Diving

Explore the Big Blue of Greece.
Explore the Greek seas

Strategically located in southeast Europe, Greece quickly grows into one of the most prominent destinations for the scuba diving community due to many obvious reasons: crystal clear blue seas, a very extensive coastline, thousands of islands and islets, 2,000 already mapped dive sites, 250 dive centres, 150 easily accessible shipwrecks, countless sea caves and caverns, transparent and relatively warm waters make Greece a unique destination for unforgettable scuba diving holidays.

Diving – until 2006 – was significantly restricted by the Ministry of Culture and the archaeological authorities in order to protect the rich heritage that lies at the bottom of the sea. Now that the relevant regulation is changed, Greece, with its long experience and infrastructure in the tourist sector is determined to place itself in the international scuba diving map. Feel the sheer pleasure of discovering ancient walls, wrecks, caverns, sunken cities, shipwrecks, caves and reefs in crystal clear waters, calm seas and the renowned Mediterranean climate, or the secret hope that, this time, diving might just turn into an exciting archaeological adventure! Thousands of years of civilization, democracy, Olympic Games, philosophy and literature along with some of the most known and popular myths worldwide originated in Greece.

Greece is home to the first superior cultures in Europe and it is considered as the birthplace of Western civilization, starting with the Cycladic culture in the Aegean islands (around 3200 B.C.), the Minoan civilization in Crete (2700–1500 B.C.), and the Mycenaean on the mainland (1900–1100 B.C.).

There is significant archeological evidence so far which proves that Greeks had mastered breath-holding skills under water that enabled them to develop deep diving techniques over the millennia. Undersea artefacts have been discovered on land as well as drawings of divers in ancient wall paintings.
In ancient Greece, breath-hold divers harvested sponges but they also engaged in military exploits, such as the Greek Scyllias (approx. 500 B.C.) who dived to spy on the invading Persian fleet and remained underwater for hours, using a hollow reed as snorkel, before surfacing to alert his fellow soldiers about the enemy forces. Also, Aristotle, the famous Greek philosopher, relates that Alexander the Great practiced snorkelling at the siege of Tyre in 332 B.C., where he was lowered into the sea in a diving bell, “a barrel made entirely of white glass”, which was towed out to the sea and lowered into the water.

- 13,676 km of coastline, the 11th longest coastline in the world
- 3,000 islands – 240 of them inhabited
- 250 dive centres
- 2,000 mapped dive sites – the total number rapidly grows each year
- 15,000 wrecks
- 1,500 registered wrecks
- 150 easily accessible shipwrecks
- Countless caves and caverns
- Crystal clear and relatively warm waters (13 – 30°C all year round)
- The average visibility exceeds 30m.
Every year Greece welcomes more than 25 million visitors from all over the world.

It is the ideal destination for diving as well as for family holidays. 250 dive centres in Greece provide numerous options for unforgettable underwater experiences to both divers and snorkellers of any age. Hundreds of remote and deserted islands, along with the endless coastline, offer an enormous playground for divers and snorkellers to explore. Experienced divers can organize and enjoy a diving week with 2 - 3 dives per day, while, beginners can enjoy their first diving experience in perfect conditions and fall in love with the underwater world.

More than 2,000 dive sites have already been mapped, and many more are yet to be explored.

There are numerous destinations for divers in Greece who can actually dive anywhere from the Greek indented shoreline and the magnificent islands.

There are 250 scuba dive centres which provide training, equipment service and rental, as well as guided diving and snorkelling, using boats specially designed for diving.

The Ionian Islands are renowned for their fascinating underwater routes, with all types of wrecks - especially from WWII, caves and caverns, and great populations of fish. Divers and snorkellers also may meet the well-known Caretta Caretta sea turtles.

25 dive centres are located on the islands of Corfu, Paxoi, Lefkada, Kefalonia, Ithaca and Zakynthos, providing guided dives and training courses from May till October.
Travel further south to Crete, Greece’s biggest island and a diver’s paradise. Crete stands as a physical border between the Aegean archipelago and the Libyan sea, and it is the heart of the Minoan civilization. In Crete, divers can enjoy brilliant colours on the seabed, the diversity of sea life, and stunning underwater seascapes, reefs, walls, caves and caverns, awaiting their exploration. Over 30 dive centres around the island guide tourists to numerous dive spots, while the warm weather makes scuba diving possible all year round.

