

The Cyclades

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

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

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

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

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

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

majority of the Cycladic islands.

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

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

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

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



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

Important – Transfers and Ferries

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



Sifnos



Folegandros



Koufonissia



Batsi harbour, Andros



Apollonia, Milos



Amorgos

Western Cyclades

Andros

2 hours by ferry from Rafina (Athens)

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

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

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

Sifnos

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

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

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

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

Milos

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kimolos

Served via Milos (30 mins by ferry)

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

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

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

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

Folegandros

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

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

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

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

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

Kythnos

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

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

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

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



Kimolos

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

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

Serifos

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

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

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



Milos

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

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

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

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

WESTERN CYCLADES INFORMATION

Getting to the Islands

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

ANDROS, KYTHNOS, SERIFOS, SIFNOS, FOLEGANDROS

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

MILOS

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

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

Multi-Centre and Island Hopping

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

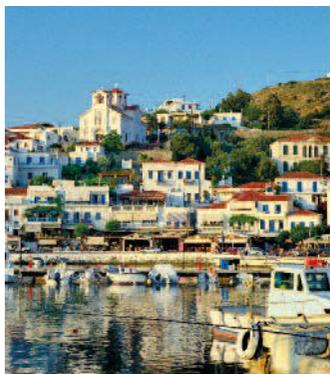
Representation

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

Marfo Studios Batsi, Andros

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

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



Batsi

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

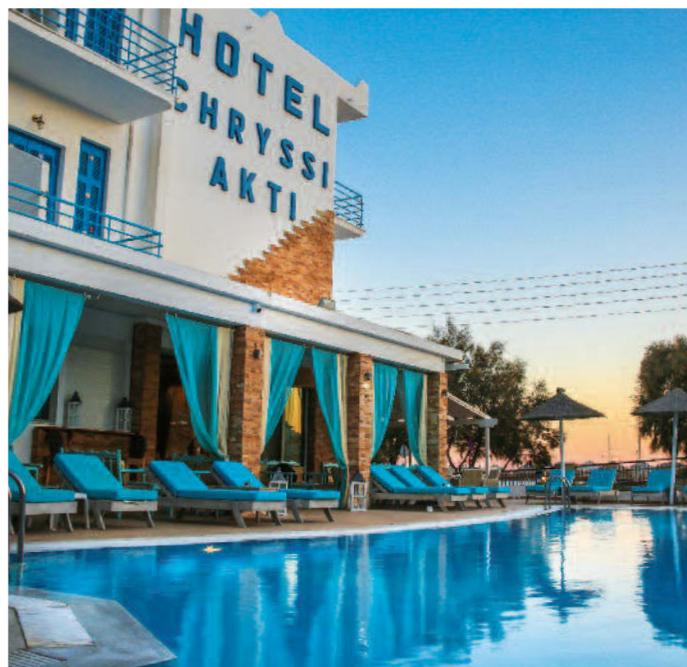
There is also a 1-bedroom apartment with a sofa-bed in the living room for one or two children.

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

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

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

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



Chrissi Akti Hotel Batsi, Andros

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

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

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

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

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



Andros Grias-Pidima beach

Aneroussa Beach Hotel Batsi, Andros

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

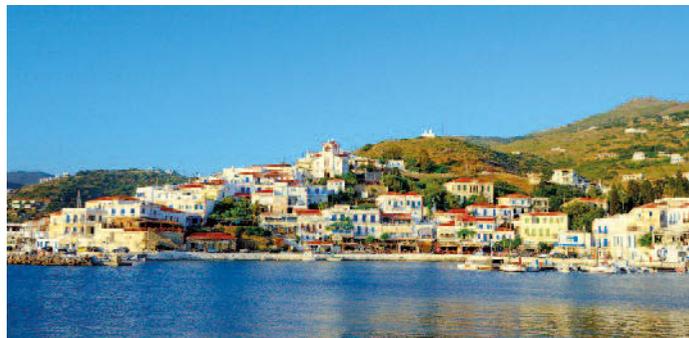
The hotel has 30 pretty rooms, fully refurbished to offer a good standard of accommodation. All possess AC, TV, fridge, room-safe, hairdryer, shower room and sea view balcony or terrace (with lovely sunsets).

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. Wifi is available in public areas. The

nearest tavernas are a ten minute walk in either direction, and there are many more to choose from in Batsi.

