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Greece

You can still have an idyllic family holiday on a Greek island, *à la* Gerald Durrell in his autobiographical book *My Family and Other Animals*. Do some research to ensure it's a family spot rather than a clubber's paradise before you go, and look for somewhere interesting to stay, so you can bring your own family story home with you.

01 WE RECOMMEND: THE WINDMILL, KIMOLOS

You probably haven't heard of the quiet Cyclades Island of Kimolos unless you know someone who's stayed at this windmill-turned-Greek-chic hotel, five hours from Athens. It's not just for couples, as the dreamy pictures suggest; it's good for families too. Stroglio, the ground- and first-floor apartment, has two bedrooms and is set over two floors. Apagio, meanwhile, has two single sofa beds in addition to the double bed and large living space. From the windmill, you can amble down the hill to a village, beach and water taxi stop, where you can book a trip around the island to any of a number of calm, shallow beaches nearby. The hotel's cafe, meanwhile, has great sea views come evening.

● **Rooms:** From £64 a night. T: 00 30 22870 51554. www.kimoloshotel.com

● **X factor:** Style by the beach.

02 BEST FOR HISTORY BUFFS: CONVERTED MONASTERY, CRETE

A 10-minute walk from the beach, this rustic house, a reconstruction of a former monastery near Elounda, sleeps six and includes a pool.

● **Rooms:** From £97 a night.

T: 01273 600030. www.responsibletravel.com

03 BEST FOR ESCAPISM: ONAR, ANDROS

This collection of stylish stone cottages on the island of Andros, three hours from Athens, is all about the simple life. Eat communal meals under a giant tree, walk along the river to the unspoilt beach and hike in the hills.

● **Rooms:** From £170 a night. T: 0117 942 8476. www.i-escape.com

04 BEST FOR BEACH TIME: CASTELLO STUDIOS, NAXOS

These 11 simple self-catering apartments,

sleeping two to five, open out to the beach near Agia Anna on Naxos, a particularly family-friendly island. You can watch your children play in the sand from your balcony, and highchairs, cots and toys are provided.

● **Rooms:** From £24 per night.

T: 00 30 22850 24968.

www.castellostudios.gr

THINGS TO DO

● **Shop till you drop:** Take your teens to local markets to practise their haggling skills.

● **Take to the water:** Fishing boats, water taxis and ferries are entertaining ways to travel, especially if you're a tiddler.

● **Back to nature:** If you can tear yourself away from the beach, hiking trails along old tracks can be great fun.

● **Eat Greek:** Olives, Greek salad, taramasalata, *spanakopita* and moussaka are well-loved classics. □