

The Cyclades

The Cyclades – literally 'the scattered islands' - in the central Aegean are most people's idea of how the Greek Islands should look. There are dazzling flat-roofed villages to explore, timeless harbours, excellent beaches, and tiny chapels everywhere. Each island has its own distinct history, customs and atmosphere, and each contrasts in landscape and terrain with its neighbour.

The best known and busiest are Mykonos and Santorini, both of which have direct international flights. Santorini is world famous and seemingly always busy – every cruise-ship in the Aegean seems to call in at some stage. But this does not detract from the sheer spectacle of the place, its volcanic cliffs laced with white villages overlooking the caldera and islands below.

These are good jumping off points for nearby islands such as Naxos, Paros and Ios lying at the heart of the group. These islands have a perfect blend of whitewashed Greek charm and fabulous sandy beaches, making them a draw for Greek and foreign visitors alike.

For lesser frequented islands look to the west - Andros, Kythnos, Serifos, Sifnos, Milos, Kimolos, Folegandros, each with its own distinct attractions. These islands have a more laid back feel, although in high season do receive their fair share of visitors of course, and are best served via Athens.

But the most remote of all are known as 'the small Cyclades'. We feature tiny Koufonissi (truly fabulous beaches!), Schinoussa and not-so-small Amorgos. Historically difficult to reach - an overnight for the first and/or the last night is often necessary.

Walking is always an attraction in Greece, and we'd recommend the excellent website www.cycladen.be for walking information and trails which cover the

majority of the Cycladic islands.

Do not go expecting to see much in the way of evident archaeology. There is some – notably the holy island of Delos close to Mykonos – but on the whole the bulk of Greece's archaeological sites are on the mainland. If this is an interest, but you still wish to visit the islands, we'd recommend a tailor-made arrangement via Athens with the north Peloponnese or a mainland fly-drive.

Many people find a two- or three-island holiday appealing, due to the proximity of one island to the other and the contrasts between them. Due to the ferry routings, we suggest keeping to island groupings on the following pages. The Small Cyclades also combine well with Naxos.

Even the most remote of these islands receives plenty of visitors in the peak season (mid-July to end-August) - and the smaller they are the more crowded they can seem. This is also the time of the Meltemi – a strong wind which shows no respect for hats, taverna tablecloths or ferry schedules, but which can bring relief from the heat of the day.

On all these islands we have appointed local agents or hoteliers who arrange your transfers, can give information, book cars and excursions, and can be contacted if required. However, it is important to state that we do not employ our own representatives, nor are



transfers escorted, so our holidays here are recommended for the more independent traveller.

Important – Transfers and Ferries

We include all transfers and ferry tickets. However please note that full ferry schedules may not have been published when your holiday is booked. If there is subsequently no same day connection we will book overnight hotel(s) and additional transfers where required – we do not consider this to be a major change to your holiday. Even once published, ferry schedules are subject to change and can be affected by weather conditions, delays and mechanical problems – rare but it happens. In this event we shall amend your itinerary on the spot at no extra cost using our network of local agents on the islands.



Sifnos



Folegandros



Koufonissi



Batsi harbour, Andros



Apollonia, Milos



Amorgos

Western Cyclades

Andros

2 hours by ferry from Rafina (Athens)

Andros is the second largest island of the group (after Naxos). Due to the many underground springs much of the island remains green and fresh throughout the summer, making Andros a paradise for walkers and a network of trails has recently been opened – see www.androsroutes.gr. There are mountains, valleys, monasteries and some 70 villages to explore.

Andros' many beaches are mostly superb, ranging from long sandy crescents (such as that at Batsi) to secluded coves, all lapped by a turquoise-clear sea. And it is Batsi where most visitors choose to stay. This small resort-village has a friendly relaxed Greek air, fine beaches to either side, a good choice of restaurants and cafés, a handful of bars, even an open-air cinema showing the latest releases (in English!).

Unlike the more famous Cycladic islands, tourism to Andros is pretty low key (albeit busy with Athenians at weekends and in August). Coupled with its fine beaches, verdant countryside, authentic Greek atmosphere and ease of access, a visit here is highly recommended.

Sifnos

c 2 hrs 15 mins by high speed ferry from Piraeus or c 2½-3 hrs from Santorini

Sophisticated Sifnos has managed to retain a discreet distance from the crowds that are drawn to better known islands, and attracts a discerning visitor. Consequently its exceptionally clean beaches feel uncrowded and peaceful (the usual August caveat apart of course), and there is a sense of traditional elegance amidst the narrow streets and whitewashed houses of the classically Cycladic villages dotted around the island.

An island of fertile valleys and lofty mountains, a network of walking trails (see www.cycladen.be) enable you to explore its many beaches, and can also take you past some of the 227 individual churches, which are overlooked dramatically by several hilltop monasteries.

Our favoured resort areas are the small fishing port of Kamares which has more than a dozen tavernas set back from a sandy beach, and Platy Yialos, the best beach on the island with an entire kilometre of golden sand, supported by a good choice of restaurants, cafes and mini-markets. There are also good and quick ferry connections to neighbouring islands such as Milos and Folegandros, making twin centre holidays easy.

Milos

40 mins by domestic flight from Athens c 2 hrs 45 mins by high speed ferry from Piraeus or c 2 hrs from Santorini

The volcanic origins of the island of Milos have endowed it with a very special geology. Rugged and hilly, it has a richly variegated coastline, ranging from curving sandy beaches to bleached smooth

moonscape, from hidden lagoons to colourful rock formations erupted from the sea-bed. Precious obsidian has been mined here for 11,000 years, and the island is full of history.

The capital is Adamas – a bustling port with a sandy beach to the south. Adamas is the best location from which to explore as it is in the centre of the local bus network and offers a wide choice of excursions by boat.

