



## Mama Mia!!!...Skiathos and Skopelos ...how could we forget ya?

So here they are again- the three musketeers!

We enjoyed Skiathos and Skopelos so much that we did it all again! ...the boat trip along the caves, fabulous Lalaria beach, Kastro atop the cliff, lovely Skiathos town and on to Skopelos.



And then our luck ran out...and the weather turned...very nasty indeed. And we were blown in... but safe. We sat it out in Skopelos harbour with a whole flotilla of charter boats and the English boat alongside whose captain was a dead ringer for Sean Connery ("you can call me, James"). Winds reached 55 kn. (28 mps or 110 kmp to landlubbers) in gusts and there were a lot of cold crew sitting up anchor watch all night. And it went on and on...Ship's log read "This can't be true" day after day.



But we're tough... we retreated to the tavernas, we kept warm with medicinal doses of ouzo, we enriched our knowledge (read the paper) and we finally got under way again. We had some lively rides as we made our way back down the strait between the large island of Evia and the mainland towards Piraeus. We almost got stopped at the narrow bridge (with its furious currents) that separates the two and opens only once in 24 hrs. at 02:00, as we were the only boat to cross that night. They only open for two but we were "saved" by a Brit who turned up at the last minute. Jørgen and Peter experienced real sailing weather, anchoring in the dark, dinghying in to shore, and having to sail on when the harbour you aim for is full. Brilliant sunshine, pouring rain, and thunderstorms (sometimes all in one day). We did at least get to anchor, even in a rain squall with a jammed genoa!



And they took it well. Thank you guys, we couldn't have asked for more patient and cheerful guests.

Although we couldn't get into Piraeus (all the locals are back), we did make it to the Acropolis from poros by hydrofoil and metro and we even made it back through the Corinth Canal- a unique maritime experience.





One little gem we found and did manage to share with Jørgen and Peter was the tiny island of Palio Trikeri- Around the corner from Skiathos, little has changed in years. Local fishermen still dive for sponges, and provide the island's two tavernas with fresh fish and every September hundreds stream to the celebration at the Convent of the Virgin Mary where a miracle is said to have taken place. Peter and I were lucky enough to visit the lovely church and totally silent enclosed quadrant where the nuns still live when a caretaker unlocked the door for us alone. The island has great charm and closer to the taverna you simply cannot get. We tied up at the quay just metres from the tables. Packed with visitors the first time round, on our second visit it was deserted and rainswept. But what a welcome we got from the taverna owner who covered our table with complimentary small dishes of appetisers, glad of the business on an unseasonal night. These are the places and times you remember.

From Corinth, Havana will be making her way slowly back to the Ionians and Prevesa- her winter home for the second year running. The weather is unusually unstable- still in the low 20's but cloudy, rainy, thunder in the air. It's quiet in the harbours and along the quays. We're taking it easy. We hope to have "Havana" on land around 16 October and then we'll take an overnight ferry from Igoumenitsa to Venice for a few days there before flying home.

**Thanks** for following along with us and **stay in touch!**



Yes, it can also look like this!

"Three Men in a Boat". No, this is not "abandon ship"...it didn't get that bad...it's our crew out for a trip in the "car". We did at least get to anchor, even in a rain squall with a jammed genoa!

