

Nisos Kefalonìa (Cephalonia) Crossed by a chain of majestic mountains which peak at 1600m above sea level, the island is easy to identify from a distance. Area-wise, it is the largest of the Ionian islands and although tourism has crept across it, its natural beauty is stunning, the atmosphere is relaxed, and much of its traditional charm has remained intact. The hallmark of the island is its variety: some of its towns burst with shops, while others are quiet rural affairs; its beach resorts boast isolated beaches and unspoilt bays; its mountains are barren, but its valleys are lush with pine and olive forests. It also has large ports and picturesque harbours. Its wealth of sights includes churches, monasteries, archaeology museums, natural parks, grottos, underground channels, hot-water springs, hiking routes and ancient ruins.

The N part is the most renowned and has all of the most popular destinations.

A tall, almost-deserted mountain spine surveys the coast looking onto the Ithaca Channel (Kanàli Ithàkis). It slopes towards a rugged coastline dimpled with deserted bays and good shelters. Fiskàrdo (Phiscardo) lies in the northernmost part. It is one of the few villages that has retained its original architecture and it boasts the island's most popular harbour.

The gentler, less-rugged shores of Kòlpos Sàmis lie further south. They are home both to the sleepy village of Agia Effimìa, with its small harbour and good visitors facilities, and to Sàmi, a modern town that nestles amongst lush hills. Sàmi hosts the island's largest harbour and a ferry terminal for Italy.

The final stretch of the eastern coast begins with Òrmos Antisamos. When Italy surrendered to the Allies in 1943, the Italian troops stationed here were massacred by the Nazis; today, it is a tourist beach and home to numerous busy summer beach-bars. There are no real shelters from here until you reach Pòros, where ferries leave for the continent and the Peloponnese.

The hallmark of the island's southern part is its beautiful plain, which has long, crowded beaches and a string of small harbours which have little to offer to yachts. It is not always possible to approach the shore because of the shoals and clusters of rock that extend up to 500m from the shore (Kòlpos Lourdàta and Ifalos Kàkava).

Local capital Argostòli and the town of Lixoùri overlook the Bay of Argostòli. Both are busy places with good facilities and a number of harbours.

The large peninsula extending west boasts beautiful, green, largely deserted hills, but only a couple of its bays make for good anchoring, with shelter being scarce. Also note that the coast is studded with rocks that can stretch up to 500m from the shore. Kòlpos Mirtou has the same problem, as despite having some of the island's most popular beaches, there are few shelters and no harbours.

The final north-western stretch has little of interest to yachtsmen, the one exception being Àssos, a characteristic village besieged by tourists. Unfortunately, its berths are unreliable and its services modest, so it should be used in favourable weather only.

Cephalonia is linked to Greece and to Italy by ferry, and Argostòli international airport has daily flights to Europe. The island also enjoys an extensive bus network and taxis that link the capital with its more remote destinations.

