

Exploring Lefkas & Meganissi



We had long looked forward to showing Peter Lefkadha island. We approached through the flat marshlands and swinging bridge outside Lefkas Town, a lovely but strange area. Once wealthy, Lefkas island built its prosperity on olives, currants, wine grapes, thyme honey and almonds. It was devastated by the earthquake of 1953 and today no buildings in the main town are higher than 3 storeys, the ground floors are built of stone and the first and second of wood or corrugated tin which gives it a rakish, shanty town appearance. Today tourism rules. Nidri is extremely over-commercialised but has the loveliest setting and magical light. Across from it, lies Skorpios, formerly owned by the Onassis family and recently bought by a Russian oligarch. 300 local workers were busily preparing for his "island-warming party!" in July. We stopped in at the lovely monastery on Lefkas with it's surprising aviary where they were preparing for a christening.



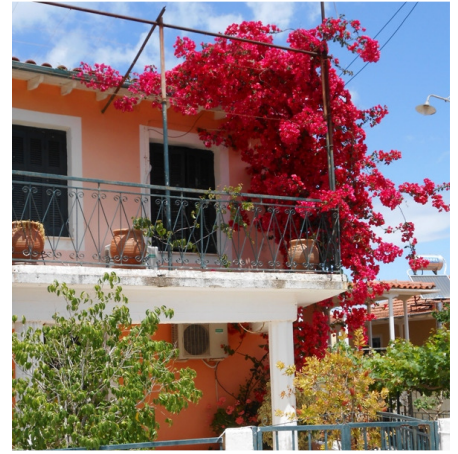
No matter how many times you see it, Porto Katsiki is jaw-dropping in it's scale and colour with it's chalk white cliffs and overlook. We nearly didn't make it due to a large coach with a flat tire perched just above a drop off on the hairpin road. Pitied the poor passengers trudging all the way up to the top.



Both Lefkas and Meganissi are green oases compared to the other island groups of Greece and Springtime is especially lovely.

Meganissi is a very tranquil little spot and we anchored at the pontoon at Porto Spilia. You climb the path to Spartahori, a little white-washed village of spotless houses and colourful gardens where nothing much has changed for decades. Peter and I also walked the island –round (10 km) and appreciated our swim all the the more afterwards!

But with the weather changing again and cooling, we left for Prevesa and a rough night of howling gales and lashing rain, thankfully tied up to the quay. We had a good dinner at a tavern in town, to the noisy accompaniment of some rather inebriated sailors and left again for Corfu



The lovely light at Nidri.

