



Wendy P



2 reviews

“Great Activities-Excellent Personalized Service”

Reviewed 2 weeks ago

I was on Ikaria for a week and spent three of the days with Peter. He has several tours available, but was extremely flexible in customizing his tours to add or subtract places according to my preferences. His knowledge of the island, Greek culture & history and natural history was impressive, and his fluency in English and Greek made our tours comfortable and easy. A special highlight was the Hiking-Nature Walking Tour-a magical (moderate) hike around the Christos-Raches villages. The villages are connected by a network of pathways through ancient stone terraces with olive and fig trees, grapes and vegetable gardens. I was completely charmed by the primitive, rural stone pathways. The hike finished with dinner at a mountain canteen near a reservoir. I encourage visitors to Ikaria to contact Peter who can craft a high quality personalized tour for them. Wendy P.

Visited August 2016



Dumitrita R

Bucharest, Romania

Level **4** Contributor



24 reviews



5 attraction reviews



8 helpful votes

“Ikaria”

Reviewed July 9, 2016

Ikaria-it derives the name from Ikarus- it is a very nice and green island in Aegean Sea.Pine forest, good beaches and a lot of goats.

Visited July 2016



felenatha

Arizona

Level **3** Contributor



12 reviews



1 helpful vote

“Amazing cooking lesson!”

Reviewed June 11, 2016

Our day started off by Peter meeting us at our hotel to take us to Thea's restaurant. From there, we walked a very short distance to the family farm to harvest the food we would be cooking with. Along the way, we learned about the area and how the food is grown and harvested. When we got back to Thea's, we began our cooking lesson. Both Popi and Thea did an amazing job teaching us how to cook very traditional dishes, such as Soufiko. We had a fun time cooking and chatting. After everything was complete, we sat down to eat lunch outside on the patio overlooking the sea. The setting was beautiful, the food was delicious, and the people were warm and treated us like family. For those who may not speak Greek, both Peter and Thea speak perfect English. Thoroughly enjoyed our lesson!

Visited May 2016



Cooke2012
Pittsboro, North Carolina

Level **5** Contributor



62 reviews



26 attraction reviews



35 helpful votes

“A Personalized Tour”

Reviewed June 6, 2016

I'm not sure which of the tours we had. It seems to have been variation of the North Side Island Tour with a few other things thrown in. It ended up costing more than tours I find listed on the website (70 euro per person), but there was more to it than any tour listed on the website. It was worth the cost. And it included all other costs (lunch, snacks, winery tour.) I had emailed with Peter prior to our arrival. He called the first night we were on the island and discussed possibilities. We agreed to his suggestion, and he picked us up the next morning.

First stop was Theoktisti Monastery. The main church is one of those marvelous, small 17th century structures with interior covered with frescoes and history. Mrs. Maria regaled us with her Greek version of the history of the site, and Peter translated. (I don't know how many languages he speaks, but his English is excellent without discernible accent.) From there we went up some steps to a small “original church” that seemed a combination of chapel and residence hidden in the rocky hillside. The entry is about four feet high. Inside was a fireplace for cooking, chapel, and board seats or perhaps beds. We moved on to a kitchen/work area where herbs were drying and we were served a cool refreshing herbal drink.

From there we went up on the plateau, elevation something over 900 meters. This was strictly four wheel drive area that we would not have seen in our rental vehicle. It offered outstanding views from a rocky “moonscape” scene. A goat herder maintains a sometime residence; the goats seemed attracted to the presence of people. Perhaps they associate vehicles or humans with some type of treat. A small stone hut is said to have been a halfway resting spot for expectant mothers hiking over the mountain for assistance with delivery on the other side of the island. It was little more than a small stone building with

a stone bench and fireplace.

Another church whose name escapes me is also the site for community gatherings for which Ikaria takes pride. It also offered a spring with cool mountain water.

Lunch was at Argios in the village of Profit Ilias. It presented itself as a pleasing outdoor setting with gardens and a tree shading the dining area. The dinner was a standout in a country where outstanding dining is the norm. The salad and bread was probably sufficient for a meal. Then they brought out humongous servings of the most succulent pork imaginable. Peter feared the host would be offended that we did not finish our servings. No way! But that was no comment on the quality. The quality was unimpeachable. The quantity was just more than we could handle.

