

Meganisi

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About Meganisi

Meganisi is a small island that lies to the east of Lefkada. It is approximately 1.5 miles from Skorpios and approximately 4 miles from Nydri. The island has got a permanent population of about 1,200 inhabitants. It covers an area of almost 20 square kilometres. The village of Katomeri that is located high above Vathy is the capital of Meganisi.

During prehistoric times, Meganisi was known as the Island Taphos. This name was taken from Taphos, the son of Poseidon and the ruler of the region. The first reference of this name was found in the works of Homer.

Meganisi is a nice holiday destination. Meganisi, despite being small in size, has plenty of beaches where people can enjoy sea sports. Sea caves are the most important attractions in Meganisi. The famous Papanikoli Cave is one among them, situated on the west coast of the island. This cave got its fame because it was used as a hiding place for submarines during World War II.

Meganisi has got regular ferry services with Nydri that is situated on the east coastal zone about 16 km south of Lefkada. From Vathy, there are regular boat connections to Ithaca and Kefalonia and also to nearby islets of Skorpios, Mandouri and Sparti. The people who stay on Meganisi are mostly farmers and fishermen. The main cultivation of this village is vines and olives. There are large olive groves growing on the slopes. The area once had several olive-presses, but only a few of them survive today.

The olive press of Panoutsos at Vathy was recently undertaken by the Municipality of Meganisi to restore it into an industrial museum. The wells that were opened at various points on the island shows its agricultural significance. At present only few wells still work.

Meganisi is an island of natural beauty. It is peaceful and hospitable, without many cars and noisy activities. Many footpaths cover the island and the narrow roads, which have little traffic, are ideal for walking. The residents love their island and take good care of it.

Villages of Meganisi

Vathy

Location: 2 km north of Katomeri

Description: The village is beautiful with many whitewashed houses and alleys. Its small ports hosts fishing boats, yachts and ferries from Nydri.

Sightseeing: Papanikolis Sea Cave

Spartochori

Location: 4 km west of Katomeri

Description: This is a beautiful village with traditional architecture and picturesque streets. It is constructed on a hill and offers nice view to the sea. This is the second port of Meganisi, after Vathy.

Beaches of Meganisi

Fanari

Location: 3 km north of Katomeri

Description: Fanari is famous for its picturesque surrounding and its crystal water. Visitors can go there by boat from Vathy.

Agios Ioannis

Location: 7 km south west of Katomeri

Description: This is a beautiful beach on the western side of the island. It took its name from the small chapel of Agios Ioannis on the beach.

Sightseeing: Church Of Agios Ioannis

Megalo Limonari

Location: 2 km south of Meganisi

Description: Megalo Limonari is a clean and sandy beach that can be reached by boat or motorbike. Totally unorganized, this is the perfect beach to relax.

Spilia

Location: 5 km west of Katomeri

Description: Spilia is the port of Spartohori. It has a nice pebbled beach surrounded by much greenery.

Sightseeing in Meganisi

Papanikolis Sea Cave

Location: [Vathy](#)

This is a very attractive cave which took its name from a Greek submarine that used to find shelter there in the Second World War.

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