

# Zakynthos

Ionian // Zakynthos by Greeka.com



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## Map of Zakynthos

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## About Zakynthos

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Zakynthos, or else Zante, belongs to the Ionian islands. The Venetians had given to the island the name "Fiore di Levante", meaning the "Flower of the Orient" as the island has rich and dense vegetation, its mountains are covered with pines and its plains are particularly fertile.

This rich vegetation of Zakynthos is due to the mild Mediterranean climate of the island, characterized by a high level of rainfalls in winter and lot of sunshine in summer. Because of the many rainfalls, Zakynthos is a very fertile island and its agricultural production is important.

The main products cultivated on the island are olives, vineyards and citrus. Except agriculture, the other source of income for the inhabitants of the island comes from the increasing tourism.

Zakynthos is famous for its unspoiled natural environment, home to the endangered species of sea turtle called Caretta-Caretta which goes there during the reproduction period. The sea turtle is protected by the international agreements and the Greek legislation. The **Monk seal** *Monachus Monachus* also goes to Zakynthos to give birth.

Zakynthos is also famous for its amazing wonderful golden sandy beaches. The most famous beaches are as Vassilikos, Laganas, Tsilivi and Alykes. Many of the island's beaches have become lively beach resorts proposing many hotels, restaurants, cafes and bars but other have been declared protected areas for the reproduction of the Caretta-Caretta and have kept their natural beauty. This rare sea turtle usually goes to sandy beaches or isolate islets, like **Pelouzo** or Marathonisi.

Apart from its beautiful natural environment, Zakynthos also has a long and rich culture, much influenced by the Venetians. The island is known for its elegant **musical tradition** and for its special architecture, which is more evident in Zakynthos town.

## Villages of Zakynthos

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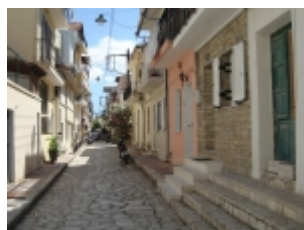
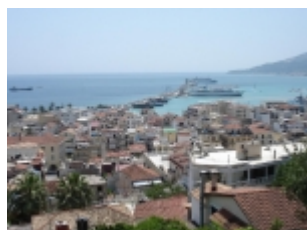
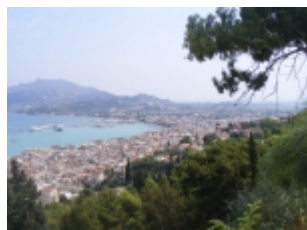


**Town** (Rating: ★★★★★ by Greeka members)

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

**Description:** Zakynthos Town is the capital and main port of the island. Its architecture distinguishes for the elegant Venetian and Neoclassical style. This is a lovely town for an evening stroll along the narrow paths and the waterfront.

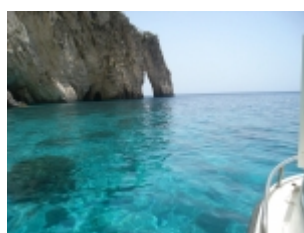
**Sightseeing:** Agios Dionyssios, Post Byzantine Art Museum, Solomos Museum, Xenopoulos Museum



### Keri

**Location:** 21 km south west of Zakynthos Town

**Description:** Keri is a lovely village that has managed to escape the tourism growth of the island. The nearest beach is Limni Keriou.





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

**Location:** 10 km south west of Zakynthos Town

**Description:** Maherado is the second largest village of the island. Located in the inland, it has escaped the tourism growth of Zakynthos.

**Sightseeing:** Agia Mavra

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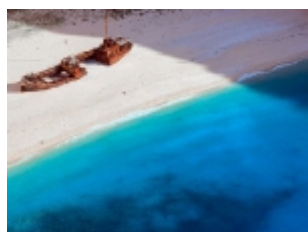
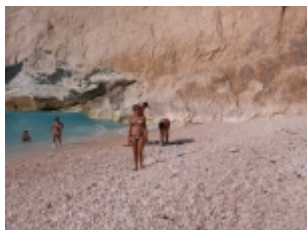
## Beaches of Zakynthos



**Navagio or Shipwreck** (Rating: ★★★★★ by Greeka members)

**Location:** On the north western side of Zakynthos island

**Description:** Navagio is the most famous beach of Zakynthos. This beach is always crowded because excursion boats go there all day long. The exotic water and the rocky surroundings attract a lot of people.



