

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.

Western Cyclades

Andros

1-2 hours by ferry from Rafina (Athens) or 1½-2½ hours from Mykonos

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!).

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.sifnostrails.com) 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.

Milos & Kimolos

**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.

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 backdrop to any "around the island" boat trip, which is a must for every visitor.

30 mins. by ferry from Apollonia, Kimolos remains a backwater – the combination of restricted bed numbers and lack of big ferries means that Kimolos avoids the crowds of the better known islands.

The island has only two settlements - the port of Psathi and the main village of Chorio. Psathi has a shingle beach and a couple of tavernas plus cafes. Chorio, a 15 minute walk up the hill has more choice and is a classic Greek whitewashed 'capital'.

The best beaches are Prassa, with its fine near-white sand and Bonatsa. Both have summer tavernas and are served by minibus in season. Alternatively cars can be hired. Kimolos also has a 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.

Tinos

15-35 mins by ferry from Mykonos; 2 hrs 10 mins - 4 hours from Rafina (Athens)

As the closest inhabited island to Mykonos - just 20 minutes apart by high speed ferry - you could expect some of Mykonos glitz and glamour to have rubbed off on its neighbour. But thankfully not! Tinos remains blissfully under the radar to foreign tourists and as traditional and Greek as they come.

Tinos is not, however, unknown to Greeks. In fact it is one of the more visited islands, famous as a religious centre, and thus welcomes considerable numbers of Greek pilgrims who come to visit its imposing church at the top of the town, especially on 15th August when many crawl the 800m up the hill from the port on their hands and knees. Tinos thus makes a decent living from domestic tourism and has not seen the need to go down the Mykonos route. This for us is a good thing!

But there is far more to Tinos than that. The island is known for its many villages (over 50 and often cited as collectively the most beautiful of any Greek island), its windmills, its dovecotes and marble sculpture. Tinos has some fine beaches, a rural hilly interior good for walking (see tinostrails.gr), a growing reputation for its cuisine and a bustling characterful main town. There is a bus service but we think car hire is required to explore the island properly.

Tinos has much more to offer than many better known islands and combines particularly well with Andros and Syros (day trips are also possible) - and even Mykonos if you'd like a complete contrast!

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.

Folegandros has some excellent beaches but some effort is required to reach them, either by foot, bus or small boat.

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.

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.

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. Chora is 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).

Kythnos has a history dating back to prehistoric times, hot springs, one of the largest caves in Greece, countless chapels, ruined castles, an ancient city and strong traditions, with still-working donkeys and colourful festivals. It also has a 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 and charming island.

Kythnos has particularly erratic ferry connection. 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.



Folegandros



Kimolos

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 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 apart). Livadi has all the attributes you would expect from the main port - shops, a bank, a good choice of tavernas and a number of beach cafes. Buses run to Chora and (in season) some beaches, but to see more of the island you'll need 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). For walking trails see [pathsofgreece.gr](#)

There are some 60 beaches on Serifos, nearly all of them of sandy and many with natural shade. The main beach of Livadi would be the envy of many. Livadakia over the headland is gorgeous - a perfect crescent of golden sand lined by tamarisk trees.



Milos

Syros

25-45 mins by ferry from Mykonos; 2 hrs - 3 hrs 45 mins from Piraeus (Athens); 35 mins by domestic flight from Athens

Syros' past importance and historical wealth is reflected in its imposing main town of Ermoupolis, the capital of the Cyclades, which boasts many neoclassical mansions (mostly former sea captain residences), elegant squares, numerous churches and municipal buildings. The museum is worth a visit as the island's human settlement dates back some 5000 years.

The town is divided into two parts, although today, for all intents and purposes, they can be viewed as one. Ermoupolis and its neighbour Ano Syros are built around two hills, one topped with an Orthodox cathedral, the other with a Catholic cathedral.

Away from the town there are villages and good sandy beaches to explore, the most well known being Galissas which has a small resort behind. All are served by an excellent bus network making independent exploration inexpensive and easy.

