treats of the fairs on the island. Sense the special aroma of the “Flower of Levante” in one of the unique jasmine varieties, grantuka or burgarini.

*The church of Agios Dionysios*





## Zakynthian tastes

With its Mediterranean and Venetian influences, the local cuisine is exceptional. Virgin olive oil, fresh fish, traditional cheese, tasty tomatoes and locally grown white onions, homemade bread and local wine transfer the tastes, images and aromas of the nature of Zakynthos straight into your dishes.

You can taste them in the traditional tavernas scattered throughout the island.

*Nature smiled,  
and behold,  
Zakynthos  
appeared*

Dionysios Solomos



## From Lagana to Keri

The beach of **Lagana** is the longest beach on the island, with shallow, warm, calm waters and golden sand, while it is also a habitat for the loggerhead sea turtle [**Caretta caretta**] and protected by the **National Marine Park**.

Children can play safely in the calm waters and enjoy games on the beach.

From here, you can board on a glass-bottom boat to see the sea turtles in their natural habitat.

If you like underwater explorations, you can experience the magic of the sea bottom by visiting one of the diving centres.

At the end of this lovely beach, near **Lithakia**, lies a column dedicated to the father of anatomy **Andreas Vesalius**.

The picturesque island of **Agios Sostis** was originally connected to land, but was later separated after the earthquakes of the 17th century.

*Loggerhead sea turtles (caretta caretta)*



Beach of Lagana



*Fair isle,  
that from the fairest  
of all flowers  
Thy gentlest of all  
gentle names dost take*

Edgar Allan Poe

One of the nicest sights of **Lagana** is the **Sarakina**, the ruins of a stately mansion, a typical example of the architecture of Zakynthos.

**Lithakia** with its beautiful beaches is one of the most picturesque villages of Zakynthos, still hosting many significant buildings of the ecclesiastic art of the island, such as the **Churches of Agios Ioannis Theologos** and of **Panagia Faneromeni**.



## Indulgence & rest

*Just across lies Marathonisi, which you can visit with the special boats departing from here, or you can choose to go to the beach of Marathias and Pyrgakia or Mikres Mizithres.*

A few kilometres from the cosmopolitan buzz of Lagana, **Keri** offers a calm and peaceful alternative, a perfect image of a heavenly option.

There are many things to choose from fine sand, pebbles, rocks, touring, snorkelling, caves and fresh fish.

The **lake of Keri** is known since antiquity as “Nafthi” or “Piges tis Pissas”, and it was visited by **Herodotus**.





