

# Amorgos & Small Cyclades

The Small Cyclades are made up of five main islands (Koufonissi, Schinoussa, Iraklia, Donoussa and Keros) and dozens of tiny ones, several of them uninhabited. Intriguingly, they each manage to be strikingly different from one another, with characters all their own.

Clustered together between Naxos to the north and Amorgos to the south, these islands appeal to those who are interested in that "off the beaten track" feel, who seek to enjoy a quieter pace of life - people who want their holidays to be uninterruptedly relaxed. Beaches are fabulous and plentiful.

On the smaller islands of Koufonissi and Schinoussa there is no public transport to speak of and no car rental (as the islands are so small). People get around on foot, bike or taxi-boat - very Robinson Crusoe!

Such delights were always going to be discovered sooner rather than later and the islands have become increasingly busy between mid-July and August - especially noticeable on Koufonissi as the island is so small and has but one village in which to stay. But outside that period they revert to a gentle, unhurried and traditional way of life.

## Amorgos

**2 hrs from Mykonos by high speed ferry**  
**8½ hrs from Athens by Blue Star line ferry from Piraeus (First Class lounge) or**  
**5½ hrs from Naxos (local ferry)**

Amorgos is one of the most remote, yet most beautiful, of all Greece's islands and remains one of the least-known and visited of the Cyclades, only approaching 'busy' during the short high season.

Long and narrow, with mountains reaching 821m, Amorgos is a laid-back natural paradise (600 species of flora have been catalogued to date, and it is a haven for birds) offering stunning views, excellent walking and a traditional way of life now lost on many of the more developed islands. The seas around the island are crystal clear. The island was the setting for Luc Besson's film *The Big Blue*.



Amorgos

The capital, inevitably called Chora, is about halfway up the island above the south coast. It is one of the most attractive Cycladic towns, whitewashed with chapels and Venetian fortifications to explore and a fair number of decent cafés and characteristic tavernas.

It is a short walk from here, via a cobbled donkey path, to the monastery of Hozoviotissa which dates from 1088; Amorgos' most famous attraction and still with a handful of resident (and welcoming) monks. The location is stunning - built into the cliff high above the sea.

Our holidays are based at the island's picturesque second port of Aegialis - the first is Katapola to the west - where you will find a good sandy beach and selection of small shops and tavernas. The island bus also runs between the two and goes on to Chora, although keen walkers could take the bus one way and enjoy the beautiful 4-5 hour trail back (or v.v.). In the hills above Aegialis are three very traditional villages to explore, places where donkeys still work for a living. Elsewhere the island has some largely unexcavated sites to visit (Minoan, Hellenistic and Roman) and a good number of chapels in between.

We cannot stress enough how traditional an island Amorgos is. It is, in many ways, that clichéd 'step back in time'. There are many village festivals in the summer, where you will genuinely experience the welcome and hospitality Greece is famed for.

As walking is such a major attraction, with every holiday here we include a 128 page Visitor's and Walker's Guide to the island.

## Koufonissi & Schinoussa

**1½ hrs from Mykonos by high speed ferry (Koufonissi only)**  
**7-8 hrs from Athens by Blue Star line ferry from Piraeus (First Class lounge) or**  
**2½ hrs from Naxos (local ferry)**

Koufonissi is actually 2 islands, Pano (Upper) and Kato (Lower), and whereas Kato is uninhabited, Pano has the densest population in the Cyclades. But given the island amounts to just 3.5 sq kms we are hardly talking "crowded"!

The island is a favourite with couples and families alike, as the gently shelving beaches are all the whitest sand and slide into the kind of dazzlingly turquoise sea normally associated with the Caribbean, making the bathing and snorkelling exceptional. Take note, though, that the beaches offer little in the way of natural shade; however the more sheltered south eastern coast is blessedly protected from the meltemi wind which usually blows in August.

August actually is the worst time to visit, as

the island, being so small, accommodated far more visitors than it should.