We like Syros a lot and think that, like Tinos nearby, it has been rather unfairly overlooked by foreign visitors.

WESTERN CYCLADES INFORMATION

Getting to the Islands

ANDROS, KYTHNOS, SERIFOS, SIFNOS, FOLEGANDROS

Flight to Athens from Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted, Luton, Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh. 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. Optimum flights will arrive at Athens c midday or early afternoon and depart in the late afternoon or evening. Should ferry timings not connect then an overnight hotel will be arranged.

SYROS, TINOS

Flight to Mykonos from Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester (other regional flights may be available). Ferry transfers as above. Both islands can also be served via Athens and Syros also has a domestic flight from Athens most days, but this will normally involve an overnight stay in Athens in one direction.

MILOS, KIMOLOS

Connecting domestic flight Athens to Milos where you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. Kimolos is 30 mins from Milos by ferry. 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 as are Andros, Tinos and Syros. Other than from Kythnos 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.

En Tino Tinos

At the top of Tinos Town this rather sweet little block of six rooms is in a quiet side street close to the famous church of Evangelistria and the island's excellent Archaeological Museum is not far away. It is an 8-10 minute walk up the hill from the bustling waterfront.

The building has 3 floors, each with a pair of rooms, a mix of twins, doubles and triples. They are simply but attractively furnished, all with AC, fridge, tea-making facility, TV, Wifi, hairdryer and shower room.

Most have a small balcony or terrace. There is a washing machine for guests' common use.

The hospitable owner (Mrs Evgenia) takes great personal care of her accommodation and guests.

The Hotel: Air Conditioning
Room Only Free WiFi



Tinos Town



Vincenzo Tinos

Vincenzo is a well established unit in town which has been recently refurbished (2018) to provide a good modern standard of accommodation in a residential area a short walk from the harbour and centre.

It comprises 15 rooms housed in two buildings of two floors that face one another across the street.

The rooms are twin or double bedded (bedding supplied by the luxury Greek Cocomat brand) and possess AC, TV, fridge, smart TV (with Netflix), coffee machine, hairdryer, a very nice rainwater shower and a furnished balcony. As you can tell, the facilities are good and the quality high.

To the side is a small pretty garden with seating and a jacuzzi which is free for guests to use. Use of a hamam steam bath is also free. Breakfast can be taken in the garden or served to your room, and includes home made items and eggs from the family's farm.

An easy 3 minute walk brings you to the bustling port and heart of the town.

The Hotel: Air Conditioning
Bed & Breakfast Free WiFi



Kolymbithra beach

Triantaros View Tinos

Tinos is famous for the beauty of its villages and Triantaros is no exception. Its whitewashed old houses, narrow cobbled streets, square and church exude character and charm. Triantaros' location, high on the hillside above Tinos Town, ensures superb views which this renovated village house, as the name suggests, makes the most of.

The house comprises a living room with a small balcony off, two bedrooms (a master bedroom with king size bed and ensuite shower and a smaller twin), a full kitchen, a main bathroom and a large furnished covered terrace boasting glorious views over the village and

valley to the sea. Amenities include AC (both bedrooms), WiFi, a washing machine and parking bay.

Triantaros has two tavernas and two cafes - other tavernas can be found in nearby villages and you are only 7 kms from Tinos Town (a 15 min drive). But we suspect most guests will not be able to tear themselves away from the views here for long!

The House: Air Conditioning
 Village House Free WiFi
 for 2/4 Car included
 Self Catering



Triantaros café



Triantaros Panorama Tinos

Next door to Triantaros View, this house has a more traditional style. It is on two levels with entrance into the top floor housing the bedrooms - a double and a twin, each with AC and en suite shower and both opening onto a spacious open front sun terrace with a wonderful view over the village and valley to the sea.

Downstairs is a large open plan living room with comfy sofas, TV and marble floor. The fully equipped kitchen is off this, also a further shower/wc, and to the front is a

large part covered sea view terrace with an open area for sun bathing. The house has Wifi, a washing machine and parking space.