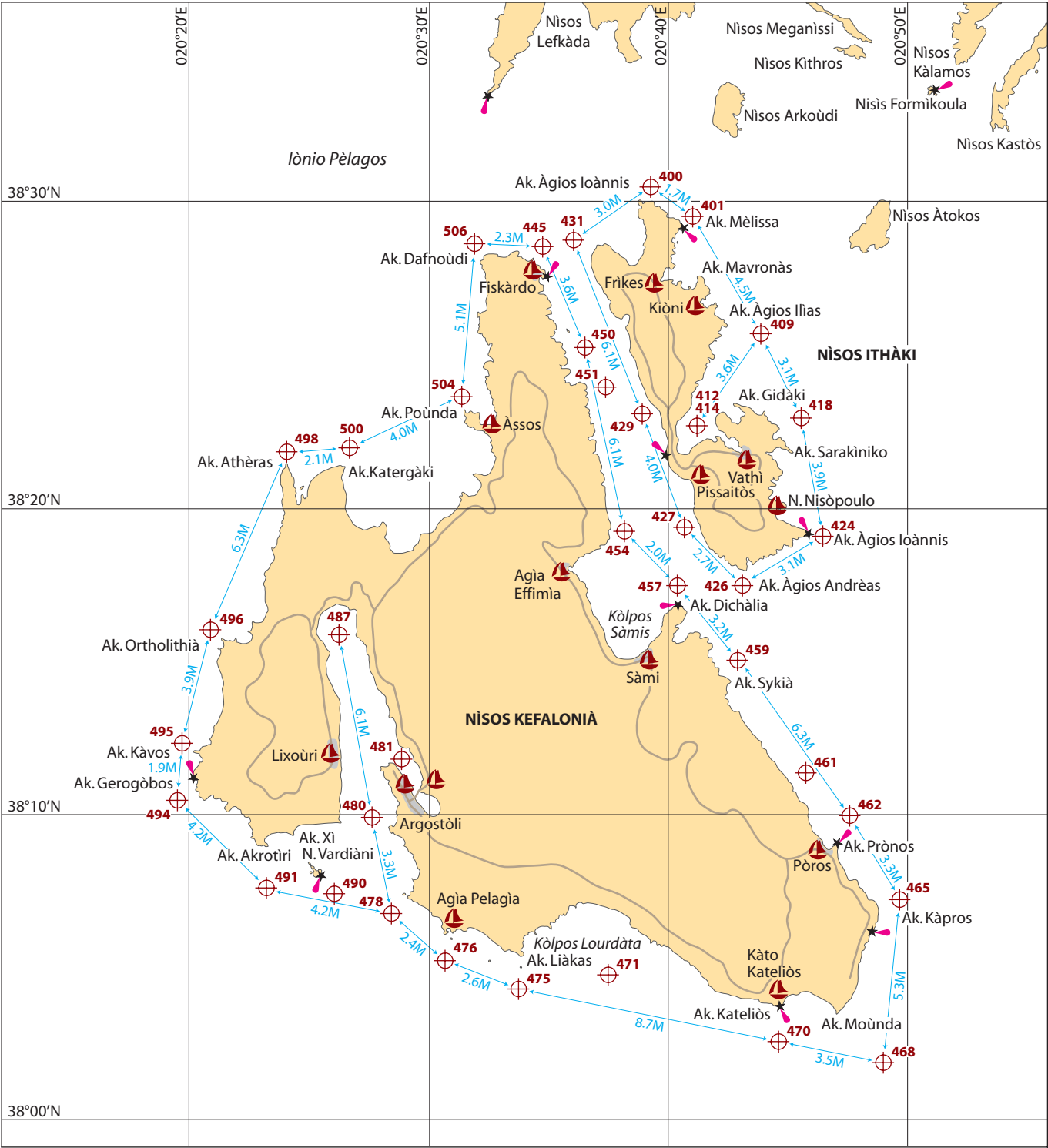
Winds, weather and navigation

In summer, the local prevailing wind is the mistral, as it is in the surrounding areas. However, the tall mountains that cross the two islands increase its katabatic effect considerably. As a result, in a NW wind, much of the leeward coast is battered by violent gusts that are steered by the local topography. This is especially true along Ithaca's NE coast, and in Kòlpos Aetoù (Ithàki), where the wind blows W-SW. The Ithaca Channel is also gusty and the winds here hurtle down towards the area south of the channel, hitting it from the N. On Cephalonia, Agia Effimìa is battered by W-NW winds and Kòlpos Argostoliou is affected by strong NW-N winds.












The E coasts of both islands, however, have a good many harbours and anchorages where a yacht can find shelter, even in high season. Their W coasts are steeper and have fewer shelters. This is especially true of Cephalonia, which is sometimes affected by a strong onshore summer wind, with most of its bays being open to it.




Summers are normally dry and winters wet and mild. In winter, pressure patterns are such that the winds are unpredictable. This means that harbours considered to be safe in summer can become untenable in winter.

Beware of naval traffic, which is particularly heavy in the waters NE of Ithaca.



