

Some prefer the beach at **Ayia Paraskevi**, which is smaller and more private because it's so closely bordered by pine trees. Located here are a cantina and **Villa Yasemia**, residence of The Magus himself. West over some rocks is the island's official nudist beach. **Zogeria** is on the northwest coast, with a few places to eat and some pretty rocky coves for swimming. West of Spetses town, **Paradise beach** is crowded, littered, and to be avoided.

WHERE TO STAY

Finding a good, quiet, centrally located room in spread-out Spetses is not easy. If you are planning a lengthy stay, check out **Hotel Nissia** (☎ 22980/75-000; www.nissia.gr), open all year. It has 40 rooms and flats clustered to simulate traditional residences around a pool. Doubles cost from 120€ (\$156). The hotel is a 5-minute walk from the center of Spetses town. Another centrally located possibility: **Zoe's Club** (☎ 22980/74-447; www.zoesclub.gr), in a nicely restored 19th-century building with a modern addition. Zoe's good-size apartments come with one to three bedrooms. Units cost from 125€ (\$163).

Hotel Faros *Value* Though there's no *faros* (lighthouse) nearby, this older hotel shares the busy central square with a Taverna Faros, a Faros Pizzeria, and other establishments whose tables and chairs curb the flow of vehicular traffic. Try for the top floor, where the simple, comfortable, twin-bedded rooms are quietest, with balcony views of the island.

Plateia Kentriki (Central Sq.), 18050 Spetses. ☎ 22980/72-613. Fax 22980/74-728. 50 units. 75€ (\$98) double. No credit cards. **Amenities:** Breakfast room.

Hotel Posidonion ★★ The landmark Poseidon (as we would spell it) is a grand and gracious hotel that was built in 1911 and, under new management, was completely renovated in the early 1990s. This Belle Epoque classic boasts two grand pianos in its lobby and the statue of Bouboulina guarding the plaza in front. The spacious, high-ceilinged guest rooms are sparsely but elegantly furnished; the old-fashioned bathrooms have large tubs. The view over the harbor from the tall front windows is superb.

Dapia, 18050 Spetses. ☎ 22980/72-208 or 22980/72-006. Fax 22980/72-208. 55 units. 85€–120€ (\$111–\$156) double; 140€ (\$182) double with sea view. Rates include breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Orloff Resort ★★ This glitzy resort, built in 1975 and totally renovated in 2004, occupies the land and some of the buildings of the 1865 Orloff estate. It's a kilometer out of town by the beach, and has its own pool as well as great extras such as tennis and an exercise room. The restaurant is good, too. This would be a great place to spend a relaxing week on Spetses. It's popular with Greek families, many of whom return year after year.

18050 Spetses. ☎ 22980/75-444. www.orloffresort.com. 22 units. 90€–190€ (\$117–\$247) double; 160€–290€ (\$208–\$377) maisonette for 4; 190€–335€ (\$247–\$435) suite for 4. Rates include breakfast. DC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; pool; tennis. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, safe.

Star Hotel ★ *Value* This blue-shuttered, five-story hotel—the best in its price range—is flanked by a pebble mosaic, making it off-limits to vehicles. All guest rooms have balconies, the front ones with views of the harbor. Each large bathroom has a tub, shower, and bidet. Breakfast is available a la carte in the large lobby.

Plateia Dapia, 18050 Spetses. ☎ 22980/72-214 or 22980/72-728. Fax 22980/72-872. 37 units. 85€ (\$111) double. No credit cards. **Amenities:** Breakfast room.