The Aegean Sea is a very popular destination for divers, offering crystal clear waters and a wonderful selection of magnificent dive spots, a colourful sea life, and all kinds of shipwrecks from various historical periods, caves and caverns. The vast majority of the 3,000 Greek islands are located in the Aegean Sea. Starting from the northeast, the biggest islands are Thasos, Samothraki, Limnos, Lesbos, Chios, Samos and Ikaria. There are about 20 dive centres that provide training, equipment rental and guided services along with daily cruises, to both experienced divers and snorkellers, mostly during the tourist period.

To the west, the Sporades Islands are mostly covered by pine forests that stretch all the way to the seaside. The Group includes Alonissos, Skiathos, Skopelos and Skyros islands, where 10 dive centres provide unique alternatives for diving among big fish, dolphins and ancient wrecks in transparent and clear blue waters. This area is the location of the National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades, the first marine park established in Greece and one of the largest marine protected areas in Europe. Northern Sporades Islands are a scuba diver’s paradise. Explorers are fascinated by the magnificent seabed, vivid colours and crystal-clear waters.
Further south, in the centre of the Aegean Sea, the Cyclades group includes about 220 islands; the bigger ones are Amorgos, Anafi, Andros, Antiparos, Delos, Ios, Kea, Kimolos, Kythnos, Milos, Mykonos, Naxos, Paros, Folegandros, Serifos, Sifnos, Sikinos, Syros, Tinos, and Thira or Santorini.

Breathtaking views under the Greek sun, over Aegean white houses with blue windows, create a unique ambience for visitors. In the greater Cycladic region, there are approximately 50 dive centres, and each island offers countless options for diving; it’s a real heaven for underwater explorers. A diver needs many years of practice in order to visit all the spots around each island. Till today, there are at least 600 mapped dive sites that can cater for all tastes and any level of experience.

Dive in truly stunning volcanic sites with clear deep blue waters, magnificent wall formations, innumerable caves and caverns and wrecks of any type that span the boundaries of history.

Snorkel over ancient submerged cities and explore remote islets with colourful sea beds and pristine sandy beaches.
Move southeast and you will reach a group of more than 160 islands (Dodecanese), 26 of which are inhabited. The best known island and the most important one from a historical point of view is Rhodes, which has been the area’s dominant island since the Antiquity. Other islands are: Kos, Patmos, Agathonisi, Astypalaia, Kalymnos, Karpathos, Kasos, Leros, Nisyros, Symi, Tilos, and Kastellorizo.

In the Dodecanese, divers can dive almost all year round and enjoy the relatively warm waters. More than 20 dive centres provide training, equipment rental and guided diving to the most spectacular underwater sites to qualified divers, while their experienced staff makes the dream come true for new divers who want to experience unique and unforgettable moments.

As far as the Greek mainland’s extensive coastline is concerned, starting from the north and the regions of Thrace and Macedonia, in all the big seaside cities, 25 dive centres, most of them located in Halkidiki, offer services to divers who choose to travel to Greece and combine their hobby with family vacations.
If you head south, you can dive in Litochoro, just under the famous Mount Olympus – home of the 12 Greek gods – the highest mountain in Greece or, further south, at the foot of the mountain of Pílion – homeland of the Centaurs, into Pagasitikos Gulf where historic wrecks of the Roman and Byzantine periods are waiting to be explored. More than 40 dive centres are found in the greater area of Attica, making it even easier, especially for experienced divers, to fly to Athens and enjoy unlimited diving all year round in the Saronic gulf and its islands, the Athenian Riviera, Cape Sounio, and the southern gulf of Evia. This is the most popular area of all, offering more than 200 different dive sites, within an hour from downtown Athens. Wrecks of all kinds and all times, spectacular caves and caverns, are just a small sample of the countless options a diver has; they can fulfill the most demanding wishes of even the most experienced diver.

The Peloponnese, birthplace of the Mycenaean civilization which flourished in the Bronze Age, and the origin of the first OLYMPIC GAMES in 776 B.C., even though it is in the southern part of the Greek peninsula it looks like a big island since it is separated from the central part of the country by the Corinth Canal – opened in 1893 – which connects the Aegean with the Ionian Sea.
25 dive centres can guide you around and direct you to dive in spectacular settings where you will meet the historical remnants of ancient and modern times that trigger emotions only archeologists can feel. The Peloponnese offers endless opportunities along its coasts for snorkelling over famous submerged ancient civilizations, cities, harbours, ruins of ancient monuments and walls, like Antikythera, Pavlopetri and Lechaion.

