

Take relaxation to the next level **on a Mediterranean island, where** **life moves at a slower pace.**

The unrivaled natural beauty of the islands that dot the sapphire-blue Mediterranean Sea is hard to resist—especially bathed in golden sunshine¹.

Combine its rich history with a mild climate², the scent of lemons³ and delicious home-grown food⁴, and you have the perfect ingredients for a dreamy, stress-free trip.

But while summer crowds buzz around popular party islands⁵, there are plenty of quiet spots where sipping cool drinks in the shade is as hectic as it gets.

So sit back, take it easy, and soak up these 6 serene islands to find your dream escape to the Med.

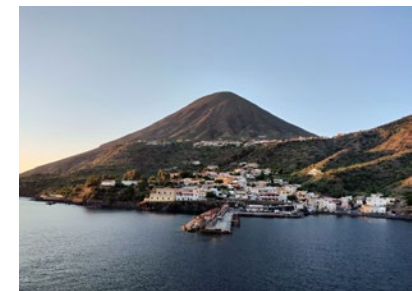


Salina, Aeolian Islands, Sicily



The second-largest island of Sicily's Aeolian archipelago⁶, with two extinct volcanic cones in the center,⁷ Salina has a rugged romance. Natural freshwater springs⁸ carpet the island in green, and hot pink wildflowers⁹ hug the mountainside. You're far away from the rat race here, where sleepy villages dot the landscape and colorful fishing boats bob gently along the shore¹⁰. Dine on incredible wild capers, sip the island's famous Malvasia wine, and enjoy those calming sea views from a pebbly beach¹¹.

Malfa and Santa Marina are the principal towns on the island¹². Each has its own personality and you can rent a scooter, car, or take a local bus to explore nearby coastal villages¹³. You might like to head to Santa Marina port for a day trip to another Aeolian island, or to take a boat tour around Salina¹⁴. Malfa is an ideal place to base yourself¹⁵, with a choice of elegant boutique hotels with sea view terraces. Dine on freshly caught fish in casual cafés or high-end restaurants¹⁶. Pollara was the location for the classic Italian film *Il Postino*, and the stunning cliff-lined bay is a lovely afternoon swimming spot¹⁷. It's the perfect spot for drying off in the sun as you watch the sun go down.

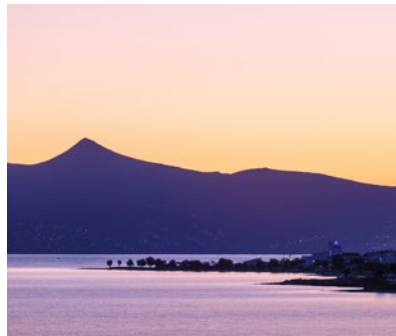


Agistri, Greece

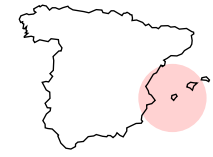


Agistri is a small island in the Saronic Gulf, just off mainland Greece, between Aegina and Methana (near Poros)¹⁸. A nature-lover's paradise, Agistri is cute and low-key, but only an hour from Athens by boat¹⁹. Away from city life, you can swim in the crystal clear sea from secluded coves and take a horse ride into the pine forest²⁰. Come for the peaceful beaches and gorgeous sunshine, and stay for the delicious food in traditional whitewashed villages bursting with fuchsia bougainvillea²¹.

To get to Agistri, you take a boat from the Port of Piraeus and arrive in either bustling Skala, or the main town of Megalochori²² (also known as Milos²³). Wander the cobblestones of Megalochori²⁴ and sit outside a local tavern for lunch. Skala is the best place to stay²⁵—it's a short walk from the port²⁶ and has a lovely sandy beach²⁷. For relaxing in seclusion, a sea taxi ride around Agistri can drop you in cute bays and sheltered coves for a blissful swim²⁸.

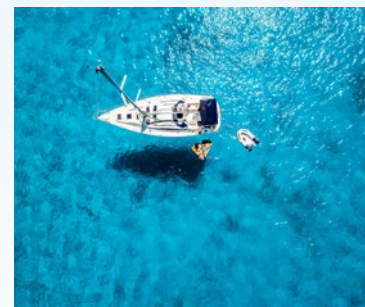


Formentera, Spain



Pearly white sands and spectacular scenery await on Formentera—the smallest of the inhabited Balearic Islands²⁹. Once part of the 1970's hippie trail³⁰, the plentiful beaches are the island's big draw³¹. Crystal clear calm waters³² are just what you need to float away stresses, and a few chilled chiringuitos (beach bars)³³, the occasional hotel and welcoming beach restaurant elevate the low-key vibe without fighting for beach space³⁴. The summer heat keeps things sleepy during the day, but at night, this bohemian island springs to life, with live music, restaurants, and little market stalls spilling on to the pavements³⁵.

