

MEGANISSI IS THE NEW PAXOS

Nostalgia is a powerful emotion: often intense, sometimes bitter-sweet, always a pleasure. After 35+ years in the travel business I certainly have plenty of memories, but the inevitable march of progress means it's rare for me to visit somewhere new that really reminds me of the past. Visiting Meganissi in 2013 however, I had the delightful sensation of slipping back in time.

Rather like Paxos in the 80's and early 90's, Meganissi is a sleepy, timeless sort of a place, where the day's activity is dictated simply by your mood and appetite. There are no resorts, just tiny harbours at Spilia and Vathy, equipped with a couple of decent tavernas to provide for the yachting flotilla and fishing boats that moor up daily. Many of the stunning little beaches are accessible only by boat or on foot, further deterring any mass-market encroachment.

Arriving by boat from Lefkada, I was reminded of our early operations on Paxos, when the smaller Greek Islands were more the domain of backpackers than of holiday companies. That unique and authentically Greek charm may have faded in some of the more mainstream destinations, but Meganissi seems to have slipped quietly through the net of 'progress'. I knew almost straight away that here was the perfect destination for anyone looking for that quintessential small Greek Island experience.

With intermittent (at best) wifi, visitors to this island are released from the tyranny of email, freeing up time for whatever you want to do. You can hire a boat (no licence required) and potter along the coast in search of a private cove for lunch and a swim. There are some great walking routes through the pine-shaded interior, or you could learn a new skill thanks to the embroidery and cooking classes offered by the friendly, enterprising locals. The larger island of Lefkada is an hour away by ferry.

Yet even somewhere as undeveloped as Meganissi, we remain committed to the highest possible standards, so while the wifi may be unreliable, our service is anything but. We offer some of the very best accommodation available on the island, and for 2015, our guests will enjoy our unique concierge-style service to ensure they make as much (or as little) of their break as they wish. To me, our Meganissi holidays combine the sweet pleasure of nostalgia with the practical benefit of experience, making this a rewarding destination for regular Greek visitors and first timers alike.