

CHAT ROOM

"Mykonos"

- Mykonos, and Mykonos only
- Half the planet goes to Mykonos...
- We don't mind. We'll follow our own schedule.
- I'm not that trendy, I'm more of a nature lover.
- Us too, but that's no reason not to go. People from all over the world want to go to Mykonos, but for us it's so close!
- At least we should go earlier, we'll have a great time

Get recommendations

Mykonos is a wonderful Cycladic island, worth visiting at any time of the year. However it is a must to enjoy the days of its summer glory, when it literally becomes an international village, when its community of believers make it a sight worth seeing, when one can experience the unique feeling that everything and everyone is in Mykonos.

How to get there

You can get to Mykonos by plane from the Eleftherios Venizelos airport, by ferry from Piraeus, Rafina and Thessaloniki, and by fast boat from Rafina. The island is connected with most islands of the Aegean by ferries and fast boats.

MYKONOS ISLAND

www.mykonos.gr



MYKONOS



Surrounded by Tinos, Syros, Paros and Naxos, a small island stands out, globally renowned as one of the most popular tourism centres of the Mediterranean. However, despite its cosmopolitan character, Mykonos remains a beautiful and picturesque island, whose all-white Chora lies next to the sea, with golden beaches, friendly and smiling people, and a continuous link with history lasting for centuries.

Delos is located very close to Mykonos. It was a sacred island for ancient Greeks where, according to mythology, Leto gave birth to Apollo. The island was first inhabited in the 3rd millennium BC, and became a place of worship in the early part of the 10th century BC. For centuries it was the most important economic and trading centre of the then known world, until 88 BC when it was severely hit twice

during the Mithridatic Wars which were the beginning of its decline, resulting in the final abandonment of the island in the 6th century AD. The entire island is an open-air museum.

There's more to Mykonos

According to mythology, Mykonos was formed by the stony bodies of the giants killed by Hercules, and was named after Mykonos, the son of Apollo. Excavations in the area of Ftelia brought to light an important Neolithic settlement.



The island's capital is Chora or Mykonos. Its architecture is overwhelming from the first moment. Just take a walk in Venetia, in Alefkandra, one of the first quarters of Chora, and see the houses literally touching the sea. A walk around the white-washed stone-paved alleys, among the all-white square-shaped houses with the colourful doors and windows, the balconies, the staircases and terraces, gives the impression of a maze, but also of a welcoming place, where your visual contact is the sea. Further up on a small hill, the imposing mills stand in a line, looking out to sea. In the port of Chora, a small colourful fleet of caiques and boats adds another vivid touch to this unique set.

Mykonos is famous for its numerous churches (around 400), and its rich ecclesiastical architecture. Panagia Paraportiani is a fine sample of the Cycladic folk architecture. It comprises four ground-level churches which support the main building of the first floor. Other wonderful churches include Megali Panagia (cathedral), and Agios Nikolaos

Gialou which was revamped into neoclassical form in 1908. The sights of Chora include the bust of Manto Mavrogenous - a Greek heroine during the War of Independence - the Archaeological Museum including significant exhibits such as Kyra of Mykonos and the ceramics collection from the tomb in Rinia, the Folk Museum, the Marine Museum, the Municipal Library, the Municipal Gallery, the neoclassical building of the town hall (1785), and the house of Lena, a renovated traditional house from the 19th century.

Many destinations at hand

On the west coast of Mykonos, north of Chora, are the holiday settlements of Tourlos and Agios Stefanos, built along the area's beaches. The modern port of the island is located in Tourlos. The settlement of Agios Stefanos climbs up the hill from the beach, a beautiful spot to enjoy the view of the islands of Tinos, Syros, Rinia.

Two of the busiest beaches on the island, Ornos and Agios Ioannis are south of Chora. These have developed into almost a single tourism settlement. Other famous beaches are Platys Gialos and Psarou, with the respective settlements which act today as a link to a host of services and itineraries for the popular beaches of Paradise and Super Paradise. The Catholic church of Panagia, also called Lozaria, was built in 1668 at Platys Gialos.

Moving inland, the second traditional settlement of Mykonos after Chora is Ano Mera which extends over a large area around the historical monastery of Panagia Tourliani.

Southeast of Ano Mera, opposite the beach of Kalafatis, at Divounia-Tarsanas, traces of an Early Cycladic citadel are preserved .

