

# LEFKADA GREECE

## RELIGIOUS DESTINATIONS



Pilgrimage at the Temples and Monasteries of Lefkada



PREFECTURE OF LEFKADA  
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#### How to get to Lefkada

**By car:** Through the tunnel connecting Preveza and Aktion • Through the port of Igoumenitsa (100km) • Through the port of Patras (170km)

**By bus:** From Athens (378km), 5-hour routes • From Thessaloniki (420km), 5-hour routes as well. **KTEL (Greek Bus Operators) Tel.: of Lefkada 26450 22364, of Athens: 210 5150108, of Thessaloniki: 2310 595439**

**By airplane:** From Athens, Thessaloniki and Siteia, Crete, to Aktion (18km Aktion - Lefkada) • **Tel.: Olympic Air 210 3550500, Athens Airways 210 6696600, 801 801 4000**

#### Itineraries to the surrounding islands

Daily ferry boat services from Nidri and Vassiliki to Kefalonia, Ithaca and Meganisi. Small tourist boats to nearby beaches and islets, as well.

## HOLY TEMPLE OF ST. MINAS



The most admirable of Lefkada's temples, situated in the most central location of the city. It was built in 1707, after the miracle of Saint Minas, Saint Victor and Saint Vincent during the earthquake of 11 November 1704.

It stands out for the magnificent baroque wooden carved iconostasis, decorated with leaves of gold and beautiful icons of post-Byzantine art, painted by Konstantinos Kontarinis. The marvellous icons of the "urania" (ceiling), painted by the great Heptanesian icon painters Nikolaos Doxaras and Nikolaos Koutouzis, were destroyed by a fire in 1977 and replaced by reproductions, painted by the contemporary artist Themistocles Karfakis. It stands out for its iron bell-tower. It celebrates on 11/11.

From the Temple of Saint Minas begins the Central Market of the city, the "Bazaar", a pedestrian precinct leading to the beach, embellished with temples and houses of antiseismic construction (ground floor built with stone and upper floors built with wood and painted steel sheet) – typical examples of Lefkadian architecture. ○

## HOLY TEMPLE OF EVANGELISTRIA (Metropolis)



It is the Metropolitan Temple of the city, seat of the Metropole of Lefkada and Ithaca. Built for the first time in 1689, it took its present shape in 1886, after consecutive disasters and earthquakes.

In the interior, you will find the impressive neoclassical iconostasis, the wooden curved Despotic throne, the high pulpit, as well as the huge columns, dividing the temple into three naves. The icons of Renaissance art decorating the iconostasis and the urania were painted by the Lefkadian icon painters Spyr. Stampoglis and Spyr. Gazis (end of 19th – beginning of 20th century). Formal ceremonies and doxologies are performed in the Temple and the Metropolitane officiates here on great feasts (Christmas, Epiphany, Great Thursday – Easter). The feast of the Temple is celebrated on 25/5. The Historical Archive of Lefkada is housed in an adjacent building. A small "sokaki" (narrow road) leads to the "Bazaar", to the Holy Temple of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. ○

## HOLY TEMPLE OF EISO-DIA OF THEOTOKOS



Previously a fraternal temple, it is today a chapel of the parish of Evangelistria.

Erected for the first time in 1720, it forms a typical example of Lefkadian ecclesiastical art.

It is characterized by the high baroque iconostasis, the renaissance paintings on the urania and the walls, and the post-Byzantine icons on the iconostasis, all painted by Lefkadian icon painters (Ioannis Roussos, Styl. Devaris, Dem. Kampisos – Mpelos, Spyr. Stampoglis, Spyr. and Ourania Gazis). The representation of the Second Advent on top of the iconostasis is imposing. The “deposito”, a special priedieu for the icon of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple next to the Holy Podium, is also impressive. The traditional Heptanesian bell-tower is unique in the city of Lefkada. It was recently restored, after the earthquake of 2003. It celebrates on 21/11. This should form a must-stop during your evening- or morning walk to the Market of the city. ●

## HOLY TEMPLE OF PANTOKRATOR



This historic church is situated almost in the centre of the Market. It stands out for its baroque façade with many gothic elements, as well as for the traditional cobble-stone pavement in front of the temple.

It was erected for the first time in 1700 as a thanksgiving of the Orthodox Lefkadians to the Pantokrator Christ for the liberation from the Turks (6/8/1684). After the devastating earthquake in 1869 it was re-erected and decorated with works of Spyros Ventouras and Dionysios Kalivokas, as well as with the first neo-classical iconostasis of Lefkada.

As a private temple, it belongs to the Stavros and Valaoritis families and therefore opens only on the day of its celebration (6/8, Metamorphosis) and for the Doxology of the 21st May, the anniversary of the Unification of the Heptanese with Mother Greece (1864).

