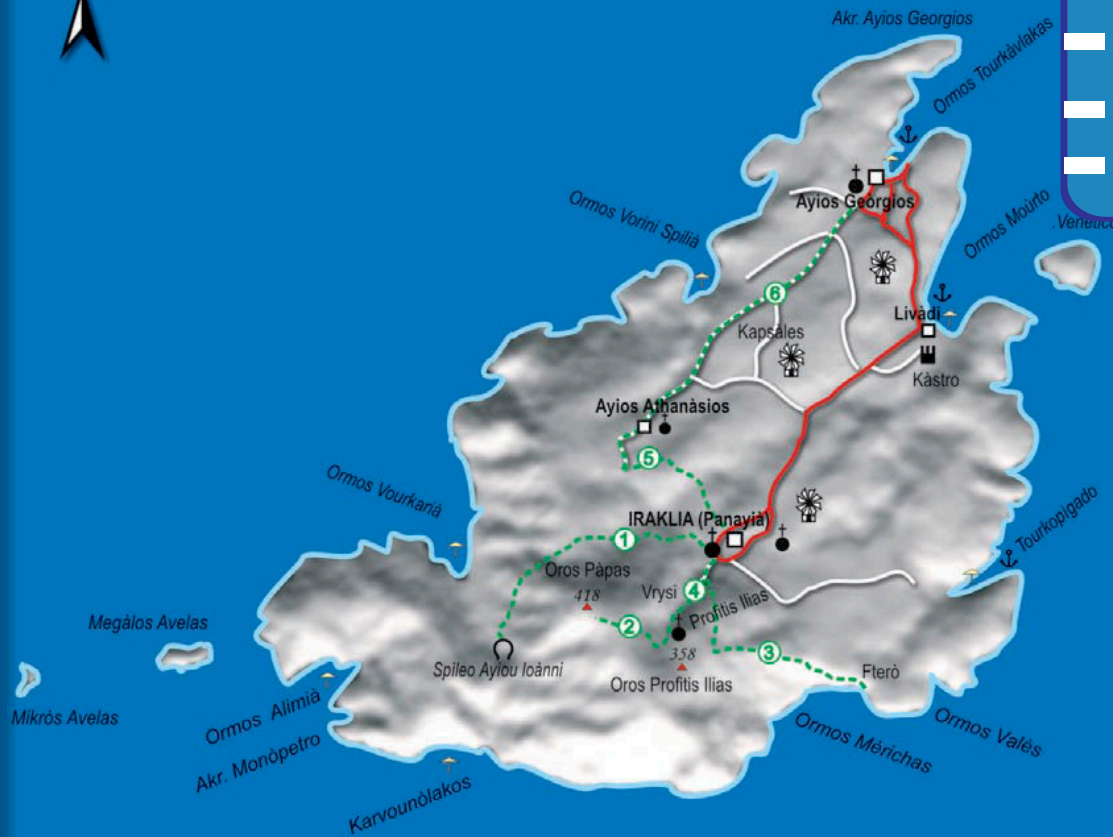


IRAKLIA ISLAND

www.iraklia.gr



- Main roads
- Minor roads
- Proposed Walks
- Windmill
- Archaeological site
- Castle/Tower
- Mountain top
- Town/Village
- Monastery/Church
- Port/Anchorage
- Akr.
- Cape
- Old mines
- Beach
- Cave
- Airport



CHAT ROOM

“Iraklia”

- Make up your mind soon, there's not much time left to book.
- Is it so busy? We were thinking of relaxed holidays. This is the Small Cyclades, there's not much room. Let's go to Iraklia, it's perfect. There are lots of options for sea sports, diving, fishing, and swimming.
- Lena was telling me that it is unique in every aspect. A small but miraculous island. It encompasses everything.
- Iraklia it is then! Maybe I can talk other friends into joining us.

Get recommendations

Iraklia is a great option for those who want to escape the pressure of routine. Visitors will enjoy it from the first moment, and every moment is full of pleasant surprises. Whether its a delicious dish, a magical underwater scene, or an unexpected feast.