Divers can travel to Greece in many different ways: by road, plane, train or sea. The country’s extensive domestic air network consists of 67 airports, providing top-notch service all year round. In most cases, from April till November, there are direct flights connecting all major European cities to Greece’s most popular destinations.

At a local level, it’s an easy place to travel around, thanks to an extensive public transportation system. For most visitors, traveling in Greece means island hopping on the multitude of ferries that crisscross the Ionian and the Aegean Sea. On the mainland, respectively, a modern road network serves all destinations.

Visit Greece for a wonderful trip, and find out why it is the ideal destination for fantastic scuba diving. Also, you will meet the interesting local culture and ancient history, whereas when you take a break, you can savour the tasty Greek cuisine and beverages.
Most people around the globe are very well aware of the unique Greek climate, location, history and hospitality. Very few, though, know the umpteen dive sites - more than 2,000 already registered, and numerous others yet to be mapped. In recent years, the legislation that regulates diving has changed, so, today, you could be one of the pioneers who will explore the Greek underwater world whether this is your first try or if you are a highly qualified and experienced diver. There are dive spots which will make happy even the most demanding and well-travelled divers.

Diving in Greece feels like being in a time machine, or exploring an open museum since, due to its geopolitical position, there are many ancient wrecks of all periods, plus WWI & II wrecks in its waters as well. The superb underwater visibility offers the opportunity to dive and admire them easily and safely. In addition, there are countless caves and caverns with easy access either from the shore, or by boat.

Just visit one of the 250 dive centres and let the experienced and friendly staff take you around and unveil all the underwater secrets of the area.
Hop on the RIB, drift into a lagoon, drop in and swim over breathtaking walls, dive through dark vertical cracks and enjoy the spectacular deep blue view down the cliffs.

Next day, right after the detailed briefing, dive and enjoy that strong feeling at the moment of discovery, as soon as you reach a wreck lying on the seabed for so many years. Swim over expanses of debris of broken amphorae and other remnants of ancient civilizations. Feel like a member of an archeological dive that captures the imagination, making your mind drift back across the millennia.

Get back on the boat and take a short break under the warm Greek sun, while heading to your next dive spot; change your cylinder, check your equipment once again and start exploring a complex of flooded caves with rainbow-hued walls. The natural light gives a new dimension to the rocky shapes. Enter the enormous chamber with the colourful walls splattered with multi coloured sponges, get closer to see the nudibranchs, the fireworms and the sea anemones in magnificent colours and take your best photos.

Finally after a couple of pleasant dives, enjoy a refreshing Greek salad while the wet suits are drying for the next exploration.
Wreck Diving

Greek maritime history is the richest in the whole world. Greece is the country with most naval wrecks than any other worldwide!

There are more than 1,500 registered wrecks of modern times, ships and aircrafts. Then again, there are wrecks of all kinds, from various periods, at any depth, that will please the most experienced and exigent deep technical divers.

All the above form an integral part of the history of evolution of the Greek merchant marine. No country could ever preserve ships of all kinds, from all historic periods, as underwater museums where specimens from almost every kind of vessel that once sailed there are exhibited.

In Greece there are no artificial wrecks. The added sentimental value of the wrecks lies in the fact that every one of them is unique and represents a piece of a long, naval history and tradition. The general conditions and amazing visibility of the Greek seas is an extra bonus for recreational divers too.
HMHS Britannic, sister ship of RMS Titanic, was serving as a World War I hospital ship when it struck a German mine 5km off the island of Kea, 60km southeast of Athens, on November 21st, 1916. It took only 55 minutes for the ship to sink. Today, it attracts only very experienced and brave deep technical divers because it lies between 80 –120m deep. It’s a divers’ Mecca!

M/S Freighter Kyra Eleni, a cargo ship sunk in 1978 due to bad weather, rests on the sandy seabed of the Saronic Gulf, directly opposite Sounio, off the southern side of the island of Patroklos. The freighter Kyra Eleni draws divers of all levels, since its average depth is 22m.

The visibility is good and great photos can be taken while exploring the bow (17m), or the stern (32m).

