

COSMOPOLITAN

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THROUGH SO
MUCH
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dad's
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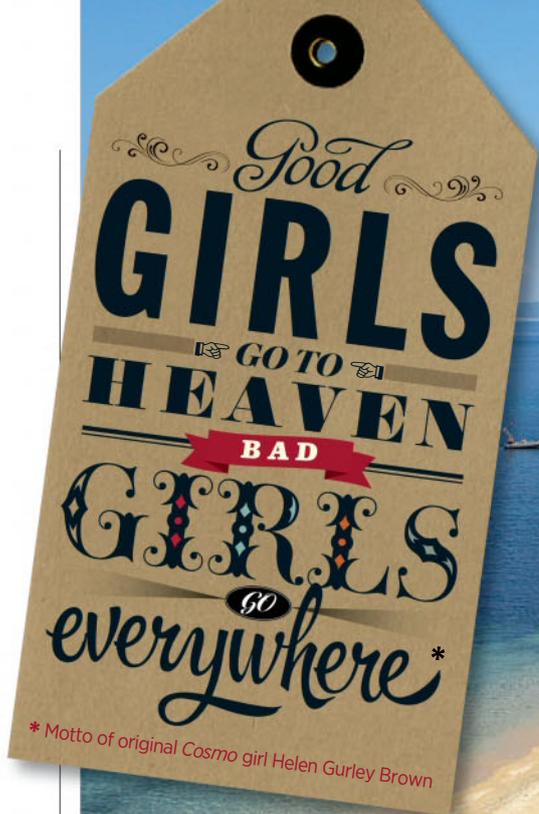
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Baggie the one on the left...

Greece

- IF YOU WANT...**
- Blue seas, blue skies
 - No long-haul flights
 - A holiday for every budget

You'll love...

Halkidiki in Greece. Think craggy hillsides, the smell of pine trees and beautiful beaches. This gorgeous region has holidays for every taste and budget. There are unspoilt villages and traditional harbours, with everything from back-to-basics accommodation to treat-yourself luxury. And take your pick of romantic restaurants, lively tavernas and bars. Then all you have to do is choose between hiking trails inland, and the lure of the sea.

Stay at...

Eagles Palace hotel, just outside the picturesque village of Ouranoupolis, for pure pinch-yourself

pleasure. From a private beach with waiter service to a relaxing Elemis spa, this is somewhere you can combine water sports with totally taking it easy. Cut into the hillside, it boasts a gorgeous pool, amazing views and loads of lounging areas. Your holiday starts here...

Facebrag about...

The service – just press a bell on the beach umbrella, lie back and a waiter with an ice-cold beer, glass of wine or the perfect snack is by your side in moments. You'll deserve it after snorkelling through the



Make ours a mojito

clear waters or scuba-diving with cool sisters Niki and Katerina, who run the beach's diving school. If you're feeling brave, they'll take you by motor boat to a small island to unveil a whole other world beneath the waves. And waterskiing around the bay is not-to-be-missed fun.

Don't leave without...

Taking a boat trip to see Mount Athos – the oldest

surviving monastic community in the world, which is forbidden to women, and which men need a special permit to visit (hence the fact that you view it by boat, often followed by a school of dolphins). The ban applies to all animals on the peninsula too – apart from cats, weirdly. The many hillside monasteries around here – said to be full of riches – look like something from a fairy tale. Stop off on your journey back to the real world for a cooling dive into the sea. Unforgettable.

Book it

Double rooms at Eagles Palace (Eaglespalace.gr) start at around £105 per night. Aegean Airlines (En.aegeanair.com) flies to Thessaloniki via Athens from London Heathrow, Manchester and Birmingham. Ouranoupolis is 120km from the hotel, but the hotel can arrange transfers.