Agalas



Keri

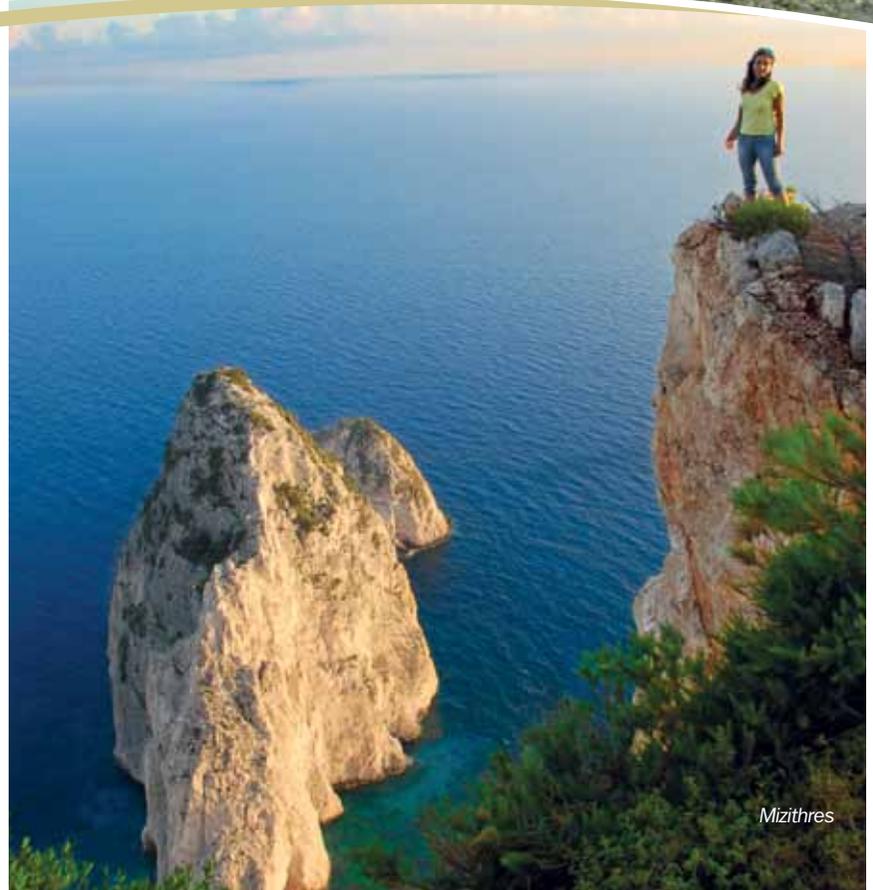


## Going uphill in the afternoon

Wander in the picturesque **Keri**, another beautiful, traditional village of Zakythos and visit the beautiful church of **Panagia Keriotissa**.

Near Keri lies **Agalas**, a village that has preserved its natural environment with traditional houses, pathways and lush nature. Visit the church of **Our Lady of Angels**, admire the **Cave of Damianos** and the **Twelve Wells of Antronios**.

In the afternoon, take a walk uphill to the **Lighthouse of Keri** situated on the cliff. From the top, one can see **Mizithres** and a magnificent sunset!



Mizithres



## Summer life

The best **beach bars** are on the sandy beaches of the island. Professional Djs, endless dancing, non-stop fun, villages by the shore with countless clubs, provide numerous nightlife options. Lounge bars for quiet nights, located on the rocks or in the picturesque areas of the city.

**The party here starts always starts early and does not end until the morning after!**





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## From the sea to the mountains

One of the most beautiful villages of Zakynthos is **Macherado**.

Admire the church of **Agia Mavra**, with its magnificent carved steeple, the chapel of **Ypapanti** and, going uphill on the way to Kiliomenos, make a stop at the **Monastery of Panagia Eleftherotria**.

At **Kiliomenos**, visit the church of **Agios Nikolaos**, with its amazing stone steeple and the Monastery of **Panagia Yperagathou**.

Buy local products, homemade bread, local ladotyri [cheese], sweetened fruits in syrup and rusks from the Women's Association of the village "**E Melissiotisses**".





## On the mountain overseeing the Ionian

Try a snack of fresh homemade bread with tomatoes, olives, local virgin olive oil, local ladotiri and oregano.

Visit **Agios Leontas**, with its beautiful church of **Agia Paraskevi** and continue to **Exo Chora**, to see the great plane on the square and the perennial olive tree of the village.

Cool off on the steep beaches of the area, such as **Korakonisi**, **Roxa**, **Limnionas**, **Stenitis** and **Porto Vromi**, combining a rugged landscape with crystal aquamarine waters.

Try the fruits of the sea! Fresh fish, fished right here, and tasty delicacies, pickled or grilled octopus, squid, shellfish and anything you can think of.

### info

- Agricultural Co-operative Union of Zakynthos: [[www.zantecoopunion.com](http://www.zantecoopunion.com)]





*Kabi - sunset*

## Traditional villages

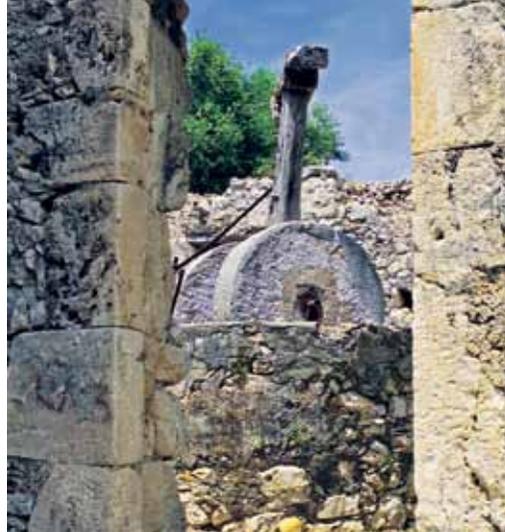
Stroll through the traditional villages of **Lucha** and **Giri**, with their small stone houses. Walk on the pathways of their touring routes.

