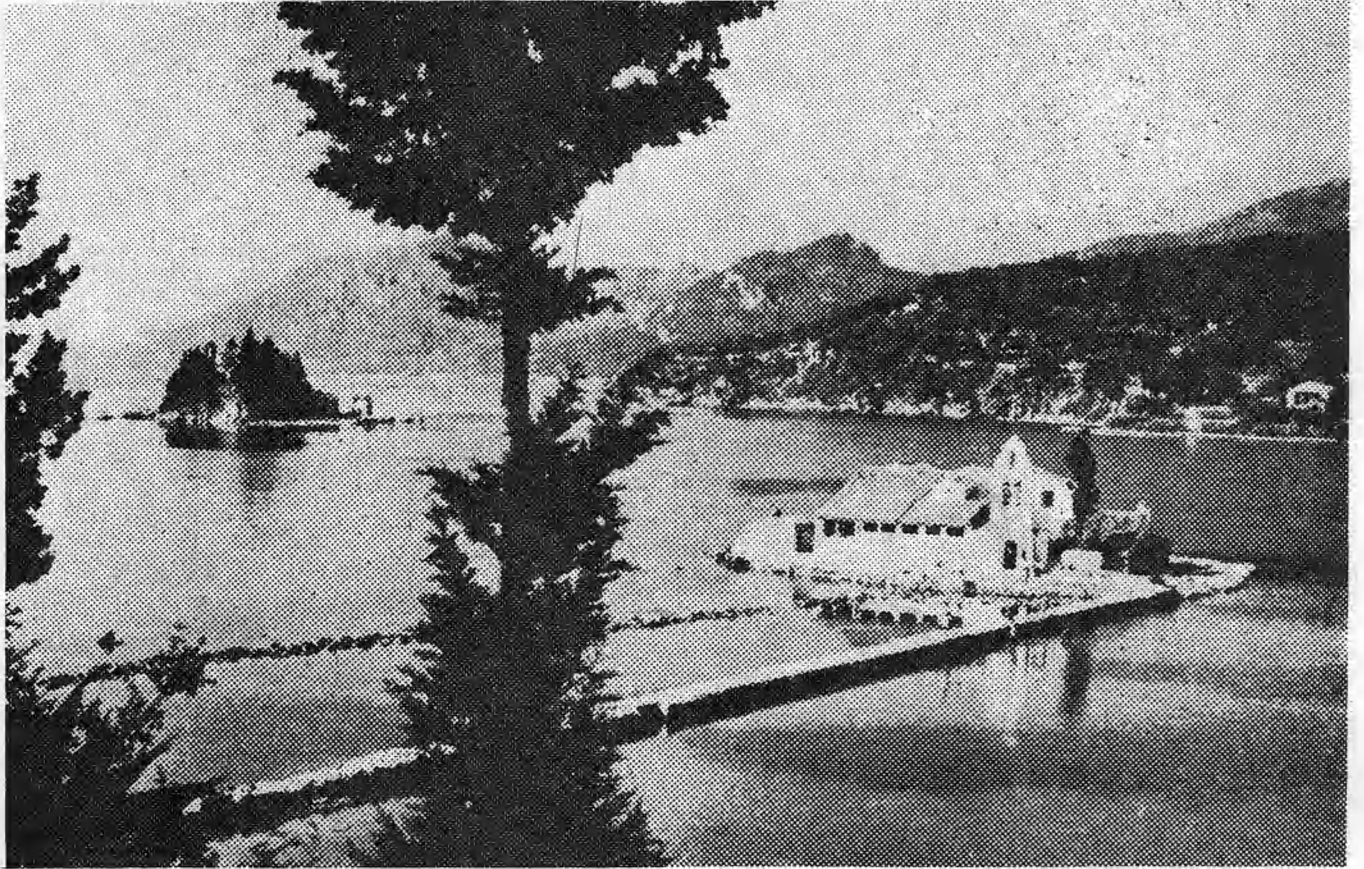


# *CORFU*



# *GREECE*

THIS IS A PROJECT OF YOUR PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

History.....Page 1 & 2  
Corfu in general.....Page 2  
Shopping.....Page 2  
Transportation.....Page 3  
Tours.....Page 3  
Churches.....Page 3  
Hotels.....Page 3  
Restaurants.....Page 4  
Clubs and bars.....Page 4  
Athletics.....Page 4  
Beaches.....Page 4  
Map.....Page 5



