

Greece

Northern and Eastern Sporades Islands



In this info bulletin, you will find the places we have been visiting with SY "Zeezwaluw" (LOA 14m, D 2.05m) during the sailing seasons of [2006 & 2007 & 2008 & 2009](#). The prices mentioned below may have gone up a bit.

Entering Greece

We choose Preveza as a port of entrance, coming from Italy and entered Greece in the official way (see Greek Waters Pilot, Heikell). We bought the Cruising permit at the Port Police Office (in 2006 the permit was 29.35€ and is only necessary for boats over 10m) and got our first entry stamp. Before leaving Preveza we had to go again, this time for the exit stamp to do it officially. Normally you pay a small fee for using the harbour (5-7€/night). The Preveza Port Police Office, is a little bit difficult to find, but the yachties around are able (and willing) to tell you where to go. From that moment on we reported to the Port police only, when they invited us (always very friendly) and asked to come with our papers to their office. This is the way sailing boats act we were told by other yachties! It worked perfect for us that way and we never had a problem.

Northern Sporades Islands

Skiatos Island

Platania Bay, 39°08'29N 23°26'54E

We anchored finally in Platania bay after several attempts finding space in the 2 more eastern bays, but they were full with day-trippers and jet skiing crowds! Platania is a popular bay for flotillas and leaves only a few spaces (depth 50-10m) for boats at swinging anchor. The holding is good (sand) but it is not a very quiet place in July and August, loud discos ashore.

Skópolos Island

Agnonda, 39°04'96N 23°42'59E

The concrete town quay at Agnonda is small but has space for at least 10 ships, bow or stern to, at own anchor, depth is sufficient, holding (sand) perfect, the water is crystal clear. Mooring is for free, water at the quay but no electricity. The town is tiny and consists only of hotels and apartment buildings and a small sandy beach. Shelter from the prevailing NE is perfect but winds from the E-SE quarters will give an enormous swell in the harbour and can be dangerous. We sheltered here against a NE wind and had a bad swell and the rigging of our neighbours touched us so we lost our solar anchor light!

Stafilos Bay, 39°05'4N 23°42'1E

Stafilos Bay is a small beautiful anchorage at the SE side of the island. The bottom is sand and the water is very clear. We anchored here for 2 days and only during the day there were a few boats at anchor but they left early evening. It's a nice place to swim and snorkel, there are no restaurants ashore.

Alonnisos Island

Rousoumi Cove, 39°08'74N 23°52'14E

This tiny anchorage lays between Pattitiri and Votsi and has space for only 2-3 ships. We anchored in 3-5m (in front of a nice sandy beach) with a long line ashore. The water is crystal clear and very clean. Holding in sand was perfect. Ashore are a few restaurants and in the town of Pattitiri are shops and an internet cafe. It's very sheltered except for S winds.

Pelagos Island

Dravi Cove in Planitis Bay, 39°20'62N 24°04'00E

Dravi Cove lies in the almost landlocked Planitis Bay at the northern tip of Pelagos Island. The entrance is very tricky at night but during daylight not a problem. After the shallow entrance bar the depth is sufficient and you can make a choice out of 2 good anchorages. We took the most southern one, Dravi Cove. It is a popular spot for private yachts, no flotillas because there are no restaurants, no discos and not even people living ashore only goats and large crabs.

Eastern Sporades Islands

Limnos Island

Ormos Kávos in Moudhros Bay, 39°51'06N 25°14'65E

This anchorage is tucked just south of Ák Aspro Kávos outside the swimming area, up to 50 m from the beach out at sea, outlined by buoys. Some parts are very shallow and nasty rocks are lying around. We found the spot with sufficient depth with C-map. It's a serene and quiet spot but open to the south. Water is clear and holding in sand perfect.

Moudhros Harbour, 39°52'34N 25°15'9E

We moored at own anchor stern to the SW-side of the concrete Cargo Quay, where depth is 2,5-5m. Don't go too close to the breakwater of the small marina, a rock is lying against the quay. The port police will collect a small mooring fee (12€/2n) including water and electricity available at the centre of the quay. Holding in clay/sand is perfect, good shelter from the meltemi. We did not see any commercial ships or ferries moored at the quay of Moudhros. In the small and ugly town are 3 tiny shops with very poor provisions, a bakery and a few good restaurants. Fuel and diesel in town and delivered by mini tanker at the quay.

At the beach is a very loud disco which is open till 6 o'clock in the morning!

Lesbos Island

Órmos Apothekes, N-side entrance of Kolpos Kalloni, 39°06'63N 26°00'16E

The entrance of the large bay Kolpos Kalloni is well buoyed at the narrow and shallow part. Just after the entrance to port is the anchorage of Apothekes, shelter and holding (sand/clay) are perfect. We had 3 days of a 6Bft with strong gusts and were comfortable at swinging anchor in front of the small town, but we never went there. It is a quiet spot, with sheep and goats with clinging bells around and every evening an opera singing shepherd took his music making flock home, very special!

Skála Kalloni, 39°12'21N 26°12'54E

Skála Kalloni lays at the most northern end of the bay and we anchored in front of the very small fishing harbour in 5m (sand) and did some shopping in the small town. Shelter for the meltemi is poor. We think Apothekes anchorage is much more sheltered.

