

Jammas! From a Copper Wedding Cruise to a little Train, and home to Rørvig!



It was quite an honour to host a Copper Wedding celebration but you can't lose with idyllic island settings, perfect weather, a good supply of Mythos (Greek beer) and (even more than we'd hoped for), an appearance by the surfing dolphins. Our reputation was saved. We had a great 2 weeks with Jan (Mythos) and Lene (bathing nymph) Nielsen.

Aegina, Poros and Hydra were as lovely as the first time round. We hope they'll be back.

From Piraeus we turned north towards Volos, our "home" for Havana while in Denmark to spend time with visiting friends from England. We sailed between the mainland and the large island of Evia with several stops. A highlight was the 02.00 a.m. bridge opening at Chalkis which forced us into a long and a little stormy night sail. But in the morning we sailed into a lovely bay.



The Pilion peninsula is less well-known but a very prosperous and beautiful area of mountains and sand beaches, popular with Greeks. To ensure a place, we based ourselves in Volos (Greece's 5th largest city)-pop.113,000. They all come out every evening to walk along the main promenade until 04:00! From 1947-57 the city was destroyed by earthquakes so it is modern, yet very pleasant with a small-town feel and nice pedestrian shopping precincts. It is famous for the "mezedes" (appetisers) and "ouzerias" (ouzo bars). From here we took local busses on day trips. It is totally different in style with tranquil mountain villages of stone houses with slate roofs. Here they sell home-made jams and honeys. Menues feature hearty hunting stews and baked goat. Makrinita is said to be the loveliest mountain village in Greece.

At the very tip of the peninsula, below Trikeri perched on the headland, is a tiny fishing hamlet. At midnight every table in the square was full as guests arrived by boat to dine on the local tavernas' famous spaghetti with lobster.



For 76 years the little train of Pilion transported people and goods throughout the area. It was built in 1894 by an Italian engineer and it changed the whole economic and cultural status of the region. At 60 cm. wide it is one of the world's smallest passenger trains. Today, manned by volunteer train enthusiasts, it climbs 16 km. through olive groves, up the mountain, over steep gorges, across 6 stone bridges and 1 open iron bridge. It's pure magic. Midway, it stops at "Oasis" – a tiny café beside the very quaint Olive Museum. No oil but lots of olive soap. In August, it was lovely to welcome back our friends, the **Blights**, to the summerhouse in Rørvig where we had many good days to Holbæk, Helsingborg, Nykøbing and the flea-market!