## CORFU, GREECE

Corfu, (ancient Corcyra), which modern Greeks prefer to call Kerkira, is the most northerly of the Ionian Islands. Situated on the threshold of the Adriatic Sea, its strategic importance has been recognized for many centuries. It is said that Ulysses was shipwrecked here at the entrance to Lake Kalikopulo and his boat petrified. However, Corfu today contains very few historical antiquities, and even the more important ones, such as the Temple Zeus Cassius, have disappeared. There are, nevertheless, many monasteries of Venetian origin throughout the island which today tell something of the island's history. Best known among these are Paleocastrizza, San Salvatore and Pelleka.

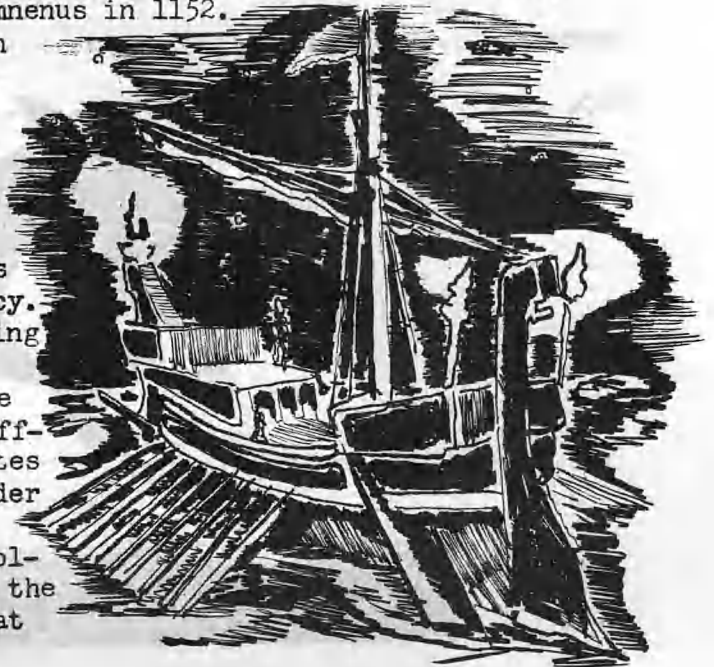
Corfu was colonized in 734 B.C. by the Corinthians. The Corinthians became so prosperous in their new colony that they were able to defeat and destroy (in a sea fight) the fleet sent out by the Mother Country to compel their allegiance in 695 B.C. However, not long after, Corfu was forced to recognize Corinthian supremacy by the tyrant Periander, son of Cypselus. Subsequently periods of great dissension broke out culminating in the Peloponnesian War. During the struggle the colonists repelled several attempts of Lacedaemonians but ultimately fell prey to Pyrrhus, King of Epirus. On his death the island was seized by the Illyrian pirates who held forth until 229 B.C. when the Roman occupation occurred. It then became an important naval base until the fall of the Eastern Empire.

In 1081 Robert Guiscard, the Norman, captured the island, but his victory was short lived. He died in Cassopo in 1085. Then followed Roger of Sicily in 1146 who lost the island to Manuel Comnenus in 1152.

In 1192 Richard I of England landed in Corfu with the 5th Crusade which was enroute to Palestine. Shortly thereafter Leon Vetiano made himself master and officially claimed Corfu to be a Venetian possession. This only resulted in his rapid defeat and execution and in 1206 the Venetian Senate had 10 noble families sent to the colony to secure its occupancy. There followed almost 200 years of fighting and claiming of the island by Corsairs, Greeks, and Neapolitans, resulting in the spilling of blood on the part of many different factions, until finally the Corfites in 1386 placed themselves voluntarily under Venetian rule.

Barbarosa raided the island in 1537 followed by Salim in 1650. Finally in 1716 the Venetians regained control with the defeat of Achmet III by Count Schulenburg. The peace of Compo Froio gave all the Ionian Islands to France, but they were lost again with the capitulation to the Russo-Turkish Fleet in 1799.