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

The Hotel: 3 Stars Plus
Bed & Breakfast
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi
(public areas)



Batsi



Batsi



Andros Town

WESTERN CYCLADES		PERSONS BASIS	Guide prices in £'s per person					
ACCOMMODATION			May/Oct		Jun/Sep		Jul/Aug	
Andros			1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks
Aneroussa Beach	Standard Room	2 BB	793	1045	933	1222	1037	1487
Chrissi Akti	Classic Room	2 BB	730	919	798	994	975	1362
	Superior Side Sea View	2 BB	748	955	829	1046	1027	1470
	Superior Sea View	2 BB	812	1081	883	1162	1082	1577
	Family Room	2 BB	933	1324	1032	1437	1209	1832
		3 BB	781	1045	850	1122	980	1397
		4 BB	741	941	795	1001	902	1217
	Suite	2 BB	1014	1487	1118	1606	1318	2048
		3 BB	835	1153	908	1234	1052	1542
		4 BB	782	1022	838	1086	956	1324
Marfo	Studio	2 SC	761	985	774	999	898	1208
		3 SC	689	862	701	875	794	1026
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	866	1202	898	1241	956	1324
		3 SC	736	963	760	991	811	1059
		4 SC	707	880	727	903	774	964

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).

Kythnos Walking Holidays

As mentioned in our island description, our walking/hiking holidays here are the best ways to get under the skin of this charming and little known Cycladic island. They are really 'walking plus' trips because they also include any cultural events (local festivals etc.) that may be taking place - and there are many in the summer - as well as taking in an archaeological site, villages, churches, a ruined Byzantine castle, Katafiki Cave, thermal springs, a folk museum, a honey farm and, of course, various beaches (all walks include a swim stop).

The Walks

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. One 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.

Sample 1 week walking itinerary

Monday

0000 – Arrive Athens, ideally by c. midday transfer from Athen Airport to Lavrio port (40 mins)
1500 – ferry from Lavrio to Kythnos (via Kea)
1700 – Transfer from Kythnos port to Hotel Messaria (15 mins)
2100 – Aperitivo, introductory dinner in Chora taverna

Tuesday (10.7km, 4.5 hrs)

0900 – Walk Chora-Diassela-Vryokastro
1200 – Arrive Vryokastro for excavation visit
1330 – Apokrousi beach – swim (optional), packed lunch, relax
1530 – Return to Chora via valley walk
2030 – Free evening; dinner paid for in Chora taverna

Wednesday (14km, 5 hrs)

0900 – Walk Chora-Loutra-Orias Castle
1200 – Arrive castle for Byzantine visit
1330 – Walk down to Loutra for swim, hot spring, packed lunch
1600 – Walk back to Chora
2000 – Church celebration, panagiri, food, drink, music, dancing

Thursday Free day

Friday (12km, 5 hrs)

0900 – Walk to Ag Ioannis, Ag Stephanos beaches
1130 – Arrive Ag Ioannis, pause under the tamerisk trees
1300 – Ag Stephanos for swim (optional), packed lunch, relax
1530 – Return walk to Chora
1900 – Visit to Folk Museum in Chora



2030 – Merichas port visit, fish dinner

Saturday (12.5km, 5 hrs)

0900 – Transfer to Kanala for religious visit, coastal walk
1030 – Walk Kanala to Kalo Livadi, Panaghia Mathia, old washhouse
1300 – Arrive Lefkes for swim (optional), packed lunch, relax
1500 – Walk to Dryopida via honey farm visit; transfer to Chora
1900 – Transfer to Dryopida for Katafiki cave visit, dinner

Sunday (6km, 1.5 hrs)

1000 – Walk to iconic Kolona Beach for swimming, eating, relaxing
1500 – return by sea taxi to Merichas port and bus/taxi to Chora
2000 – Farewell dinner in Chora taverna

Monday

0830 – Breakfast, check-out Hotel Messaria, transfer to port
0940 – Ferry from Kythnos to Lavrio (via Kea)
1225 – Arrival at Lavrio, transfer to airport (40 mins)

Notes: Based on 2017 ferry timings – schedules may change. The sample itinerary, walks and timings may be adjusted depending on local circumstances. All distances, times are approximate; walk durations are time on trails, excluding breaks. Flights should land by midday to optimise ferry connections. However please note that it is unlikely we will know ferry times when you book. A shortened 5 to 6 night itinerary can be arranged - please enquire.



Prices

Prices vary according to airline seat prices and availability but, based on flights as of November 2017, are from c. £985 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 at the Messaria Hotel
- 4 full walking days and 1 short walking day
- Qualified guide on all walks
- Packed lunch on the 4 full walking days
- 6 evening meals in local tavernas
- Visit to any local festival(s) that may take place
- Free copy of Kythnos Hiking Guide (per booking)

General Information

- Walking weeks operate on all dates from early April to late October, on Mondays (early flight out, afternoon or evening back). Should there be no ferry connection you will overnight in Lavrio at the comfortable Saron Hotel with dinner.
- The minimum number for the programme to operate is 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.
- 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 Serifos, Sifnos, Milos, Kimolos and Folegandros.



