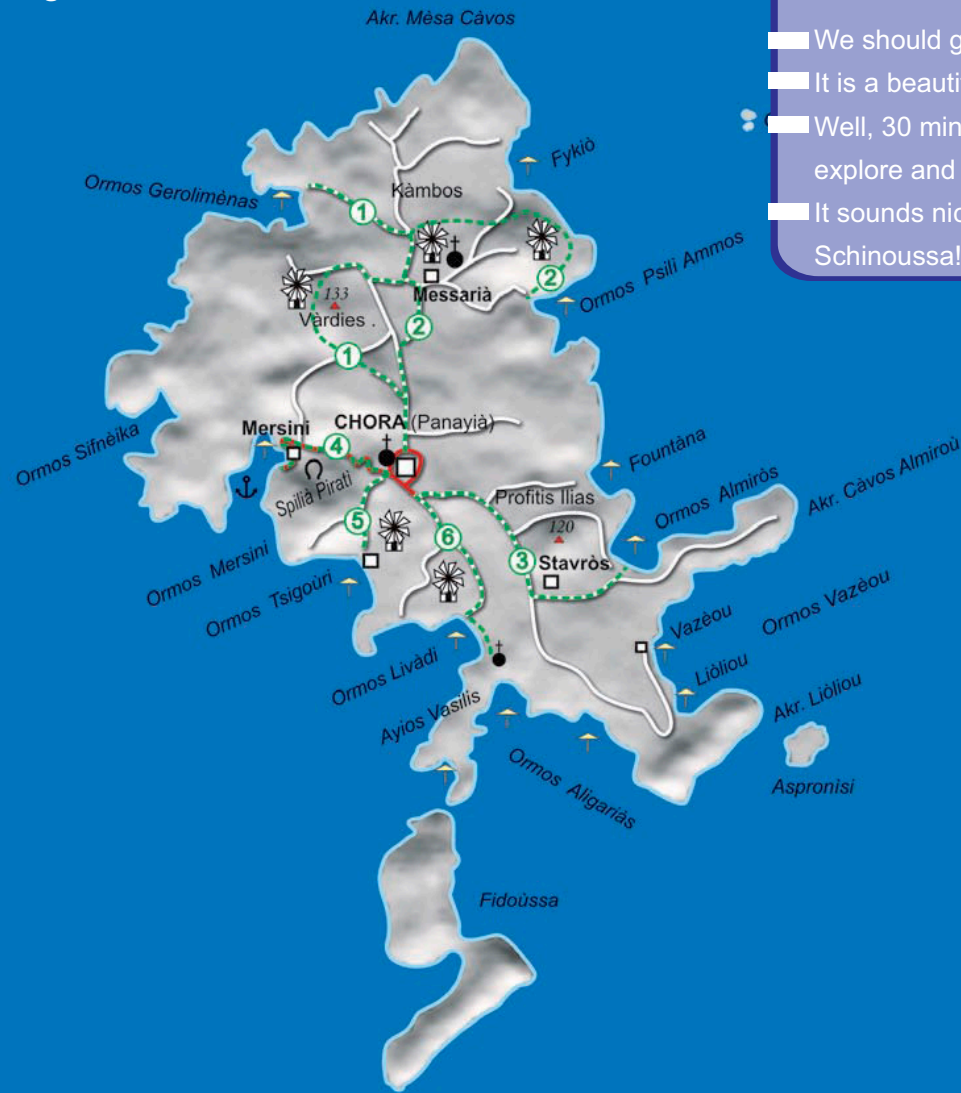


SCHINOUSSA ISLAND

www.schinoussa.gr



CHAT ROOM

“Schinoussa”

- We should go to Schinoussa. We'll have the entire island to ourselves.
- It is a beautiful island, but... “to ourselves”?
- Well, 30 minutes is enough to walk around the entire island. So, we'll see, explore and enjoy all of it!
- It sounds nice. I always wanted to go to the Small Cyclades. Schinoussa! We'll get to know everyone, and become one big family!

Get recommendations

Schinoussa is like a big family, not waiting for tourists but offering a warm welcome to visitors, as Greek tradition suggests. The island is a beautiful place that has retained its pure character, full of sights and chances to enjoy your holidays in the Aegean Sea to the fullest

How to get there

The port of Mersini is regularly connected with Naxos, the remaining islands of the Small Cyclades, Amorgos, and other islands of the Cyclades.

