

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.

All of the main islands are linked by a daily (weather permitting) small return ferry service between Amorgos and Naxos, as well as some less regular but more up-to-date high speed catamaran and ferry connections.

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*.

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.

AMORGOS & SMALL CYCLADES INFORMATION

Getting to the Islands

Flights from Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Edinburgh and Manchester to Athens or from Gatwick and Manchester to Mykonos or Santorini

AMORGOS

Via Athens

Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat (high season), Sun out; Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun (high season) return

Morning flight to Athens. Transfer to Piraeus for the 17.30 Blue Star ferry - a large, modern and extremely comfortable ship with restaurant, bar etc. We will book you into the quiet Business Class lounge area. Arrives Amorgos 01.10, 02.00 or 02.50. Local transfer on the island (10-40 mins depending on from which port). On the return it is an early morning ferry back to Piraeus (dep 06.55 arr 15.00) to connect with the evening flight to UK. Although flights are daily and Blue Star operates 4 or 5 times weekly the **optimum departure day is Wed out (also Sat high season) and Thurs or Fri back (also Sun high season)** due to ferry routings. Other days take longer and may be to/from Katapola port, not Aegialis.

Via Mykonos

7/6-26/9 - high speed Sea Jet service

Transfer to port for mid-afternoon ferry which takes c 2 hours to Amorgos (Katapola port). 40 minute transfer to hotel. Sea Jet connects with an evening flight back to the UK. There are also morning connections back to Santorini on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please note that a/ Sea Jet is not a large vessel as Blue Star and can suffer delay or cancellation in high winds; and b/ these schedules are provisional and may change.

KOUFONISSI & SCHINOUSSA

Via Athens

Low Seasons: Tue, Sun out; Mon, Wed return. high season: night ferry only

As per Amorgos except different days and no high season daytime service.

Via Mykonos

As per Amorgos (Koufonissi only).

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.

There is a range of room types here in a number of white and blue buildings (village style) set in mature colourful gardens. Room facilities include AC, fridge, room safe, hairdryer, shower or bath and balcony, most with garden views. There is a variety of room types - rooms (standards are small and rustic, superiors are slightly bigger and more classically furnished), studios (which have basic kitchen facilities) and apartments (as studio but with the addition of a second bedroom or living room with sofa beds) - but all have breakfast included.

In the gardens is an attractive pool area with attendant pool bar and just above the beach is the taverna, where breakfast is taken.

Lakki Village provides a traditional Greek island holiday in simple accommodation (do not expect hotel levels of service) 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



Langada Village

Pagali Hotel Langada Village, Amorgos

If you are searching for 'the real Greece' you have found it! In the heart of this very traditional village on this very traditional island, the Pagali is the perfect base for walkers, nature lovers and anyone looking for a true Greek escape.

The Hotel Pagali is in the heart of the hill village of Langada, some 3 kms from Aegialis (aka Ormos) and enjoys lovely views over the bay. The hotel has 20 rooms, a mix of standard rooms and studios, all very nicely furnished in a traditional style with shower room and balcony. Mod cons include A/C, Wifi, fridge, kettle, hairdryer and safety deposit box. We'd recommend upgrading to the Superior Studio rooms - very spacious with kitchenette and sea-facing balcony.

The hotel has a furnished roof terrace and a well liked restaurant serving a range of local dishes using largely organic produce from their own farm. You will find a few other tavernas in the village, as well as a mini-market and bakery, and a good choice down in Aegiali. The nearest beach is also at Aegiali - a beautiful sandy bay shelving into the clearest of seas - which can be reached on foot in 30 minutes or in 5-10 minutes on the local bus (€1) or by taxi (€5).

A free walking guidebook is included in the price of all our Amorgos holidays.



The Hotel: 2 Stars Plus
Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
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



Aegialis, Amorgos

THE SMALL CYCLADES		PERSONS BASIS	Guide prices in £'s per person					
ACCOMMODATION			May/Oct		Jun/Sep		Jul/Aug	
			1 wk	2 wks	1 wk	2 wks	1 wk	2 wks
Amorgos								
Lakki Village	Standard Room	2 BB	840	1064	963	1198	1076	1463
	Studio	2 BB	869	1113	994	1253	1120	1553
	Superior Room	2 BB	923	1235	1025	1346	1129	1571
	Apartment	2 BB	943	1260	1043	1371	1210	1731
	Superior Apartment	2 BB	1047	1526	1280	1780	1366	2046
	Maisonette	2 BB	1095	1639	1410	1987	1680	2673
Pagali								
	Standard Room	2 BB	990	1278	999	1287	1119	1491
	Superior Studio	2 BB	1082	1463	1091	1472	1228	1708
Koufonissi								
Anna	Studio	2 BB	966	1317	1047	1470	1256	1850
	Studio Sea View	2 BB	991	1366	1071	1518	1278	1894

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 2017 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).