Plaka, the old capital perched on its hilltop, is particularly atmospheric in the evenings, and we'd recommend climbing up to the 13th century Venetian castle to view the sumptuous sunset before choosing one of the many tavernas, tables spilling out onto the narrow lanes, to dine.

There are over 70 beaches on the island, and our featured village of Apollonia has its own sweep of sand shaded by tamarisk trees, with more beaches to either side. A charming fishing village, Apollonia is renowned for the excellence of its restaurants (four of the island's best are to be found here). The offshore islets of Kimolos and Polyegos are easily reached by boat and up to 9 buses run daily to the main port of Adamas and Plaka.

Something of a geological curiosity, the island provides a fascinating backcloth to any "around the island" boat trip, which is a must for every visitor.

Kimolos

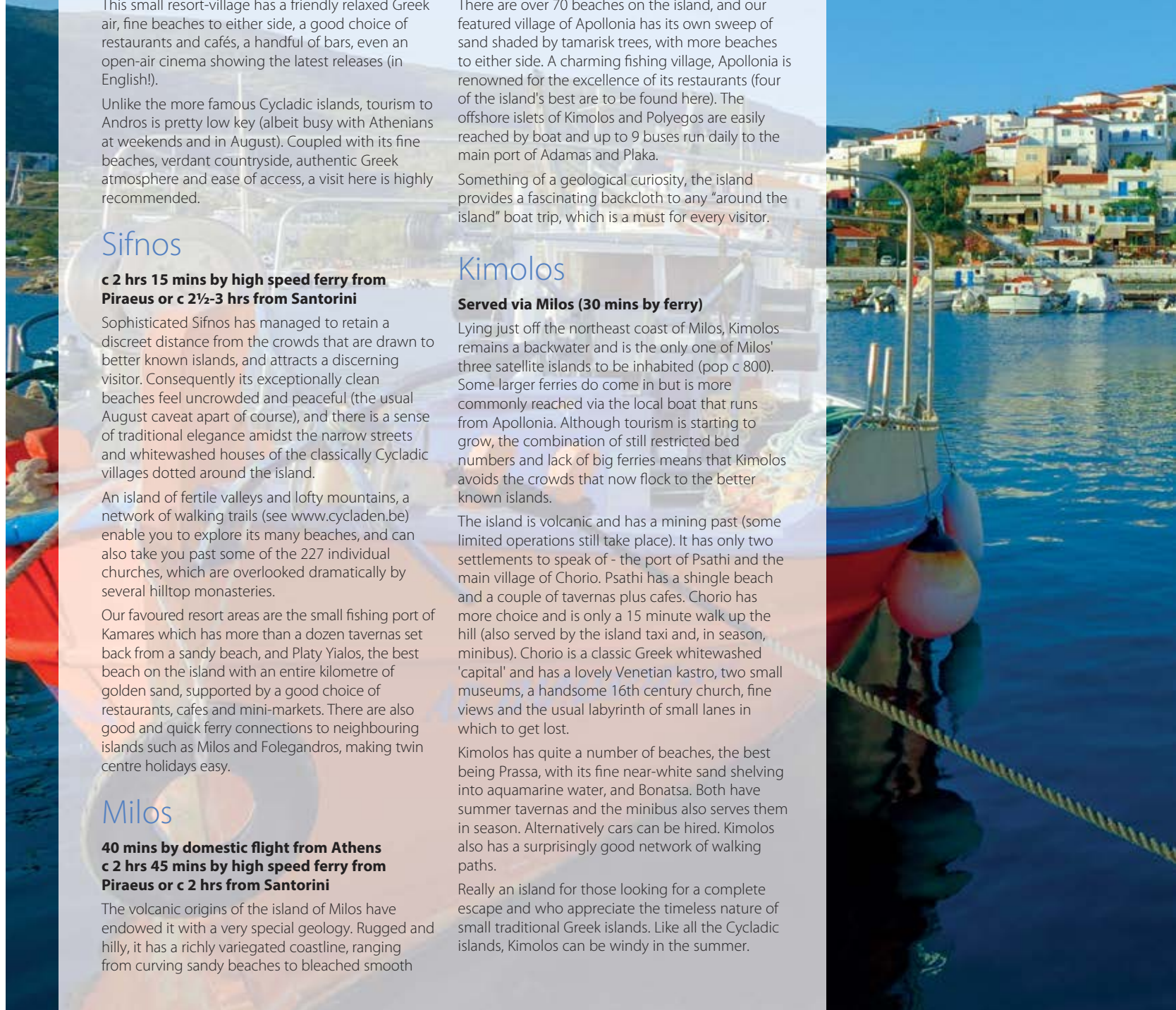
Served via Milos (30 mins by ferry)

Lying just off the northeast coast of Milos, Kimolos remains a backwater and is the only one of Milos' three satellite islands to be inhabited (pop c 800). Some larger ferries do come in but is more commonly reached via the local boat that runs from Apollonia. Although tourism is starting to grow, the combination of still restricted bed numbers and lack of big ferries means that Kimolos avoids the crowds that now flock to the better known islands.

The island is volcanic and has a mining past (some limited operations still take place). It has only two settlements to speak of - the port of Psathi and the main village of Chorio. Psathi has a shingle beach and a couple of tavernas plus cafes. Chorio has more choice and is only a 15 minute walk up the hill (also served by the island taxi and, in season, minibus). Chorio is a classic Greek whitewashed 'capital' and has a lovely Venetian kastro, two small museums, a handsome 16th century church, fine views and the usual labyrinth of small lanes in which to get lost.

Kimolos has quite a number of beaches, the best being Prassa, with its fine near-white sand shelving into aquamarine water, and Bonatsa. Both have summer tavernas and the minibus also serves them in season. Alternatively cars can be hired. Kimolos also has a surprisingly good network of walking paths.

