

NOVEL *GETAWAYS* ANCIENT AND MODERN

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From Crete to Kastellorizo, Paros to Patmos, Symi to Syros, and any number of Greek island and mainland destinations in between; we've traveled to them all and never set foot outside our home. We call that form of travel, 'novel getaways' - the kind taken while settled into an easy chair or chaise lounge with a book in hand.

Our favorite novel getaways are those in which the plot lines are skillfully intertwined with history, geography, and travelog allowing us to be entertained and educated about Greece at the same time.

The novel getaways created by these six writers - their fictitious tales often sparked by historical or current events and set in Greece -- can bring back fond memories of trips taken or spark ideas for new places to explore:





Photography by Bill Waters

Anne Zouroudi

This British author's first Greek-based book published more than a decade ago, *The Messenger of Athens*, introduced her enigmatic investigator, Hermes Diaktoros, a crime fighting character whom she describes as having 'origins [that] are as much a puzzle as the mysteries he solves'.

Following the success of *The Messenger of Athens* --shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize and the ITV3 Crime Thriller Awards -- an additional seven books featuring Diaktoros followed.

The books, with fictional settings, are based on actual Greek locations: *the Dodecanese islands of Symi and Rhodes; the Sporades islands of Skopelos and Alonnisos, and mainland Thessaly.*

Zouroudi first visited Greece in 1990, her destination the island of Symi. On that trip she met a Greek fisherman she subsequently married. She remained a frequent visitor to Greece after the marriage ended and she had returned to England. She currently lives on the island of Rhodes.

Patricia Wilson

After taking early retirement, this British expat moved to Greece more than 25 years ago. Her debut novel in 2017, was inspired by a rusty machine gun she dug up in the garden of her home in Crete. Taking the gun to the local kafenio she was told stories of the impact of World War II on her village. As villagers continued to tell her about the atrocities that took place then, she was inspired to write, *Island of Secrets*, based on those events of 1943.

Wilson, whose penchant for researching epic events in modern Greek history has created a variety of historical novels that have taken her readers to *Athens as well as the islands of Crete, the Dodecanese islands of Rhodes and Kastellorizo, the Cyclades islands of Santorini, Kea, and Syros.* Her next novel will take readers back to 1943-44 and transport them from *Athens to the Ionian Island of Corfu.*

Wilson, who now lives full-time on the island of Rhodes, has written six novels. Her books have been translated into 10 languages.

Victoria Hislop

In the summer of 2001 British writer Victoria Hislop and her family vacationed in Crete. During that trip she visited the abandoned leper colony on the island of *Spinalonga, a stone's throw off the coast of Crete.*

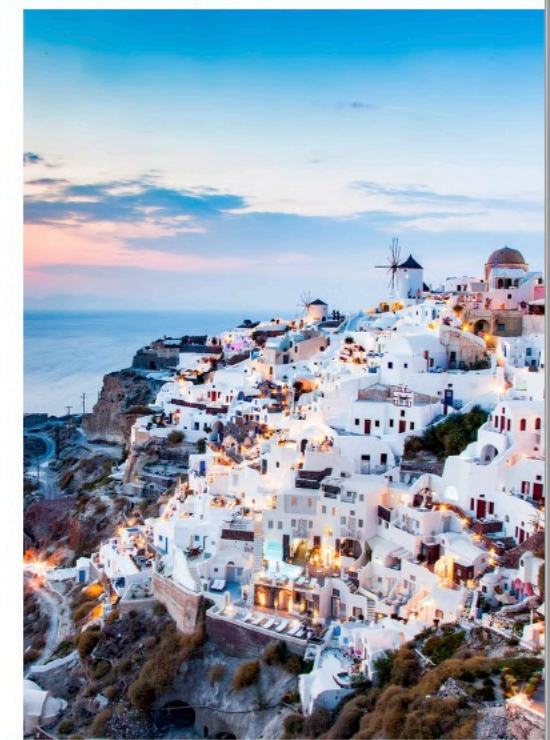
That visit inspired her first novel, *The Island*, written in 2005. The historical novel became an international best seller with more than six million copies sold. It subsequently inspired a 26-part Greek television series.

