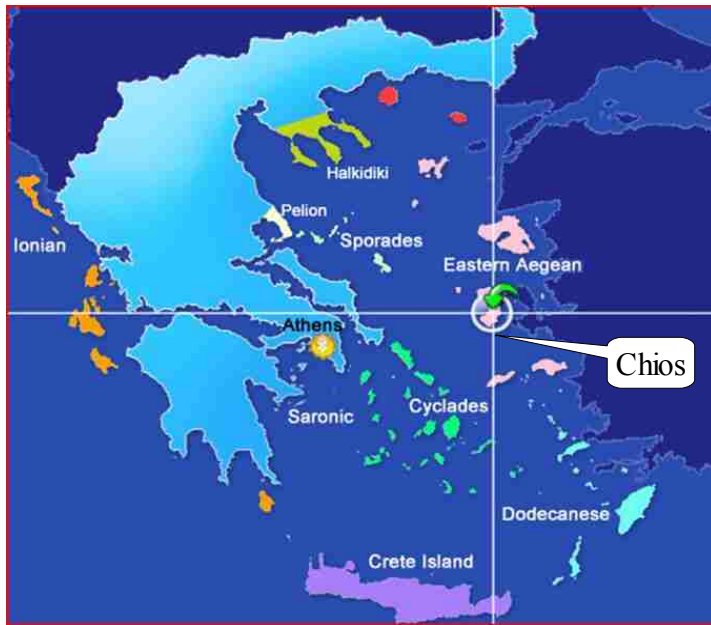


## HELLAS \_ CHIOS \_ AGIA FOTINI \_ THE 23<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> OF AUGUST 2010

This was planned as a true beach holiday without any excursions of any kind. We traveled with a Norwegian charter company, which earlier was named “Pyramidene reiser”, but now is named AmiSol. They use the airline JetTime, which is the same as we used to Sardinia.



There lives a bit more than 50 000 people at Chios. The island is renowned for its scenery and good climate. The biggest export articles are olives, figs, wine and mastic. The main city is Chios or Chora. It has almost 30 000 inhabitants.

Chios was an early Ionian colony. Later the island was occupied by the Persians, was later a part of the Delian League and then of the Byzantine Empire. After the Crusaders conquered Constantinople in 1204, Chios was a part of the Latin Empire Constantinople. Then it became a Genoese possession and later a part of the Ottoman Empire.

During the Turkish times the Greek population rioted in 1822, but the rising was beaten in what is later called the Chios massacre. A painting in the Louvre museum in Paris, by Eugène Delacroix, «The massacre at Chios» is depicting this. The Turkish massacre killed a quarter of the islands inhabitants of 30 000. It aroused an enormous dismay in Europe, what is also reflected in writings by Lord Byron, Victor Hugo and in Gioacchino Rossini's opera *Le Siège de Corinthe*.

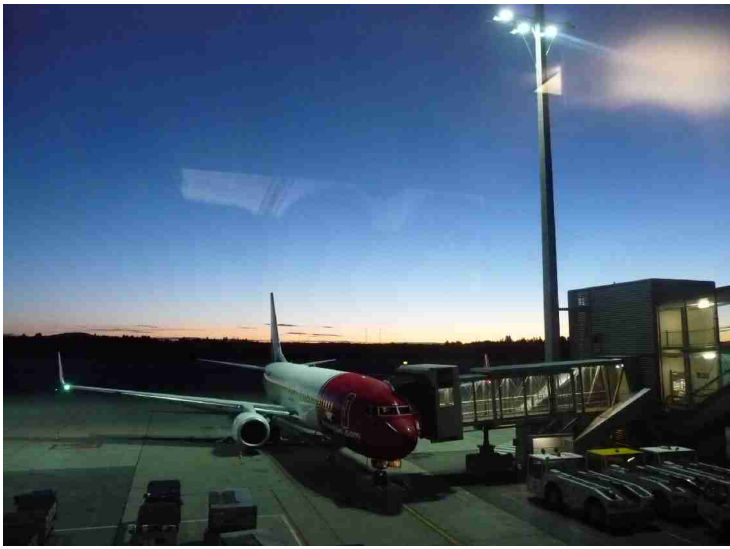
Chios became part of the independent Greece after the first Balkan war in 1912.