At **Kabi**, visit the local **Mycenaean cemetery**. Experience an unforgettable sunset, in a wild yet friendly, enchanting and imposing scenery.





Stone houses



Lucha

## Good wine

Dine on **local traditional cuisine**. Stuffed chicken roast and rabbit stew, always served with wine from Zakynthos, from the rich vineyards of the island.

*I know  
no other place,  
sweeter than  
my land*

Homer





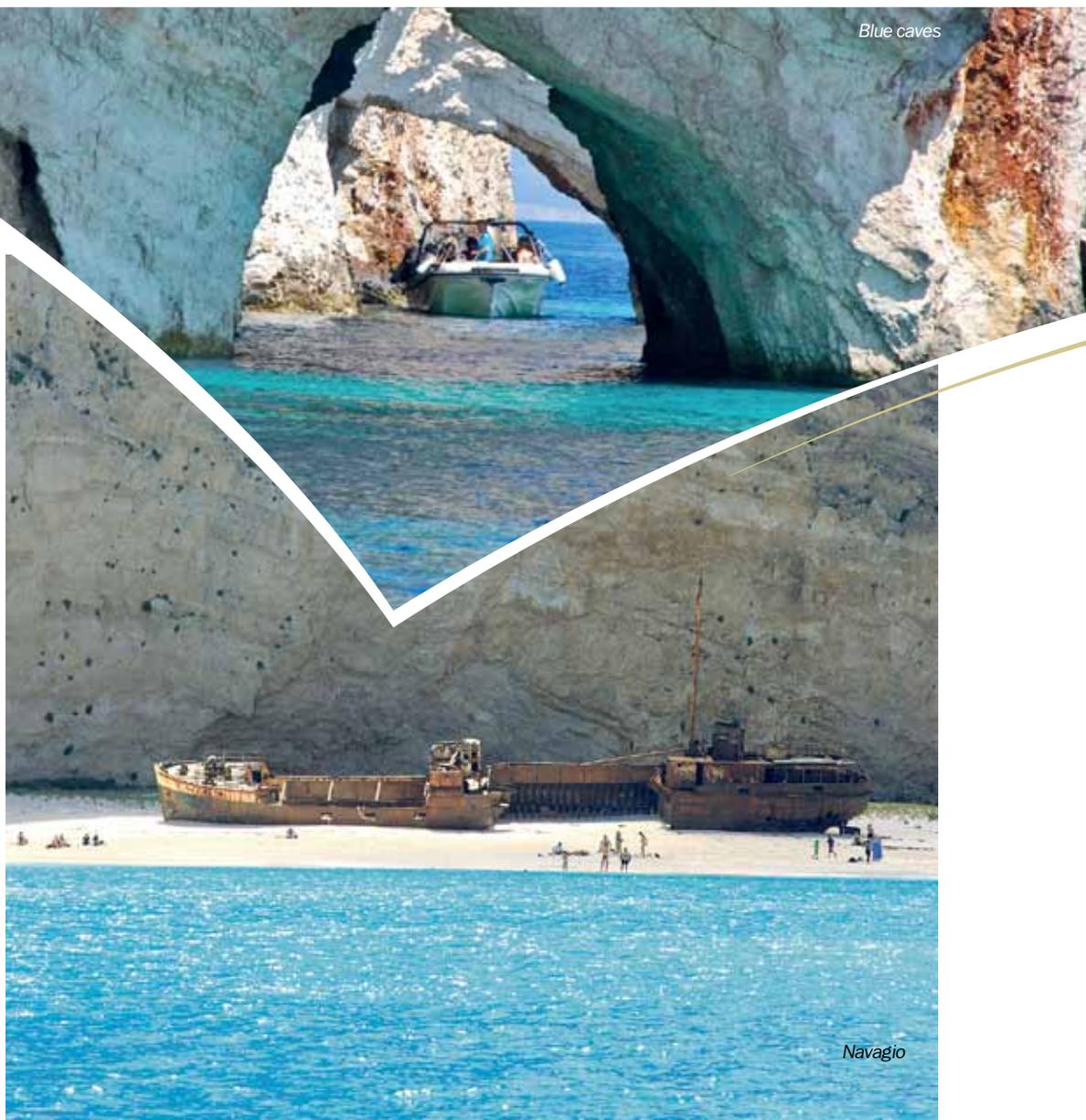
## Sea journey...