At this point Peter got embarrassed with balancing multiple chores including a client coming in for a stay at a residence he operates and his desire to take us to one more spot. He met them briefly in town, returned us to our inn, and went back to deal with them. But we were not finished. We simply got a chance to take a break and put our feet up before he returned to take us to Afianes winery. The winery includes a look at some history including an old foot stomping press as well as a unique technique for draining wine from an underground vat by means of a gourd or pumpkin and some knowledge of hydrodynamics. Among the award winning wines, we were able to sample red, white, and rose. We found something suitable for purchase.

Peter ended the evening with a light desert and liqueur in the town of Raches, a pleasant and quiet village up in the hills. It was a great way to end the evening. Peter spent most of the day with us, and he was one of the most valuable parts of the day. His knowledge of his island, its history, and its environment is comprehensive and makes him a good choice for a guide. He didn't claim to know the answer to everything we asked, but we were entirely pleased with the day. We saw much more than we could have ever found on our own.

Visited May 2016



LIANAPAPADODIMA
Athens, Greece

Level  Contributor

 3 reviews

 4 helpful votes

“Great experience!”

Reviewed December 12, 2015 via mobile

We were with another 2 friends. We had bicycling, kayak and jeep safari! Peter guided us to the best spots with an excellent equipment. Ikaria is THE place for outdoor activities and adventure tourism. Awesome nature !! Thanks Peter.

Visited November 2015



tsikaki

Level **3** Contributor



14 reviews



4 attraction reviews



7 helpful votes

“Unique experience”

Reviewed September 21, 2015 via mobile

Wonderful island with exquisite beaches and picturesque villages. It is famous for the longevity of its people and the great wine they produce. Also famous for the panigiria big celebrations with fold wine and dance.

Visited September 2015



sarah p
Maidenhead, United Kingdom

Level **1** Contributor



4 reviews



5 helpful votes

“Fantastic day out biking”

Reviewed July 20, 2015

We had a fantastic day out biking with Peter and his friend Apostoli. Peter's equipment was first class - the bikes stood up well to the rough tracks and he had all the safety accessories ie. helmets as well as knee pads etc. We travelled inland and up by jeep to get to the rough tracks in the heart of the island where we had fantastic views over both coasts. The biking was flattish with no major uphill. Our return journey, with delicious picnic lunch and wine tasting at the Afianes vineyard, was all downhill on tarmacked road - so exhilarating and very easy. Peter is himself an Ikarian so knows lots about the island and can help bring to life its history and culture. All in all, everything about our day was perfect and we highly recommend Peter's company to anyone spending time on the beautiful island of Ikaria.

Visited July 2015



Sandra S
New Orleans, Louisiana

Level **1** Contributor

 3 reviews

 7 helpful votes

“A Real Greek Experience”

Reviewed July 19, 2015

Our daughter was finishing her studies at the Olympic Academy and my husband and I wanted to visit her and see some of Greece before she returned back to her home in St. Croix. We had never traveled to Greece so we began our research online and with the help of another daughter we found Ikaria Adventure Tours site. We contacted Peter to tell him what we were hoping to do and he responded immediately with some questions to better understand what our budget, time-frame, and expectations were. We explained that we would be flying into Athens and then would need a guide and driver to bring us to Ancient Olympia to meet our daughter and continue our visit with her. We told him we wanted a trip that would include visits to local monasteries, wineries, churches, beaches, local food, and hot springs. We had five days and didn't want to go island hopping to the established "touristy" islands. We had arranged for our travel from Louisiana to Athens, but hoped he'd take it from there. He quickly sent us an itinerary that included all we asked for, plus our accommodations at his villa in Armenistis which would include his guide services, a fully stocked kitchen for breakfast and one meal each day. We felt very lucky to begin each day with a different adventure, knowing that Peter was well aware that he had a woman in her thirties and her parents in their 70s to accommodate. He always made sure that my husband and I had options and different levels of participation before we started our day. On the morning we kayaked in the Aegean Sea, Peter had a double kayak that I went in with him, and a single for our daughter. He found a shady, quiet place for my husband to sit and read when he decided he didn't want to go with us. He was always prompt and ready to change plans if weather or circumstances changed. He drove us in his handy jeep and was very knowledgeable about the island's history, topography, and culture. In our five day stay we saw the entire island and met so many wonderful local people. When I commented on how delicious the honey was for breakfast, he took us to the home of the lady whose son was the beekeeper so we could buy some. He bravely took the three of us to a wonderful natural thermal pool in the sea and guided us safely down a mountain path and over boulders to reach our destination. He was always checking on our safety and making us feel at home. His personal knowledge of Ikaria and his love for the island was obvious. He gave us 100% of his time when we were there and we would highly recommend his Ikaria Tours to anyone hoping for a real Greek experience.

