WONDERGREECE

The music loving Zakynthos, the Flower of the East!

Plan Days 4

Sea, snorkeling, hiking, castles, traditional cuisine, is anything missing?

By: Christina Koraki

PLAN SUMMARY

WONDERGREECE

Day 1

1. Zakynthos
   About region/Main cities & villages
2. Romas Mansion
   Culture/Museums
3. Gerakas
   Nature/Beaches
4. Agios Nikolaos at Vasilikos
   Nature/Beaches

Day 2

1. Zakynthos
   About region/Main cities & villages
2. Venetian castle of Zakynthos
   Culture/Castles
3. Xigkia
   Nature/Beaches
4. Blue Caves
   Culture/Monuments & sights

Day 3

1. Zakynthos
   About region/Main cities & villages
2. Navagio
   Nature/Beaches
3. Zakynthos
   About region/Main cities & villages

Day 4

1. Zakynthos
   About region/Main cities & villages
2. Solomos & Kalvos Museum
   Culture/Museums
3. Post-Byzantine Museum of Zakynthos
   Culture/Museums
4. Marathonisi
   Nature/Beaches
5. Agios Sostis
   Nature/Beaches

Day 1

WONDERGREECE

1. Zakynthos

About region / Main cities & villages

Απόσταση:
Start -
Χρόνος:
-

GPS: N37.7881604, W20.898827100000062

Note: Welcome to Zakynthos, internationally known as Zante. After you check-in in your hotel, go out in the town, in which you will find everything that you will need for your 4 dayσ exploration trip. If you haven't already, equipped with hats for the beach, it is suggested that you purchase them, due to the fact that most of Zakynthos' coasts have very little natural shade. Start your day with a tasteful breakfast in the cafeterias of the town and get to know the locals by strolling around the paving roads.

2. Romas Mansion

Culture / Museums

Contact:
T: (+30) 26950 28343

Απόσταση:
on foot 0.3km
Χρόνος:
03΄

GPS: N37.790083098689166, W20.89971066441808

Note: Travel in time and get to know the Roma Mansion, which is located in the town of Zakynthos and it is dated back to 1660. Initially, it was built by an English merchant Robert John Geoffrey, later it was bought by Alexander Roma and since then, it became the home of his family. It is the only mansion that still obtains the old urban style of houses, because it was not deformed by the earthquakes. Inside of the mansion you will find historical artifacts, family portraits, as well as rare books' editions dated from the 16th century!

3. Gerakas

Nature / Beaches

Απόσταση:
by car 16.6km
Χρόνος:
3h29΄

GPS: N37.7068769, W20.98693579999997

Note: Gerakas is one of the main attractions of Zakynthos' island, a beautiful beach in which you will enjoy your swim in hollow, clear waters. Do not skip a walk to the cape of the beach, in which you will find a big clay rock and you will have the chance to benefit by taking a therapeutic mud bath. Do not forget, as long as you are in the beach to respect the protection rules for the endangered species of Kareta Kareta turtles. The beach belongs to the national marine park and in order to protect the turtles the beach will remain closed after the sundown.

4. Agios Nikolaos at Vasilikos

Nature / Beaches

Απόσταση:
by car 3.5km
Χρόνος:
44΄

GPS: N37.726641068420136, W20.98891126403805

Note: Time for watersports! Head towards the coast of Agios Nikolaos at Vasilikos and have fun with the variety of watersport. You can engage in an individual water-activity or water-sports for large parties! When you feel exhausted, you can eat in one of the many taverns and restaurants of the area. Try the special Zakynthian recipe of rabbit stew, accompanied by boiled potatoes or pasta, which can be served as a main course or as a wine accompaniment. Regarding the wine, it is recommended to order white Verdea, which is the local wine of Zakynthos.

Day 2

WONDERGREECE

1. Zakynthos

About region / Main cities & villages

Απόσταση:
Start -
Χρόνος:
-

GPS: N37.7881604, W20.898827100000062

Note: Start your day by eating for breakfast the famous orange flavoured paximadia (rusks) and spread the top with honey and fresh jam (orange or peach jam is recommended)!