There's no island airport, so you hop on one of the regular ferries from Ibiza to get to Formentera's La Savina³⁶. Laze away sunny afternoons on Ses Illetes³⁷ and admire the superyachts moored offshore³⁸, sip on a cocktail on Es Pujols beach³⁹, or meander along the 3-mile long Playa de Migjorn⁴⁰. Stay in boutique hillside hotels⁴¹, bleached-white bungalows in the dunes⁴², or opt for luxury retreats with spas and infinity pools⁴³. This is a cool island to hang out, whatever your budget.



Comino, Malta



Sitting between Malta and Gozo⁴⁴, the small, rocky island of Comino is mostly car-free⁴⁵ and virtually uninhabited⁴⁶. The spectacular transparent turquoise waters of the Blue Lagoon⁴⁷ are famous for their beauty, and the island is great for snorkeling, diving, and windsurfing, or just basking in the sunshine. Comino is also a nature reserve and bird sanctuary⁴⁸, so you will smell the herbs⁴⁹ and hear birdsong across the island.

There's a ferry to Comino from Malta and Gozo⁵⁰, and Comino has only one hotel⁵¹, so you could stay a night or two to feel like the island is all yours. The Blue Lagoon beach is rocky with patches of sand, and the area fills up quickly with daytrippers during the summer⁵². But out of high season, it's paradise, with plenty of cute swimming and snorkeling spots tucked away⁵³.



Kefalonia, Greece

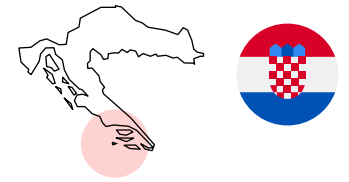


You might recognize Kefalonia as the setting for the film Captain Corelli's Mandolin⁵⁴. If not, pick up the book and read it here, where hearts race at the sheer beauty of this Greek island. Greece isn't short on gorgeous beachy islands⁵⁵, but Kefalonia stands out as a real stunner⁵⁶. The island is a treasure trove of pretty pebble coves and sandy bays, and the Venetian beauty of Fiskardo and Assos⁵⁷ ooze romance.

You can fly to Kefalonia⁵⁸ or catch a ferry from the Greek mainland⁵⁹. Explore laid-back towns and villages in the mountainous landscape. You might prefer to stay near the coast to sunbathe and swim at famous Myrtos Beach⁶⁰ or the quieter, smaller but equally beguiling Petani Beach⁶¹. And take an evening boat ride into magical Melissani Cave, where the sunlight cuts through a hole in the cavern⁶². Skala is a great place to stay for days on the beach, sunbathing⁶³. Argostoli is ideal for a hit of local culture⁶⁴ or choose Lassi⁶⁵ for Greek sunset moments you'll want to cherish.



Vis, Croatia



Vis is a former Yugoslav base only opened to travelers in 1989⁶⁶, so a sense of isolation and mystery still lingers. It's a longer trip to get here, with Hvar and Brac closer to the mainland⁶⁷, but the reward are the picturesque stone villages⁶⁸ unchanged for centuries, cute family-run restaurants, and beautiful unspoilt bays. The slow, peaceful life here makes relaxing on vacation second nature.

From Komiza's fishing museum⁶⁹ to relics of the Cold War era⁷⁰, Vis has a fascinating history worth exploring, and a scooter⁷¹ is a great way to get around. Spend days finding your own cute beach, such as picture-perfect Stiniva⁷², or the tree-lined Grandovac Bay⁷³. The incredible Blue Cave on the tiny island of Bisevo just 5 miles from Komiza⁷⁴ is worth a midday boat trip to see the water lit by a luminous silver blue light. There's a smattering of hotels and plenty of villas across Vis to stay in.



It's time to take it slow

Just like the incredible food and wine, relaxing is a specialty on the Mediterranean islands. So take the stress out of scouring potential destinations and let us help you find a sigh-inducing trip to the Med.

With specialists on hand who've perfected the art of taking it easy on vacation, we can find your ideal chill spot in this dazzling part of the world. Get in touch and let's get you there.



Footnotes

- 1 https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/biogeog_regions/mediterranean/index_en.htm
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