How to get there

Iraklia is connected daily with Piraeus and Naxos by ferries and fast boats. The island is also connected with other islands of the Cyclades, by the famous boat “Skopelitis”, which has itineraries connecting the islands of Small Cyclades and with Amorgos.

IRAKLIA



Iraklia is at the far west of the Small Eastern Cyclades, south of Naxos and northeast of Ios. Life in Iraklia is different, calm and relaxing, with many alternatives for walks and fascinating explorations, swimming in crystal clear waters, diving into the wonderful sea, and festivities at traditional celebrations.

The quiet sandy beaches with the clear blue waters include Agios Georgios, Livadi, Vorini Spilia and Alimia. Pebbly beaches include Tourkopigado, Ammoudi of Merichas, and Karvounolakos with its black rocks. Xylombatis and Tribounas are beaches with low rocks.

Iraklia is ideal for diving, since it offers wonderful water, with rich underwater life and sea beds. The area is a refuge to the Mediterranean seal.

A small island with a big heart

The island covers an area of 18 square kilometres, whose 120 residents engage in fishing, stockfarming, agriculture and apiary.

The capital of Iraklia is Panagia or Pano Meria, a picturesque settlement built at the centre of the island with white cube-shaped houses, dominated by the church of Isodia Theotokou (Presentation of the Virgin Mary) built in 1919, impressive due to its great size.

A 4km asphalt road links Chora with the second settlement and port of the island, Agios Georgios, on the north coast. This beautiful village extends along a bay with crystal blue waters, fish boats and caiques. The gem of the settlement is the church of Agios Georgios, built in 1834. The sights which are definitely worth visiting include the church of Taxiarchis (Archangel), a privately-owned church from the end of the



19th century with a magnificent screen, Agia Paraskevi, and the chapel of Agios Mamas.

Feasts and flavours

The residents of Iraklia are warm and always welcoming to visitors. There are 80 rooms to let on the island, so during summer months it is advisable to book early.

The small taverns, cafes and bars on the island are charming, clean, and offer excellent service, while traditional festivities offer a chance for a different type of human contact and fun.

On the eve of the 15th of August and on the actual day, a traditional feast is held until the early hours in Panagia; similar festivities take place on 9 November for the celebration of Agios Nektarios. A massive feast is held on the celebration of Agios Georgios, the patron saint of the settlement named after him, as well as on 8 November for the celebration of the Archangels.

Summer months include events such as fish festivals, as well as theatre plays and music evenings.

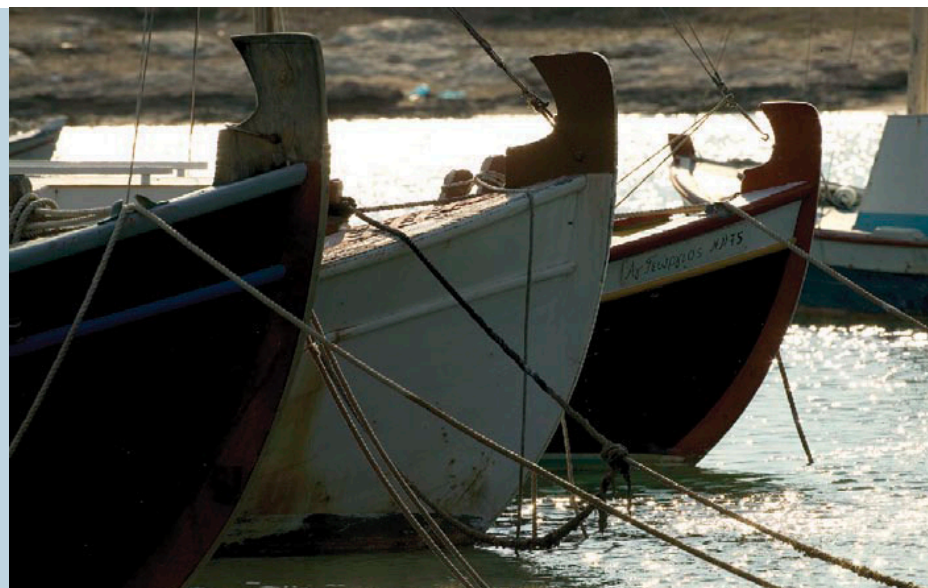
Famous among the products of Iraklia are the fine thyme honey and excellent cheese products (myzithra, xinomyzithra, anthotyro and hard cheese). Local products also include “aranista” (a type of bulgur wheat) and “pitaridia” (home-made pasta).