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 (see page 268 or enquire).

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



Kolona Beach



Aghios Ioannis 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 268 or enquire for prices.



WESTERN CYCLADES		PERSONS BASIS	Guide prices in £'s per person					
ACCOMMODATION			May/Oct		Jun/Sep		Jul/Aug	
Kythnos			1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks
Messaria Hotel	Standard Room	2 BB	906	1250	959	1434	1106	1635

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Aliktypo Studios Livadi, Serifos

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

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

above) and are beautifully furnished with style and care.

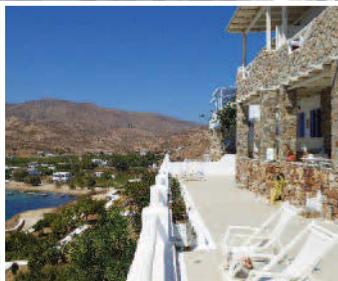
The helpful owner, Katerina, sets high standards and the quality and facilities here are those of a good small hotel. All possess queen-sized bed, AC, WiFi (plus cabled internet access), sat TV with DVD and a selection of films, bathroom products, room-safe and hairdryer.

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



The Rooms & Apartments:

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



Niovi Studios Livadi, Serifos

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Studios:

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

Niovi location

Alexandros Vassilia Livadakia Beach, Serifos

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

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

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

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

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

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

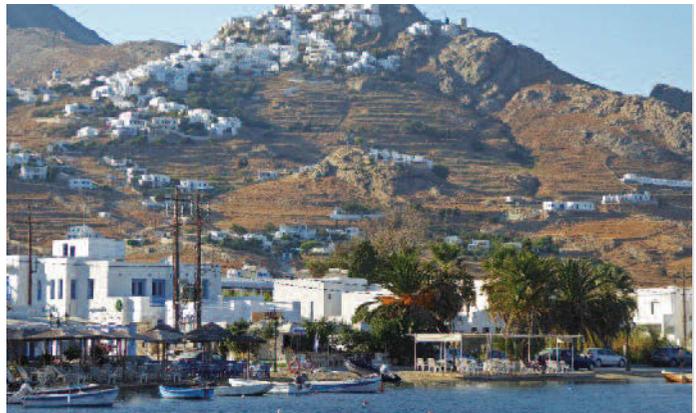


Beach below Alexandros Vassilia

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



Livadakia beach



Serifos

WESTERN CYCLADES		Guide prices in £'s per person					
ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	May/Oct		Jun/Sep		Jul/Aug	
Serifos		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks
Alexandros Vassilia							
First Floor Comfort Room	2 RO	832	1057	906	1140	999	1344
Executive Room	2 RO	876	1142	935	1210	1027	1403
Deluxe Suite	2 RO	1482	2356	1663	2561	1874	3095
	3 RO	1157	1742	1282	1883	1434	2251
	4 RO	1048	1489	1143	1596	1267	1881
Alyktipo							
Standard Room	2 RO	836	1121	902	1139	1049	1445
Studio	2 SC	849	1147	915	1166	1086	1518
Maisonette	2 SC	942	1352	1027	1374	1309	1967
	3 SC	798	1074	857	1091	1058	1498
	4 SC	779	988	825	1003	985	1317
Niovi							
Studio	2 SC	866	1243	950	1210	1309	1967
	3 SC	780	1082	848	1056	1142	1665

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Efrosini Hotel Platy Yialos, Sifnos

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

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

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

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



Chrysopigi Monastery



Platy Yialos Hotel Platy Yialos, Sifnos

This long established hotel has a prime spot directly above the sea at the far western end of magnificent Plati 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.

Low Season Offer
Reductions apply for stays of 7 nights minimum completed by 30/6 or commencing 01/9 onwards or for 10 nights completed by 20/7 or commencing 22/8 onwards.