A few minutes walk brings you to the village tavernas - others can be found in nearby villages, and Tinos Town is a 15 minute drive away.

The House: Air Conditioning
 Village House Free WiFi
 for 2/4 Car included
 Self Catering



Triantaros

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 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



Batsi

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

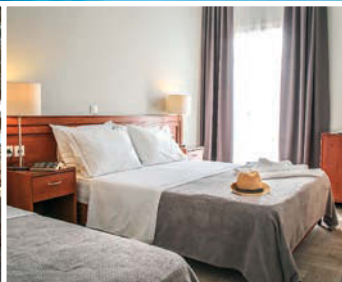
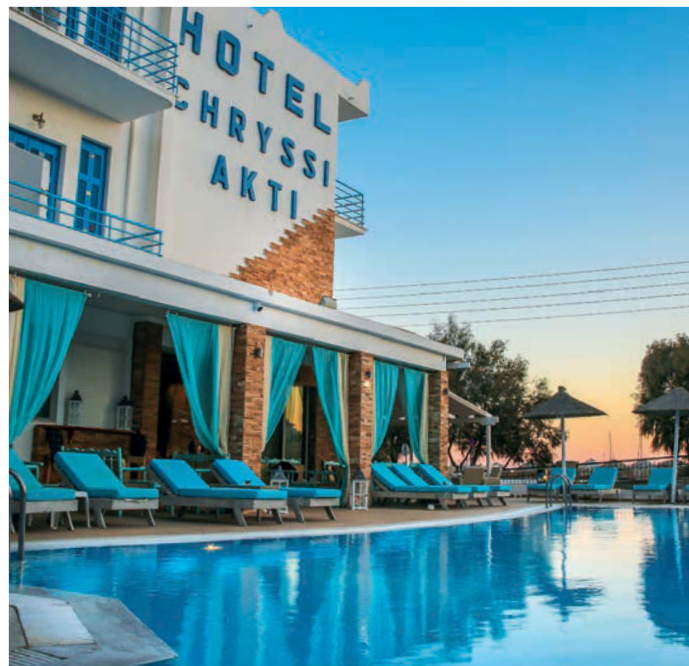
There is also a 1-bedroom apartment with a sofa-bed in the living room for one or two children.

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!

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



Chrissi Akti Hotel Batsi, Andros

The Chrissi Akti is a long-established family-run hotel just over the road from the start of Batsi's excellent sandy beach and only a couple of minutes' flat walk from the centre of the village.

The hotel's 61 rooms are on 3 floors and served by a lift. Room facilities include air conditioning, TV, a kettle, hairdryer, mini-fridge, safety deposit box, shower room and balcony.

The recently (2019) renovated Classic rooms are on the ground floor with garden views. Superior rooms are on the upper floors with side or front sea view balcony.

The hotel also has Suites to the front with two balconies (one full and one side sea view) and family rooms for up to 4 persons comprising two rooms sharing one

shower room – these have garden or side sea views.

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



Andros Grias-Pidima beach

Blue Bay Batsi, Andros

This smart little hotel occupies an idyllic location directly above the sea a mile outside Batsi and close to lovely Delavoyas beach (see Aneroussa Beach pic. this page).

The 17 rooms and suites here are housed in various 2-storey buildings built on rising ground, which enables fine views from almost all of them.

Junior Suites are at the second level on ground or first floor and measure 27 sq m. Superior Rooms (also ground or first floor) are at the top level and even more spacious at 35 sq m, so can accommodate up to 4 persons using sofa beds (if two are children). Suites are at the front and on two levels, with a ground floor living room (sofa beds here) and

bedroom upstairs. One (the Superior Suite) has a second bedroom downstairs. There is also an individual 2-floor Maisonette.

A rolling programme of refurbishment means that all rooms are tastefully and individually furnished in a contemporary style. All have double beds, are fully air conditioned and possess walk-in shower, fridge, kettle/tea-making equipment, sat TV and sea view balcony or terrace.

