

# GREECE Cyclades

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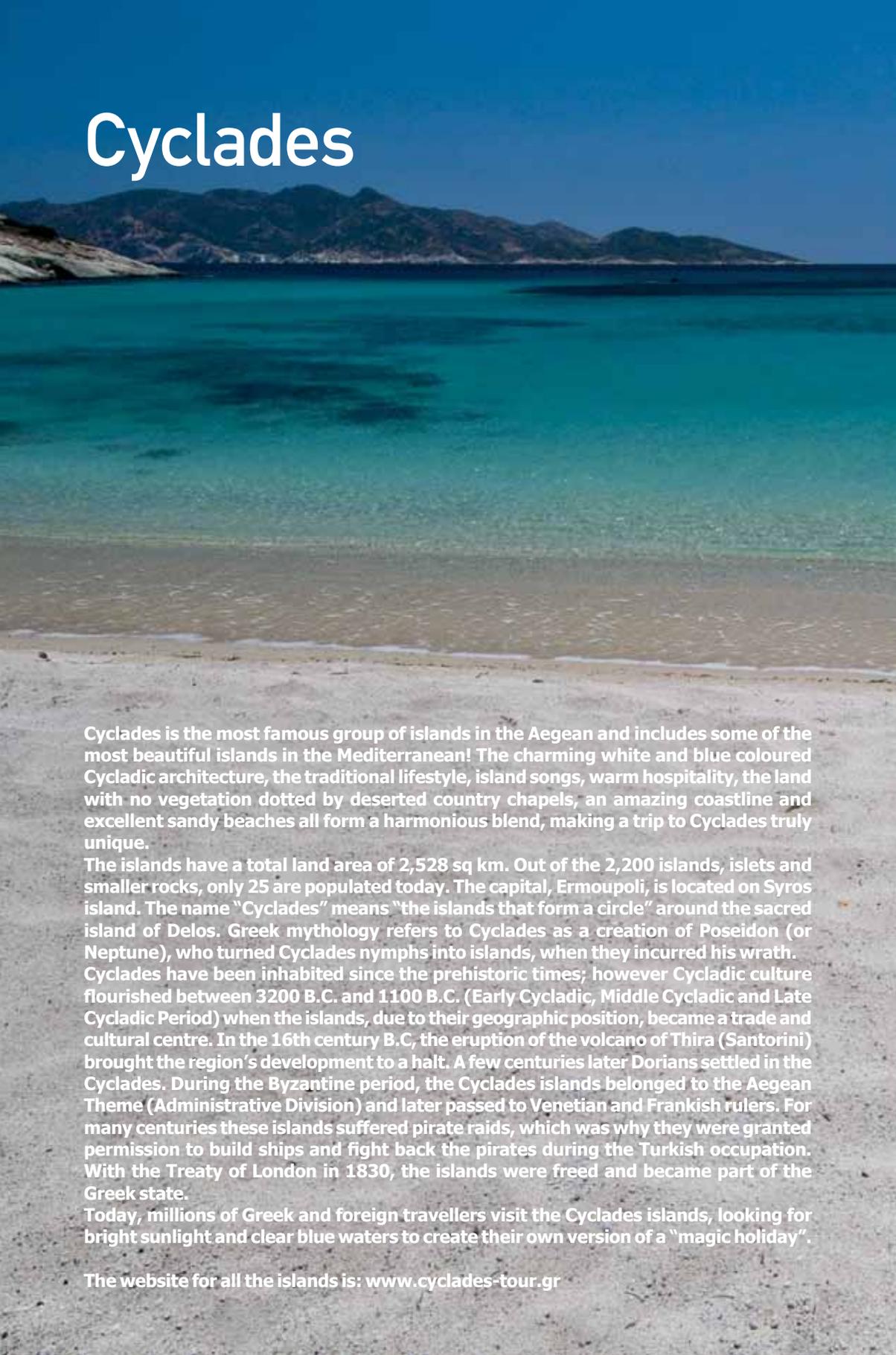






GREECE

# Cyclades

A scenic view of a beach with turquoise water and mountains in the background. The water is a vibrant blue-green, and the sky is a clear, deep blue. The mountains in the distance are dark and rugged. The beach in the foreground is sandy and light-colored.

Cyclades is the most famous group of islands in the Aegean and includes some of the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean! The charming white and blue coloured Cycladic architecture, the traditional lifestyle, island songs, warm hospitality, the land with no vegetation dotted by deserted country chapels, an amazing coastline and excellent sandy beaches all form a harmonious blend, making a trip to Cyclades truly unique.

The islands have a total land area of 2,528 sq km. Out of the 2,200 islands, islets and smaller rocks, only 25 are populated today. The capital, Ermoupoli, is located on Syros island. The name "Cyclades" means "the islands that form a circle" around the sacred island of Delos. Greek mythology refers to Cyclades as a creation of Poseidon (or Neptune), who turned Cyclades nymphs into islands, when they incurred his wrath. Cyclades have been inhabited since the prehistoric times; however Cycladic culture flourished between 3200 B.C. and 1100 B.C. (Early Cycladic, Middle Cycladic and Late Cycladic Period) when the islands, due to their geographic position, became a trade and cultural centre. In the 16th century B.C, the eruption of the volcano of Thira (Santorini) brought the region's development to a halt. A few centuries later Dorians settled in the Cyclades. During the Byzantine period, the Cyclades islands belonged to the Aegean Theme (Administrative Division) and later passed to Venetian and Frankish rulers. For many centuries these islands suffered pirate raids, which was why they were granted permission to build ships and fight back the pirates during the Turkish occupation. With the Treaty of London in 1830, the islands were freed and became part of the Greek state.

Today, millions of Greek and foreign travellers visit the Cyclades islands, looking for bright sunlight and clear blue waters to create their own version of a "magic holiday".

The website for all the islands is: [www.cyclades-tour.gr](http://www.cyclades-tour.gr)



*2. The Cyclades islands boast some amazing sandy beaches washed by crystal-clear waters. This is Agios Georgios beach on Kimolos Island.*

# Kea (Tzia)



*3. Panoramic view of Ioulida.*

**K**ea or Tzia is a beautiful Cyclades island and one of the most popular destinations because of its proximity to the eastern coast of Attica. It has an area of 130.5 sq. km., a coastline of 81.5 km and a population of 2,420. The island is endowed with ever-changing scenery: steep mountains, small fields, olive groves, vineyards, ravines, picturesque coves and secluded beaches. It was inhabited for the first time in the Late Neolithic era (3300 - 3200 BC) and experienced a period of cultural development during the Bronze Age. During the Archaic period (7th-6th c. B.C.) four city-states were founded (Ioulida, Karthaia, Korissia, Poiessa) which communicated via an intricate network of pathways. During the byzantine period, the largest residential growth took place in the area around Ioulida. Kea was occupied by the Ottoman Turks from 1566 until 1821. It experienced great prosperity in the following period as a result of the opening of mines and factories and the creation of a busy trading port on the island. Nowadays, there are growing residential neighbourhoods and rising numbers of tourists on the island.

## Chora Keas (Ioulida) 1

The capital of Kea, Ioulida, is located in the centre of the island, built on the site of the ancient town by the same name. It is a picturesque town of traditional houses with ceramic tile roofs, alleys paved with cobblestones, small squares, *stegadia* (arcaded alleys) and lots of steps along the narrow streets.

### Promenade in Chora

- To **Ancient Ioulida**, the capital of Kea from the Late Roman to the early Byzantine times.
- To the **Archaeological Museum** with interesting collections dating from prehistoric as well as historical times.
- To the 13th c. **mediaeval castle** - displaying ancient wall built-in material.
- To the **neoclassical buildings** of the elementary school (19th c.) and the town hall (1902), designed by architect Ernst Ziller.
- To the **centuries-old plane tree** and the marble fountain at the entrance of Ioulida.
- To see the **paintings** of the famous Greek painter Alekos Fassianos, in one of the arcaded alleys (*stegadia*) in the capital's central square.
- To the churches of **Panagia (Virgin Mary) Chrysospiliotissa, Evangelismos**



**(Annunciation), Agios (Saint) Spyridonas, Panagia Revmatiani, Agios Dimitrios and Panagia Gamila.**

- To the **Lion of Ioulida**, a colossal plastic art monument, carved in bedrock (7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> c. BC).
- To **Episkopi's Monastery**, southeast of Ioulida, featuring a particular architectural style.
- To **Agia (Saint) Anna's Monastery**, east of Ioulida with its main church dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- To **Dafni's Monastery**, west of Ioulida. It was founded by Agia [Saint] Filothei the Athenian (1522-1589).
- To the **Tower of Agia Marina**, next to the church by the same name (4<sup>th</sup> c. BC).

### Trips around the island

## Korissia 2

Korissia, also called Livadi, is the port of Kea, located on the west side of the island. It is particularly picturesque and cosmopolitan, with many shops, bars, cafés, restaurants and wonderful sandy beaches.

**Distance from Ioulida:** 5.5 km NW.

### Must see:



- The old **"Emaye"** (meaning Enamel) plant,

5. The "lion of Kea" located northeast of Ioulida.



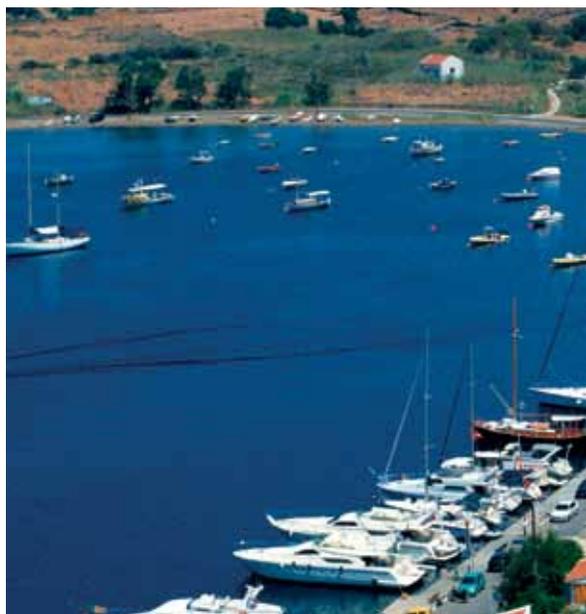


and its characteristic chimney, where old factory machinery is displayed.

- **Agia Triada's (Holy Trinity) church.**
- **Ancient Korissia**, built on two hills, with significant finds in the lower and upper acropolis. The famous *Kouros of Kea* (530 BC), discovered in the burial ground, is one of the most important sculptures of archaic times.
- The Fleha Spring, at **Mylopotamos** village.

### Vourkari 3

Vourkari is a seaside village, built in an amphitheatrical formation, offering a lovely sea view. It is located near Korissia and it is a cosmopolitan town





7. Otzias beach and village.

with its pier full of yachts in the summer. There are famous galleries and fish restaurants in the area. Vourkari is the centre of Kea's nightlife. **Distance from Ioulida:** 7.5 km NW.

#### Must see:



- The particularly significant **prehistoric settlement of Agia Eirini** and its promontory on the northern side of Agios Nikolaos bay, where a great number of statues were found dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> c. BC.

6. General view from Vourkari.



- **Lamprou Katsoni Strait.**
- **Faros** (Lighthouse), on cape Agios Nikolaos.

## Otzias

4

Otzias is a coastal village in the northern part of the island, stretching along the sandy beachfront with tamarisks. In the area of Cape Kefalas there is a settlement and cemetery identified to be dating back to the Late Neolithic period (3300-3200 BC). **Distance from Ioulida:** 10 km N.

8. Interior of Vourkariani gallery (in Vourkari).



### Must see:



- The **Neolithic settlement** of Kefalas.
- The monastery of **Panagia Kastriani**, 7 km E., built on a steep rock, offering a magnificent view of the surrounding area.

### Pisses

5

Pisses is a picturesque seaside village built in a cove with its lovely sandy beach facing a plain with vegetable gardens. This is the location of **Poiïessa**, an ancient town dating back to the 6th c. BC, the ruins of which can be seen in the area. **Distance from Ioulida:** 11.5 km SW.

### Koundouros

6

Koundouros is located on the west side of the island, with beautiful bays and small sandy beaches. Many old windmills have been renovated and turned into residences.

**Distance from Ioulida:** 15 km. SW.

### Must see:



- The ruins of **ancient Karthea**, on Poles [pronounced *Póless*] bay to the southeast.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> c. church of **Agioi Apostoloi**, in Kato Meria.



9. Panagia Kastriani's Monastery is the island's most important place of worship.





10. Ancient Karthaia: notice the temple of Pythius Apollo (530 BC) to the south and the Doric temple of Athena (end of 6th – beginning of 5th c. BC) to the north.

## Events

- Simonideia - cultural events including theatrical plays, concerts and sporting events taking place in Ioulida on August 1<sup>st</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>.
- Traditional Carols, on New Year's Eve.
- Agios Charalampos' feast (the patron saint of Kea), on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A large carnival parade and a meal offered in Ioulida, as the last Carnival event.
- Metamorfosis tou Sotiros' Feast (Transfiguration of Christ) in Pisses on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Agios Sozon's Feast in Otzias on September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Agios Aimilianos' Feast at Koundouros bay on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Agia Marina's Feast on July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Panagia Kastriani's Feast on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Water sports.
- Fishing.
- Diving.
- Hiking (there are hiking trails on the island with a total length of 36 km 65% of which are paved).
- Dirt bike riding.
- Swimming in Koundouros, Pisses, Gialiskari and Otzias. Sykamia, Spathi, Xyla, Kefala, Treis Ammoudies, Melissaki, Mavrabeli, Kalogiros and Vroskopos are fairly secluded beaches.
- Camping in Pisses.

### Useful phone numbers (+30) ☎

- **Kea Municipal office:** 22883-60.000
- **Police station:** 22880-21.100
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22880-22.200
- **Port Authority:** 22880-21.344
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22880-22.079

Website: [www.kea.gr](http://www.kea.gr)

11. Kea boasts a rich cultural tradition.



# Kythnos



*12. General view of the village and the harbour of Merichas.*

**A**lthough Kythnos (also named Thermia - due to its hot springs) is one of those Cyclades islands closest to Attica, it remains one of the less known areas of the Aegean. Merichas - the port of the island, Chora - the capital, Loutra and Dryopida are all located in the northern part. The southern part of Kythnos is almost uninhabited, the only exception being the area of Panagia Kanala and the small bay of Agios Dimitrios. The island has 65 lovely beaches (dirt roads leading to most of them) and typical Cyclades landscapes with bare and dry hills, surrounded by dry stone walls stretching for many kilometres. The island is dotted with 350 picturesque snow-white country chapels and in the villages there are narrow streets paved with cobblestones, snow-white houses, squares, churches and windmills. Dryopes or Dryopians, came from Evvoia (or Euboea) island and settled on Kythnos during the 10<sup>th</sup> c. BC. The island flourished in classical times and contributed a trireme (ancient greek galley) in the naval battle of Salamina. The island shared the historical fate of the rest of the Cyclades islands: in 1204 it came under Venetian rule, to be occupied later by the Turks. In 1830 it joined the newly formed Greek state. The island's area is 99 sq. km, its coastline is 111 km, and there are 1,600 inhabitants.

## Chora (Mesaria) 1

Chora, also known as Mesaria, is the capital town of Kythnos island, its houses arranged on a hillside as if in an amphitheatre. It was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and has been populated ever since. This is one of the most beautiful villages in the Cyclades islands, an enchanting aggregate of snow-white houses, narrow stone-laid streets, whitewashed terraces and several small churches and windmills.

### Promenade in Chora

- To the **Memorial** at the entrance of the town.
- To the 17<sup>th</sup> c. **Agios Savvas' Church** with its remarkable wood carved iconostasis.
- To the church of **Metamorfosis tou Sotira (Transfiguration of Christ)**, with its 17<sup>th</sup> century iconostasis and Agia Triada (Holy Trinity) church, the oldest one on the island, with ancient pieces of sculpture bearing inscriptions.
- To the **Byzantine Museum**, at the post-Byzantine church of Agios Georgios.
- To the **Monastery of Panagia tou Nikous**. The basement of the monastery had housed a secret school (during the Turkish occupation).
- To the **wind farm**, NE of Chora. It has been the first wind plant in Greece.

## Trips around the island

### Loutra (meaning Baths) 2

Loutra is the island's most popular and modern resort. The area is famous for its hot springs that are unique in all Cyclades islands and their therapeutic properties have been known since ancient times. There are two hot springs: *Agioi Anargyroi spring*, located in a spa, and the *Spring of Caucasus*, situated 50 m. away from the first one, its temperature reaching 52° C. Loutra is the location of the mediaeval capital town of Kythnos, destroyed by the Turks around 1570. In the greater Kefalokastro area you can see the ruins of Oria Castle, in a spectacular natural setting.  
**Distance from Chora:** 5.5 km N.

#### Must see:



- **Kythnos' hot springs** (Spa).
- **Oria Castle**, near Cape Kefalos, at the northern part of the island.
- **Agioi Anargyroi** church and the mineral spring waters gushing in front of it.
- **Kakavos**, the mineral water spring.
- **Skala metalleiou**, once a bridge for loading iron ore in the port.
- **The tower of Mazarakis**.

13. Loutra extends around a picturesque cove, a mooring place for fishing boats and yachts.





14. Present-day Vryokastro is the location of the ancient town of Kythnos.





15. Dryopida is widely considered to be the most beautiful village on Kythnos.

- **Agrokipio**, a wooded area with eucalyptus and cypress trees.
- **Potamia**, an area with picturesque beaches.
- **Agios Georgios'** church and the small church **of Stavros (Cross)**.

• The sea caves **Kavospilia** (north) and **Legamena** (east).

• **Vryokastro**, the ancient capital of Kythnos, in the Apokrasi area, 7.5 km W.

Towards the coastal side, traces can be seen of the ancient town's *agora* (market place). It was inhabited until the Roman times.

There are also ruins of walls, foundations of temples, altars and three caves that were used as cisterns for collecting water.

• **Kolona**, (3 km W. of Chora), a lovely location with extensive sandy beaches. It was named after the characteristic strip of sand (*Kolona* meaning column / strip) connecting the small island of Agios Loukas with Kythnos. On the small island you can see the ruins of an ancient settlement.

## Merichas

3

Merichas is a picturesque village and the island's port. It is built in a protected cove next to a beautiful sandy beach. **Distance from Chora:** 7 km SW.

### Must see:



- The small church of **Agioi Akindynoi**, offering a beautiful view of the harbour.
- **Faros** (lighthouse), at the harbour's entrance.

## Dryopida

4

Dryopida is located on the southern side of Kythnos island. The area has been inhabited since the ancient times by the Dryopians, the island's first settlers, and has kept its old name. It is a traditional and particularly picturesque village, with two-storeyed houses, and ceramic tile roofs. **Distance from Chora:** 12 km S.

### Must see:



- Agios Minas' church, with its elaborate wood



16. Agios Eleimonas' church on a rocky islet in Naousa-Kouri-Zogkaki area.

carved iconostasis and the hierarchical (bishop's) throne.

- The churches of **Agia Anna**, **Agioi Apostoloi**, **Agios Panteleimonas** and **Agia Triada** with their beautiful iconostases and icons.
- **Mnimeio Pesonton (Fighters' Memorial)**.
- **Katafyki Cave**, one of the largest in Greece, featuring an abundance of stalactite and stalagmite formations.
- The **Folk Art Museum**.
- The small **Byzantine Museum** housed in Agios Georgios' church.
- The outdoor **theatre**, a venue for various cultural events.

## Panagia Kanala 5

A coastal village, built around the island's only pine forest. The area was named after the church of Panagia Kanala, the island's patron saint. It is built in a magnificent location and its architectural style is exceptional. According to tradition, the icon of Panagia was found in a canal and is said to have been painted by Luke the Apostle. The most likely version, however, is that it was painted by the Cretan artist Antonis Skordilis. **Distance from Chora:** 17.5 km S.

## Agios Dimitrios 6

Agios Dimitrios is a small village by the sea, located near Panagia Kanala, built in a beautiful location with lovely beaches. **Distance from Chora:** 24 km S.



17. Taxiarchis' church, north of Dryopida.



**Must see:**

- **Panagia Stratolatissa's** monastery.
- **Agia Eirini's** country chapel, overlooking the village.

## Events

- Feasts taking place at the Monastery of Panagia tou Nikous on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and at the church of Profitis Ilias on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Carnival celebration.
- "Kythneia"; Cultural events taking place in the island's villages during the summer months.



18. Kythnos numbers many beautiful beaches set in a pristine natural environment.

- Agios Charalampos' Feast on February 10<sup>th</sup>, Agia Triada Feast, and Profitis Ilias' Feast on July 20<sup>th</sup> in Chora.
- Agia Eirini's Feast taking place on the village's beach on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Diving.
- Hiking.
- Spear Fishing.
- Dirt bike riding.



19. Thyme honey is one of the island's top quality products.

- Mountain bike.
- Wind surfing.
- Water sports.
- Swimming at Kolona, Agios Dimitrios, the beaches of Merichas and Martinakia. Try also Kalo Livadi, Antonides, Gaidouromantra, Si Mou Si, Skylou, Flampouria, Alyki, Styfos, Petousa, Divlaka and Trivlaka. From Dryopida you can reach the nearby sandy beaches of Lefkes, Kalo Limani and Agios Stefanos. In the greater Loutra area you can swim at the beaches of Schoinari, Maroula, Kavourocheri, Potamia, Mikra Potamia, Sarantou and Agios Sostis.
- Visiting the hot springs.

## Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Kythnos Municipal office:**  
22813-61.100
- **Dryopida Community office:**  
22810-32.230
- **Municipal Tourist Office:**  
22810-32.250
- **Police station:** 22810-31.201
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22810-31202
- **Port Authority:** 22810-32.290
- **Hot springs (Baths):**  
22810-31.217, 22810-31.460

Website: [www.kythnos.gr](http://www.kythnos.gr)



20. Kolona is one of the most charming beaches in Cyclades. Agios Loukas' church is to the right.



# Serifos



*21. Serifos' Chora is made up of two quarters: Epano Chora and Kato Chora.*

**S**erifos is a typical Cyclades island, ideal for relaxed vacations, featuring tranquil little harbours, snow-white villages and golden sandy beaches, as well as steep masses of rock, hills with no vegetation and extraordinary scenery. It is situated between Kythnos and Sifnos, and its traditional island features have remained unaltered thanks to a moderate tourism growth. According to mythology, Perseus arrived on the coast of Serifos with his mother, Danae, locked up in a chest. To punish Polydekkis, king of Serifos, he killed Medusa the Gorgon and showed him the severed head; that resulted in Polydekkis turning into stone. In the land of Serifos there are valuable mineral resources which brought great prosperity to the island especially after the 6<sup>th</sup> c. BC. During the Medic Wars the islanders battled against the Persians and joined the Delian League. Later, the island was conquered by the Macedonians, then by the Ptolemies and finally by the Romans. After the conquest of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204, Serifos was ceded to Venetian nobles. In 1537, it was captured by the Turkish admiral Barbarossa, and from 1770 until 1774 it was occupied by the Russians. After 1821 it was liberated along with the rest of the Cyclades. Island area: 75 sq. km, coastline: 82 km, population: 1,420 people.

22. Piatsa square: the 19th c. Agios Athanasios' church is to the left and the Town Hall (also housing the Archeological Collection) is in the centre.



chapel of Agia Sofia, at the Castle.

- To the remarkable post-Byzantine churches of **Agios** [Saint] **Athanasios** (Metropolitan church), **Evangelismos** (Annunciation), **Agios Eleftherios** and **Agios Konstantinos**.
- To the renovated **windmills**.
- In **Paspari** - a fountain decorated with arches.
- To **Vrysses**
- To **Agios** [Saint] **Sostis** coastal village and the small church of said saint, and to **Lias Bay**, 6.5 km E.
- To **Agios Ioannis** coastal village and the small church dedicated to said saint, situated 8 km NE.

## Trips around the island

### Livadi

2

The port of Serifos is an important commercial and financial centre. The town extends by the beach, next to small cultivated fields. The snow-white houses and the green of the fields surrounding them create a unique landscape. It is the island's most popular resort area with a great variety of night clubs. Panagia church and Spathi lighthouse are located at **Livadakia**, 500 m. away from Livadi. **Distance from Chora: 4.5 km SE.**

23. Local silver Stater [coin] (530 BC) depicting a frog (Numismatic Museum, Athens).

### Chora Serifou

1

The capital town of Serifos resembles a fortress and has been built in an amphitheatrical formation on a hillside overlooking the bay and Livadi, in order to be able to repel the pirates who raided the area up to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is the most beautiful and picturesque village of the island. Little white houses, with very small rooms, dotting the top of the hill, create a very charming picture.



24. Yard of a traditional house in Chora.

## Promenade in Chora

- In **Piatsa**, a picturesque marble-laid square in the heart of the town, where the **Town Hall** (1907) is also located.
- To the **Archaeological Collection**, where antiquities of the Late Hellenistic and Roman periods are exhibited.
- To the **Folk Art Museum**, in Kato Chora.
- To the **Venetian castle's** ruins on the hilltop.
- To the church of **Christos** (Christ) and the





25. Livadi is the island's sheltered harbour, a spot preferred for mooring yachts and fishing boats in the summer.





26. Spathi lighthouse (1901), at the island's southern tip.

## Panagia

3

Its white houses have been built on mountainous terrain affording a spectacular view of the inland. The village covers the area around the historic **Byzantine church of Panagia** dating to 950-1000. There are excellent murals and sculptures

in it that date back to 1300. It is worth visiting the nearby church of Agios Stefanos where traces of Byzantine murals can be seen. **Distance from Chora:** 6 km NW.

## Moni Taxiarchon

4

Moni Taxiarchon is considered to be Serifos' most important monument. The monastery was built in a fortress style in 1449. It suffered many pirate raids in the past because of its accumulated wealth. Notice the iconostasis, the wood-carved bishop's throne as well as the Alexandrian Epitaphios (an embroidered cloth icon of Christ prepared for burial). A visit to the Monastery is possible upon consultation with the Abbot. **Distance from Chora:** 9.5 km N.

## Megalo Livadi

5

Megalo Livadi is a picturesque harbour with a beautiful beach. Although today there are few residents, it was once the island's major port for mineral exports (19<sup>th</sup> century). There is a mining tradition having its roots in the antiquity, as there are references of the island's rich deposits of gold and iron. **Distance from Chora:** 10.5 km SW.

### Must see:



- The remarkable **post-Byzantine churches** of the area, such as Agios Nikolaos and Agios



Ioannis Prodromos, with notable 17<sup>th</sup> c. murals.

- The **memorial to the four miners** who were executed during the 1916 strike claiming an 8-hour workday and better conditions at work.
- The abandoned **mines of gold**, iron and copper, next to deserted mansions and workers housing units. Remains of rusty rails, transport wagons and storage silos can be seen in the old mine.
- The neighbouring **Megalo Chorio**, the island's major centre during the period 1880-1912.

## Koutalas

6

The coastal village of Koutalas is built in an area with a wonderful natural environment and beaches. **Distance from Chora:** 11.5 km SW.

*27. Panagia Skopiani's church located in the picturesque Kentarchos village area.*



### Must see:



- **Kastro tis Grias** (Castle of the Old Lady), on a small hill, looking down over Koutalas.
- **Spilaio tou Koutala** (Koutalas Cave), with stalagmites and stalactites in strange shapes.
- **Aspros Pyrgos** (White Tower), a circular marble building of the Late Classical period.

### Events

- Feast of Xylopanagia on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Feasts of Agios Athanasios on January 18<sup>th</sup>, and of Evangelistria on March 25<sup>th</sup>, in Chora.
- Feast of Panagia tou Vounou on September 8<sup>th</sup>, in Avessalos.
- Feast of Panagia Liomantra.
- Feast of Agios Ioannis Prodromos on August 29<sup>th</sup> and of Agia Thekla on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Liomantra.

### Activities on the island

- Pedalo riding.
- Wind surfing.
- Swimming at Lia, Kalo Ampeli, Agios Sostis, Agios Ioannis and at Psili Ammos. One can also swim at Karavi, Malliadiko, Koutalas, at the long

28. Psili Ammos beach.



walk), and also from Koutalas to Aspros Pyrgos (White Tower) (55 min. walk).