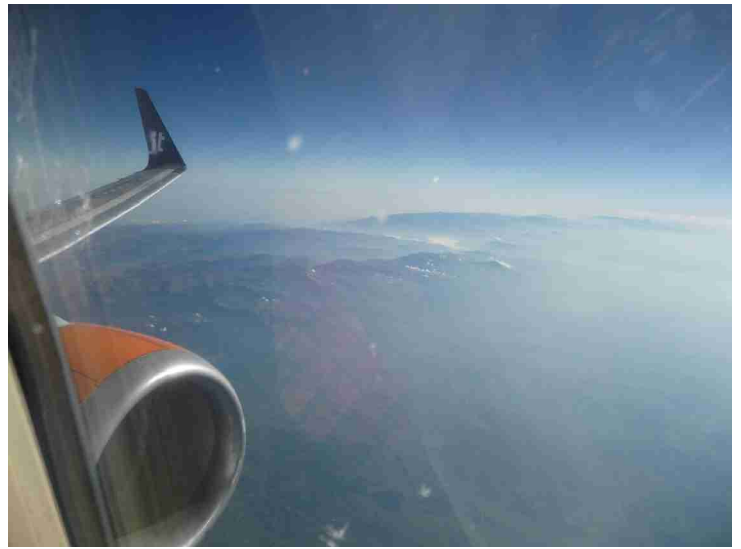
Mastic is a small tree of up to 4 m that grows in the Mediterranean region, mainly in the southern parts of the island of Chios. Mastic is utilized because of its resin. It is only in the southern parts of Chios that the tree produces resin, and the resin was so sought after that the Middle Age cities were built as forts to protect the resin (the mastic) against pirates. During the Ottoman Empire, Chios paid its taxes in mastic, among other popular as a tooth-cleaning and chewing gum for the Sultan's harem. The mastic is harvested in August, and each tree gives about 150-200 gram per season. The mastic farmers get 100€ for 1000 gram cleaned mastic.

Mastic is used for varnish, lotions, toothpaste, candies, biscuits, chewing gum, perfume production, soft drinks, liquor, ouzo and in medicine. Mastic has among others shown to be effective in the treatment of gastric ulcer and has an infection subduing effect.

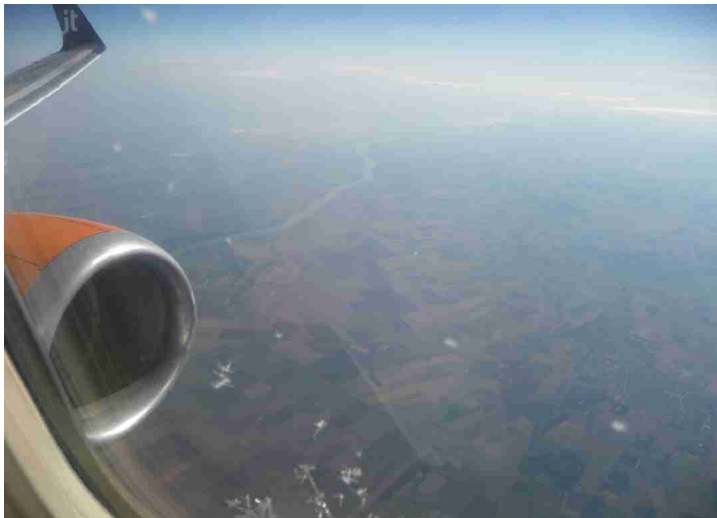




Our plain departed from Gardermoen 06.00 o'clock, and while waiting, we took a picture of this plain, which was made ready for flight.



Under way we can see the Tatra mountains in the haze.



We also pass over the Danube river, which can barely see dimly through the haze.



Here we have landed at the small airport right outside Chios town and are on our way towards the terminal building. The airport has a short runway so only relatively small plains can land here.



Kjell is standing outside the bus, which is to take us to the hotel where we are going to stay.



The mountains north of the airport.



The hotel is Iro Apartments and lies in Agia Fotini.

It took only 20 minutes to go there by the bus.



Kjell is walking the stairs.



Anne Berit at the veranda.



Just finished the breakfast. Relaxing with morning beer.



This is the view from the veranda.



This is from the square at the beach promenade. A small bar to the left and a hotel with a restaurant at the rear.



At the same square is an excellent restaurant to the left and a small supermarket to the right.



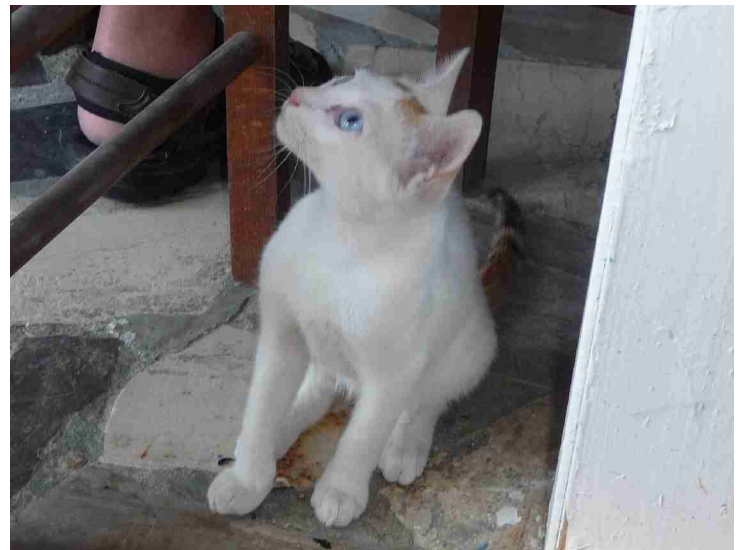
We shopped mostly in this supermarket.