The magnificent image of the coastline of Zakynthos offers a unique journey. There is a daily **island cruise** by day cruise ships. Don't forget your camera.

If you choose the extended cruise of Zakynthos, you will be impressed by the **north** and **west shores** of the island, with their wild and imposing beauty.

During your journey, you will discover impressive landscapes and sceneries forged when Nature was inspired. **Sea caves**, such as the **Blue Caves**, special beaches, like the **Shipwreck [Navagio]**, **small islands** and **bays**, as well as **secret beaches**, under wild rocks, will take your breath away.

Blue caves



Navagio



Marathonisi



## ... By ship

Starting points: The city of Zakynthos.

The cruise includes stops for swimming at **Navagio**, the **Blue Caves**, the **Caves of Keri**, **Porto Vromi**, **Marathonisi** and “**Mavratzi**” beach at Vasiliko.

Furthermore, there are express routes from: the **city**, **Tsilivi**, **Alikes** to Navagio, with a visit to the Blue Caves.

Moreover you can see the main coastal sights and beaches of the island, by boat, which you can find:

- At **Keri** and at the port of **Agios Sostis** for Marathonisi, the caves of Keri and Mizithres.
- At **Porto Vromi** (Anafonitria and Maries) for Navagio.
- At **Agios Nikolaos** Volimon and at **Schinari** for the Blue Caves and Navagio.



Navagio

## Road trips

You can choose to tour the island by bus, through travelling agencies, while for single trips you can use the internal bus lines of Zakynthos.

### The routes

Travelling agencies have various routes; however, the main ones are:

**1st Route:** Bochali (stop for pictures), visit to a local winery. Exochora (brief stop for coffee). Monastery of Anafonitria Platform with a view to “Navagio” Volimes, Lake of Agios Nikolaos

(stop for lunch), visit with a boat to the Blue Caves and the “Navagio” beach.

