

Ionian Islands, Greece

14-day yacht charter itinerary





ABBERLEY

Luxury Yacht Charter





Corfu

Corfu is the northernmost of all Greek islands, and it is the greenest of them all, lapped in olive groves and citrus orchards. Sandy and rocky beaches, craggy coastline, plenty of coves and grottoes, mountain flanks carpeted by wild flowers, emerald-green sea, Venetian quarters and Byzantine churches of Kerkyra make a lingering impression on any chance visitor.

Corfu changed hands frequently, it was invaded by the Romans, Venetians, French, Russians, Turks and British, and it is reflected in its diverse culture and architecture. Empress Elisabeth of Austria stayed here for prolonged periods of time, as per advice of her doctors. Other XIX century celebrity visitors included Goethe, Oscar Wilde, Gerald and Lawrence Darrell and Napoleon.

Syvota

Sivota is a small settlement in Greece, distinguished by its quaint architecture and a group of small islands opposite from the town, a popular swimming spot of locals and visitors.





Paxi & Antipaxi

Paxi, also known as Paxos, is the smallest of the major Ionian Islands. It has a hauntingly beautiful landscape of centuries-old woods and groves, winding stone walls, vintage olive oil presses and abandoned farms. There are only three coastal settlements here and several mountain-clinging villages further inland. Eastern coast has several beaches with fine pebbles, while the western coast is craggy cliffs with occasional grottoes accessible only from the sea.

Unlike Corfu, Paxi is not a popular tourist destination, but it is impossible not to love this island if you serendipitously stumble upon it.

Antipaxi is a miniature satellite of Paxi, just 2 km away, famous for its picturesque vineyards and delectable wines.

Preveza

Preveza is a small fishing village and resort located on the peninsula. Several kilometres north of Preveza there are ruins of Nikopolis, the town founded by the Roman Emperor Octavian, who later received the title of Augustus from the Senate. Impressive walls and a ruined theatre left behind after the Roman invasion bring over numerous visitors.





Lefkada

Lefkada is the fourth largest and one of the most beautiful Ionian islands, with lush vegetation, tremendously beautiful landscapes and glorious beaches.

Some of Lefkada's beaches are made of fine pebble, so walking on them is like receiving a foot massage. Others have silky-soft white or golden sand inviting to dig your toes into, contrasting beautifully with the turquoise sea. Porto Katsiki Beach, the sandy one, is in the top ten best beaches in the world. High cliffs protect it from the winds, making this beach even more idyllic.

The windy Vassiliki, on a slightly different note, is a kites' and windsurfers' paradise. The bay here is wide and sheltered, with the wind picking up in the afternoon. The sight of hundreds of windsurfers gliding across the bay is something to behold.

Highlight

Kite & Windsurfing in Lefkada



Meganisi

Unspoiled Meganisi lies 4 nautical miles away from Lefkada in the south-eastern direction. It is the biggest of three inhabited satellite islands. Traditional architecture, welcoming people, a relaxed pace of life, picturesque harbours with fish taverns and traditional entertainment, glorious views, calming green landscapes and deep bays with translucent water and pebbly beaches all contribute to the idyllic Mediterranean holiday atmosphere.

Most visitors to Meganisi arrive by their yachts, so this island is largely untouched by mass tourism. The island's beaches are secluded, and some are only accessible only by boat. Take a stroll around the relaxed, scenic port town of Vathy (Vathi), tasting delicacies at the many fish taverns. Go kayaking in the crystal-clear waters of the Ionian, exploring caves and perhaps even spotting dolphins. The western coastline of Meganisi is particularly breathtaking. A highlight is the Papanikolaos (Papanikolis) sea cave, once a secret hideaway for submarine Papanikolis during WW2.





Atokos

The island of Atokos in the Ionian Sea is small, green, mountainous, unpopulated apart from a few freely roaming goats and private: it belongs to a Greek shipping magnate. However tourists are allowed to come ashore and explore the woods, the chapel (thoroughly taken care of and open to visitors), the well, the house and the totally undeveloped scenic beaches. Members of the owner's family sometimes visit the island in September and a shepherd comes to tend for the goats once every four days, other than that Atokos is a quintessential uninhabited island, though there had been rumours that it has a potential for hotel development.