The majority of her seven novels are set in Greek locales, including the mainland cities of *Athens and Thessaloniki. Cartes Postales from Greece*, a beautifully illustrated book published in 2016 takes a reader to various venues in the Peloponnese.

She currently divides her time between England and Greece. In 2020 she was granted honorary citizenship by the President of Greece, an honor bestowed for promoting Greek history and culture.

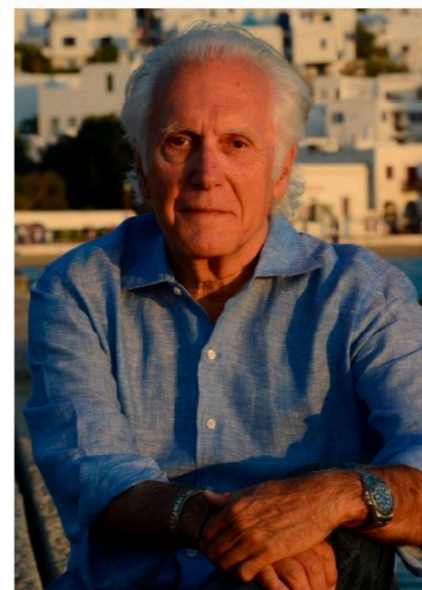


ALONNISOS
KASTELORIZO
SYMI
RHODES
SANTORINI
SPINALONGA
THESSALONIKI
ATHENS





MOUNT ATHOS
 MANI
 PELOPONNES
 MYKONOS
 GYTHEIO
 DELPHI
 CRETE
 OITYLO



Jeffrey Siger

American writer Jeffrey Siger left a successful career as a Wall Street lawyer and headed to his beloved Mykonos to write mystery thrillers set in Greece. His first book, *Murder in Mykonos*, was published more than a decade ago. Currently dividing his time between the U.S. and Greece, he is completing his 13th novel featuring his protagonist Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis.

Kaldis and his crime-fighting crew have taken readers to *the Cyclades islands of Mykonos, Naxos, Tinos, Santorini and soon to Syros; the Dodecanese Island of Patmos; and the North Aegean islands of Lesbos and Ikaria. He's also tackled crime in Athens, Mount Athos, Delphi and in the Mani region of the Peloponnese.*

The New York Times Book Review picked Siger as Greece's thriller novelist of record and he has been named by the Greek General Secretariat of Media and Communications as one of six authors who are 'writing mysteries serving as a guide' to Greece. Two of his books have been selected for inclusion in the Reader's Digest Select Editions.



Nikos Kazantzakis

This prolific Greek writer, (1883-1957), immerses readers in a storyline of colorful characters and a variety of locations. One, *Zorba the Greek* originally published in 1946 as the *Life and Times of Alexis Zorbas*, was inspired by his own life experiences living in *the Mani region of the Peloponnese.*

There Kazantzakis managed a mine in Prastova near the present-day beach resort community, Stoupa. He hired his friend George Zorbas as chief miner. The two are said to have spent many an hour sitting on nearby Kalogria Beach discussing life. All of which led Kazantzakis to write the book that, in turn, led to the 1964 movie, 'Zorba the Greek', starring Anthony Quinn, Alan Bates and Irene Papas.

While the book is based on the author's experiences in the Mani, the movie was filmed in *Crete* making both locations popular destinations with Zorba fans.

Kazantzakis is considered a giant of Greek literature. He was nominated on nine different years for the Nobel Prize in literature.



Jules Verne

This French author, (1828 – 1905) might be best known for his adventure tales, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* and *Around the World in 80 Days*, but it is another of his adventure novels that takes readers to Greece during the Greek War of Independence.

The Archipelago on Fire published in 1884 is volume 26 of 54 volumes in his, *Extraordinary Voyages* series. Readers of this book will sail *the Ionian and Aegean seas* in a time of pirates and slave trading with stops in various Peloponnese destinations, like *Vitylo*, the ancient Oetylus of Homer and present-day Oitylo.