



The Ionian - Prevesa to Piraeus- 2009



A final goodbye dinner with sailing friends at Panos Taverna at Aktio Marinea-our home away from home- and we're off at last -31 May- after installing our new el-winch for the mainsail and waiting out thunderstorms.

We're taking it slowly, picking our favourite spots in the Ionian- on our way to meet family in Piraeus. We stop at Nidri on Lefkas, to enjoy a day out by car to our favourite village for a fish lunch at Agios Nikitas and drive the spectacular cliff roads again. Two days at tiny Spatachori on Meganisi where we tie up outside the beach taverna, and several days at beautiful Fiskharo – a very yachty place- with it's lovely shops and restaurants. We spoil ourselves a little with (weirdly)a fantastic Thai meal in a restaurant in honour of a Kefalonian who became 1st Minister of Siam in the 1600's.



We stop at Trozonia- a small pearl of an island, and Galaxidi- for centuries once one of the largest ship-building centres of Greece and now a charming, sleepy resort. Behind the town, a forest fire burns on our last night and we watch 4 fireplanes swoop in relay to pick up water from the sea. A young fisherman gives me a beautiful giant clam shell when I stop to watch him clean it. The weather is stable- sunny- not yet uncomfortably hot- we are ahead of schedule and taking it easy.



It is a little quieter than usual, fewer flotillas (charter boats), a result of the economic crisis. The Greeks are philosophical... some good years, some bad...the usual shrug of the shoulders and smiles. For us, it makes it easier to get into the popular harbours and less hassle with pulled anchors as the chartered



We find the Greeks to be very generous, spontaneously kind and with a great sense of humour. Tucker makes us many new friends- old and young. After a few days on an island they greet you and stop to chat. If you have a problem, they all get involved to find a solution.



Prices have doubled in recent years, not least with the introduction of the euro. Meat and cheese, however, remain quite cheap and of high quality. The pork chops (plate size!) have become a firm favourite with the sailing community. And so quietly through the Corinth Canal for the 3rd time to Piraeusfor a family sailing holiday.