

Sea Kayaking Grecian Islands
Ionian Islands, Greece
July 4 - 11, 2008 (Friday - Friday)

Do you want to sample authentic Greek life, sea kayak in crystal blue seas, and sleep under the stars on isolated beaches on traditional islands? The Ionian Sea has long held an irresistible fascination for seafarers and it is easy to see why. Set in crystal clear waters, dozens of islands extend from uninhabited sandy beaches to forested mountains rearing high out of the ocean. Every day, we paddle in the area's protected waters and every evening we explore the island interior on foot. There is much excellent hiking, passing lines of cypress trees to points with sweeping views and idyllic sunsets. Our trip is designed for those who enjoy sea kayaking and want to discover the hidden beauties of Greece. Please join us as we sample the natural and cultural delights of the Ionian Sea. It is suitable for any woman in good condition. Extensive kayaking experience is not required, although if you have never kayaked before, we strongly suggest that you try a day trip first to make sure you enjoy it.

Our trip begins July 4th in Athens, Greece, at our 3 star hotel where we'll meet in the evening, go for a short walking tour of Athens and then enjoy a welcome dinner at a traditional Greek tavern. If you're flying in you'll be met by a representative from Trekking Hellas, the company we are working with. If you are coming from the Bulgaria trip, plan to travel with your Adventures in Good Company guide to Athens. On Saturday we will enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour of Athens, visiting the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and the Olympic stadium – the Panathinaikon Stadium. We'll then be transported by private minibus (about 6 hours) to Lefkada and the village of Vassiliki, the place where we begin our kayak tour. Our arrival time will determine what we do this afternoon, but possibilities include an introduction to the kayaks and short round trip paddle to a near by fishing village, or a walk around the village. We will have dinner at a tavern in the village and spend the night in a hotel in Lefkada. That evening we will re-pack the personal gear that we need for kayaking into the waterproof bags provided by the outfitters.

On Sunday we depart for our kayak tour. We'll paddle for 5 to 8 hours each day, with stops along the way at beautiful islands, spectacular caves, remote towns, and other areas of interest. We will have ample opportunity to snorkel in crystalline waters, view wildlife, relax on sandy beaches, and enjoy the local cuisine and culture. We camp each night on scenic beaches in roomy tents, or if you prefer, under the stars. On Thursday after breakfast, we will paddle to Mitikas village – often meeting a group of dolphins on the way – where we will re-board our mini bus and drive to Delphi, home to one of the most famous oracles in ancient times. We will take a tour of the archaeological site and museum, have dinner in a nearby town and then drive to Athens (about 4 hours). On Friday you can depart anytime after breakfast.

The trip fee is \$2325 (deduct \$100 if you register by 1/4 and another \$100 if you also register for the Bulgaria trip). The trip fee includes three nights lodging in hotels and 4 nights camping, guide services, single or tandem kayaks, kayaking and group camping gear, meals from dinner on Friday through breakfast the following Friday, and transportation from and to the Athens airport, an inflatable support motor boat, and transfers within Greece. The fee does not include: transportation to and from Athens, personal camping gear and clothing, or customary gratuities. If you have any questions about our excursion, please give us a call; we'd be delighted to help you decide if this is the trip for you.

A d v e n t u r e s i n G o o d C o m p a n y

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