



[Zákynthos](#) is the third largest island of [The Ionian Islands](#) in [Greece](#).

Zakynthos has been populated since the stone age.

The famous ancient Greek poet and author [Homer](#) was the first to mention the island in his masterpieces, the [Iliad](#) and the [Odyssey](#), and told that the first inhabitants of the island was the son of King Dardanos of Troy called Zakynthos and his men and that they first came to the island in about 1500-1600 BC

The most famous person from Zákynthos is the poet [Dionysios Solomos](#), one of the great poets of modern Greek history who wrote the National Anthem of Greece in the 1800s. The whole poem has 158 verses, making it the world's longest national anthem.

Zakynthos was hit by four major earthquakes in August 1953, which caused extensive damage.

Many turtles come every year to Zakynthos to lay eggs. The eggs hatch in the sand, and on many beaches, it is illegal to dig in the sand beyond the water's edge. Many beaches are closed to the public after 19 clock, to ensure that the turtles should be able to lay eggs in peace.

The above map shows where Zakynthos is situated on the west coast of Greece. This was the second trip to a Greek island this year. We traveled from Gardermoen with Apollo (Novair) 6:40 and were arriving at Zakynthos 11:30 local time (1 hour time difference).

The map below shows where Argassi lies. We stayed at [Hotell Contessa](#) in a small place called [Argassi](#).



This famous shipwreck is a smuggling boat that transported tobacco and alcohol. It was set on fire when it was discovered by customs officials, and then it was stranded in a location that is accessible only from the sea. But in the mountains it is possible to get a glimpse of the wreck between 200 meter high cliffs.



This is the street below the hotel.
There are shops and restaurants down the street.



The same street later in the evening.



We came past a Greek restaurant, which looked nice.
We had a meal there. Very nice staff and good food.
People had a to stay in line to get a table.



Leter we walked down to the beach and sat down at a
beach cafe and had an Ouzo.



The same beach in daylight.
Looking north towards Zakynthos town.



Looking south.



A picture from our terrace at the hotel.



Here we are looking further up to a part of the hotel.



It was nice and hot, about 38 centigrades in the shadow, so we did not need much clothes.



Kjell is trying to be funny.



Then another day, when we went to eat at night, we passed this dog, who was inside an enclosure. It looked mangy and ugly, and looked to be in pain. This owner should not have animals.



There were some cats here, too, and this kitten would be with Kjell.



He thinks the photographer is murky, so he hides under Kjell.



Avalon bar has a little special design of the building.



The church in Argassi.



We went to a restaurant that was recommended by Apollo. It's called [Peppermint](#).



Kjell is waiting for the food. It was very good, so the recommendation was approved.



Nice lamps.



One evening we were visited by a cat on the patio.
It liked to be scratched.



Now a serious conversation is about to begin.



Nobody must hear this!



View from the breakfast room. We see Zakynthos town in the background.



The pool area at the hotel was nice.



The cliffs behind Zakynthos town.



The breakfast was quite good and varied. Lots of fruit.



One day we went into Zakynthos town. When we asked at the front desk about the bus schedules, we got the offer to accompany the owner who was going to the city.

That was good service!
This is poet Solomos square.



Still at Solomos square.



St. Dionysios's church at a distance.



A statue of Dionysios Solomos stands on the square.



This church is dedicated to St. Nicolas from Molo. It was built in 1561, and is the only Venetian building left along this square.



North of the the harbor and looking further north.

A freedom statue at Solomos square.



St. Dionysios's church seen from across the marina.



Here is the marina.



We had lunch at this restaurant.



The erstraurant is called Fagaki grill house.



Nice tower at St. Nicholas church, Metropolis.



St. Marcos Square. Here are many restaurant.



The Solomos and Kalvos museum.



Venetsiana Grill Restaurant. We had a glass of wine here after having been brought here by the hotel owner.



One day we were on a bus tour around the island. The first stop was at this [church](#) that is located at a small village called Agia Marina.





A few pictures from inside the church.



The bell tower.



From the church we see down the slope to a museum.



Inside [Helmi's Natural History Museum](#) which was opened in 2000. The museum lies right below the church in Agia Marina.

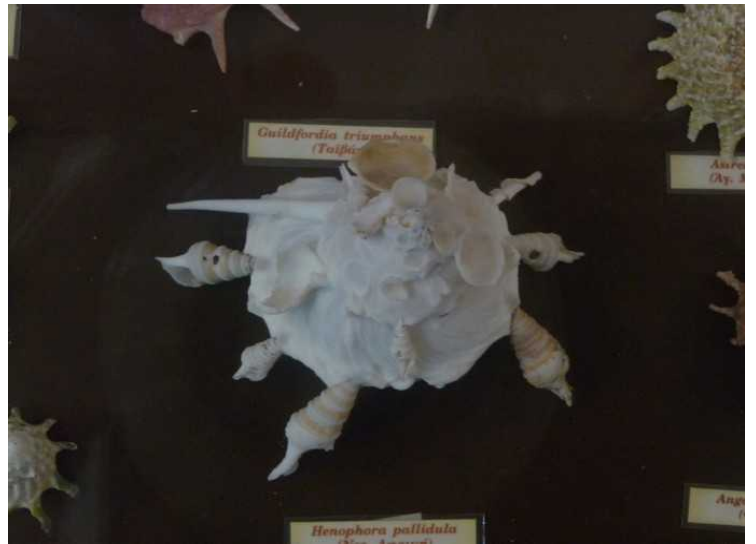
Some pictures from the museum.