Bristol 156 Beaufighter, a WW II aircraft, long-range heavy fighter torpedo bomber, lies on the flat sandy seabed perfectly intact, half a mile off Cape Kouroupas in the Cyclades, between Paros and Naxos islands; most likely it went down while its propeller was still rotating before sinking. It is the local attraction for all levels of divers, with an average dive’s depth of 30m.
**HMS Perseus** submarine, located in Kefalonia Island, was a British Parthian-class submarine built in 1929 and lost in 1941 during the Second World War; it was discovered and surveyed in 1997. It is a legendary shipwreck in excellent condition at a maximum depth of 52 metres. Divers who get this far will see the bow and torpedoes. The propellers and controls are perfectly intact and have been preserved exactly as they were in 1941, while the conning tower is a great photo opportunity.

**Queen Olga Destroyer D-15**, one of the legendary ships of the Greek Navy, located in Leros Island, was sunk in 1943 in the harbour of Lakki, during an air raid by German bombers - Junkers JU-88. Today, it lies at a maximum depth of 32m next to other WWII ships and airplane wrecks, and defense nets used to secure the harbour during the war, creating a huge underwater museum.

The **Antikythera Shipwreck** is a Roman shipwreck dating from the second quarter of the first century B.C. It was discovered by sponge divers off Point Glyphadia on the Greek island of Antikythera in 1900. The first expedition to the shipwreck was conducted by Jacques-Yves Cousteau in 1953. Since 2012, the Greek archaeological authorities continue the excavation and keep bringing valuable items and new information to the surface. To this day, the most important among hundreds of findings is the famous Antikythera mechanism.
The Antikythera mechanism is the world’s first analog computer, used by the ancient Greeks to chart the movement of the sun, moon and planets, to predict lunar and solar eclipses and even track the four-year cycle of the Olympic Games.

The 2000-year-old astronomical calculator was able to align the number of lunar months with years and display the position of the sun and the moon in the zodiac.

The device is an intricate system of more than 30 sophisticated bronze indented gears housed in a wooden and bronze case, the size of a shoebox. Its mechanical function refers to the world’s oldest-known computer, while the system of indented gears bears a distant resemblance to digital computers of the 20th century. The instrument has been dated to about 85 B.C. by various scientists, but recent studies suggest it may be older.

It is unknown why this technology was lost. Its mechanical complexity would have been unrivalled for at least another 1,000 years until the appearance of medieval clocks in the European cathedrals.
Cave Diving

In Greece you can find more than 8,500 natural caves and caverns, subterranean and underwater, which were created as a result of the country's rich geological structure and history. In most Greek dive centres, divers have the opportunity to visit spectacular caves, caverns, canyons and tunnels. There are dives for all levels, even for the most technically experienced cave divers. The country offers plenty of cavern diving possibilities in Athens, Kefalonia, Zakynthos, Kalamata, Kythira, Alonissos, Crete and elsewhere. Some of the most known caves in Greece are the following:

The Elephant cave is located in Chania, Crete. The view inside the cave is absolutely amazing with huge stalagmites and stalactites above and below the surface of the water. The central chamber, 50 m away from the entrance, has access to the surface and gives the opportunity for unique photos. It’s an easy dive for all levels of divers, up to a 9m depth.

Vouliagmeni lake is a small brackish-water lake, a rare geological formation, located in the south of Vouliagmeni in Athens, a 45 minute drive from the city centre. There are four different magnificent dives in a massive cave system. The temperature is 24°C all year round.
**Sintzi cave**, located in Kandila, Arcadia, at 650m altitude (above sea level) is 153.5m deep and one of the most beautiful caves in Greece. Only very experienced divers can visit it since very good preparation, skills and superior equipment are needed. It’s an expedition, not just a dive. It is listed among the 30 deepest explored underwater natural cavities in the world. The temperature is 10°C all year round.

**Karavomylos cave** in Melissani, Kefalonia, has a small circular lake with lush vegetation and fresh water, which flows into the sea. Inside the cave, experienced divers enter a breathtaking setting of stalactites and stalagmites. The average depth is 9 m, with a maximum depth of 17 m. The temperature is 14°C all year round.

Most caves provide excellent visibility, beyond 50 metres, while, in most cases, the water temperature remains stable all year around.
Dive in History

Diving in the past: Ancient shipwrecks and their cargoes, ancient ports, precious sculptures, and thousands of artefacts are only a fraction of discovered treasures of global importance that are accessible to recreational divers, while more exciting discoveries are yet to be made. Submerged cities: The profound geological changes in Greece and throughout the Mediterranean Sea sometimes resulted in the submergence of entire terrestrial settlements. Today, more than 29 submerged ancient sites from the prehistoric to the early Byzantine period are lying beneath the blue seas.

