

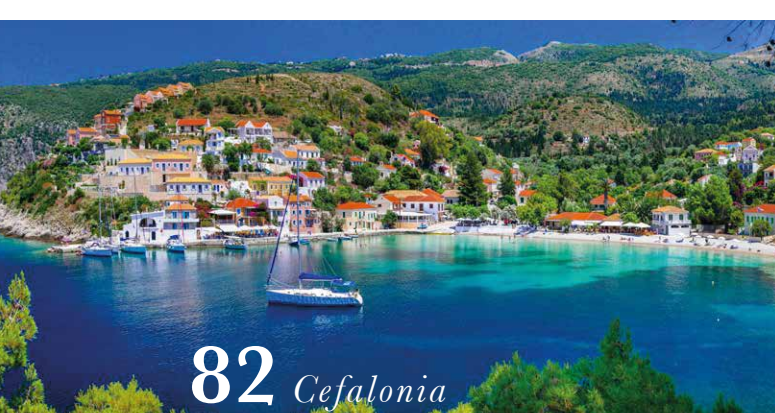


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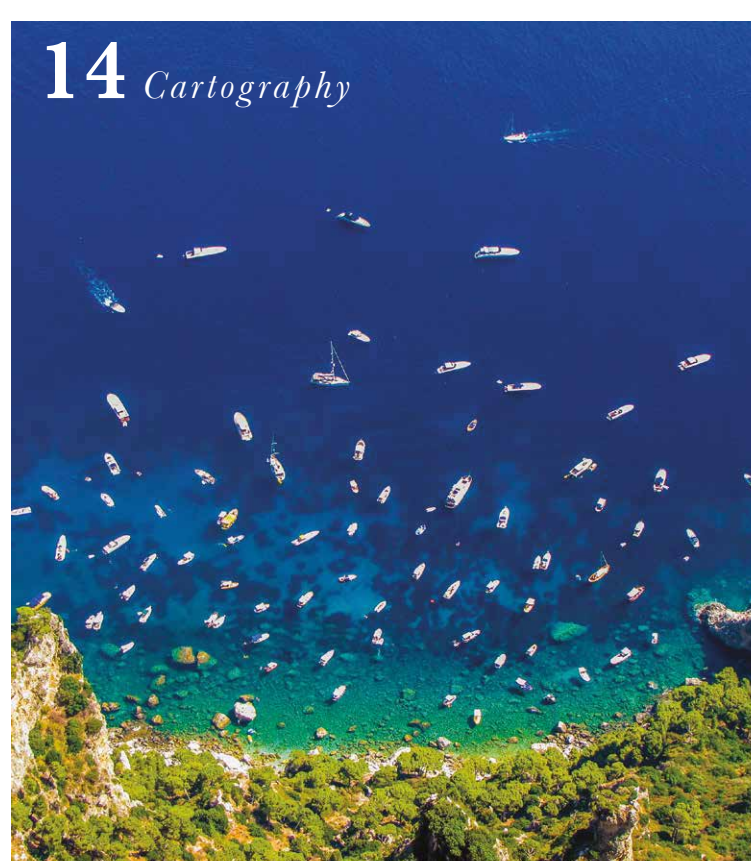
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## FROM THE LEFKAS CANAL TO THE MOUTH OF THE GULF OF PATRAS & LEFKADA

### DISTANCES BETWEEN THE MAIN PORTS AND MARINAS IN MILES

Kanali Lefkadas - Lefkada	1
Lefkada - Nikiana	5
Nikiana - Aktio Palaios	8
Nikiana - Periyiali	4
Periyiali - Vlichos	2
Vlichos - Vathi	7
Vathi - Athirinos	4
Vlichos - Sivota	10
Sivota - Ithaki (Itaka) Fries	10
Sivota - Vasiliki	9
Vasiliki - Kanali Lefkadas	28
Aktio Palaios - Xiromero Mitikas	10
Aktio Palaios - Athirinos	7
Xiromero Mitikas - Xiromero Astakos	15
Xiromero Mitikas - Episkopi	2
Episkopi - Kastos	8
Xiromero Astakos - Xiromero Platigiali	5
Xiromero Platigiali - Ithaki (Itaka) Kioni	20

### CLIMATE

The climate in this area is typical Mediterranean, as is also the case in the other areas described above, but it is featured by a mildness that is normally exacerbated by the presence of the open sea. In fact, having passed through the Lefkas Canal, before which we are confronted with the open sea where the strong NW wind may raise waves, we find ourselves inside a sort of inland sea sheltered by the numerous islands. The islands act as a barrier to weather phenomena and their tops, when the weather is wet or disturbed, form cloud caps that are recognisable from a distance. Within this square, one benefits from a kind of calmer environment. The islands, on their side exposed to the open sea, are rugged and barren, while on the side that provides a backdrop to this peak of paradise, are green and lush with Mediterranean vegetation.

### WINDS

This region, in addition to the prevailing summer winds, which we have discussed extensively in previous chapters, and which characterise the whole region, the presence of numerous islands with significant mountainous relief, is affected by katabatic fallout winds, which affect the apparently sheltered areas below the mountains. The sea in this case remains flat, but anchorages may become untenable due to the wind strength.

### CURRENTS

There are no significant currents between the islands. Even the passage through the Lefkas Canal is not subject to currents that may affect navigation. On the other hand, with the Sirocco (South-Easterly Wind) in combination with the high tide, the so-called "seiches" phenomena may occur, i.e. standing waves with longer periods of water-level oscillations, especially in the northern part of the island complex, between Lefkas and the mainland.

### LANDSCAPES

The rich variety of landscapes and the hundreds of shades that the Ionian Sea reflects, from the intense blue of the lagoon, to the green that the lush Mediterranean vegetation expresses, the reflections of a thousand colours of spring flowers: these are the impressions that leave indelible in the memory of these islands. Lefkas is undoubtedly the most imposing island, while Meganisi is the most important of the smaller islands, while the most famous is Nisida Skorpis Island, which made headlines in the 1970s for being the setting for the wedding of Aristotle Onassis and Jacqueline Kennedy. The whole region has experienced dramatic moments in the past, including the earthquakes of 1948 and 1953, which almost razed all the buildings on the island to the ground. As a result, the villages have lost their typical Greek charm. Meganisi, although small in size, is rich in beaches and ridges and is an ideal destination for nautical tourism. It is a peaceful and hospitable island, with almost no cars and no noise. Many paths run through it and roads are narrow, ideal for walking. Sea caves are the most important attractions of Meganisi. Namely, the Papanikolis Cave owes its fame to the fact that it was used as a hiding place for submarines during World War II. Both the islands of Lefkas and Meganisi base their economy on tourism, agriculture, and fishing. Their main crops are vines, olive trees, and large olive groves adorning the slopes of the islands.

