

# Greek Holidays with Barbara Swetina September 6 -13, '14

Dear friends,

Here are some more informations to help you make the trip to Skopelos.

<http://skopelosweb.gr/en/studios/panagiota> is the link to Panagiota's website

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZI\\_S9MqKrl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZI_S9MqKrl) watch for Skopelos beaches. Usually in September most of the tourists have gone, and you have almost empty beaches.

Here are the boat schedules - there is a **fast** boat, from Volos to Skopelos, the flying cat which costs about €45.- and takes 2.5 hours. And then there is the **slower** ferry, which costs € 27.50 and takes longer. From the Skopelos Port you take a taxi to Panagiota's Holidafats in **Stafilos Bay**, it's a 10min ride.

Hellenic Seaways operate most of the ferry services to these islands all year round. Further information can be found on their website by clicking here, During the summer months Nel Lines also operate a number of services to Skopelos from a variety of mainland locations and also from other islands, you can see their web site here

<http://greeceferries.com>

Outbound Itinerary Selection				
Select	Departure	Company	Vessel	Arrival
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Sat 06 Sep 2014, 09:00</a>	HELLENIC SEAWAYS	EXPR SKIATHOS	Sat 06 Sep 2014, 13:45
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Sat 06 Sep 2014, 12:00</a>	HELLENIC SEAWAYS	FLYINGCAT 6	Sat 06 Sep 2014, 14:50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Sat 06 Sep 2014, 18:30</a>	A.N.E.S	E/G-O/G PROTEUS	Sat 06 Sep 2014, 23:00

  

Inbound Itinerary Selection				
Select	Departure	Company	Vessel	Arrival
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Sat 13 Sep 2014, 06:40</a>	A.N.E.S	E/G-O/G PROTEUS	Sat 13 Sep 2014, 10:40
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Sat 13 Sep 2014, 07:15</a>	HELLENIC SEAWAYS	FLYINGCAT 6	Sat 13 Sep 2014, 10:00



## Coming from the UK

There are 5 main choices:

- (1) **Fly direct to Volos** (VOL) from London Gatwick or Manchester

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via [Monarch](#) air or [Sunville](#). Or, [ryanair.com](#) from Stanstead to Milan, Frankfurt or Brussels changing for **Volos**, take the ferry <http://greeceferries.com> over to Skopelos.

(2) **Fly to Skiathos Island** (JSI) and then take the ferry <http://greeceferries.com> over to Skopelos.

(3) **Fly to Thessaloniki** (SKG), then taxi or local No. 78 bus (45 min) to the main coach station, and then a 2½ hour bus trip to Volos followed by <http://greeceferries.com> over to Skopelos. We recommend that you book your Thessaloniki—Volos bus by phone (Tel +30 24210 33254 or +30 24210 25527) the day before. The KTEL bus company will hold your reservation up to 30 min before the bus departs. If you are unable to obtain a reservation on the 13:00 or 15:15 bus from Thessaloniki to Volos, please take the next bus to Larissa and change for Volos.

The train from Thessaloniki to Volos is not recommended. It takes many hours especially if it misses the Volos connection in Larissa.

[Easy Jet](#) and [Olympic air](#) fly Gatwick to Thessaloniki (SKG). Connecting Easy Jet flights are available from Liverpool, Manchester, Belfast, and the four Scottish airports. Typical return fares to Athens/Thessaloniki on Easy Jet from London run as low as £140 if booked well in advance. [Agean Airlines](#) fly London (Heathrow) to Athens/Thessaloniki and currently offer the cheapest return fare, especially if you select a Thursday departure and a Saturday return. [British Air](#) fly London Heathrow to Thessaloniki, at a more civilised hour than Easy Jet, but unfortunately for us they deleted their Friday departure in 2010. From other Airports (Scotland, Belfast etc.) since there are no direct scheduled flights to Greece best options may include KLM via Amsterdam, Air France via Paris, Lufthansa via Frankfurt or CSA via Prague. At various times people have found all of them the best option, often finding the best buy flights on a consolidator such as OPODO or Travelocity.

Swiss air fly Birmingham to Thessaloniki via Zurich.

[Ryan air](#) fly London, Stanstead to Thessaloniki

(4) **Fly to Athens** (ATH) —the longest journey, and which requires [getting from the airport into Athens](#) railway or bus station and probably a night stopover in Athens. Easy Jet fly twice a day to Athens from Gatwick. Aegean Air, British Air and Olympic fly Heathrow to Athens. Olympic also fly Manchester—Athens and have recently attempted to become competitive with Easy Jet.

It is a beautiful 5 ½ hr train ride from Athens to Volos via a change at Larissa. However, Greek trains can only be pre-booked by a personal appearance at the train station, and are often fully booked on Fridays. The bus from Athens (at

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the 260 Liossion street station, near Metro station *Attiki*) takes 4 ½ hr. Book it 48 hr in advance by phone (Tel +30 24210 33254 or +30 24210 25527).

The following companies can sometimes find you cheap flights:

- [Thomsonfly](#) (Fridays) (0871 231 4869)
- [Sunvil \(Fridays\)](#) (020 8758 4758)
- [Islands of Greece](#) (0845 675 2600)
- [Imperial Tours](#) (0208 881 3036)

**(5) Via Corfu.** There are frequent flights to Corfu. Proceed by ferry to Igoumintsa. Then take the first bus out to Ioannina, and change for a bus to Volos. A rather round-about trip but feasible and possibly the cheapest route.

## Coming from Continental Europe

Please check [this page](#) for low cost flights from many EU cities to Volos.

[Air Berlin](#) flies direct to **Volos** via Vienna. Ryan air fly direct to Volos from Brussels (Charleroi), Milan (Bergamo) and Frankfurt (Hahn).

The local bus service, €5,50 from Volos airport to Volos city meets all Air Berlin and Ryan air flights BUT NOT THE MONARCH flights.

There are numerous charters from various French, German, Swiss and Scandinavian cities to Athens, Thessaloniki (Halkidiki) and Skiathos. From Berlin try [Germania](#) to Athens, from Köln try [German Wings](#) to Thessaloniki. From Amsterdam [Transavia](#) offer cheap flights to Athens. Numerous European "no frills" airlines serve Greece. From Italy take the overnight ferry to Igominitza from Ancona, Brindisi, Venice or Trieste and then proceed by local bus to Ioannina, and then on to **Volos** via Larissa.

## Coming from North America, Africa or Asia

Participants coming from overseas will fly to **Athens** connecting with [the bus or train to Volos](#).

From Athens airport take Bus X95 or the metro to Syntagma square or Omonia Square where there are many budget hotels and hostels. If you want to get to Volos as soon as possible, take Bus X93 direct to the 260 Liossion street Bus Station (journey 45 min) and take the next bus out to Volos. From there take the ferry <http://greeceferries.com> over to Skopelos.