Here Kjell is talking with the owner.



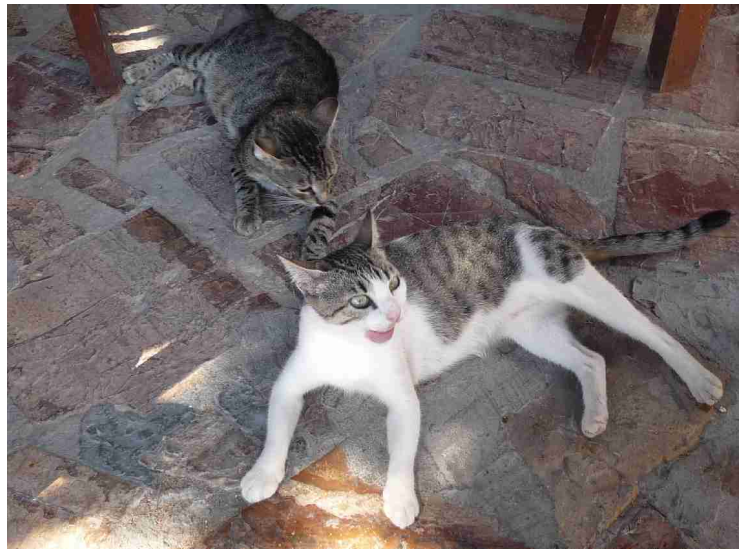
This is at the excellent restaurant. Kjell is eating small fried fishes.



A cat want a taste.



He got some. Mmm. That was good!!



All of the cats got a taste.

This excellent restaurant is named «The Twins» and originate from the early 1930's when an emigrated Greek returned home and started this taverna. A couple of twins in the family took eventually over the management of the taverna, hence the name.



This guy took mostly the orders.



He served mostly.



She did various tasks.



The beach was right below the hotel.



We could see it from the terrace through the flowering hedge.



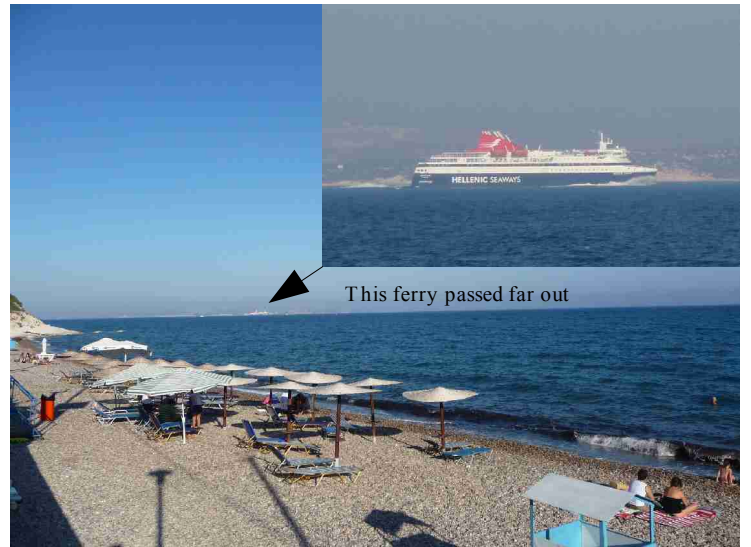
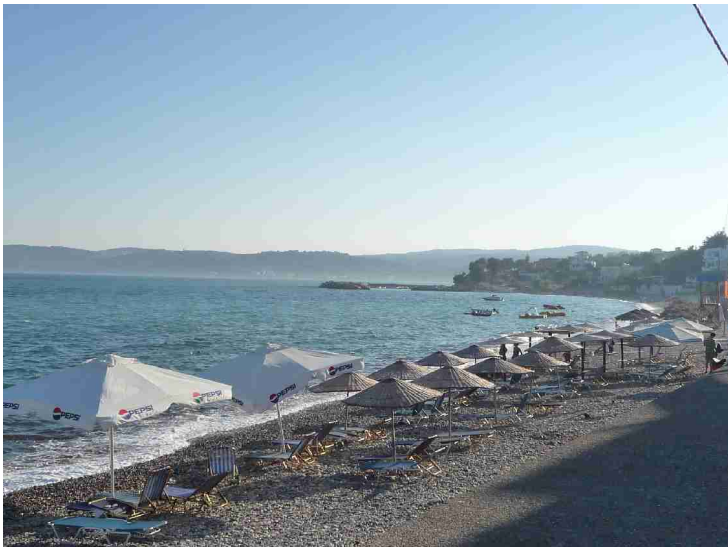
There was a good pebble stone beach and not too shallow, so we didn't have to wade far out to get a dip. There were also plenty of beds and parasols that cost 6 € per day.



