

# Ithaca

Ionian // Ithaca by Greeka.com



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## Map of Ithaca

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## About Ithaca

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The other islands of the group are: Kefallonia, Corfu, Lefkada, Zakynthos, Kythira and Paxi. The beautiful and quiet Ithaca is famous for being the homeland of **Odysseus** (Ulysses), Homer's hero of the epic poem Odyssey.

Ithaca is the land where the faithful Penelope waits patiently twenty years for her husband to return from the Trojan War. Despite his long voyage full of adventures, Odysseus manages to return to his beloved Ithaca, which became after the Odyssey a symbol of the long and difficult voyage of a life time and the joys of it, an idea which **Cavafy** expressed beautifully in his wonderful **poem called Ithaka** (Ithaki):

"When you set out on the voyage to Ithaca Pray that your journey may be long Full of adventures, full of knowledge". The influence of the story of Ulysses is so vivid till today that theatrical versions of the Homer's poet are frequently played in the Municipality's Theatrical Library.

This wonderful, verdant island is separated from the island of Kefalonia by a narrow canal, only 3 km wide. The east coast of the island is harsh and precipitous, greatly contrasting with the west coast which is verdant and soft, gently sloping down to the Ionian Sea. The interior of the island is quite mountainous, covered with pine forests, cypresses, olive trees and vineyards. Enchanting coves are perfecting this idyllic landscape, making it a real paradise on earth.

Fortunately, Ithaca has not yet been spoiled by mass tourism, mostly because it is an unknown destination and doesn't fit the expectations of the people usually looking for exciting night life and large crowded sandy beaches, fully equipped with sun beds and umbrellas. Ithaca is not that kind of island. It is a calm and beautiful destination, ideal for those searching for relaxation, peaceful walks, calm swimming in emerald waters, small single coves boarded by pine and olive trees, and great calm.

Ithaca is an island of pleasure where every one takes its time to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of the place. The island offers many things to do such as endless walks, visits to the sleepy villages and stops at the many archaeological sites associated with Homer's stories. The whole island is full of magic and beauty, making more clear the great love and pride of Odysseus for his homeland. Ithaca is a wonderful island with amazing landscape of greenery, villages, small caves and picturesque ports.

However, apart from a lovely scenery, Ithaca also has a great culture. Many **famous personalities** of the Greek history were born there. The culture of this island has been influenced by the Italians, as the rest of the Ionian islands, and has offered a revival to the mainland of Greece.

## Villages of Ithaca

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**Vathy** (Rating: ★★★★★ by Greeka members)

**Location:** On the southern side of the island

**Description:** Vathy is the capital and main port of the island. The traditional houses, the paved streets and the picturesque harbor create a nice place to relax.

**Sightseeing:** Archaeological Museum, Church Of Savior Christ, Folklore And Nautical Museum



### Kioni

**Location:** 24 km north west of Vathy

**Description:** This village is built on the slopes of a mountain and it has a lovely port, where fishing boats moor quietly. This is an amazing place to relax.



## Beaches of Ithaca

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### Agios Ioannis

**Location:** 9 km north west of Vathy

**Description:** This amazing little beach is one of the most beautiful beaches of Ithaca, with fine golden sand and emerald water.



**Dexa** (Rating: ★★★★★ by Greeka members)

**Location:** 2 km west of Vathy

**Description:** This beach gives a magic combination of fine sand and white pebbles with superb clear water. It is located very close to Vathy, the capital of the island.



**Frikes** (Rating: ★★★★★ by Greeka members)

**Location:** 18 km north of Vathy

**Description:** Frikes is a lovely beach on the northern side of the island. It is actually a small bay that gets pretty popular.



## Sightseeing in Ithaca

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### Monastery Of Panagia Katharion

**Location:** Anogi

The Monastery of Panagia Katharon is located on the way to Anogi. Panagia Katharion is the patron saint of the island and its name day is celebrated on September 8th. Nobody knows the exact date of its construction but we know that the monastery was restored in 1696. Its main church (katholikon) operates since 1530 and has a beautiful iconostasis. From this monastery, visitors can enjoy a wonderful panoramic view of Ithaca.

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## Credits

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Greekka.com would like to thank the following members for their valuable contribution, as some of the photos included in this guide belong to them.

**[Olympias](#), [gorettirufino](#), [joy23](#), [lesbrothwood](#), [mariah](#), [melhara86](#), [patras](#), [zwitserw](#)**

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**Greekka.com**

- **Adress:** Makrigianni 26A, 18537 Piraeus/Athens, Greece
- **E-mail:** info@greekka.com
- **Tel:** +30 210 4526900
- **Fax:** +30 210 4526960

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