The Telegraph

Travel | Destinations

Filoxenia Kalamata

Kalamata, Peloponnese, Greece

" Well-run, well-designed, well-located and well-serviced, this big city beach resort offers a plethora of facilities while effortlessly managing to feel compact, informal and intimate. It is ideal for families with children who love the hotel – and the hotel loves them back. "

By John Malathronas,
TRAVEL WRITER

Location

On the final curve of the big urban beach of Kalamata, this is the only seaside hotel where you don't have to cross the busy coastal road to get to the beach. Although at the edge of town, a public bus connects the hotel with the main terminal every 15-20 minutes, conveniently passing along the coast and through the centre (tickets €1.30/£1).

Style & character

The style is contemporary-Mediterranean using water-resistant materials to cater for those guests sloshing around in their wet swimsuits. Notable features include rattan chairs, canvas sofa covers and marble tops. Yet, despite its size, the whole set-up feels cosy as the buildings are maximum two storeys high and surround the central pool and garden in a pi-formation.

Service & facilities

There is hardly anything that you might want that's missing: direct access to the beach; an excellent restaurant offering both à la carte and buffet dinners; activities for children and teens; shaded parking for cars; live entertainment evenings; lawn barbecues; two swimming pools; function rooms for special events; spa treatments – you name it, they've got it and they do it pretty well.

- Bar
- Beach
- Fitness centre
- Kids' club
- Laundry
- Parking
- Pool
- Restaurant
- Room service
- Sauna
- Spa
- Tennis court
- Wi-Fi

Rooms

Rooms are generally huge and come with a large balcony. There are bathtubs in every room although strangely there are no toiletries as such, just squeeze bottles on the walls. Rooms are equipped with Philips Microsystems and satellite television, although, again strangely, most have old-fashioned television sets. Yet somehow it is these quirks that give the rooms personality.

Food & drink

The restaurant's portions are large, so think only one main and don't try the chocolate pie (recipe by Lucifer himself); remember you'll be lying on the beach in the morning. Devotees of English breakfast will be in raptures, with the eight cooked-food-casseroles occupying the largest of the buffet counters, while fruit juice fans will be equally delighted: there are no fewer than seven on offer, from yellow-green lemon to ruby pomegranate.

Value for money

Kalamata has the best city beach in Greece this side of Athens, while its restaurants and bars are half the cost of those in the popular islands of the Aegean. As a result Filoxenia trumps many a Greek resort for what it offers; no wonder it gets fully booked very early.

Access for guests with disabilities?

There are lifts or ramps everywhere including to the beach. The hotel has 10 rooms with wider doors and adapted toilets for guests with disabilities.

Family-friendly?

There are eight suites with sofa beds, eight suites with interconnecting doors and eight rooms with a double bed and bunkbeds for two kids.

There is a kids' room where you can leave your children with a dedicated supervisor speaking Greek or English from 10am to 8pm. Finally, independently of the parent's meal plan, there is a special corner in the restaurant with a kids' buffet open daily from 1pm to 5pm.

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