In 1915, the Treaty of Paris revived the Republic of the Ionian Islands, placing them under the protection of Great Britain. Corfu quite naturally became the chief island and seat of the government until the protectorate was



resigned to Greece in 1864 and, Corfu became a monarchy of Greece.

World Wars I and II merely served to show the strategic importance of the island, and in the latter war the island was occupied by the Italians and Germans, suffering much damage by the heavy bombardments from the air. Thus today much of the city of Corfu is in ruins and a veritable "ghosttown" exists in the island where beauty once led it to be called the "Pearl of the Mediterranean".

The island of Corfu covers an area of 277 square miles and has a population of about 106,000. Its coast line is rugged, being dotted with many small bays and inlets. The shape of the island is not unlike a sickle to which the ancients compared it - the hollow side, with the town and harbor of Corfu in the center being turned towards the Albanian coast from which it is separated by a strait varying in width from 2 to 15 miles. The extreme length of the island is 40 miles; its greatest width 20 miles. Two high, well-defined mountains divide the island into three districts of which the northern one is mountainous, the central one undulating, and the southern one low-lying. The most important range is San Salvadore which stretches east-west from Cape St. Angelo to Cape St. Stephane, attaining an elevation of 3300 feet and in some locations sloping straight down to the sea. It is generally agreed that with the exception of Crete, the most beautiful of all the Greek Islands is Corfu.

Agriculturally, the principal products of Corfu are olives, fruits, grapes and honey. As a result of the Venetian government giving large cash premiums to grow olive trees to encourage the produce of oil and discourage the raising of wheat, the vegetation of the island lacks variety. Hence the olive has become the main product necessitating a single expense without the trouble of upkeep. This contents the Corfuite peasantry who are reputed to be the idlest of all Ionians, and they therefore cultivate few gardens, preferring to grow the self-subsisting olive tree and purchase all vegetables in the Corfu market.

Corfu, the capital city, is situated at the northeast end of the island just across from Vido Island. The city is small, with very narrow winding streets and tall but old buildings. Two old forts, the Citadel on the east and Fort Nouf on the west, stand high above the city. The former was rebuilt by the Venetians in 1550 and is now used as a garrison for Greek Army troops and as a reserve officer's training school. The Naval Station of Corfu is attached to the Patras Naval Command.

Nearby to the southward of the city are Ulysses Island, the Achillion (Kaiser Wilhelm II's palace), and Benizza reservoir.

SHOPPING: What to buy in Corfu:

- Silverware
- Icons
- Hand-woven scarves and embroideries
- Woodwork
- Jewels
- Lace
- Chests
- Boxes
- Assorted Fruit



The store hours are from: 0730-1330 and 1700-2030.

THE SITUATION: Private autos, jeeps, and bicycles are the chief modes of transportation. Bicycles may be hired by the hour.

Traffic rules are similar to the U.S. Driving is on the right side of the streets. Stop signs and one way traffic are rigidly enforced. Upon arrival it is recommended that the Greek Police be contacted for information as to streets that are closed to vehicles and bicycles. There are many blind corners and streets are very narrow, which must be watched closely as well as the pedestrians in the streets. The speed limit in the town is 15 miles per hour. Roads are only fair in condition, but improvements are underway.

There is no rail transportation. Steamers, connecting with Brindisi and Piraeus, carry passengers and mail. Steamers depart for Brindisi on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; for Piraeus, daily except Sunday.

Other public transportation consists of numerous busses, offering adequate service to all parts of the island; and taxis which, though seemingly scarce, have in the past accommodated liberty parties of approximately 500 men.



TOURS: The American Express Company has, in the past, arranged a half-day tour, which was considered good and reasonably priced. Other than this, there are no travel agency tours, but taxis can be hired to visit the places of interest. Rates are not known.

Particularly recommended are Palace Achillion (12KM), the monasteries of Palaio Kastritsa (28KM) Pelekas (10KM), and San Salvatore.

Other excursions can be made to the Royal Palace garden Mon Repos, Kanoni Point (along the route to Pontikonisi), the Citadel, Fort Neuf, the remains of Teatro Vecchio Peleka Peak, Chryssida Hamlet and the more distant villages of Ipsos, Dassia (13KM), Pelekas (10KM) and Benitsa (12KM).