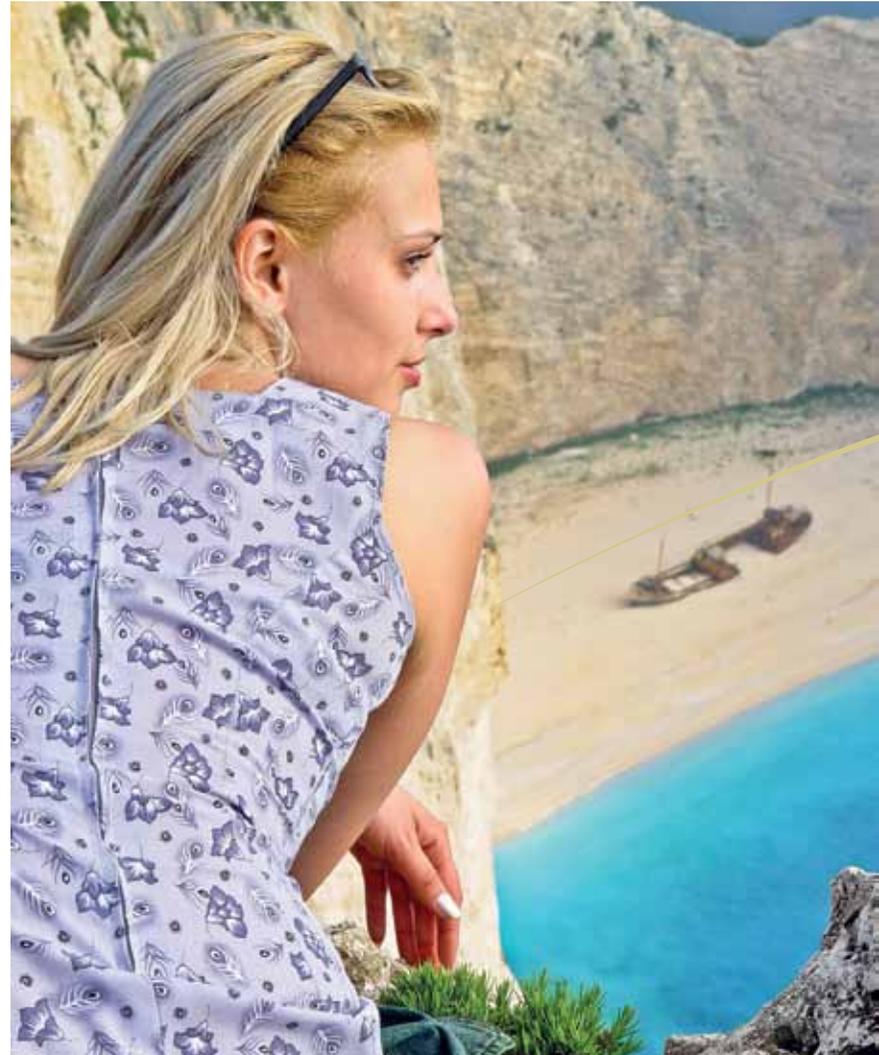
**2nd Route:** Lithakia, visit to a traditional oil press. Kiliomenos. Kambi (stop for coffee). Porto Vromi, visit by boat to the Blue Caves. Monastery of Anafonitria (stop for lunch). Volimes, stop for pictures over Alikes, visit to a winery. Bochali (stop for coffee).

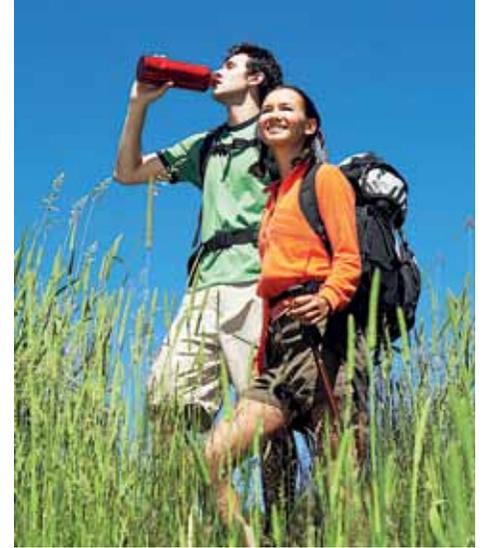


Monastery of Anafonitria



Small island





## Alternative plan

There are many alternative activities on Zakynthos, depending on your preferences and tastes.

Sailing, Power Boats, diving, water sports, mountain hiking, parachute, paths, jeep safari, camping, horse riding, bike riding, rowing, extreme sports, tennis, sports, water slides, kart.

### info

- Askos Stone Park, Volimes  
[[www.askos.gr](http://www.askos.gr)]

*From the steep prow  
I marked with quickening eye  
Zakynthos with every grove  
and creek*

Oscar Wilde





## In the plains of Zakynthos

**Rizochoria** [Root villages] took their name from their location at the foot of mount Vrachionas (Root - Riza) and represent rural Zakynthos.

At **Pantokratoras** visit the church of **Sotiras**, at **Muzaki** the church of **Agios Nikolaos** with exquisite art works, and at **Vougiato** the church of **Agios Demetrios**, which in antiquity hosted the temple of **Artemis Opitais**.