At the local taverns, try fava beans, locally produced by the farmers of the island and, of course, fresh fish and local delicious meats.

At Easter, the gourmet tradition of Iraklia dictates roast lamb or goat stuffed with bulgur wheat, butter, cheese and walnuts, while the holiday treat is meletinia (sweet cheese pies), xerotigana (deep fried pastry), and last but not least, pasteli.

Routes for all

Iraklia is the perfect place for hikers, since there are many mountains where





numerous endemic plants grow. Walking on old stone-paved paths, one can see rare species of birds and enjoy the wonderful view. The island has been included in the Natura 2000 network.

- 1 Panagia - Agios Ioannis** cave A route of 2.5km to the southwest of Panagia leads to the famous cave with its impressive formations of stalactites, stalagmites and columns.
- 2 Panagia - Profitis Ilias - Papas peak** A 2km route which passes by the chapel of Profitis Ilias and ends at the highest point of the island at 418m, from where one has an amazing view of all the surrounding islands (Ios, Paros, Antiparos, Naxos, Donoussa, Ikaria, Koufonissia, Schinoussa, Amorgos, Anafi, Santorini), as well as almost all the jagged beaches of Iraklia, blending with the blue of the Aegean Sea.
- 3 Panagia - Ftero Mericha** A 1.5km route that leads to a point of exquisite natural beauty: Merichas bay is surrounded by vertical rocks of more than

100 metres in height, providing shelter for rock pigeons and birds of prey to nest.

- 4 Panagia - Vrysi** A 1km route from Panagia leads to the spring which provides water to the settlement. The enchanting view and the cool water at the end of the route more than compensate hikers.
- 5 Panagia – Agios Athanasios** A 1.5km route that all nature lovers will enjoy. An old path that crosses a torrent leads to the abandoned settlement of Agios Athanasios with its interesting street layout, houses of traditional Cycladic architecture and a great view.
- 6 Agios Georgios - Agios Athanasios** An alternative 3km route to the old settlement above, taking the old road.



The following routes will be accessible very soon:

Agios Athanasios – Seladi, 1km to the slope of Papas hill. Agios Athanasios - Averou, 3.3km heading mainland, Averou-Agios Ioannis cave, 1.5km.

On a hill near Livadi beach lies the Castle, an abandoned fort from the Hellenistic Period, showing the history of the island. Ruins of temples dedicated to Zeus and Tyche, the goddess of luck, were found in the same area.

Action and sights

If you happen to visit the island from April to June, and want to experience the traditional means of support in the countryside, ask to attend the cheese-making process. Also, you will have the chance to enjoy farming activities on the following dates: apiary activities from 1 to 30 May, grape and honey harvest from 30 July to 10 August, olive harvest from 10 October to 29 October.

For more information address the community office.

In Alimia bay, diving takes special dimensions: a German boat-plane which crashed during World War II can be seen in the shallows. Local seamen can guide you there.

During summer months, there are daily trips by boat to beaches not accessible by land, and to the neighbouring islets of Venetiko (ruins of a Venetian castle found there), Megalos Avdelas and Mikros Avdelas, which have been listed as highly-valued areas.

For more information address the community office.

ONLY IN IRAKLIA

In the cave of Agios Ioannis, the largest cave of the Cyclades and one of the most important ones in Greece, one can see "cave milk" (rare watery stalagmite formations).

On 28 August, the day before the celebration of Agios Ioannis, the evening prayer takes place inside the cave in the light of hundreds of candles, a magnificent setting.

The cave offers a great view to the sea which can be reached by foot within 30 minutes.



Let's go to Schinoussa...

Only a stone's throw away!!!