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



Platy Yialos beach

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



Cheronissos



Kamares

WESTERN CYCLADES		Guide prices in £'s per person					
ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	May/Oct		Jun/Sep		Jul/Aug	
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks
Sifnos							
Efrosini	Standard Room 2 BB	862	1086	926	1201	1096	1507
Platy Vialos	Standard Room 2 BB	1150	1659	1158	1780	1495	2303
	Junior Suite 2 BB	1517	2394	1526	2605	2033	3379
	Suite 2 BB	1638	2636	1647	2867	2242	3799
Sifnaika Konakia	Standard Room 2 RO	872	1104	917	1211	1021	1387
	Studio 2 RO	922	1202	988	1359	1069	1478

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Apollon Hotel Apollonia, Milos

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

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

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

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

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



The Hotel

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



Near Apollon Hotel



Apollonia

Mirabeli Apartments Apollonia, Milos

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

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

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

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

The Apartments:

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



Apollonia

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.

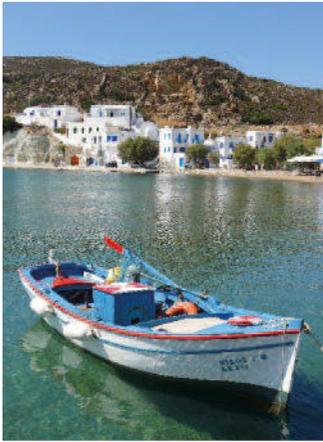
They offer plenty of space and a good modern standard. The studio-style apartments are ground floor and open plan. All possess king size bed (built-in, island style), AC, Wifi (note: each room has its own router), TV, light kitchen facilities (2 rings, fridge), a full sized sofa bed,

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

Milaki Kimolos Kimolos (Chorio)

Halfway up the road between Psathi and Chorio - a 5-10 minute walk from each depending if you are going up or down the hill! - this very smart collection of six BB rooms offers the best of both worlds for those who can't decide whether to stay in the village or at the beach. Fully refurbished in 2015, Milaki offers very nice modern accommodation of excellent quality. Rooms are on the ground floor and spacious (25-34 sq m) with cool fresh decor. They all possess queen-sized bed with luxury bedding (plus sofa bed in the Family rooms), AC, WiFi, kettle and tea-making

equipment, mini-bar, Nespresso machine, sat TV, hairdryer, room safe, iPod dock and shower room (the Superior and Family rooms have new showers). The staff are friendly and attentive to guests' needs. There is a common surrounding veranda - each room has its own furnished area - where breakfast is served at a time of your choosing.

The Rooms: **Bed & Breakfast Rooms for 2/4**
Air Conditioning
Free WiFi



Bonatsa Beach Kimolos



Milos coastline



Apollonia

WESTERN 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
Milos								
Apollon	Standard Room	2 BB	828	1067	891	1283	1124	1606
Mirabeli	1 Bedroom	2 SC	865	1131	939	1366	1311	1982
		3 SC	796	1007	856	1184	1104	1577
		4 SC	781	966	834	1122	1027	1414
		Superior Apartment	2 SC	967	1338	1133	1674	1406
		3 SC	868	1150	999	1421	1190	1750
		4 SC	810	1023	911	1230	1064	1485
Kimolos								
Echinoussa	Apartment	2 SC	797	1073	868	1224	1165	1713
		3 SC	765	1013	822	1128	1042	1484
	Maisonette	2 SC	1050	1579	1145	1837	1461	2304
		3 SC	934	1351	1007	1537	1239	1879
Milaki Kimolos	Standard Room	2 BB	863	1205	950	1328	1118	1619
	Superior Room	2 BB	923	1324	1010	1447	1178	1738
	Family Room	2 BB	944	1367	1050	1528	1216	1815
		3 BB	800	1084	881	1206	1014	1427
		4 BB	743	961	814	1062	933	1253
Mikro Parisi	Double Room	2 BB	824	1128	965	1357	1204	1791
	Studio	2 BB	824	1128	965	1357	1204	1791
		3 BB	763	1010	867	1177	1048	1496

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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



Ankali beach



Folegandros

WESTERN CYCLADES		Guide prices in £'s per person					
ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	May/Oct		Jun/Sep		Jul/Aug	
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks
Folegandros							
Studio	2 SC	970	1342	1056	1536	1309	1896
Superior Studio	2 SC	1014	1432	1100	1619	1350	1978
1 Bedroom	2 SC	1096	1593	1181	1712	1560	2398
	3 SC	990	1392	1076	1499	1342	1970
	4 SC	950	1305	1036	1406	1245	1769
	Superior 1 Bedroom	2 SC	1133	1668	1219	1933	1643
2 Bedroom	3 SC	1015	1441	1101	1647	1397	2080
	4 SC	969	1341	1055	1517	1287	1851
	2 SC	1299	2001	1385	2264	1804	2886
	3 SC	1059	1529	1145	1733	1437	2162
4 SC	953	1307	1038	1481	1267	1812	

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