Travel





30 fabulous Greek getaways

Whether you want a secluded villa, a family break, island retreat or an active escape, Susan d'Arcy has the best picks *Prices for July onwards

1 Leigh Fermor land

Patrick Leigh Fermor's evocative books fostered a deep love of Greece in British hearts. His favourite place? Enchanting Kardamyli on the Mani peninsula, where he built a home and lived for nearly 45 years. Villa Salvia is close to his former house, which you can visit, and Salvia's low-key charm chimes perfectly with the author's depiction of Greek life. Learn how to make lalagia, the local version of doughnuts; sail to Cape Tenaro, once thought to be the gateway to Hades; and walk the Messini ruins for an insight into why this area captivated the great writer. Details Seven nights' B&B for four from £5,777pp, including flights, transfers, some other meals and activities (brownandhudson.com)

2 Peaceful Antipaxos

Antipaxos, an hour and a half by ferry from Corfu, is only 5km long. It has no shops, no proper roads and only a handful of tavernas, but if you want chalk-white beaches, turquoise waters and total tranquillity, it is the ultimate antidote to mass tourism.

Bacchus House is a sweet hilltop retreat for two, with its own pool, a spacious deck for sundowners or dinner and a motorboat service that can drop off provisions. Sorted.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for two from £1,602pp, including flights and transfers (gicthevillacollection.com)

3 Santorini's sweet spot

The six honey-toned minimalist villas at Santorini Sky occupy 12 acres in the mountainous interior of the island, making for dramatic views. The lofty location also creates the illusion of utter seclusion, yet tavernas and trendy beach clubs are minutes away. It's a toss-up for where to catch the last rays of the day — the double daybed cantilevered over the infinity pool or the hot tub. It can be a struggle to work up the motivation to get to

Oia for sunset over the caldera.

Details Seven nights' B&B for two from £1,057pp (airbnb.co.uk). Fly to Santorini