



Ionian Islands
GREECE
July 22-31, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Fund for Assistance of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, with the blessing of Archbishop Andronik of New York and North America, invites everyone to a pilgrimage trip, *“The Ionian Islands of Greece.”* The trip will take place from July 22 to July 31, 2026. Below is a tentative itinerary of the pilgrimage.

If you are interested in spending time in communal prayer and encountering the millennia-old Orthodox history and holy sites of Greece, please let us know of your intention to join the pilgrimage.

The trip allows for children aged 12 and older to travel without parents, and children aged 3 and older to travel with parents. For any questions regarding the preliminary itinerary, as well as transportation, accommodations, cost, and other details, please call 845-825-9949 or email RocaAF@gmail.com

Brief preliminary program

Corfu Island

Visit to the Church of Saint Spyridon of Trimythous, where his holy relics are kept. We then proceed to the Church of Saint John the Forerunner, especially venerated due to Saint Righteous Theodore Ushakov; the burial site of a Russian officer from Admiral Ushakov's fleet is located here.

We will also visit the oldest church in the city center — the Church of Saint Nicholas — which houses a miraculous icon of the saint, a relic of his holy remains, as well as relics of Lazarus the Four-Days-Dead and the Great Martyr Panteleimon. The iconostasis is adorned with icons painted by renowned masters of the Cretan school.

In the Cathedral, the relics of Empress Theodora rest; she is known for liberating the Church from the heresy of iconoclasm.

Excursion to the Monastery of the Mother of God Kassopitra and the Church of the Virgin Mary of Vlacherna is also included.

Paleokastritsa — one of the most beautiful places in Corfu — features stunning bays and sea caves, crystal-clear waters, and a unique combination of rocky and forested shores with beautiful beaches.

Lefkada Island

Visit to the island's holy sites. The most important spiritual landmark is the Monastery of the Holy Virgin Faneromeni, located 3 km from the capital on a scenic hilltop with panoramic views of the coast. The local population venerates this icon as their heavenly protector.

The Church of Saint Minas is distinguished by its remarkable Baroque iconostasis. We will also visit the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, founded in 1654.

Zakynthos Island

Zakynthos is a truly fairytale-like island, celebrated by poets for thousands of years. Its untouched nature, vivid colors, picturesque landscapes, and miles of golden beaches make it a "luxurious flower of the Mediterranean."

We will visit the Church of the island's heavenly patron, Saint Dionysios — an 18th-century cathedral where his holy relics are kept and venerated by thousands of pilgrims each year.

A monument to Saint Admiral Theodore Ushakov stands near the church. The Greek people deeply honor Russia and the Russian fleet for their role in the liberation of the Ionian Islands and the creation of the first independent Greek state — the Republic of the Seven United Islands (1800–1807).

We will also visit the Church of Saint Mavra.

Kefalonia Island

In the heart of the Ionian Sea lies Kefalonia — majestic and mysterious, rich in cultural and historical heritage.

A sightseeing tour includes the capital, Argostoli. We will visit the Monastery of Saint Gerasimos of Kefalonia, where his incorrupt and fragrant relics are preserved, along with his ascetic cell. He is the heavenly patron not only of Kefalonia but of all the Ionian Islands.

Nearby is one of the island's natural wonders — Melissani Lake. A boat ride through the cave adorned with stalactites offers an unforgettable experience.

We will also visit the Church of the Virgin Mary Fedous, where a miraculous event occurs on the Feast of the Dormition (August 15): venomous snakes enter the church as if to honor the Mother of God together with the faithful.

In the village of Pastra lies another shrine — the icon of the Virgin Mary Gravalíótissa ("Panagia Kryni"). On the Feast of the Annunciation, a miracle occurs: dry lily stems brought by the faithful miraculously bloom again. These flowers are kept without water until the Feast of the Dormition.

This is only a brief description of the pilgrimage journey. We will enjoy breathtaking landscapes, the azure skies of Greece, warm seas, beautiful bays for swimming, delicious local cuisine, and, above all, many spiritual and unforgettable experiences.