There is but the single, white-walled village on a low, rising hill above the tiny harbour. It has a wide choice of restaurants, tavernas, cafes and small shops, many of which can be found in the pretty pedestrianised main street. There is a fine town beach, and 4 more excellent beaches within walking distance (45 minutes maximum to Pori beach, the furthest). Other than via water-taxi and bicycle, and a high season beach bus, walking is the only way to get around, and is one of the reasons the island is so gloriously relaxed.

Schinoussa is larger than Koufonissi but is visited by fewer numbers, in part because its jagged coastline and many beaches are not distinguished by quite the same dazzling Caribbean-style sand of its neighbour, even though its emerald waters are just as inviting. Please see our website for further details.



Koufonissi

### AMORGOS & SMALL CYCLADES INFORMATION

#### Getting to the Islands

Best served by flights to Mykonos from Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester (other regional flights may be available) but also possible via Santorini and Athens (with a long ferry journey). Transfer to the port for the ferry to the island where you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. On the return the reverse applies. Please note that ferry services are more limited here, especially before mid-June and after mid-September. Should ferry timings not connect then an overnight hotel will be arranged.

#### Multi Centre & Island Hopping

All three islands combine easily with one another plus Naxos and Paros. There are also Sea Jet services from Amorgos and Koufonissi to Santorini, Folegandros and Milos in season (10/6-12/9).

#### Representation

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

## Lakki Village Amorgos

Lakki Village has a prime location directly on Aegialis' sandy beach, a 10 minute walk from the village.

Designed in a traditional and pretty 'village' style, rooms are housed in a number of 2-storey white and blue buildings, the whole set in mature colourful gardens. Room facilities include AC, fridge, room safe, hairdryer, shower or bath and balcony or terrace, most with garden views.

There is a variety of room types - standard rooms are small with simple rustic decor and furnishings; we'd recommend an upgrade to the superior rooms which are a little larger and have a more classic style of furnishing; studios have basic kitchen facilities; and apartments are

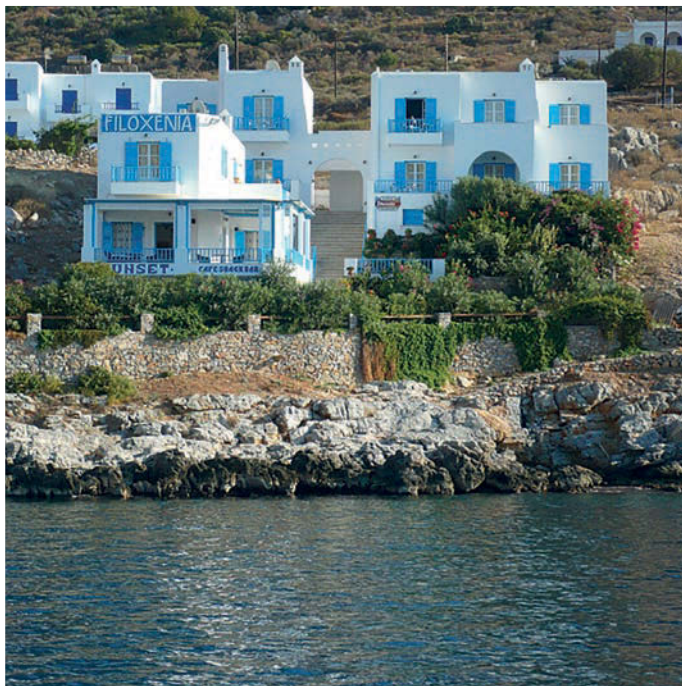
as the studios but with the addition of a second bedroom or living room with sofa beds. All have breakfast included in the price.

In the gardens is an attractive pool area with attendant pool bar serving drinks, ice creams, snacks and light meals through the day. Above the beach, just metres from the sea, is the restaurant open for breakfast, lunch and dinner - using largely organic and local produce, its tree-shaded terrace is a welcome respite from the heat of the day.

Lakki Village provides a traditional Greek island holiday in simple, comfortable accommodation right next to the beach and a short easy walk to the village.