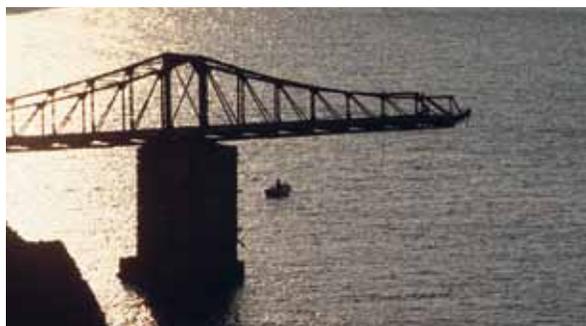
- Mountain biking.
- Camping at Livadakia.

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Serifos Municipal office:** 22810-51.210
- **Police station:** 22810-51.300
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22810-51.202
- **Port Authority:** 22810-51.470
- **Moni Taxiarchon:** 22810-51.027
- **Archaeological Collection:** 22810-52.611
- **Folk Art Museum:** 22810- 51.138

website: [www.serifos.gr](http://www.serifos.gr)

29. The old bridge for loading iron ore in Megalo Livadi.



sandy beach of Livadi, at the beaches of Megalo Livadi and Livadakia, in the area of Ladi, at Avlomonas, Platys Gialos and Sykamia.

- Diving.
- Spear Fishing.
- 4x4 vehicle off road rides.
- Hiking from Chora to Elikodromio (Helipad) (30 min. walk) and towards Livadi (50 min.

30. The White Tower, northwest of Koutalas.







31. Serifos' Chora at sun-setting.  
*Perched on a crag, it offers a clear view of the surrounding land and the Aegean Sea.*

# Sifnos



*32. Chrysopigi's monastery is one of Sifnos' most famous sights. The area's turquoise waters are particularly popular with tourists.*

**T**raditional whitewashed village houses, countless churches, picturesque dovecotes, windmills and beaches with crystalline seawaters make up the image of Sifnos. The island flourished in ancient times, thanks to the gold and silver mines and quarries of «Sifnios lithos» (a local stone). From 1687 until 1854 it was an important cultural centre and provided the location for the renowned School of Agios Tafos (Holy Sepulchre), known as **Paideftirion tou Archipelagous** (The Archipelago Educational Establishment). The island has a long tradition in pottery and there are many ceramics and pottery workshops open today. Sifnos is located between Serifos and Milos. The island's area is 74 sq. km, its coastline is 71 km long and there are 2,450 residents.

## Apollonia 1

Apollonia has been the island's capital town since 1936. The name Apollonia denotes a town dedicated to the worship of Apollo. This is the geographical centre of the island and the houses are arranged on three low hills - as if in an amphitheatre - following the charming Cyclades architectural style.

### Promenade in Apollonia

- To the **Folk Art Museum**, located in Iroou Square, and exhibiting objects relating of the island's traditional life.
- To the **old schools** of Agios Artemios.
- To the monastery of **Agios Artemios** (1629), a dependency of Simonopetra Monastery of Mount Athos (Agion Oros).
- To **Panagia Ouranofora's** church where you will view impressive old icons and a gilded iconostasis.
- To **Profitis Ilias'** monastery (1145-1890), on the highest peak of Profitis Ilias mountain (680 m), where education was provided on religious icon painting.
- To **Agios Ioannis Mougos'** monastery - situated on the northern slope of the mountain.
- To **Kato Petali**, 1 km east, and its remarkable church of **Zoodochos Pigi** (Fountain of Life)



(1894). The historic monastery of Agios Ioannis Chrysostomos (1550) lies to the east.

### Trips around the island

## Katavati 2

In Katavati, visit the three-aisled conical domed church of **Panagia Angelochtisti**, built – according to tradition – by angels who celebrate mass there. Fyrogeion monastery (16<sup>th</sup> c.) is situated south of the village. **Distance from Apollonia:** about 1 km SW.

## Exampela 3

Exampela is a village in central Sifnos. Rows of about ten windmills called «Arades» are situated at its entrance. This is the native village of the poet and academic Aristomenis Provelengios (1850-1936) and Nikolaos Tselementes (1878-1958), the great Greek teacher of culinary and confectionery art. On your way to Faros (the Lighthouse), do visit the monastery of Panagia Vrysiani (1642), which houses a Museum of Ecclesiastical Art. **Distance from Apollonia:** about 1 km S.

## Artemonas 4

Artemonas is the second largest village of Sifnos,

34. Traditional architecture is Apollonia's strongpoint.





- The village of **Agios Loukas or Ai Loukas**. Visit the church and side chapel (called *dual hypostasis* church) dedicated to Panagia ta Gournia and Agios Nikolaos. Notice the murals painted by Agapios, a local great iconographer (icon painter). From Kamaroti district, you can enjoy the view of central Sifnos up to area of Kastro.

## Kastro

5

Kastro is an astonishingly beautiful fortified village that maintains its mediaeval structure intact and its old mansions. It used to be the island's old capital from classical antiquity until 1836. The dense structure of buildings highlights the village's defensive nature. **Distance from Apollonia:** 3 km E.

### Must see:



- **Lozies**, the Castle's old entrances - galleries.
- The churches of **Agios Stefanos** and **Agios Ioannis** (1629), at the village's entrance. This was the location of the once famous School of the Holy Sepulchre which ran from 1687 to 1835, and became known as «Paideftirion tou Archipelagous» (the Archipelago's Educational Establishment).
- The **Archaeological Museum**, where a collection of sculptures and ceramics

35. General view of the citadel of Kastro, perched on a steep rock above the sea.



36. A typical alley in Kastro.

are displayed ranging from the Geometric up to the Byzantine period.

- The churches of **Panagia i Eleousa** (1653), **Panagia "I Koimisi"** (Dormition) (1593), having floors with folk art decorations and the Sacred Altar situated in the exact location of an ancient altar, **Agios Nikolaos** (1566) and **Agios Ioannis Theologos** (1617).

## Kamares

6

Kamares is the largest coastal village and port of the island since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Do visit the church of Agios Georgios (1785) and Agia Varvara, Fanari (1896) and remains of the furnaces and the lifting device for loading mineral ore (1883). Enjoy the lovely sunset view from the church of Agia Marina.

**Distance from Apollonia:** 5.5 km NW.

## Faros

7

Faros is located in the southeastern part of Sifnos and is considered to be the safest harbour on the island (it used to be its main port until 1883). At the port's entrance you will see petrogoleta, a rocky islet broken away from the land, where the monastery of Panagia Chrysopigi (1650) stands, the patron saint of Sifnos. **Distance from Apollonia:** 7 km SE.



37. Traditional chickpea soup is one of the island's most renowned dishes.

## Platys Gialos 8

Platys Gialos is the island's most popular beach and one of the largest in Cyclades. In the village's ceramics workshops you will find wonderful local pottery products. It is worth visiting the monastery of Panagia tou Vounou (1813). To the northeast, ancient ruins of a tower were discovered in Aspros Pyrgos [White Tower] location. To the southeast, at the bay's entrance, lies **Kitriani**, a private, uninhabited

38. Profitis Ilias' church (8<sup>th</sup> c.) is the island's most important byzantine monument.



small island where Panagia Kypriani church stands dating back to 1732. **Distance from Apollonia:** 9 km S.

## Vathy 9

A picturesque coastal village built on a virtually enclosed sheltered bay. It is the native village of many ceramicists. Visit Agios Andreas church (1701) and the prehistoric citadel located nearby. **Distance from Apollonia:** 10.5 km SW.

## Cherronisos 10

Cherronisos is a traditional fishing village with a small beach within a picturesque cove. **Distance from Apollonia:** 15 km NW.

## Events

- Feasts of Anafipsis (Ascension) and Chrysopigi, of Profitis Ilias (July 19<sup>th</sup>), Agios Panteleimonas (July 26<sup>th</sup>), Agios Symeon (August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup>), Taxiarchis (September 5<sup>th</sup>), Stavros (September 13<sup>th</sup>) and Agios Nikitas (September 14<sup>th</sup>).
- The burning of Judas' effigy, at Easter.
- Lolopanigyro, in February.
- Kyr-Vorias, held on the last Carnival Sunday in Artemonas.
- Tsounia - a game practiced during the Lent.
- Cultural events - in the summer.



39. Platys Gialos is a hotspot for tourists.

- Traditional cooking fair - in the summer.

## Activities on the island

- Water sports.
- Swimming at the beaches of Panagia Poulati, Seralia, Kamares, Fasolou, Faros, Glyfo, Vathy,

Tsopos, and Cherronisos.

- Camping sites at Kamares and Platys Gialos.
- Diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Hiking along the routes and paths of Artemonas - Kastros, Katavati - Apollonia, Katavati - Agios Andreas, Katavati - Monastery of Profitis Ilias, Apollonia - Exampela and Faros
- Monastery of Panagia Chrysopigi (on the seafont).

### Useful phone numbers (+30) ☎

- **Sifnos Municipal office:** 22843-60.300
- **Kamares Municipal office:** 22840-31.977
- **Police station:** 22840-31.210
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22840-31.315
- **Port Authority:** 22840-33.617
- **Municipal campsite:** 22840-71.286
- **Vrysi Monastery:** 22840-31.937
- **Folk Art Museum:** 22840-31.341, 33.730
- **Archaeological Museum (in Kastros):** 22840-31.028

**Website:** [www.sifnos.gr](http://www.sifnos.gr)

40. Agios Andreas' church by the prehistoric acropolis (part of the walls still standing) on the way to Vathy.



41. Kamares village photographed from the hill where the church of Profitis Ilias Troulakiou stands.





# Milos



42. Aerial view of Plaka.

**M**ilos is located at the southwestern edge of Cyclades and is the group's fifth largest island. It has an area of 151 sq. km, a coastline of 126 km and there are 4,770 inhabitants. The strange shapes of its rocks, the beautiful colours, the ensnaring white sandy beaches and sculpted rocks are due to the island's volcanic terrain.

Milos is rich in mineral resources. The extraction of obsidian (a jet black volcanic glass rock) contributed to the island's booming economy in ancient times. This is the location of one of the oldest mines in the Mediterranean.

Milos Island has been inhabited since prehistoric times. During the Persian Wars, the locals fought against the Persians in the naval battle of Salamina and they kept a neutral position later during the Peloponnesian War. Trade thrived in Roman times. In the Byzantine period, the island suffered frequent pirate raids, with locals taking refuge mainly in the south side, in caves and coves. The island was later ruled by the Venetians and after that by the Turks. In the 20th century, Milos has become a major mining area, as extraction of perlite, kaolin and bentonite continues to the present day.

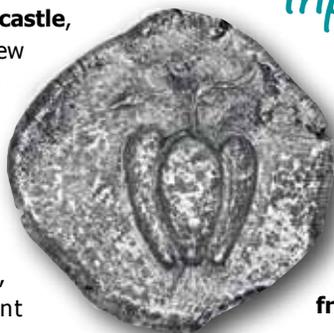
## Plaka

1

Plaka is the capital town of the island, built on a hill 220 metres up Adamantas bay. It is one of the most picturesque towns in Cyclades, built in the architectural style that is typical of the Aegean islands, having picturesque churches and narrow streets laid with stone. Close to Plaka there are many small picturesque villages such as Fyropotamos, Plathiena, Fourkovouni and Klima.

### Promenade in Plaka

- To the 13<sup>th</sup> century **Venetian castle**, where you can enjoy a lovely view of the area and a breathtaking sunset.
- To the 19<sup>th</sup> century **Metropolitan Church of Panagia Korfiatissa**.
- To the island's **Archaeological Museum**, exhibiting finds from ancient Fylakopi and a copy of the famous Venus of Milos, the masterpiece of a statue discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century on the island.
- To **Mnimeio Pesonton (Fighters' Memorial)**, next to the Archaeological Museum.
- To the **Folk Art and History Museum** housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion, displaying traditional items, a collection of local minerals and



photographic material relating to everyday life.

- To the church of **Panagia Thalassitra**, near the castle ruins.
- To the church of **Panagia Skoiniotissa** or **Mesa Panagia** and the Catholic Church of Panagia Rosaria, built in 1823.
- To the **windmills** further up **Triovasalos**.
- To **Fourkovouni**, a coastal village lying 3.5 km W.
- To **Sarakiniko**, a coast of astonishing natural beauty with snow-white smooth rocks, 5 km E.

### Trips around the island

## Trypiti

2

Trypiti is a beautiful village built in the typical Cycladic architectural style, with picturesque windmills and a lovely view of Milos bay. **Distance from Plaka:** 2 km S.

## Klima

3

This is a small fishing village whose main characteristic is *syrmata*, i.e. colourful little houses, where boats are kept in wintertime. Many fishermen turn *syrmata* into summer lodges during that season. **Distance from Plaka:** 3.5 km S.

44. The traditional *syrmata* in Klima.





45a,b. The ancient theatre of Milos (left); the statue of Aphrodite (right) was discovered nearby.



**Must see:**

- The **Ancient Roman theatre**: In 1820, a farmer discovered here the famous statue of Aphrodite (Venus of Milos) that is on display at the Louvre Museum.
- The **Catacombs** (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> c. AD): next to the catacombs of Rome and the Holy Land, these are the most important early Christian cemeteries and places of worship dating back to the Christian persecution period. Many graves have been decorated with floral motifs and symbolic representations. It is estimated that over 2,000 Christians were buried in the catacombs. There are five corridors (total length: 185 metres) and entrance is through the second one (that of «the Elders»).

**Adamantas****4**

This is the port of Milos Island, constructed in the bay which is considered one of the largest natural harbours in the Mediterranean. The village was built in 1835 by Cretans and has traditionally styled houses. **Distance from Plaka:** 4 km SE.

**Must see:**

- The 17<sup>th</sup> century church of **Agia Triada** (Holy Trinity), housing the **Ecclesiastical Museum**, with significant icons, epitaftioi (i.e. pieces of cloth sewn or painted, symbolising the shroud of Christ), and gold votive offerings.
- The Churches of **Koimisi tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God)** and **Agios Charalampos**.
- The **Cultural Centre** building.
- The **Memorial to the French** killed during the First World War, in Bomparda.
- The **Milos Conference Centre**.
- The **Mining Museum** displaying items related to the mining history of Milos.
- The beaches **Lagkada** and **Papikinou**.

**Zefyria****5**

Zefyria was the first mediaeval capital of Milos. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the village was destroyed by an earthquake; it was then abandoned only to be repopulated later. Walk along its picturesque alleys and visit the 17<sup>th</sup> century church of Panagia Portiani, the island's old metropolitan church. The sulphur

mine is situated 6.5 km E. of Zefyria, and used to be running until 1956. **Distance from Plaka:** 9 km SE.

**Apollonia (Pollonia)****6**

Apollonia is a picturesque fishing village built in a beautiful bay opposite the island of Kimolos.

**Distance from Plaka:** 11.5 km NE.

**Must see:**

- The ruins of **Fylakopi**, an **ancient town** on the way from Adamantas to Apollonia. It prospered during the three periods that represent the phases of the Cycladic civilisation.
- **Papafragka's cave**, one of the island's most famous natural attractions. The **Glaronisia** group of islets lie opposite the cave. You can access the area by boat only.
- The churches of **Agia Paraskevi** and **Agios Nikolaos**.

**Provatas****7**

Provatas is a coastal village on the island's southern side with a lovely beach. **Distance from Plaka:** 10.5 km S.

**Chivadolimni****8**

It is one of Milos' most beautiful areas. It was

*46. The Mining Museum.*





47. Cave-like rock formations in Papafragka area.

named after a small lake located nearby whose bottom is teeming with clams [achivades]. Visit the church of Panagia tou Kipou (meaning Our Lady in the Garden) - the oldest church on the island. **Distance from Plaka:** 11 km S.

### Must see:



- **Kleftiko:** this is Milos' most impressive landscape and the most famous natural attraction, located in the southwestern part of the island. The huge white rocks, rising in the middle of the sea, create an imposing landscape. You can access Kleftiko by boat from Adamantas which is the departure point for boat tours around the island.

- **Sykia:** this is one of the biggest and most beautiful sea caves in Milos. It is located in the southwestern side of the island, 22 km from Adamantas. Access to the cave is by boat from Adamantas as above.

## Emporeios

9

It is a picturesque village on the west side of Milos, with a lovely sandy beach and tranquil scenery. You can see the old iron mines in the area as well as a small lagoon named Rivari. **Distance from Plaka:** 19.5 km SW.

## Events

- Milos Festival, during the summer months.
- Performances at the ancient theatre, in the summer months.
- Panagia Korfiatissa's feast.
- Feasts of Panagia on August 15<sup>th</sup> and of Agia Triada in Adamantas.
- Agia Paraskevi's feast in Apollonia, on July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Panagia tou Kipou's feast, on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Agios Theologos' feast, on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Hiking following the course: Catacombs - Theatre - Profitis Ilias (2.5 km), Zefyria - Agia Kyriaki Beach (5 km), Fylakopi - Mandrakia (9 km), Fyropotamos - Lagkada (13 km) and Kipos - Psathadika - Xylokeratia.
- Swimming at the beaches of Lagkada, Bomparda and Papikinou, in Rivari, Fatourena, Patrikia, Ammoudaraki, Triades and Agkathia, in Pachaina, Papafragkas, Kapros, in Agios Konstantinos, in Alogomantra and Mytakas, in Provatas, Agios Sostis, Psathi, Katergo and in Geronta, in Fyriplaka, Tsigkrado, Gerakas, Agia Kyriaki and Fyropotamos.
- Wind surfing, especially in the area of Chivadolimni.
- Diving.
- Kite surfing.
- Canoe kayaking.
- Spear Fishing.
- Water sports.
- 4x4 vehicle and dirt bike riding in the area of Emporeios and Trachilas.
- Bathing in mineral water springs, in Lakkos springs, in the area of Adamantas.

## Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Milos Municipal Office:** 22870-21.370
- **Tourist Information Office:** 22870-22.445
- **Police - Tourist Police station:** 22870-21.378



48. Agia Kyriaki, one of Milos' many lovely beaches.

- **Rural Health Centre:** 22870-22.700
- **Port Authority:** 22870-23.360
- **Airport:** 22870-22.090
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22870-21.620
- **Folk Art Museum:** 22870-21.292
- **Mining Museum (Adamantas):** 22870-22.481

- **Ecclesiastical Museum (Adamantas):** 22870-23.956
- **Catacombs:** 22870-21.625

Website: [www.milos.gr](http://www.milos.gr)

49. Impressive rocks made of petrified lava in Sarakiniko.



50. Kleftiko attracts thousands of visitors every year who enjoy the crystal-clear waters by the impressive white cliffs.





# Kimolos



51. View of the village and harbour of Psathi.

**K**imolos is part of the group of the western Cyclades, and is located next to Milos. Despite its small size (area: 39 sq. km, coastline: 38 km and population: 770), it possesses numerous sites that are worth visiting. It is a volcanic island with a startling variety of rock formations, such as bentonite (or chalk land), a type of primary rock that was used to make porcelain. Kimolos is endowed with lovely beaches of fine sand and pebbles in small picturesque coves. The Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* takes refuge on its shores.

Kimolos' history has always been connected to Milos, having shared its fate. In the Middle Ages it was conquered by the Venetians and was named Arzantiera. Throughout the Venetian and Ottoman rule it suffered pirate raids and that was why it was almost deserted by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## Chorio Kimolou 1

The capital town of the island is made up of two settlements, the Old and the New Village (Chorio). Built around the original nucleus of the mediaeval castle, the Old Village bears all the features of the Cyclades architectural style and is particularly picturesque. In the original castle, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the houses formed the outer wall and had windows - embrasures. The islanders used to hide in the castle during the pirate years up until the Second World War. The New Village was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century on the outer side of the castle, and extended around the Old Village, with square austere buildings, unlike the domes and arches typical of the Old Village's buildings.

### Must see:



- The mediaeval **castle**, formerly a pirate hide-out.
- The **Archaeological Museum** with finds from excavations in "Ellinika" location, covering the period from the Mycenaean up to the Hellenistic times.
- The **Folk Art & Maritime Museum** housed

53. The picturesque Goupa-Kara small harbour.



52. Typical alley in Chorio Kimolou [Kimolos' Village].

in a restored dwelling in the mediaeval castle. It displays the collection of every day life objects donated by the physician Manolis Christoulakis.

- The **Metropolitan church of Panagia Odigitria**, with its 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century remarkable icons.
- **Afentakeio Foundation**.
- **Myloi** (the **Mills**), in Xaplovouni location.
- The church of **Gennisis tou Christou (Nativity of Christ)** (1592).
- The churches of **Panagia Eleoussa**, **Agios Nikolaos** (17<sup>th</sup> c.), **Agios Georgios** (with 17<sup>th</sup> century icons), **Agioi Anargyroi**, **Taxiarches** (Archangels), **Zoodochos Pigi** (Life Giving Fountain), **Agios Spyridonas**, **Saranta Martyres** (Forty Martyrs), **Agios Chrysostomos** and **Evangelistria** (1608).
- **Paliokastro** (Portara) NW of the capital town, where there are ruins of houses and a round tower. Potsherds were found here with decorations dating to the Geometric and Archaic periods. Situated further to the north, you will find **Konsolina Cave**, another interesting place to visit.
- **Vromolimni Cave** in the northern part of the island, the largest among a series

of caves formed in the rock.

- The monastery of **Agios Minas**.

## Trips around the island

### Psathi

2

It is the island's port and yet another beautiful Cyclades village with white houses, narrow alleys paved with cobblestones, small lodges for sheltering boats and yards with flower beds.

**Distance from Chorio:** 1.5 km S.

#### Must see:



- The **ancient town in Ellinika** (go by boat from Psathi's port, 5 km W), where a necropolis (cemetery) was found with tombs dug in the rock.
- **Prassa**, an area where chalk is extracted.

### Alyki - Kalamitsi

3

Alyki and Kalamitsi are resort villages in the island's southern side with gorgeous beaches.

**Distance from Chorio:** 1.5 and 3.5 km respectively, SW.

#### Must see:



- The **rock formations** over Ellinika.
- **Agios Andreas** islet, opposite Ellinika.

## Events

- "Cultural August": Visit exhibitions and enjoy the sports activities, events for children, competitions and entertainment with music & dancing.
- Profitis Ilias' feast, on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Panagia Konomou's feast, on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Agia Methodia's feast, on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Panagia Odigitria's feast, on November 21<sup>st</sup>.





54. Impressive rock formations in Ellinika.

## Activities on the island

- Hiking following the route from Chorio Kimolou to Xaplovouni - Agios Nikolaos - Goupa-Kara, towards Skiadi - Mavrospilaia beach, towards Palaiokastro - Klima, towards Monastiria - Soufi and to Ellinika.
- Diving.
- Bathing in sulphur hot springs located in Prassa.
- Fishing.
- Swimming in Psathi, Goupa-Kara, Klima, Livadaki, Dekka, Pigados, Prassa, Agios Georgios, Vromolimno, Alyki, Bonatsa, Kalamitsi, Fykiada, and Mavrospilaia. Take the local excursion boat to Lakos, Athinia, Therma, Agioklima, Soufi, Monastiria and to **Polyaigos** island.

### Useful phone numbers (+30): ☎

- **Kimolos Municipal Office:** 22870-51.767
- **Police station:** 22870-51.205
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22870-51222
- **Port Authority:** 22870-51.071

- **Archaeological Museum:** 22870-51.291
- **Folk Art - Maritime Museum:** 22870-51118

Website: [www.kimolos.gr](http://www.kimolos.gr)

55. Bonatsa beach.



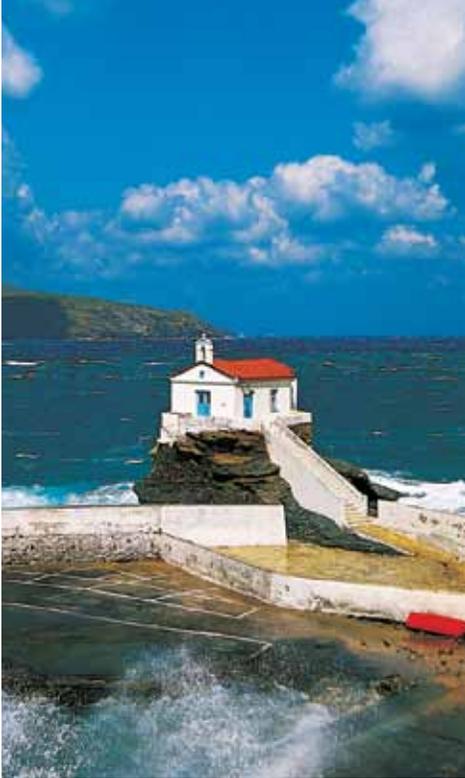
# Andros



56. View of Chora.  
*Riva square and Kato Kastro [Lower Castle] can be seen on the right edge. Paraporti beach is in the forefront.*

**A**ndros is the northernmost island of the Cyclades, with great seafaring tradition. There are sandy beaches, rocky coasts, and mountain ranges alternating with fertile plains, lush vegetation and many streams. Andros has always been seen as a gateway to the Aegean Sea. The island area is 400 sq. km, the coastline is 177 km and the population amounts to 10,000.

In antiquity it was a remarkably well organised society with high cultural standards. It has been inhabited since prehistoric times. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, its residents founded extensive colonies in Macedonia. The Venetians occupied Andros until 1566 when the Turks conquered it. In 1790, the fleet led by Lampros Katsonis clashed with Turkish forces and suffered great destruction near the island's north-west shores, at Kafireas strait. Andros took part in the 1821 Greek Independence War. One of the prominent personalities of the time was the scholar Theophilos Kairis.



57. Panagia Thalassini, a beautiful country chapel by Nimporio beach.

## Chora Androu 1

The capital town of Andros is located on the east part of the island. It is a town with a noble character. The mediaeval, neoclassical island houses, the impressive buildings and wide steps along the alleys, the tree-lined spacious square, the narrow streets, remarkable churches and museums, shops, cafés and restaurants create a charming picture. It is the homeland of famous sea captains and ship-owners.

### Town promenade

- To the churches of **Koimisi tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God)**, **Panagia Palatiani** (Agia Tsoura) where you will see a remarkable wood-carved iconostasis, the 17<sup>th</sup> century **Agios Georgios** (Metropolitan Church), **Panagia Theoskepasti** (patron saint of the island), **Agios Andreas ton Latinon** and **Panagia Thalassini** built on a rock by the sea.
- To **Kaireios Library** housed in a 1919 mansion, displaying the collection of Theophilos Kairis (1784-1853), a theologian, philosopher and a 1821 Greek Independence War militant.
- To **Petros and Marika Kydonieos Foundation** where painting and sculpture exhibitions

take place.

- To **Empeirikeion Retirement Home** and to **Empeirikeion High School** housing exhibitions organised by Vassilis and Eliza Goulandris Foundation.
- To the **house of Theophilos Kairis**, opposite the metropolitan church.
- To the **Municipal Theatre**, a venue for theatrical performances and film screenings.
- To **Plateia tis Rivas** (Riva's Square) where the statue of the Unknown Sailor stands, crafted by sculptor Michalis Tompros.
- To **Kato Kastro** (Inner Castle). Constructed by the Franks in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, it is connected with the land by a 13<sup>th</sup> century single-arch stone bridge.
- To **Faros Tourliti** (meaning Tourlitis Lighthouse) on a rock at the harbour's entrance.
- To the **Archaeological Museum** displaying finds (such as statues, inscriptions, jewellery, etc.) from Zagora, Korthi and Palaiopolis. The marble fountain of Kampani (early 19<sup>th</sup> c.) - an Ottoman relic, can be seen in the yard.
- To the **Folk and Christian Art Museum** founded by Marios Vasilopoulos and Eirini Mantzavelaki-Vasilopoulou.

58. Empeirikeio Retirement Home.



59a,β. The Museum of Modern Art (Goulandris Museum) in Chora (right) houses remarkable works of art by leading Greek and foreign artists (left).



- To the **Museum of Modern Art** established by **the Vasilis and Eliza Goulandris Foundation**, displaying works of art by great Greek and foreign artists, and hosting major periodic exhibitions.

- To **Nimporio**, a seaside village with cypress tree rows, abundantly flowing waters, picturesque bridges, and fields where citrus trees and vegetables are grown.

- To the **arched stone bridge** in the ravine near Nimporio.

- To **Livadia**, a village with cypress tree rows, many streams, estates planted with citrus fruits and vegetables.