COASTAL NAVIGATION WAYPOINTS AND DISTANCES				
	DESCRIPTION	WGS 84 COORDINATES		CHART
		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
400	0.5M off Ak. Àgios Ioànnis	38°30'.65N	020°39'.34E	88
401	0.5M off Ak. Mèlissa	38°29'.67N	020°41'.12E	88
409	1.2M off Ak. Àgios Ilias	38°25'.78N	020°44'.00E	88
412	Òrmos Aetoù	38°22'.11N	020°40'.78E	91
414	Entrance to Òrmos Vathì	38°22'.68N	020°41'.98E	92
418	1.2M off Ak. Gidàki	38°23'.00N	020°45'.64E	88
424	0.4M off Ak. Àgios Ioànnis	38°19'.15N	020°46'.60E	88,101
426	0.4M off Ak. Àgios Andrèas	38°17'.60N	020°43'.21E	88,101
427	1.5M S of Òrmos Pissaitoù	38°19'.43N	020°40'.77E	88,101
429	0.5M W of Àgios Ioànnis	38°23'.20N	020°39'.00E	88
431	0.8M off Ak. Exogì	38°28'.92N	020°36'.15E	88,97
445	0.4M off Ak. Xerì Moùnda	38°28'.64N	020°34'.84E	88,97
450	0.7M SE of Nisis Daskaliò	38°25'.31N	020°36'.59E	97
451	0.6M off Ak. Kedrì	38°24'.07N	020°37'.49E	88,97
454	0.5M off Ak. Agriòsyko	38°19'.30N	020°38'.29E	88,101
457	0.6M off Ak. Dichàlia	38°17'.49N	020°40'.51E	101
459	0.7M off Ak. Sykià	38°15'.04N	020°43'.03E	101
461	1M off Ak. Makrià Pètra	38°11'.36N	020°45'.88E	101
462	1M off Ak. Prònos	38°09'.90N	020°47'.69E	104
465	0.7M off Ak. Kàpros	38°07'.10N	020°49'.78E	104
468	1M off Ìfalos Kàkava	38°01'.78N	020°49'.12E	104
470	1.1M off Ak. Kateliòs	38°02'.47N	020°44'.74E	104,106
471	Kòlpos Lourdàta	38°04'.61N	020°37'.61E	106
475	0.7M off Skòpelos Mizithris	38°04'.20N	020°33'.85E	106
476	0.8M off Ak. Àmmes	38°05'.15N	020°30'.79E	107
478	0.7M al largo di Ak. Àgios Nikòlaos	38°06'.69N	020°28'.52E	107
480	Entrance to Kòlpos Argostoliou	38°09'.86N	020°27'.70E	107
481	Òrmos Argostoliou	38°11'.80N	020°28'.96E	110
487	Òrmos Livàdi	38°15'.88N	020°26'.30E	107
490	0.7M off Nisis Vardiàni	38°07'.35N	020°26'.13E	107
491	1.3M off Ak. Akrotìri	38°07'.54N	020°23'.29E	107
494	0.7M off Ak. Gerogòbos	38°10'.39N	020°19'.54E	112
495	0.4M off Ak. Kàvos	38°12'.27N	020°19'.73E	112
496	0.4M off Ak Ortholithià	38°16'.02N	020°20'.89E	112
498	0.3M off Ak. Athèras	38°21'.82N	020°24'.08E	112
500	0.6M off Ak. Katergàki	38°22'.03N	020°26'.70E	97,112
504	0.4M off Ak. Pòunda	38°23'.72N	020°31'.40E	97
506	0.5M off Ak. Dafnoùdi	38°28'.76N	020°31'.94E	97

