



PARSIFAL
YACHTING

KEFALLONIA

itinerary



Kefallonia island

Wild, beautiful Kefallonia, the largest of the Ionian Islands, feels like an independent land. Its intriguing bounty includes friendly people, bucolic villages, rugged mountains, rich vineyards, soaring coastal cliffs and golden beaches. The 1953 earthquake devastated many of the island's settlements and much of the architecture is relatively modern. Surviving villages such as Assos and Fiskardo, and the ebullient quality of life as in rebuilt Argostoli, the capital, enliven everything. Under-explored areas like Paliki Peninsula, excellent unique cuisine, and great wines round out a spectacular island.



Argostoli

Animated and appealing Argostoli bubbles with activity in its pastel-bright streets. It was laid flat during the 1953 earthquake and is now a town of broad boulevards and pedestrianised shopping streets, like Lithostroto, centring on lively inland Plateia Valianou. In summer, kantadoroi amble the streets singing kantades, traditional songs accompanied by guitar and mandolin.



Fiskardo

Tiny, precious Fiskardo, 50km north of Argostoli, was the only Ketallonian village left largely intact after the 1953 earthquake. Its fine Venetian buildings, framed by cypress-mantled hills, have an authentic picturesque appeal and it's popular with well-heeled yachting fans. The outstanding restaurants and chilled-out feel might entice you to stay a while.



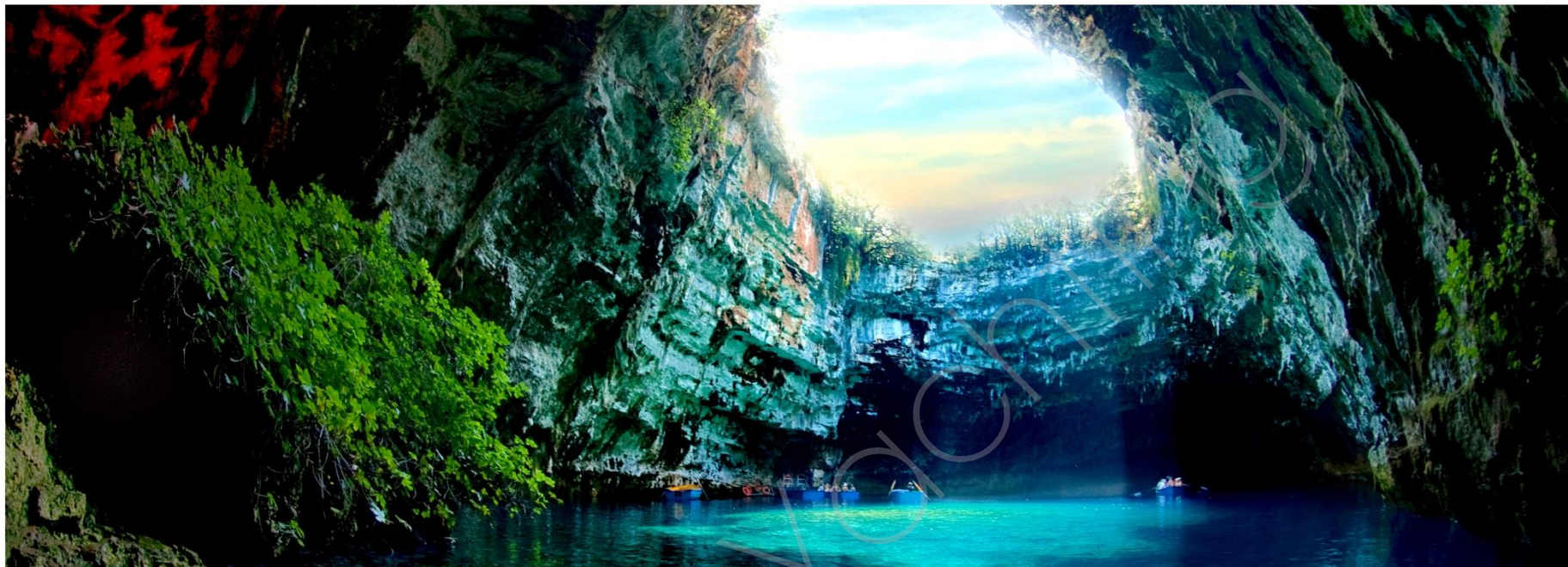
Assos

The tiny, secluded village of Assos is a romantic setting and perhaps the most beautiful location on the island of Kefalonia. The Assos peninsula is on the west coast of the island with the village nestling in its horse-shoe shaped harbour. The whole area is surrounded by beautiful coastal scenery of dramatic white rocks and cobalt sea with hillsides covered in forests of cypress and pine. Dominating the entire area are the remains of a Venetian fortress high up on the imposing peninsula.