Places of historical interest include the Chinese and Ancient Museums in the Royal Palace, the Tomb of John Capodistria, the Churches of Santo Spiritone and Flatiteras and the Statues of John Capodistria, Lawrence Pavili, Frederic Adams, and Sholembourg (the latter three in front of the Castle).



CHURCHES: There are many Greek Orthodox Churches and several Roman Catholic Churches. The church of Santo Spiritone (Roman Catholic) containing the mummified body of the saint by the same name, is reported to be 700 years old. The Church of England is closed. The Roman Cathedral observes masses at 0800, 0900, 1000, and 1100. Church parties are particularly welcome.

HOTELS:

- Corfu Palace - Delux. Considered the best hotel in Corfu but not opened during the winter months; located near Garitsa.
- Astor Hotel - Located near the harbor and faces the waterfront. Clean and modern in the American style.
- Splendid - (First Class) located near the town hall.
- Suisse - (Second Class) Capodistria Street.

### RESTAURANTS:

- Corfu Palace (in the Corfu Palace Hotel)
- Phoenix Restaurant
- Rex - Capodistria Street

Food runs the same as for all Greece, with fish, shrimp, and lobster the specialties. Prices are high and this is particularly true for drinks at the Corfu Palace. Food remains a critical item due to the limited variety.



CLUBS AND BARS: The facilities of the Societe du Lecture de Corfu (Anagnostiki Eteria), a reading club, are usually extended to officers and include a reading room (local, French, British, and American periodicals), a card room, light snack bar and bar. There is also a tourist club, Periigitiki Leshi, located near the upper square.

Night clubs include the Phoenix, Kasfiki Vassili (near Mon Repos), and Noufara (near Kanoni). All have dancing available.

Among the bars in Corfu are the Ionion, Capris, and Astoria, all located on King George I Street, and Dirty Dick's near the Fleet Landing. The Hotel Astor, recently completed, offers the best bar in town.

Wine shops and small taverns are numerous but not attractive. Flies are prevalent and head facilities are inadequate. No music is allowed after 2300.

Attention here is called to Ouzo, a local Greek liquor. It is strong, deceptive and may have harmful physical effects. It should not be taken by personnel on liberty.



ATHLETICS: There are football, basketball, tennis, water polo, cricket, and volleyball clubs available.

The Corfu Tennis Club extends its privileges to officers, and, upon arrangement with the secretary, to CPO's as well. The water polo is on Mon Repos Lido, but beaches on the west side of the island are much better.