Below is the refurbished 18m x 6m pool (with adjacent child pool) accessed by steps in and serviced by a pool bar - light meals are available for lunch and dinner.

There is a snack bar on Delavoyas beach next door and a taverna on Aghia Marina beach a 5 minute walk away. Batsi is a pleasant undulating 15-20 minute walk above the sea.



Batsi

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



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: Air Conditioning
3 Stars Plus Free WiFi
Bed & Breakfast



Batsi



Micra Anglia Andros Town

The elegant capital of Andros, a 50 minute transfer from the port, is bursting with Greek charm and character, especially in its oldest part which is built on a narrow peninsula with sea on three sides. The historical wealth of the town is reflected in its grand mansions and marble facades and it is known for its museums, including the excellent Museum of Contemporary Art.

Micra Anglia's 20 rooms and suites are housed in a converted 19th century mansion (which has a lift) plus two other nearby buildings. Lead-in prices are for the cosy Attic rooms (20 sq m), under the eaves on the top floor with a velux

window in the roof, followed by the Economy Standard (also 20 sq m). Standard rooms (25 sq m) have views to the town, and there are various suites - Naftilos has a lovely private garden, Ostria a sea view balcony and the Master Suite a terrace with small pool.

All rooms possess queen or king size bed (twins on request), bathroom with bath or shower and amenities, hairdryer, AC, Wifi, fridge, room safe and TV.

The garden terrace below has an evening restaurant (snacks are available during the day) and a small pool (7m x 3m). The hotel has a small spa. It is a 3 minute walk to the central square via 27 steps.

There are serviceable beaches to either side of the town but lovely Gialia is more sheltered and just a few kms to the north (40 mins walk or 10 mins taxi).



Andros Town

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



Apollonion Palace Ermoupolis, Syros

This hotel is a conversion of a grand old mansion dating from c 1830 and overlooks the sea in the historic district of Vaporia. You can swim from directly below the hotel.

The 13 rooms and suites are spread over 5 floors (there is a lift) and have town or wonderful sea views. Rooms are twin or double bedded and mod cons include AC, wired internet connection, TV, room safe, mini-fridge, hairdryer and modern shower room, but do not generally have a balcony due to the age of the building.

Furnishings and decor are somewhat old fashioned to suit the ambience here.

There is a roof terrace with super views where breakfast is taken and this doubles as a cafe-bar from mid-June to mid-September.

Directly above the sea the hotel has a furnished sun terrace and steps lead down to a jetty from which you can swim directly into deep clear waters.

Although the location is quiet the main attractions of Ermoupolis are close by - central Mialou Square is just a 3 minute walk down the hill and the harbour can be reached in 5 minutes.

This is a family run hotel and as such offers warmth, charm and comfort, but not luxury. However we can also book the 5 star Ploes - the best in town - which is almost next door.

The Hotel: Bed & Breakfast
4 Star Traditional Hotel
Air Conditioning
Internet access



Ermoupolis

Benois Hotel Galissas, Syros

Ignore the official 2 star rating for the Benois Hotel - it is a nonsense!

Located less than 100m from the beautiful sandy Blue Flag beach of Galissas, the hotel has 33 rooms built around a beautiful pool area. Rooms are double or twin bedded and the hotel has some larger family rooms for up to 4. Standard rooms measure 20 sq m but there are some smaller at 17 sq m sold at a reduction.

Rooms are ground or first floor and most comfortable with contemporary decor and good quality furnishings, and all provide AC, TV, fridge, Wifi, nice shower room, room safe and balcony or

terrace with pool, garden, village or sea views.

The hotel has a cafe serving light meals and a dish of the day. There are 4 or 5 restaurants within a few minutes' walk, including Iliovassilema next door which is regarded as one of the island's best.

The Benois is a very well run hotel with a very relaxed, civilised atmosphere - recommended.

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



Galissas beach

Francoise Hotel Galissas, Syros

The Francoise is a family run hotel quietly located a 5 minute flat walk from the centre of this small resort and the beach.