- To **Vrachno**, a village affording a wonderful view of the town.

- To **Syneti**, a picturesque village (7 kms S.) built close to a gully that is a butterfly habitat.

- To the **Cyclades Olive (Elia) Museum** at the village Pitrofos (7km W). It is housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century building and visitors get to see a typical example of a pre-industrial type, family-owned olive oil producing unit as a traditional manufacturing activity ([www.musioelias.gr](http://www.musioelias.gr)).

## Activities

- Swimming at the beaches of Chora, Nimporio and Paraporti.

## Trips around the island

### North

#### Stenies

2

Stenies is a beautiful village and the homeland of many sea captains and shipowners, with its houses surrounded by thick green foliage and fruit trees. Bisti-Mouvela tower stands out as one of the few remaining fortified residences in Andros. The beach of Gاليا is located within a short distance; notice the river estuary in the middle of it. **Distance from Chora:** 4.5 km NW.

#### Must see:



- **Gefyri tou Leontos** (the Bridge of the Lion).
- **Bisti - Mouvela tower**, a 17<sup>th</sup> century three-storeyed building.
- **Agios Georgios'** church, located in the tower.

## Activities

- Swimming at Gاليا and Piso Gاليا beaches.

#### Apoikia

3

Apoikia is well known for its Sariza spring, and is surrounded by lush vegetation and many streams. There is a famous brand water bottling factory in the village. **Distance from Chora:** 6 km NW.

60. Panoramic view of Stenies village, built in a verdant area.





61. Ypsili archaeological site.

### Must see:



- **Sariza spring area.** The water is bottled and distributed throughout the country, as its quality is quite remarkable.
- **Agia Eirini's church**, 2 km N.
- **Agia Marina's Monastery**, 5.5 km S, overlooking Apoikia and Stenies.
- **Pythara**, a wooded ravine with running waters.
- **Agios Nikolaos' Monastery**, 5.5 km N, possessing a noteworthy wood-carved iconostasis and a number of precious religious heritage items.
- **Vourkoti**, a mountain village, 8.5 km W.
- **Agios Ioannis'** country chapel at the top of the rock, offering a breathtaking panoramic view of the area.
- **Faros** (the Lighthouse) in Cape Gria.
- **Achla bay**, with a lovely sandy beach (among the best ones on the island) and a small river estuary on its southern side.

## Activities

- Swimming at Achla beach.

### Batsi

4

Batsi is a village that is very popular among holidaymakers, built on the semicircle around the bay with the sandy beach. Fishing and excursion boats drop anchor in its port. **Distance from Chora:** 22 km W.

### Must see:



- **Ypsili Archaeological site.** There are ruins of a settlement dating back to the Geometric period (10<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> c. BC), a citadel (acropolis) and a megaron-shaped archaic temple (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC), dedicated to Demeter (the ancient Greek goddess of farming) and her daughter Persephone (or Kore).
- **Agios Filippos' church.**
- **Zoodochos Pigi's Monastery** (Monastery of the Life Giving Fountain) in Kapsorachi location. The present monastery buildings were constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The monastery keeps the skull of Agios Tryfonas and other religious heritage items.
- **The villages of Ano Aprotou and Kato Aprotou** (meaning Upper and Lower Aprotou), offering a lovely view of the Aegean.
- **Gavronisia**, a group of islands to the West.

## Activities

- Swimming at the beaches of Batsi, Stivari and Agia Marina.

### Gavrio

5

The port of Gavrio has been built in an area that has been populated since antiquity. Along the waterfront,





63. Achla beach is one of the most beautiful in Cyclades.

there are popular coffee bars, restaurants and tavernas. **Distance from Chora:** 32 km NW.

### Must see:



- **Agios Nikolaos'** church.
- **Ano Gavrio** village, offering a lovely view of Gavrio.
- **Agios Petros** village, and the nearby tower,

62. Busy Batsi village and beach.



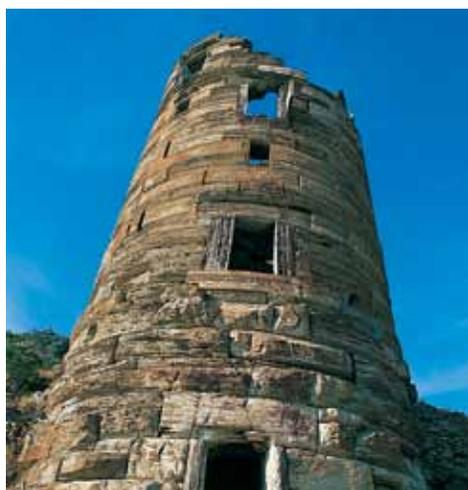
dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> c. BC.

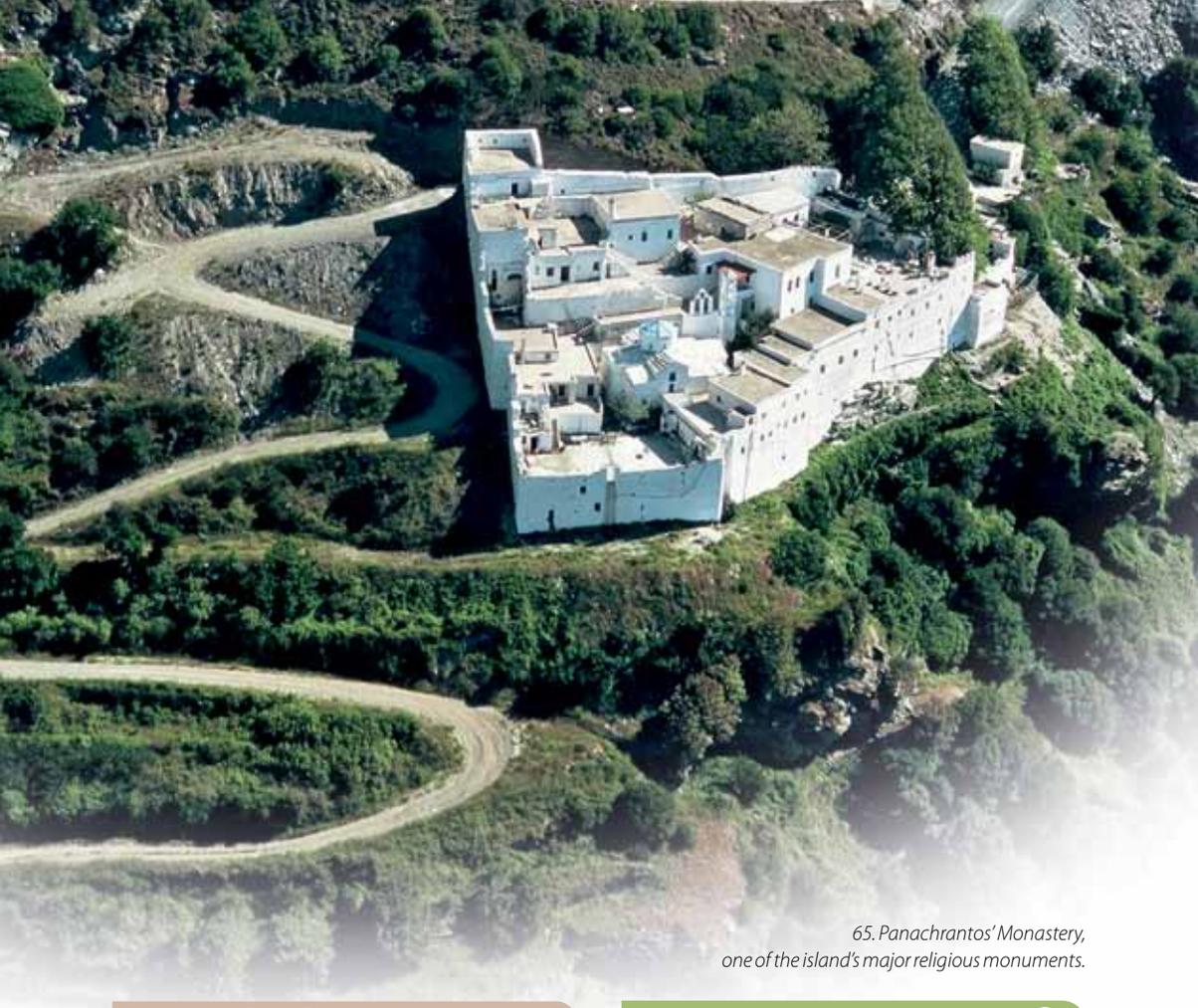
- **Fasa lighthouse.**
- The **wind turbines** near Kalyvari village.

## Activities

- Follow the impressive route along the northwest coast, starting at Gavrio, crossing the bays and beaches of Fellos, Kourtali, Pisolimnionas, Agios Sostis bay, Kaminaki, Vlychada and the ruins of its tower, Selienitis, Mikri Peza and Megali Peza.
- Go swimming at the beaches of Lopesi, Chrysi Ammos, Kato Agios Petros, Kypri, Fellos, Kourtali, Pisolimnionas, Agios Sostis, Kaminaki, Vlychada, Selienitis, Megali Peza, and Mikri Peza.

64. The fortress-like tower of Agios Petros is 20 m. high and 6.5 m. in diameter.





65. Panachrantos' Monastery, one of the island's major religious monuments.

## Ammolochos 6

Ammolochos is an old mountain village, spread out across the NW part of the island. There is a story that this was the native village of Samuel, a legendary monk, who met a heroic death, together with Souliotes (*Souliótēs*) (inhabitants of Souli village), in Kougki, Thesprotia in 1803. **Distance from Chora:** 42.5 km NW.

66. Traditional dry stone wall in a rural area.



## Must see:

- **Mouria Fountain**, built in 1882. The expenses were covered by Leonidas D. Karakitsos.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century **castle of Dimitrios Giannoulis**.

## South

## Mesaria 7

Mesaria is one of the most beautiful inland villages of Andros. During the Byzantine period and after that, it was the hub of the island life, as it was situated at a distance from the unsafe coastline, due to pirate raids. **Distance from Chora:** 4.5 km SW.

## Must see:

- **Agios Nikolaos'** church, built in 1734. The wood-carved iconostasis and the icons date back to 1742.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine **church of Taxiarchis**.

- The 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> century church of **Koimisi tis Theotokou**, at Mesathouri village.
- **Lamyra**, **Ypsilou** and **Strapouries** villages with beautiful dense vegetation, flowing waters and a spectacular view of Chora.
- **Aladino** village, and Stoicheiomeni stone bridge. **Foros cave** is located near the village.
- **Panachrantos' Monastery**, further up Fallika village. It was founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century by emperor Nikiforos Fokas II and is the keeper of a large number of religious heritage items.

## Menites 8

Menites is a green village, built in an area of wonderful natural environment, rivers and centuries-old trees. **Distance from Chora:** 5 km SW.

### Must see:



- **Panagia Vergi's** church and the wood-carved icon screen.
- **Dionysos Spring**, and the impressive lion heads.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine church of **Taxiarchis tis Melidas**, with 12<sup>th</sup> century murals.

## Palaiopoli 9

Palaiopoli is a village built in an amphitheatrical formation, affording a magnificent view of the Aegean. It is situated at the site of ancient Andros town, the administrative centre of the island from the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC until the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Within the greater Palaiopoli area you will find the prehistoric settlement of Plaka, the village of Zagora dating back to the Geometric Period and the fortified settlement of the Neolithic period (4500-3300 BC) where carvings on rocks depicting various animals, ships and linear shapes were discovered. **Distance from Chora:** 16 km W.



### Must see:



- The **ancient town of Andros**, which was fortified during the Hellenistic period (4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> c. BC). Remains of a fortified wall as well as a marketplace and temples have been located in the area.
- The **Geometric Period settlement**, in Zagora, southeast of Palaiopoli. It was protected by strong walls and had a sanctuary that was in use from the 8<sup>th</sup> until the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC.
- The **Archaeological Museum** where finds from the Prehistoric up to the Early Christian times are on display.

68. Popular Agios Petros beach is one of the best on the island.





69. *Tis grias to pidima beach - the upright rock is quite a landmark.*

## Activities

- Swimming at Palaiopoli beach, at Chalkolimnionas and Plaka.

### Ormos Korthiou [Korthi Cove]

10

It is a picturesque coastal village with a long beach and beautiful houses, widely known for its lively fairs. **Distance from Chora:** 21 km SE.

#### Must see:



- **Epano Kastro** (Upper Castle), and the ruins of a medieval city within.

- **Zoodochos Pigi Monastery**, at Fletra location, next to a spring.
- **Agios Ioannis'** country chapel at Kremmydes location.
- The fortified **Byzantine monastery of Tromarchion** (Panagia Tromarchiani) with its high walls, offering a beautiful view of the surrounding area.
- The villages **Aidonia, Mousionas, Amonaklios, Aipatia, Korthi** and **Kapparia**, where you can stroll by traditional houses, towers and dovecotes.
- **Kochylos** village, overlooking Ormos Korthiou.

## Events

- International Choral Festival in June.
- Gavriotika, cultural events in Gavrio, during the summer months.
- Panagia Theoskepasti's feast, on the last Friday of Salutations to the Virgin Mary (fifth Friday of Lent before Easter) in Chora.
- Panagia's feast, in Chora, on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Feasts of Agia Marina on July 17<sup>th</sup>, of Gennisis tis Theotokou (Virgin Mary's Birth) on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and Koimissis tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God) on August 15<sup>th</sup>, in Apoikia.
- Feast in Zoodochos Pigi Monastery, on July 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Parade in Ormos Korthiou during the Carnival period (Apokries).

70. *Kremmydes, an exquisite beach south of Ormos Korthiou.*





71. Once a picturesque fishing village, Ormos Korthiou has evolved into a modern resort area.

- Korthiana, cultural events in Ormos Korthiou in August.
- Agios Fanourios' feast, in Ormos Korthiou on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Hiking.
- Sailing.
- Wind surfing. International Games are held in Korthi (Ormos Korthiou).
- Rent a boat and visit the nearby beaches and the numerous small islands around Andros or go fishing.
- Recommended beaches in other parts of the island: in Gavrio, Agios Petros, Kypri, Fellou bay, Pisolimnionas, in Vitaliou bay, Agios Fanourios, the "bosom" of Agia Aikaterini, Grias to pidima and in Plaka Bay, 3.5 km west of Kapparia village. Achla though is considered to be the best beach of Andros, north of Andros Town (Chora).
- Camping site in Gavrio area.

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Municipal Office:** 22823-60.200/220
- **Police station:** 22820-22.300
- **Police station (Gavrio):** 22820-71.220
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22823-60.000-1
- **Rural Medical Clinic (Gavrio):**  
22820-71.210
- **Rural Medical Clinic (Batsi):**  
22820-41.326
- **Port Authority:** 22820-22.250
- **Port Authority (Gavrio):** 22820-71.213
- **Long Distance Bus terminus (KTEL):**  
22820-22.316
- **Taxi stand:** 22820-22.171
- **Sariza Spring:** 22820-23.799
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22820-23.664
- **Museum of Modern Art:** 22820-22.444
- **Museum of Folk and Christian Art:**  
22850-22.187
- **Archaeological Museum of Palaiopoli:**  
22820-42.095

Website: [www.andros.gr](http://www.andros.gr)



72. *Untouched by time, Chora's character has kept a smooth blend of the mediaeval, neoclassical and island-style architecture.*



# Tinos



73. Local artistic creation can be seen in over 1,000 dovecotes in Tinos (mostly 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> c.).

**T**inos is one of the most fascinating, yet less «known» islands, located in the northern Cyclades area, between Syros, Andros and Mykonos. For the Greeks, Tinos Island is associated with the Church of Panagia Megalochari (Mother of God of Great Joy), whose icon is venerated by thousands of Christians flooding the church each year on August 15<sup>th</sup>, in order to pray and seek spiritual guidance and consolation.

Although Tinos is well known as a religious centre, there are also areas of natural beauty and great sights which remain unknown to most of its visitors, since most people settle for a single-day pilgrimage trip. There are picturesque villages and you will find the typical Cycladic landscapes in the inland, mainly mountainous, with traditional communities, the famous dovecotes and lovely country chapels.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, Tinos was a colony of Eretria town and later of Athens. From 1207 until 1390 it belonged to the Gizi family and later passed to Venetian rule. The island has a long tradition in marble sculpture craft and painting. Many famous sculptors and painters of modern Greece came from Tinos. The island area is 194.5 sq. km, the coastline is 114 km and there are 8,500 residents.



74. Panagia Evangelistria's church in Chora, Tinos.

## Chora 1

The capital of Tinos Island used to be a typical Cyclades town that changed in recent decades due to the construction of many modern buildings. However, the historic town centre possesses remarkable Cycladic architectural patterns and numerous small churches. It is built around the port where the Megalochari route begins and ends at the imposing church of Panagia tis Tinou. On the right side of the street there is a carpet lane reaching up to the churchyard, to facilitate the pilgrims who arrive at the Church on their knees, fulfilling in this way their vow to the Mother of God.

## Town promenade

- To the Church of **Evangelistria**, founded in 1823 and built on the spot where the holy icon of the Annunciation of Virgin Mary was found, following the vision of Agia [Saint] Pelagia. It is a brilliant edifice, made of white marble from Paros and Tinos. It is the first significant architectural monument of the liberated Greek nation. Do visit the exhibition of holy icons and heritage items that includes old icons from churches of Tinos and the Church vestry containing religious works of art of gold embroidery and silver objects.

- To the **monument of Elli**, the Greek cruiser that was torpedoed by an Italian submarine off the port of Tinos in August 1940.

Next to the church of Evreseos (i.e. the Finding of the Icon) located on the ground floor of the church

of Evangelistria, lies the mausoleum of the victims of the cruiser's sinking.

- To the **Art Gallery**, where pieces of work by great Greek and foreign painters are shown.

- To **Mikro Parko**, to see the busts of major local artists.

- To the catholic church of **Agios Nikolaos**.

- To the church of **Koimisi tis Theotokou** (Dormition of the Mother of God).

- To the **fountain**, dating to the time of Otto, the first King of Greece (19<sup>th</sup> century).

- To the **Cultural Foundation of Tinos**, displaying works of art by the leading Greek sculptor Giannoulis Chalepas.

- To **Pallada**, an area near the port.

- To the church of **Timios Stavros** (Holy Cross) where one can see remains of an 1816 jetty.

- To the **remains of the ancient city wall**.

- To **Mnimeio Pesonton** (Fighters' Memorial) (1912) offering a spectacular view of the harbour.

- To the **Archaeological Museum** where there are finds from the sanctuaries of Demeter (7<sup>th</sup> c. BC), as well as of Poseidon and Amphitrite (Hellenistic period).

- To the **Museum of Tinian Artists**.

- To **Agia Triada's Monastery (Holy Trinity)** (18<sup>th</sup> c.), 2.5 km E., in a wooded area. There is an iconostasis of exquisite art in its main church (katholiko). Also visit the Folk Art Museum of Tinos, with a remarkable collection of marble lintels.

75. View of Chora, Tinos.





76. The village and beach of Agios Romanos.



- To **Kechrovouni Monastery** (10<sup>th</sup> c.) in Arnados village (9.5 km NE of Chora) a large structure that gives the impression of a fortified village. The nun Pelagia's cell is located there as well as a Museum where several remarkable 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century icons and other significant religious heritage items are kept.

## *Trips around the island*

### **Agios Fokas**

**2**

The beach of Agios Fokas is the nearest to town. The beach stretches for over 1 km and ends on the rocks of Vrekastro, a bare conical hill. On the hilltop you can see the remains of the wall surrounding a prehistoric settlement. **Distance from Chora:** 1.5 km E.



77. Sand dunes on Pachia Ammos beach.

### Kionia 3

Kionia is Tinos' most popular resort area. Its beach is one of the most beautiful on the island. The ruins of the ancient temple of Poseidon and Amphitrite are near the sandy beach. **Distance from Chora:** 3 km NW.

### Agios Sostis 4

This is a lovely beach named after the chapel of Agios Sostis built near the seashore. **Distance from Chora:** 5 km E.

### Agios Ioannis Porto 5

It's a promising tourist resort and its beach is among the island's most popular ones. **Distance from Chora:** 6.5 km E.

### Kamos 6

It is located roughly at the centre of the island, displaying the local architectural style and having approximately 200 dovescotes scattered about the area. It is worth visiting Agia Triada church (Holy Trinity) for its extraordinary pebbled courtyard as

78. Kionia, built in a verdant area; it is famous for its lovely beach.





79. Gallery in Kostas Tsoclis Museum.

well as the 1771 Agia Aikaterini church, built by the Russian Admiral Orlov. The **Xompourgo hill** is nearby, at the location of the ancient town of Tinos which thrived during the 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC. Venetians built their castle on the same location, the ruins of which stand to this day. Visit **Kostas Tsoclis Museum** (tel. 22830-51.009) in the village, where there is a permanent collection of artwork by Kostas Tsoclis, an important contemporary Greek visual artist. Activities include periodical exhibitions, lectures, seminars, educational programmes for children as well as theatrical and music performances. The museum also houses a library and an open air cinema. **Distance from Chora: 7 km NW.**

## Volax 7

Here you will find a landscape of exceptional beauty due to the impressive formations of smooth granite boulders. In the village you will pass by houses of particular architectural style, the fountain next to the laundry sheds (1827), the church of Panagia tis Kalaman and the Folk Art Museum where 19<sup>th</sup> century items are on display. **Agapi**, a traditional village, is situated at a 2 km distance N. of Volax. Visit the church of Agios Agapitos as well as the laundry shed where locals washed their clothes and the old water mill. **Distance from Chora: 10.5 km N.**

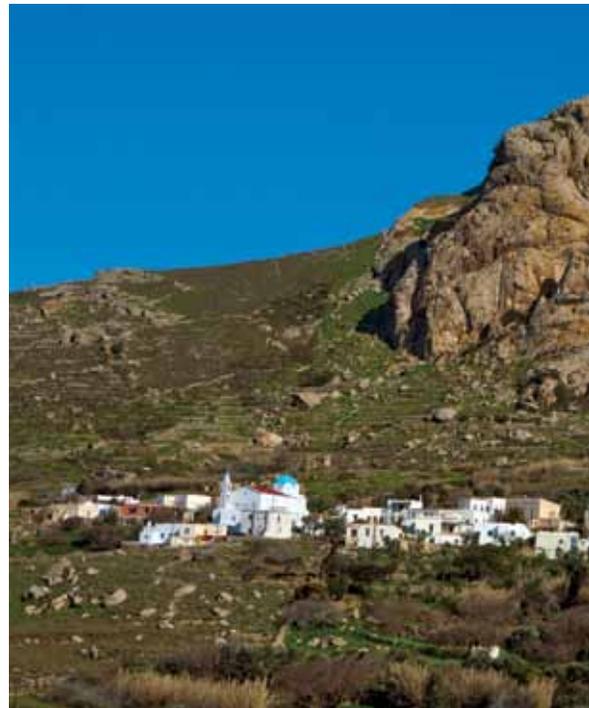
## Komi 8

This is one of Tinos' largest and most beautiful villages, known for its traditional architecture. Streets paved with cobblestone, houses, small squares and churches turn a walk in this

picturesque village into a journey through time. **Distance from Chora: 10.5 km NW.**

## Falatos 9

This is a mountain village with a long history. It was founded in 1400 and has been populated ever since. There are old well-preserved houses and many churches of which Agios Nikolaos and Agia





81. Rounded granite boulders lie scattered in the area around Volakas.

Triada (Holy Trinity) stand out. Agia Triada houses a small yet interesting Ecclesiastical Museum. **Distance from Chora:** 12 km NE.

## Kardiani 10

Kardiani is a village in an area of dense vegetation with lots of springs and lofty plane trees. Archaeologists have discovered six graves nearby dating to the Geometric period. There are nice two-storeyed traditional houses in the village. Do visit the churches of Agia Triada and Koimisi tis Theotokou. **Distance from Chora:** 16 km NW.

80. Xinara, a picturesque village lying at the foot of Xompourgko (or Exomvourgko) hill, is the seat of the catholic bishop of Naxos & Tinos islands.

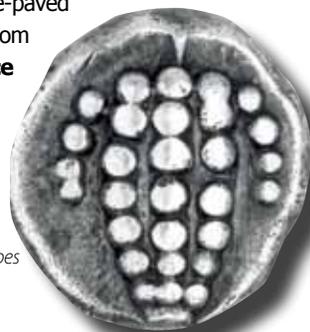


82. The beach in Isternia cove.

## Isternia 11

This is a lovely traditional village located on the west side of Tinos; the houses are built in an amphitheatrical arrangement on a hillside affording an amazing view. It has kept its traditional architectural character that features the well-known *volta* and marble arched lintels decorating two-storeyed houses. The locals are mostly marble sculptors, some of them renowned, with their works of art on display in the village's Art Museum. The scheduled windmills are definitely among the places you should visit as well as the church of Agia Paraskevi with a marble iconostasis. The **bay of Isternia** and its beautiful sandy beach is located at a 4.5 km distance from the village. There is a picturesque marble-paved alley leading there from the village. **Distance from Chora:** 19.5 km NW.

83. Local silver coin (called *triovolo*) (510-490 BC) depicting a bunch of grapes (Numismatic Museum, Athens).



## Pyrgos

12

It is Tinos' largest village and one of the most beautiful in Cyclades. The stately beauty, traditional architecture, the houses adorned with marble arched lintels and the pristine landscapes, they all create a special atmosphere. There is a 1778 marble fountain in the village square. Pyrgos is the village where



84. Gallery of the Museum of Sculpture (of Tinos Artists) in Pyrgos.

many artists come from. This is the birthplace of the sculptors Giannoulis Chalepas & Dimitris Filippotis as well as of the painter Nikiforos Lytras. There is a branch of the School of Fine Arts here. The **Museum of Marble Crafts of Tinos** is located just outside the village; it has been the first of its kind in Greece. This modern museum displays a collection of secular and religious marble objects, as well as items and equipment of the timeless marble crafting technique, emphasising on the island's tradition. Visit by all means the **Museum of Sculpture** where works of art by local artists are on display; **the museum at the house of G. Chalepas**; **the Sculpture Gallery of Eir. Chariati** and sculpture workshops in the village. **Distance from Chora:** 24 km NW.

## Panormos

13

Panormos bay is situated on the northwest side of Tinos and the picturesque village has been built in a semi-circular manner around the small harbour where fishing boats moor. **Distance from Chora:** 28 km NW.

### Events

- The celebration of finding the icon of Panagia [Virgin Mary] in Chora on January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Celebration of Evangelismos (Annunciation) of the Mother of God on March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Panhellenic pilgrimage to Panagia's Church on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Panagia Vrysiotissa's feast on the first Sunday of May.
- Panagia Kalama's feast on Thursday of the week after Easter.
- Agia Varvara's feast on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Feast at Isteria, on Sunday of Thomas (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter).
- Agios Ioannis Tinachtis' feast, at Keramoti on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Activities on the island

- Swimming at Stavros, Agios Markos, Kionia, Agkali and Agios Fokas; also at Apothikes and Kolypithra and on the beaches of Agios Romanos, Panousa, Vorni, Apgania, Pachia Ammos, Livada, and Agia Kyriaki. The most popular beaches are Kolypithra, Agios Ioannis Porto, Agios Sostis, Panormos, Isteria and Kardiani.
- Fishing.
- Diving.
- Wind surfing.
- Spear Fishing.
- Dirt bike riding.
- Hiking on the following routes: Chora - Xompourgo (8 km) and Xompourgo - Agapi (5.2 km) Tripotamos - Agapi (12.5 km) and Tripotamos - Pyrgos (21.5 km).
- Cycling.
- Water sports.
- Camping in Chora.