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2. Venetian castle of Zakynthos

Culture / Castles

Απόσταση:
by car 1.1km
Χρόνος:
10΄

GPS: N37.78904191949354, W20.89249783439334

Note: Hike from the town and continue on the Mpochali road towards the old medieval region of Zakynthos. In the Venetian castle you will follow a circular route. Halfway, on the right of Bembo's fortification, a path will lead you in the top of the hill, which has a snack-bar. Cool off and rest while you enjoy the view of the Laganas' gulf. Towards the exit you will find the Grimani bastion, which is overlooking the beautiful town and the harbor.

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3. Xigkia

Nature / Beaches

Απόσταση:
by car 22.3km
Χρόνος:
29΄

GPS: N37.867140574998075, W20.73506214638678

Note: Make a stop in the cove, which you will know that you are approaching by the intense smell of Sulphur, which surrounds the coast. The coast is small; however there are enough parking spaces. Take a dive in the cove's waters, and benefit by their therapeutic properties, due to their high capacity in Sulphur, provided by the nearby caves. The coast does not have stores, so you will have to obtain anything you need from the surrounding areas. Regarding the taverns, you will find a number of them in the surrounding areas.

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4. Blue Caves

Culture / Monuments & sights

Απόσταση:
by car 11.6km
Χρόνος:
2h30΄

GPS: N37.930246907429186, W20.704978490075746

Note: Regarding the Blue Caves, you have the ability to participate in one of the boat excursions, in which the boat will go through the clear blue waters and guide you in the Blue Caves. In the center of the boat, there is a clear glass, in order to enjoy the underwater life. The second option is snorkeling in the Blue Caves. Head to the Schoinari cape, where you will find

some steps leading you to the beautiful green waters. Snorkel from there and continue towards the Blue Caves and the Blue Grotto, which is the biggest cave. The seabed is beautiful and the waters are in a good temperature.

Day 3

1. Zakynthos

About region / Main cities & villages

Απόσταση:
Start -
Χρόνος:
-

GPS: N37.7881604, W20.898827100000062

Note: Enjoy your breakfast and prepare for a beautiful, all-day trip to the Navagio (shipwreck) of Zakynthos.

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2. Navagio

Nature / Beaches

Απόσταση:
by car 47.0km
Χρόνος:
7h06′

GPS: N37.85943227605691, W20.62479166931155

Note: One of the most famous coasts in the world, an aquamarine coloured beach with waters that remind a big pool and a white, sandy coast with white pebbles. In order to get to the beach you will need to take a boat, which you can find in many different places around the island. You can also, drive up to a point, through the island and get to know better Zakynthos' inland. When you arrive on the coast, enjoy one of the most beautiful beaches of Greece and swim in a unique water colour, which reminds you the waters of a tropic island.

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3. Zakynthos

About region / Main cities & villages

Απόσταση:
by car 47.0km
Χρόνος:
7h09′

GPS: N37.7881604, W20.898827100000062

Note: Return to the town and go out to explore the nightlife of it. The town and the surrounding areas, have a lot of cafeterias and English-styles bars, which usually, provide a beautiful view. Enjoy a cold cocktail and groove to the island music.

Day 4

1. Zakynthos

About region / Main cities & villages

Απόσταση:
Start -
Χρόνος:
-

GPS: N37.7881604, W20.898827100000062

2. Solomos & Kalvos Museum

Culture / Museums

Note: Take time to visit the museum of Solomos and Kalvos Museum. In the ground floor the mausoleum is housed, which keeps the bones of the national poet Dionysios Solomos, as well as the bones of Andreas Kalvos and his wife. In addition, the room of Stavros Niarchos library is available. In the room of Prominent Zakynthian you will find portraits of Saint Dionysios, Dionysios and Aleksandros Romas, as well as of Foskolos and many others. The painting of the Filikoi, who took their oath in the church of Saint George, is still displayed.

Location:
Zakynthos

Contact:
T: (+30) 26950 48982

Απόσταση:
on foot 0.0km
Χρόνος:
00΄

GPS: N37.78810104836057, W20.898955846032777

3. Post-Byzantine Museum of Zakynthos

Culture / Museums

Note: Just down the road, make a stop in the Post-Byzantine Museum and watch the evolution of art and culture through oil-paintings, wooden sculptures, and art paintings from the Byzantine era till the modern Greece.