Skála Loutra E-side of Kolpos Yeras, 39°02'67N 26°31'69E

Kolpos Yeras is the second largest bay of Lesbos island and Skála Loutra is a small bay at the east side of the bay a few miles after the narrow, not buoyed but deep entrance. (C-Map is not accurate here, so back to eye-ball navigation). The anchorage is large and opposite the village concrete quay, where fisherman are moored. Starboard from the quay is space to moor the dinghy safely. Water is available from a tap at the foot of the quay. Provisions are poor but excellent in Mitilini. We liked this anchorage because of the quiet (few boats) and save spot. A bus service from Loutra to the centre of Mitilini (the main town of the Island) is a 30 min drive and the bus runs almost every hour and stops at the corner of the tarmac road near the quay. The locals in one of the 2 small restaurants will give you the time table. We anchored in 5-7m, sand/clay with excellent holding (we had a 7-8Bft). Most afternoons we had gusts from the mountains, neither bothersome nor dangerous.

Mitilini Harbour, 39°06'0N 26°33'8E

Mitilini harbour is situated at the east side of the Lesbos Island. The outer harbour for commercial ships and ferry's is protected by 2 breakwaters and the harbour for pleasure ships lays at the end in the centre of the town. Moor at own anchor (we were told that the holding is good), bow or stern to the concrete quay at the very end or go alongside at the starboard quay or raft up along one of the other boats at this quay. We preferred to go alongside because this part of the harbour suffers less from the sewer odour. The port police will collect the harbour fees (0.50€/m including water & electricity), water & electricity hook-up points are at several spots along both quays. Shelter against the Meltemi is excellent! Provisions in town are excellent ([a Lidl](#) north of the town, 3€ by taxi), the fuel station will deliver at the quay, lots of internet cafes and free Wi-Fi signals, [laundrette](#) just around the corner near the ferry terminal. The cafes are open until early morning and can be somewhat loud and bothersome. Switch your fan on during the night and you will sleep very well in summer is our experience! Near the harbour is [an old Fort](#) which changed hand several times ([Ottoman and Greek](#)) and worth a visit. The view from the top of the fort is stunning and to the north you will see the old (partly sunken breakwaters) harbour, to the east Turkey is visible.

Mithimna Harbour, 39°22'N 26°10'2E

Mithimna harbour is at the north side of Lesbos. It is a small harbour, most local boats in the inner harbour. In the outer harbour, at the inside of the breakwater is mooring space for a few boats alongside the concrete quay. Depth is sufficient, electricity at the mole and water from a tap also at the mole. Strong northerlies, causes a surge in the harbour and makes it uncomfortable and maybe dangerous (we left therefore after 1 night). Fuel is available at a station 3 km out of town (closed on Sunday). We never saw the port police for collecting harbour fees. In the small but very nice touristic town are a few shops for basic food, lots of restaurants but no internet. Car and scooters are for rent in several places.

Oinoussa Island**Mandraki Harbour, 38°30'85N 26°12'98E**

The tiny Island Oinoussa lies between Khios Island and mainland Turkey and is a very barren island. Mandraki marina is behind a few little islands at the south side of the Oinoussa Island. Moor alongside or at own anchor bow/stern to at the outside of the concrete town quay, depth is over 2.5m. Water and electricity hook-ups are at several places at the quay. Port police runs the place but we never paid mooring fees. The port police are willing to give you the weather forecasts collected from the internet. The harbour is excellent sheltered for the Meltemi. A bakery in town sells very nice fresh bread [until 11 o'clock](#) in the morning but it is a steep walk uphill there are no supermarkets. There is one hotel and a few restaurants around the harbour. At the top of the hill, from the church, you will have a splendid view to Khios and the strait between the islands. Near the harbour is a small [Nautical Museum](#). It shows the private collection of the very rich Greek families of ship-owners/ship company's Paters, Laemos en Hadjipateras (Onassis is a poor fellow compared with them!). The museum is worth a visit.

Samos Island**Pithagorion Marina, 37°41'38N 26°57'47E**

The new marina, open since [Aug 2006](#), is at the south side of the island, just E of the Pithagorion harbour. Entrance is straight forward; mooring with mooring lines bow or stern to floating pontoons with water & electricity, staff will help you. Fees are relative high for Greece, (28€/n for 14m). Showers and toilets are basic. A 15 minutes' walk along the shore (dirt road) brings you into town. Severe gusts from the mountains are bothersome even in the marina. Cheap town harbour or anchorage opposite town quay is a welcome alternative!

Pithagorion Harbour, 37°41'34N 26°56'57E

If there is space at the town quay you can moor at own anchor bow or stern to. Port police runs the place but it's very cheap we were told. Shelter for the meltemi is much better than the marina. Restaurants along the quay, there is one internet café as well. The town is nice, full of tourists, lots of cars & scooters for rent. The island is very green, different sceneries and fabulous especially the rough north side!

Pithagorion anchorage is just outside the east breakwater in 3-5m and holding (sand/mud) is perfect and a very good shelter for the meltemi. We hardly were aware of the strong wind even when it was blowing an 8Bft.

Fóurnoi Island

Quarry Bay, 37°32'42N 26°29'82E

We anchored at the head of the large bay in 5m water, holding (sand) perfect and the water is crystal clear. No restaurants ashore. During the night we heard the wind picking up but the sea in the bay stayed calm. In the morning, as soon as we sailed out of the bay, we encountered an 8Bft on the nose!

Leaving Greece

Before you sail to Turkey you have to check out of the EU. Take your ship papers, the original ones, copies are not allowed, passports and cruising permit etc. with you to the port police. They will inform you what the rules and regulations are at that specific time. This is the official way, but Ernie in Sesame Street would say "think again".

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