

Eternal Greece and its countless churches...



THE DODECANESE, OR THE QUINTESSENCE OF GREECE

Do you like Greece, its little tavernas nestling in creeks which are invisible from the sea, its unique culture and the welcome by its inhabitants? Well don't delay, go and discover the Dodecanese - this part of Greece will appeal to you...



The Dodecanese: here the water is the same color as in Polynesia...

LOGBOOK

It took Ulysses ten years to cross the various seas bordering Greece, which shows clearly that visiting this country by boat requires time, to appreciate all the subtleties, the beauties and the rich cultural heritage. Moreover, some of our readers have been cruising in Greece for many years, without having felt the need to go and look elsewhere... Which just goes to show the attraction these thousands of islands (there are 6,000, only 227 of which are inhabited) can have for a sailor!

The Dodecanese are definitely a paradise for sailing and sailors. It must be said that the area is subject to a strong wind, which you must cope with in the middle of summer - it

can blow at force 7, but allows you to have fun at the helm of your charter catamaran... And for those who prefer calm cruising, you can always shelter in one of the countless creeks on the 160 or so small and large islands in the area. It's not hard to be alone: just 26 of them are inhabited, and even in the high season, you will always find a calm, well protected anchorage. And at each stopover, in each village, there is a friendly atmosphere, and you will discover a charming mix of oriental and western style architecture. Each of these islands has a rich historical past, and seems to welcome you with its ancient ruins, its castles from the time of the crusades, and also its seafront, with charming tavernas and an abundance of fish...

In 1908, the twelve large islands in this archipelago, situated just a few miles from Turkey, decided to join Greece, and took the name Dodecanese (twelve in Greek is pronounced dodeca).

TYPICAL ITINERARY

The cruising area extends from Patmos in the north, to the large island of Rhodes in the south. Between the two big islands, you will of course find the islands of Leros, Kalymnos, Kos (the other major departure base, along with Rhodes), Nisiros, or Tilos. But it would be a shame not to plan a few stopovers in the absolutely wonderful smaller islands, such as Arki or



In Greece, you can sleep every evening in a little fishing port...



Lipsi, in the north of the archipelago...

In summer, the Meltemi blows from the north, and tends to swing west during the afternoon; sailing up from Rhodes towards the northern islands is therefore complicated. Prefer Kos for your departure, sailing north in the morning

when the wind is still manageable, and enjoy the anchorages in the afternoon, well sheltered in some wonderful creeks. Here, even more than anywhere else, the weather decides your program.

Not to be missed:

Symi, one of the most beautiful islands in Greece, as well as Kalymnos, the sponge fishermen's island with its incredible fjord (Vathys), Arki, 'little Polynesia' and its translucent waters, situated less than 20 miles from Leros, where you can eat the best tomatoes in the world, but also Nisyros or Kastelorizon, Makronisi and its interior lake, only accessible by diving in an impressive chasm...



The Greek tavernas: warm welcome and exceptional food guaranteed.

NEWS FROM THE CHARTER COMPANIES

DISCOVER SRI LANKA

A young French couple has just moved to Sri Lanka and is trying to introduce watersports there. The area is superb and having neighbors in the anchorage is unknown, as there is no leisure sailing there, just a few fishing boats. For the moment, the idea is above all to offer day-charter on a 48-foot catamaran built locally. Depending on the season, Topaz, the catamaran, is based on the east or the west coast...

Discover it on: www.sail-lanka-charter.com

LAGOON 52 AT LE MARIN

Star Voyage will very soon be receiving a brand-new Lagoon 52 with 6 cabins, and available for crewed charter. Leaving from Le Marin, you can enjoy life by sailing to the Grenadines (or through the West Indies from St Martin to Grenada) aboard this very attractive boat, capable of accommodating 12 people in addition to the crew.

For more information: www.starvoyage.com

TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT IN BRITTANY

For ten years now Christophe has been offering his skippered charter services on his catamarans (at first a Bahia, and now a Salina 48), from Lorient. In partnership with Océan Evasion he is also offering 'management' for future owners or charter customers.

See it on: www.iroise-catamaran.com

ERRATUM

In our last issue, we told you about a Summerland 40 available for charter in Corsica. This motor catamaran is available, not from Furiani (as we indicated, but where there is no harbor), but from Saint-Florent...

For more information: www.laelocation-bateau.com

MOORINGS' NAUTICAL CV

For our first charters, we often ask ourselves whether we have the skills to skipper a boat in an area we don't know, which may be complicated. To find out, the charter company, Moorings, has set up a nautical CV on its web site which will allow you to find out immediately whether you have the skills.

Clever and practical!

See it on: www.moorings.com

Practical Greece:

Getting there: Nothing easier: regular, charter and low-cost companies serve Greece and its different airports.

When: Spring, summer or autumn: each season has its fans. The weather is more than mild in Greece, and the sea temperature varies between a minimum of 11°C in winter and over 25°C in the sunny season. The summer can be very hot, and it is not rare to see temperatures of well over 30°C...

Sailing conditions: They can vary considerably depending on location. The Saronic Gulf is more protected. The Aegean Sea is more exposed to winds which can be violent. Beware of the famous Meltemi, which starts blowing from the end of June. This steady wind, which generally blows at around 15 knots, can without warning become really violent and reach 35 to 40 knots.

Practical: The official currency is the Euro. The language is Greek, but in practice, everyone speaks at least English.

Local charter companies: You will find the cat of your dreams, at: Archipel Club – Broadblue Charters - Dream Yacht Charter – Fancy Sailing – Kiriacoulis – Moorings – Multihull Yachting – Sunsail...