



0. CEPHALONIA - Story Preface

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In this photo, by Ulrike Wegner, we see a view of the village of Assos (Asos), located on the western coast of the island of Cephalonia (Kefalonia). License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](#).

If we drew a line straight east from the "toe" of Italy's "boot" to the largest, westernmost island in the south Ionian Sea, we would find mountainous Cephalonia. Variouslly spelled (Kefalonia, Cephalonia and Cephallonia), it is an island paradise.

Beyond its stunning beauty, Cephalonia's history is rich with folk tales and tragedy:

- Fiskardo, for example, is the only town that was not ruined by the 1953 earthquake.
- Ithaca, the kingdom ruled by Odysseus (also called Ulysses) and made famous by Homer in The Odyssey, is just to the east.
- Legend has it that Cephalonia was once ruled by Ithaca.

Tombs, artifacts and jewelry from the Mycenaean civilization have been found on the island. (Follow the link to view a necklace from the 12th century B.C.) Although some historians believe Cephalonia's civilization reached its cultural peak during those distant times (nearly 3,500 years ago), today some of the best wine in Greece is made from Cephalonian grapes.

From the shore at Myrtos Beach, to the beautiful caves of Melissani and Drongarati, to the top of Mt. Aenos, Cephalonia is a land of contrasts. It is a favored tourist destination during the summer months. Boasting a mild Mediterranean climate, the rainy season extends from October to April.

Because of its strategic location, Cephalonia has been the target of hostile takeovers throughout its long history. As far as anyone knows, however, none ended worse than the 29-month Italian occupation that began on April 30, 1941.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CEPHALONIA-Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CEPHALONIA-Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin>



View of Assos, a Village on the Island of Cephalonia

Photo by Ulrike Wegner; online via Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-Assos-a-Village-on-the-Island-of-Cephalonia>



Mediterranean Basin

Map image online, courtesy Perry Casteñada Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

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View of Cephalonia

Image online, courtesy NASA.

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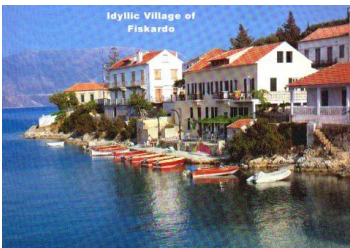
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Cephalonia - An Island Paradise

Image online, courtesy Ionian Guide.

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Village of Fiskardo

Postcard image of Cephalonia, online courtesy Ionian Guide.

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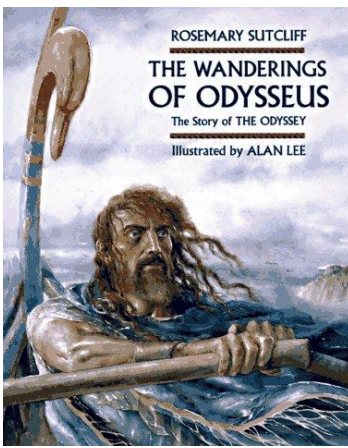


Greek Island of Ithaca

Map image online, courtesy eGreece.

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The Wanderings of Odysseus - by Rosemary Sutcliff

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Mycenaean Artifacts

Image online, courtesy Argostoli Museum.

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The Mycenaean World - Map

Image online, courtesy UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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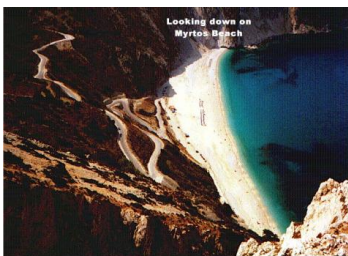


Mycenaean Necklace

Image online, courtesy Archaeological Museum of Argostoli (at Cephalonia).

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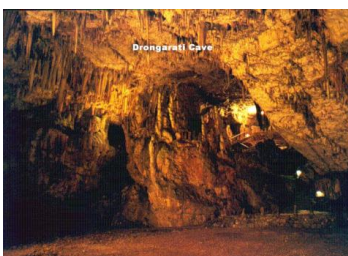


Myrtos Beach

Image online, courtesy eGreece.

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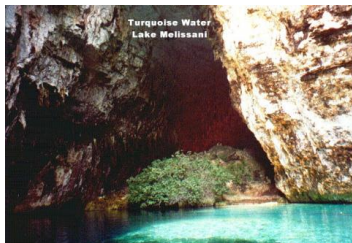


Drongarati Cave

Image online, courtesy eGreece.

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Lake Melissani

Image online, courtesy eGreece.

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Melissani Caves

Image online, courtesy eGreece.

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Fiskardo - Seaport at Kefalonia

Image online, courtesy eGreece.

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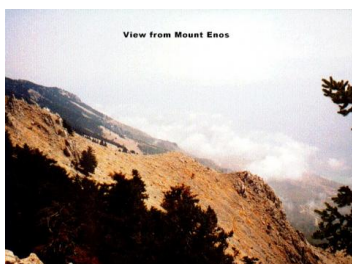


Summer Beach at Cephalonia

Image online, courtesy eGreece.

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View from Mount Enos

Image online, courtesy eGreece.

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Ulysses - Hero of Homer's Odyssey

Video by [Discovery Education](#); clip online, courtesy Mister Peloquin's Channel, at YouTube.

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