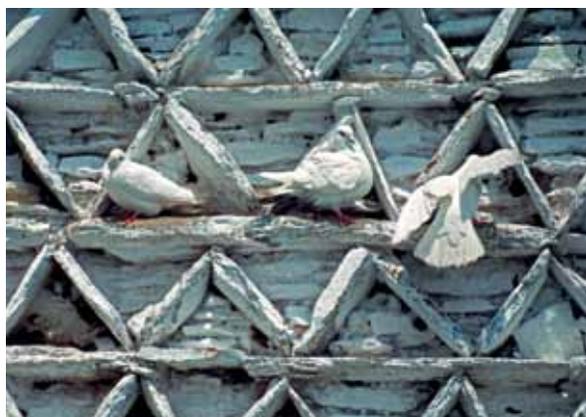


86. Detail from a Tinos dovecote.

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Municipal Office:** 22833-60.100
- **Police station:** 22830-22.255, 22830- 22.100
- **Tourist Police station:** 22830-23.670
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22833-60.000
- **Port Authority:** 22830-22.348
- **Long Distance Bus Terminus (KTEL):** 22830-22440
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22830-29.063
- **Museum of Marble Crafts (Pyrgos):** 22830-31.290

Website: [www.tinos.gr](http://www.tinos.gr)



87. Megali Kolympithra, one of the island's top beaches.



88. *Terraced fields, typical of Tinos island.  
The west part of Chora lies in the back.*



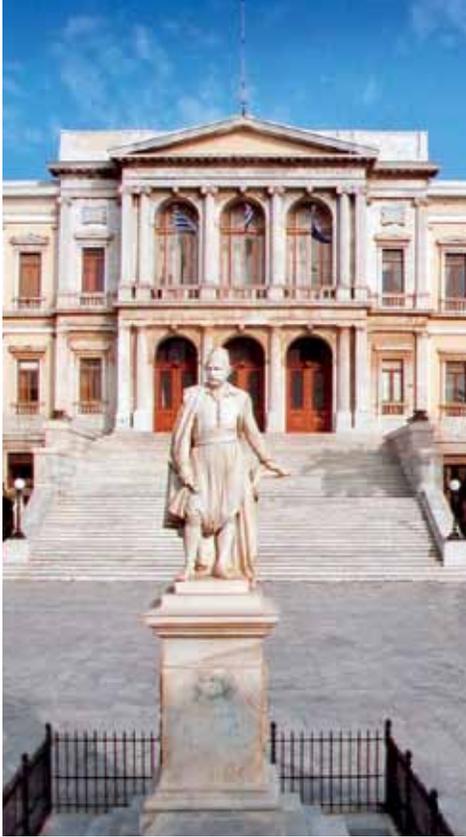


# Syros



89. Ermoupoli. Ano Syros and San Tzortzi's church lies on the highest location in the back (left); Anastasi [Resurrection] church is on Dili hilltop (right).

«**S** Syros Island has been called «Lady of the Cyclades» and «nymph of the Aegean Sea». It is the homeland of Ferekydis, an ancient Greek philosopher, teacher of Pythagoras. In the Neolithic Age, Syros was one of the most important islands of the Cycladic civilisation. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Venetians took the island over. The mediaeval town, built on a hill overlooking the port, its founding and everyday life structure have had a leading impact on the island's history to this very day. During the Turkish occupation, many persecuted people from nearby islands took refuge here. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the island experienced an unprecedented growth: the construction of boatyards, trading stations and factories, made Syros one of the most frequently visited islands of the Aegean, and Ermoupoli became the hub of island life. Area: 84 sq. km, coastline: 87 km, population: 19,800



90. Miaouli Square: Andreas Miaouli's statue [an admiral during the 1821 Greek Independence War]; the Town Hall is in the back.

## Ermoupoli

1

Ermoupoli has been named after the ancient Greek god Hermes. It is the island's capital town and the administrative capital of all the Cyclades islands. This is one of the most beautiful Greek towns (12,000 residents), with many wonderful neoclassical buildings and a particular architectural style influenced by the 19<sup>th</sup> century western standards. It has been built in an amphitheatrical arrangement on the hill overlooking the Aegean. The largest part of it was built after the 1821 Greek Independence War, by refugees who came from Chios, Psara, Kassos, Kydonia and Smyrna. During that time it became densely populated and evolved into an important commercial and manufacturing centre. In addition to that, and as a result of its geographical location and the financial boom it experienced, its port became an important trading and maritime hub of the newly created Greek state during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Town promenade

- To the famous **Miaouli square**, ranking high among the most beautiful squares in Greece. The

**Town Hall** towers over the square and is one of the largest town halls in the country. It was built from 1876 to 1881, on plans by Ernst Ziller, a famous architect of that time.

- To the **Cultural Centre** located next to the Town Hall, which houses the **Municipal Library** and visual art exhibitions.

- To **Apollon Municipal Theatre** (1862-1864). It is a replica on a smaller scale of La Scala di Milano, a venue for theatrical plays, concerts and other events.

- To the **Church of Anastaseos (Resurrection)** at the top of Dili hill, offering an enchanting view of the surrounding area (founded in 1874, opened in 1880, but inaugurated in 1908).

- To the **Metropolitan Church of Metamorfosis tou Sotira (Transfiguration of Christ)** (1824-1831), housing the Ecclesiastical Museum of Ermoupoli.

- To the **Church of Koimisi tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God)** (1828-1829) where the icon of Panagia (Virgin Mary)



91. Local silver four-drachma coin, 2nd c. BC, depicting wreathed Kaveiroi [ancient deities] holding a lance (Numismatic Museum, Athens).

92. Apollo theatre; an interior view. The ceiling is decorated with murals of poets and composers.





93. Detail from the impressive cupola mural of Agios Nikolaos o Plousios' church.



has been painted by El Greco.

- To the Church of **Agios Georgios** (1839) in the precincts of which there is a cemetery with very interesting funerary sculptures and to **Agios Nikolaos tou Plousiou** church with an impressive 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural style.
- To the **Monument of Atafou Agonisti** (the Unburied Fighter) (1889), in front of the church of Agios Nikolaos.
- To the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in the Town Hall, established in 1834-1835 and showcasing major finds from various parts of the island, mainly around Chalandriani.
- To the **Museum of Cycladic Art**, where copies of prehistoric Cycladic art items are on display; the originals are kept in the Goulandris



94. A view of Ermoupoli and its harbour from the east.

Museum of Cycladic and Ancient Greek Art (Athens).

- To the **Industrial Museum of Ermoupoli**, where you will see a collection of old machinery from the factories of Ermoupoli as well an archive of recordings of testimonies.
- To the **Art Gallery of Cyclades**, housed in an 1834 neoclassical building with works by Greek and foreign artists on display.
- To the **Statue of Niki** (Victory), dedicated to the National Resistance, on the jetty.
- To the **Customs office building**, where you can see the Monument of the Unknown Sailor.
- To the 19<sup>th</sup> century **Lighthouse**.
- To **Vaporía district** in the eastern part of the town, with impressive neoclassical mansions.
- To **Gefyri** (Bridge), in the location "Treis Gefyres" (meaning Three Bridges).
- To **Tarsana**, an area used for the repair of small boats, next to Neorio (Dockyard).

## Nearby Trips

- To **Talanta** village, 4km SW, where you can visit the beautiful church of Agios Ioannis.

- To **Episkopio** village (Piskopio), 5 km SW. This is the island's winter resort with some magnificent 19<sup>th</sup> century villas.
- To **Alithini Cave** (5 km W), offering a spectacular view of Ano Syros and Ermoupoli.

95. The stone-built lighthouse on Gaidouronisi islet, off Ermoupoli's harbour is the oldest (built 1834) and tallest (29m.) of Greek lighthouses.



## Trips around the island

### Ano Syros or Epano Chora

2

Ano Syros or Epano Chora, as the locals call it, keeps its mediaeval appearance unchanged, with its labyrinthine alleys, traditional snow-white houses, arches over the street and narrow alleys with stairs leading to small neighbourhoods. It was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the Venetians on the location of a settlement dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The view from the hill of Ano Syros is amazing, so do not hesitate to climb the long flight of stairs leading to the hilltop where the Church of San Tzortzis stands.

**Distance from Ermoupoli:** 2 km.

#### Must see:



- **Agios Georgios** or **San Tzortzi** church.

This is the Catholic Cathedral built in mediaeval

*96. Ermoupoli and Ano Syros, photographed from the old Ladopoulos' factory.*



times and repaired in 1834.

- The **Centre for Historical Studies** of the Catholic Diocese.
- The **Monastery of the Jesuits**.
- The **Monastery of the Capuchins** (1633).
- The bust of local writer **Velissarios Freris**.
- **Agia Varvara** and **Agios Dimitrios** churches.
- The **square** where the **bust** of **Markos Vamvakaris** stands, the great Greek composer of rebetiko (a very popular music genre), who was born here.
- **Markos Vamvakaris Museum**, exhibiting his personal items.
- The building of the **Town Hall**.
- The **Historical Archives** of Ano Syros Municipality.
- The **Exhibition of traditional crafts**.
- The **Cultural Centre**.

### Azolimnos

3

Azolimnos is a seaside village on the southeastern coast of the island, with a lovely golden sandy beach. It is the closest beach to Ermoupoli and one of the most popular on the island. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 5 km SE.

### Galissas

4

One of Syros' most popular and cosmopolitan



97. Galissas; its popular, long beach.

tourist resorts. The village was built in a picturesque bay, and has been populated since the ancient times. Climb the hill of Agia Pakou to visit the ruins of a small fortress and the ancient acropolis and enjoy the panoramic view of the village and the sea. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 9 km SW.

## Kini 5

This is one of Syros' most picturesque and quiet villages, well-known for its fish restaurants. It is located on the west side of the island, next to a beautiful sandy beach. If you are looking for more quiet and secluded beaches, try Lotos, Varvarousa, Aetos, Grammata or the breathtaking Delfini beach. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 9 km W.

## Chalandriani 6

This area is known for its archaeological sites discovered in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century following the

excavations of the archaeologist Christos Tsountas. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 9.5 km N.

### Must see:



- The **archaeological site of Chalandriani**, including the burial ground of the early Cycladic period, and the prehistoric settlement with noteworthy finds.
- The **archaeological site of Kastrios**, on a rocky elevated terrain with a walled settlement dating to the period 2300-2200 BC.
- **Ferekydis' cave**, where ancient philosopher Ferekydis lived, according to tradition (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC).
- **Syringa spring** (4 km W), well known since antiquity. The view from the area is breathtaking.

## Megas Gialos 7

Megas Gialos is a seaside village and popular tourist resort situated on the south side of the island, with an amazing sandy beach. The beach of Ampelas is nearby, in a small sheltered bay. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 12 km S.

## Foinikas 8

This village is a tourist destination with a fine sandy beach, among the most popular ones on the island. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 11 km SW.

## Poseidonia (Delagrasia) 9

Poseidonia, previously called Delagrasia, has been a cosmopolitan resort since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The most prominent feature of the town is the large number of neoclassical mansions (once

98. Kini cove and the village.





99. A mansion in Poseidonia, housing the Town Hall.

country residences of wealthy local families), with large gardens, which add an air of refinement to the area. Delagrasia is a corruption of the name of the Catholic Church of the Virgin Madonna della Grazia. It was renamed Poseidonia due to the ancient town by that name located on that site. On the way to Ermoupoli (4 km NE) you will pass by **Parakopi**, a traditional village with beautiful villas

100. Mouses Lounge in Casino Syros.



in a verdant area. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 13 km SW.

## Vari 10

Vari is one of the largest villages on the island, surrounded by farmland, with picturesque neighbourhoods and beautiful beaches. The remains of a prehistoric settlement and tombs of the Roman period have been found there. Chrousa, a small traditional village lies 2.5 km west, nestled in a wooded area amid flowing waters. **Distance from Ermoupoli:** 8 km S.

### Events

- Ermoupoleia, every summer from mid July to late August, with various performances such as concerts, theatre, speeches, etc.
- Science Fiction Festival in Ermoupoli in the spring.
- Carnival parade in Ano Syros.
- Cultural events in Ano Syros, during the summer months.
- Feast of Analipsi (Ascension of Christ) in Azolimnos.
- Cultural events in Poseidonia, in the summer period.

### Activities on the island

- Swimming at Galissas, one of the most popular beaches, Agkathopes and Komito. There are beautiful sandy beaches in Kini, Delfini, Aetos and Lia. Grammata is accessible by boat only; other great beaches include Vari, Azolimnos, Foinikas, Achladi, Famrika, Empatis, Santorinioi, Ampela, Tria Lagonia and Poseidonia.
- Wind surfing.
- Water Skiing.
- Canoeing.
- Sailing.
- Fishing.
- Water sports.
- Diving.
- Camping in Galissas.
- Hiking in Ano Meria (north of Ano Syros), through a network of marked paths, across a protected site that has been included in the Natura 2000 network. There are many springs



101. Popular Agkathopes beach.

in the area (e.g. Syringa), rocky seashores, interesting caves (Alithini cave and Ferekydis' cave), archaeological sites (in Chalandriani) and beds of uncommon rock (eklogites). The area is also a rare bird species shelter. Alternatively you can follow this route by mountain bike or use a

4x4 off road vehicle.

- Boat trips to **Gyaros**, the small island (17 sq. km) used as a place of exile for political prisoners during the period of the Greek Civil War (1946-1949) and the 1967-1974 dictatorship. Gyaros has been characterised as a «historic place» by the Ministry of Culture.
- Visit also the **Casino** (housed in a neoclassical building in the coastal area of Ermoupoli; entrance at 14, Stamatiou Proiou Street).

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Syros - Ermoupoli Municipal Office:** 22813-61.000
- **Police station:** 22810-96.100
- **Hospital:** 22813-60.500
- **Port Authority:** 22810-88.888
- **Airport:** 22810-87.025
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22810-88.487
- **Museum of Cycladic Art:** 22810-85.300
- **Industrial Museum:** 22810-84.762
- **Casino:** 22810-84.400

Website: [www.hermoupolis.gr](http://www.hermoupolis.gr)

102. Nightlife in Ermoupoli offers countless options for all tastes.



103. Vaporia quarter, Ermoupoli.  
Agios Nikolaos o Plousios' church  
rises among the marvellous neoclassical mansions.





# Mykonos



104. "Little Venice", the most photographed spot on Mykonos.

**O**ne of the most famous tourist destinations worldwide! Mykonos is the best known Greek island worldwide and a favourite destination among celebrities from all over the planet.

It is one of the most beautiful Cyclades islands, with bare hills, stunning sandy beaches, a very well preserved Cycladic architectural style, little white churches and scenery of unique beauty. In recent decades many villas and hotels have been built in harmony with the island's physiognomy and architecture.

Mykonos is located approximately in the centre of the Cyclades group of islands, between Tinos and Naxos. It is the island nearest to Delos with an area of 87 sq. km, a coastline of 82 km and a population of 9,350 people. There is an airport connecting the island with Athens, Thessaloniki and other Greek cities.



105. Bonis Mill housing the Farming Museum (Agrotomouseio).

## Chora

1

This is one of the most beautiful towns in Cyclades, one that has maintained its beautiful, unaffected and austere Aegean style intact. Narrow cobblestone-laid streets, small freshly whitewashed houses with blue windows and small wooden balconies, pots filled with multicoloured and fragrant flowers, churches, museums and streets lined with shops with a bustling trade create a remarkable picture. In the summertime the narrow streets are full of people walking about and visiting the luxurious shops and boutiques or having fun in the famous clubs and restaurants. The harbour is equally picturesque and among the multicoloured fishing boats you get a glimpse of Petros, the famous pelican and the mascot of the island.

## Promenade in Chora

- In **Mikri Venetia (Little Venice)**. Famous Alefkandra district has also been named Little Venice because the houses' foundations were built in the sea.
- In **Matogiannia**, a cosmopolitan district in the heart of Chora.
- To the **Archaeological Museum**, founded in 1905, displaying finds from the neighbouring island of Rineia.

- To the **Folk Art Museum** and the **Maritime Museum**.
- To the **Boni Farming Museum and Mill**, housed in a restored mill.
- To the **Municipal Art Gallery**, where works of art by Greek and foreign artists are exhibited.
- To the **open-air amphitheatre**.
- To the **Mycenaean vaulted tomb** (14<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> c. BC) in Vrysi location.
- In the narrow streets of **Kastro district**.
- To the 15<sup>th</sup> century church of **Panagia Paraportiani**, an impressive complex of five communicating churches.
- To the churches of **Panachrantos, Agia Kyriaki, Agia Eleni** and the Catholic Church of **Panagia tou Podariou**.
- To the picturesque **windmills**, Mykonos' landmark.
- To **Tourlos**, where you can visit Agios Georgios' church, Ai Giorgis Spilianos' church built in a cave and Agia Sofia church, 2 km to the North.
- To **Agios Panteleimonas' Monastery** (3 km NE of Chora, near Marathi), built in 1665, a fortified monastery -characteristic of its kind-with magnificent icons.

## Trips around the island

### Agios Stefanos

2

This is a coastal village that attracts many tourists. Do visit the small Agios Stefanos church in the village, the 1891 lighthouse of Armenistis in Fanari area as well as Choulakia, a bay with an impressive pebble beach. **Distance from Chora:** 3 km N.

106. In Mykonos, fun time starts early in the morning.



107. One of the traditional windmills  
on a hill overlooking Chora.  
Archaic tombs have been located on the spot.







### Ornos 3

Ornos is a picturesque village with a small sheltered harbour and crystal clear beach. **Distance from Chora:** 3.5km S.

### Psarou 4

A very popular seaside village, a meeting place for the jet-set and the famous. Platys Gialos is located nearby where ruins of towers lie, dating back to the Hellenistic period. At a 1 km distance, you will find the beautiful sandy beaches of Agia Anna and Paragka. **Distance from Chora:** 4.5 km SE.

### Ano Mera 5

Ano Mera is a beautiful and picturesque village, located approximately in the centre of the island, on the way to the northeast beaches. It is known for its unspoilt, typical Cycladic features and traditional tavernas. **Distance from Chora:** 7.5 km E.

### Must see:

- The 16<sup>th</sup> century historic Monastery of **Panagia Tourliani**.
- The **square** with its cafés and restaurants.
- **Agios Georgios'** church.
- Mnimeio Pesonton (Fighters' Memorial).
- The **windmill** up on the mound.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> century **Monastery of Palaiokastro**.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> century **mediaeval castle of Gyzi**, and **Agia Triada** (Holy Trinity) Church. Ruins dating to the Geometric, Archaic and Hellenistic periods can be seen on the hill where the castle stands.
- **Foki bay**.

### Kalafatis 6

Kalafatis is a coastal tourist area with a small jetty where fishing boats get moored. The village beach is ideal for water sports and there are sights worth visiting such as Divounia where ancient relics have been found, and the small

church in the area of Agia Anna with its sandy beach. **Distance from Chora:** 12 km E.

## Events

- Feasts of Agia Paraskevi on July 26<sup>th</sup>, Panagia Tourliani on August 15<sup>th</sup>, Agios Ioannis on August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Cross (Stavros) on September 14<sup>th</sup>, Agia Sofia on September 17<sup>th</sup>, Agios Stefanos on December 27<sup>th</sup> and Agios Nikolaos on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Grape harvesting Festival in Agrotomouseio (Farming Museum) on the second or third Sunday every September.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming in Megali Ammos, Agia Anna, Paragka, Kappari, Glyfadi, Agios Ioannis, Agios Stefanos, Choulakia, Foki, Mersini, Merchias, Plyntiria, Vathia Lagkada, Tigani, Elia, Kalafatis, Kalo Livadi, Lia, Tsagkaris, Fragkia, Psarou, Agrari and the renowned Paradise and Super Paradise beaches.
- Wind surfing in Ftelia.

- Water sports in Elia.
- Football in Ornos.
- Visiting spas.
- Hiking.
- Diving.
- Spear Fishing.
- Sailing.
- Camping grounds in Agia Anna (Paragka) and Paradise beach (Kalamopodi).

### Useful phone numbers (+30): ☎

- **Mykonos Municipal Office:** 22890-22.201
- **Police station:** 22890-22.716
- **Tourist Police station:** 22890-22.482
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22890-23.994
- **Port Authority:** 22890-22.218
- **Airport:** 22890-79.000
- **Long Distance Bus Terminus (KTEL):** 22890-23.360
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22890-22.325
- **Folk Art Museum:** 22890-22.591
- **Maritime Museum:** 22890-22.700

Website: [www.mykonos.gr](http://www.mykonos.gr)

108. Paragka beach - fine sand and rocks.



*109. Despite the fact that most of the island's beaches are very popular, you can still find some quiet ones for relaxing and enjoying your stay by Mykonos' lovely waters.*





# Delos



110. Detail from the mosaic floor in the House of Dolphins (10<sup>th</sup> c. BC).

**D**elos is a small island in the heart of the Aegean Sea, with an area of 6 sq. km, a major religious and cultural centre of Greek Antiquity as Apollo, the god of light, was born there, according to mythology. Ancient Greeks believed that the island, previously named "Adelos – Asteria" (*Adelos* meaning not visible), was floating on the sea. Upon birth of the god Apollo there, Adelos became Delos i.e. visible and was flooded with light and flowers. According to the legend, the island was then tied to the bottom of the sea. Since 1000 BC, Delos has been a religious centre during the Greek Ancient times and a commercial centre since 478 BC. Today the island is uninhabited, but there are small boats running an itinerary daily from the neighbouring port of Mykonos (the distance is 6 nautical miles).

Delos was first inhabited in 2500 BC. The first residents were the Carians, followed by the Mycenaeans. In 1100 BC, the Ionians populated the island. Around 700 BC, Delos had already been established as the religious centre of the Ionians who held their Great Assembly there along with other Panhellenic events. Paros, Naxos, Samos, Athens and many other Ionian cities offered numerous oblations to the sacred island. When the Persian invaders came, they respected the island's sacred character. It was here that the first

Delian [or Athenian] League was established (478 BC), aimed at protecting the Ionian cities against the Persians. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC the Athenian influence weakened, and Delos came under the influence of the Macedonians. From the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, Apollo's sacred island turned into a significant trading centre, with wealthy traders and bankers settling in. During the Roman period, the island was declared a free trading port and wealthy Roman merchants and ship owners moved in. At that time, 20,000 Romans, Egyptians, Syrians, Phoenicians and Jews lived in Delos.

In 88 BC the island was destroyed by Mithridates, the King of Pontus, and completely lost its sacred character. During the early centuries of Christianity, the population of the island diminished, and Delos gradually fell into an irreversible decline. Any remnants of the old days of glory died away after the iconoclast Byzantine Emperor Leo the Isaurian plundered the island

113. The statue of Diodora and the temple of Isis in the back.



112. Local silver stater [coin] (6th c. BC) depicting a lyre (Numismatic Museum, Athens).

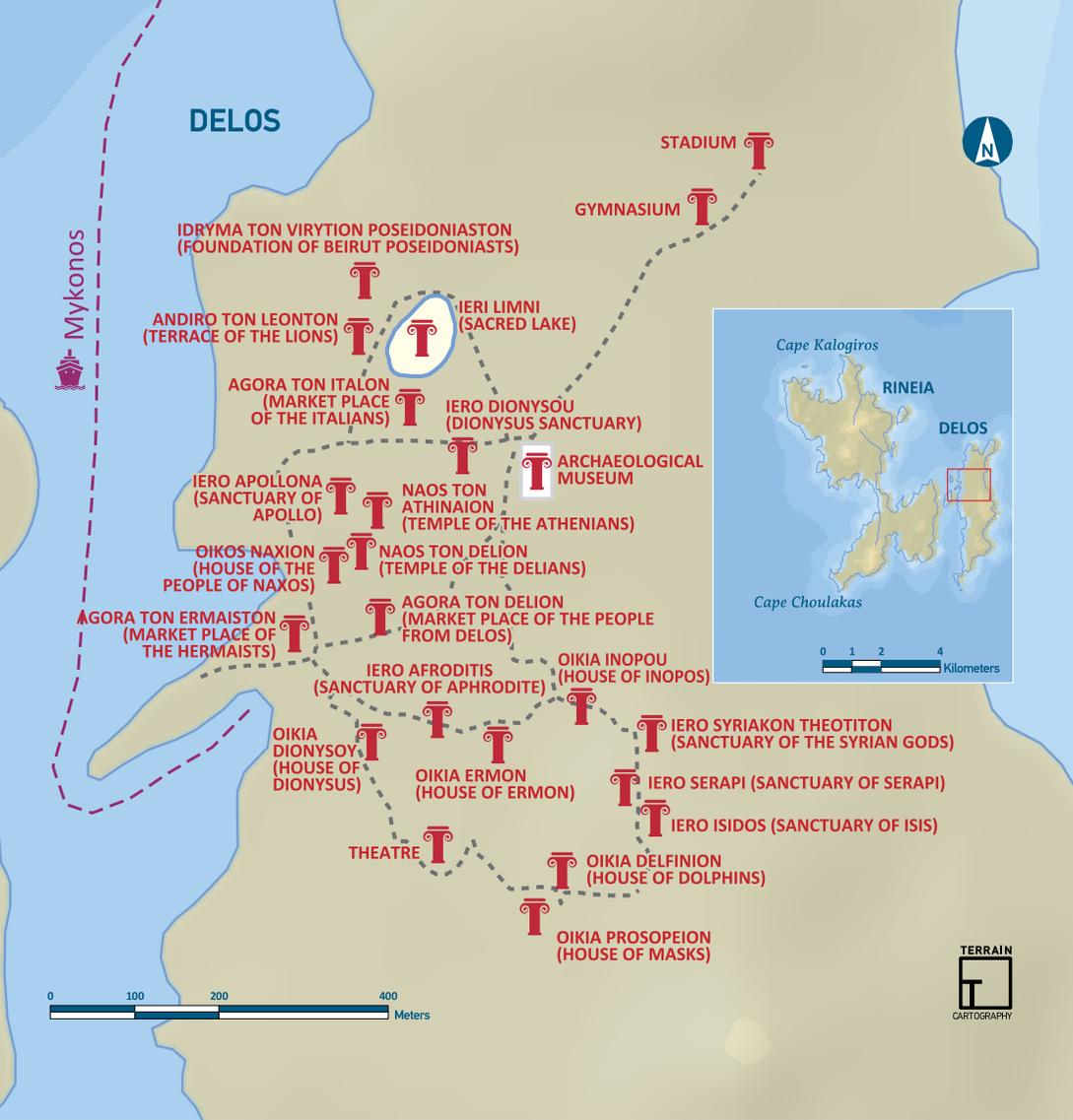
in 727 AD, to be followed by the Slavs in 769 AD, and finally by the Saracens in 821 AD.

### Must see:



The **archaeological site of Delos**, included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage sites, the most important monuments being:

- **Agora ton Ermaiston / Kompetaliaston** (Market place of the Hermaists or Competalists), one of the main market places of the Hellenistic city of Delos.
- **Naos ton Delion** (Temple of the Delians), the largest of the three temples dedicated to Apollo.
- **Andiro ton Leonton** (Terrace of the Lions) dedicated to Apollo by the people of the island of Naxos (7<sup>th</sup> century BC), with 9 out of the original 16 marble guardian lions being preserved, in the renowned "Lions Way".
- **Idryma ton Virytion Poseidoniaston** (Foundation of Beirut Poseidoniasts) (2<sup>nd</sup> century BC).
- The **Theatre** (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC).



114. Andiro ton Leonton (Terrace of the Lions). The original statues are exhibited in Delos Archaeological Museum.





115. Sculpture Complex of goddess Artemis and a deer (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BC, Delos Archaeological Museum).

- **Dorikos Naos tis Isidas** (Doric Temple of goddess Isis) (2nd century BC).
- **Dorikos Naos tis Iras** (Doric Temple of goddess Hera) (500 BC).
- The **house of Dionysus** (2<sup>nd</sup> century BC), famous for the mosaic floor depicting the god Dionysus riding a panther.
- The **mosaic floors** of other private residences such as Oikos Prosopeion (House of Masks), Oikos Delfinon (House of Dolphins) and Oikos Triainas (House of Trident).
- The **Stadium**.
- **Oikos Naxion** (House of the People of Naxos), an archaic building with annexes added during the Classical Period.
- **Iero Serapi** (Sanctuary of Serapi).
- **Iero Syriakon Theotiton** (Sanctuary of the Syrian Gods).
- **Iero Kaveiron** (Sanctuary of Kabeiroi).
- The **Archaeological Museum**, one of the most important museums in relation to the history of the ancient Greek sculpture but also one of the most significant Greek museums in general. It showcases sculptures dating to the Archaic up to the Late Hellenistic Period, mosaics, ceramic art, etc.

- The small islet of **Rineia** where there are two harbours although it is uninhabited. Stroll around and discover the island's tropical beaches. In antiquity, there was a maternity clinic and a burial ground on the island (relevant finds from a common burial place are exhibited in the Archaeological Museum of Mykonos). The island can be reached by boat from Mykonos.

