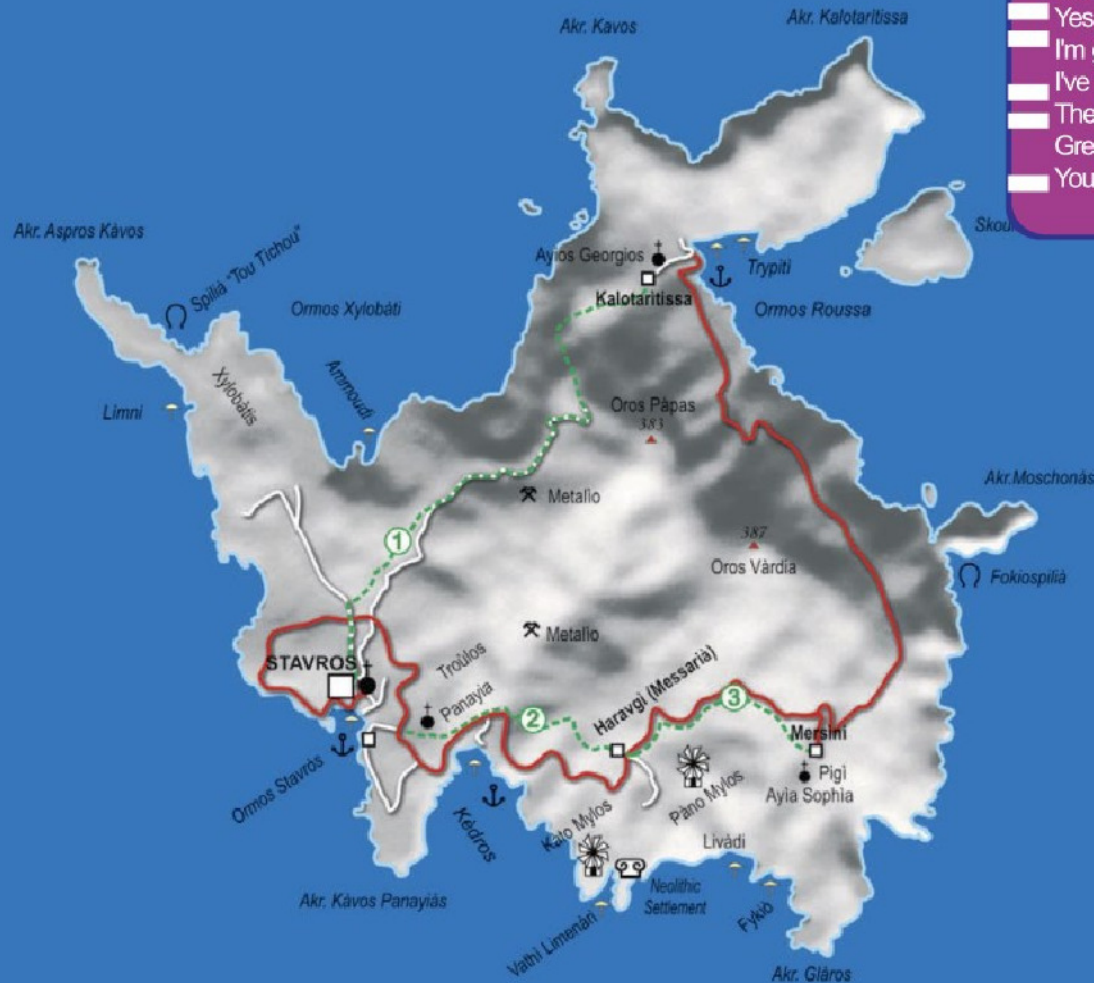


# DONOUSSA ISLAND

www.donoussa.gr



# CHAT ROOM

## "Donoussa"

- Have you been to Donoussa?
- Yes, twice. It's amazing. One of the best places for holidays.
- I'm going this summer, so I'm getting recommendations. For the moment, I've heard nothing but the best.
- The only thing you'll miss is noise. Otherwise, the island is perfect. Great beaches and warm people, so I've heard.
- You won't believe how much...

## Get recommendations

Donoussa is the place to check the reliability of your camera. It will be difficult to capture on film the aquamarine colour of the sea and the shimmer on the pebbles. In Donoussa, the light creates unique shades and hues, forming an image so magical and yet so real.

## How to get there

Donoussa is connected by sea with Piraeus and the remaining islands of the Cyclades, as well as with Amorgos.

# D O N O U S S A



It is located at the far north of the Small Eastern Cyclades, and belongs to the cluster between Naxos, Ios and Amorgos which also includes Iraklia, Koufonissia and Schinoussa. Away from the hectic rhythms of mass transportation, Donoussa is a true paradise for those who want to enjoy nature and experience the original character of the place and its residents, far away from the mainstream tourist resorts.