Really an island for those looking for a complete escape and who appreciate the timeless nature of small traditional Greek islands. Like all the Cycladic islands, Kimolos can be windy in the summer.



Folegandros

c 4 hrs by high speed ferry from Piraeus or c 1 hr from Santorini

Something of a hidden gem, Folegandros remains true to the austere beauty of its rugged landscape, with its sunbleached, woodless terrain leading to precipitous cliffs that seem to fall directly into a dazzling ocean.

The island's 650 inhabitants live in three small villages, but its Chora is the perfect Cycladic capital brought to life. Perched on an almost vertical cliff, its sugar-cubed houses with whitewashed walls and blue doors are crammed together in narrow alleys. In the evenings, there seems to be a taverna on every corner, tables spilling onto the streets and squares.

The landmark church of Panagia on the hillside above - a half hour walk - affords a spectacular view - stunning in conjunction with the setting of the sun.

Folegandros has some excellent beaches but some effort is usually required to reach them, although distances are not great. A bus runs to Agali beach up to 10 times daily, and also to the port from where you can walk to a choice of beaches. Alternatively hop on a small boat for those further afield, such as lovely Katergo, sheltered by its towering cliffs. Boat excursions also run to neighbouring Sikinos.

Kythnos

c 1 hr 40 mins - 2 hrs 45 mins from Lavrio or c 3 hrs 15 mins from Piraeus

Kythnos is one of the least known islands of the western Cyclades and as such remains very much under the tourist radar. This could be because ferry links are not great and mainly from Athens' secondary port of Lavrio, or the fact that there are no beach resorts to speak of and only limited accommodation. Which is all the more reason to visit this very traditional and non-touristic gem!

The island has beaches as good as any in the Cyclades - over sixty of them, although few are organised. The most famous is Kolona, a 200m sandbar linking Kythnos with the tiny islet of Aghios Loukas - but most can still only be reached on foot or by sea. Even those that do have road access remain blissfully undeveloped (for now!).

The heart of island life is to be found in the pair of gorgeous inland villages, Chora and Driopida, each a whitewashed Greek classic and where most of the 1800 population live. Our hotel and walking base is in Chora, a smart, stylish little place with four tavernas, cafes and even a couple of fashionable bars. If you are not a walker then car hire is a must (we can pre-book, please enquire).



Kimolos

Kythnos has a history dating back to prehistoric times, hot springs, one of the largest caves in Greece, countless chapels scattered across its landscape, ruined castles, an ancient city and strong traditions, with still-working donkeys and colourful festivals. It also has a recently opened network of walking paths, and we therefore propose our one week walking holidays as the best way to really get under the skin of this undiscovered, beautiful and charming island. However, should you prefer to do your own thing all our clients here will receive a copy of a Hiking Guide on arrival, detailing 11 well designed routes.

Kythnos has particularly erratic ferry connection and an overnight hotel in Lavrio is always a possibility. Based on the ferry schedules last year the optimum day for travel to Kythnos is a Monday if your flight arrives into Athens around midday. Kythnos links to the other islands we feature in this chain via Serifos just to the south, so twin centre and island hopping holidays are possible.

Serifos

c 2-2½ hrs from Piraeus (Athens) by high speed or c 3½ hrs from Santorini

For a Cycladic island with such fine beaches, one of the loveliest Choras you will find, a delicious local cuisine at reasonable prices, and all just over a couple of hours from Athens by high speed ferry, it is a mystery why Serifos does not attract more foreign visitors.

Those that do come stay mainly in the little port of Livadi or its satellite Livadakia in the next bay (they are only a ten minute walk



Milos

apart so can be counted as one). Livadi has all the attributes you would expect from the main port - shops, a bank, a good choice of tavernas (many with tables on the sand) and a number of beach bars and cafes. Buses run to Chora and (in season) some beaches, but to see more of the island you'll need to hire a car.

Chora perches precariously on a rocky outcrop high above Livadi. It is an archetypal old capital with whitewashed houses and chapels in its narrow lanes, a main square with a handful of tavernas and cafes, bright splashes of bougainvillea and lots of steps! But the climb up to the top is worth it when the stunning view over Livadi and the Aegean to Sifnos reveals itself. Take the bus up and walk back down via the old mule path (c 30 mins). In fact a number of walking trails have opened up in recent years - seven at the last count with more planned.

There are some 60 beaches on Serifos, nearly all of them of sandy and many with natural shade. The main beach of Livadi stretches for 850m and would be the envy of many another village. But they get much better than this. Livadakia over the headland is gorgeous - a perfect crescent of golden sand lined by tamarisk trees. Keep going along the south coast for 5 kms and you come to stunning Vaya, a protected beach backed by dunes, and then to equally lovely Ganema. Go north-east from Livadi and you will come to Psili Ammos, once picked by The Sunday Times as Europe's Beach of the Year - you can walk to it in 45 minutes.

Serifos links with Kythnos to the north and Sifnos, Milos and Folegandros to the south, so a twin-centre or island hopping trip can be easily arranged.

WESTERN CYCLADES INFORMATION

Getting to the Islands

Flights from Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted, Luton, Bristol, Edinburgh and Manchester to Athens.

ANDROS, KYTHNOS, SERIFOS, SIFNOS, FOLEGANDROS

Transfer to Rafina, Lavrio or Piraeus port for afternoon ferry to the island where you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. On the return the reverse applies for an evening flight back. Flights should arrive in Athens c. midday - for ferry connections. In early and late season (May and after mid-Sept) an overnight hotel may be required on arrival and/or departure.

MILOS, KIMOLOS

Connecting domestic flight Athens to Milos where you will be met and transferred to your

accommodation. If the domestic flights are full (they are small aircraft) then ferry transfers will be provided as above.

