

Starting bid a low \$286K, but isle has issues



FORGET LIVING THERE:
The uninhabited island of Makri lies in a special protection zone of Greece and the European Union, making building any kind of infrastructure quite difficult.

By BROOKE STEINBERG

If you've ever dreamed of owning a private island, now's your chance — for less than the price of many US homes.

An uninhabited Greek island called Makri was originally put up for sale with a value of about \$9.2 million back in 2022, but now its auction price starts around a mere \$286,000.

That asking price is lower than the average price of a home in the US, which is \$514,600, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data.

The 243-acre land mass, located in the Ionian Sea, is the fifth-largest island in the Enchinades archipelago and has a jagged coastline, clear blue waters, and sunshine for most of the year.

But naturally, there's a catch. Whoever takes ownership of Makri would inherit a backlog of tax claims and debt attached to the island — including some from the Greek state of at least around \$23.2 million.

Tough to build

And don't expect to make that money with a luxury resort.

In 2022, the island was listed for \$9.2 million and pitched as a prime location for getaways



OWN A PIECE OF GREECE

with a five-star hotel and private villas.

Makri was advertised as a private island with a "mature" legal framework for development projects with clear ownership titles and being "immediately available for transfer."

But that was incorrect. Makri was wrongly classified as a private forest, but it lies within a special protection zone of Greece.

That means that any development proposals would

be prohibited.

Makri also falls under Natura 2000, an ecological protection network for areas across the European Union, and building any kind of infrastructure would require approval by presidential decree.

Essentially, with all these rules, the private island can be used only for agricultural purposes and would need a costly, bureaucratic struggle to install electricity, water and waste disposal.

Islands for Sale in Greece

Latest listing added: November, 2023

Island #1 (€8,000,000)



'Gap year' appealing to workers

"Gap years," once taken solely by college grads who yearned for an intentional break between graduation and full-time work to figure out their lives, are being re-defined by today's burned-out Gen Z and millennials, who are seeking an out from the corporate grind.

With some planning and saved-up money, working young adults, like Julia Fei, 29, are swapping the grind-set mindset for "adult gap years" or "mini-retirements" to keep their sanity.

After budgeting and squirrelling away money for the last several years, the

29-year-old "took a leap of faith" two months ago and quit her cushy, well-paying job without a backup plan.

Risky is exactly what taking an adult gap year is — but financial strategist and founder of Beyond The Green Coaching, AJ Schneider, believes that with some

planning, anyone can do it.

Fei is among a slew of people her age who are seeking a life reset. A staggering 74% of Gen Z and millennials admitted to experiencing moderate to high levels of burnout, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Brooke Steinberg

Ma bust in school furor

An outraged mother of a special-needs student was hauled off in handcuffs after shouting at the Jersey City Board of Education Thursday night and refusing to leave, video of the incident shows.

Emily Pecot was arrested Thursday night and charged with disorderly conduct after she and other moms

demanding the school board reform its special-ed programs and limit students' screen time in the classroom, the Jersey City Times first reported.

The Jersey City Police Department and the Board of Education did not respond to The Post's request for additional information on Friday.

Patrick Reilly