We were at the beach every day.

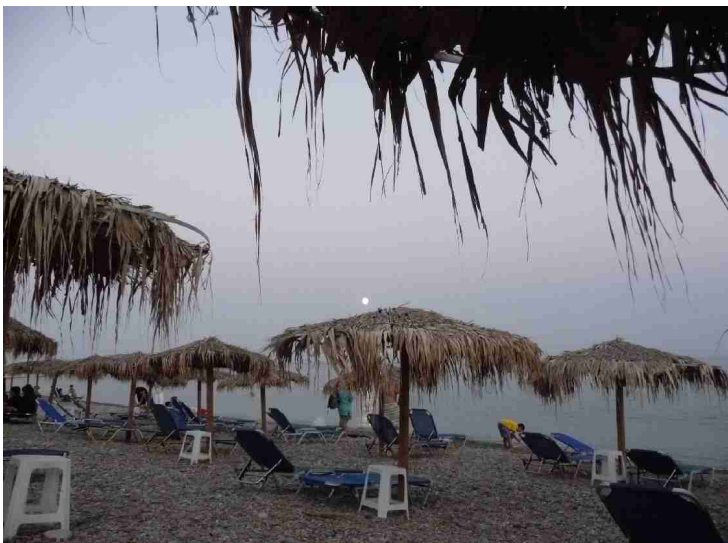


There were some hills where the sun went down behind, so the shades started to come at about 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

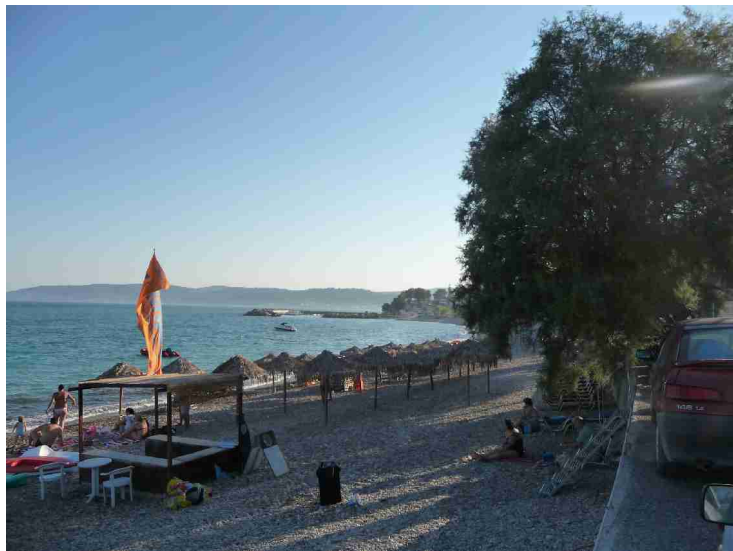


This ferry passed far out

More pictures from the beach.



It started to get dark about 7 o'clock in the evening and the moon was rising right after the sun was setting. There were a lot of people who went to the beach after the sunset and they stayed there until quite late.



Down to the left it was possible to rent boats.



Out here are the «boats» lying ready.



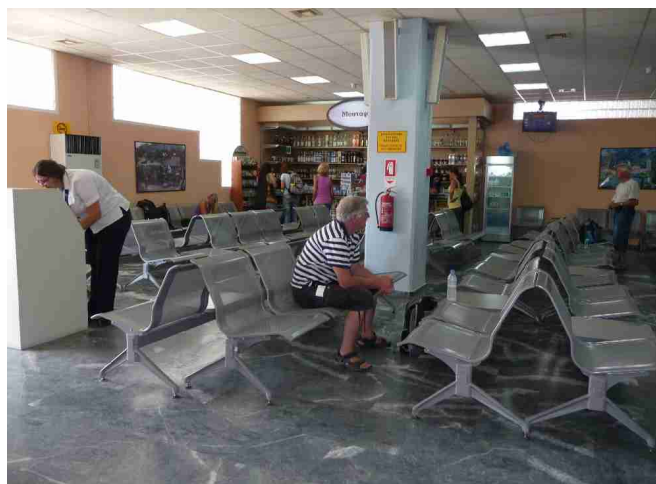
The octopus is hanging to dry.



The locals are sitting watching the tourists walking past.



Also the kitten is doing that, even if he has lost the sight on one of his eyes.



At last we had to go home. Here we are sitting in the tiny departure hall, waiting to get on board the plain. The plain had to have a little amount of fuel to be able to lift from the short runway, and we therefore had to do an intermediate landing in Thessaloniki to fill up the tanks.