

Corfu Town

Corfu or **Kerkyra**, especially oldes part, is one of the most charming and romantic places on the island of Corfu, Ionian Islands, Greece.

It is the capital of the island and of the Corfu regional unit. The city also serves as a capital for the region of the Ionian Islands. The city (population 24,838 in 2011) is a major tourist attraction, and has played an important role since antiquity.

It is a perfect example of ancient Venetian and Byzantine art that will be able to fascinate you with its little streets and its panoramic points.

The ancient city of Corfu, known as Korkyra, took part in the Battle of Syvota which was a catalyst for the Peloponnesian War, and according to Thucydides, the largest naval battle between Greek city states until that time. Medieval castles punctuating strategic locations across the city are a legacy of struggles in the Middle Ages against invasions by pirates and the Ottomans. The city has become known since the Middle Ages as *Kastropolis* because of its two castles. In 2007, the old town of the city was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The municipal unit of Corfu city has a land area of 41.905 km² (16.180 sq mi) and a total population of 39,674 inhabitants.

The town of Corfu stands on the broad part of a peninsula, whose termination in the Venetian citadel is cut off from it by an artificial fosse formed in a natural gully, with a salt-water ditch at the bottom, that serves also as a kind of marina known as *Contra-Fossa*. The old city having grown up within fortifications, where every metre of ground was precious, is a labyrinth of narrow streets paved with cobblestones. These streets are called "kantounia" and the older ones sometimes follow the gentle irregularities of the ground while many of them are too narrow for vehicular traffic. There is promenade by the seashore towards the bay of Garitsa, and also an esplanade between the town and the citadel called Liston. The Venetian term "liston" refers to the large marble slabs covering the streets, while the Italian phrase "far el liston" means to "walk around a square".

