

IONIAN: Corfu, Levkas, Cephalonia, Zákynthos and the adjacent mainland coast to Finakounda – Rod and Lucinda Heikell, 9th edition. Published in soft covers by Imray Laurie Norie & Wilson [www.imray.com] at £19.95. 270 246mm x 189mm pages, in full colour throughout. ISBN 978-1-8462-3868-0

The new 9th edition of Ionian has been thoroughly revised. The authors, Rod and Lucinda Heikell, have updated the text and plans, and added helpful new photographs. Like the companion guides West Aegean and East Aegean, Ionian contains detailed information on many of the smaller harbours and anchorages which cannot be covered as comprehensively in Rod Heikell's major guide, Greek Waters Pilot. Ionian covers the coasts and islands south from Corfu to Finakounda and eastwards to Mesolongion.

The Heikells' style is full of ease, and the details of history, religion, geography and food make it so much more than a pilot book. It has, of course, essential and up-to-date sailing information, but also delightful asides about places to visit ashore and insights into travelling around Greece. Cruisers will find valuable additional pilotage when cruising the area, and much more about what they will find when they arrive in a port or anchorage, or even in a smuggler's cove.

Ionian is also coloured by the commentary of a man who has had a love affair with the region for decades and is the acknowledged expert on the area. His notes on how things have changed over the years, and anecdotes about such topics as the 'The Captain Corelli Effect' add a personal touch which makes the places come alive. The background about earthquakes, wars and migrations provides insights beyond what one can see. Together with the detailed sailing instructions and stunning aerial photography, every page beckons one to go there now.

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