Multi-Centre and Island Hopping

Kythnos, Serifos, Sifnos, Milos and Folegandros are easy to combine. They also have high speed ferry connections to the Eastern Cyclades (Santorini, Ios) plus in season (early June to mid-September) Naxos, Paros, Amorgos and Koufonissi.

Representation

We do not employ our own representatives on these islands and transfers are unescorted. Our hotels should be able to give any information required. We do have a local agent on most islands for assistance and also our main agents in Athens can always be contacted if required.

Marfo Studios Batsi, Andros

These four terraced bungalow studios stand quietly above Stivari Bay, a short walk to the south of Batsi. Set in a pretty garden, all studios are twin-bedded and possess a kitchenette with light cooking facilities (rings, fridge), a ceiling fan, air conditioning, TV, safety deposit box, hairdryer, shower room and a large covered front terrace with very good views over the garden (and possibly a little bit of the rooftop of a neighbouring building) to the sea.

Rooms are spacious – all can take an extra bed for a child – and (a nice touch) each studio has a pair of sun beds and a sun umbrella in the

gardens. All, too, are light and airy with simple, comfortable furnishings and tiled floors. The studios and the gardens are kept immaculate kept by the friendly owners.

There is also a 1-bedroom apartment with a sofa-bed in the living room for one or two children.

A footpath runs to Batsi, connecting with the road down to the harbour – it is a 7-8 minute walk to the square and 10 minutes to the main beach. Closer is Stivari beach, only a 3-4 minute walk away.

There are 14 steps up from the footpath and an additional 30 down to the small road which runs to Stivari and Aneroussa beaches.

Really very sweet accommodation in a great location – highly recommended!



Batsi

The Studios: Self Catering
Studios for 2/3
Apartment for 2/4
Air Conditioning



Chrissi Akti Hotel Batsi, Andros

The hotel's 61 rooms are on 3 floors and served by a lift. A mix of twins, doubles and triples, they all include air conditioning, TV, a kettle, hairdryer, mini-fridge, safety deposit box, shower room and balcony. Decor is simple and cheerful. Classic rooms are on the ground floor with garden views and for 1 or 2 persons only. Superior rooms are on the upper floors with side sea or full sea view balcony and upgraded furnishings/decor. Some can take an extra bed.

The hotel also has some Suites to the front with two balconies (one full and one side sea view) and family rooms for up to 4 persons (5 if a child), comprising two rooms sharing one shower room – these have garden or side sea views (prices on request).

The ground floor houses a lounge, café-bar and sea facing terrace and to the side is the swimming pool measuring 6m x 16m (depth 1.0m-1.70m) - pool and beach towels can be provided. On the beach just over the road there are sunbeds (local charge) and beach service provided from the hotel's cafe.

The Chrissi Akti would be particularly suited to those who want to stay close to the beach with everything close to hand, and no hills to climb!

The Hotel: 2 Star
Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Swimming Pool
Free WiFi



Andros Grias-Pidima beach

Aneroussa Beach Hotel Batsi, Andros

The Aneroussa enjoys a prime location directly above the crystalline waters of sandy Delavoyas beach. It is 1 km from Batsi (1.5 km from the harbour), a pleasant 15-20 minute walk above the sea.

The hotel has 30 pretty rooms, fully refurbished to offer a good standard of accommodation. All possess AC, WiFi, TV, fridge, room-safe, hairdryer, shower room and sea view balcony or terrace (with lovely sunsets).

The hotel has attractive gardens with seating, and steps down to the beach below where there are sun

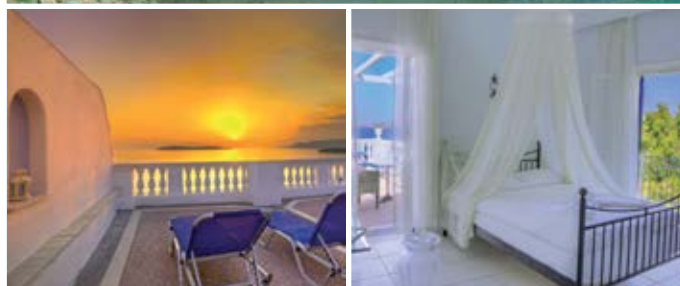
beds (local charge) and a snack bar. The nearest tavernas are a ten minute walk in either direction, and there are many more to choose from in Batsi.

A very lovely little hotel, recommended not only for its wonderful location but for its peaceful surroundings, comfortable rooms, friendly service and great views.

The Hotel: 3 Stars Plus
Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Batsi



Messaria Hotel Kythnos

This charming small hotel stands at the entrance to equally charming Chora, the main village of Kythnos. It offers a remarkably high standard for such a non-touristic island.

The 12 rooms here are spacious and furnished in a classic style, with high quality bedding and large modern shower room. All are double-bedded and possess AC, TV, WiFi, light cooking facilities, fridge and balcony or patio with views over the village or the hills behind and distant sea.

Breakfast contains many home-made specialities (the spinach and cheese pies are especially delicious!). The owners, Kostas and Irene, are welcoming and helpful.

A couple of minutes' walk takes you through the narrow lanes to the

heart of this very pretty traditional village where you will find three good tavernas, a souvlaki joint, a couple of stylish cafes and bars. Chora is the largest village and quite vibrant in the summer evenings. Car hire is recommended for non-walkers.

Walking Holidays and free Hiking Guide. All Kythnos clients will receive a free Hiking Guide on arrival, detailing 11 walking routes. For details of our organised walking holidays on Kythnos see page 186.

The Hotel: 3 Star
Traditional Hotel
Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Kolona Beach



Apollon Hotel Apollonia, Milos

What will make your holiday here special is not just that you are staying in the prettiest seaside village on Milos, nor that the sea here is sparkling and the restaurants the best on the island - it is the hospitality of Mrs Stavroula and her family.

