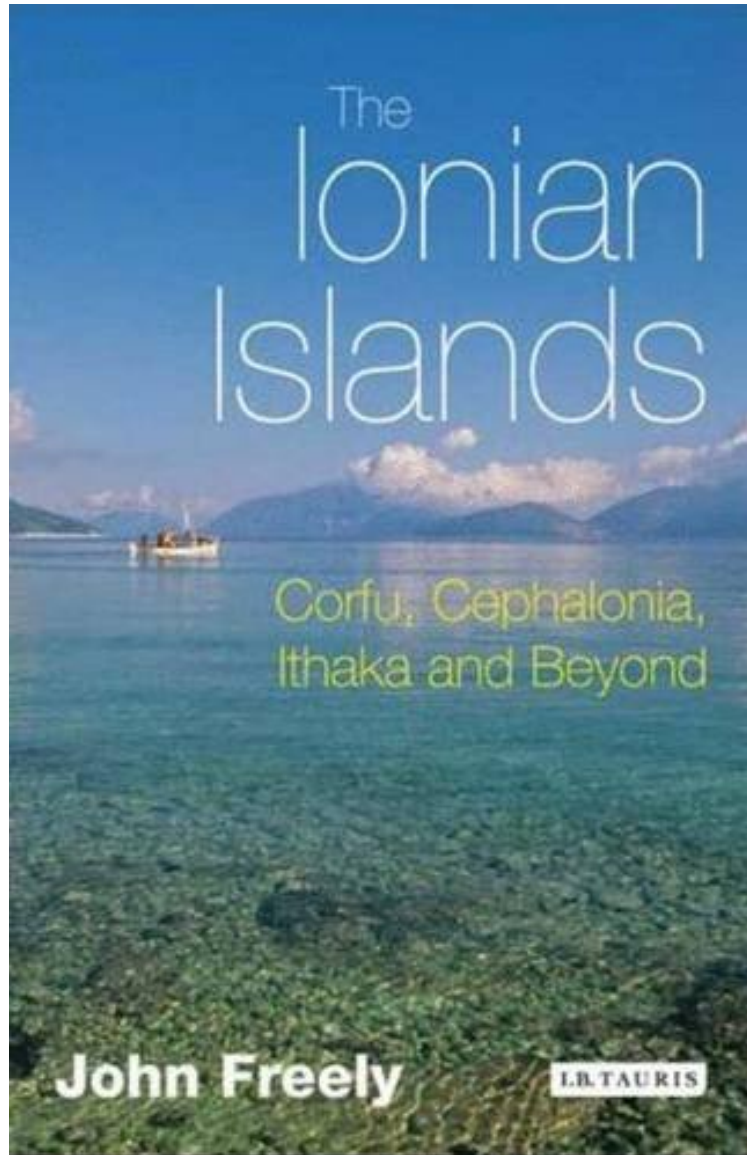


[FREE] The Ionian Islands: Corfu, Cephalonia, Ithaka and Beyond

## The Ionian Islands: Corfu, Cephalonia, Ithaka and Beyond

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**John Freely : The Ionian Islands: Corfu, Cephalonia, Ithaka and Beyond** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ionian Islands: Corfu, Cephalonia, Ithaka and Beyond:

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deals with much of the history of the Ionian Islands.

Legend has it that the Ionian Islands were created as Zeus' beautiful lover, Io, raced through the Ionian Sea escaping Hera's wrath. Rising from the waters between Greece and Italy, the Ionians – peaks of an underwater mountain range – are quite unlike any of the other Greek islands and are some of the most culturally, historically and mythologically rich in all Greece. Consisting of Corfu, Paxos, Ithaka, Lefkas, Cephalonia, Zakynthos (Zante) and Kythera, they have been inhabited since Paleolithic times and have a colourful and often turbulent past. Variousy invaded and occupied by the Goths, Arabs, Normans, Venetians, British, Germans and most recently by tourism, they have always absorbed and assimilated other cultures whilst still retaining their unique character and identity. The Ionians have been made famous in literature from Homer and Aeschylus to Gerald Durrell and Louis de Bernières and numerous myths are associated with them: Corfu is linked to the voyage of Jason's Argonauts, Aphrodite was born on Kythera, Paxos and Corfu were once joined until Poseidon threw his trident and separated them and Odysseus' home was on Ithaka. John Freely, who has visited and travelled throughout the islands over the course of 40 years, here illuminates the history, culture and present day of all seven islands, providing the most readable and comprehensive guide to the magnificent Ionians.

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