

THE WORLD OF GREECE

ODYSSEY

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Holidays in Greece The 50 Best Hotels



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50 Best Hotels in Greece

choose a suite, elite bungalow or villa (the latter due to open next year), you won't want to drift too far away. Inside, a voile canopy adorns the king-sized bed and seashell-beaded pillows smother a love divan. On the bamboo-shaded terrace, a hammock beckons, beside a private plunge pool. Mykonos Blu is the honeymoon destination in the Cyclades, not simply for its romantic air, but also its new spa, excellent cuisine and generous newlyweds' package.

Mykonos Grand Hotel & Resort

Ayios Yiannis, 846 00 Mykonos

Tel: +30 22890 25555

Fax: +30 22890 25111

Website: www.mykonosgrand.gr

e-mail: info@mykonosgrand.gr

The hotel is tucked away in one of the island's quieter areas, Ayios Yiannis, 15 minutes from the main town which is swarming with holidaymakers in July and August. If you happen to be on Mykonos in the midst of the summer madness, you can mingle with the party people or relish a precious, peaceful few days floating in the cool, crystalline waters of the hotel's private beach. Rooms have a garden or sea view while suites offer a private pool and barbecue. Mosaics and marble adorn the bathrooms. First-rate conference facilities can accommodate up to 350 delegates. An idyllic spot to tie the knot, wedding ceremonies are held at the hotel's own whitewashed chapel. Frequent bus services link Ayios Yiannis with Mykonos Town and Ormos beach. Just like the lead character in *Shirley Valentine*, which was filmed here, you'll find it hard to bid goodbye to this little piece of paradise.

PATMOS

Petra Hotel-Apartments

Grikos, 855 00 Patmos

Tel: +30 22470 31035

Fax: +30 22470 34020

Website: www.petrahotel.gr

e-mail: info@petrahotel.gr

"Small white tables, glass vases with wild flowers, a beautiful sea and some Elytis poetry... They all blend in with the warm smile of Petroula and Kostas, who would have been certain winners of the hospitality Oscar, had there ever been one." This is how one delighted guest described the Petra Hotel and its proprietors, who really do know how to make visitors feel at home within their earthy, lovingly-kept abode in the fishing village of Grikos. The hotel's clean lines, whitewashed arches and unfussy yet

soft furnishings echo the austerity and spirituality of this eastern Aegean treasure of an island. It was here that St John penned the *Book of Revelations*. Once you set foot on Patmos, it is easy to understand where the inspiration sprung from. Almost all rooms enjoy a view of the Gulf of Grikos. The capital, Skala, and the medieval village of Hora are five kilometers away.

RHODES

Dionysos Hotel

Ixia, 851 00 Rhodes

Tel: +30 22410 23021

Fax: +30 22410 34401

Website: www.dionysos-hotel.gr

e-mail: info@dionysos-hotel.gr

Enclosed within 40 acres of pine forests and subtropical gardens, just 200 meters from Ixia beach, the Dionysos is a fun, economical choice for families. The hotel's showpiece is a 2,000 square-meter seawater swimming pool around which everything seems to be built. The restaurants and bars overlook it, and, naturally, it incorporates a swim-up bar and countless canary yellow lounge chairs. All rooms have spacious balconies and some have sea views, while the studios have a kitchenette. Souvlaki and pancake addicts need not travel far to satisfy their craving – there's an onsite kebab eatery and creperie. Though basic, the taverna's Greek fare is very reasonably priced. Nursery facilities are available, while youngsters have at their disposal a separate pool and a playground. Sports buffs can choose from tennis, basketball, water polo, volleyball, table tennis, aerobics, even horse riding.

Lindian Village

Lardos, 851 09 Rhodes

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Fax: +30 22440 47360

Website: www.lindianvillage.gr

e-mail: info@lindian.gr

Built to resemble a small island village, this elegant five-star resort on Lardos beach is surrounded by tropical and indigenous flora. Hibiscus trees envelop its junior suites, which have private terraces and open-air Jacuzzis. Decorated in bright blue and stark white, the suites are especially well-appointed. They feature four-poster beds, a small office with Internet access, pool, even his & hers wash areas in the bathroom. Among the five dining options are a seafront fish and oyster bar – a great banquet location – and a South East Asian restaurant. Make sure to pick out a wine from the

hotel's own cellar. Facilities include a shopping arcade, small chapel for weddings, tennis court, water sports and children's area. This year there are new conference and meeting facilities that can host up to 350. Treatments at the Lindos Spa are all-natural so expect to be slathered in olive oil, honey and other treats.

Sofitel Capsis Hotel Rhodes & Convention Centre "Marika Capsis 2000"

Ixia, 851 00 Rhodes

Tel: +30 22410 25015

Fax: +30 22410 20900

Website: www.capsis.gr

e-mail: capsis-rhodes@capsis.gr

Touted as the "largest resort convention centre in Greece", with a capacity for 8,000 delegates, the five-star Sofitel Capsis Hotel Rhodes is a prime choice for conference organisers. The active local authority and tourism industry have invested great effort in building Rhodes' reputation as one of the Mediterranean's best conference, meeting and exhibition destinations. Situated on sandy Ixia beach five minutes from medieval Rhodes town and 10 minutes from the airport, the star-shaped structure features palm-studded gardens and a giant pool. There are 691 rooms, including 40 suites, 51 apartments, a private VIP floor and facilities for people with disabilities. The convention centre comprises 100 conference halls and breakout rooms, plus 5,990sq.m of exhibition space. The VIP section has full business facilities, its own lounge and bar. Earthy shades and antique furnishings bring warmth to recently renovated suites. Some 42 three- to five-star hotels are a maximum 15 minutes' drive away.

SANTORINI

Aigialos

Fira, 847 00 Santorini

Tel: +30 22860 25191-5

Fax: +30 22860 22856

Website: www.yadeshotels.gr

e-mail: aigialos@yadeshotels.gr

It is indeed a privilege to stay at the Aigialos, a stunning collection of 16 fully restored, neoclassical residences which were once home to the island's noble sea captains and their families. Master masons chiseled the houses to perfection, using local volcanic rock and colored lime plaster. Located in the island's capital on the famed cliff-face with an awe-inspiring view of the volcano, they are connected by cobblestone pathways. The interiors of the homes vary but all