The accommodation is very simple and split between two buildings. The original building is directly above the sea, facing the small island of Kimolos. The rooms here are old-style Greece - spotlessly clean and traditionally furnished in pine with simple decor, an en suite shower room, and balcony with sea or side sea views. The newer

building a minute's walk away has slightly more modern furniture and balcony views over the pool or other buildings. All rooms have AC, fridge, TV and hairdryer.

To the front of the original building is a large terrace garden with sun beds and seating, and to one side a cafe-bar where a good home made breakfast is taken. Below is a tiny beach but most people prefer to swim from the flat rocks to the side, which create a natural swimming pool.

You are 300m (a 5 minute walk) from the main beach, restaurants and harbour.

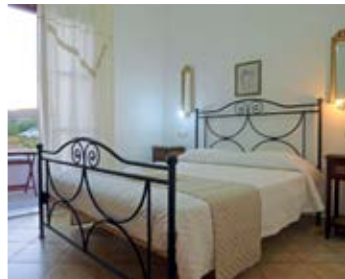


The Hotel

- 2 Stars
- Bed & Breakfast
- Air Conditioning
- Swimming Pool
- Free Wifi (public areas)



Near Apollon Hotel



Apollonia

Mirabeli Apartments Apollonia, Milos

These 7 bungalow-style apartments stand in quiet pretty gardens a short walk from village and beach.

They comprise an air conditioned living room with 2 built-in sofa beds, a simple kitchenette (2 rings, fridge) and TV; a tiled shower room (some with 1/2-bath); and a rear double bedroom (also AC). All are ground floor except for the superior apartment which is first floor. Furnishings and decor are simple and attractive.

To the front is a generous covered terrace with fine views over the colourful gardens to the sea.

Walk over the road and down a rough path to find a lovely little sandy beach, with shade in just a couple of minutes - you can also swim from the flat rocks here. The harbour is a 3-4 minute walk away down the hill.

The Apartments:

- Self Catering Apartments for 2/4
- Air Conditioning
- Free WiFi



Apollonia

Echinousa Apartments Kimolos (Psathi)

These newly built apartments are in very quiet country surroundings just 100m from Psathi's shingle beach and 200m from the harbour, via an unmade lane.

They offer plenty of space and a good modern standard. The studio-style apartments are ground floor and open plan. All possess king size bed (built-in, island style), AC, Wifi (note: each room has its own router), TV, light kitchen facilities (2 rings, fridge), a full sized sofa bed,

nice shower room, and a good sized covered terrace with country views.

The maisonettes have the same facilities but are on two floors, with a ground floor living room/kitchen (2 sofa beds here) and spiral stairs up to the bedroom upstairs. These have two shower rooms and two balconies - one up (with partial sea views) and one down.

Decor is cool and relaxing, and furnishings smart and modern. Overall they offer excellent quality and are kept spotlessly clean.

The owners run a cafe on the beach and have told us they will not charge for deck chairs there for their guests.



Psathi

The Apartments: Self Catering Apartments for 2/4 Air Conditioning Free WiFi



Mikro Parisi Kimolos (Chorio)

We like this newly built accommodation very much. It is located at the edge of the authentically traditional village of Chorio - a 5 minute walk from the centre and 15 minutes down the hill to Psathi's beach

There are only five rooms here, two rooms on the top floor with kettle and fridge and an open balcony with glorious views, and on the ground floor three larger studios with light kitchen facilities and larger covered terraces, again with sea views.

Standards are high. All are stylishly furnished and have a built-in queen sized double bed, AC, WiFi, TV, room safe, hairdryer, very nice walk-in rainwater shower and balcony or

terrace with lovely views down the hillside to the sea.

The owner, Yiannis, is a most welcoming host and breakfast includes produce from his own organic farm, likely to include (some of) honey, cheese, jams, eggs, olive oil and home made 'lavenia', a Kimolos speciality rather like a healthy pizza and delicious!

The Rooms: Bed & Breakfast Rooms for 2 Studios for 2/3 Air Conditioning Free WiFi



Chorio

Efrosini Hotel Platy Yialos, Sifnos

This charming little hotel ticks all the Sunvil boxes! In a prime position directly on Platy Yialos beach the Efrosini has charm, character and a very friendly family-run atmosphere. There are only ten rooms here, all sea facing bar one which is disabled-adapted and has a ramp from the street behind. They are very nicely done with fresh pretty decor and good quality furnishings. Twin or double bedded, all possess air conditioning, mini-fridge, room safe, Wifi (plus wired internet access), TV, hairdryer, shower room and small balcony with sea views over the garden.

To the front is a garden with snack bar where breakfast is taken and the hotel provides sun beds for their guests to use on the beach.

A choice of taverna restaurants and cafes are within a short walk in either direction, and immediately behind the hotel is a very handy bus stop (good service).

The Hotel: 2 Stars Plus
Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Free Wifi



Chrysopigi Monastery



Platy Yialos Hotel Platy Yialos, Sifnos

This long established hotel has a prime spot directly above the sea at the far western end of magnificent Platy Yialos beach - which must be the best position on the island.

The hotel has 25 well kept, fresh rooms and suites done in the simple pretty island style of predominantly white and blue. All possess AC, fridge, room safe, TV, shower room and full sea view balcony (garden level rooms have a large terrace with sun beds).

The hotel has lots of public space, from the restaurant terrace to the spacious gardens above the sea which run down to the beach. Here the hotel provides free sun beds, canoes and pedalos for its guests.

The restaurants of Platy Yialos are a short easy walk away, and there is a bus stop outside the hotel.

Sometimes older hotels (which usually have the best positions) rest on their laurels, but that is far from the case here. The hotel, although simple, is more than comfortable and frequent refurbishment has kept it up to date. This was reflected in the friendly happy atmosphere we found here amongst staff and guests.

