Our Journey: Two Weeks Sailing from Zea Marina to Lefkas

Hello, I'm Riccardo, and I've been sailing for over 40 years. This part of Greece—from the Saronic Gulf to the Peloponnese and the Ionian Islands—is my heart's home, a place where the beauty of the sea and land blends with the warmth of the locals. I want to share my experiences and emotions with you during this two-week journey, from May 17 to May 30, 2025, from Zea Marina in Athens to Lefkas, covering about 300 nautical miles. It's the best time of year, with perfect days and a sea that beckons. I'll take you through it all, day by day, sharing what we've lived and loved in these places.

Week 1: From Zea Marina to Kalamata (via Saronic Gulf and Peloponnese)

Departure: May 17, 2025
Here's the day-by-day plan, subject to change based on weather conditions.

Day 1: May 17, 2025 - Zea Marina to Aegina Island

Sailing Time: About 3-4 hours (18 NM)
We set sail in the afternoon from Zea Marina, amid the familiar bustle of Piraeus. After over 40 years at sea, heading to Aegina feels like coming home. Here's a view of Zea Marina at sunset, with Athens in the background—an image that captures the departure's atmosphere.



Zea Marina at Sunset
Zea Marina, our starting point, with the sun setting over Athens.

We arrive at Aegina Town's port: the waterfront buzzes with life, fishwives greeting us with smiles and offering their catch. I recommend a taxi to the Temple of Aphaia—the gulf view is an unforgettable thrill. In the evening, we'll stroll the alleys and taste local pistachios, for me the true flavor of Greece.

Day 2: May 18, 2025 - Aegina to Poros to Hydra

Sailing Time: About 5-6 hours (30 NM)
After breakfast with a view, we'll head to Poros. This narrow strait, lined with neoclassical houses, strikes us with its beauty every time—a perfect spot for a quiet lunch. Then we sail to Hydra, a place we deeply love. No cars, just mules trotting along: the locals welcome us with unique kindness. Here's a typical Hydra scene, a mule carrying goods through the alleys—an image that captures the island's timeless essence.



Mule in Hydra
A mule carries goods in Hydra, where cars don't exist—a step back in time.

The port, with white houses climbing the slope, is pure magic at sunset. This photo captures Hydra at dusk, lights flickering on and the sea reflecting the sky's colors.

Hydra at Sunset
Hydra at sunset, with its white houses and lights mirrored on the water.

We'll take you through oil-lamp-lit alleys and to dinner at a seaside taverna—an experience we want you to feel.

Day 3: May 19, 2025 - Hydra to Spetses

Sailing Time: About 2-3 hours (15 NM)
Today's a short leg, and we'll take it slow to enjoy it together. Spetses has a special elegance: the old Baltiza port, with its wooden shipyards, recalls the sea of yesteryear.

Visit the Bouboulina Naval Museum—the locals speak of it with pride. In the evening, we'll stop at Dapia: the waterfront hums with life, waiters serve us with smiles. I'll have an ouzo, and we'll lose ourselves in memories of these places.



Day 4: May 20, 2025 - Spetses to Monemvasia

Sailing Time: About 7-8 hours (45 NM)
Today we sail longer, but Monemvasia is a priceless reward. The "Gibraltar of the East," with its medieval rock rising from the sea, still moves us after all these years. Here's a view of Monemvasia, its ancient village nestled in the cliff—an image that shows why it's so special.



Monemvasia
Monemvasia, the “Gibraltar of the East,” with its medieval village carved into the rock.

We arrive in the afternoon: the old town is a maze of lanes and walls that feel alive. Climb to the top for the view and try Malvasia wine—the locals offer it with a warmth that always touches us. It’s a piece of my Greece I want you to know.

Day 5: May 21, 2025 - Monemvasia to Elafonisos Island

Sailing Time: About 4-5 hours (25 NM)
From Monemvasia, we head to Elafonisos, a speck that feels like a Caribbean dream. Simos Bay, with its white sand and turquoise sea, is a stop we always make with joy. This photo shows Simos Bay, with its twin lagoons and crystal-clear water that looks painted.



Simos Bay
Simos Bay in Elafonisos, with its turquoise waters and white sand.

There’s little ashore—a campsite, a kiosk—but in the evening, we’ll anchor under the stars, an emotion I want to share. In May, the sea here is pure poetry.

Day 6: May 22, 2025 - Elafonisos to Porto Kagio

Sailing Time: About 6-7 hours (40 NM)
We'll sail along the wild Mani coast, which we adore. Porto Kagio is a fjord nestled between hills, a haven with a few houses and fishermen's tavernas. This image captures Porto Kagio's tranquility, with calm seas and hills embracing it.



