



Zakynthos island



Zakynthos, also known by its Italian name Zante, battles against heavy package tourism along its eastern and southeast coasts. Underneath the brouhaha it is essentially a beautiful island with western and central regions of forested mountains dropping off to unreal turquoise waters. The northern and southern capes remain verdant and less exploited, and Zante Town adds a bit of sparkle to the overrun east, where the loggerhead turtle population struggles in the face of development.



Zakynthos Town



Zippy Zakynthos Town is the capital and port of the island and wraps round an enormous blue bay. The town was devastated by the 1953 earthquake, but was reconstructed with arcaded streets, imposing squares and gracious neoclassical public buildings. A Venetian fortress looks down from a hill on the hubbub of town life.



St. Dionysios Church

Saint Dionysios of Zakynthos was a 16th-century Orthodox Christian Archbishop of Aegina. He was born on the Greek island of Zakynthos in 1546. He is the patron saint of Zakynthos (sometimes called Zante in English) and is celebrated on August 24 and December 17. This church, the biggest in the city, is dedicated to the protector of the island and it is located along the seashore of Zakynthos.

t was built in 1948 and it resisted the earthquake in 1953, now its bell tower is very high and stands out among the different buildings recognizable St. Dionysios Churchas soon as you enter the port. Even if it hasn't got any particular exterior characteristics, when entering you are impressed by the quantity of trescos, lamp holders and colours. Among the artists that contributed to the magnificence of this church there are the painter Doxaras and the chaser Bafas who engraved the silver reliquary in where there are the mortal remains of Saint Dionysios. The bell tower, being surrounded by numerous bulbs, during the night it is enlightened creating a lovely view.





Byzantine Museum

It is in D. Solomos square, the largest and most charming of the island, that after the havoc of the earthquake in 1953 is now getting back to its original charm. The museum that for the first time was open to the public in 1960 is on three levels and in the first two rooms the visitor can admire Byzantine icons carved in the wood whereas in the third and fourth rooms there are original trescos of the 15th, 16th and 17th Century. Two more rooms are dedicated to paintings of the 18th Century and oils on canvas of artists like Doxaras, Koutouzis and Kantouni.



The special importance of this museum is eventually due to the opportunity that the tourist has to appreciate the pictures and plastics reproducing the city before the earthquake besides the artistic evolution from the post Byzantine period to the contemporary Greek art.



Museum of D. Solomos & A. Kalvos

The museum was tounded in 1959 by a club of admirers of the fine arts of Zakynthos; it is located in the striking St. Marco square and it is very famous since it keeps the relic of the two poets Dionysios Solomos and Andreas Kalvos, real national symbols. In the museum there are local art handcrafts such as paintings of the 18th and 19th Century, carved pottery, sculptures and ancient musical instruments; the section dedicated to clothes and weapons of noble families of the last century is very well attended. There are then many portraits dedicated to the most important people of the island and a collection of coats of arms.





Navagio



The beach with the relict lying on the white sand is the most popular and photographed of entire Greece. This beach is enchanting both arriving by caique and watching it from the top; for this reason it is the first of the top 10 most beautiful places of Zakynthos' island.



Blue Caves



Blue Caves are located on the northernmost side of the island. They were created by wave erosions and excursion boats get through their arches. Source: www.greeka.com



National marine park



The National Marine Park of Zakynthos founded in 1999, is a national park located in Laganas bay, in Zakynthos island, Greece. The park, part of the Natura 2000 ecological network, covers an area of 135 square kilometres (52 sq mi) and is the habitat of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (Caretta caretta). It is the first national park established for the protection of sea turtles in the Mediterranean.



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