Visited May 2015



Albion_12
Leeds, United Kingdom

Level **2** Contributor

 7 reviews

 3 attraction reviews

 5 helpful votes

“Real Greek Adventure Holiday”

Reviewed April 17, 2015

A long, long time ago - pre-children - I spent a couple of years on a traditional Greek island as an English teacher. Now a single parent with 3 kids (aged 9 to 13) I wanted their first taste of Greece to be

authentic and fun. Pete managed to provide both of these elements. All I had to do was sort out the flights - he arranged every detail of our holiday from the itinerary (varied, with both culture and adventure) and accommodation (Villa Nafkrati - see separate Trip Advisor entry), transport, all activities - everything in fact. We are quite a challenging family and I couldn't have hoped for a more attentive and caring host. We all had a fantastic time - with activities ranging from trips to the farm to visit the goats, pigs, geese, hens, rabbits, to mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, visits to local winery to learn about the ancient wine production on the island, trips to ancient sites, swimming in beautiful seas..... And of course, lots of Greek food and drink. We timed our trip to coincide with Orthodox Easter, and Peter made sure we managed to see the local religious festivals - even picking us up at 11pm one evening to take us to the church service. Couldn't have hoped for a better holiday, and I'm sure we will be back. One other point worth mentioning is that I was surprised at the level of attention to health and safety - not something I was really expecting on a Greek island - but all activities were well managed with fully appropriate safety equipment, and I was very happy to let my children take part in all of the activities.

Visited April 2015



Giota T

Level **1** Contributor

 3 reviews

 16 helpful votes

“non-stop fiesta at the least touristic place in the world!”

Reviewed February 12, 2015

Ikaria island takes its name from Ikaros, the mythical son of Dedalos who was the first to make wings and try to fly as a bird or even a god. The legend says he managed to fly away but soon his wings broke and he drowned in the wild waters of the ikarian sea.

Ikaria is non-touristic summer destination that mostly Greek people visit. The reason is simple. Ikarian people seem not to care at all about tourism. They cultivate their land, take care of their cuttle and resist to any kind of programme, agenda, organised way of life. According to recent studies, they have a very long life expectancy, because they have eliminated the words stress, timetable, progress, money from their vocabulary.

Ikaria used to be a place of exile for leftists that has marked the political beliefs of the locals ever since. I first visited the village Karavostamo and woke up at 3 o'clock at night with the sound of scooters going to the bakery to buy fresh-made cheese pies! The bakery is open at night cause during the day they have to work in their farms. Those who can't make it at that time can kindly ask the baker to leave the bread they want at their door. Every person makes its own arrangements, when to work, when to rest and there seems to be a common agreement of locals that makes it work!

In Ikaria, nobody is in a rush. At first glance, somebody would imagine that people there are not friendly cause they don't wish to attract foreigners at all. That's not true! From May until September there are fiestas several times per week open to everybody! There is live traditional music and local food and drinks and people start dancing in the evening and continue until the following morning orr even the following night! Weddings are open and anybody can join the party as well!

In Ikaria you will be amazed by the landscape. Wild black cliffs, enormous waves in most beaches, nas, seychelles, armenistis, mesakti...The strong light of the aegean sea.. The beautiful village of Raches on

the top of a hill, full of pine trees.

Would you risk missing that savage experience and explore a totally unconventional way of life? I guess not!!

Let's join a fiesta this summer and dance barefoot all night long!

Visited July 2014



Reet P

Level 1 Contributor

 3 reviews

 7 helpful votes

“Professional & customised Ikarian adventure”

Reviewed September 18, 2014

Ikaria is slow paced, safe & quiet island. My parents joined me in Ikaria & Peter ensured they were treated wonderfully. Peter knew a great deal about the island historically, geographically & culturally, so we had an authentic experience.

The hiking in Rahes & kayaking around Therma & Faro was pleasant & bike riding at Armenistis was challenging & allot of fun.

Faro was probably a little too slow paced / quiet for me so I wouldn't recommend staying there beyond a day.

