

# 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 regular (weather permitting) small ferry service between Amorgos and Naxos, as well as some less regular but faster 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, Bristol, 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



## Aegialis Hotel Amorgos

The location of this hotel, on the hillside overlooking beautiful Aegialis bay, enables the most wonderful views from just about everywhere.

50 rooms and suites are housed in 6 buildings set amongst colourful gardens. All have AC, sat TV, Wifi, fridge, hairdryer, safe, modern bathroom and full sea view balcony. Furnishings and decor are either Classic style (iron beds etc.) or a modern more minimalist style. The new Exclusive rooms are quietly located in a separate building away from the main hotel. They are larger with good privacy and spacious sea view terrace furnished with sun beds or deckchairs. The hotel also has family rooms and a range of suites.

All guests can use the hotel's spa facilities - sauna, hamam, indoor

pool, fitness room - free of charge (treatments extra) and yoga classes take place most evenings.

The hotel has a terrace restaurant and bar in the main building. The huge seawater swimming pool below is magnificent (pool towels provided).

It is a 10 minute walk down the hill to the start of Aegialis sandy beach (longer back), and a further 10 minutes to the village. Below the hotel is the delightfully secluded sandy beach of Levrossos, but the steep winding road takes 20 minutes.

The hotel is, understandably, popular with walkers and nature lovers - there are many walks possible from here - and the hotel's helpful reception staff are well used to giving advice or even organising guided walks.



The Hotel:

- 4 Stars
- Bed & Breakfast
- Swimming Pool
- Air Conditioning
- Free Wifi
- Spa facilities

## 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		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			
			1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wk
Amorgos								
Aegialis	Superior Room	2 BB	1096	1546	1376	2048	1536	2369
	Exclusive Room	2 BB	1228	1810	1590	2473	1928	3182
	Junior Suite	2 BB	1722	2797	2270	3835	2674	4686
Lakki Village	Standard Room	2 BB	814	993	997	1324	1090	1459
	Studio	2 BB	844	1052	1027	1390	1133	1544
	Superior Room	2 BB	887	1140	1056	1440	1142	1562
	Apartment	2 BB	917	1196	1074	1500	1218	1714
	Superior Apartment	2 BB	976	1328	1300	1918	1367	2012
	Maisonette	2 BB	1006	1392	1422	2240	1665	2608
Koufonissi								
Anna	Studio	2 BB	846	1100	1132	1654	1256	1778
	Studio Sea View	2 BB	872	1152	1158	1705	1281	1828

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).**