Furthermore, you can visit the church of **Yperagia Theotokos** at **Lagadakia**, as well as the **old village**, with its magnificent view to the valley, as well as the stone steeples of **Agios Georgios** and **Agios Andreas**.

At **Fiolitis** you can see the church of **Agios Nikolaos of Schinon** with the stone steeple and at **Fagia** the **Helmi Museum of Natural History**, and the

church of **Agia Marina** with its **belfry**, excellent examples of the architecture of Zakynthos.

At **Pigadakia** visit the **Vergatzio Folk Museum**, where you will get a glimpse of the rural life of the island in the 19th century.

### info

- Helmi Museum of Natural Art [info: [www.museumhelmis.gr](http://www.museumhelmis.gr)]



*The view of the plain of Zakynthos from Ano Gerakario; Kefalonia in the background.*



*Pentakamarao, Alikes*



*Pigadaka*

## «Isola d'ora! Fior Di Levante!»

Edgar Allan Poe

### info

- Art & Creation Meetings  
[[www.zakynthosfestival.gr](http://www.zakynthosfestival.gr)]
- Singers of Zakynthos  
[[www.tragoudistades.com](http://www.tragoudistades.com)]
- Giostra of Zakynthos  
[[www.giostradizante.gr](http://www.giostradizante.gr)]
- Cultural Club of Skoulikadou  
[[www.erotokritos.net](http://www.erotokritos.net)]

On the Ionian islands  
the wind of culture was always  
blowing from the West

*Dedicate one night to the cultural  
wealth of the land.*

*Discover traditions, fairs, perfor-  
mances, serenades, dancing...*

Whenever you visit Zakynthos, get information on the multitude of cultural activities: the fairs, the theatre and music performances, the unique shows, the religious fairs, its rare manners and customs. Zakynthos carries a long history of traditions that make up its Culture.

### **Experience unique moments!**

The International Meeting of Art and Creation is a new cultural event for Zakynthos, during which distinguished artists from Greece and other European countries meet every summer to create artworks inspired from the natural beauty and culture of the island.



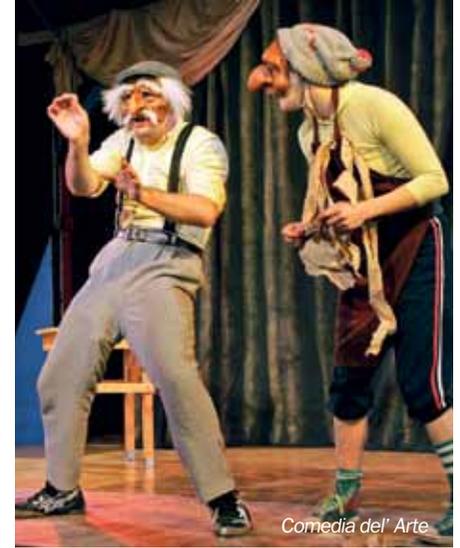
Agios Dionysios Litany



Art & Creation Meeting



Giostra



Comedia del' Arte



Open Municipal Theatre

## On the east coastline

The **east side** of the island is known for its sandy beaches, its moderate development, the family atmosphere, its safety, the change of scenery behind its green hills.

**Planos** and its beach, **Tsilivi**, is one of the most beautiful tourist areas of the island, with very high standard facilities, services and options. Moreover, here you can visit the **Milanio Maritime Museum**.

**Kipseli** or “Belusi” is known for its local, sweet onions grown in the area, as well as for its magnificent churches of **Panagia Belusiotisa** and **Agia Paraskevi**, and the picturesque chapel of **Agios Charalabos**, right next to the **Venetian guard**.

### info

- Milanio Maritime Museum [info: [www.milaniomaritimemuseum.gr](http://www.milaniomaritimemuseum.gr)]



Tsilivi



Dermatoussa



Agios Charalabis & Venetial Guard of Kycheli



*A child still I was brought  
by the waves once  
on the land that's showered  
by bloom and songs*

Kostis Palamas

In the nearby **Tragaki**, a village surrounded by citrus orchards, there stand two beautiful churches, that of **Agios Nikolaos** and that of **Panagia Kantuniotissa**, while the historically and artistically significant monastery of **Panagia Dermatoussa**, lies in a cypress and pine forest.