Ithaki

Ithaki is home of Odysseus and one of the most famous Ionic islands. Archaeologists maintain that Odysseus's palace – also known as the “School of Homer” – was situated on a hilltop over Stavros, a fishing village in the north of the island.

If you follow Odysseus's trail, you'll also want to visit the Cave of Nymphs overlooking the bay of Polis – you can learn the details from the keeper in a local archaeological museum – or just enjoy its mesmerizing beauty without digging much deeper.

Vathi, the capital, with lovely houses spilling from the top of the hill, is so beautiful that any photo you make here is guaranteed to be an artwork.



Highlight

Kayaking in the Ionian



Kefalonia

Kefalonia is the biggest island in the Ionic Sea, celebrated for its scenic variety and amazing beauty. Steep cliffs carpeted with lush greenery create a striking picture against the aquamarine sea. Here you see refined aristocratic villas next to charming rural estates. The Blue Flag Myrtos Beach, one of the best in Europe or even in the whole world, is in the centre of the island, next to Divarata village. Myrtos constantly makes it into the world's best beaches lists. The colour of water here defies description. But Myrtos is only the beginning of a long list of Kefalonia attractions, which, among other things, includes Mount Enos National Park, 1630 m above sea level. Melissani Lake is one of the most interesting and fascinating natural attractions on Kefalonia. Take a tour of this exquisite lake and cave by rowboat. You'll sail into large caverns filled with stalactites and stalagmites and interesting rock formations. The best time to visit is when the sun is directly overhead, when the sun rays strike the water, creating an ethereal blue light effect.



Highlight

Melisani Lake, Kefalonia





Zakynthos

Zakynthos is a small but charming island in the Ionian Sea. Two mountain ranges fringe a lovely valley in the centre; high craggy cliffs shelter long sandy beaches. This is the most cheerful island of the whole archipelago, the island of poets and musicians.

The Venetians, who left behind an imposing tower and several churches with 11th – 14th century frescoes, called Zakynthos ‘The Flower of a Rising Sun’. Zakynthos is the only European nesting location for endangered loggerhead sea turtles, also known as *Caretta Caretta* turtles.

The northernmost cape of the island, Shinari (Skinari), invites you to watch the dazzling play of light, amazing reflections and unbelievable colours of the Ionian near the Blue Cave.