The Hotel: 3 Star
Bed & Breakfast
Swimming Pool
Air Conditioning
Free Wifi



Platy Yialos beach and location of hotel

Sifnaika Konakia Kamares, Sifnos

Sifnaika Konakia is as unusual as its name suggests. Ten bungalow style rooms are set in quiet spacious terraced gardens with views to the sea. The feeling is of staying at a rural retreat, but the centre of Kamares is but a 5 minute walk away (slight incline), as is the beach.

Rooms and studios are individually furnished in an attractive traditional Sifnian rustic style. Double or twin bedded, all possess AC, TV, fridge, tea and coffee-making facilities, room safe, shower room and terrace or balcony with views over the gardens (some to the sea). The studios also have light cooking facilities in the form of a couple of hotplates.

The ever-helpful Maria brings fresh breakfast supplies to your room every morning and reception has a lounge area with an extensive holiday library for guests.

The sense of country living is only enhanced by watching the owner's sheep grazing in the field below!

The Guesthouse: Traditional Guesthouse, Kamares
Room Only (breakfast items provided)
Air Conditioning
Free Wifi



Kamares beach



Niriedes Suites Platy Yialos, Sifnos

Situated on the cliff above the small harbour at the eastern end of Platy Yialos, the Niriedes is an exclusive boutique-style small hotel offering fabulous views over the bay and an intimate atmosphere.

There are just 10 Suites here. All are delightfully and individually furnished with care and taste and possess queen-sized double bed, AC, light kitchen facilities, fridge, Wifi, sat TV with DVD player, hairdryer, nice shower room with bathroom amenities, and front balcony with uninterrupted sea views.

Standard Suites are for couples only. Superior Suites have a bathtub with shower above, a separate living room with two sofa beds for

children, and two sea view balconies. The VIP Suites are top floor and possess a large terrace with panoramic views. Room service is available.

The hotel has a small pool to the rear (pool/beach towels provided), a fitness room and a beautiful terrace where an unusually good breakfast (for Greece!) is served. Light meals are also available here.

The intimate atmosphere here is aided by a very personal, friendly service from the owner and staff.

You can get down to the beach via steps in just 2-3 minutes.



The Hotel: 4 Star Boutique Hotel
Bed & Breakfast
Swimming Pool
Air Conditioning
Free Wifi

Aliktypo Studios Livadi, Serifos

Aliktypo is in the perfect location from which to make the most of both beach and village. It is quietly tucked away up a small path just 40m from the sea and 5 minutes' stroll from the harbour. Restaurants and shops are even closer.

Choose from standard rooms with kettle and fridge on a room only basis (breakfast is available at a local charge and served to your room), ground floor studios with light kitchen facilities, or 2-floor maisonettes with a separate living room containing a sofa-bed and full kitchen. All have a modern shower room, a good-sized balcony or sun terrace (some with views to Chora

above) and are beautifully furnished with style and care.

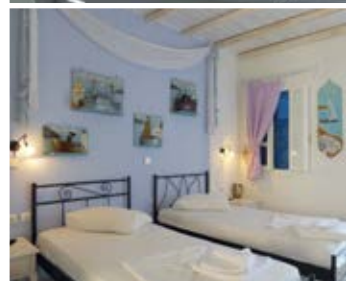
The helpful owner, Katerina, sets high standards and the quality and facilities here are those of a good small hotel. All possess queen-sized bed, AC, WiFi (plus cabled internet access), sat TV with DVD and a selection of films, bathroom products, room-safe and hairdryer.

For those who want a peaceful stay in some comfort, yet with everything close to hand, Aliktypo is perfect.



The Rooms & Apartments:

- Room Only
- or Self Catering Rooms for 2
- Studios for 2
- Maisonettes for 2/3
- Air Conditioning
- Free WiFi



Niovi Studios Livadi, Serifos

If you're looking for good views on Serifos, this is the place to stay! Built on the hillside above the far end of Livadi beach, views are panoramic, taking in the bay, the port and, to the right, the old village of Chora high on the hill. Good sunsets too!

The eight studios here are all spacious with pretty sea-themed decor. Mostly double-bedded, all possess a basic kitchenette for light meals (2 rings, kettle, fridge), AC, WiFi, room-safe, hairdryer, shower room and generous covered sea facing balcony. They are immaculately kept.

On the common terrace below deckchairs are available should you want sun. Breakfast includes delicious homemade specialities.

Mrs Toula and her family are the embodiment of Greek 'filoxenia' (hospitality to guests).

200m takes you down the hill to the start of the beach and you will find five tavernas within a 10 minute walk. 15 minutes brings you to Livadi. Well known Psili Ammos beach - rated by The Sunday Times as one of the best in Europe - is 2½ kms to the north, just over a half-hour walk.

Due to the location and steps within the property Niovi is not suited to anyone with walking difficulties.



The Studios:

- Bed & Breakfast Studios for 2/4
- Air Conditioning
- Free WiFi

Niovi location

Alexandros Vassilia Livadakia Beach, Serifos

Slap bang in the centre of gloriously sandy Livadakia beach, this small complex of rooms has an enviable location.

Standard rooms are named Comfort - ours are on the first floor. They are double-bedded with AC, WiFi, TV, room-safe, fridge, hairdryer, shower room and mountain view balcony, and have a rustic style of decor and furnishing. The Executive rooms are also first floor but have updated



Beach below Alexandros Vassilia

furnishings and sea view balcony. The Deluxe Suites on the first floor at the front are spacious with upgraded furnishings and large sea-facing balcony from which to admire the view.

To the front of the rooms is a well-liked traditional taverna. Sun beds on the beach are free for customers, with shade provided by the tamarisk trees that line the beach.

It is a 10 minute walk up and over the headland to the main port of Livadi, with its choice of shops, cafes and tavernas.

