

Greece – our favourite country

At time of writing we have spent 2 months in this beautiful country and will remember it with happiness.

We had been in Greece 5 days before meeting Ian and Marjatta. This is how it happened. We went to the arranged meeting place on the agreed day (outside the Rhodes Post office) and waited but with no sign of them. At 12.30 we began to walk sadly away, we had tried so hard to keep the rendezvous. We enacted this for 5 days, on Monday 28th we were walking away and had left the Post office and had decided to send a letter to Finland. We returned to the post Office and who should be waiting but big brother! Naturally we celebrated, met Marjatta who was gorgeously pregnant and beaming.

Rhodes was a pleasant little town, over-tourised but pleasant. Dominating the town is a Medieval castle, huge and rebuilt by Mussolini. Inside the old town we found a pension where we stayed for \$1.

At night we visited the open air restaurants, typically Greek, ate chicken, octopus and drank Greek wine. The day after meeting I & A we headed off for Crete in a crummy inter-island ferry to escape the crowds of tourists. Next day we arrived at Sitia, on the Eastern end of Crete. The weather was amazing, and tourists were at a minimum. We bargained from fishermen then walked along the beach where we cooked the catch on an open oven of stones – it baked superbly.

Next day we tried to hitch to Agia Nikalias but after a hopeless wait took a bus and stayed at a youth hostel. Here I bought a tiny gas stove from an English guy who was

heading East. Times were good, we spent days swimming in deep clear water and nights sampling the little restaurants.

From Agio Nikalias we hitched to Iraklion separately, met and stayed in a Youth Hostel. Here we visited Knossos and the beautiful museums. From Iraklion we headed south to meet at a littler place called Akvi on the south coast. I was a days hitch and fun as we passed each other continuously. Here we were really in Greece. A village to ourselves. Here we swam and lived together and but for a little squabble with Vvokko , Marjatta's girl friend, things were great. We often wined and dined in splendour. We barbequed chicken and cooked other delicious dainties eating and watching the sunset on a calm sea outside our window.