

ESCAPE



OPERATION RALLY
CLASSIC CARS IN THE HIMALAYAS P2-3

DESIGNER LABELS IN RIOJA
FRANK GEHRY'S MODERNIST BODEGA P6

TRAVEL'S TABOO
INSIDE BURMA P7

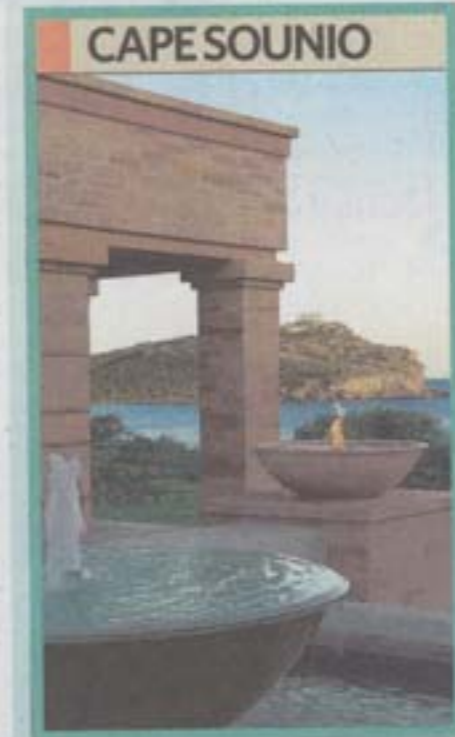
Greece for the weekend

Forget the ferry, new flights bring the islands in reach. **Escape Guide** pages 8-10



Soaking up the delights of Mykonos - on a short break. *Alam*

GREEK ISLANDS



CAPE SOUNIO

NEAR ATHENS

FLIGHTS: Getting to Athens is simple – Easyjet (0871 244 2366; www.easyjet.co.uk) has several flights a day from Gatwick and Luton, from £67 return, BA (0870 8509850; www.ba.com) has three flights a day from Heathrow. From there, a short drive or ferry ride (no more than 90 minutes) opens lots of weekend possibilities:

CAPE SOUNIO

Cape Sounio is the real Greece. Dramatic and beautiful, it's the southernmost point of the European mainland and lies just 38 km from Athens Airport along a scenic coastal road. Visit Poseidon's temple at sunset for an incredible visual experience – the marble really stands out against the cliffs – and the sanctuary of the goddess Athena. Another day, hire a boat from the Olympic Marina 9km away.

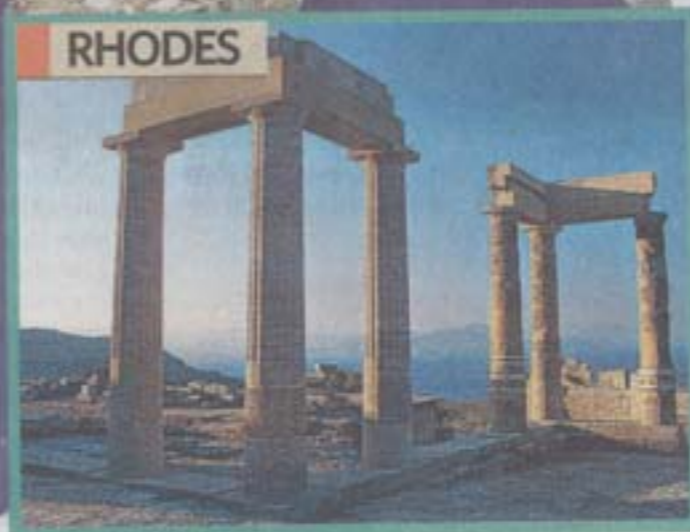
WHERE TO STAY: The five star Grecotel Cape Sounio, pictured top right, (00 30 229 2069 700; www.grecotel.com) is a luxurious modern hotel in chic terracotta, with 124 bungalows large pool, spa and fine dining. Rooms from £296 a night B&B.

HYDRA

The lovely island of Hydra was an artists' colony in the Sixties. It still has a relaxed arty vibe and lies 90 minutes from Athens by ferry (contact the port of Piraeus for details, on 00 30 210 414 7800). Yachties, creative types and Athenians fill the bars of Hydra Town's horseshoe-shaped harbour till the early hours at weekends, but you'll find quieter, more authentic tavernas in the backstreets serving better and cheaper food. Motor vehicles and even bicycles are banned, so be prepared to walk, take a water taxi or a donkey.



MYKONOS



RHODES



HYDRA



MYKONOS ✈️
Flights from Gatwick

HERAKLION ✈️
Flights from Gatwick and Manchester

RHODES ✈️
Flights from Manchester and Gatwick

thomsonfly.com) flies on Wednesdays and Fridays from Gatwick from 19 May from £160 return and from Manchester from 27 June from £200 return.

CRETE

THE ISLAND: Almost a country in its own right, Crete has it all; mountains, great beaches, cosmopolitan towns and more historical sights than you'll ever have time to see on a short break. Escape the bustle of the capital, Heraklion, and go west to Chania, an old walled harbour with bustling shops, an archaeological museum (Halidon Street; 0030 282 109 0334) and a 90-year-old covered market, the Agora.

FLIGHTS: There are two flights a week to Heraklion from Manchester, on Tuesdays and Fridays, and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from Gatwick, with GB Airways (0870 850 9850; www.gbairways.com) from £130 return. Thomsonfly (0870 1900 737; www.thomsonfly.com) has flights on Thursdays and Sundays, from £120 return from Gatwick and from £200 from Manchester.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10