At the end a picture from outside the museum.



Next stop was at a winery. These two guys are waiting for the wine tasting.

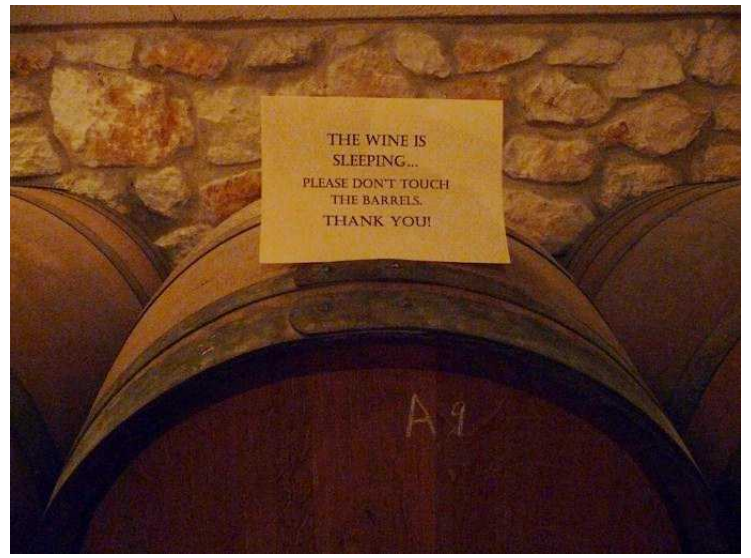
At first we are shown where the wine is stored.



The storage is in the cellar where the barrels are lying in a row.



We saw only one of the storage halls.



On one of the barrels there is written: The wine is sleeping... please don't touch the barrels.



A hoe plow that surely have been used to control weeds between the vines.



To the left is the representative of the vineyard who tells about the production. The Apollo guide is standing right behind her.



So to the wine tasting. The wines are lined in two groups of red and white varieties.



The glasses are being made ready.



Here it is Kjell's turn.



Serving.



After a while everybody are serving themselves.



Kjell too.



Here a new sample is ready in the glass.



We bought three bottles of that wine, which we thought was the best. Vi kjøpte tre flasker av den vinen som vi syntes var best.
Here Kjell is in the shopping queue.



A poster, which shows the name of the winery, [Solomos Wines](#).



The parking lot outside the entrance of the winery.

Next stop is [Bohali](#), a neighborhood on a hill above the Zakynthos town. There are good views over the city.



In the background we see [Argassi](#).



We see [Laganas](#) in the distance.



Here we have zoomed in on the inner harbor basin.



A restaurant with tables at the edge of the cliff.



The church in Bohail.



The ferry harbor.



The second last stop is the St. Dionysos church.
This is the bell tower.



The front of the church.



A statue of St. Dionysos outside the church.



Inside the church.



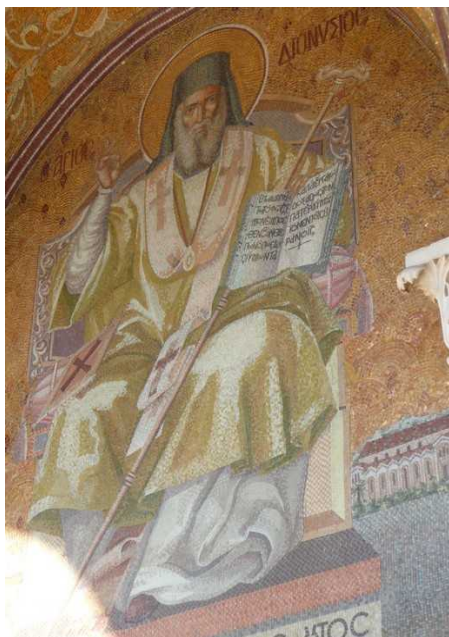
The inside is richly decorated.



There was a choir singing when we came.



It is here the remnants of St. Dionysos is kept.



A picture of St. Dionysos.



The last stop was in the town. Shopping was on the program now. We were not interested in that, so we went to have a meal at this restaurant.



We are allowed to take a picture of the waiter before leaving.
Then we took a taxi to our hotel.



Again, a picture of the hotel.



The entrance to the hotel.



Outside.



A picture of Kjell and the lady who usually worked in the reception. She was always in good humor and helpful.



In the dining room.



A few pictures from the pool area.





View from the dining room across Argassi to Zakynthos town.

Anne Berit and the lady who cleaned our room every day. The day before we were going to leave, she had picked this bouquet of flowers and put in a vase in our room.