Porto Kagio
Porto Kagio, a natural fjord in Mani, perfect for a moment of peace.

Fresh fish is served with a ritual we always cherish, a moment that takes us back. We'll spend the evening here, in the peace of a place that's a gift in spring.

Day 7: May 23, 2025 - Porto Kagio to Kalamata

Sailing Time: About 8-9 hours (50 NM)
The week's last long leg: we'll head to Kalamata, 50 miles of sailing. If time allows, we'll stop at Koroni for lunch beneath the Venetian castle—a simple village we've always liked. We reach Kalamata in the afternoon: the city's alive, famed for olives, and the locals treat us like family. Here we swap crews; in the evening, we'll visit the market—fresh olives are a flavor I urge you to try.



View of Kalamata
Panoramic view of Kalamata at sunset, with the city lights reflecting on the sea.

Week 2: From Kalamata to Lefkas (Ionian Islands)

Departure: May 24, 2025
Here's the day-by-day plan, subject to change based on weather conditions.

Day 8: May 24, 2025 - Kalamata to Pylos (Navarino)

Sailing Time: About 5-6 hours (35 NM)
With the new crew, we'll head to Pylos. Navarino Bay is a masterpiece, its history tangible in the air. Niokastro Fortress offers a view that always grips us, and Gialova Lagoon is a natural gem worth seeing. In the evening, we'll stop in the tree-lined square: the locals serve us with a kindness that makes May special—an emotion to share.



Day 9: May 25, 2025 - Pylos to Strofades Islands (weather permitting) or Zakynthos

Sailing Time: About 8-9 hours (50 NM to Zakynthos; longer to Strofades)
Today we aim for the Strofades Islands, weather permitting. They're a remote, wild corner of the Ionian, a pristine paradise reachable only with calm seas and light winds. If the weather allows, we'll stop there to soak in their untouched peace and nature.

Otherwise, we'll head to Zakynthos—a crossing we love regardless. At Zakynthos, we'll take you to Navagio, with its shipwreck amid cliffs and turquoise sea that never tires us. Then we reach Zakynthos Town: the waterfront's lively, and St. Dionysios Church is a gem, as seen in this photo with its striking red bell tower.



Monastry at island Strofades



From Bohali's viewpoint, you see it all. We'll spend the evening there, with the breeze—we want you to feel this.

Day 10: May 26, 2025 - Zakynthos to Cephalonia (Sami)

Sailing Time: About 5-6 hours (30 NM)
We'll head to Cephalonia, queen of the Ionians. In Sami, I recommend Melissani and Drogarati caves: the first is a fairytale lake, the second a stalactite theater. In the evening, we'll linger on the waterfront or climb to see Myrtos Beach from above—a shore that still leaves us speechless after 40 years. The locals are kind, and May here is a dream to share.



Melissani Cave
The stunning Melissani Cave, an underground lake with turquoise waters and spectacular light play.

Day 11: May 27, 2025 - Cephalonia (Sami) to Ithaca (Vathi)

Sailing Time: About 3-4 hours (18 NM)
Today's a short leg, taken slowly, to Ithaca—Ulysses' island, a myth we've sailed forever. Vathi is a deep bay with colorful houses and a peace that restores us. Rent a scooter to explore or sit at a taverna—I recommend the rabbit stifado. We'll spend the evening here, in a place that feels like home.



Vathi
Vathi, Ithaca's picturesque port, with its colorful houses and tranquil vibe.

Day 12: May 28, 2025 - Ithaca to Meganisi

Sailing Time: About 4-5 hours (25 NM)
We'll head north, stopping at Kastos or Kalamos for a swim—the water's a mirror that enchants us every time. Then we reach Meganisi, a slice of paradise with bays like Abelaki or Atheni. We'll pick a spot for sunset; if you'd like, we'll take you to Piratis Taverna by tender—a dinner to cap the day beautifully. We'll stay here for the night, an experience I want to share.



Meganisi
Aerial view of Meganisi, with its spectacular bays and crystal waters, perfect for anchoring and sunset.

Day 13: May 29, 2025 - Meganisi to Lefkas

Sailing Time: About 2 hours (10 NM)
The final short leg, taken slowly: we'll sail to Lefkas via its channel. We arrive at Lefkas Town: the historic center is lively, and if you have time, I recommend Porto Katsiki, a dream beach. We'll spend the evening at the marina, thrilled to have shared my special place with you.

Day 14: May 30, 2025 - Lefkas (Disembarkation)



Lefkas at Night
Lefkas at night, with its iconic lit bridge and the city’s vibrant atmosphere.

Today we disembark. Lefkas connects to the mainland by bridge. Take a final stroll through town—it’s the perfect way to bid farewell to this journey.
