Family getaways around Kiato



Around Kiato there are plenty of options for a lovely day with the family, out in nature.

Lakes & birdwatching

Lake Stymphalia with its Environment Museum is perfect for birdwatching and educational walks.

Nature & adventure

The **Katavothres of Feneos**, Lake Doxa and the **Black Pine Forest** offer easy trails and wonderful scenery for young and old.

Find them all on the map.

Step Back in Time at Ancient Sikyona

For families who enjoy blending education with exploration, a visit to Ancient Sikyona is a highlight of the region. Located just a short drive uphill from the modern town of Kiato, this archaeological site offers a sprawling landscape where children can roam freely among the ruins of one of the most important cities of antiquity. Unlike more crowded sites in Greece, Ancient Sikyona provides a peaceful environment where you can truly feel the scale of history.

The centerpiece of the site is the ancient theater, which is carved into the side of a hill. It is one of the largest theaters in ancient Greece, and its impressive size never fails to spark the imagination of young visitors. Standing on the stage or sitting in the stone tiers, kids can imagine the ancient performances that once took place here. The site also includes the remains of a Roman bath, a stadium, and a bouleuterion (council chamber), providing a comprehensive look at how an ancient society functioned. The onsite museum, housed in a beautifully restored Roman building, displays intricate mosaics and sculptures found during excavations, offering a cool indoor break and a chance to see the artistry of the region up close.

The Kryoneri Observatory: Science Under the Stars

Perched in the village of Kryoneri, the Kryoneri Observatory serves as a fascinating destination for families interested in the wonders of the cosmos. As a branch of the National Observatory of Athens, this facility is

located in an area known for its exceptionally clear skies and low light pollution, making it one of the most important astronomical hubs in the country. While the observatory is primarily a research station, it frequently hosts educational events and public stargazing nights designed to inspire the next generation of scientists.

A trip to Kryoneri is more than just a scientific excursion; it is an immersion into the beauty of the Sikyonia highlands. The village itself is charming, with traditional architecture and a central square that offers a slower pace of life. Visiting the observatory allows children to see massive telescopes and learn about the movement of planets and stars in an interactive environment. It is a unique way to spend an evening, turning a family holiday into an astronomical adventure that stretches far beyond the limits of the earth.

Coastal Relaxation and the Kiato Waterfront

The heart of social life for families in the area is the Kiato waterfront. The town serves as a vibrant hub where the sea meets the local community, offering a long, pedestrian-friendly promenade that is ideal for afternoon strolls, bicycle rides, and energetic play. The harbor area is a constant source of fascination for younger children, who can watch the colorful fishing boats come and go, bringing in the catch of the day that often ends up on the plates of the nearby seaside tavernas.

Along the coast, you will find several organized and unorganized spots for a family swim. The waters of the Corinthian Gulf here are generally calm and clear, making them safe for children to splash around in. Many of the beachfront cafes offer sunbeds and shade, allowing parents to relax with a coffee while keeping an eye on the kids. As the sun begins to set, the waterfront transforms into a lively meeting place. The local playgrounds are filled with children, and the scent of grilled seafood fills the air. It is the perfect place to experience the authentic Greek "volta"—the traditional evening walk where families of all generations come together to enjoy the sea breeze and each other's company.

Spiritual Serenity at the Monastery of Lechova

For a family getaway that offers both history and breathtaking views, the Monastery of Lechova is a must-visit. Tucked away on the slopes of Mount Vesiza, this Byzantine-era monastery is dedicated to the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. The drive up to the monastery is an adventure in itself, winding through lush vegetation and offering glimpses of the Corinthian Gulf in the distance. The monastery's stone-built architecture and quiet courtyards provide a sense of peace that is felt by visitors of all ages.

The grounds are meticulously maintained, featuring flower-filled gardens and traditional masonry that reflects the deep religious heritage of Sikyonia. Families can explore the small church with its fine marble floor or simply sit on the stone benches to take in the panoramic views. The surrounding forest offers shaded paths that are perfect for a gentle family hike. It is a place where you can escape the heat of the coast and enjoy the crisp mountain air, making it a refreshing stop during a tour of the inland villages.

Village Life and Rural Traditions

Exploring the smaller villages of the Municipality of Sikyonia, such as Titani, Bozikas, and Gonoussa, offers families a glimpse into the traditional rural lifestyle of Corinthia. These villages are often surrounded by vast vineyards and olive groves, which are the lifeblood of the local economy. A drive through these areas allows families to see the changing seasons of Greek agriculture, from the grape harvest in late summer to the olive pressing in the winter months.

- **Titani:** Home to the ruins of an ancient acropolis, this village is perfect for families who enjoy "treasure hunting" for historical remnants in a natural setting.
- **Bozikas:** Known for its authentic atmosphere, it is a great spot to stop at a local kafenio for a traditional treat while watching the village elders gather in the square.

- **Gonoussa:** Offering spectacular views across the valley, this village is a peaceful retreat where the sounds of nature replace the bustle of the city.

Visiting these villages provides an opportunity for children to interact with a different way of life. Whether it is seeing a shepherd with a flock of sheep or tasting honey produced from local wildflowers, these small moments create lasting memories of the Peloponnesian countryside. The hospitality of the locals is legendary, and it is not uncommon for visitors to be greeted with a smile and a story about the history of their land.

The Chestnut Woods of Kastania

High in the mountains of Sikyonia lies the village of Kastania, which takes its name from the dense chestnut forests that surround it. This area is particularly magical during the autumn months when the leaves turn gold and the forest floor is covered in chestnuts. For families, this is a prime location for nature photography and forest bathing. The air is cool and scented with pine and damp earth, providing a completely different environment from the coastal plains of Kiato.

The forest trails around Kastania are accessible and offer a sensory experience for children, who can collect fallen leaves, identify different types of trees, and perhaps spot local wildlife. The village itself is a cluster of stone houses and cozy guesthouses, making it a popular base for those who want to explore the higher elevations of the municipality. After a walk through the woods, there is nothing better than sitting in a village tavern near a roaring fireplace, enjoying local dishes made with walnuts, honey, and, of course, chestnuts.

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Enjoy Kiato and Sikyonia!