

Agia Paraskevi- our first house guests.



What was intended to be a sailing holiday, turned into a painting holiday (door painting, that is) as the winds blew hard right into May. However, this gave us the opportunity to show Birgit & Peer, sailing friends from the French canals, Pandeli castle with its stunning views, the tiny fisherman's chapel on the cliff, eat lunch almost on the beach at the lovely fishing village of Pandeli, stroll down to the best baker on Platanos square and sample "Papou's pitas" at the waterfront -the best on the planet, stuffed with chicken and pork. When the creamy, greasy mustard and dill dressing runs down your chin, you know you're in heaven. Also the mussels and huge prawns from the fisherman's supermarket (frozen straight from the boat) marinated in parsley, garlic, lemon and cream. Thank you, Birgit, for all your inspiration and both of you for adding your touches to the house on the hill. Who could ever have imagined we would all end up here?! We enjoyed many good hours together. Come back soon.



From the house we can walk up the hillside stepped path to the fort, down to the harbourside at Agia Marina (fish market daily) and tavernas and shops or into Platanos- the tiny island capital with its shaded square of cafes and shops. You can also easily explore the warren of narrow whitewashed streets of the old town with many lovely restored houses, or end in Pandeli for a swim.

At Easter, the biggest celebration of the Greek calendar, the island turns out on Good Friday to parade the flower bedecked three religious shrines through the streets, amid much throwing of firecrackers and often also dynamite! Echoing off the steep hillsides, it could be quite violent and was too much for Tuck! (one very angry and very brave Spaniel!)



On 01 May, the islanders decorate thier houses (and sometimes boats and motorcycles!) with wreaths or bunches of fresh flowers intertwined with garlic to keep away the evil spirits. The island itself is full of colour and wild flowers everywhere. The light is so clear in the Spring. Even Tuck is mesmerised by the views – or it could be the cats, goats or chickens that occasionally pop up on the hillside below the house.

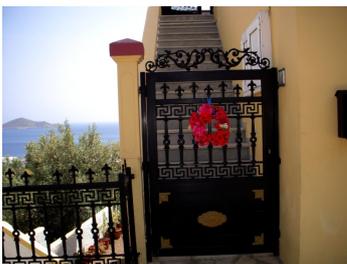
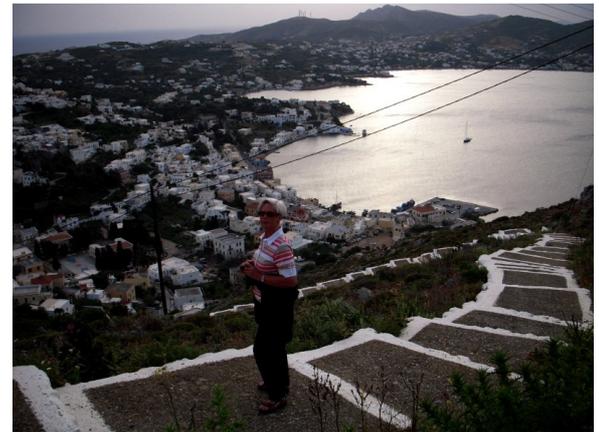




Birgit & I discovered a shared love of walking and together explored the back alleyways of the old town, the chapel at the peak at dusk and the very beautiful churchyard with sea view.



From the house you can follow the path up to the fort and tiny chapel overlooking the whole bay of Alinda.



We even managed a wedding at the house....