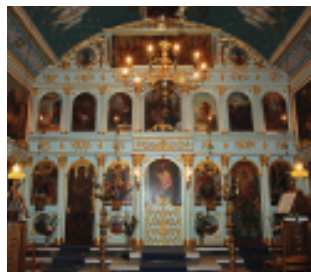
In the garden, behind the Holy Podium, lies the grave of the Lefkadian national poet, Aristotelis Valaoritis, who hymned in his popular poems the Struggles of the Nation for Liberty, and significantly contributed to the Struggles of the Heptanesians for Unification. ●

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT ANARGIRI



The parish temple of Saint Anargiri is situated in the square of “Markas”, not far from the Market of the city and very close to the temple of “Panagia ton Xenon (Virgin Mary of the Foreigners)”. It was erected in 1725.

## HOLY TEMPLE OF PANAGIA TON XENON (VIRGIN MARY OF THE FOREIGNERS)



Not far from the Sacred Temple of Saint Anargiri is the parish temple of “Panagia ton Xenon”. Dedicated to the Nativity of Theotokos, it owes its epithet “ton Xenon” (of the Foreigners) to the residents of Lefkada who came from the opposite mainland (Epirus, Sterea Ellada, Peloponnese) and registered there as members of the parish.

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT MARINA



Having remained loyal to traditional decoration, it is a typical Lefkadian temple: simple basilica, high wooden curved iconostasis, remarkable post-Byzantine icons painted by Stylianos Devaris and Renaissance paintings by Spyr. Gazis. A Heptanesian choir chants on Sundays and feasts. It celebrates on 1/7 and on 1/11 to the memory of St. Anargiri, Kosmas and Damianos. Saint Dionysios, archbishop of Aegina, is also honoured there through litany of his “Iarnax” (oil-painting - reproduction of his relic) on 17 December. ●

It was erected in 1718 and decorated with icons painted by Dem. Kampisos – Mpellos and Sp. Gazis, while its last restoration was recently completed. Its feast is celebrated on 8/9, as well as on 15/8. In the evening of 15 August a litany of the icon of the Assumption of the Theotokos begins from the Temple and passes through the main streets of the city.

At the square of Markas, the Public Library of Lefkada with the Collection of Icons of Post Byzantine Art, the “Chara-moglios Special Library of Lefkada” (having figured in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest special subject library with more than 40.000 books concerning exclusively Lefkada, engravings, maps etc.) are also located, as well as the library of the exceptional neohellen Byzantinologist, Nikos Svoronos. ●

A picturesque chapel built in the 19th century. It is located in a rich plain close to the beach of Saint Ioannis, ideal for a quite pleasurable walk.

It presents the architecture of the island temples and it celebrates on 17/7. ●

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT NICHOLAS



It was erected for the first time in 1687 with the permission of the Venetians, and re-erected several times due to earthquake destructions.

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT DEMETRIOS



Former glebe of the Red Church Monastery, it is today a chapel of the nearby Sacred Temple of Saint Nikolaos, at the square of Panos Giannoulis in the city.

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT PARASKEVI



A chapel of the Holy Temple of Panagioton Xenon, situated in Dimarhou Verrioti street, close to the Central Square of the city.

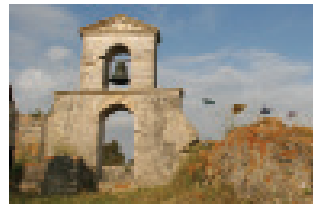
It is a parish temple, situated a few meters far from the pedestrian precinct of the Market. With impressive iconostasis, baroque entrances and windows and the greatest icons of Ioan. Rousos and Sp. Ventouras, it is one of the most important churches of the city. It is worth making a small deviation during your morning or evening walk to the Bazaar. It celebrates on 6 December with litany of the icon of the Saint. Open both mornings and evenings. ❶

It is a small church of great value: the Despotic icons of the iconostasis etc. were painted in about 1721 by the exceptional representative of the "Hephanesian School" of icon painting, Panagiotis Doxaras. The temple was erected for the first time in 1688 and the present iconostasis, marvellous as well, is a work of Panos Prosalentis. The recently renovated temple opens in agreement with the parish priest of the Holy Temple of Saint Nicholas. It celebrates on 26 October. ❷

It is decorated with a magnificent wooden curved iconostasis with almost untouched by time post Byzantine icons, masterpieces of the exceptional icon painter, Tomazos Tzen. Its feast is celebrated on 26/7 to the memory of Saint Paraskevi, as well as the local miracle of Saint Barbara against a pestilential disease (the "pox") on the 3rd Sunday of May, with litany of the icon of the Saint. ❸