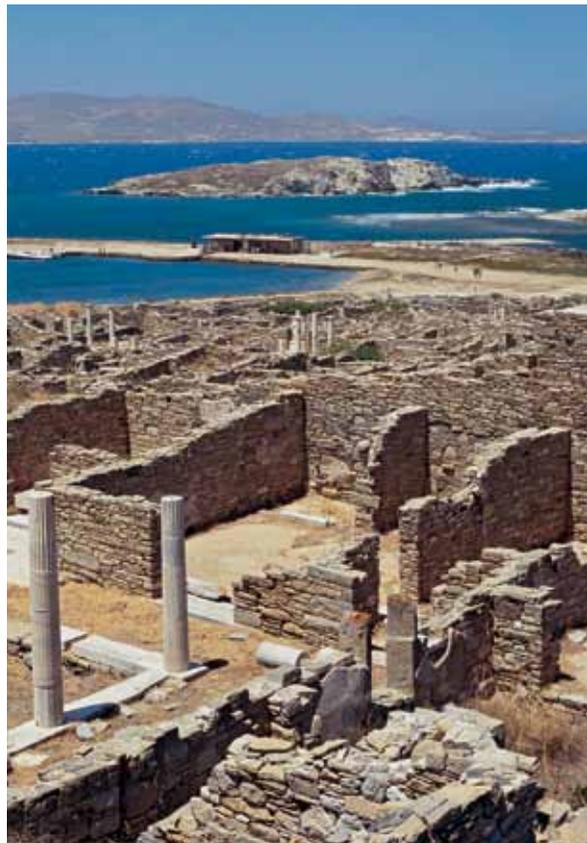
## General Information

- Overnight stay on the island is not allowed.
- Boats are allowed to moor only during daytime.
- Swimming in the ancient small harbour is not allowed.

### Useful phone numbers (+30) ☎

- **Archaeological Site:** 22890-22.259
- **Port Authority of Mykonos:** 22890-22.218

116. General view of the Theatre quarter.



117. *The house of Kleopatra and Dioskouridis.  
The statues of the owners can be seen as if greeting their guests.*





# Paros



118. Panoramic view of Paroikia (Parkia), capital town and port of Paros island.

**P**aros is located in the centre of the Cyclades islands, and is considered one of the most popular holiday destinations with unrivalled natural beauty, vast sandy beaches, crystalline seawaters and stunning scenery. The island's area is 195 sq. km, its coastline is 120 km and there are 12,800 residents. This place is a cosmopolitan holiday destination with a well-developed tourism infrastructure. Historically the island of Paros served as an administrative and commercial centre of the Aegean and often became the apple of discord for many conquerors (Romans, Byzantines, Franks, Venetians and Turks), who all left their mark on the island. The ruins in the archaeological sites and the important historical monuments all over the island are testimony to the island's great prosperity in the past. Paros was renowned in ancient times for its marble and provided the material for creating many famous monuments. This island has been the place of origin of famous ancient Greek sculptors, painters and poets. In 1207 Paros became a part of the Duchy of the Aegean and in 1537 it was conquered by the Turks.



119. Section of the walls of Paroikia castle; Agia Anna's chapel.

## Paroikia (Parkia) 1

Paroikia is the capital town of Paros Island, a very beautiful Cycladic town, built on the site of the ancient settlement. Paroikia was destroyed by the Turks in 1668. Ruins of the neoclassical and mediaeval periods can be seen lying among the small white cube-shaped houses. In summertime, the narrow streets of the traditional old town get filled with people enjoying the variety of popular shops, tavernas and restaurants.

## Promenade in Paroikia

- To the church of **Panagia Ekatontapyliani** or Panagia Katapoliani, one of the most important monuments of the Early Christian period in Greece. According to tradition, the name *Ekatontapyliani* means that the church has 100 gates, 99 visible ones and a secret one (or in the case of the name Katapoliani, coming from the fact that it is located in the lower part of town). This architectural complex dates back to mid-6<sup>th</sup> century AD, while older murals in the Early Christian complex date to the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century. Ekatontapyliani Church resembles a monastery, with a courtyard, cells for monks and remarkable side chapels. Visit by all means the baptistery (4<sup>th</sup> century), as it is the best preserved font in the Orthodox East; also do visit the **Byzantine Museum**, and its noteworthy exhibits.

- To the **Venetian castle** (13<sup>th</sup> century), located on a small hill in the centre of the traditional old town. A defensive tower and the southern and eastern parts of the walls remain standing (where architectural members of ancient temples have been built in). There are many noteworthy churches in the surrounding area.

- To **Agios Konstantinos** church (17<sup>th</sup> century) located inside the Castle, built in a remarkable architectural style, one of the most beautiful in Cyclades.

120. Panagia Ekatontapyliani's church.





• In traditional **downtown Paroikia** (Lochagou Fokianou St. and Lochagou Gravari St.) where you will find many shops, cafés and restaurants with a particularly interesting island-style and neoclassical architecture.

• To the following **archaeological sites**: the ruins of the **archaic temple of Athena** (525 BC) in the Castle (Kastro), the **burial grounds** of the ancient town (close to the harbour), **the ceramics and sculpture workshops** of the Hellenistic period as well as the remains of a **Roman building** (behind the Archaeological Museum), the **Eastern Gate of the Ancient Wall**, the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC **Iero tou Asklipiou**

(sanctuary of god Asklipios) up on the hill towards Alyki and its contemporary **Iero tou Pythiou Apollona** (sanctuary of god Pythios Apollo), close to the sanctuary of Asklipios, **Delion** (NE of the town) where Apollo, Leto and Artemis were worshipped, and where the remains of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC sanctuary are lying, as well as the arched building of the late antiquity period, in the area of Krios.

• To the **Archaeological Museum**, where exhibits from the Prehistoric up to the Roman times are on display, including part of «*Parion Chronikon*», meaning "Paros Chronicle" i.e. a chronological table with references to major events and personalities of the antiquity.

• To the churches of **Agia Marina, Panagia**

**tou Stavrou, Agia Aikaterini, Evangelismos (Annunciation) and Agia Anna** (on the southern side of the road running along the coast).

• To the building of the **Elementary school** (1901).

• To the **coastal area**, lined with cafés, bars and restaurants, stretching from the windmill at the entrance of the harbour up to the small church of Agia Anna.

• To the **residence of Manto Mavrogenous** (where there is a bust of the female revolutionary of the 1821 Greek Independence War).

• To **Dimotiki Vivliothiki** (Municipal Library), housed in a marvellous neoclassic building located in the centre of the historic old town.

• To the three 18<sup>th</sup> century **marble**

**fountains** constructed by Nikolaos Mavrogenis the sovereign of *Moldovlachia* [another name for the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia that existed until the 1850s]. These fountains were celebrated much later by poet Odysseas Elytis in his "Axion Esti".

• To the 525 **Early Christian Basilica** (1 km SE towards Naousa) on the ruins of which three other 17<sup>th</sup> century churches were built.

• To the 1660 **Agioi Anargyroi monastery** on the town's highest location offering a splendid view of the surrounding area, to **Taxiarches (Archangels) monastery** 3.5 km NE, to **Longovarda monastery** 4.5 km NE, and finally to **Christos tou Dasous** (meaning Christ of the



123. Paros Archaeological Museum – view of the yard area.





124. Hike to the lighthouse in Korakas area, near Naousa, across the lovely countryside.

forest) **monastery** 5 km S.

- To **cape Agios Fokas** (opposite the town) with a spectacular view of the open sea and the neighbouring islands.
- To the **marble quarries** at Marathi, 5.5 km E of Paroikia, open from the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was where extraction of the renowned local (Parian) marble took place. The mining galleries along with remnants of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial buildings still exist (difficult to access yet visitable). Additionally, at the entrance of the second gallery, you can find a carved stone relief dedicated to the Nymphs; a section of it is kept at the nearby **Agios Minas** monastery.

- To **Petaloudes** (Butterflies), 6 km S, in the location *Psychopiana*, where butterflies of the species *Panaxia Quadripunctaria* appear during the summer months.

## *Trips around the island*

### **Pounta**

**2**

This is a coastal village, lying on lowland with cultivated fields. It is the windsurfers' and kitesurfers' favourite spot. The village offers a beautiful view towards the island of Antiparos and a ferry service to it. **Distance from Paroikia:** 8 km SW.

### **Naousa**

**3**

It is Paros' most picturesque village and one of the most popular destinations, with colourful fishing boats, traditional white houses and narrow streets lined with cafeterias, fish-restaurants, bars and clubs. **Distance from Paroikia:** 10.5 km NE.

### **Must see:**



- The **Venetian castle**, at the small harbour's entrance, a central meeting place for residents and visitors.

125. Panoramic view of Lefkes village.





126. The 15<sup>th</sup> c. Venetian castle at the entrance of Naousa's small harbour.

- The churches of **Agios Athanasios** (17<sup>th</sup> century), **Koimisi tis Theotokou** (Dormition of the Mother of God), **Agios Nikolaos** and **Agios Georgios** (17<sup>th</sup> century).
- The district of **Agios Dimitrios**, and the houses built by the water.
- The old windmills.
- The 1648 **Agios Andreas' monastery**.
- Othon Kaparis' **History and Folk Art Museum**: exhibits cover the period from antiquity until modern times (situated at the central square).
- The **Folk Art Collection** titled "Greek Local Costumes".
- The **Collection of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Art** with 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century icons and crosses.
- The **Mycenaean Acropolis**, in Kolymphithres area (Koukounaries location).
- **Ampelas** area (4 km SE), with holiday cottages, popular fish-restaurants and beautiful beaches.

## Lefkes

4

Lefkes is a particularly picturesque mountain village, surrounded by lush vegetation. The local neoclassical architecture features beautiful squares and narrow streets paved with marble. It is built on the highest location of Paros, offering a fabulous view of the island and the sea. **Distance from Paroikia**: 11 km SE.

## Must see:



- The 1830 **Agia Triada** (Holy Trinity) church with its impressive marble bell tower.
- The **Aegean Folk Culture Museum** and the **Folk Art Museum**.
- The **Heroes & Fighters Memorial**, at the central square.
- The pottery and weaving **workshops**.
- The **House of Literature**, located in the old XENIA hotel.
- The centuries-old **olive trees**, at Apati location.
- The **windmills**, on the top of the neighbouring hill.
- The **Byzantine path** (3 km long), dating back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century offering an enjoyable hiking route amid olive groves and myrtles. It connects Lefkes with Prodromos.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> century **Agios Ioannis Kaparos'** monastery, located 2.5 km SW.
- The village **Kostos** (5 km N). It is worth stopping by its extremely picturesque central square where you can visit the 17<sup>th</sup> century church dedicated to Agios Panteleimonas and admire its remarkable iconostasis. You will also find cafés and tavernas there.

127. The famous beach in Kolymphithres set in a particularly beautiful rocky area.



## Agkairia - Alyki 5

These are two beautiful neighbouring villages. Agkairia is built in a verdant area and Alyki is a coastal village very popular with tourists. The **Scorpios Cycladic Folk Art Museum** is open in Alyki, founded by folk artist B. Skiadas. The beaches of Farangas and Trypiti, and in the area of Aspro Chorio the beaches of Lolantonis and Glyfa are worth your visit. **Distance from Paroikia:** 12.5 and 13 km respectively to the South.

## Prodromos 6

It was named after the 17<sup>th</sup> century church of Agios Ioannis Prodromos [St. John the Forerunner]. The architecture in this small beautiful village is an interesting one with well tended traditional houses. Entrance to Prodromos is through an arch connecting the churches of Agios Spyridonas and Agios Nikolaos. **Distance from Paroikia:** 14 km SE.

## Marpissa 7

Marpissa is a lovely traditional village, with mediaeval structure, founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is located on a hill, a few kilometres away from the popular beaches of Logara and Piso Livadi and close to the important historical monuments on Kefalos hill. **Distance from Paroikia:** 17 km SE.

### Must see:



- The **old windmills**, the village's landmark.
- The churches of **Evangelismos** (1410), **Panagia Anapliotissa**, **Agios**

128. Agios Antonios' Monastery on Kefalos hill.



## Modestos and Metamorfofi tou Sotiros (Transfiguration of Christ).

- The **Ecclesiastical Museum** located inside Metamorfofi tou Sotiros church, with 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century icons on display.

- **Nikolaos Perantinos Sculpture Museum** situated in the old school building.

- The **Folk Art Museum** exhibiting a 19<sup>th</sup> century traditional Paros house.

- **Kefalos Hill** where you will see the ruins of a 15<sup>th</sup> century Venetian castle.

The 16th century Agios Antonios Monastery is located on the hilltop.

- **Marmara**, a neighbouring village (founded in the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century), with a particular architectural style and remarkable churches, such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century Koimisi tis Theotokou, the 1606 Agios Savas and others.

- The 1609 small church of **Xechoriani**, on the way to Piso Livadi.

- **Agios Georgios Lagkadas' monastery**, located 5 km SW. It was founded in 1400 and was renovated in 1664.





130. Piso Livadi, one of the most picturesque villages on the island.

## Piso Livadi 8

Piso Livadi is one of Paros' most beautiful villages, ideal for a quiet and calm vacation with a lovely sandy beach, restaurants, cafés and relatively quiet, so to speak, clubs. Logaras is a Blue Flag

129. An aerial photo of Marpissa and Kefalos hill. The west shores of Naxos are discernible in the back.



beach, and the popular-among-the-young-Pounda beach are both close to the village. From Agios Nikolaos' church, enjoy a marvellous view of Naxos Island. Also visit the late 13th century byzantine church of Agios Georgios Thalassitis on the hill above Logaras. **Distance from Paroikia:** 18 km SE.

## Dryos 9

This is a village with a small harbour, where fishing boats and other small craft can be moored. There are traditional restaurants, cafés and bars by the village's beach. The ancient *neosoikoi* (ancient ship sheds where locals used to keep their boats) are definitely to be visited as well as the country chapel of Agios Nikolaos. **Distance from Paroikia:** 22 km SE.

## Events

- Cultural events take place in the island's villages, organised by the Municipality, from June until October.
- Cultural events in Paroikia during the summer months.
- Panagia Ekatonapyliani's Feast on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Agioi Anargyroi Feast on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Klidonas Fair, on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Agios Ioannis Theologos' Feast, on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Easter celebrations including reenacting Jesus Christ's Passion Week in Marpissa and in Prodromos villages.

- Metamorfofi tou Sotiros' Feast, on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Celebration of the Fishermen at the port of Naousa, on July's first Sunday.
- Cultural events, theatrical performances and recreation of local customs, in Naousa.
- Painting, photography, sculpture and jewellery exhibitions in Naousa, during the summer months.
- Pantanassa's Feast on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Celebration of Enniamera Panagias [Leavetaking of the Dormition of the Mother of God] and re-enactment of the pirates' invasion, in Naousa, on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*131. Paros Island has been a member of the EuroArt network since 2005.*



## Activities on the island

- Swimming at the areas of Livadia, Krotiri, Krios, Martselos, Kaminia, at the beaches of Agios Fokas, Delfini, Parasporos and Agia Eirini, in the area of Parikoia; also at the beaches of Alyki, Farangas, Agios Nikolaos, Platia Ammos, Makria Myti, Kladia, Voutakos, Piso Alyki, Pigadakia, Trypiti and Glyfa.

Visit also the beaches of Logaras, at Logaras village, Pounta and Mesada, the area of Marmara, Molos, Kalogeros, Glyfades and Tsoukalia, the area of Marpissa and Piso Livadi. In the area of Dryos, you can swim at the village's beach, Bountari, the Golden Beach (Chrysi Akti) and the New Golden Beach (Nea Chrysi Akti),

Pyrgaki and further away at Lolantonis in the White Village (Aspro Chorio). You can also go for a swim in the area of Naousa, at Piperi, Mikro Piperi, Fykia and Limnes, Monastiri, Agioi Anargyroi, Xifara, Lagkeri, Santa Maria and Alyki, and in the area of Ampelas there is the village's beach, Damoulis and Ysterni.

- Sailing.
- Fishing.
- Diving in Santa Maria, Golden Beach (Chrysi Akti) and Pounta (at Antiparos).
- Wind surfing in Santa Maria, Molos, New Golden Beach (Tserdakia), Golden Beach and in the area of Pounta (at Antiparos).
- Kite surfing in the area of Pounta (Kamos), with kite surfing schools and shops for renting equipment.
- Water skiing and wakeboarding at Kolympithres and Monastiri.
- Waterslide Park (at Naousa, near Kolympithres).
- Tennis.
- Basketball.
- Go-cart track near Paroikia.
- Horse riding.
- Camping at Paroikia (Parkia), Parasporos, Alyki, Naousa, Santa Maria and at Piso Livadi.
- Hiking or enjoying a ride on a mountain bicycle, a dirt bike, or a 4X4 vehicle, on the routes mentioned below:

**1.** The Byzantine path in Lefkes, **2.** From Agkairia towards Agioi Theodoroi monastery either by



132. Paros ranks high on the list of Greek wind surfing destinations.

crossing the mountain or by walking towards the coastal village of Alyki (for the more daring hikers, one can reach as far as Lefkes or even as far as the telecommunication aerials), **3.** From Marpissa towards Lefkes (via the road that passes by the monastery of Agios Georgios) or towards Kefalos hilltop (45 min. approximately) **4.** From Petaloudes (Psychopiana) towards the Monastery of Christos tou Dasous.

## Useful phone numbers (+30) ☎

- **Paros Municipal Office:** 22843-60.100
- **Police station (Parioikia):** 22840-21.673
- **Police station (Naousa):** 22840-51.202
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22843-60.000
- **Rural Medical Clinic (Naousa):** 22840-51.216
- **Port authority (Parioikia):** 22840-21.240
- **Port authority (Naousa):** 22840-51.250
- **Airport:** 22840-90.900
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22840-21.231
- **Ekatontapyliani Church:** 22840-21.243
- **History - Folk Art Museum (Naousa):** 22840-53.453
- **Aegean Folk Culture Museum (hotel Lefkes Village, Lefkes):** 22840-41.827
- **Lefkes Folk Art Museum:** 22840-42.414, 22840-41.617 (in Lefkes Community Hall)
- **Marpissa Ecclesiastical Museum:** 22840-41.831
- **N. Perantinos Sculpture Museum (Marpissa):** 22840-41.217 (in Marpissa Community Hall)
- **Marpissa Folk Art Museum:** 22840-41.217 (in Marpissa Community Hall)

Website: [www.paros.gr](http://www.paros.gr)

133. Cosmopolitan Farangas beach in the southwest side of the island.





*134. Panoramic view of the picturesque harbour of Naousa where you'll find many restaurants, coffee shops and bars; this place is reputed to be the heart of the island's nightlife.*



# Antiparos



135. Chora of Antiparos Island, aerial photo.

**A**ntiparos islet is ideal for peaceful and quiet holidays and is located next to Paros. It has an area of 38 sq. km, a coastline of 37.5 km and a population of 1,030 people. In ancient times vegetation thrived on the island, however, an unknown catastrophe has completely altered its topography, resulting in today's mostly barren land. The ancient name of Antiparos was Oliaros. A very important Neolithic settlement has been unearthed - the most ancient in Cyclades- at the neighbouring islet of Saliagkos.

**It is situated** 1 nautical mile from Pounta village and 4.5 nautical miles from Paroikia in Paros. There is a ferry connection with said villages.



136. The foot of the tower at the centre of the Venetian castle.

## Chora

1

It is built around the Venetian castle. Stone-pitched streets, whitewashed alleys, houses surrounded by flower beds and the big central square with a large eucalyptus tree create a typical island-style picture.

### Must see:

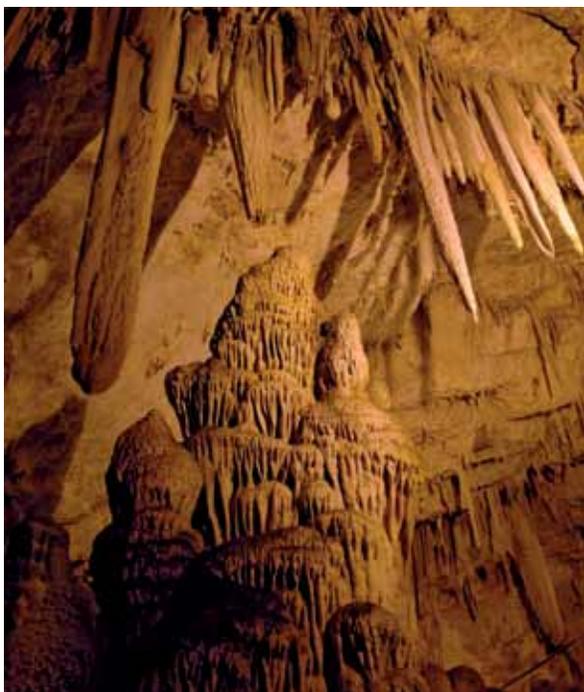


- The **little harbour** (Skala or Molos) and the village's **main street** with many cafés, restaurants, bars and shops.
- The **Cultural Centre / Library**, the **National Resistance Fighters Memorial** and **Evangelistria** church with noteworthy 17<sup>th</sup> century icons.
- The **Venetian castle** (1440), hidden in Chora's traditional village. The castle had been built around a courtyard in the centre of which there was a three-storeyed tower whose base is the only part remaining today. The houses' exterior walls are also the walls of the castle. The one and only gate of the castle is located next to the Metropolitan Church of **Agios Nikolaos**.
- The **cave** (8 km S.), featuring some marvellous stalagmites and stalactites. According to an ancient inscription, one of the cave's first visitors was Archilochos from Paros, a great lyric poet of antiquity; additionally, in various parts of the cave, there are inscriptions by visitors at a later time. The cave is 90 m. deep, 50 m. wide and 40 m. high with three chambers. The oldest stalagmite in Europe is

located at its entrance. The country chapel of Ai Giannis is just outside the cave.

- The villages **Soros** (9 km S) and **Agios Georgios** (12 km SW).
- **Despotiko** and the nearby islands. West of Antiparos there are three small uninhabited islands, with very interesting archaeological sites; Despotiko, **Tsimintiri** (between Antiparos and Despotiko) and **Strongylo**

137. The cave of Antiparos.





(west of Despotiko). According to ancient historians Strabo and Pliny the Elder, Despotiko has been identified as the ancient Prepesinθος Island, known since the Cycladic Culture Age and throughout the Aegean's history. Important ancient items have been found on this location. You can visit Despotiko by taking the small excursion boat which leaves from Agios Georgios, or choose to go on a boat trip to the southwestern coast of the island.

## Events

- Ai-Giannis Spiliotis' Feast, at the cave's entrance, involving traditional dancing and a lot of treats on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Ai-Giannis' Feast, at Antiparos' harbour, on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Agia Marina's three-day feast takes place on Antiparos' harbour, with sports games, dancing, singing and treats for all, in mid July.
- Feast by the small Panagia Faneromeni church on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Local fishing boats will take visitors there.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming at the beaches of Kaloudia, Agios

Ioannis, Sifneikos Gyalos, Stavros, Psaralykes, Glyfa, Plaka, Apantima, Kalargyros, Soros, Agios Sostis, Faneromeni, Livadi, Agios Georgios, Agios Spyridonas, Epitafios and Monastiria.

- Boat excursion at Panteronisia, at the beautiful beaches of Despotiko islet and in the Sea Caves.
- Diving.
- Spear Fishing.
- Hiking from Chora up to the Cave (1.5 hours) or from Agios Georgios towards the cave (2.5 hours).
- 5x5 Mini Soccer.
- Tour of the island, by excursion boats, leaving from Chora's harbour.
- Camping at the location Agios Ioannis Theologos (N. of Chora).

### Useful phone numbers (+30) 📞

- **Municipal office:** 22840-61.570
- **Police station:** 22840-61.202
- **General Regional Medical Clinic:** 22840-61.219
- **Port authority:** 22840-61.485
- **Post Office:** 22840-61.223
- **Camping site:** 22840-61.221

Website: [www.antiparos.gr](http://www.antiparos.gr)

139. Antiparos (left) and Despotiko (right). Tsimintiri islet is in between.



# Naxos



140. View of Chora; the castle stands out.

**N**axos is the largest and most fertile island of the Cyclades group. It is endowed with an extraordinary landscape, high mountains (mount Zas' top, reaching 1,004 m., is the highest mountain in Cyclades) and mountainous villages with a singular character. It has an area of 428 sq. km, a coastline of 148 km and a population of 18,000.

In antiquity, the god Dionysus was worshipped on the island. According to mythology, Dionysus met a Minoan lady, Ariadne, who had been abandoned by Theseus in Naxos. From the ancient times to the present day the island has been producing citrus fruits of excellent quality, wine that is renowned for its quality and very tasty cheese varieties.

The Carians were the first residents of Naxos, followed by the Cretans and the Ionians. Naxos was already famous in the ancient times for its wine and well known as a worship place of the ancient god Dionysus. During the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, Naxos experienced a trading, financial and cultural boom and had been a member of the two Athenian (or Delian) Leagues. During the Venetian occupation, Marco Sanudo founded the Duchy of Naxos (1207). The Venetians remained on the island until 1566. In 1579 it became attached to the Ottoman Empire and from 1830 it is part of the Greek state.

## Naxos Town (Chora) 1

It is the capital town of the island with characteristic Cycladic culture elements and numerous monuments dating to various historical periods. The heart of the town is beating in Old Chora, the old castle town with cobblestone-laid alleys (kalderimia) and the Venetian castle. The houses with Venetian blazons ornamenting their entrances, the narrow arcaded alleys (called "stegadia"), the catholic churches and the fortifications create a unique blend of Cycladic and Mediaeval architecture.

### Promenade in Chora

- To the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC **Portara**, a remaining part of the ancient temple of Apollo. This prominent landmark is located at the harbour's entrance and it is the most famous among the island sights.
- To the **castle**, an impressive monument that is a reminder of the long-lasting Venetian domination of Naxos (1204-1537).
- To the building of **the Ursulines school**, located at the castle's highest level.
- To the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in a historical building of the Venetian period, displaying finds dating back to the Late Neolithic Age up to the Early Christian Period.
- To the **Grotta archaeological site**, towards the northern side of Chora, where ruins of Naxos' Mycenaean capital lie (1300 BC).
- To **Panagia Vlacherniotissa's** church, with the remarkable wood carved iconostasis, and **Panagia Myrtidiotissa's** small church, next to the harbour.
- To **Zoodochos Pigi's** church (meaning Life Giving Fountain), (Chora's metropolitan church).
- To **Agios Ioannis Chrysostomos' Monastery**.
- To the **Town Hall** building, housing the Municipal Library, the Municipal Theatre, the Municipal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Library of Academic Books.
- The **Belonia Tower** (6km SE), once the residence of the Venetian sovereign, with the "twin" church of Agios Ioannis (both orthodox and catholic).



- The 6<sup>th</sup> century BC **Dionysus Sanctuary**, the god's prominent sanctuary in ancient Naxos Island. You will find it in the location "Yria" (close to **Glinado** village), 10 km SE of Chora, where an interesting archaeological collection is on display.

### Trips around the island

## Agios Prokopios 2

It is a favourite destination among holidaymakers and one of Naxos' cosmopolitan spots. Enjoy the lovely sandy beach of crystalline seawaters and visit Agios Prokopios' small church. **Distance from Chora: 5.5 km SW.**



142. Local silver stater (coin) (6<sup>th</sup> c. - 490 BC) depicting a kantharos (chalice-like vessel) [Numismatic Museum, Athens].

143. Portara. Naxos' Chora lies in the background.





## Agia Anna

3

This is one of Naxos' most popular resort areas, located on the western side of the island, south of Chora. The sands there are among the top beaches on Naxos. **Distance from Chora:** 6.5 km SW.

## Galini

4

Galini village was built in a fertile valley and has been known for the **Monastery-Tower of Ypsiloterá** (1600) built in a unique architectural style. **Engares** village is situated close by (1 km E), amidst a wooded area with many springs. **Distance from Chora:** 7 km NE.





144. An uncommon species of cedar grows in Agia Anna's 7 km-long beach.

## Melanes

5

This is yet another beautiful village nestled in a verdant area with numerous streams. Make a point of visiting the colossal 6th century BC statue of **Kouros of Melanon**, the 17th century **Anaktoro Isouiton** (Palace of the Jesuits), as well as the **Venetian towers** of the sovereigns Marco Sanudo, Mavrogenis and Fragkopoulos. **Distance from Chora:** 7.5 km E.