The beaches, such as **Tsilivi**, **Gaydaros**, **Abula** are lovely, sandy, clean and ideal for relaxation.

Head to **Gerakaria**, Ano, Meso and Kato, where apart from the beaches you will discover, you will be enchanted by the view from the church of **Agios Nikolaos** to **Anemogduri**.

Continue to the beach of **Alikes**, in the tourist area of **Katastari**, the largest town of the island. Take a swim, visit the site of **old Alikes**, buy your souvenirs and go uphill for the monastery of **Agios Ioannis Prodromos**, a place of peace and prayer.



Alikanas



*Thermal springs at Xygia*

## A work of art

*The Ionian waters stand out for their unique colour, the clarity, the temperature, the heavenly landscape.*

Going uphill to the east, you will discover two of the most beautiful and spectacular beaches of Zakynthos: **Xygia** and **Makris Gialos**.

Dine in one of the many local tavernas that offer food of exceptional quality, enjoying the endless blue of the Ionian.



Makris Gialos



Small island

## All roads lead to Zakynthos

A crossroads of the East and the West, Zakynthos had always been and still is a meeting place for people, populations, nations and a 'melting pot' for cultures.

You can visit it very easily, wherever you come from:

### By road & boat

The island of Zakynthos is accessed by the northwest end of the Peloponnese, through the port of Killini.

- The distance is 17 n.m. and the trip takes only one hour.

The ferries are modern and closed-type.

- The road trip from **Patras** to Killini takes only 45 minutes.

- If travelling from **Athens**, via the Athens - Patras national highway, it will only take 3.15 hours to get to Killini.

- If travelling from **Thessaloniki**, the indicated route is via the Egnatia Odos to Ioannina and then, to Patras via the Rio-Antirrio Bridge (which is a unique sight).

Estimated time from Thessaloniki to Killini: 6 hours.

- If travelling from **Larissa**, the indicated route is via Lamia - Brallos and then, to Patras via the Rio - Antirrio Bridge. Estimated time: 5.30' hours

### By air

- Zakynthos has direct flights to **Athens**, with one flight a day during the winter months and two flights a day in the summer.

- Zakynthos has also flights to and from all the **Ionian Islands** and **Iraclio** of Crete.





**Message  
by Stelios Bozikis  
Mayor of Zakynthos**

As mayor of the island of Zakynthos, I would like to welcome our potential visitors.

I invite you to Zakynthos, to be rewarded with a magical, unforgettable vacation.

Visit Zakynthos of history and culture, Zakynthos of poetry and music. Enjoy the unique hospitality of the island and the “manchiadoroi” Zakynthians of satire and self-sarcasm, happy and kind, caring and honest people.

Enjoy the sunshine, the beaches with the finest sand in the Mediterranean, the unique National Marine Park of the loggerhead sea turtle [caretta caretta].

Let the blooming and evergreen Zakynthos of exquisite natural beauty enchant you with its curves and hollows, its hills, valleys and bays.

Try the cuisine of Zakynthos and its traditional, fresh, pure, local products.

Come and walk in its picturesque roads and the broad streets where great Greek and European poets and writers have walked.

Experience Zakynthos with your body and spirit. Let your senses see, hear, smell, feel and taste Zakynthos “full of miracles, strewn with spells”.





THE **7** BEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE

# Zakynthos

Boundless blue on a green background 

**Municipality of Zakynthos, Ionian Islands, Greece**

Tourism Development Committee of Zakynthos Telephone Number: 26953 61301, e-mail: [info@1280.syzefxis.gov.gr](mailto:info@1280.syzefxis.gov.gr)

[www.zakynthos.gov.gr](http://www.zakynthos.gov.gr)



European Union



Ministry of Rural  
Development & Food



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Europe investing in rural areas

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