**The countryside close to the city (Kamos, Gyra, Ai-Giannis, Fryni, Apolpaina, Kalligoni) offers the visitor the opportunity to enjoy the beauties of Lefkadian nature by taking a recreational walk.**

## HOLY TEMPLE OF ST. MAURA



It is situated in the Frankish castle of Saint Maura. Frank Andigavians spread the virtue of Saint Maura to the island, which for six centuries was named "Agia Maura". ❶

The large temple of the Saint that existed at that time was destroyed by the English (1810) and the southeast bastion of the Fortress was transformed into a church, which exists up to now. It celebrates on 3/5. The castle is a well-maintained fort with a moat, semicircular bastions and secret passages, and to which almost all conquerors left their contribution. It is worth taking a walk to the machicolations, and especially to the bastion with the beacon and the flat roof on top of the temple of the Saint, where the bell-tower is situated, offering a view to Lefkada. ❶

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT JOHN "ANTZOUSIS"



A cave in the rocks of the coast of Ai-Giannis was transformed into such a picturesque church. ❷

It is the most ancient Christian monument of the island. According to the tradition, apostles Paul and Aquila spoke here about Christ. The temple was created by Frank Andigavians (Anjou) in the 14th century, to whom it owes its name. It celebrates on the day of the beheading of Saint John Prodromos on 29/8 and to the memory of St. Aquila on 14/7. Pilgrimage can perfectly be combined with swimming to the adjacent beach and eating in the small taverns of the area. ❷

## HOLY TEMPLE OF PANAGIA VLAHERNON



A picturesque country chapel of the parish of Panagia ton Xenon, situated in the plain of Lefkada celebrating on 2 July. The "filiki" (members of the "Society of Friends") from West. Sterea, Epirus and Lefkada, on Carnival Sunday of 1821, swore on the Holy Gospel of this church in order to initiate here as well the Struggle of the Nation for Liberty. There is also a commemorative column. ❸



## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT KYRIAKI



"The chapel of the rock", dedicated to Saint Kyriaki is situated in the peninsula "Geni" in the cove of "Vlyhos", opposite from the cosmopolitan Nydri. It has an accessible land route passing through a green path. You can also visit it by renting a small boat from Nydri and combine the visit with a cruise to the "Princes' Islands of Lefkada": Onasis' Skorpios, Valaoritis' Madouris or even Meganisi. It celebrates on 7/7. **4**

## HOLY TEMPLE OF PANAGIA EVANGELISTRIA

in Neohori



It is one of the few churches with a dome on the whole island. The route you have to follow to get there is impressive and really beautiful. It is worth taking a walk to the streets and the verdant countryside of the village, as well as to the nearby country chapels of Saint George, Saint Demetrios and "Misosporitissa" (Entry into the Temple). It celebrates on 25/3. **5**

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT DEMETRIOS

in Katohori



It is situated in the centre of the village Katohori, decorated with old frescoes on the Sacred Podium and remarkable icons. As all the other smaller churches of the village, equally historical, with icon painted stone iconostasis and old frescoes, it is awaiting the pilgrims. It celebrates on 26/10. **6**

## HOLY TEMPLE OF THE DORMITION OF THEOTOKOS

in Nydri



It is situated in the entrance of the tourist and cosmopolitan village of Nydri; during the tourist period it is open all day long and welcomes the visitors of the area before or after their cruise to the nearby islands. Nydri is another ideal place to eat and buy souvenirs. It celebrates on 15/8. **7**

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT PARASKEVI

in Agios Elias



This small country chapel is situated outside the village of Agios Elias.

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT MARINA

in Komelio



A picturesque country chapel of Agia Marina, situated in a shady and cool location, next to the rural road connecting Lefkada – Ag. Petros, which is under the parish of Komelio.

## HOLY TEMPLE OF THE DORMITION OF THEOTOKOS

in Vasiliki



The central temple of Vasiliki, the seat of the Municipality of Apollonia, is dedicated to the Dormition of Theotokos.

Every year, on the feast of the Saint (26 July), as well as on May Day, there is a great concourse of pilgrims. If you choose to ascend the plateau of Eglouvi from Southern Lefkada through the villages of Syvros and Agios Elias, you should definitely stop by this picturesque location to enjoy the cool sensation under the large plane-tree and admire from this natural balcony the view to southern Lefkada, Ithaca and neighbouring Kefalonia. **8**

The route leading there is delightful and it is a must-stop for relaxation, pilgrimage and picture taking. A great concourse of pilgrims visits the feast of the Saint on 17/7. In a short distance, there is the junction to Komelio - Dragano - Athani, which leads up to the cape of Lefkada, the monastery of Saint Nicholas in Ira and the renowned beaches of Porto Katsiki and Gialos. **9**

