

PADDLE POWER

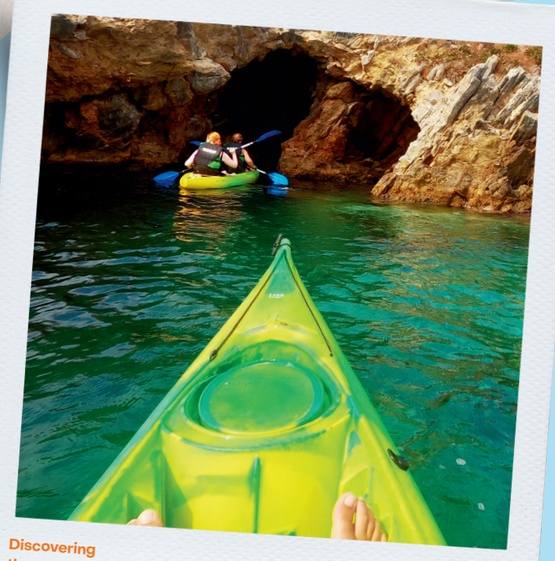
The Sporades islands of Alonissos, Skopelos and Skiathos offer turquoise waters, dramatic coastlines and quiet coves, perfect for kayaking. While these routes can be done with a guide or group, they're designed for independent adventurers. En route, you'll find places to stop, refuel and take in the views at local food spots. Here are our favourite itineraries

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Kayaking along the coastline of Skiathos



Discovering the caves of Skiathos with Supway

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF SUBWAY / GETTY IMAGES

ITINERARY 1

Skiathos

KOUKOUNARIES BEACH TO LALARIA BEACH



DIFFICULTY RATING 4/5
ESTIMATED TIME 4-5 hours
HANDY HINT
Rent a kayak with Supway, a Skiathos-based watersports company with routes including visits to secluded beaches and hidden gems only accessible by sea.

Start at Koukounaries Beach, a stretch of sand backed by forest on the south-west coast of Skiathos. Paddle north-east along the coast where hidden coves make for a scenic journey, stopping off at Kehria Tarsanas Taverna halfway for a Greek salad under the olive trees. The highlight of this route is Lalaria Beach, an otherworldly landscape, famous for its white stones and a rock arch rising out of the sea. The beach is only accessible by boat or kayak and is a peaceful spot to swim before you return to Koukounaries. After paddling, relax at Big Bad Wolf near Koukounaries Beach – a restaurant where the prawn saganki is a firm local favourite.

GET OUT THERE

FLY TO...
easyJet flies to Skiathos from five airports across Europe, including London Gatwick and Milan Malpensa. Book now at easyJet.com

STAY IN...
Kassandra Bay Resort and Spa is a seafront hotel in Skiathos that's just a five-minute walk from the beach. Book now at easyJet.com/holidays

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ITINERARY 2

Skopelos

PANORMOS TO MILIA BEACH

DIFFICULTY RATING 2/5
ESTIMATED TIME 2-3 hours
HANDY HINT
For a post-paddle meal go to Madalaki Café in Panormos where you can try locally made pastries in a laid-back setting.

Start at Panormos Beach on the west coast of Skopelos, a sheltered bay with calm waters. Paddle north along the coast where pine-covered hills tumble to the sea, creating beautiful natural scenery and keeping your eyes peeled for dolphins or seal sightings. Stop at Milia Beach, known for its soft sand and small pebbles, for sunbathing, snorkelling and a swim. If you're feeling energetic, continue around the point to Kastani Beach, famed as the filming location for *Mamma Mia!* Return to Panormos with the afternoon sun casting a golden light. The journey back offers stunning views of the Skopelos coastline.



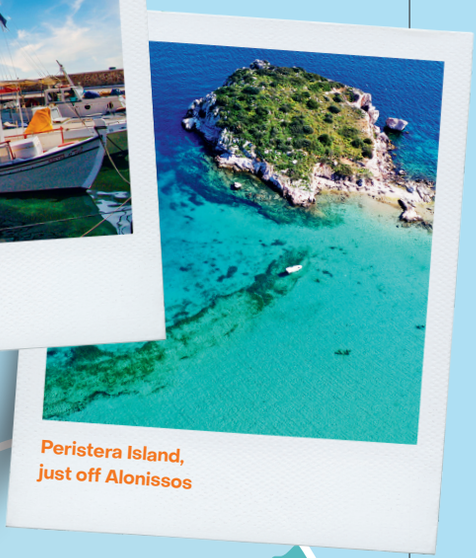
Kastani Beach on Skopelos



Panormos Beach, Skopelos



The port of Loutraki on Skopelos



Peristera Island, just off Alonissos



ITINERARY 3

Skopelos to Alonissos

LOUTRAKI PORT TO PERISTERA ISLAND

DIFFICULTY RATING 5/5
ESTIMATED TIME 5-6 hours
HANDY HINT
Try the stuffed squid at Dolopes Restaurant or Exantas Gastrobar in Patitiri for tasty squid spaghetti.

Start at Loutraki Port on the north-west coast of Skopelos and paddle to Patitiri, the bustling harbour town on the island of Alonissos, just to the east. After exploring the waterfront or having a coffee on the shoreline, head east again to Peristera Island, with its rugged coastline and quiet charm. Circumnavigate the tiny island or paddle along the calm channel between Peristera and Alonissos where small fishing villages dot the way. Head back towards the beach at Leftos Gialos on Alonissos and relax with lunch at Dolopes Restaurant, or explore Tzortzi Gialos, a hidden bay surrounded by forest. Alternatively, head back to Patitiri for fresh seafood.

PHOTOGRAPH: ADOBE IMAGES, ALAMY

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