Only 20m from the sea, beach-lovers could not find a better spot. Livadakia is one of the finest beaches on Serifos - a beautiful curve of soft fine sand shelving into an aquamarine sea.

The Rooms: Room Only
Rooms & Suites for 2/4
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Folegandros Apartments Chora, Folegandros

In a central but quiet location, just a couple of minutes' walk from Chora's central square, this modern apartment-hotel is designed in village style around fragrant Mediterranean gardens and has a lovely pool area as its centrepiece.

There are 19 units here. Studios are spacious and slightly split level, with a living area containing a sofa-bed and basic kitchenette (2 rings, fridge) and two steps up to a double bedded sleeping area. Apartments have a separate living room with a couple of sofa beds. All are furnished to a high standard and prettily decorated, and possess AC, TV, shower room, hairdryer, and balcony or terrace with garden, pool

or village views. Standards are on the ground floor, superiors on upper floors.

The swimming pool is large (15m x 7.5m, depth 1.60m-2.75m) and has a low-key pool bar behind for a drink, breakfast or snack.

High standards in a very good location.

The Apartments: Self Catering
Studios for 2/3
Apartments for 2/5
Swimming Pool
Air Conditioning
Free Wifi



Chora taverna



Walking Holidays

Kythnos & Serifos

Our walking/hiking holidays are the best ways to get under the skin of these charming and little known Cycladic islands. They are really 'walking plus' trips because they also include any cultural events (local festivals etc.) that may be taking place, as well places of interest such as villages, churches, an archaeological site, a ruined Byzantine castle, a famous cave, thermal springs, a folk museum, a honey farm, a mining museum, a monastery (perhaps guided by a monk), a winery and, of course, various beaches (all walks include a lunch and swim stop, lunch is paid locally).

Kythnos

7 nights/8 days

Departures: Monday flights to Athens (April to October).

The walking. There are four main walks during the week, ranging from 11 kms to 14 kms and walking time (without breaks) is usually 4½ to 5 hours. Walks start at 09.00 am, generally returning mid to late afternoon. The final walk, on the Sunday before departure, is shorter (c 1 hour) and planned to give some beach time at famous Kolona, returning by sea taxi. There is one free day mid-week. The walking standard is mainly intermediate. Although there are some short steeper passages the heights are not particularly significant - the island only goes up to 350 metres - while the terrain of the mule-track paths can be rugged. Please see our website for a more detailed sample itinerary. Shorter 5 and 6 night itineraries can be booked, please enquire.

Accommodation: Messaria Hotel on BB basis (see separate hotel description).

Mealplan: Breakfast plus 6 evening taverna meals.



Mastrali Hotel, Serifos



Serifos

5 nights/6 days

Departures: Friday flights to Athens (April to October).

The walking. Three main walks of c 10 kms each and taking c 4 hours, plus an introductory walk on Saturday evening up to Hora. The walks uncover Serifos's history from ancient times, including a fortified 16C monastery to the infrastructure left by iron ore mining up to the 1960s. Many of the paths are well kept, though some are rougher mule tracks. The walks are not difficult and all offer marvellous views. Please see our website for a more detailed sample itinerary. Holidays can be extended for a very reasonable cost (from c £30 per person per night).

Accommodation: Hotel Mastrali on a BB basis. The hotel is located c. 500m from the ferry port on beautiful sandy Livadi beach, which has a few beach cafe-bars and tavernas (there are plenty more in the port) and is shaded by tamarisk trees. It is a traditional family-owned comfortable 2-star hotel with 20 rooms with either double bed or twin beds, en suite bathrooms, TV, WiFi and a balcony overlooking the sea or with views up to Hora.

Mealplan: Breakfast plus 4 evening taverna meals.

Kythnos & Serifos Combined

9 nights/10 days

Departures: Monday flights to Athens (April to October).

This is easily done as the Saturday morning ferry between the islands takes just 90 mins. It means a slightly shorter stay on each island (Kythnos 5 nts., Serifos 4 nts.) but only one real walking day lost. Please ask for a quote.



Prices

Prices vary according to airline seat prices and availability but, based on flights as of November 2018, the Kythnos week is from c. £985 per person and Serifos from £899 per person based on 2 sharing. Please enquire for a firm costing.

Prices include

- Return flights to Athens
- All transfers and ferry tickets
- BB accommodation, walking days and local taverna dinners as described
- Qualified guide on all walks
- Visit to any local festival(s) that may take place
- Free copy of Kythnos Hiking Guide (per booking, Kythnos only)

General Information

- An early flight out with late afternoon or evening flight back is best to optimise ferry connections.
- Ferry schedules may not be published when the holiday is booked so we base on the previous year. However these are subject to change. Should there be no ferry connection we will arrange an overnight hotel in Lavrio or Athens.
- The programme will run with just 2 persons - for sole travellers we operate a waitlist system. Minimum age is 12 years.
- A good level of fitness is required and guests will be asked about their current walking capacity.
- Lightweight long trousers, sun hat and day pack required. Walking boots are recommended for ankle support but not essential other than in April or October when there may be some rain. Good quality trainers should suffice for other periods.
- A short stay in Athens can be tailored in to any holiday here, as can a stay on the neighbouring islands of Sifnos, Milos, Kimolos and Folegandros.