The city of Pavlopetri, off the coast of southern Laconia in the Peloponnese, has been lying underwater for the past 5,000 years and it is one of the oldest submerged lost cities globally – the oldest in the Mediterranean Sea. The archaeological remains of a Bronze Age city are located a few metres below the water surface, including traces of buildings, courtyards, streets, and burial places; an ideal site for snorkellers.

Lechaion harbour was one of two bustling ports of the ancient city of Corinth. The harbour saw vibrant maritime activity for more than 1000 years, from the 6th century B.C. to the 6th century A.D. Ships and fleets departed filled with cargoes, colonists, and troops heading to ports all over the Mediterranean and beyond. Today, divers can drift through stone remains unveiling blocked structures, monumental buildings and temples.
Fourni is a cluster of 13 islands and islets located between the Aegean islands of Samos and Ikaria. In just this small area, after only three phases of underwater archaeological research, a total of 53 shipwrecks were found. The remains date from the Classical times to the first half of the 20th century and include a 4th century B.C. ship carrying a cargo of amphorae from Chios, a Roman shipwreck loaded with amphorae for salted fish of Spanish origin, two late Roman shipwrecks with amphorae dating to the 6th and 7th century A.D., and a wooden craft of the interwar period, which sank after 1929. The number and variety of cargoes discovered — many of them being of foreign origin — indicate that Fourni was a hub in the antiquity which connected a broad network of sea routes.

Delos island is located in the Cyclades, in the Aegean Sea, near Mykonos. The mythological birthplace of god Apollo was an important trading base and a significant maritime trade route during the 1st millennium B.C. The island’s ruins encompass Doric temples, markets, and an open theatre. Underwater ruins, ancient coastal structures, a port and a large number of shipwrecks have been lying on the seabed for thousands of years.

Delos island is not inhabited and snorkellers can reach it through Mykonos island by boats in organized daily trips; also they have the opportunity to see the museum and the open archaeological site. Delos is the ideal place for snorkelling over all these numerous findings, under the crystal clear blue waters, which have earned this island a place among the greatest cultural sites in the world.
Quality & Safety

250 dive centres all around the country, officially licensed, follow the strictest standards of the Greek and international legislation for safety in diving. They are certified by accredited quality standards’ organizations for their facilities, equipment and training.

They provide high quality scuba diving and snorkelling activities; they are well equipped and organized, whereas their obliging staff delivers comprehensive and detailed briefings for the comfort and safety of the divers.

All employ at least English speaking professionals, while many of them offer services in German, French or Russian.

- RIB boats for fast and safe trips
- Oxygen and first aid kits on board
- Sufficient training and preparation
- Equipped with advanced equipment
- Detailed briefing using maps, graphs, photos and videos
- Guided diving by experienced professionals
- Small groups of divers for more safety and high quality of service
Discover Scuba Diving & Snorkeling

Greece is the ideal place to fall in love with the sea and discover the fascinating underwater world. The vast majority of the 250 dive centres in Greece provide opening courses for beginners as well as snorkelling instructions. Each year, thousands of visitors discover scuba diving in Greece. Year by year, snorkelling becomes more popular, as it gives the diver the opportunity to see and explore beautiful places while exercising, to feel free and relaxed and to take amazing photos. Most dive centres organize daily family trips to islands where visitors can make spectacular discoveries and enjoy unforgettable underwater experiences.

These daily excursions offer a very good opportunity to explore colourful reefs, rocky capes, and remote places, and to swim in secluded beaches.
A life changing experience

Discover how beautiful and fascinating scuba diving is and participate in an incredible underwater adventure!

Pick a few out of the 2,000 already mapped dive sites and live a week full of diving action.

Thousands of wrecks spanning thousands of years are now open for exploration, accompanied by ample portions of culture, history and arts.

Take a break between dives; visit renowned archeological and cultural sites and enjoy the famous local lifestyle.

Enjoy the Greek cuisine; start with a traditional assortment of tasty seafood and continue with top quality fresh fish dishes, while savouring a glass of local premium wine.

Unveil the mysteries of the Greek seas, explore the big blue - Dive into the adventure!
"It is actually not easy to find a pleasing green color underwater. Whether it is algea, plants.. etc. But this place in Greece blew my mind."

Martin Strmiska
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