Location:
Zakynthos

Contact:
T: (+30) 26950 42714

Απόσταση:
on foot 0.2km
Χρόνος:
02΄

GPS: N37.78710902104459, W20.899781966409364

4. Marathonisi

Nature / Beaches

Απόσταση:
by car 16.1km
Χρόνος:
3h19΄

GPS: N37.68607305431287, W20.86964466591803

Note: Marathonisi is accessible by boat, (for the daredevils, you can also get there by canoeing). The island does not have snack-bars or stores, so equip with anything you want before you get there. You will need about 1-2 hours to snorkel around the island and explore the caves. On the right side of the coast there is a big cave, but around the island you will find caves filled with different kind of stones and starfish. You may meet the Kareta Kareta turtles, so be gentle with your moves. There is a small cave, where if you are lucky, you will see Mediterranean seal!

5. Agios Sostis

Nature / Beaches

Απόσταση:
by car 8.7km
Χρόνος:
1h50′

GPS: N37.71368029758559, W20.865213833343546

Note: Take a last dive in the warm, blue waters of the organised coast of Agios Sostis. After your delightful swim, you can choose one of the many restaurants and taverns to eat and then, you can go for a drink at the seaside bars of the area.

Zakynthos

Access

By Plane: Zakynthos has an airport that receives flights from Athens and Thessaloniki with intermediate stops in Corfu and Kefallonia; the frequency of the itineraries varies depending on the season. The airport also receives many charter flights from other European cities.
Airport: (+30) 26950 29503

By Boat: You can approach Zakynthos by boat from the port of Kyllini located in the western Peloponnese in the Prefecture of Ilia, 80km from Patra. The journey takes about 1 hour. Zakynthos has also a ferry link with Kefallonia from the port of Agios Nikolaos, while the journey takes about 1 hour. During August, there is also a ferry link with Brindisi in Italy. The frequency of the itineraries varies depending on the season.
Shore Patrol of Zante: (+30) 26950 28117
Shore Patrol of Kyllini: (+30) 26230 92211

By Car: You can drive to the port of Kyllini in the western Peloponnese, in the prefecture of Ilia and then take the ferry to Zakynthos (290km approximately from Athens and 77km from Patra).

By Bus: There are also buses that depart from main boroughs and arrive in the bus station of Zakynthos. Therefore, the island has a bus connection with Athens (5 hours including the ferry), Patra (2 hours including the ferry), Thessaloniki (this itinerary stops in Larissa, Lamia and Korinthos), Ioannina etc.
Bus station Zakynthos: (+30) 26950 22255, 42 Filitas Street
Bus station Patra: (+30) 2610 220993
Bus station Athens: (+30) 210 5129432, 100 Kifissou Street
Bus station Thessaloniki: (+30) 2310 595417
Bus station Larissa: (+30) 2410 551133
Bus station Lamia: (+30) 22310 51345

Domestic transportation

If you do not have your own vehicle, you will find several car and motorcycle rental companies for your perambulation on the island. You can also take the interurban buses, which have frequent itineraries to the most significant places of the island, or a taxi.

Marinas: If you are visiting Zakynthos by your own boat, you can berth it at the main port of Zakynthos, where you can replenish it with fuel and anything else you might need. Moreover, a marina is being constructed, which is not finished yet (or at least when this article was written). Other anchorages, depending on the weather, can be found in Agios Nikolaos, Keri, Navagio, Porto Vromi and Strofadia.

Useful telephone numbers

Health service
First Aids: (+30) 26950 23166
General Hospital of Zakynthos, Agios Dionisios: (+30) 26953 60500
Health Center Kallithea: (+30) 26950 85131
Health Center Pantokratoras: (+30) 26950 51210
Rural Practice Volimes: (+30) 26950 31055
Rural Practice Kalipado: (+30) 26950 61301
Rural Practice Macherado: (+30) 26950 92217
Rural Practice Agios Leontas: (+30) 26950 48640
Rural Practice Agia Marina: (+30) 26950 22726
Rural Practice Argasi: (+30) 26950 44119

Rural Practice Planos: (+30) 26950 44323
Municipality Police Authorities
Municipality of Zakynthos: (+30) 26953 61300

Police Authorities

Police Station: (+30) 26950 24480
Tourist Police: (+30) 26950 27367

Port Authorities

Port of Zante: (+30) 26950 28117
Port of Kyllini: (+30) 26230 92211

Fire Service, Forestry

Fire Service: (+30) 26950 22199
Forestry: (+30) 26950 41125

Transportation

Bus station of Zakynthos: (+30) 26950 22255
Airport: (+30) 26950 29503
Radio Taxi: (+30) 26950 48400

Other

Tourist Information: (+30) 26950 22518