## Plaka

6

Plaka village is located on the western side of Naxos, south of Chora, and is built in a picturesque cove with a beautiful beach. The ruins of the ancient tower in Palaiopyrgos, near the beach of Agios Matthaios, are definitely a site worth visiting. **Distance from Chora:** 9.5 km S.

## Sagkri

7

This village is built in a fertile area and there are three neighbourhoods: Ano Sagkri, Kato Sagkri and Kanakari. Visit the Venetian towers, the traditional windmills and a number of noteworthy Byzantine churches. From Sagkri follow the route towards Agiassos beach (10 km S). **Distance from Chora:** 11 km SE.

### Must see:



- The Byzantine churches of **Agios Nikolaos** (10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) with interesting religious paintings and **Kalotaritissa** (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) inside a cave on Profitis Ilias hill.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> century **Bazaïos** and **Sommaripa towers**.

145. Mikri Vigla is a favourite windsurf destination in the summer.





146. Apeiranthos Archaeological Museum.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> century BC **Demeter and Apollo sanctuary** (on Gyroula hillock), constructed solely of white marble. The worshipping practice was related to the Eleusinian Mysteries and the archaeological finds are kept in a museum built in the archaeological site.
- **Apalyro** castle, perched on a steep rock at Sagkri.

## Filoti

8

Filoti is a picturesque mountainous village built on Za's mountainside, at a 400 m. elevation with cube-shaped little houses and narrow alleys paved

with cobblestone, surrounded by lush vegetation. Agiassos wetland – a habitat for many species of flora and fauna- is located nearby. **Distance from Chora:** 18 km SE.

### Must see:



- **Panagia Filotissa** church and its impressive belfry.
- The **ancient tower of Cheimarros**, dating to the Hellenistic period (4<sup>th</sup> century BC).
- The impressive and fortified 17<sup>th</sup> century **Barotsi - Gratsia tower** as well as **Markopolitis** Tower, both located in the area of Chalki (3 km NW).
- The church of Panagia Protothroni (9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> century) located 2 km off Chalki village. It is Naxos' largest Byzantine church featuring impressive murals. There are also other remarkable churches within that area (Tragaia), dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- **Mount Za's cave** located at an elevation of 600 m. that used to be dedicated to Milosios Zeus. The small church of **Zoodochos Pigi** is situated on the left of the cave's entrance.
- **Fotodotis Christos'** monastery (meaning Light bearing Christ), located approximately 6 km E., in **Danakos** village; it was built during the early Christian times.

147. Panoramic view of Filoti village.





148. The temple of Demeter in Sagkri.

## Apeiranthos (Aperathos)

9

This is an impressive mountainous large village in the centre of Naxos, one of the island's most picturesque areas, with houses built of stone, beautiful squares and narrow alleys paved with marble. Locals keep to their customs as well as their dialect. According to tradition, Apeiranthos was founded by the Cretans. The village boasts a long intellectual and artistic tradition. **Distance from Chora:** 26 km E.

### Must see:



- The four **museums** of Apeiranthos namely the Archaeological, Geological, Folk Art and Natural History Museum.
- The churches of **Panagia Aperathitissa**, **Agia Paraskevi**, at the village's highest location, and **Agios Antonios**.
- **Mnimeio ton Pesonton** (Fighters' Memorial).
- The 17th century **tower of Zevgolis**.
- The **building of the Cultural Organisation of Apeiranthos**, where photography exhibitions are held.
- The **windmills**.
- **Panagia Fanariotissa's** country chapel and **Agios Pachomios' church**.

- The Byzantine churches of **Agios Ioannis Theologos** and **Agia Kyriaki**.
- **Panagia Drosiani's** church and its 7th century murals, dating to the Early Christian Period, at a 5.5 km distance.
- The old **emery mines** and the equipment for mineral transportation in **Koronos** village, located 8.5 km N.

149. Tradition remains untouched in Apeiranthos.





150. Naxos is famed for its top quality farming produce.

## Apollonas 10

Apollonas is a coastal village, on the northeastern side of Naxos. Along the harbour there are fish restaurants offering a lovely view. Close to the village, at the entrance of an ancient quarry, you will see an unfinished **Kouros** [statue of a youth] lying on the ground, never eventually having been raised from it. The statue is 10.45 m. long, depicting either Dionysus or Apollo and dating back to the early 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. The Tower of Agia, situated 7.5 km towards the west, offering a view of the north part of the island, is a sight not to be missed. **Distance from Chora:** 35.5 km NE.

151. The beach in Agios Prokopios.



## Events

- **Dionysia:** a 20-day festivity period organised by the Municipality in the town of Naxos, including artistic and cultural events as well as sports games, during July's second fortnight.
- **Apolloneia:** cultural events during the summer months.
- Carnival customs in Apeiranthos, Kaloxido, Potamia, Livadia and other villages.
- Agios Prokopios' Feast, on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Agios Nikodimos' Feast - the biggest on the island - on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Agia Marina's Feast, at Koronos village, on July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Agia Anna's Feast, on July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Feasts of Panagia Aperathitissa, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and of Agios Ioannis on August 29<sup>th</sup>, at Apeiranthos.
- Three-day Feast of Panagia, in Filoti, on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Feast of Ai Giannis, in Apollonas, on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Wine Festival, in late August - early September.
- Cultural events in Bazaios tower, in Sagkri – a part of Naxos Festival- during the summer months.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming in Agios Georgios, at the beaches of Agia Anna, Maragka, in Agiassos and in Rooou bay, at Agios Prokopios beach, in Moutsouna, at Apollonas beach, in Amiti, at Kalantou beach, in Pachia Ammos, Chilia Vrysi, Mikra, Kampos, Abram, Agioi Theodoroi, Itona, Kastraki, Glyfada,

Liona, in Mikri Vigla, Orkos, Azala, Ligaridia, Psili Ammos, Kleido and in Panormos.

- Wind surfing.
- Kite surfing in Mikri Vigla.
- Football.
- Volleyball.
- Canoeing.
- Water skiing.
- Horse riding.
- Cycling.
- Mountain biking.
- Hiking from the church of Agia Marina (near Danakos village) towards the top of Mount Zas, where you will be rewarded by a breathtaking view. A branch of the main trail leads to the northwestern mountainside, where Zas' cave is located. Try also the route from Apeiranthos to Moutsouna through the emery mines (12 km), from Ano Potamia towards Kato Potamia (2 km) and from Engares towards Kinidaro (6 km).
- Diving.
- Fishing.
- Camping in Chora (Agios Georgios), Agia Anna (Maragkas) and in Plaka.

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Naxos & Minor Cyclades Municipal Office:** 22853-60.100
- **Police station:** 22850-22.100
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22853-60500
- **Port authority:** 22850-22.300



152. Mountain biking in Naxos' highland.

- **Airport:** 22850-23.292
- **Long Distance Bus Terminus (KTEL):** 22850-22.291
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22850-22.725
- **Yria Archaeological Collection:** 22850-42.325

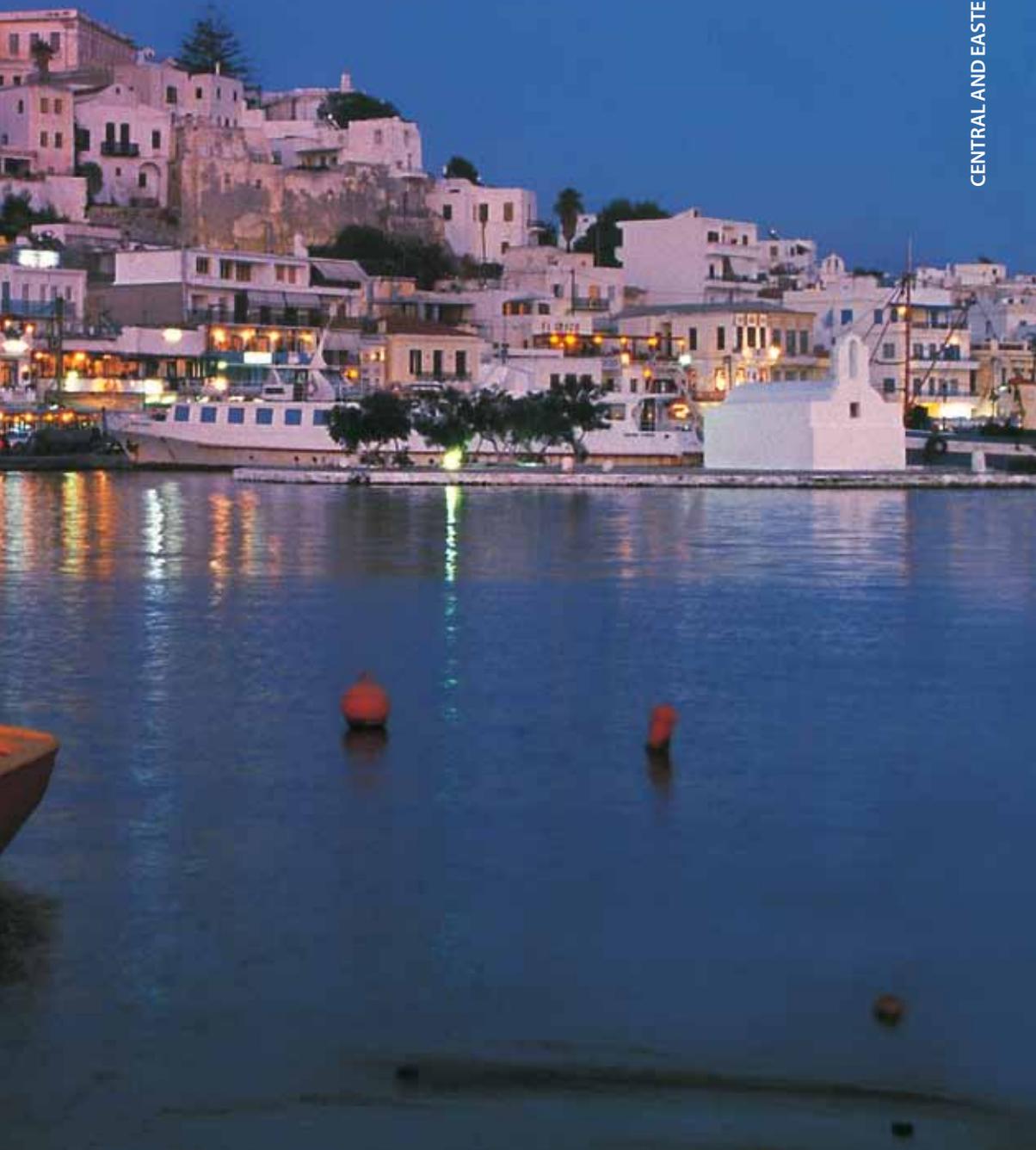
Website: [www.naxos.gr](http://www.naxos.gr)

153. Gigantic-size half-finished Kouros of Apollo.



154. Naxos' Chora photographed from the sea.





# Donousa



155. *The True Cross' church in Donousa.*

**T**his is the northernmost island of the Small Eastern Cyclades group of islands. It is located east of Naxos and north of Amorgos. The island's area is 13.5 sq. km and there are many bays with gorgeous sandy beaches nestled among them. This is the place to be if you're looking for a quiet holiday. According to mythology, Dionysus hid Ariadne in Donousa, so that Theseus would not find her. A settlement dating to the geometric period as well as remains of Bronze Age dwellings have been excavated on the island. There are 140 inhabitants in four beautiful villages: Donousa or Stavros (the biggest village being also the island's port), Mersini, Charavgi (or Mesaria) and Kalotaritissa.

## Donousa village 1

It is a picturesque village built according to the typical Cycladic architectural style, and located on the south-western tip of the island, in a bay sheltered from the wind.

### Must see:



- The churches of: **a) Timios Stavros** (Holy Cross), being the island's patron saint, **b) Panagia** and **c) Agios Ioannis** (1892). The sunset views from all three locations are amazing.
- The ruins of a **settlement** dating back to **the Geometric Period** and a **cemetery**, located on a hillock at Vathy Limenari bay.
- **Spilia tou Toichou** (Cave of the Wall) with stalactites, situated on the northwestern part of the island (access by excursion boat).
- **Fokospilia**, on the island's east coast.

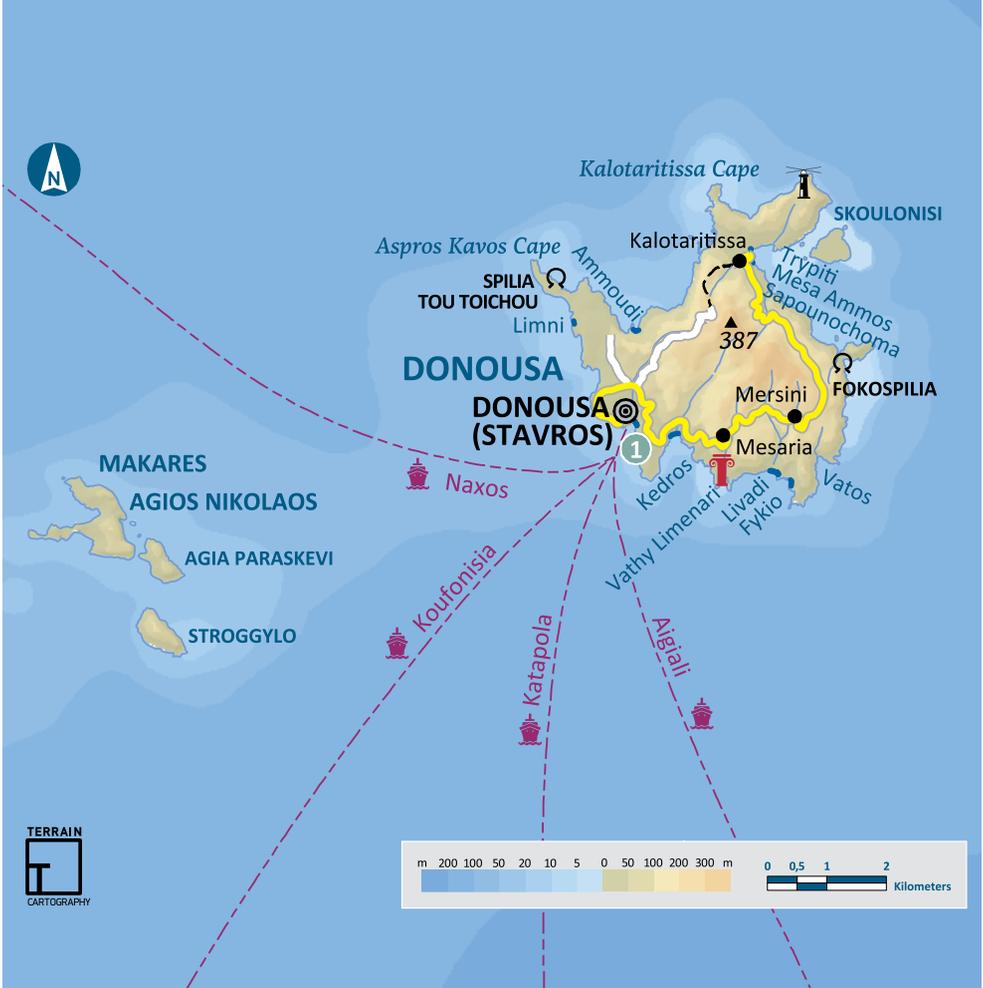
## Events

- Panagia's Feast on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Stavros' (Holy Cross) Feast on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Agia Sofia's Feast, on September 17<sup>th</sup>.



157. Donousa village and beach.





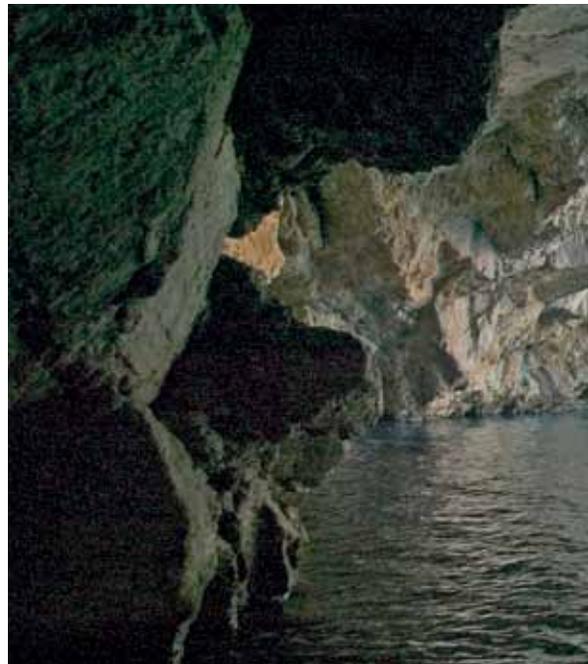
## Activities on the island

- Swimming at Ammoudi, Limni, at the sandy beach close to the harbour, at Kedros, Vathy Limenari, Livadi, Fykio, Vatos, Kalotaritissa (Sapounochoma and Mesa Ammos), Trypiti and Skoulonisi.
- Spear fishing.
- Diving.
- Mountain biking.
- Hiking, setting off at Donousa (Stavros) towards Kalotaritissa and off Kedros towards Charavgi (Mesaria).

### Useful phone numbers (+30): 📞

- **Community office:** 22850-51.600
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22850-51.506

**Website:** [www.donoussa.gr](http://www.donoussa.gr)



158. You will find lacy beaches with deep blue waters in the area of Kalotaritissa.



159. Fokospilia: an impressive marine cave where seals used to nest.



# Irakleia



160. Agios Georgios, the harbour of Irakleia.

Irakleia is a small island in the group of the Minor Eastern Cyclades, with just 115 residents. It is located between Ios and Naxos at the group's westernmost tip. Its area is 18 sq. km with a fair amount of vegetation, many springs, smooth hills, scenic bays and old trails. It is the ideal choice for a peaceful vacation. There are populations of *Monachus monachus*, a mediterranean seal species and *caretta-caretta* sea turtle on the island's coasts. You will find two villages on the island: Agios Georgios (the island's port) and Panagia.



161. The beach in front of Agios Georgios village.

## Agios Georgios 1

This picturesque port was named after the church of Agios Georgios. The houses, overlooking the sea, blend with the natural scenery.

### Must see:



- **Agios Georgios'** church (1834).
- The 19<sup>th</sup> century church of **Taxiarchis** and its outstanding iconostasis.
- The **fortress**, above Livadi beach, with a fine view of the surrounding area.
- **Agios Athanasios**, an old village with a few traditional stone-built houses.

## Trips around the island

### Panagia 2

It is a beautiful village with its Cycladic architectural style well preserved; it has stone-built houses and cobblestone-laid alleys. **Distance from Agios Georgios:** 4 km SW.

### Must see:



- **Panagia's church**, dedicated to Eisodia tis Theotokou (Entry of Virgin Mary in the Temple), next to the small churches

of Agios Nektarios and **Profitis Ilias**, at Papas, the island's highest hill.

- **Agios Ioannis' cave**, with impressive stalactites and stalagmites.

In order to visit the cave, you must hire the services of a local guide.

- **Ftero**, an imposing vertical rock (200 m. high), in the region of **Merichas**.

162. Church dedicated to the Entry of the Virgin Mary in the Temple, Panagia village.





163. Alimia beach accessible by small craft from Agios Georgios.



## Events

- Agios Georgios' Feast.
- Panagia's Feast, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, at Panagia village, with food and wine on offer.
- Vespers (a religious service) performed in Agios Ioannis' cave on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming at the beaches of Agios Georgios, Vorini Spilia, Kolpos Livadiou, at the Tourkopigado pebbly beaches, at Ammoudi in Merichas, at Karvounolakkos and at Merichas bay. Try also the low rocky shores in Xylompati and Trimpouna and the steep rocks and rugged beaches in Merichas, Vala, Strongylos, Kavos tou Thodorou and Kathreftis.
- Fishing.
- Diving.
- Mountain biking.
- Hiking from Panagia towards Profitis Ilias' country chapel (a 25 min. route), to Agios Georgios (a 50 min. route) and towards Agios Ioannis' cave (a 90 min. route).
- Bird watching.
- Touring off the island's coastline by boat.

### Useful phone numbers (+30):

- **Irakleia Community office:** 22850-71.545



164. View of Merichas bay.

- **Police station (in Koufonisia islands):**

22850-71.375

- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22850-71.388

- **Naxos Port Authority:** 22850-22.300

**Website:** [www.iraklia.gr](http://www.iraklia.gr)

165. Ruins of a Hellenistic Period fortress overlooking Livadi.



# Schoinoussa



166. An aerial photo of Chora (also Schoinoussa or Panagia) and its distinctive cube-shaped houses.

**S**choinoussa is located roughly at the centre of the Minor Eastern Cyclades group of islands, south of Naxos and northeast of Irakleia. It is a small island, with an area of 9 sq. km and a population of 200. There are three villages: Chora, Mesaria and Mersini. It has been inhabited since antiquity and has been named after the bushy plant lentisk (Schoino in Greek) which thrives on the island. Mersini, the island's harbour is considered one of the best shelters for small boats in the entire Aegean.



167. The cove in Mersini.

## Chora

1

It is situated at the very centre of the island and is very picturesque with snow white houses and narrow alleys. Chora is built on a low hill with a lovely view of the surrounding area.

### Must see:



- **Panagia tis Akathis'** church and the icon of Panagia tou Akathistou Ymnou (Virgin Mary of the Akathist Hymn).
- **The Folk Art Museum**, displaying rural tools and old household utensils.

## Trips around the island

### Mesaria

2

It is a small rural village, where you can visit the church of Evangelismos tis Theotokou (Annunciation of Virgin Mary) and Gero-Limiona, a picturesque cove of turquoise waters. **Distance from Chora:** 1.5 km N.

## Mersini

3

This is a small harbour where small craft, fishing boats and yachts can be moored. **Distance from Chora:** 1.5 km W.

168. Relaxing by Liolios beach.





169. The beach at the inner end of Vazaios cove.

## Events

- Panagia tis Akathis' Feast, on the last Friday of the Salutations to the Virgin Mary and Panagia's Feast on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Agios Nikolaos' Feast, on December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Evangelismos (Annunciation) Feast, on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities around the island

- Swimming at Tsigkouri, Livadi, Alygaria, Gagavi,



170. Tsigkouri, a popular beach next to Plaka islet. Ancient remains of a village and of an Early Christian basilica have been located in the cape area, the former dating to the Hellenistic and Roman times.



171. Livadi, the seashore.

Kamos, Fontana, Almyros, and at Vazaiou and Lioliou beaches, at Mersini, Sifneiko, Fykie, Psili Ammos and Gero- Limiona.

- Fishing.
- Hiking.
- Sailing.

### Useful phone numbers (+30): ☎

- **Community office:** 22850-71.170, 74.250
- **Police Station (in Koufonisia islands):** 22850-71.375
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22850- 71.385

Website: [www.schinoussa.gr](http://www.schinoussa.gr)



# Koufonisia



172. Panoramic view of the village in Pano Koufonisi, the harbour and a sandy beach.

**K**oufonisia islands are a group of two small islands, Pano Koufonisi (Upper Koufonisi) and Kato Koufonisi (Lower Koufonisi), which are separated by a narrow strait, 200 m. wide. They are located southeast of Naxos and west of Amorgos. Their name originated from the shape of the huge caves on the island, which the pirates saw from a distance, and believed that the islands (in Greek "nisia") were hollow (in Greek "koufio" – therefore Koufonisia and later Koufonisia). Next to Koufonisia lies the deserted **Keros** island, a protected archaeological site, where important discoveries were made of artefacts dating to the Cycladic Culture Period (such as the figurine of Big Mother, 1.40 m. high, and the famous statuettes – representative of the Cycladic Culture - namely "the Flute player" and "the Harp player", exhibited in the National Archaeological Museum of Athens). Pano Koufonisi holds an adequate infrastructure and it is the only populated island. Its area is 5.5 sq. km and there are 366 residents. Koufonisia islands are the place to be for those who seek peaceful holidays, relaxed atmosphere, fresh fish and beautiful beaches.



173. Carefree times by the sea in Koufonisia.

## Pano Koufonisi 1

This is the only village on the island, built in the southwestern side just above the harbour, featuring snow-white houses and picturesque narrow alleys. The island's main street begins east of the harbour, and leads to the beach of Pori.

### Must see:



- **Agios Georgios'** and **Agios Nikolaos'** churches.
- The **renovated windmill**.
- **Pori**, an exotic beach on the eastern side of the island.
- The **sea caves**, in Pano Koufonisi, on the

island's north side.

- **Glaronisi**, its sea caves and lovely green waters.

## Kato Koufonisi 2

Kato Koufonisi is almost deserted and can be visited by boat from Pano Koufonisi. The island has beautiful sandy beaches and scenic landscapes. Panagia's church is built on ancient ruins.

### Events

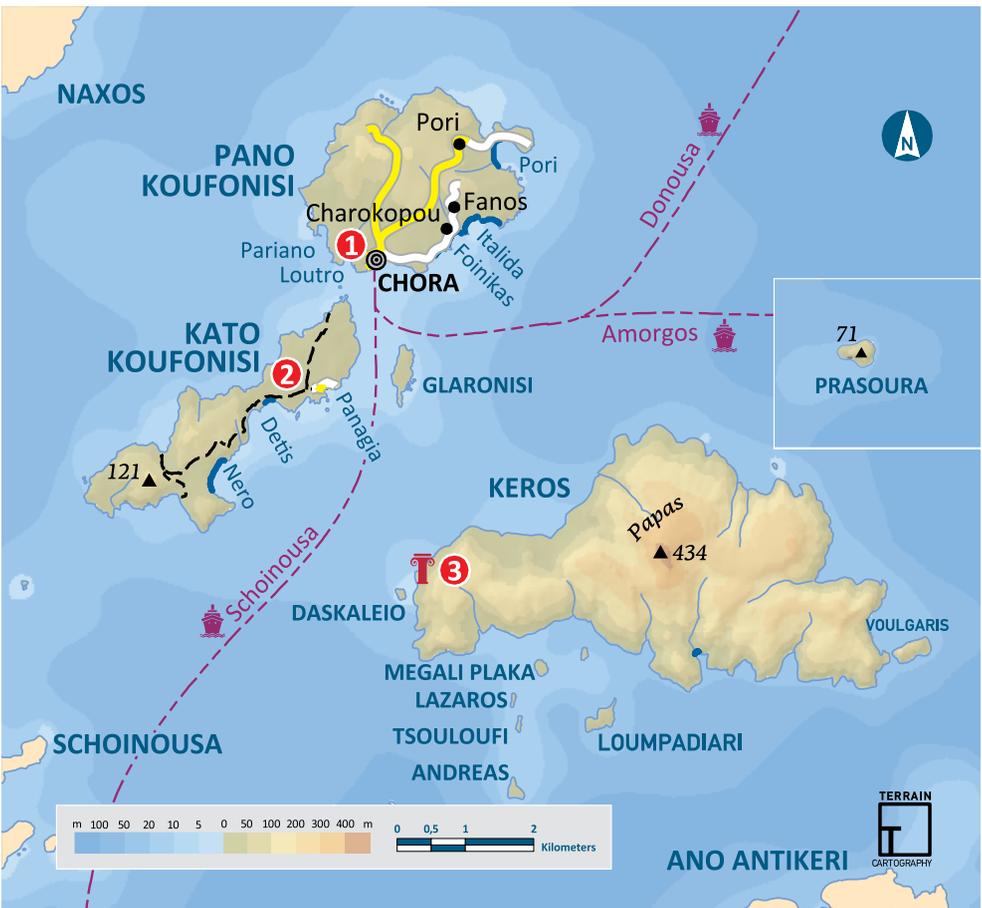
- Panagia's Feast on August 15<sup>th</sup> in Kato Koufonisi where a speed boat competition also takes place.

174. A lovely beach – one of many in Koufonisia.





175. Turquoise waters in Italida.



- The Fisherman's Festival (Giorti tou Psara), with local fish soup (kakavia) offered, on June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Agios Georgios' Feast, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Activities in Koufonisia

- Swimming in Pano Koufonisi, at Loutro, Parianos, Charokopos (Foinikas), Fanos, Platia Pounta (Italida) and Pori, in Kato Koufonisi, at Panagia, Deti and Nero. Also, go for swimming in the neighbouring islets of Prasoura, Glaronisi, Voulgari, Tsouloufi, Lazaros and Megali Plaka, all of which have been declared areas of outstanding natural beauty.
- Hiking from Chora (Pano Koufonisi) towards Xylopatis and towards Apano Meria.
- Fishing.
- Diving.

