

## CORFU 1. – 8. JUNE 2015 – PART 1

It was cold and heavy rain in late May. We were so upset by this that we decided to look for offerings to warmer climates. We spent only a few hours to find a charter trip with [Apollo](#) (plain only) to Corfu. We booked a hotel via [Booking.com](#). We went to [Dalen Parkering](#) and parked the car there. The plain departed at 18.05.



[Corfu](#) or Kerkyra is the second largest of the Ionian Islands. It lies off the coast of Albania, and the strait between the island and the mainland is 3 km at the narrowest. Until about 50 000 years ago the island was connected to the mainland.

Earthquake destroyed the connection.

The city was from 734 BC colonized by Corinth. It became an important maritime town. From the 300s BC there was a decline for Kerkyra, and even more after the island in 229 BC had come under Rome.

In the Middle Ages Kerkyra was disputed between Byzantines, Normans, Epirots, Venetians etc.

It belonged to Venice from 1387 to 1797. The Ottoman Turks tried to conquer the island many times, but because of all the fortifications on the island they were stopped. Kerkyra is the only part of Greece that have not been subject to Ottoman rule.

It was British from 1815 and Greek in 1864.

During 1st World War, Corfu was officially neutral, but was still used as a military base by the British, French and Italians.

The island was also used as a shelter for Serb troops, after their defeat in 1916. In 1923 Kerkyra was bombarded and occupied by Italy. 1941-1943 again under Italian occupation.



At the airport we met Arvid Holmlund bound for Turkey.



We got time for beer and wine before our planes departed.



Me, Anne Berit and Øydis.



Here I'm in the apartment.



We had booked an apartment at [Gina Studios](#) in Benitses.



Some pictures from the garden below the apartment.





Pool and bar below the apartment.



Here we arrive at the bar from the road.



The pool seen from above.



Overview picture of [Benitses](#).

Benitses was settled quite early because of good water supply. There runs two rivers through the place. It is estimated that 80% of the water on the island comes from the mountains above the city. The Romans built swimming complexes here and remnants of them still exist. The Romans built aqueducts that led the water into Corfu Town.

Under British rule, it was also built water pipes from here towards Corfu town.

In 1597 the Turks again tried to take the island, and they took many prisoners. Many of these were sold in the slave markets of Egypt and Constantinople. The island was so sparsely populated that the Venetians who then ruled the island, gave privileges to those who would come to the island to cultivate the land and care for the olive trees. Most of those living in Benitses today originated from the Greeks who fled from the Turks during this time.

Benitses was one of the first places on Corfu that started tourism industry.



In the bar there was a swallow's nest under the roof.



The first day we went for a short walk on the promenade.



Here we are on the promenade below the old town.



View south.



A beach restaurant just below where we stayed.



Here we have a welcome drink at the bar where we stayed.



From the restaurant street in the old town.



At this time there are a lot of bushes that bloom.



We ate a few times at this restaurant.  
It is called [Laopetra](#).

The owner sits outside with many kids around him.



Here we can see them better. We noticed that there were very many kids of all ages in this city.



Narrow street in the old town.



More pictures from the old town.





This is down to the promenade.

A single boat on the beach.



The main street and thoroughfare just below where we stayed.



The walls at a hotel on the way up to where we stayed, was decorated with painted flowers and trees.



Painted flowers on the wall.



Here there is painted a landscape on the wall.



Flowers in “our” garden.



Here we have walked a bit south of the town, looking north.





Looking south.



Vegetation.



More vegetation.



A lot of flowers.



Here we are about to order dinner at a restaurant in the main street.



Inside the restaurant.

We were the only guests, so we got exactly the service we wanted and even more.



Outside the restaurant.

It is called [Taverna Zorbas](#).



In Corfu town, looking towards Platia Dimarchiou.

Annunziata Tower. This is what is left of one of the most important Catholic churches in Corfu Town. It was bombed in 1943.



On the square stands this tree with lots of blue flowers.  
We had a beer at this restaurant.



At the square lies the [town hall](#). This was once the first theater in Greece.



Here we are at the entrance to [old fortress](#).



Image of the ancient fortress.

It was the Byzantines who first consolidated the nearest height of the image, but it was the Venetians who accounted for most of the construction. They dug also a channel that separated the cape from the rest of the island. It was used a wooden bridge to get across the channel. The wooden bridge could be dragged into the fortress side when not in use. The Venetians also set up a number of buildings on the site, but there are no remains of these. The buildings that we see today, is set up by the British when they ruled the island. They also constructed the fixed bridge that is in use today.



Here we are standing on the bridge, looking south on the canal.



Here we are looking north.



On the way into the fortress.



Here we are inside.

A belltower.



Walls on the north side.



Here we are looking across to the buildings at [Faliraki](#). Here are restaurants and a small beach.



A marina north of the old fortress.



Here we have gone out of the fortress grounds and are looking back across the canal.



Here we are inside the park and looking back towards the fortress hill.



In the park is a statue of the writer [Lawrence Durrell](#), who lived a few years in Corfu.



Not far from there is a statue of his brother [Gerald Durrell](#).



When out of the park, we pass by [Mandrakinas Church](#), which is devoted to the Virgin Mary and Saint Panteleimonas. It was badly damaged during the last war, but is now completely restored.



[Museum for Japanese art.](#)



View back to the old fortress.



Looking down on to the buildings of Faliraki.



Here we have gone a little further west in the city, and we are getting views of the new fortress.



Nice apartment building.



We then walk through the narrow streets in [Corfu old town](#) to get back to the bus station. The old town is on UNESCO's world heritage list. The bus went just before we arrived there. It was a while to wait for the next bus, so instead of waiting took a taxi back to Benitses.



One evening we were and ate at this restaurant in the old town. It's called Tony & Alex.



The next day we rented a car for two days. We got the hotelier to arrange it for us. He used a local rental agency. We got the car delivered outside our apartment. Very convenient. We got an Opel Corsa. It was not brand new, but it worked without problems.