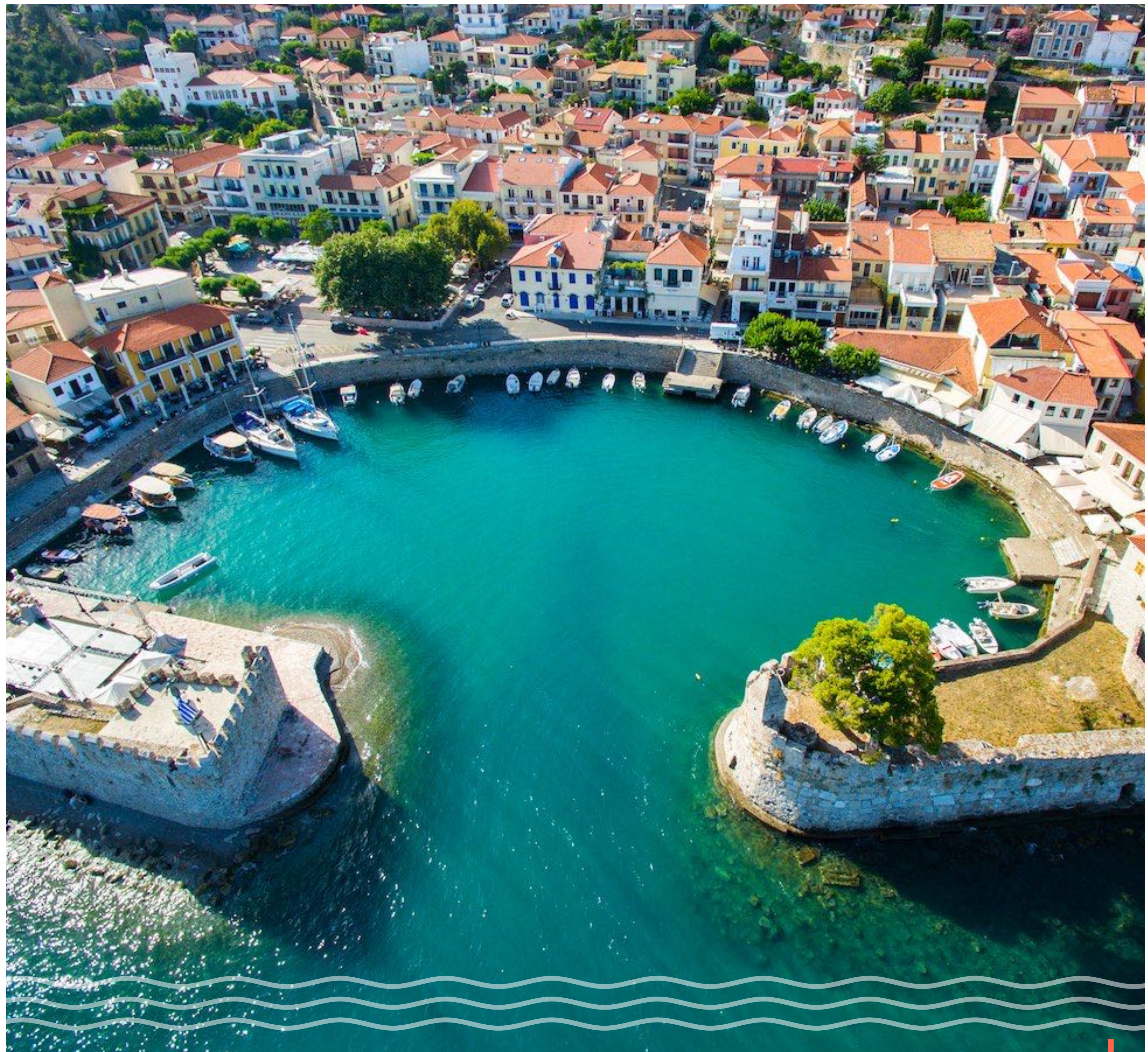
Highlight

The Blue Cave,
Zakynthos

Nafpaktos

Nafpaktos, meaning “boatyard”, is an amazing, historically rich destination on the mainland, offering both sea and mountain scenery. As you sail into the port, you’ll see a majestic Venetian Castle towering over the town. Visit the castle for tremendous views over pastel hued houses, pebbly beaches and ancient crenelated Venetian walls.

West of the Venetian port there is a park named after Miguel de Cervantes with a monument to the great author of *Don Quixote*. If you are wondering about the connection between a great Spanish writer and a small Greek town, the inscription on a plaque under the statue provides some insight.





Highlight

The Corinth Canal



Epidavros

Epidavros (Epidaurus) is home to a unique 4th century BC ancient amphitheatre. It is a large, remarkably well-preserved construction, capable of accommodating 14 000 people. Known for its fabulous acoustics, you can sit on the top tier on one end and talk to someone opposite from you without having to raise your voice! The quality of sound coming from the stage is on a par with the best modern venues where they have sophisticated equipment at their disposal.

Other highlights include the Sanctuary of Asclepius (the Sanctuary of Asklepios) and the ancient Sunken City, starting metres away from the beach. You don't really need diving gear to explore it, a snorkel and mask will do.



Return to Athens



Athens

Athens is one of the oldest cities in the world, the capital of Greece and the cradle of democracy. The city was built around the Acropolis and Lycabettus hills dominating the flatland. According to legend, the hills were formed when Athena threw two rocks from the sky to help protect the city from enemies.

Walking around the centre of this megapolis, with so many historic buildings and ancient monuments, let your mind wander back to the Golden Age of Athens. Think back to when Pericles ordered the rebuilding of the Parthenon, one of the finest examples of Greek architecture.

Athens is particularly exciting at night: trendy clubs, fine restaurants and upscale events make this city a supreme entertainment venue.







ABBERLEY
Luxury Yacht Charter

Wherever you want to cruise or sail in the world,
we've got a tailor-made luxury yacht charter waiting for you
— your private, pampered adventure at sea
with your friends and family.

Contact:

London: +44 20 3290 3800 | Barcelona: +34 684 022 013 | Sydney: +61 0280 033 083 | Athens: +30 6970 022 407

www.abberley-yachts.com