Donoussa covers an area of 13 square kilometers, and has 160 permanent residents who engage in fishing, stockfarming and, lately, tourism.

## Beauty has settled in Donoussa

The capital and centre of tourism of the island is Donoussa or Stavros, a beautiful settlement with a traditional character, built on a bay on the southwest coast, where the port is also located, protected from the north winds of the Aegean Sea. The gem of the settlement is the chapel of Timios Stavros built in 1902, an all-white building of simple ecclesiastical architecture, featuring a blue dome and an amazing belfry. Stavros offers all that visitors need for a comfortable and pleasant stay. The smaller pier inside the port provides safe docking for private crafts. Next to the port is one of the most beautiful beaches on the island, with fine-grain sand.



The other settlements of Donoussa are Charavgi or Mesaria, Mersini (east), and Kalotaritissa (north), distinguished by their picturesque character, all ideal places for hiking on the hilly and rocky soil of the island, whose shrubby vegetation gives off the scents of savory and rosemary.

at the roots of an age-old plane tree near the church of Agia Sofia. The place offers unimpeded views over the blue Aegean to Amorgos. A route to the south, to Vathy Limenari, leads to the ruins of settlements from the Geometric period, which are the first signs of inhabitation of the island. Mersini features a different sight: the combined power station which supplied the settlement with electricity until 2002.

## Routes for all

- 1 Stavros - Kalotaritissa** Following the path that crosses the imposing Papas mountain (its peak at 383 metres is the highest point of the island) and leads to Kalotaritissa, in the north part of Donoussa, visitors can walk along vineyards and olive groves, see the old mines of the island, and see cedar trees and mastic bushes growing, even on stone. A 1.5 hour route leads to the beautiful small village of Kalotaritissa featuring its low stone-built houses and the all-white church of Agios Georgios.
- 2 Stavros - Charavgi** A 4.5km route leading to Charavgi, with its traditional stone-built houses.
- 3 Charavgi - Mersini** After a distance of 1.5km, an oasis of apricot, peach and fig trees awaits the walker in Mersini, where cool water from the spring flows

## Sea and attractions

For sea lovers, the south coasts of Donoussa offer the amazing beaches Kedros, Vathy Limenari, Livadi and Fykio with aquamarine waters. In north Donoussa, the three beaches in Kalotaritissa are impressive, with their small



pebbles and crystal clear waters.

The two impressive caves of the island can be accessed only by sea. In the area of Aspros Kavos, northwest, lies the imposing stalactitic cave of Tichos where boats seek refuge from the storms. Fokospilia, a marine cave of

exceptional natural beauty and refuge to seals is located on the east coast, on the steep cave of Moschonas. Both caves can be accessed by the municipality boat which performs daily trips to the beaches of the island.

The waters of the surrounding rocky islets Makares, Moschonas, Skoulonissi and Melantii are amazing. They have been listed as highly-valued areas, and are ideal for trips, diving and fishing.

## Feasts and flavours

The serenity and simplicity of life in Donoussa relaxes and charms visitors, while local feasts are the best chance for fun and an acquaintance with the traditions of the island. Major festivities are organized on 15 August in Stavros and on the day before 14 September (celebration of the Holy Cross), where folk dances will keep you up until dawn. The main dish is the delicious "patatato" (goat cooked in tomato sauce and herbs). In Mersini, on 17 September, the celebration day of Agia Sofia, people attend the service



and then walk down to the spring that flows under the plane tree near the church, followed by a special festival.

The island's delicacies include kid stuffed with rice, salted pork, fried pies of wild greens, and of course the fine "axialomyzithra" cheese, and home-

made pasta called "klostá" and "pitaridia". The local red sweet or semi-sweet wines made of varieties like voudomato, rozaki, mandilaria, athiri or fokiano are very tasty, while October is the period for the seasoning of raki, served with dried figs. The sweets of Donoussa are complemented by the traditional pasteli (served on lemon tree leaves), loukoumi made of fine wheat flour and sugar (traditional treat at weddings), and the delicious Fotopites, which are doughnuts made on Epiphany.

## ONLY IN DONOUSSA

On a hill east of Stavros lie the imposing "twin" churches of Panagia and Agios Ioannis, a special architectural complex, where the two basilicas unite under a small belfry.

Diving fans will love Kedros, in whose waters they will see the wreck of a German ship that was sunk by the Allies during World War II.



Let's go to Amorgos...

Only a stone's throw away!!!