Traditional and unique feasts

Despite the spectacular touristic development of the island, the people of Mykonos are still simple, cheerful and hospitable, and always make the time needed to maintain their traditions and customs, which is easy to understand for anyone who spends time with them. The feasts in Mykonos give entertainment a different dimension. On 6 January, “Balosia”, a celebration to open the maritime period, takes place in Chora. On 30 June, the celebration of Agii Apostoli coincides with the celebration of fishermen, and a large feast is organized on the beach of Chora, where seafood is served. 26 July is the day of festivities celebrating Agia Paraskevi in Chora; 15 August is the celebration of Panagia Tourliani in Ano Mera. The traditional custom of pig



slaughtering takes place in October, accompanied by feasts and celebrations.

Your table is blessed with the best

The Mykonos cuisine includes many varieties of pork dishes (with cabbage or wild greens, smoked pork, sausages) and wonderful recipes for fish and seafood: sea snail casserole or risotto, mackerel with capers, sea urchins in vinaigrette, clams, mussels. Well known is the spicy cheese paté “kopanisti”, while fennel croquettes, garlic pasta, asparagus with eggs, and green fried tomatoes are also delicious dishes. Honey pie, pasteli and macaroons are the famous sweets of the island. Don't miss the chance to taste a cool soumada, a drink made using almonds.

The wooden boats and windmills, the wonderful knitted and leather items – traditional products of Mykonos – will give you some idea of the souvenirs you can take back home.

Nature and sights

Visitors can enjoy a unique natural environment in Mykonos. The island is rocky and barren, with only few cultivations (vineyards and small gardens), rugged beaches, impressive rocks, innumerable chapels, imposing windmills and small dovecotes. Villages are scattered over the island's mainland, featuring all-white farmhouses which make an impressive contrast with the grey granite rocks, the endless dry walls,



prickly pears and reeds.

Mykonos accommodates two very important ecosystems: the seaside wetlands of Panormos and Ftelia which seasonally flood and turn into small lagoons – important stopping off points for migratory birds.

Routes for all

1 Delos

Delos is located southwest of Mykonos. It was a sacred island for ancient Greeks where, according to mythology, Leto gave birth to Apollo. Here is the famous Lion Terrace with the nine marble lions offered by the people of Naxos in the 7th century BC, as well as the sanctuary of Apollo, the temple of Artemis, the Agora of Theophrastus, the hypostyle hall, the Stoa of Antigonos. The Archaeological Museum of Delos is today one of the most important museums in Greece.

2 Chora–Lino tower

Towers from the Hellenistic period are preserved at various locations. In

Lino, southeast of Chora, remains of a settlement have been found, including a tower with a diameter of 10-11 m, preserved to the height of four storeys.

3 Platys Gialos-Portes

Two towers with a diameter of 3.5 m lie above Platys Gialos, at Portes.

4 Panormos–Monastery of Agios Panteleimon

North of Chora lies Panormos bay, where finds from the ancient and classical periods have been discovered. Close to Marathi lies the monastery of Agios Panteleimon, built in 1665. It is an excellent example of monastery-fort, with wonderful icons.

5 Armenistis cave

The 100m high lighthouse which lights the strait between Tinos and Mykonos, built in 1889, lies on the steep rocks at the point of the Armenistis cape on the northern side of Mykonos.

6 Ano Mera-Ftelia

North of Ano Mera, in the area of Ftelia, an important Neolithic settlement and a Mycenaean grave from the 14th-13th century BC were discovered.

7 Ano Mera-Paleokastro

A medieval castle lies on the hill of Paleokastro, built on the visible ruins of an ancient fortification.



Mykonos

Here the convent of Paleokastro was built in the 18th century, a typical example of Cycladic monastic architecture.

Sea and action

For lovers of diving, Mykonos is a favourite destination, and there are organized diving centres operating on the island. Sea sports (surf, sailing, sea ski) find an ideal place in Mykonos, while numerous other activities are also available, including tennis and a mini golf course in Agios Stefanos, as well as horse riding on the beach, organised by the island's equestrian club.

ONLY IN MYKONOS

If you think you've seen someone that looks famous, then you're probably right. In Mykonos you'll sit right next to famous actors, singers, stars, TV personalities, top models.

Yet, behind the glam, Mykonos is calm and wonderful - even in wintertime.



Let's go to Syros now...

Only a stone's throw away!!!