Situated in the interior of the village, it was erected in the mid 20th century to replace an older temple. Vasiliki, with the beautiful nearby beaches and its small port, is an ideal place for enjoying sea activities, swimming, eating and staying, while offering easy access to Kefalonia and Ithaca by ferry-boats sailing from here. It celebrates on 15/8. **10**

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT SPYRIDON

in Lazarata



Erected for the first time in the mid 18th century, It celebrates in the memory of Saint Spyridon (12/12), as well as in the memory of the miraculous rescue of Corfu from the Turkish siege in 11/8/1716. The church is decorated with a magnificent baroque iconostasis, with fine Corinthian columns in white and golden colours. The icons are works of Vas. Sideris. The bell-tower was built with soft stone and has three floors. Following a path course, as well as the public roads, the visitor can get acquainted with the beauty of the Lefkadian countryside in Sfakiotes. **11**

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT NICHOLAS

in Kavallo



Its well preserved baroque iconostasis, one of the most beautiful on the island, is a work of P. Prosalentis. It celebrates on 6/12. In a short distance from the temple lies the Kontomiheio Folklore Museum of the Municipality of Sfakiotes, which displays tools of past artisans, representations of the traditional cottage etc. Rural streets lead to countryside locations with windmills and picturesque country churches, as well as to the Gorge of Melissa, with reconstructed watermills, small bridges, rich vegetation and running waters. **12**

It was erected for the first time in the 17th century. It took its present form in the 19th century, after having been painted by Sp. Gazis.

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOMOS

in Drymonas



It celebrates on 13/11. Its magnificent iconostasis is decorated with old icons of fine post-Byzantine art. Walking among the stone houses of the village help the visitors calm and relax. The musical tradition of the village is revived through the Folk Music Festival that takes place during the celebrations of 15 August. In a short distance lie the villages of Kalamitsi and Ag. Niketas, as well as the renowned beach of Kathisma. **13**

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT SPYRIDON

in Karya



The central and one of the most remarkable churches of Karya, the main village of mountainous Lefkada, is dedicated to Saint Spyridon. It was erected in the end of the 19th century in the centre of the village.

A beautiful high bell tower clock decorates the temple. Its plain classical iconostasis is a work of Ioannis Vrettos (1925). It celebrates on 12/12, but there is a special feast on 11/8 to celebrate the miracle of Saint Spyridon against the Turkish conquerors of Corfu, with a great concourse of people gathering in the morning for the litany at the square of the village, under the centenarian plane-trees, characteristic of Karya. Under their shadow, the visitor can enjoy a cup of coffee or a meal in the square, or even the 3-day representation of the traditional rustic wedding in the heart of the summer. In the village you can also buy the marvellous Lefkadian embroideries, worked with passion using the "karsanika" stitch technique. **14**

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT DONATOS

in Eglouvi



It is the renowned country chapel of Saint Donatos, bishop of Euroia, on the plateau of Eglouvi, where the famous "lentils of Eglouvi" are cultivated, next to the age-old "volti" (stone huts). The small chapel is situated at an altitude of 900m and it celebrates on 7/8. In the afternoon of the eve of the celebration, on the 6th day of the month, the Vespers service takes place with litany of the icon and local products, such as lentils, sardines and wine are offered to the visitors. **15**

### HOLY TEMPLE OF PROPHET ELIAS

in Eglouvi



The country chapel of the Saint of the mountains, Prophet Elias, and one of the few temples with dome on the island, is situated on one of the highest peaks of the island. The unique view to all directions compensates for the effort to ascend –on foot or by car. It celebrates on 20/7. **16**

## HOLY MONASTERY OF PANAGIA FANEROMENI (VIRGIN MARY REVEALED)



The monastery of Panagia Faneromeni, a point of reference for all Lefkadians, is situated on a hill, above the city of Lefkada, within a distance of 3km from the city. Panagia is the patron of the island. Its feast is grandly celebrated on Monday of the Holy Spirit with a great concourse of pilgrims arriving from the surrounding areas. The densely vegetated hill, where the monastery of Kyra (The Lady) of the island is situated, offers a magnificent view to the city, the beaches of Ai-Giannis, Miloi and Gyra, the Castle and the opposite shores.

The centuries-long history of the Monastery begins from the ancient years. At that time a place of worship of the Lefkadian Artemis, it accepted the sermon of the followers of Apostle Paul, Herodian and Sosion. The wooden statue of the goddess was miraculously smashed and a small "house of worship" was gradually erected. After the A' Ecumenical Synod (325 a.D.), two of the godbearing Fathers followed the bishop of Lefkada, Saint Agatharchos, and settled in the Monastery. They built the first two cells, extended the temple and organized monasticism in Lefkada.

