

## DESTINATIONS

GREECE & CYPRUS | CORFU TOWN

# Snapshot

## CORFU TOWN, CORFU

This elegant Greek island capital is worth leaving the beach for, finds **Laura French**

### we love...



#### The Old Town

Glossy cobbled lanes lined with lemon-yellow architecture and pretty souvenir shops sum up the city's Old Town, a testament to the island's 400-year history under Venetian rule. At its heart is the Liston, a 19th-century arcade built by the French and inspired by Paris's Rue de Rivoli, with cafes, restaurants and shops housed in elegant neoclassical buildings, drawing locals as well as visitors.



### star attraction...



#### Old Fortress

Perched atop a rocky peninsula jutting into the sea, this Byzantine-meets-Venetian fortress offers a glimpse into the region's history, with the remains of an old prison and military hospital inside its crumbling walls, alongside a church and museum housing Byzantine sculptures. But it's the views that are the real draw, with the Old Town's colourful Venetian architecture set against a backdrop of opal ocean and mountain skyline (entry €6).



### eat at...



#### To Alatopipero

Food is at the heart of Corfiot culture. For one of the best tavernas, try To Alatopipero, which serves island specialities such as *sofrito* (garlic-infused veal) and *pastitsada* (pasta and meat in a cinnamon-infused tomato sauce – pictured), along with a warm welcome.

### book it...



Sunvil offers a twin-centre combining three nights' B&B at the Mayor Mon Repos Palace Art Hotel with seven nights' self-catering in an apartment at Kalamí Bay (on Corfu's northeast coast) from £1,097 per person. The price includes transfers and easyJet flights from Gatwick, departing June 4. [sunvil.co.uk](http://sunvil.co.uk)

### make time for...



#### Palace of St Michael and St George

Built in the early 19th century to house British commissioners and later used as a summer residence by Greek royals, this Regency-style palace is well worth a visit. Home to the Corfu Museum of Asian Art, two art galleries and a manicured lawn, it provides a peaceful retreat from the buzzy parts of the city (entry €6).



PICTURES: Shutterstock; Heinz Troll

### stay at...



#### Mayor Mon Repos Palace Art Hotel

Tucked away in a quiet bay a five-minute drive from the Old Town, this adult-only hotel makes for an atmospheric base, with rooms overlooking the Old Fortress and decor incorporating 18th-century antiques from Achillion Palace. There's an à la carte restaurant, spa and pool as well as beach space, plus live music and other cultural events. [mayormonrepospalace.com](http://mayormonrepospalace.com)