The 34 twin or double bedded rooms are served by a lift and are simply and attractively furnished. Although not large all possess AC, TV, Wifi, mini-fridge, hairdryer, compact shower room and balcony with rural views. Some can interconnect for up to 5 persons.

Outside is a small 50 sq m pool with an adjacent covered seating area where breakfast, which includes home-made items, can be taken, or a drink/snack from the bar. The

hotel also offers a jacuzzi and a hamam.

There is a bus stop outside and a good service takes 20 minutes to Ermoupolis.

The Francoise is most welcoming in the best traditions of Greek family run hotels, and the three generations of the family here will do all they can to ensure their guests have an enjoyable stay.

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



Galissas 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 350m (a 5 minute walk) from the main beach and 600m from the restaurants and harbour.

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



Near Apollon Hotel



Niki Savvas Apollonia, Milos

In a very quiet location just 10m from the sea, Niki Savvas offers stylish, modern boutique-style accommodation of a very high standard. There is a small pebble beach just opposite, Apollonia's main sandy beach is a 5 minute walk away (350m), and the harbour a few minutes more (650m).

All eight rooms are different and priced individually according to their size, views and facilities. Fully refurbished in a modern Greek style - very clean, light and fresh - all possess top quality fixtures and fittings, and appealing contemporary décor.

All units possess king or queen sized bed, fridge, kettle, toaster, coffee-maker and microwave oven, as well as a ceiling fan, AC, Wifi, TV and room safe. The studio and one suite (Athena) have the addition of a couple of hot plates and basic cooking utensils, and both suites have a hot tub on their private terrace. Rooms in the front building have good sea views, those in the rear building have partial sea view or none.

Breakfast, served to the room at a time of your choosing, is available at an extra local charge (and included in the price of the Junior Suites and Suites).

To the front, directly above the sea, is a delightful garden area furnished with sofas, deckchairs and sun beds - the perfect place from which to watch the sunset which can be spectacular from here.

Service is that of a good small hotel - personal and friendly, with daily maid service and local advice willingly given. Please see our website for individual room details.

The Hotel:	Rooms, Studios & Suites
Room Only or BB	Air Conditioning
	Free WiFi

Vourakis Studios Apollonia, Milos

Fronted by a lush Mediterranean garden, the traditionally-styled Vourakis Studios occupy a great location, just 30m from Apollonia's sheltered curve of sandy beach and a short easy walk from the pretty fishing harbour.

Standard studios are on the ground floor and have a generous pergola-shaded patio terrace looking onto the garden, some furnished with sun beds. Four studios have a traditional sleeping gallery bedroom open plan above a living area and can sleep up to 4. Superior studios



Apollonia

are first floor with a sea view balcony – two of them also share a large additional sea view terrace. All studios are roomy and mostly double bedded with light kitchen facilities, TV, room safe, hairdryer, Wifi, shower room and balcony or garden terrace. Décor and furnishing is simple and in the attractive Cycladic style.

There is one apartment on the first floor comprising two rooms – a double bedroom and living room with two beds – and a sea view balcony.

Mr Vourakis could not be more obliging to his guests, who all love the proximity to the beach – you can walk from your room and be in the sea in less than a minute! The harbour and Apollonia's well regarded restaurants are 400m away – an easy 5 minute walk with no hills.

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



Santa Maria Village Adamas, Milos

Stay at this excellent hotel and you have the feeling you are in the countryside. Yet a 10 minute walk brings you to Papakinou beach in one direction and lively Adamas, the island capital, in the other (15 to the harbour).

The hotel has 37 bungalow-style rooms housed in various 2-storey buildings set in three acres of gardens containing olive and fruit trees. Rooms are all double bedded and have a minimalist style of light decor and furnishing. All possess AC, TV, fridge, Wifi, hairdryer, tea-making equipment, a nice modern shower room and a balcony or terrace with garden, sea or pool views.