It was named "Faneromeni" (Revealed), because the first icon of Panagia that was ordered from Constantinople was revealed after prayer to the hieromonch and icon painter Kallistos "before it having been made by hand".

The monastery took its present form during Venetian occupation. After a destructive fire, the temple was re-erected in 1887 and obtained the new icon of Theotokos, a reproduction of the old one, painted in Mount Athos by the ieromonch Veniamin Kontrakis. The iconostasis, a work of Eustathios Prosalentis, as well as its icons, works of the brothers Christodoulos and Thomas Zografos from Chionades, Epirus were created at the same time.

The monastery was recently renovated with the construction of a new cell wing, an abbey, a consistory room, a library,

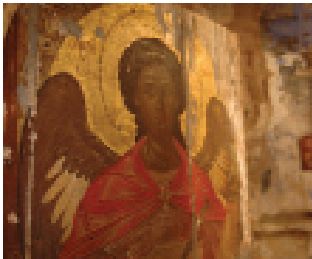
auxiliary rooms, a chapel dedicated to Saint Silouan the Athonite, as well as the contemporary Ecclesiastical Museum, rich in relics of the Holy Monastery and other temples of the island. 17





## HOLY MONASTERY OF SAINT JOHN PRODROMOS

in Livadi Karyas



The monastery of Saint John Prodromos is erected on an idyllic slope in the edge of the plateau of Karya, called "Livadi". It was established in 1605 and played an important role in the spiritual, social and economic life of the island for a period of three centuries. In the beginning of the 19th century it was the richest and the most densely populated monastery of Lefkada. By the 18th century the Monastery of Odigitria and many other temples throughout the island were already turned into its glebes, while over the 19th century it was maintaining a Lyceum in the city of Lefkada, run by the Scholar of the Nation Athanasios Psallidas. In the centre of the cathedral lies the grave of the renowned "armatolos" (armed rebel) Simos Bouas alias Grivas (+1622). The present temple, single-spaced with a wooden roof and a gynaikonitis (women's quarter), is decorated with magnificent murals of the 18th century in three layers: The lower layer depicts whole-body icons of Saints, the middle layer depicts Saints in medallions and the upper layer depicts the 24 stanzas of the Akathist Hymn. The ruins of the cell wings of the Monastery, revealing its old glory, as well as the ruins of the chapel of Saint Nicholas are still preserved. The monastery fell apart in 1925 and its property was distributed to peasants. The Catholic has already been reconstructed and It celebrates on 24 June. The Holy Monastery is under the responsibility of the parish priest of Karya. 18

## HOLY MONASTERY OF SAINT JOHN THEOLOGOS

in Rodaki Vournika



One of the most interesting monasteries of the island is preserved south of the village Vournikas, in the location Rodaki. It was most possibly erected in 1654, on the foundation of an ancient rural Doric sanctuary, probably dedicated to Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and fertility. The superstition connecting the pilgrimage at the Monastery with the procreation of children –and in fact male- by childless couples is probably the repercussion of some ancient belief. Only traces of the ancient temple, such as a Doric capitals and part of the tile floor, are still preserved. Towards the ending of the 18th century the Monastery passed under the authority of the Monastery of Asomatos in Vaukeri. The temple was recently renovated; it holds regular services and it is now maintained in a fairly good condition. Parts of the frescoes, examples of an exceptionally fine artistic brushwork, are preserved on the eastern wall of the main temple in a good condition. It celebrates on 8 May. A small number of Masses are hold there during the Holy Week and the festivities of 15 August. It is under the responsibility of the parish priest of Vournikas. Paths and rural streets guarantee an exhilarating escape to the countryside of Vournikas and the plains of Marantochori and Vassiliki. 19



## HOLY MONASTERY OF SAINT NICHOLAS in Ira

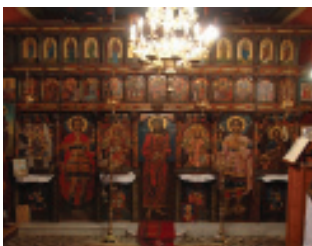


The old monastery of Saint Nicholas is situated in the SW end of Lefkada, near the cape of Lefkata - connected to the ancient female poet Sappho and the famous lighthouse- and a few km away from the renowned beach of Porto Katsiki.

The monastery was erected in the 17th century by families from the neighbouring Athani. For many years the Monastery was operating under "advowson law", i.e. the "patrons" would elect the prior and the parish priests. It served as a place of "exile" for clerics. The monastery is still operating.

