



(the first man to propose a heliocentric solar system) were all born on the island. This hotel is perched on a cliff with fabulous views over Tsamadou Beach to the fishing village of Kokkari. Rooms are basic but stylish with nice touches such as fresh flowers on the beds and verandas that look out to sea. **Details** B&B doubles are from €60 (00 30 22730 922279, armoniabay.com). Olympic Air flies to Samos from Athens

Sporades

15 Bourtzi Boutique Hotel Skiathos

There's a cool cocktail bar with white sofas at this modern design hotel in the heart of Skiathos's main town. Rooms have relaxing pastel walls and art, and there's a fine pool area. Though most of the film *Mamma Mia* was shot on neighbouring Skopelos, the scene in which the three fathers meet for the first time in the island's evocative old port was filmed here.

Details B&B doubles are from €69 (00 30 24270 21304, hotelbourtzi.gr). ThomsonFly (flights.thomson.co.uk) flies to Skiathos from May to September

16 Ikion Eco Alonissos

Rocky uninhabited islets to the north of Alonissos have been designated a marine park to help conserve the largest known population of the Mediterranean monk seal, and the green theme continues at this hotel that has a string of environmental certificates. Surrounded by pines, it has 13 rooms and suites with a contemporary feel, and good beaches are just a few minutes' walk away.

Details B&B doubles start from €75

(00 30 24240 66360, ikion.com). Fly to Skiathos, a 90-minute ferry ride away

Ionian

17 Perantzada 1811 Art Hotel Ithaka

There's little wonder that Odysseus fought so many battles to return to Ithaka, for this tiny island wedged between Kefalonia and the mainland is one of Greece's most picturesque with its sheer cliffs, arid mountains, tiny villages, olive groves and sheltered coves. This hotel in the port town of Vathy is just as lovely. Housed in a 19th-century Neoclassical mansion, it consists of 19 rooms and suites with white wooden floors, chandeliers and bespoke art.

Details B&B doubles are from €115 (00 30 26740 33496, perantzadahotel.com). EasyJet, ThomsonFly and Monarch all fly to Kefalonia, a 30-minute ferry ride away

18 Torri e Merli Paxos

According to mythology, Paxos was formed when Poseidon attempted to lure the sea nymph Amphitrite by throwing his trident at Corfu, so breaking off a piece of the island. As if in tribute, there's a real romantic feel to this seven-suite hotel housed in a 17th-century former mansion house. Rooms have stone walls, exposed rafters, white French-style shabby chic beds and glass-fronted bathrooms, while there is a lovely tea room, Tisaneria, in the old cellar.

Details B&B doubles are from €170 (00 30 26212 34123, torriemerli.com).

Ryanair, EasyJet and Aegean Airlines fly to Corfu, a one-hour hydrofoil ride away

Peloponnese

19 Pension Amymone Nafplio

Technically, the Peloponnese is a peninsula rather than an island, but it has been separated from the mainland since the late 1800s by the Isthmus at Corinth. Nafplio retains an island feel as the winding streets of its Old Town, full of quirky shops such as the Worry Bead Museum, are surrounded on three sides by water. This hotel, created by Italian artist Francesco Moretti, fits in perfectly thanks to its wooden sculptures, wrought-iron furnishings and recycled materials used for decoration.

Details B&B doubles are from €130 (00 30 27520 99477, amymone.gr). Nafplio is a two-hour drive from Athens

20 Kinsteria Hotel Monemvasia

Just on the outskirts of the magical island castle city of Monemvasia in the southern Peloponnese, Kinsteria has been turning heads since it opened in 2010. The 27-room hotel is a converted Byzantine mansion, surrounded by rolling hills on one side and the blue of the Aegean on the other. Rooms have antique furnishings, wooden floors and marble bathrooms, and the hotel restaurant is on cantilevered platforms over the old water cistern from which the hotel takes its name.

Details B&B doubles start from €137 (00 30 27320 66300, kinsternahotel.gr). EasyJet flies to Kalamata, a two-and-a-half-hour drive away