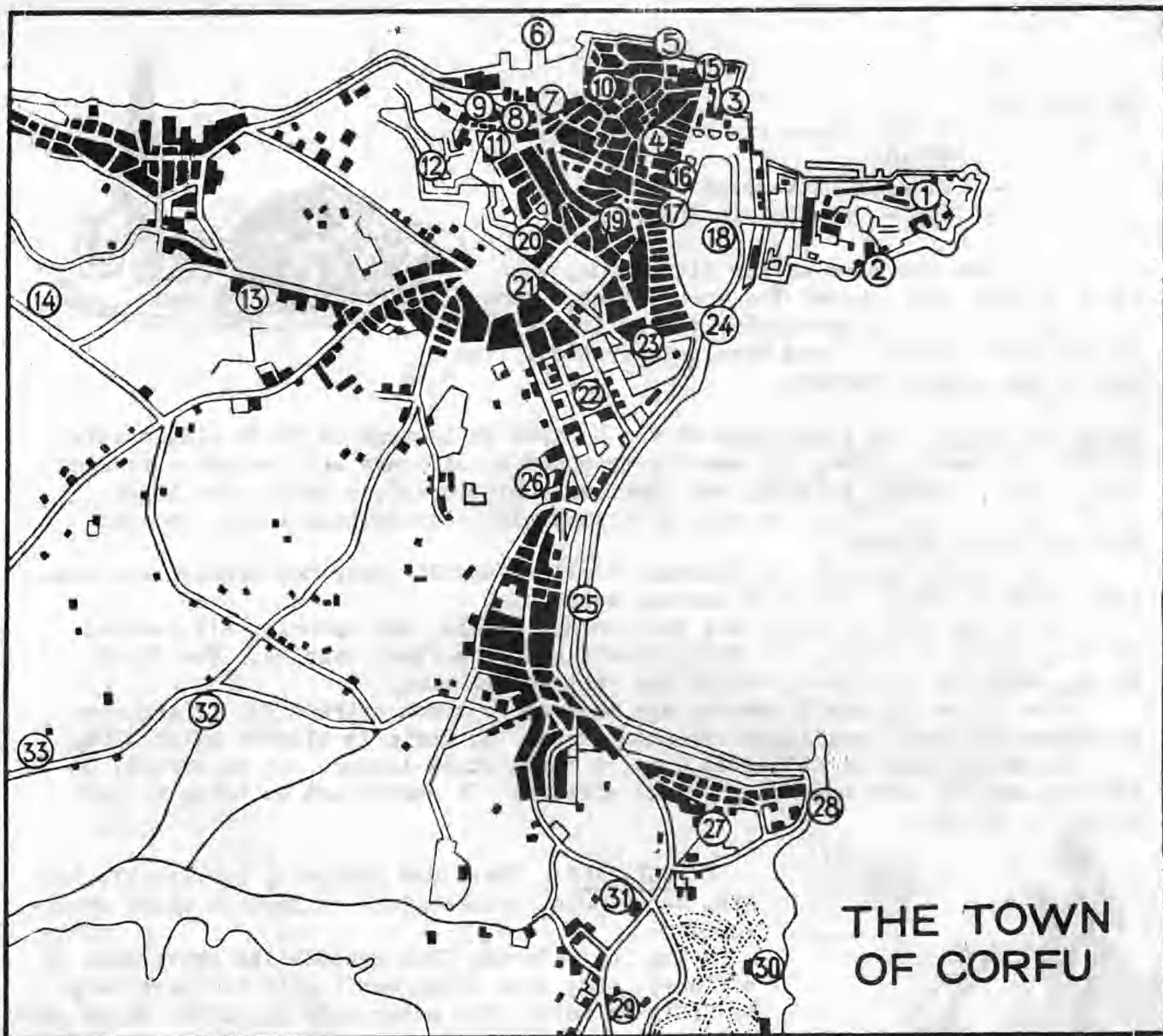
The Greek Army Reserve Officer's Training School has a basketball team playing American rules, giving a good, fast game. This school also has a good volleyball team and both are anxious to play ship's teams; the games are well attended by the local citizens.

There is an outdoor basketball court known as the "gymnasium". The Esplanade (known also as the Geriza), a large field in the center of town, can be used for softball. There is room for two games at one time. Police authorities can be requested to patrol the area should urchins become a nuisance.

BEACHES: Good bathing facilities can be found at Point St. Nicholas and at the Lido at Mon Repos. (Reached by bus from the Royal Palace).

There are a few good pebble beaches to the north across the bay at Dassia di Ypsos Bay (reached by bus from outside the Naval Station).

The best beaches, however, are on the west side of the island.



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The Old Fortress   | 19. Town Hall                             |
| 2. Saint George's Church  | 20. Post and Telegraph Office             |
| 3. Royal Palace   | 21. Saroko Bus-Service                    |
| 4. Saint Spyridon Church  | 22. Tennis Courts                         |
| 5. Tourist Committee Office-<br>Tourist Police Office-French<br>Consulate | 23. Café Phoenix                          |
| 6. Port Jetty   | 24. Monument of J. Capodistria            |
| 7. Cathedral  | 25. Garitsa promenade                     |
| 8. National Bank  | 26. Ancient Monument of<br>Menecrates     |
| 9. Bank of Greece   | 27. Jason and Sosipatros Byz.<br>Church   |
| 10. Astir Hotel   | 28. Mon Repos Beach                       |
| 11. Bus Station   | 29. Road to Kanoni-<br>Pontikonisi        |
| 12. The New Fortress  | 30. Mon Repos, Royal Summer<br>Residence  |
| 13. Platytera Monastery   | 31. Saint Kerkyra Church<br>(Palaiopolis) |
| 14. Road to Palaiokastritsa-<br>Sidari                                    | 32. Airfield                              |
| 15. Ex-British Consulate  | 33. Road to Achilleion-Benitses           |
| 16. Saint George Hotel  |   |
| 17. Pension Suisse  |   |
| 18. Esplanade   |   |