The magnificent iconostasis of the Catholic of the Monastery, work of Andreas Mpetzos (1799), is still preserved almost untouched by time. The unique icon of St. Nicholas (1699) also belongs there. The Monastery of Saint Nicholas celebrates every year on 10 May, a special day for the whole southern Lefkada. On this day the island celebrates the transfer of the relic of St. Nicholas from Myra in Lycia to Bari, Italy after action of the Crusaders (13 century). The Monastery is under the authority of the parish priest of Athani.

Outside the monastery there is an old threshing floor and stone hives for the swarms of bees attracted by the thyme growing in the surrounding area. **20**



## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT GEORGE in Skari Alexandrou



It was established in 1611 and served as coenobium Monastery, having hosted important personalities of the local Church. **21**

The monastery of Saint George is situated outside the quarter of Kolivata in a verdant flat area with unlimited view. Despite the fact that it is now ruined, it is the most remarkable architectural complex of Lefkada with a long history. The Catholic is not accessible after the last earthquake, but its eastern wall remains untouched, decorated with remarkable frescoes. Its iconostasis, created in 1724, is especially interesting, since it is a replica of the iconostasis of the temple of Saint Minas in the city. The feast of the Holy Monastery is celebrated on 23/4. It is under the authority of the parish priest of Alexandros. **21**

## RETREAT OF THE HOLY FATHERS



One of the oldest Christian monuments of the island, situated in a cave 5km above Nikiana, towards Alexandros in Skari. **22**

Three Holy Fathers who followed Holy Agatharchos, archbishop of Lefkada, to his return to the island after the A' Ecumenical Synod in Nicaea, Bithynia in 325 a.D., retreated here. Their graves lie in the cave, which is today transformed into a temple. Holy water springs out of one the graves, while its level remains always constant. The Holy Fathers are celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter and a great concourse of pilgrims visiting the retreat. It is under the authority of the parish priests of Nikiana and Karya. **22**

## HOLY MONASTERY OF EVANGELISTRIA OR RED CHURCH in Platystoma



The first small temple was established by monks in 1478 and was built with stones and red clay of the region, to which it owes the name Red Church. The monastery was formed during the 16th century, while in the years of the Revolution it served as a base for the fighters. It celebrates on 25 March. It is under the authority of the parish priest of Platystoma. **23**

### HOLY MONASTERY OF THE- OTOKOS ODIGITRIA

(GUIDING VIRGIN) in Apolpaena



It is the most ancient preserved Monastery of the island. It was established in the 11th century.

The rural street leading to Sfakiotes passes by the Monastery, while it is worth to take a walk to Odigitria through the olive grove of the city and Apolpaena. The Catholic of the Monastery is a one nave basilica with wooden roof. The temple is not accessible by the pilgrims, while most of the frescoes are kept in the Byzantine Museum of Athens. However, parts of a fresco of special art, combining Paleologian and western style, are preserved on the eastern and southern wall.

24

### HOLY MONASTERY OF ASO- MATOS MICHAEL

in Vaukeri



It was established in the 16th century and is situated outside Vaukeri on a verdant hill.

The original temple was a small single spaced hall with saddleback roof, complemented by small low cells. In the Catholic of the temple there are important frescoes dated between the 16th – 17th century which, at that time, used to cover the whole temple. The feast of the monastery is celebrated on 6/9. It is under the authority of the parish priest of Vaukeri. The village Vaukeri, with the temples of Saint John Chrysostomos and Saint Marina along with the plane-trees and the running waters, are an absolute must-stop.

25

### HOLY MONASTERY OF ST. GEORGE

in Marantochori (region of Mpsisa)



It was established during the ending of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th century.

The small Catholic of the monastery was decorated with plenty of murals, few of which are still preserved. A part of the remarkable wooden carved iconostasis dating from mid 18th century, as well as magnificent despotic icons dating from the 17th century, are still preserved. At present it operates regularly as a country chapel and memorial church of the parish. It celebrates on 23/4. The village Eugiros, the coastal tourist village of Syvota, the beach of Ammouso and the lake of Marantochori are situated in a short distance from here.

26

**Visiting Meganissi offers a unique opportunity to make the most of the simple joys of life in the countryside. The small area of the island allows walking access to the villages for coffee, food and acquaintance with the hospitable residents, to the beaches and the “fjords” of the northern coast for swimming, and to the humble country chapels for respectful pilgrimage.**

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT VISSARION

in Vathi



It is the parish temple of the village, beautiful and well maintained and always open for the pilgrims during the summer months. It was erected in the beginning of the 20th century, when Saint Vissarion, Metropolitan Bishop of Larisa, saved Meganissi from a widely dispersed pestilential disease. Since then, the Saint is honoured as a patron saint of the city and the day of his celebration -15th September- is an official holiday for the island.