**The Hotel:**  
 2 Star  
 Rooms & Studios for 2/3  
 Apartments for 2/4  
 Bed & Breakfast  
 Swimming Pool  
 Air Conditioning  
 Free Wifi



## Filoxenia Hotel Amorgos

Set directly above the sea just before the small resort of Aegialis, with uninterrupted views over the bay, this small pension is a 3 minute walk from the harbour (220m) and another minute to the start of Aegialis' long sandy beach.

Bordered by an array of geraniums, bougainvillea and Arodaphne (Oleander) shrubs, this is a quiet spot with only the sound of the sea to keep you company.

Cycladic in style, set back into the rocky slope and with a classic brilliant white and blue colour scheme, the Filoxenia has just 11 simply furnished twin or double bedded rooms plus a couple of studios, all ours with sea view. All have a large open balcony or

terrace with wonderful sea and sunset views, air conditioning, shower room, hairdryer, kettle, fridge and television. The studios have in addition a single cooking ring and basic utensils.

Breakfast is taken on the fragrant front terrace.

A wonderful spot on a very beautiful island. If you prefer a self catering stay we also have access to the Agnadi Studios and Apartments which are close by and enjoy equally wonderful views.

**The Hotel:**  
 Bed & Breakfast  
 Air Conditioning  
 Free WiFi



Aegialis Beach

## Yperia Hotel Amorgos

A short 2-3 minute walk from the harbour of Aegiali and its adjacent very good sandy beach is this charming small boutique hotel, inspired by the traditional Cycladic architecture of this remote island.

The hotel has 18 double bedded rooms, all of a good size (23 sq m) with TV, safety deposit box, air conditioning, hairdryer, fridge, bath or shower (with bathroom amenities), free Wifi, a sitting area with sofa bed and a generous covered balcony or terrace with garden, pool or sea views.

The family suites are two separate rooms (double AC bedroom plus separate living room with two sofa beds) and also have a kitchenette with light cooking facilities.

Rooms and common areas are very nicely decorated with traditional handmade furniture - white walls and light coloured stone create a bright, comfortable environment.

The 70 sq m pool (filtered seawater) has an adjacent stone bar serving drinks, ice creams and snacks; there is a library of novels to choose from; and very helpful friendly staff. Beach and pool towels are provided.

A little gem of a hotel offering high standards, a warm atmosphere, good views and a convenient location which we have no hesitation in recommending.

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



## Villa Anna Koufonissi

Villa Anna is set on the hillside above the far side of the beach and looks towards sea and village. It is a charming small boutique-style guesthouse with an intimate atmosphere and attention paid to the small but important details.

The 10 studios here overlook the attractive gardens. They have beautiful light decor and stylish furnishings, and are more akin to rooms in a 4 star hotel than a simple pension. All possess iron double beds, a small separate hallway with twin/double sofa-bed, a bathroom with a swanky hydro-massage shower, a small kitchen (2 rings, fridge), and balcony or terrace with garden or sea views. Room facilities include AC, Wifi, room safe, hairdryer and TV (BBC World).

Below to the front there is a pleasant cafe where an excellent breakfast is served, and here is usually the family, who are very friendly and service oriented.

A rough path leads down the small hill to the beach in just 3 minutes, and it is a 5 minute walk to the central street.

Everything about Anna's is high quality - we really could not find anything to fault.

The Apartments:      Bed & Breakfast  
Air Conditioning  
Free Wifi



# Iliovasilema Hotel Schinoussa

This simple island hotel is in a very quiet location at the edge of the small village, just a couple of minutes' walk from the centre.

It has 29 basically furnished but comfortable and clean rooms, all with twin or double bed, shower room, TV, fridge, AC and balcony with sea or garden views.

There is a large common terrace on the first floor to the front with great sunset views (note, this terrace is to the front of the balconies belonging to the first floor sea view rooms).

