

Hidden Greece - FAQs on Greek Island Ferries

Why is it generally better to book Greek ferries locally rather than in advance?

Flight arrivals can be delayed and ferry schedules do sometimes change (operational cancellations [rare]/ delays, inclement weather and seamen strikes [May 1st very popular]). If as a result you cannot take the ferry you have booked you have a problem. Note tickets are not valid across different ferry lines.

Can't they just rebook me on another ferry?

Generally they will but the timing may not be convenient, especially if you have a flight connection to make or there is a long delay until the next sailing for that ferry company. And if you miss your outgoing ferry through flight arrival delay there are no refunds.

What if the ferry is full?

It's very rare for foot passengers - and for the bigger ferries we prefer (eg Blue Star) it's even rarer. We will tell you if we think there's any risk.

So book locally?

Yes - generally best. At every port, within spitting distance, there are either very visible ticket agents or kiosks. They don't charge any extra fees and will generally give good advice if there are options. We will in any case have recommended ferry timings to you, and where we can, we look to create itineraries where there is a choice of ferry. (And point out in advance where timings are tight.)

Sorry, call me old-fashioned but I still like to have a ticket in my hand?

We do understand - you're not alone and we won't think any less of you. We like [ferryhopper](#) for booking - ease of use, nice range of delivery options to hotel, e-tickets for some lines etc. In terms of accuracy of schedules we find [openseas.gr](#) the most accurate over the season however, so a recheck there wouldn't go amiss.

What about the accommodation reservations when ferries have to be changed?

We do our best to rearrange them for you at minimum cost. If the change is at the beginning or end of your holiday it can mean an unscheduled overnight on one of the gateway islands (usually Mykonos or Santorini) or in Athens/ Piraeus. Often (but not always) we will be able to negotiate a refund of a night at hotel A to contribute to the extra costs of a night at hotel B. Most of our hotel partners are co-operative in this respect even though their formal terms of business allow them to retain all monies when late changes are requested. But it is a goodwill gesture based on longstanding relationships and not a given - and we treat it in that way.

So did you actually have any ferry related mishaps this year?

So far we have had two (in 2019). One client booked Mykonos-Naxos on Golden Star - booking the return on the outward journey which seemed a reasonable thing to do. Golden Star rescheduled the return ferry for 2 hours later and didn't inform the client. To make matters worse that ferry arrived back in Mykonos late and the client missed their homebound flight. There would have been two ferries with alternative companies that would have reached Mykonos in good time for the flight.

The second a mild inconvenience when a couple booked Mykonos Paros early in the season and the sailing was put back three hours, so they had to sit at the port watching three other ferries leave for Paros before theirs. [Hotel Leto](#) is a good place for this!

The vast majority of connections work perfectly so don't be deterred.

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