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

**Location:** 18 km south of Zakynthos Town

**Description:** Considered among the most beautiful beautiful beaches of Zakynthos, the long sandy beach of Gerakas has wonderful crystalline waters.



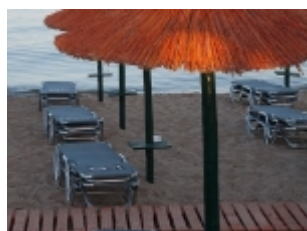
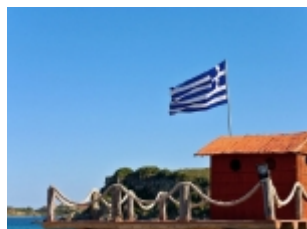


### Agios Nikolaos

**Location:** 32 km north west from Zakynthos Town

**Description:** Agios Nikolaos is a popular beach resort on the northern side of the island. It gets very busy for its watersports activities and the area is great for scuba diving.

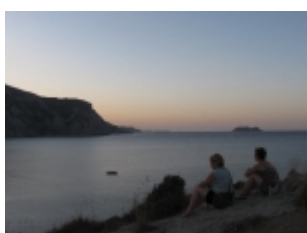
**Sightseeing:** Askos Stone Park, Blue Caves



### Kalamaki (Rating: ★★★★★ by Greeka members)

**Location:** 6 km south of Zakynthos Town

**Description:** Kalamaki is the closest beach to the airport and among the most developed resorts in Zakynthos Town. It gets very popular and has plenty of tourist facilities.



### Porto Zoro

**Location:** 17 km south east of Zakynthos Town

**Description:** Porto Zoro is a long and sandy beach between Argassi and Vassilikos. Due to its location and its natural beauty, it gets very popular in summer.



### Spanzia

**Location:** 16 km south west of Zakynthos Town

**Description:** Spiantza is a beautiful beach in the area of Vassilikos, southern Zakynthos. Some of its parts are pebbled and others are sandy.

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## Sightseeing in Zakynthos

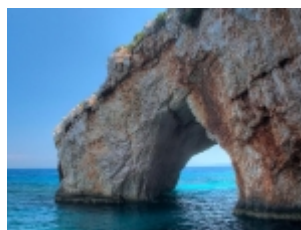
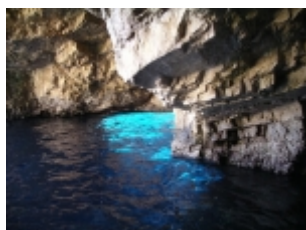
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### Blue Caves

**Location:** Agios Nikolaos

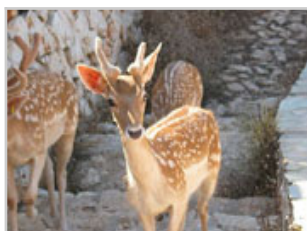
Blue Caves are located on the northernmost side of the island. They were created by wave erosions and excursion boats get through their arches.



### Marathonisi Islet

**Location:** Limni Keriou

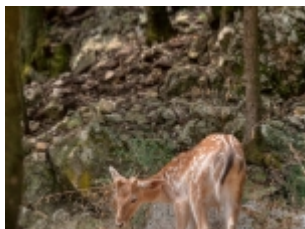
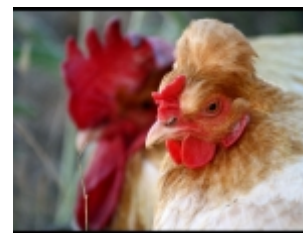
Marathonisi is a pristine island in the bay of Laganas, right opposite Limni Keriou beach. Excursion boats go to Marathonisi, which is known for its sandy beaches and the green landscape. On the soft sand of Marathonisi, the sea turtle caretta-caretta goes to lay its eggs.



### Askos Stone Park

**Location:** Agios Nikolaos

This is a lovely park with many self-grown trees and bushes and a lot of animals species. The park is crossed by narrow, stone paths.



### **Post Byzantine Art Museum**

**Location:** [Town](#)

The Post Byzantine Art Museum of Zakynthos Town is housed in the large building of Solomos Square, the largest square of the town. It exhibits valuable icons, ecclesiastical clothing, frescoes from the 16th-19th century and papers and photos of Zakynthos before the earthquake of 1953.

## 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, Tuner, arazzo, bbunjevac, christopher, dburbrook, designmama, evitta, gina3cats, glljansen, hellen502, jondhaw, jopp, kefalonia, lica, mikie, nicoletas, nimmada, ralu, vincent**

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