- Sailing around Koufonisia islands, towards Keros and the islets Prasoura, Glaronisi, Voulgari, Tsouloufi, Lazaros and Megali Plaka.
- Football.
- Basketball.
- Volleyball.
- Cycling. Rent a bike on the island and follow the most popular route: the one along the coastline - it will take you approximately one hour.
- Wind surfing.

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Community office:** 22850-71.379
- **Police station:** 22850-71.375
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22850-71.370

Website: [www.koufonisia.gr](http://www.koufonisia.gr)

176. Pori, a beach of extraordinary beauty (aerial photo).



# Amorgos



*177. Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery, the most famous monument in Amorgos. It is built on a commanding landscape at 300 m. above the sea, a flight of 300 stairs leading up to it.*

**T**his is the island of "The Big Blue", a Luc Besson film which was mostly shot in Amorgos. It is located at the easternmost edge of the Cyclades and boasts a singular character. The mountainous landscape with impressive steep mountainsides and cultivation terraces with moderate yields, the steep rocks by the coast in the southern part and the scenic bays with beautiful seashores in the northern part of the island, make up Amorgos' topography.

The island has been inhabited since Prehistoric times and prospered during the Cycladic Period. At that time, Amorgos developed a thriving trade, navigation and the arts. Three important ancient cities existed on the island, Minoa, Arkesini and Aigiali. During the Roman times, Amorgos used to be a place of exile. Panagia Hozoviotissa Monastery, its landmark, was built during the Byzantine Period. During the Frankish rule, the island suffered numerous invasions, to be occupied in the 16th century by the Turks. Amorgos participated in the Greek Revolution against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. The traditional Cycladic architectural style is evident in all of the island's villages where local customs practice and a well-known musical tradition have survived the test of time. A dense network of hiking trails enables hikers to visit the monuments and enjoy the island's natural beauty. Its area is 121 sq. km, its coastline is 112 km and has a population of 1,850. The crest of the island is Mount Krikellos (821 m.).



178. The Venetian castle on the rock overlooks Chora.

## Chora

1

It is considered one of the most picturesque towns in the Cyclades, situated approximately in the middle of the island, surrounded by mountains and a hill with old windmills. A castle atop an imposing rock stands out on the island's highest location, while at its foot lie the town's snow-white houses. Old churches, traditional white houses with coloured doors and windows, stone paved narrow alleys, small squares, beautiful terraces, stairs decorated with colourful flower pots, small tavernas and cafés charm the visitor with their particular character. Chora has 398 residents.

### Town promenade

- To **Kastro** (Castle), built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Jeremiah Gizi on the top of a rock, Chora's highest location. You will see parts of the castle walls with battlements still standing. Visit the small Agios Georgios' church, by the castle's entrance, and the church of Kera Leousa nearby.
- To the **Town Hall square**.
- To **Agios Fanourios'** church - the smallest church in Greece - with a maximum capacity of three people!

- To **Panagia's Church** (the island's Metropolitan church), dedicated to Koimisi tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God) and also to Agios Ioannis Theologos' church.
- To the post byzantine churches of **Agios Thomas**, **Agios Thalelaios** and **Stavros** (the **Holy Cross**).
- To the church and side chapel (otherwise called "a dual hypostasis" church) of **Metamorfofi** (Transfiguration of Christ) and **Agios Stefanos**, to a dependency of Panagia Hozoviotissa's

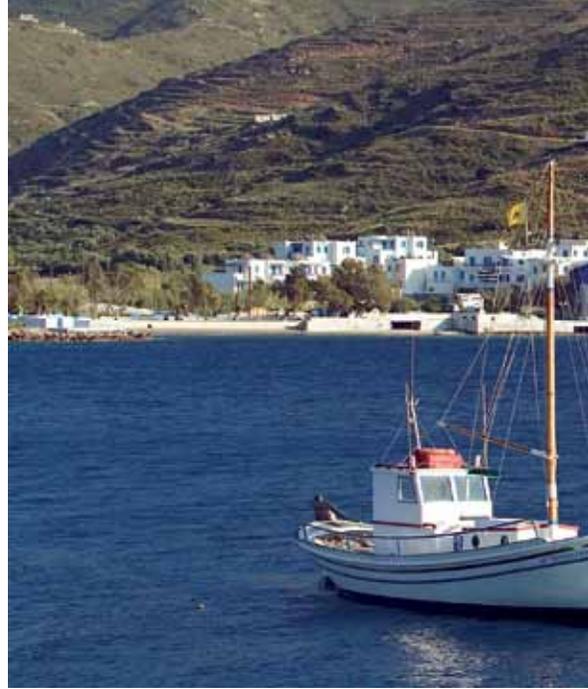
179. Traditional coffee-shop in Chora, Amorgos.



180. Katapola is the best natural harbour in Cyclades. >

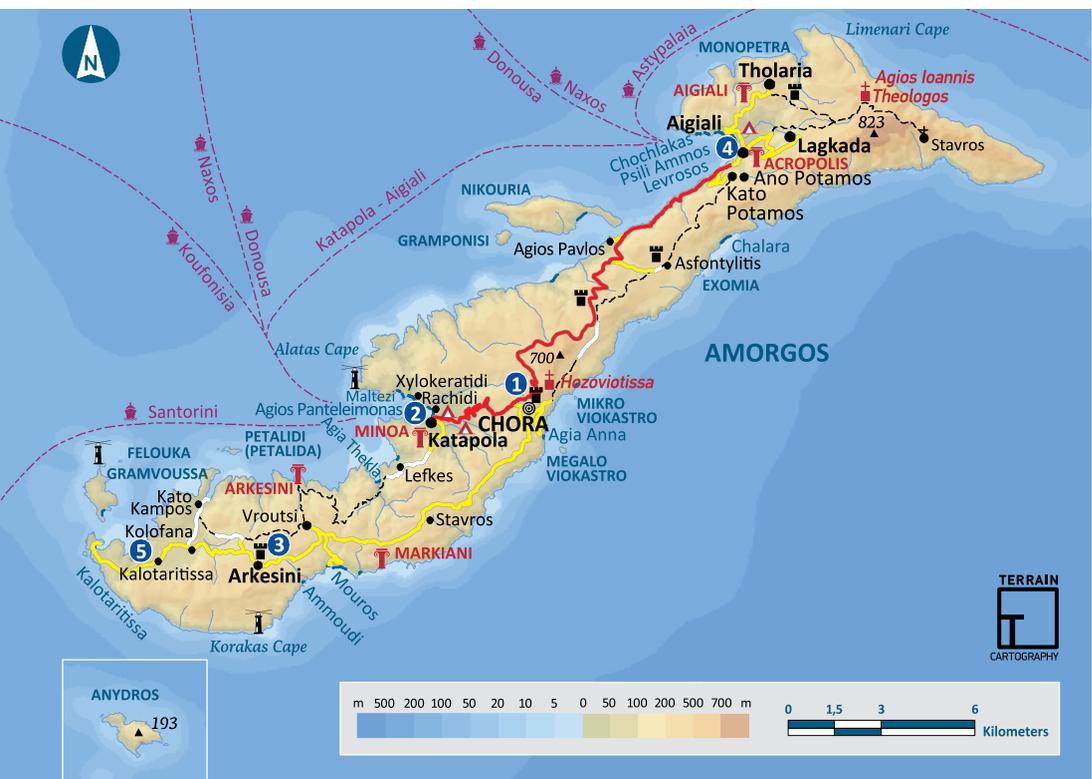
Monastery and to the churches of **Zoodochos Pigi** (meaning Life Giving Fountain), **Treis Ierarches** and **Agioi Pantes**.

- To the possibly 16<sup>th</sup> century **Gavra Mansion**, a beautiful Venetian edifice housing the **Archaeological Collection**.
- To the **High School** building (1829), being the first high school that was founded in Greece after the 1821 Greek Independence War (expenses covered by Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery).
- To **Kato Lakkos**, a mediaeval cistern.
- To the **windmills**.
- To the ruins of the **Hellenistic towers**, at Terlaki and Richti locations.
- To the Byzantine **Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery**, located 2.5 km NE. This singular edifice built in a typical Aegean Sea monastic architectural style, is standing on an imposing mountainslope, 300 m. above sea level. According to one version, the monastery was founded by the Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos in 1088, when the icon of Panagia arrived in Amorgos in a miraculous manner, sent by a woman from Hozovo, Palestine during the period of Iconoclasm. According to another version, the Monastery was founded during the 9<sup>th</sup> century by



monks from Palestine and was later renovated by the emperor Alexios I Komnenos. In the Monastery's sacristy, there are valuable sacred items, apart from the icon of Panagia, which is considered to have been painted by Luke the Evangelist and is honoured on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

- To **Profitis Ilias'** country chapel, above





181. Copper coin from ancient Arkesini (3<sup>rd</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BC) bearing the inscription APKE [ARKE], (Numismatic Museum, Athens).

Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery.

- To **Agios Georgios Valsamitis'** church, 4.5 km SW.
- To the ruins of the **Venetian tower**, further up, past Agios Georgios church.

## Trips around the island

### Katapola 2

Katapola is the island's main port, with beautiful white houses, traditional cafés, tavernas and restaurants, and



182. Ancient Arkesini, part of the acropolis.

comprises the areas Katapola, Rachidi and Xylokeratidi. The church of Panagia Katapoliani was built on the ruins of an Early Christian Basilica. Katapoliani Fountain is located at the harbour. Beyond that lies Mountoulia hill, and the ruins of **ancient Minoa**, which had been a colony of the people of Samos Island. It is in this location that parts of the fortification and remains of the high school building as well as the temple of Dionysus (or Apollo) have been found. **Distance from Chora:** 6 km W.

### Arkesini 3

Arkesini is one of the most beautiful villages of the island. The lovely villages of **Kato Meria** area (Lefkes, Vroutsis and Kolofana) are also worth visiting. The remains of **ancient Arkesini** were discovered at Kastri location. Additionally, ruins of a 4<sup>th</sup> century BC **Late Classical Period tower** are located near Agia Triada (Holy Trinity) church. This is the best preserved fortress of a rectangular shape in the Cyclades. From Rachoula you will enjoy a magnificent view of Arkesini. **Distance from Chora:** 14 km SW.





183. The long beach of Levrosos.

## Aigiali

4

It is the island's second port, built at the south end of a sandy beach, with the nearby beautiful villages of Lagkada, Tholaria and Potamos. There are ruins of Roman baths to be seen on the beach. The citadel of **ancient Aigiali** lies on a hill, whereas at the area around its acropolis the visitor can see scattered pieces of circular and rectangular towers dating to the Hellenistic period. The picturesque village of **Lagkada** has retained elements of traditional architecture. Agios Theologos' Byzantine church is situated northeast of Lagkada; it is 200 years older than Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery. **Distance from Chora:** 15 km NE.

## Kolofana - Kalotaritissa

5

These are stock farmers' villages in Kato Meria

184. Traditional *pasteli* [honeyed sesame bar] on bitter orange leaves.

The *Pasteli* festival takes place in Chora on August 21<sup>st</sup>.



area. Set off from Kalotaritissa cove to visit the sinuous beaches in this area, or take an excursion boat to the islet Gramvoussa and enjoy the beach of Mouros, as well as the one by Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery, Chalara and Sparti. **Distance from Chora:** 16 and 17.5 km respectively SW.

## Events

- Agioi Anargyroi Feast, in Aigiali, on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Panagia Epanochoriani Feast, on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Stavros (Holy Cross) Feast, on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Metamorfosis tou Sotira (Transfiguration of Christ) Feast, at Chora, on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Horse Riding.
- Hiking - there are many marked paths and you will find the island is a very well-organised trekking destination.
- Mountaineering.
- Swimming in Agia Anna, at Aigiali cove, in Levroso, Psili Ammos, Chochlaka, Chalara, at the beaches in Kalotaritissa, Mouros, Mavri Myti, as



well as in Ammoudi, Kato Krotiri, Kato Kampos, Megalos Roukounas, Agios Panteleimonas, Maltezi, Plakes and at the sandy beach of Nikouria.

- Camping sites are open in Katapola and Aigiali.
- A visit to the neighbouring islets. Towards the southwest, you will find Anydros (Amorgopoula)

islet. Nikouria islet (a 365 m. elevation) lies just off the cove of Aigiali, where there is a small church of Panagia Nikouriani and remains of an ancient building. Gramponisi islet is located southwest of Nikouria. The islets Gramvousa (there's a lovely beach there) and Psalida can be seen opposite Kalotaritissa cove. Petalida

*186. Agios Pavlos beach faces Nikouria islet.*



*185. Aigiali is located in a bay with beautiful sandy beaches. Lagkada village lies further back.*



islet lies opposite cape Tourlida (Troulli). Finally, the rocky islets Mikro Viokastro and Megalo Viokastro are situated off Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery at a small distance from the coast.

#### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Amorgos Municipal Office:** 22853-60.200
- **Police station:** 22850-71.210 (**Chora**), 22850-73.320 (**Aigiali**)
- **Rural medical clinics:** 22850-71.207 (**Chora**), 22850-73.222 (**Aigiali**), 22850-71.805 (**Katapola**)
- **Port authority:** 22850-71.259 (**Katapola**)
- **Panagia Hozoviotissa's Monastery:** 22850-71.274
- **Archaeological Collection:** 22850-29.279

Website: [www.amorgos.gr](http://www.amorgos.gr)

*187. Amorgos has lately developed into a favourite destination for climbers, as in the area around Lagkada there are 8 fields with 36 routes with various degrees of difficulty.*





# Ios



188. Panoramic view of Ormos (Gialos), Ios' harbour.

Ios or Nios, as the locals call it, is one of the most beautiful islands of the Cyclades group, known worldwide and preferred by young people for its nightlife. It is surrounded by Santorini, Paros and Naxos and boasts numerous bays and long sandy beaches. 32 km, out of the 81.5 km of coastline, are sandy beaches!

According to ancient tradition, Ios was the homeland of Homer's mother, but also the burial place of the great epic poet. An Early Cycladic Period settlement was discovered in Skarkos as well as buildings regarded as dating to historical times. Palaiokastro was built during the Byzantine Period at the northeastern side of the island. Ios was under Venetian domination until 1537, when the Turks occupied the island. Its area is 108 sq. km and there are 1,830 residents.

## Chora

1

It has been built on a hillside in an amphitheatrical formation. There are ruins of a mediaeval castle on the hilltop. Snow-white little houses, picturesque alleys lined with shops, the twelve windmills, churches with arched belfries and light blue domes create a unique residential area. Chora is a heritage town.

### Must see:



- The ruins of the **mediaeval castle** (1397) erected by Marco Crispi, the then sovereign.
- The **ancient town** of Ios, built on the hill next to where modern day Chora lies; there are remains of ancient building walls and a segment of road and sewage network.
- **Panagia Gremiotissa's** church (late 18<sup>th</sup> century) on the hilltop, in Chora.
- The churches of **Agios Nikolaos**, **Evangelismos (Annunciation)** and **Agia Aikaterini** possibly built on the location of the ancient temple of Pythius Apollo.
- **Amoiradakeio Megaro**, a neoclassical building of the early 20th century. The Town Hall and the **Archaeological Museum** are housed in this mansion.
- The **windmills**.
- **Plateia Omirou** (Homer's square), at the harbour, on the road towards Chora.
- The **Odysseas Elytis theatre**, built of stone and modelled after an ancient theatre.
- The **Museum of Modern Art** (at Kolitsanoi location), where works of art from the collection of Jean Marie Dro are on display.



189. Picturesque alley in the centre of Chora.

- **Psaropyrgos**, a tower dating to the Hellenistic period at Plakoto location.

## Trips around the island

### Ormos (Gialos)

2

It is Ios' harbour. Agia Eirini's church lies at the harbour's entrance, perched on the rocks. The remains of a **Prehistoric settlement** of the Early Cycladic Period have been located on Skarkos hill. It is worth visiting Koumpara beach where you will enjoy the lovely sunset view.

**Distance from Chora:** 1.5 km E.

### Mylopotas

3

Mylopotas is a resort with a marvellous 1 km long sandy beach. Visit the small church of Panagia in the area, as well as the lake reservoir. Also, follow the scenic route from Mylopotas up to Manganari. **Distance from Chora:** 2 km SE.

190. Mylopotas, a large popular sandy beach with water sports facilities.





191. Treis Ekklesies beach.





192. An Early-Cycladic Period settlement on Skarkos hillside.

## Agia Theodoti 4

It is a village ideal for your holidays with a long beach and the ruins of a **Roman aqueduct**. There is a trail starting from the old settlement and leading to Gefyri location through an impressive landscape. **Distance from Chora:** 9 km NE.

## Psathi 5

Psathi is a good choice for your holidays. You can also visit the ruins of the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century **Palaiokastro** (meaning an old castle) on a rocky hillcock. **Distance from Chora:** 17.5 km E.

## Manganari 6

Manganari is an area with amazing sandy beaches and turquoise waters where part of the film "The Big Blue" was shot. Do visit the three scenic coves Treis Ekklisies, Kalamos and Plakes and their outstanding beaches, as well as the Monastery of Agios Ioannis tou Kalamou), 7.5 km NW. **Distance from Chora:** 19 km SE.

## Events

- Omireia, cultural events organised from the middle of May until the beginning of September at the Odysseas Elytis theatre.
- Agios Ioannis Feast in Psathi and in Manganari on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Diving (at Mylopotas).
- Fishing.
- Swimming at the popular Mylopotas beach, at Manganari, Psathi and at the sandy beaches of Agia Theodoti, Kalamos, Diammoudia, Treis Ekklisies, Papa, Plakes, Tzamaría, Koumpara, Loretzaina and Plakoto.
- Hiking.
- Spear Fishing.
- Sailing.
- Water sports.
- Campsites at Mylopotas and at Ormos (Gialos).

## Useful phone numbers (+30) ☎

- **Ios Municipal Office:** 22863-60.400
- **Municipal Enterprise for Tourism Growth:** 22860-91.936
- **Police station:** 22860-91.222
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22863-60.000
- **Port authority:** 22860-91.264
- **Long Distance Bus Terminus (KTEL):** 22860-92.015
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22860-91.246
- **Museum of Modern Art:** 22860-91.246

Website: [www.ios.gr](http://www.ios.gr)

193. The putative grave of Homer is on Plakoto location, on Ios' north shores.







*194. Ios' Chora is a typical Cyclades town, attracting thousands of tourists every year.*

# Sikinos



*195. Sikinos' Chora, built close to a precipice, is among the most beautiful towns in Cyclades.*

**S**ikinos is a relatively small island, ideal for a quiet holiday, strolls in scenic locations and swimming in clear waters. The vegetation is scanty and the ground is rocky. A special feature of the island is the steep cliff located at the northwestern part, where Chora is built. The island's area is 40 sq. km, its coastline is 41 km and there are 240 residents.

It was first inhabited during the Mycenaean Period and was also named Oinoi, after the numerous vineyards and its fine wine (oinos in Greek means wine). During the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Ionians settled in Sikinos. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC it came under Athenian rule. Through the centuries, the island of Sikinos followed the destiny of the other Cyclades islands, and became occupied by the Romans and the Byzantines. During the period of the Venetian rule, Sikinos became part of the Duchy of Naxos. In the year 1537 the island was conquered by the Turks. It joined the Greek state in 1829.

## Chora 1

It is one of the most beautiful towns in Cyclades, with manors built of stone and narrow picturesque alleys. There are two quarters: the oldest one is Kastro (Castle), also called Sikinos, whereas the second quarter, Chorio (the Greek word for village) has been built in the recent years. Chora's square with its traditional cafés and shops is the centre of the island's social life.

### Must see:



- The **manors**, typical examples of the traditional Cycladic architecture.
- **Pantanassa-Timios Stavros'** church, situated on the eastern side of the stone paved square. It was built in 1787 and in it there is a wood carved, gilded iconostasis of exceptional art and marvellous post byzantine icons crafted along the lines of the Cretan School of icon painting.
- The **three windmills**, at Chora's highest location.
- **Zoodochos Pigi's monastery** (meaning

Life Giving Fountain) perched on the edge of a rock, resembling a castle, in an amazing location.

- The **Folk Art Museum**, housed in a renovated old olive press building.
- **Christ's** Byzantine church.
- The churches of **Agia Anna**, **Agios Vasileios** and **Eisodia tis Theotokou (Entry of the Virgin Mary in the Temple)**.
- **Mavri Spilia** (Black Cave, NW), the largest cave on the island.
- **Episkopi's** monastery, 4 km SW, where you can visit the most important finds regarding ancient habitation on the island. The church of Koimisi tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God) is a reconstructed 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. Roman mausoleum.
- The 14<sup>th</sup> century small Byzantine church of **Agios Georgios**.
- The **ancient settlements** where there are ruins of ancient buildings in **Agia Marina** area (S. of Episkopi). Another ancient settlement (**Paliokastro**) is located on the northeastern side of the island, close to Cape Malta.

196. Pantanassa's church in Chora's main square.





197. Zoodochos Pigi's monastery standing on the rock, overlooking Chora.



## Trips around the island

### Alopronoia (Ano Pronoia)

2

Alopronoia or Ano Pronoia is the island's port. This small fishing village is a rising tourist destination, and the centre of the island's nightlife. You can also find idyllic sparkling beaches in the vicinity. Go swimming in Alopronoia beach, or go on a boat trip to Agios Georgios, Agios Panteleimonas, Dialiskari, Santorinaiika and Petra. **Distance from Chora:** 4 km SE.

### Events

- Feasts of: Panagia on August 15<sup>th</sup>, Zoodochos Pigi (Life Giving Fountain), Eisodia tis Theotokou



199. The beach in Santorinaiika.

(Entry of Virgin Mary in the Temple) on November 21<sup>st</sup> and Panagia Pantanassa on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming in Alopronoia, Agios Nikolaos, Dialiskari, Maltas, Agios Georgios, Agios Panteleimonas, Santorinaiika, Agios Ioannis and Karas.
- Diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Hiking.
- Mountain biking.

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Municipal Office:** 22860-51.238
- **Police station:** 22860-51.222
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22860-51.211

Website: [www.sikinos.gr](http://www.sikinos.gr)



# Folegandros



*200. A small part of Folegandros' Chora and Panagia's church further up the hill.*

**T**he island of Folegandros will offer the visitor a deeply relaxing holiday in a classic Cycladic landscape that has remained unspoiled by fast tourism growth. Wandering about the streets paved with cobblestone in Chora (the main town) and the castle's narrow alleys; climbing on the rock of Panagia where you will feast your eyes on a panoramic view of the Aegean Sea; swimming at secluded beaches or at more popular ones; all the above are aspects composing one of the most beautiful settings in Cyclades. The island's area is 32 sq. km, its coastline is 31.5 km and there are 670 inhabitants. It is located in the southwestern Cyclades, between Sikinos and Milos. According to mythology, the leader of the first settlers on the island (coming from the island of Crete) was called Folegandros and was the son of the Cretan King Minos.

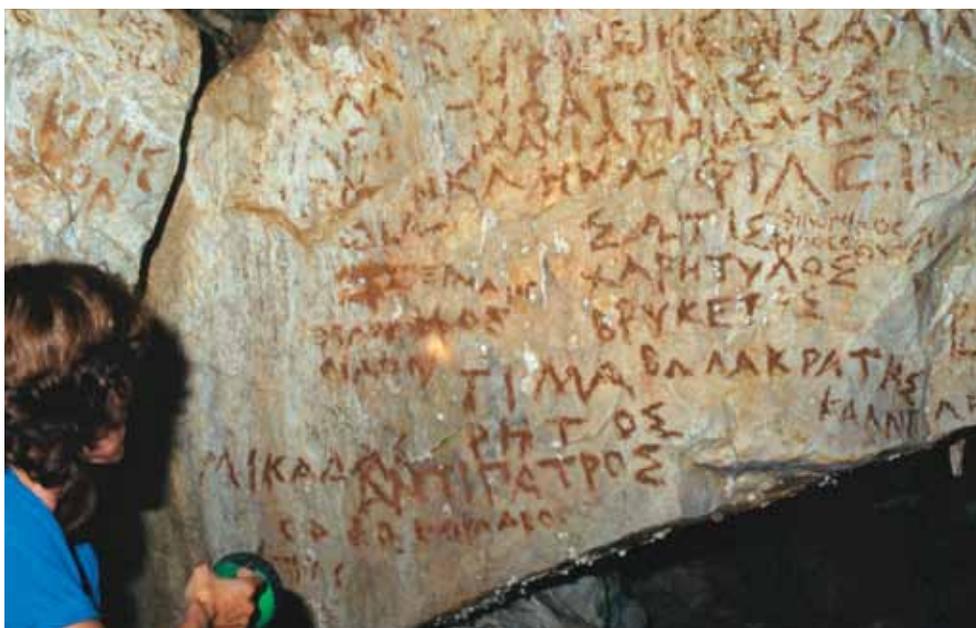
## Chora

1

Built inside as well as outside around the castle, Chora stands 150 m. above sea level. The castle is perched on a crag and the view from some parts of it is breathtaking. In the town centre there are many churches, beautiful squares with traditional cafés and tavernas, stone paved alleys - such as the one that links Pounta square with the church of Panagia - Koimisi tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God)- and whitewashed houses with the classic small yards.

- The three picturesque **squares** of **Pounta**, **Piatsa** and **Dounavidis** where the cafés and restaurants are a meeting place for residents and visitors alike.
- **Panagia's** church, renovated in 1687 and rebuilt in 1821. The marble iconostasis, the archiepiscopal throne and pulpit are the artwork of Kaparias, a renowned marble sculptor from Tinos. The church is located outside the castle (10-15 minute walk) in an area affording a stunning view of the Aegean.
- **Chryso spilia Cave**. It is located on the

201. Ancient inscriptions in Chryso spilia cave, a place of great archaeological interest.



202. Panagia's church (Chora), built on the site of an ancient temple.

### Must see:



- The **mediaeval castle**, built by the Venetians led by Marco Sanudo, in 1212. Visit the churches of Eleousa (1530), Pantanassa and Agia Sofia, and admire their remarkable iconostases.
- The churches of **Agios Nikolaos** (metropolitan church) and **Taxiarchis** (with icons painted according to the Cretan School of icon art) as well as the church and side chapel (called a *dual hypostasis* church) of **Agia Aikaterini & Agios Antonios**.



northeastern side of the island. Permission is required for a visit. Safe access is possible only by boat when the weather is very good.

## *Trips around the island*

### **Karavostasis** 2

Karavostasis is the island's port. It is worth visiting the small church of Agios Artemios and the lovely beach nearby. On your way to Chora you will come across Agioi Pantes' country chapel which is partly built in a rock. **Distance from Chora:** 3 km SE.

### **Agkali** 3

Agkali is a small coastal village, built in an amphitheatrical formation around Agkali Bay. Do visit Agios Nikolaos' country chapel by the beach and the Lighthouse at Cape Aspropounta. **Distance from Chora:** 4.5 km W.





203. Katergo beach, on the island's south shores.

## Ano Meria

4

Ano Meria is the second biggest village of Folegandros, on the northwestern side of the island. It is a farmers' village and most houses are called themonies, a name used to describe small autonomous agricultural and stock farming units. To learn more about the agricultural life in Ano Meria visit the local **Folk Art Museum** where a house, a stable and all the tools once used by locals are on display. **Distance from Chora:** 5.5 km NW.

## Events

- Giortes Folegandrou (Festivities in Folegandros) including concerts with the participation of famous artists, traditional dancing and exhibitions in July.
- Easter Treat, a customary practice lasting for three days.
- Big Feast in honour of Panagia (Virgin Mary) on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming in Karavostasis, Vardia, Vitsetzo, Livadi, Pountaki, or Latinaki. Also, at the beaches

of Leivadaki, Ampeli, Lygaria and Agios Georgios, the last one being the island's northernmost beach. By boat you can reach Katergo, a fine pebble beach with crystalline, deep blue waters, as well as Georgitsi's cave.