There is a beautifully large swimming pool (180 sq m) with

adjacent pool bar serving drinks and snacks throughout the day and evening. Pool and beach towels can be provided. The hotel also has a spa offering a range of treatments.

The Santa Maria understandably has many repeat guests and limited rooms so early booking is recommended. The hotel is on a hill so may not be suitable for those with mobility difficulties unless a car is booked.

Note: the hotel does not accept children under the age of 10.

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



Papakinou beach

Echinoussa 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

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.

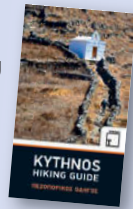
The Hotel:	Bed & Breakfast
3 Star	Air Conditioning
Traditional Hotel	Free WiFi



Kolona Beach

Free Kythnos Hiking Guide

As described, Kythnos is a wonderful island for walkers. All our clients here will receive a complimentary copy of this comprehensive Hiking Guide on arrival, detailing 11 well designed routes and likely to be handed to you by one of the two co-authors, local guide Katerina Filippa or Nigel Tutt who is British. If you are not a walker then we strongly recommend car hire - please see page 180 or enquire for prices.



Porto Klaras Loutra, Kythnos

What a surprise to find such an immaculate accommodation on such a touristic backwater as Kythnos! Offering contemporary style and comfort, we think these boutique-style hotel apartments are hard to fault on any level, from their location above the sea and proximity to the beach and restaurants to the stylish modern Cycladic room design and friendly personal service.

Located in the small seaside village of Loutra – known for its thermal waters and spa – Porto Klaras occupies a slightly elevated location that enables fine views. The hotel offers a mix of rooms, studios and suites on its three floors plus three rooftop VIP studios.

Standard rooms are on the lower floors and possess a built-in double

bed; fridge and coffee-machine; a modern walk-in shower and amenities; Wifi, TV and room safe; and terrace balcony, with views over the bay, village or hills. Studios are similar with the addition of light cooking facilities. VIP studios and suites are on the higher floors - see our website for further room details.

Furnishing and décor is in the clean modern Cycladic style, and service is as a hotel with daily cleaning, towel changes and beach towels provided.

All the amenities of this friendly little seaside village are within a few minutes' walk, including a good choice of taverna restaurants, cafes, small shops, both sandy beaches, the thermal baths and the bus stop for Chora and other villages.

Due to the location and steps within the building (there is no lift) we do not consider Porto Klaras suitable for those with mobility difficulties.



Loutra

The Hotel:	Air Conditioning
Room Only	Free WiFi
Rooms, Studios & Suites for 2/5	

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: Air Conditioning
2 Stars Plus Free Wifi
Bed & Breakfast



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: Swimming Pool
3 Star Air Conditioning
Bed & Breakfast 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 (18-22 sq m) with kettle and fridge on a room only basis (breakfast is available at a local charge and served to your room), ground floor studios (30 sq m) with light kitchen facilities, or spacious 2-floor maisonettes (50 sq m) 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 inland/mountain view balcony, and have a rustic style of decor and furnishing. The Executive rooms are also first floor and have partial sea views from the balcony. We recommend the Deluxe Suites on the first floor at the front which are spacious with upgraded furnishings and large sea-facing balcony from which to admire the view. There is also a sweet little individual 2-bedroom cottage with

a private sea view open roof terrace above the beach – see our website for further details.

To the front of the rooms is a daytime taverna and cafe. Sun beds on the beach are free for customers, with shade provided by the tamarisk trees that line the beach.

It is a 10-15 minute walk up and over the headland (600m) to the main port of Livadi, with its choice of shops, cafes and tavernas.

Although our feedback shows that the rooms (comfortable) and service (friendly but can be erratic) here could do with some improvement, people book here primarily for the unbeatable location. Only 20m from the sea, beach-lovers could not find a better spot as Livadakia is truly lovely - a beautiful curve of soft fine sand shelving into an aquamarine sea.



Beach below Alexandros Vassilia

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.



Maistrali 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 Maistrali 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 2019, 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.