27

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT APOSTLES

in Katomeri



It is the parish temple of the village Katomeri. Erected in the 19th century in the middle of the village, it awaits the pilgrims in a well maintained condition and always open to the public. It stands out for its castellated bell-tower, while its “Ecclesiastical Hestia”, i.e. the residence of the parish priest, as well as the reception room of the parishioners and the visitors are situated next to the temple. It is honoured in the name of the Saint Apostles Peter and Paul and celebrates on 29/6.

28

### HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT JOHN PRODROMOS

in Spartochoiri



It is situated on the beach on the west of the island, next to the sea strait separating Meganissi from Lefkada. According to tradition, the monastery was founded before 1477 and was destroyed by pirates who threw the icon of the Saint to the sea, which was later caught in a fisherman's nets and drawn out. In the mid 19th century Saint Joaquin the Ithacan sent a devout woman to rebuild the temple. The temple was radically renovated a couple of years ago. Its feast is celebrated on 24/6.

29

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT TRINITY

in Kalamos



A cruise to the island of Kalamos, either by private yacht or by ship connecting Mytikas – Kalamos, is an opportunity to take a walk to its forested countryside, swim in its virgin beaches and make a pilgrimage at the well maintained chapels located in the countryside and its villages (Episkopi, Kefali, Kastro, Kalamos).

Ascending the main street of the village Kalamos, you should definitely visit the parish Holy Temple of Saint Trinity. Grandiose and imposing from far away, it is famous for its magnificent and rich decoration: the wooden carved iconostasis, the despotic throne and the ornate pulpit, the artistic icons painted by Sp. Gazis, devoted servant of Renaissance art. Liberty fighters, klephtes and armatoli were hosted in the island while being chased by the Turks offered their oblations. Expatriate islanders sent their donations. Sailors from Kalamos offered the fruits of their labour to gloriously decorate the main church of the island, dedicated to the Trinitarian God, the Saint Trinity, celebrated every year on the Tuesday after the feast of the Holy Spirit. 30

## HOLY TEMPLE OF SAINT JOHN PRODROMOS

in Kastos



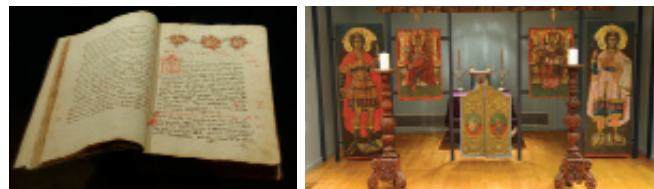
Previously a castle monastery, the parish Holy Temple of Saint John Prodromos dominates at present in the tiny village of Kastos, the smallest inhabited island of our Prefecture.

You can get there either by private yacht or by ship from the opposite town of Mytikas, Aetoloakarnania and enjoy swimming, fishing and walking to the countryside of the islet of Kastos with the picturesque windmills and the beautiful small port. Sailors from Kastos and expatriates also decorated the church of their patron, St. John, in an ornamental way, provoking the admiration of the visitors of the area: oil-paintings of Gazis, baroque wooden-carved iconostasis, throne, pulpit, all of them carefully maintained. The temple, always open, awaits the pilgrims -especially on 24 June, when the inhabitants of Kastos, along with Ithacans, Lefkadians and neighbours from Sterea, celebrate the Nativity of Prodromos with festive Mass and litany. 31

## ECCLESIASTICAL MUSEUM

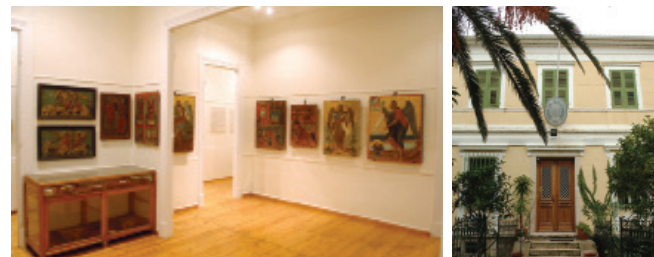
### HOLY MONASTERY OF FANEROMENI, LEFKADA

It operates since 2006 in a separate building within the Holy Monastery of Faneromeni, Lefkada and displays relics of the Holy Monastery, from other -ruined at present- Holy Monasteries of the island and from several Holy Temples. The exhibits in the first two floors of the Museum offer the visitor a vivid image of the evolution of ecclesiastical life and culture in Lefkada. Ecclesiastical manuscripts and incunabulas, rare and old publications of Greek and foreign typographers, dating from the era of the Turkish occupation (1497-1684) until the Unification (1864), are of great interest. The largest part of the exhibits is comprised by works of Heptanesian and Lefkadian icon painters, mainly post-Byzantine portable icons and parts of iconostasis. Various silversmith works, mainly benediction crosses, communion cups, vigil oil candles, trays and coats of icons and gospel books, are also remarkable. Lastly, another large part is comprised by the various canonicals and pieces of pontificals, as well as a remarkable range of dossals. Entry to the Museum is free. It is open on a daily basis.