Therma was lovely and the therapeutic baths were easily enough to access. Agio Kirako was a short & scenic walk from Therma but there's also a bus which runs between the two towns regularly.

The Erofilis rooms at Armenistis were magnificent!!!

Seychelles beach was gorgeous and definitely worth seeing.

Pack your sunscreen & comfortable sports gear. There aren't many ATMs so be sure to plan accordingly.

Peter was an excellent guide.

Visited July 2014



Lilly P

Dayton, Ohio

 1 review

 3 helpful votes

“The great Ikarian adventure!”

Reviewed August 18, 2014

My husband and our 3 teens signed up for the Jeep excursion and the Ikarian Beaches tour. Both tours were absolutely fantastic! We were staying on the south side of Ikaria. Pete picked us up and drove one jeep, my husband the other. We began our amazing drive full of twists and turns around the mountains offering us stunning views of the Aegean and Ikarian landscape. While on the Jeep tour we hiked up a steep mountain to see the Koskina Castle, visited a beautiful lakeside park, toured a Monastery (built in the 1400s), hiked in a park to catch site of a waterfall, toured a fantastic winery (Ikarian grapes mentioned by Homer in his writings) and ate lunch at Thea's, offering masterfully prepared dishes. We highly recommend the vegetarian moussaka. Simply delicious! A few days later we took the beach excursion, which was different and excellent as well. Again, Pete picked us up and drove us to Faro, Captain Nikko boated to a secluded cove where we could swim and snorkel. From the beach we walked up to Drakana Castle, which was an easy hike. GORGEOUS CASTLE! Then, we boated to the island of Fourni, had a private lunch at another secluded beach. Tables set right up to the water and fresh, fresh food! We then boated to the center of town before heading back. During the ride to Fourni we happened upon a pod of dolphins. Captain Nikko, was so kind and saw that we were enjoying the dolphins, so he spent some time following them. The water was transparent in the beautiful Aegean, and watched the dolphins as they swam amazingly close to the boat. If we had stayed longer in Ikaria, we would have asked for more tours with Pete because they made our trip to Ikaria even better than we could have imagined. He is ready and willing to customize a trip to suit your needs! The memories of will last a lifetime! Thank you Pete!

Visited June 2014



Melanie K



1 review



1 helpful vote

“Amazing day of Greek culture, food and nature.”

Reviewed July 31, 2014

Peter picked us up at Cavos Bay and we took a farm/cooking tour with Thea and Peter. We harvested fruits and veggies at the farm (and ate strawberries while picking them!), milked a goat, collected eggs, and then we went back to Thea's and had a cooking lesson using all of the fresh ingredients. We then had a beautiful, delicious lunch, walked to Nas beach to see the water and ruins and then Peter drove us back to our hotel. It felt less like a tour and more like we are spending a great day with family, living as Ikarians do every day. It was the highlight of our trip and gave us some really special memories. This beautiful island is spectacularly showcased by Peter and his abundant hospitality.

Visited July 2014



Tassietraveller104
Burnie, Australia

Level **4** Contributor



39 reviews



8 attraction reviews



8 helpful votes

“Greece at its best”

Reviewed July 4, 2014

Gorgeous scenery, magic restaurants serving fresh produce. A holiday on Ikaria Island is like stepping back in time, in step with nature



Michel R

Level **3** Contributor



20 reviews



13 attraction reviews



11 helpful votes

“One of our 2 best experiences of hollidays !”

Reviewed June 21, 2014

We had been at Ikaria before but only 3 days. Here with this expérience we benefitted over à very personnalised guiding and sport activities accordingly our choice. À little bit of kayakin, sailing and trekking. And the cocktail could be changed in fonction of the wheather : to have propre activity when the conditions were on the top. We had absolutely no worry : good guide for trekking, we are well expérience. but here we get a guide knowing a lot about nature plants and animals, and we found some desert places with enormous richness. The sailing boat skipper was very experienced and able to find a small protected creek, a day of heavy wind so that we could do snorkling and kayaking in best conditions. Finally Peter is very repliable and has a very good material to use, and prepare delicious picnics in réfrigerated cases, and speak perfect English (better than I).

Finally he took us in a "paneiery" à village fest : and it was an unforgettable expérience. Without for getting top tips for the rest of our stay on the island. Consequently : top rate without any hesitation!

Visited June 2014