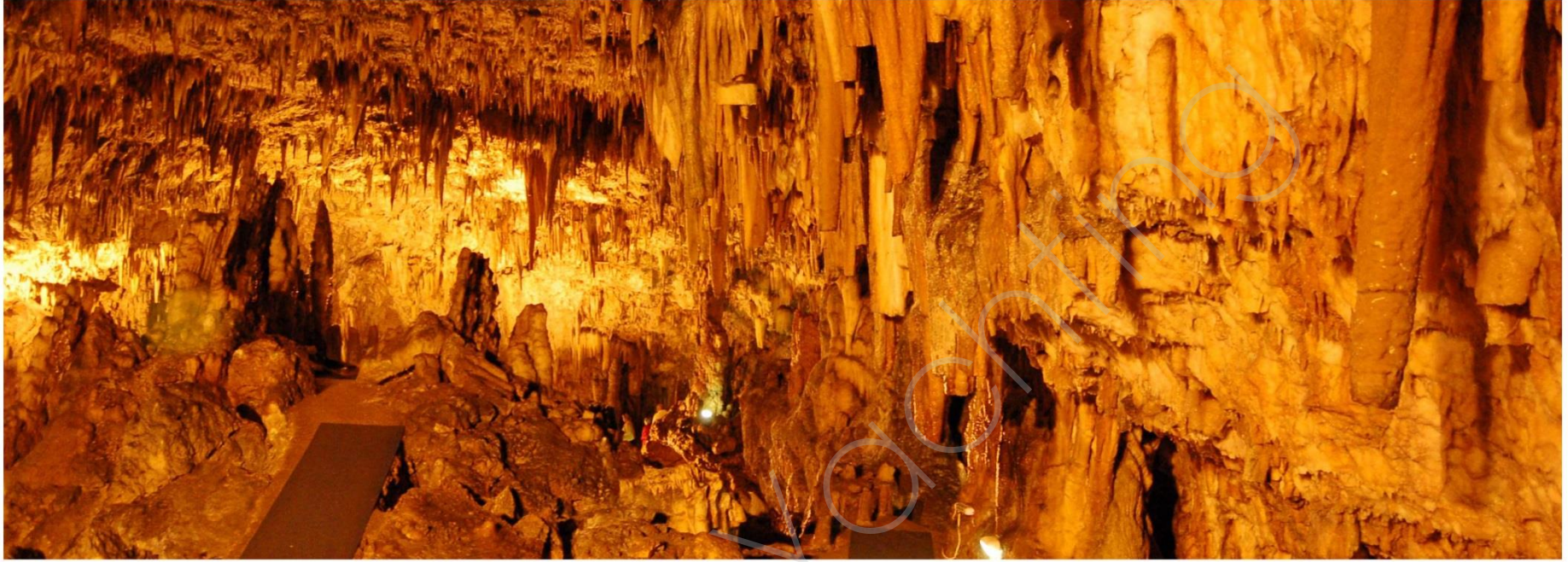
Venetian Castle

This Venetian kastro (castle) from the 1500s sits atop a hill southeast of Argostoli and was the capital of Kefalonia for about two hundred years. Well worth a visit for its stellar views, the castle is also surrounded by a small village with Byzantine churches and restaurants (also with stunning vistas).



Melissani Cave

This rather overrated cave, 2.5km west of Sami, is a subterranean sea-water lake that turns a distinctive blue in sunlight, and is only worth visiting when the sun is overhead, between noon and 2pm.



Drogarati Caves

Drogarati Cave is a massive cave with stalactites. Its fragile infrastructure seems to be suffering erosion from too much human pressure.



Moni Agiou Gerasimou

Dedicated to Kefallonia's patron saint, the monastery, 16km east of Argostoli, is cared for by nuns. Inside the chapel lies the famous cave where Gerasimos escaped from the rigours of monastic life to even greater self-abnegation. Descend via a steep metal ladder into a small chamber 6m below.



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