

EUROPE'S 50 BEST BEACH HOTELS

The best beach hotels in Greece

James Ellis

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Set in 89 acres of grounds, the Ikos Dassia in Corfu is fronted by a long, sandy private beach



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Ikos Dassia, Corfu

Opening in May this year, Ikos Dassia is the third hotel in the small group – there are two other properties in Halkidiki. Set in 89 acres of grounds, it is backed by woodland and fronted by a long, sandy private beach with loungers, umbrellas and waiter service. Guests have a choice of seven restaurants, contemporary rooms and activities from cycling to Greek dancing.

Details Seven nights' all-inclusive costs from £1,115pp, including flights (0161 492 1357, carrier.co.uk)



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cosmopolitan main town or one of its many beaches. This new hotel on Agios Ioannis beach puts paid to that, thanks to package deals from Olympic Holidays. It has traditional Cycladic design elements, where the minimalist rooms are enlivened by flashes of colour in the soft furnishings. If the sandy arc-shaped beach looks familiar, it's where *Shirley Valentine* was filmed.

Details Seven nights' B&B costs from £722pp, including return flights (020 8492 6868, olympicholidays.com)



The White Orchid is an adults-only hotel with eight suites

White Orchid Hotel, Sivota

Rust-coloured cliffs surround White Orchid, a small white-sand bay overlooking a string of islets. The beach is home to this eponymous adults-only hotel with eight suites, a restaurant terrace and an infinity pool in bougainvillea-shaded gardens. It's a short drive to the lively town of Sivota.

Details Seven nights' B&B costs from £1,136pp, including flights and car hire (020 8003 6557, simpsontravel.com)

Parga Beach Hotel, Parga

The northwest coast of Greece on the Ionian Sea tends to have strong Venetian influences and there's a magnificent ruined Venetian castle overlooking the tiny harbour town of Parga. That influence can also be seen in the styling of the rooms at this chic resort-hotel overlooking the fine stretch of sand known as Valtos beach. The hotel is also home to a traditional Greek restaurant, three pools and a children's pool.

Details Seven nights' B&B costs from £638pp, including flights (020 8459 0777, ionianislandholidays.com)

EZeen, Kefalonia

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such as exposed brick walls. Fragrant gardens are home to three pools, a yoga deck and a holistic spa, plus there are two bars and restaurants.

Details B&B doubles cost from £140 a night (fzeenretreat.com). Fly to Kefalonia



Kyrimai Hotel is housed in a collection of 19th-century stone houses

Kyrimai Hotel, Gerolimenas

The waterside Kyrimai Hotel is a stylish country-chic pad in a collection of 19th-century stone houses. The hotel features top-notch dining by the Michelin-starred Greek celebrity chef Yiannis Baxevanis, a fabulous pool area and stone walkways that stretch into the sea, perfect for sunbathing. The beach of Gerolimenas is three minutes' walk.

Details B&B doubles start from £80 per room (i-escape.com). Fly to Kalamata

Calilo, Ios

A decade ago Angelos Michalopoulos and his wife, Vassiliki, bought a quarter of Ios in an effort to preserve its natural beauty. Having planted 55,000 trees on a remote stretch of coast, the couple are starting to offer some environmentally friendly development, such as this hotel set on the remote, sandy Papas beach, which opens in late summer. On a 1,000-acre plot it will feature 300m of private beach, 30 plush suites with private pools, non-motorised water sports, and 10km of hiking trails.

Details B&B doubles cost from £600 a night (00 30 697 011 4922, calilo.gr). Take the ferry from Athens



The Lesante Blue features a spa and three restaurants

Lesante Blu, Zakynthos

In the picturesque village of Tragaki, this upscale, adults-only hotel sits on a marvellous stretch of private sand and has an urban-cool feel throughout. Rooms and suites — many with whirlpool tubs — are minimalist in design, with playful artwork, such as stencilled clouds on some ceilings. There’s also a spa and three restaurants, including the high-end Melia. The city of Zakynthos, with its bustling nightlife scene, is a short drive away.

Details Seven nights’ B&B costs from £764pp, including flights (01293 832459, sovereign.com)

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