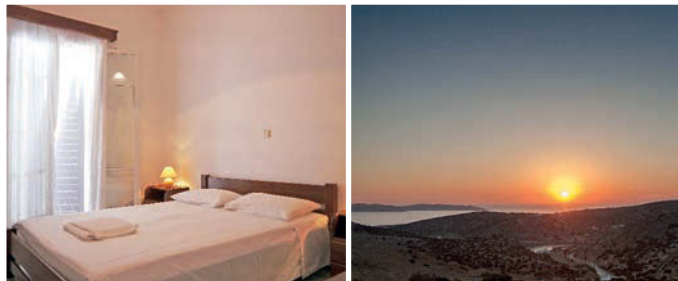
Wifi is available in public areas and the hotel offers guests free transportation to a variety of beaches - out in the late morning and returning in the late afternoon. The nearest beach is Tsigouri which is a 10-15 minute walk down the hill and has sun beds and a taverna in season.

There is not much hotel choice on this small quiet island and the Iliovasilema is about the best in town.

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



Psili Ammos Beach



Sunset view from Iliovasilema



Chora, Amorgos



Koufounissi

THE SMALL 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 Wk
<b>Amorgos</b>										
<b>Filoxenia</b>	Standard Room	2 BB	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	RQ	
<b>Lakki Village</b>	Standard Room	2 BB	807	990	1054	1386	1078	1472	1214	1608
		3 BB	771	919	988	1245	1003	1300	1117	1413
	Studio	2 BB	837	1050	1092	1463	1116	1549	1253	1685
		3 BB	794	964	1022	1316	1040	1379	1160	1499
	Junior Suite	2 BB	870	1261	1168	1764	1198	1868	1346	2016
		3 BB	768	1058	1011	1440	1030	1509	1155	1633
	Superior Room	2 BB	884	1144	1122	1518	1142	1587	1266	1711
		3 BB	828	1033	1031	1332	1047	1389	1163	1505
	Standard Apartment	2 BB	884	1144	1144	1574	1177	1690	1334	1848
		3 BB	851	1079	1065	1407	1088	1487	1122	1619
	4 BB	796	968	987	1245	1004	1305	1122	1423	
Superior Apartment	2 BB	974	1325	1380	2030	1396	2086	1510	2200	
	3 BB	914	1205	1225	1715	1236	1753	1338	1854	
	4 BB	843	1063	1107	1476	1115	1504	1210	1599	
Maisonette	2 BB	1004	1385	1508	2333	1570	2548	1798	2776	
	3 BB	928	1233	1311	1918	1353	2064	1532	2244	
	4 BB	854	1084	1172	1628	1203	1738	1356	1891	
Suite	2 BB	1171	1862	1658	2781	1724	3013	1965	3254	
	3 BB	969	1459	1337	2117	1381	2272	1567	2457	
<b>Yperia Hotel</b>	Standard Garden View	2 BB	760	1040	924	1347	1024	1488	1140	1604
	3 BB	710	941	860	1186	927	1280	1029	1382	
	Standard Sea View	2 BB	802	1124	966	1432	1068	1574	1183	1690
	3 BB	738	996	889	1243	956	1338	1058	1440	
	Family Suite	2 BB	964	1450	1276	1996	1322	2060	1415	2154
	3 BB	803	1126	1051	1531	1081	1574	1169	1661	
	4 BB	722	964	938	1298	961	1331	1046	1415	
<b>Koufounissi</b>										
<b>Anna</b>	Studio	2 BB	858	1108	1164	1711	1278	1825	1352	1900
	Studio Sea View	2 BB	884	1158	1192	1774	1312	1894	1387	1968
	3 BB	822	1036	1069	1487	1148	1567	1223	1642	
	4 BB	798	988	1009	1346	1066	1403	1142	1478	
<b>Schinoussa</b>										
<b>Iliovasilema Hotel</b>	Standard Room	2 BB	798	975	996	1300	1112	1480	1186	1555
	3 BB	758	896	942	1175	1019	1296	1094	1371	

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 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).**