HARBOURS AND MARINAS KEY FOR PLAN SYMBOLS														
	NAME	WGS 84 COORDINATES		CHART										
		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE											
406	Limàni Frikes	38°27'.61N	020°39'.91E	89		•	/	/		8				•
408	Limeniskos Kìoni	38°26'.92N	020°41'.47E	90		•	/	/		10		•		
415	Limàni Vathì	38°22'.13N	020°42'.92E	93		•	/	/	•	5				
416	Limàni Vathì - N quay	38°22'.33N	020°42'.87E	93		•	/	/	•	10	•	•		•
422	Nisis Nisòpoulo (Lim. Àg. Ilias)	38°20'.09N	020°44'.84E	95		•	/	/		4				
428	Limeniskos Pissaitoù	38°20'.90N	020°41'.06E	96		•	/	/		4			•	
446	Limàni Fiskàrdo	38°27'.53N	020°34'.86E	99		•	/	/		15	•	•		
449	Òrmos Evreti - quay	38°26'.34N	020°35'.20E	100			/	/		6				
455	Limàni Agias Effimias	38°18'.07N	020°36'.17E	102		•	/	/		9	•	•	•	•
456	Limàni Sàmis	38°15'.25N	020°38'.69E	103		•	/	/		7		•	•	
456	Sàmi - fishing harbour	38°15'.25N	020°38'.69E	103		•	/	10-12		4,5				•
463	Limàni Pòrou	38°08'.98N	020°46'.86E	105		•	/	/		7		•	•	•
469	Limeniskos Kàto Kateliòs	38°03'.57N	020°44'.95E	105		•	/	/		2,5				•
477	Limeniskos Agias Pelagias	38°05'.82N	020°30'.84E	108		•	/	/		4,5		•		•
481	N.O.A. Argostoliou	38°11'.80N	020°28'.96E	110		•	/	/		2	•	•	•	
482	Limeniskos Maistràtos	38°11'.22N	020°29'.11E	111		•	/	/		3		•		•
483	Argostòli town quay	38°10'.71N	020°29'.49E	111		•	/	/		5		•		
484	Marína Argostoliou	38°10'.89N	020°29'.62E	111		•	/	/		4,5				•
488	Marína Lixouriou	38°13'.30N	020°26'.57E	109		•	/	/		3	•	•		
489	Limàni Lixouriou	38°12'.13N	020°26'.60E	109		•	/	/		5,5	•	•	•	
502	Limeniskos Agias Kyriakis	38°18'.68N	020°28'.64E	98		•	/	/		3	•	•		•
505	Limeniskos Àssou	38°22'.83N	020°32'.30E	98		•	/	/		12			•	

ANCHORAGES KEY FOR PLAN SYMBOLS												
	NAME	WGS 84 COORDINATES		CHART								
		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE									
402	Nisis Àgios Nikòlaos	38°28'.69N	020°40'.48E	89	G	s/w	4	•		B	NE-SE	•
403	Nisis Àgios Nikòlaos	38°28'.55N	020°40'.42E	89	P	s/w	5	•			NE/SE	•
404	Nisis Àgios Nikòlaos	38°28'.32N	020°40'.40E	89	P	s/w	5	•			NE/SE	•
405	Òrmos Frikès - Òrmos Limènia	38°27'.73N	020°40'.54E	89	G	m/w	10	•			S	•
405	Òrmos Frikès - Ak. Damoùri	38°27'.73N	020°40'.54E	89	P	m/w	8	•			NW/E	•
405	Òrmos Frikès - Òrmos Kourvouìlia	38°27'.73N	020°40'.54E	89	P	m/w	6	•			N	•
405	Òrmos Frikès - Òrmos Mavronà	38°27'.73N	020°40'.54E	89	P	m/w	6	•			N/NE	•
405	Òrmos Frikès - Òrmos Vathì Limàni	38°27'.73N	020°40'.54E	89	P	s/w	7	•			NW/N	•
407	Òrmos Kìoni	38°26'.93N	020°41'.97E	90	P	m/w	10	•			NW/NE	•
410	Akrotiri Àgios Ilias	38°26'.00N	020°42'.44E	90	P	p/f/a	4	•			SE/S	•
411	Skòpelos Nisàki	38°25'.60N	020°42'.18E	90	P	p/f/a	5	•			NE/SE	•
412	Òrmos Aetoù	38°22'.11N	020°40'.78E	91	G	m/s	7	•		B	N/NE	•
413	Òrmos Dexà	38°22'.32N	020°42'.05E	92	P	m/w	6	•		B	NW	•
415	Òrmos Vathì - Limàni Vathì	38°22'.13N	020°42'.92E	93	G	m/w	3	•		B-R-N	NW	•
416	Òrmos Vathì - N quay	38°22'.33N	020°42'.87E	93	G	m/w	5	•		B-R	S-SW	•
417	Òrmos Skinou	38°23'.33N	020°42'.64E	91	P	m/s/w	8	•			W/NW	•