### COLLECTION OF POST-BYZANTINE ICONS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF LEFKADA

The Collection of Post-Byzantine Icons and Religious Relics of the 16th century and afterwards is displayed in the 1st floor of the building of the Public Library of Lefkada. The Library was established in 1953 thanks to the effort of eminent Lefkadians. The aim of the Collection was to save the relics of the ruined Monasteries and the devastated by the earthquakes Holy Temples of the island, and exhibit them to the public. The personnel of the Public Library of Lefkada guide the visitors to the Collection.





# PREFECTURE OF LEFKADA

## Useful telephone numbers and Information

International Dialing Code for Greece:	0030
Prefecture of Lefkada:	26453 60700
Department of Tourism, Culture and Commerce of Lefkada:	26453 62129 - 26450 21613
Fax:	26450 21715
Municipality of Lefkada:	26453 60500
Municipality of Apollonia:	26453 61000
Municipality of Ellomenos:	26453 61100
Municipality of Sfakiotas:	26453 61400
Municipality of Karyas:	26453 61200
Municipality of Meganissi:	26453 61310
Community of Kalamos:	26460 91281
Community of Kastos:	26460 91484
Lefkada Police Department:	26450 29375
Lefkada Port Authority:	26450 22176
Taxi Station:	26450 21200, 26450 24600 (Nydris: 26450 92000)
Olympic Air	210 3550500 - 8018010101
Athens Airways	210 6696600 - 8018014000
<b>Bus Station (KTEL)</b>	
Lefkada:	26450 22364
Athens:	210 5150108
Thessaloniki:	2310 595439
Holy Metropolis of Lefkas and Ithaca:	26450 26207
Holy Monastery of Faneromeni, Lefkada:	26450 21305
Public Library of Lefkada:	26450 22502
Archaeological Museum of Lefkada:	26450 21635
Lefkada Union of Hotel Owners:	26450 24539
Business Federation of Rented Rooms and Apartments:	26450 21266-7 26450 21608
Hellenic Post (ELTA):	26450 24225
Hospital:	26450 25371, 26450 25376
Fire Brigade:	26450 22555
Hellenic Organization of Telecommunications:	26450 21299
Vassiliki Health Centre:	26450 31065
<b>Websites</b>	
www.lefkada.gr	
www.lefkashotels.gr	
www.holidaysinlefkada.eu	
www.lefkas-familyhotels.gr	
www.medmarinas.com	
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lefkas@medmarinas.com	

- Holy Temple Of Saint Maura
- Holy Temple Of St. John "Antzousis"
- Holy Temple Of Panagia Vlaheron
- Holy Temple Of Saint Kyriaki
- Holy Temple Of Panagia Evangelistria
- Holy Temple Of Saint Demetrios
- Holy Temple Of The Dormition Of Theotokos
- Holy Temple Of Saint Paraskevi
- Holy Temple Of Saint Marina
- Holy Temple Of The Dormition Of Theotokos
- Holy Temple Of Saint Spyridon
- Holy Temple Of Saint Nicholas
- Holy Temple Of Saint John Chrysostomos
- Holy Temple Of Saint Spyridon
- Holy Temple Of Saint Donatos
- Holy Temple Of Prophet Elias
- Holy Monastery Of Panagia Faneromeni
- Holy Monastery Of Saint John Prodromos
- Holy Monastery Of Saint John Theologos
- Holy Monastery Of Saint Nicholas
- Holy Temple Of Saint George
- Retreat Of The Holy Fathers
- Holy Monastery Of Evangelistria or Red Church
- Holy Monastery Of Theotokos Odigitria
- Holy Monastery Of Asomatos Michael
- Holy Monastery Of Saint George
- Holy Temple Of Saint Vissarian
- Holy Temple Of Saint Apostolis
- Holy Temple Of Saint John Prodromos
- Holy Temple Of Saint Trinity
- Holy Temple Of Saint John Prodromos

### LEFKADA

Holy Temple Of Saint Minas  
 Holy Temple Of Evangelistria  
 Holy Temple Of Eisodia Of Theotokos  
 Holy Temple Of Pantokrator  
 Holy Temple Of Saint Anargiri  
 Holy Temple Of Panagia Ton Xenon  
 Holy Temple Of Saint Marina  
 Holy Temple Of Saint Nicholas  
 Holy Temple Of Saint Demetrios  
 Holy Temple Of Saint Paraskevi



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