- Camping in Karavostasis (Livadi).
- Diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Hiking along the path routes - 20 km in all. The main tracks begin at Ano Meria towards Agkali (duration: 1 hour), towards the small church of Zoodochos Pigi (1 hour 15 min.), to Ampeli (30 min.) and to Leivadaki going past the Aspropounta lighthouse on your way back (2 hours 10 min.). There is also a route starting at Chora and going towards Agkali (45 min.).

### Useful phone numbers (+30)

- **Municipal Office:** 22860-41.285
- **Police station:** 22860-41.249
- **Rural Medical Clinic** 22860-41.470
- **Port authority:** 22860-41.530
- **Ano Meria Folk Art Museum:** 22860-41.370

**Website:** [www.folegandros.gr](http://www.folegandros.gr)

204. Aspropounta lighthouse (1919).  
The view from the spot is fascinating.



# Santorini (Thira)



205. Panoramic view of Fira and the caldera of Santorini's volcano.

**S**antorini is one of the best known Greek islands the world over. It is in itself a unique geological phenomenon, as today's island is what has remained of the initial island, Strongyli (meaning *Round*), which sunk to the bottom of the sea following an eruption of its volcano during the 16<sup>th</sup> century B.C. This has been one of the most powerful eruptions in the history of Earth: three quarters of the island were submerged, shaping today's Caldera. Furthermore, the major aftermath of that eruption was the destruction of the Minoan Palaces in Crete. Santorini's area is 73 sq. km, its coastal length is 69.5 km and there are 13,670 residents.

Santorini is the southernmost island in the Cyclades group. The island of Santorini is actually a group of islands comprised of Thira, Thirasia, Aspronisi, Palaia Kameni and Nea Kameni (*Kameni* meaning burned). The island's architectural heritage is preserved remarkably well in Fira and Oia as well as in other inland villages. An important prehistoric civilisation thrived on the island, mainly during the Middle Cycladic Period, and was destroyed by the volcanic eruption. In time, the island was repopulated and it flourished during the Hellenistic and Roman times. Later on the Venetians took the island over and remained there for centuries. Over the last decades, Santorini has known a massive tourism growth. Still, the island has remained as appealing as ever, with secrets and places of unspoiled natural beauty yet to be explored, not to mention the lovely sunset for which Santorini has been renowned across the planet. Local wine is famous and the island's vineyards have been producing it since antiquity. The grape varieties grown here are Asyrtiko, Athiri, Aidani, Mandilaria (red) and Mavrotragano (red). The quality of Vinsanto wine is exceptional and it is produced by mixing two varieties: Asyrtiko and Aidani.

## Fira

1

Fira is the capital town of Santorini and one of the most enchanting ones in Greece, built on an impressive location on top of steep cliffs. It was founded in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and has been built in the traditional Cycladic architectural style. A tour in Fira is a unique experience: picturesque neighbourhoods, snow-white houses, churches with light blue domes, busy alleys lined with shops, cafeterias and restaurants, offering - almost all of them - a breathtaking view of the caldera. Firostefani village is on the town's highest level, offering the visitor a truly breathtaking sunset view.

### A promenade in Fira

- To the churches of **Ypapanti tou Sotiros** (the orthodox metropolitan church) and **Agios Ioannis Vaptistis** (the catholic cathedral).
- To the **Archaeological Museum**, where a large

208. Impressive view of Nea Kameni islet and the Aegean Sea from Fira.



207. Local silver stater [coin] (525 BC) depicting dolphins (Numismatic Museum, Athens).



collection of 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. vessels is on display as well as statues dating from the Archaic up to the Roman Period.

- To the **Museum of Prehistoric Thira**, one of Greece's most interesting ones, showcasing murals from the prehistoric settlement of Akrotiri, amongst other things.
- To the **Folk Art Museum**, housed in a traditional residence built in 1861 within a rock. Exhibits include traditional items of every-day life on the island, paintings and books referring to Santorini's history.
- To the 18<sup>th</sup> century **Megaro Gyzi (Gyzi Mansion)**, featuring various very interesting collections (copper engravings etc.).
- To **Agia Aikaterini** Dominican Nunnery.
- To **Bellonio Cultural Centre** and to **Petros Nomikos Conference Centre**, where congresses, exhibitions, concerts etc. take place.
- To **Firostefani**, a traditional village with interesting architectural style, offering a splendid view of the surrounding area.



*209. Santorini's Caldera is one of the most photographed spots of the Mediterranean.*





- To **Caldera**, as well as to **Nea Kameni** and **Palaia Kameni** islets; these are areas of exceptional natural beauty and of great scientific interest (an active volcano crater is on Nea Kameni). A small boat will take you there.

## *Trips around the island*

### Karterados 2

This is one of the most beautiful and picturesque inland villages. The old village and its impressive churches are built below ground level partly hewn within the rock (two-room houses are built in the easily dug volcanic ash). A good number of houses are built in a gully, so that their roofs are on the same level with the street. **Distance from Fira:** 2 km SE.

### Imerovigli 3

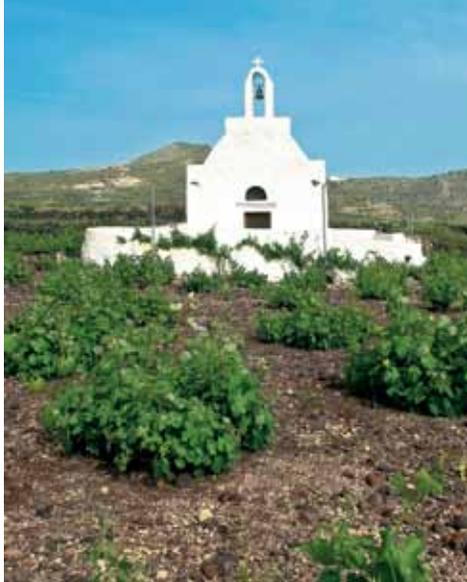
It is built in a prestigious location, at the highest level of Thira's Caldera at an elevation of 300 m., between Fira and Oia. This is a picturesque heritage village, a group of lovely traditional houses and churches. **Distance from Fira:** 2.5 km NW.

#### Must see:

- The ruins of **Skaros**, a **Venetian castle**, built by Marco Sanudo, used as an



210. Imerovigli has been called "Santorini's balcony" on account of its location.



211. Santorini's vineyards produce top quality wines, as a result of the island's volcanic soil.

observatory during the Venetian domination.

- **Theoskepasti**, a small church built on the edge of a cliff with a lovely view of the surrounding area.
- **Agios Georgios'** church.
- The 1674 **Agios Nikolaos'** imposing monastery.

### Mesaria 4

It is situated roughly in the centre of the island and is famous for its vineyards where the largest quantity of wine on the island is produced. **Distance from Fira:** 3 km SE.

### Vourvoulos 5

This is a village that keeps to all its traditional features. It is located on the northeastern side of the island very close to Fira. Do visit the village's Byzantine church as well as *kanaves*, the local traditional wineries. **Distance from Fira:** 3.5 km NE.

### Vothonas 6

A picturesque village with houses built below ground level partly hewn within the rock. It is worth visiting the remarkable churches of Agia Triada (Holy Trinity), Agia Anna and Panagia, dating back to the 1700s, as well as the Museum of Wine (housed in the Volcan Wines winery, on the way to Kamari) where the history of Santorini's wine is depicted from the 17<sup>th</sup> until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. **Distance from Fira:** 4 km SE.

## Pyrgos

7

Pyrgos is a big village, with many mediaeval houses and noteworthy churches offering an excellent view of the island. **Distance from Fira:** 7.5 km SE.

### Must see:



- The **Collection of Icons and Ecclesiastical Sacred Items** (in Agia Triada).
- The 10<sup>th</sup> century **Theotokaki** church with an interesting wood carved iconostasis and valuable icons.



212. The Red beach on the island's south side.

- The half-ruined monastery of **Profitis Ilias** (1711), 4 km S.

## Emporeio

8

Emporeio is a traditional village, with an evident mediaeval character, fortress-style architecture and narrow alleys. **Perissa** resort is the area's seaport, featuring the famous black sandy beach. **Distance from Fira:** 8 km S.

### Must see:



- **Kastro (the castle)** located at the very centre of Emporeio. **Panagia** and **Agios Spyridonas'** churches are also situated nearby (near the southern gate).
- **Goulas**, a tower offering a view of the surrounding area.
- The old **windmills**.

## Kamari

9

This is a modern village with a cosmopolitan character, famous for its black sandy beach, and a famous tourist destination. **Distance from Fira:** 8.5 km SE.

### Must see:



- **Ancient Thira** (2.5 km S). It was founded during the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. by Dorian colonists and has remained populated until the end of the Early Byzantine period. The archaeological site includes housing units, market places, thermae,





213. Kamari is a well-developed tourist destination with a popular beach.

theatres, sanctuaries, graves relating to various periods of time and Early Christian remains.

- **Agios Nikolaos'** church.
- The **coastal promenade area**.
- **Zoodochos Pigi's** country chapel.

## Akrotiri

10

Akrotiri is a picturesque village at caldera's south end, built around the walls of a Venetian castle. Close by, you can visit one of Greece's most important archaeological sites, a Prehistoric settlement that was discovered buried under

214. View of Oia. Fira is in the background.



the ashes of the volcano. It was first inhabited in the Late Neolithic Period and prospered during the Bronze Age. Its architecture shares many common elements with that of the Minoan cities. Observe the multi-storeyed houses, stone-paved streets and squares, the sewerage network and murals. **Distance from Fira:** 9.5 km SW.

### Must see:



- **Venetsianiko Kastro** (Venetian castle) as it affords amazing views.
- **Agia Theodosia's** church.



215. The archaeological site in Akrotiri.

- **Dimotiko Scholeio** (elementary school) and **Mnimeio Pesonton** (Fighters' Memorial).
- **Agios Nikolaos'** small church.
- **Kokkini Paralia** (Red Beach). Enormous red rocks and reddish pebbles compose a unique landscape.
- **Panagia Kalamiotissa's** church.
- **Faros** (The lighthouse)

## Oia

11

Oia is one of the island's top resort areas, a village of astounding beauty. It was the first village in Greece to become a heritage site as its greatest part has been built below ground level partly hewn within the rock. In the minds of hundreds of visitors, Oia's name has been

connected with breathtaking sunset views; it is a fine spot for hundreds of visitors who watch the sun go down every evening. Life here is quieter than in Fira and holiday-makers will feel the touch of magic in this place! **Distance from Fira:** 10.5 km NW.

### Must see:



- The traditional **weaving mill**.
- **Naftiko Mouseio** (Naval Museum) housing significant exhibits of the island's naval history.
- The churches of **Panagia Platsani** and **Panagia tou Akathistou Ymnou**.
- **Kastro** (The Castle).
- **Ammoudi**, Oia's seaport located in a marvellous natural setting.
- **Armeni**, a picturesque beach.
- **Anemomyloi** (The windmills).
- **Agioi Epta Paides'** small church, built on a rock.
- **Agios Nikolaos** islet named after the small church on it.

## Perivolos

12

Perissa beach continues after a certain point as **Perivolos** beach. These two are the most famous beaches with the best facilities on the island. **Distance from Fira:** 10.5 km S.

## Events

- Ifaisteia is a festival including cultural events, concerts and dancing performances during August.

216. Santorini's renowned broad bean dish.



217. View of Santorini from Nea Kameni.

- International Music Festival taking place in early September in Fira.
- Episkopi Feast in Mesa Gonia, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, where traditional fava (made of yellow split peas) is served.
- The most popular religious feasts are: **a)** Profitis Ilias on July 20<sup>th</sup> in Fira, **b)** Agioi Epta Paides on August 4<sup>th</sup> in Oia, **c)** Metamorfosis tou Sotiros on August 6<sup>th</sup> **d)** Panagia on August 15<sup>th</sup> in Akrotiri, **e)** Agios Ioannis on August 29<sup>th</sup> in Perissa and **f)** Panagia Myrtidiotissa on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Kamari.
- Feast of Agios Averkios, the protector of wine-making, in Emporeio on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming in the area of Akrotiri, in Balos, Gialos, Kokkini Paralia (Red Beach), Kampia, in Aspri Paralia (White Beach), Mesa Pigadia and Almyra; in Vlychada and the seashores of Exomyti; at the beaches of Vourvoulos and Xiropigado, in the area of Emporeio, Perissa and Perivolos; in Kamari and at the beach of Avis, at the area of Oia, in Armeni, Armenaki, Ammoudi, Peramataris, Katharos, Baxedes, Paradeisos, Koloumpo and Pori.
- Wind surfing.
- Scuba diving in Taxiarchis in Palaia Kameni (there's a shipwreck there), around the reef of



218. The famous sunset view from Oia is a major attraction for millions of visitors all year round.

Adiavati area (close to Akrotiri), in Ammoudi, Armeni and Aspronisi.

- Fishing.
- Hiking from Fira towards Oia (9 km) along Caldera, from the area of Ancient Thira towards Perissa (30 min. hike) and from Profitis Ilias to Perissa (45 min. hike).
- Water sports.
- Sailing.
- Going on excursion aboard the submarine Atlantis-Santorini 1, around Caldera's underwater area (tel. 22860-28.900-1).
- Visiting the island's wineries where you will acquaint yourself with the variety of Santorini's wines and you can take wine tasting lessons.
- Camping sites in Fira, Megalochori or Perissa.

#### Useful phone numbers (+30)

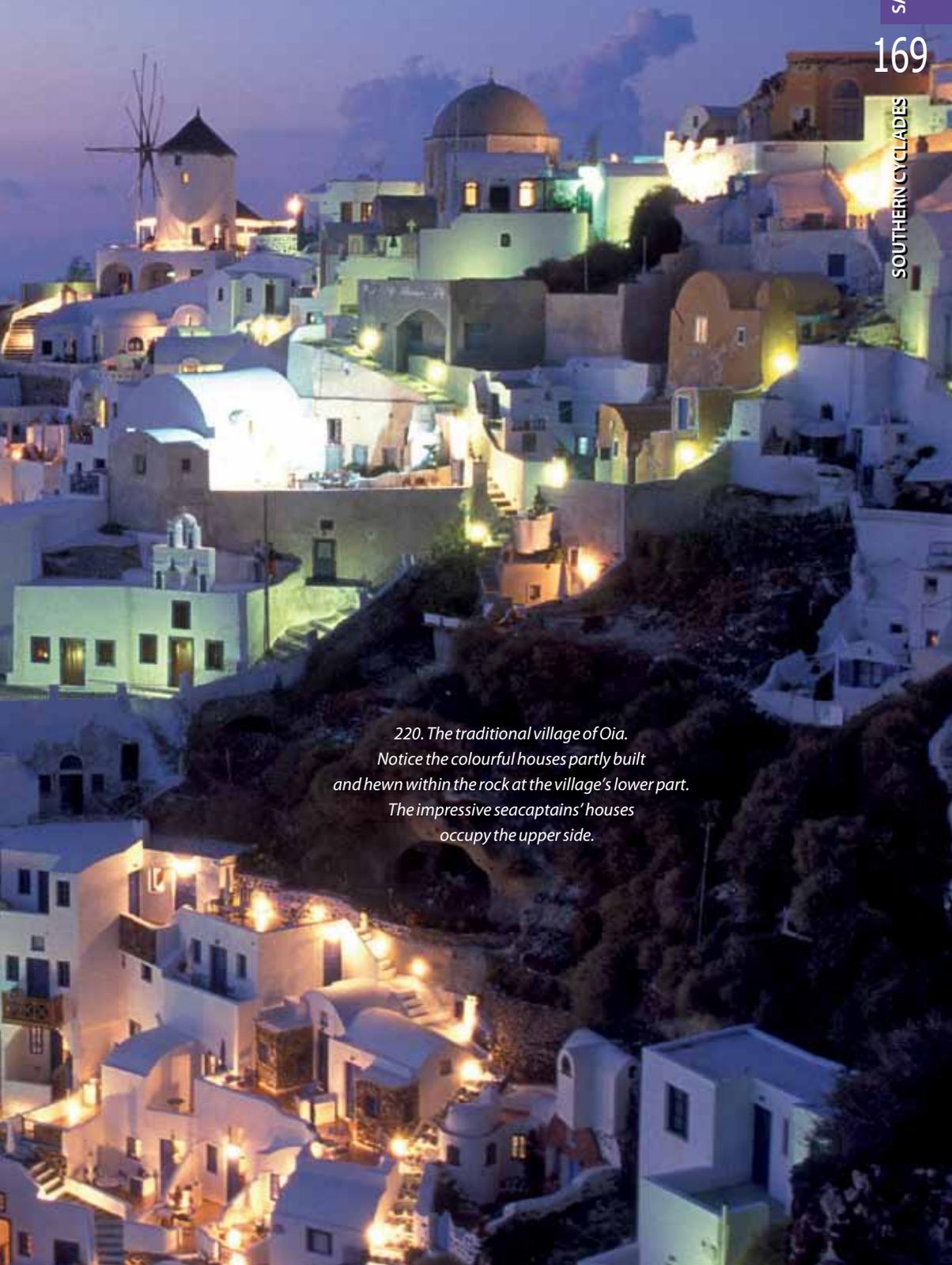
- **Thira Municipal Office:** 22860-22.231
- **Oia Community Office:** 22860-71.228
- **Police-Tourist Police station:** 22860-22.649
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22863-60.300
- **Port Authority:** 22860-22.239
- **Airport:** 22860-28.405
- **Thira's Long Distance Bus Terminus (KTEL):** 22860-25.462
- **Archaeological Museum:** 22860-22.217
- **Museum of Prehistoric Thira:** 22860-23.217
- **Akrotiri's Archaeological site:** 22860-81.366

Website: [www.santorini.gr](http://www.santorini.gr)

219. There is a variety of services on offer on popular Perissa beach which is covered in thin black sand.







220. The traditional village of Oia. Notice the colourful houses partly built and hewn within the rock at the village's lower part. The impressive seacaptains' houses occupy the upper side.

# Thirasia



221. Korfos, the small seaport of inland Manolas area, is a picturesque village with a beautiful beach offering a wonderful view of Santorini.

**T**hirasia belongs to Santorini's group of islands and is located opposite Oia. Today's island is what's left of the western coast of Strongyli island, following the volcano's eruption in 1500 BC. The imposing natural relief with impressive geological formations, the local architectural style evident in houses and churches, an enchanting view of Santorini, Palaia Kameni and Nea Kameni islets and the scenic coast of Korfos where you can find traditional tavernas, all the above are characteristic features of this very charming, yet little-known island. Its area is 9 sq. km and there are 260 residents. Settlements of the Late Bronze Age and the Classical Period have been found here. You can reach Thirasia by boat from Santorini or from Oia.

## Manolas (Thirasia town) 1

It is the island's biggest village, built according to local tradition and offering a unique view of the caldera.

### Must see:



- The churches of **Agios Konstantinos** and **Agios Ioannis** as well as Profitis Ilias' country chapel located on the island's highest peak.
- **Vigla** location, affording a splendid view of Thirasia and Korfos.
- **Panagia's Monastery**, (3 km S) offering a view of Caldera, Santorini, Palaia Kameni and Nea Kameni, as well as Keradiana Gremna.
- **Korfos**, Manolas' seaport, where the view of the caldera is amazing. You will find some traditional tavernas here.

- **Potamos**, a traditional inland village.
- **Riva**, Thirasia's port. You can visit the church of Agia (Saint) Eirini, after who the island of Santorini was named (Santa Irini), according to tradition.
- The **settlement of the Late Bronze Age**, in the southern part of the island.

## Activities on the island

- Swimming in the beaches of Korfos and Riva.
- Fishing.
- Diving at cape Trypiti.
- Hiking.

### Useful phone numbers (+30): ☎

- **Community office:** 22860-29.143
- **Rural medical clinic:** 22860-29.144

Website: [www.thirasia.gr](http://www.thirasia.gr)



# Anafi



222. Anafi's Chora lies on a hill around the residential nucleus of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Venetian castle.

**A**nafi is a small paradise with pristine lovely countryside bearing all the features of a typical beautiful Cyclades island. It is located east of Santorini. Mount Kalamos (460 m.) rises on the island's east side.

According to Greek mythology, Anafi was ordered by Apollo to emerge from the bottom of the Aegean, in order to provide shelter to the Argonauts. There is also another version connecting the name of the island with the non-existence of snakes on it (An-ofis: "an" meaning "absence of" and "ofis" meaning snake)! The ancient town of Anafi was founded by Dorians during the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. During the Byzantine times, Anafi had suffered pirate raids. In 1537, after interim periods of Venetian rule, the island was occupied by the Turks, following the invasion of Hayreddin Barbarossa who razed the place to the ground. During the 1860s, Anafi's Chora served as a model for local masons who had migrated in Attica and built the picturesque *Anafiotika* settlement at the foot of the Acropolis rock in Athens. Anafi's area is 40 sq. km, its coastline is 33 km and there are 250 residents.



223. Traditional dry-stone wall in Chora.

## Anafi's Chora (town) 1

It is built on the ruins of a Venetian castle and has snow-white domed houses and narrow stone paved alleys. Chora is a very picturesque aggregate of churches, small squares, domed and flat-roofed houses, and narrow alleys with whitewashed stairs. The remains of the Venetian castle have been incorporated in the modern town.

### Must see:



- **Agios Spyridonas'** church, featuring an exceptional architectural style, Stavros' (the Cross) church and its 17<sup>th</sup> century iconostasis, the church of **Koimisi tis Theotokou** (Dormition of the Mother of God), having a remarkable icon screen, the Metropolitan church of **Agios Nikolaos** with a 17<sup>th</sup> century elaborate iconostasis and noteworthy icons, as well as the churches of **Agioi Anargyroi**, **Agios Charalampos** and **Agios Athanasios**, at the upper square where a memorial stands.
- The **windmills**.
- The **Archaeological Collection**, where the majority of exhibits date back to the Roman period.

## Trips around the island

- To Kastelli hilltop, where the **Ancient town's** remains are located. It prospered greatly during

the Roman Period as a large number of Roman sepulchral sculptures, marble statues and busts were found in the area. The town was abandoned during the Early-Christian Period. At the foot of the hill, you can visit the country chapel of **Panagia sto Dokari**, (next to the chapel, you will notice a marble **Roman sarcophagus** with embossed decorations) as well as **Agios Mamas'** country chapel. Right next to it there is a **Roman sepulchral complex**, near **Iera Odos** (Sacred Way) which used to lead from the ancient town to the sanctuary of Apollo.

- To the remains of the **Ancient Town's seaport**, in Katelimatsa (Katalimatsa) bay, south of Kastelli hill; there are scattered architectural members and ruins of a cemetery.
- To the ruins of the sanctuary of **Aiglitis Apollo or Anafaios Apollo**, at the foot of Mt. Kalamos,

224. Chora affords a marvellous view of the Aegean Sea.

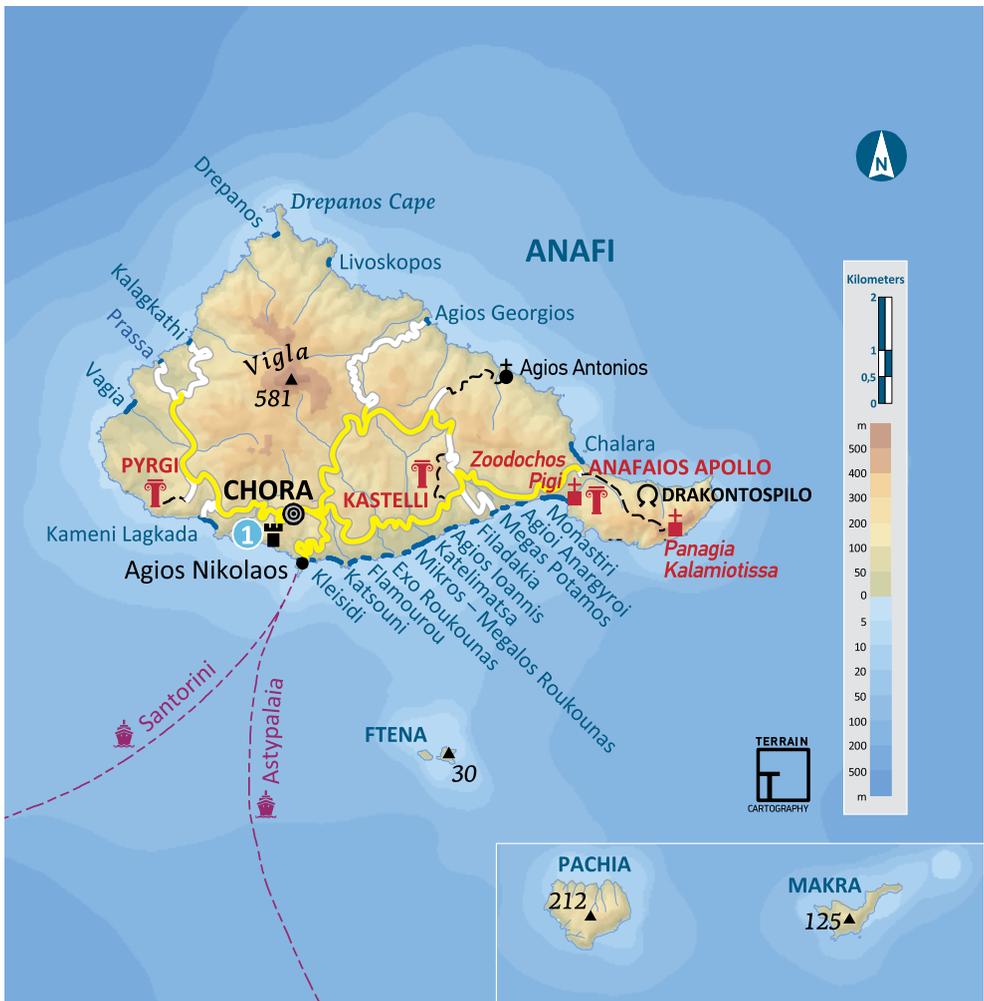


on the island's east tip. Ancient building material, taken from the temple, has been used for the construction of Zoodochos Pigi's Monastery in Kato Panagia.

- To **Zoodochos Pigi's Monastery** (meaning Life Giving Fountain) - Kato Panagia. There is a remarkable iconostasis and 19<sup>th</sup> century icons in the monastery's main church (katholikon). Within the monastery grounds and in the greater surrounding area you will find scattered architectural members and ruins of the sanctuary of Aiglitis Apollo or Anafaios Apollo.
- To **Drakontospilo** (Dragon cave), east of Zoodochos Pigi's Monastery.
- To **Panagia Kalamiotissa's Monastery** (Ano Panagia). It is located on Kalamos' mountain

top, at 460 m. above sea level (1 hour and 30 minutes hike, through an imposing mountainous terrain). There is an 18<sup>th</sup> century iconostasis at the monastery's main church. Outside the Monastery, there are remains of mediaeval fortification.

- To **Kleisidi**, a coastal village, 2.5 km SE of Chora.
- To **Agios Nikolaos** (the island's harbour), following the scenic uphill path that connects the village to Chora.
- To the country chapels of **Christos** (Christ), 4.5 km N., and Faneromeni, towards the island's northern part.
- To **Agios Antonios'** Byzantine church (N.), having built-in ancient architectural members and amazing 13<sup>th</sup> century murals.



## Events

- Argonaftika, cultural and sports events, in mid-August.
- Panagia Kalamiotissa Feast, the island's patron saint, on September 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities on the island

- Hiking is the best way to get to know the island as there are trails (total length: 18 km), which go through the largest part of Anafi.
- Climbing.
- Swimming in the south coast, in Kleisidi, Agios Nikolaos bay, Katsouni, Roukounas, Flamourou, Katelimatsa (Katalimatsa), Megalos (or Megas) Potamos, Agios Ioannis, Agioi Anargyroi and Monastiri (Prasies). Along the west shoreline, go swimming in Kameni Lagkada, Vagia and Prassa, whereas on the north coast, you can visit Drepano, Livoskopo, Agios Georgios bay and Chalara. Anafopoula, a small island lies south of Anafi.
- Fishing.

### Useful phone numbers (+30):

- **Municipal office:** 22860-61.266



225. The beach in Agios Nikolaos cove.

- **Police station - Port authority:** 22860-61.216
- **Rural Medical Clinic:** 22860-61.215
- **Archaeological Collection:** 22860-61.329

Website: [www.anafi.gr](http://www.anafi.gr)

226. The sandy beach of Mikros Roukounas and Megalos Roukounas stretches for 1 km.



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