Livadakia beach, Serifos



Apollonia, Milos



Andros Town



Sifnos



Psathi, Kimolos



Folegandros

WESTERN CYCLADES		Guide prices per person in £s departing during								
ACCOMMODATION		PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - end Jun & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (early Jul - early Sep)			
			From		To		From		To	
			1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks
Andros										
Aneroussa Beach	Standard Room	2 BB	946	1297	1073	1510	1162	1598	1268	1790
Chrissi Akti Hotel	Classic Room	2 BB	783	970	928	1202	998	1430	1178	1610
	Superior Side Sea View	2 BB	818	1040	941	1227	1011	1504	1238	1730
	Superior Sea View Suite	2 BB	865	1134	1031	1408	1101	1654	1298	1851
		3 BB	1075	1554	1263	1872	1333	2122	1534	2324
		3 BB	893	1215	1038	1446	1108	1636	1249	1778
		4 BB	838	1082	962	1270	1032	1430	1143	1541
Marfo Studios	Studio	2 SC	818	1040	890	1134	970	1278	1054	1361
	One Bedroom Apartment	2 SC	925	1254	984	1319	1060	1432	1118	1490
		3 SC	793	1015	852	1078	926	1176	972	1222
		4 SC	763	931	822	993	895	1085	935	1124
Folegandros										
Folegandros Apartments	Standard Studio	2 SC	1055	1500	1170	1694	1263	1845	1364	1970
	Executive Studio	2 SC	1134	1658	1250	1856	1344	2034	1484	2208
	Superior Studio	2 SC	1094	1577	1210	1774	1303	1924	1403	2046
	Standard Apartment	2 SC	1253	1896	1370	2094	1463	2300	1642	2523
	Superior Apartment	2 SC	1334	2058	1506	2387	1620	2616	1801	2842
	Two Bedroom Apartment	4 SC	1054	1498	1170	1694	1262	1843	1363	1967
	Honeymoon Suite	2 SC	1334	2058	1506	2387	1620	2616	1801	2842
Kimolos										
Echinoussa	Apartment	2 SC	920	1178	1096	1482	1176	1562	1364	1915
	Maisonette	2 SC	1180	1697	1467	2232	1556	2320	1662	2511
		3 SC	1066	1471	1284	1860	1366	1942	1452	2093
		4 SC	1009	1357	1192	1674	1271	1752	1347	1882
Mikro Parisi	Studio	2 BB	950	1238	1102	1507	1196	1741	1357	1902
	Double Room	2 BB	950	1238	1102	1507	1196	1741	1357	1902
Kythnos										
Messaria Hotel	Standard Room	2 BB	948	1283	1088	1533	1186	1631	1295	1827
	Apartment	2 BB	1101	1590	1229	1805	1318	1894	1382	2002
	Junior Suite	2 BB	1101	1590	1272	1892	1362	1981	1426	2090
	Suite	2 BB	1145	1677	1316	1980	1405	2068	1470	2177
Milos										
Apollon Hotel	Standard Room	2 BB	904	1150	1142	1566	1212	1700	1296	1784
Mirabeli	Apartment	2 SC	921	1184	1160	1680	1308	1975	1488	2240
		3 SC	892	1126	1071	1477	1194	1697	1320	1880
		4 SC	857	1055	1005	1333	1115	1516	1215	1658

ACCOMMODATION		PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - end Jun & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (early Jul - early Sep)			
			From		To		From		To	
			1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks
Serifos										
Alexandros	Comfort First Floor	2 RO	896	1113	1018	1300	1088	1400	1162	1497
Vassilia	Deluxe Suite	2 RO	1402	2126	1629	2521	1699	2687	1888	2948
		3 RO	1134	1619	1305	1902	1375	2036	1508	2217
		4 RO	1043	1408	1186	1635	1256	1753	1361	1894
	Executive	2 RO	916	1156	1026	1316	1096	1417	1171	1514
Alyktipo Studios	Standard Room	2 RO	868	1058	1022	1333	1118	1490	1209	1590
	Studio	2 SC	910	1143	1069	1427	1165	1596	1271	1714
	Maisonette	2 SC	1004	1330	1208	1720	1320	1948	1475	2122
		3 SC	868	1088	1024	1368	1122	1543	1232	1666
		4 SC	844	1010	975	1235	1066	1384	1154	1482
Niovi Studios	Studio	2 BB	942	1206	1142	1617	1282	1837	1490	2152
		3 BB	861	1074	1033	1415	1159	1605	1330	1862
		4 BB	864	1052	1022	1356	1141	1532	1293	1758
Sifnos										
Efrosini Hotel	Standard Room	2 BB	928	1171	1043	1471	1242	1670	1262	1690
Platy Yialos Hotel	Standard Room	2 BB	N/A	N/A	1392	2104	1525	2318	1688	2541
	Junior Suite	2 BB	N/A	N/A	1842	3048	2019	3411	2366	3898
		3 BB	N/A	N/A	1449	2255	1590	2520	1829	2852
		4 BB	N/A	N/A	1296	1902	1419	2119	1604	2373
	Suite	2 BB	N/A	N/A	2022	3424	2217	3853	2646	4457
		3 BB	N/A	N/A	1568	2506	1722	2815	2015	3225
		4 BB	N/A	N/A	1386	2090	1518	2340	1743	2652
Sifnaika Konakia	Standard Room	2 RO	911	1137	1077	1410	1147	1480	1179	1590
	Studio	2 RO	958	1232	1133	1522	1203	1592	1235	1702

Prices shown are indicative only and variable due to offers, changing flight prices and seasonal supplements. Please call or check online for a confirmed costing (note: not all holidays can be checked online). Prices based on Gatwick flights as sourced from Easyjet in November 2018 and are likely to increase as time passes. Prices include transfers or car hire (see text); accommodation as described; and all airport/fuel charges & taxes known at the time of printing - for our surcharge policy see booking conditions at the back of this brochure. To add: regional price supplements, room and board supplements (see text) - single room prices on request. Not all our accommodation is suitable for guests with reduced mobility. Please contact us to answer any questions you may have regarding our properties and to advise their suitability for people with health conditions or impairments.

Not included: Overnight Stay Tax of €0.50 to €4 per room, apartment or villa per night payable locally - the amount varies according to the category of the accommodation (i.e. most self catering and 1-2 star hotels = €0.50, 5 star hotels = €4).