SCHINOUSSA



Schinoussa belongs to the cluster of the Small Eastern Cyclades, and is located between Iraklia and Koufonissia, southeast of Naxos. It covers an area of 9 square kilometres and is populated by 200 residents who are involved in fishery, agriculture, livestock farming and tourism. On that small piece of land, visitors can enjoy beautiful, clear and secure beaches, the traditional hospitality and high spirits of the residents, and satisfy their need to relax and escape the pressure of urban life which usually haunts us during our holidays at touristy destinations.

The name of Schinoussa originates from the Greek word schinos

which means mastic, because of the mastic bushes that are abundant on the island. According to another interpretation, the island was named after a Venetian ruler called Schinoussa, who lived in a tower on the island during the Venetian occupation.

The entire island, a place for you

The capital of the island is Panagia, a settlement built on a hill inland, offering a great view of the surrounding islands. Everything here is friendly and hospitable: typical Cycladic houses surrounded by basil and bougainvillea, white-washed roads and smiling residents. At the



centre of Chora lies the church of Isodia Theotokou (Presentation of the Virgin), where the famous icon of Panagia Akathi, guardian of the island, is kept. The icon is a rare representation of the Virgin. An Archaeological Museum operates in Chora, with several finds from land and sea excavations, which evidence that Schinoussa was an important area in the Early Cycladic civilization. Also, the Folk Museum exhibits traditional costumes, farming tools, old icons and other very interesting items.

In Chora, visitors have many lodging options and can find numerous places for good food and drink, as well as places of entertainment offering live folk music, while for those who love after-hours fun, there is just one bar outside the settlement.

The port of Mersini is located on the southwest coast of the island and is considered to be one of the best refuges for small crafts in the entire Aegean. The island has a few houses, two good fish taverns and the all-white chapel of Agios Nikolaos in the bay.

The second settlement of Schinoussa is Mesaria, located inland.

Feasts and flavours

In spite of its few residents, Schinoussa maintains a cultural tradition which remains unforgettable to those lucky enough to experience it. The centre of religious and social life of the island is the great feast on the celebration of Panagia Akathi in Chora, which takes place on the Saturday of Lent. Local delicacies are served and traditional music keeps spirits up until early morning. On 25 March, in Mesaria, after the service at the church of Evangelistria, food is served to everyone, and events follow, organised by school children. On 15 August, the two-day celebrations of Panagia are held in Chora, with music and dance events, and pottery and photography exhibitions. Other local festivities include those on 9 November of Agios Nektarios, on 1 December of Agios Filaretos, and on 6 December of Agios Nikolaos, with the celebrations of the picturesque chapel in the lighthouse at the port entrance, where the main treat is the traditional dish of cod with garlic paste. Schinoussa is

famous for its fine stockfarming and farming products – veal, pork, goat, ladotyri cheese, xinotyro cheese, kopanisti, fava beans and string beans – sold at local shops. Popular dishes of the local cuisine include octopus with pasta, fresh seafood and the famous patatato (casserole meat with potatoes and herbs). The Easter table includes roast lamb stuffed with rice and herbs, as well as melitinia (pastries with myzithra, eggs and sugar), while pasteli, xerotigana and rakomelo (raki with honey) are the main treats at weddings.

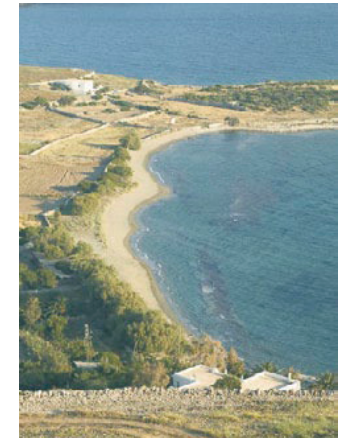
Routes for all

The island is small and smooth, and is a pleasure for hikers (it only takes 1.5 hours to walk around it). Walking on the stone-paved or country roads, visitors will be charmed by the richness of images, and discover a



rare flora which includes numerous endemic plants of the Cyclades, but also many trees, thus offering a different aspect of the Cycladic landscape. The island has been included in the Natura 2000 network.

- 1 Chora - Vargies peak - Gerolimnionas** A 3.5km route which leads to the highest point of the island, at an altitude of 133m, where the view from the old windmill to the surrounding islands is amazing. The beach of Gerolimnionas, not accessible by car, is a short distance away.



- 2 Chora – Mesaria – Kambos - Psili Ammos** A 2.7km route leads to Mesaria, where visitors can see the old windmill and the church of Evangelistria with its beautiful coloured screen dating back to 1909. The highest rocky area of Mesaria features a second windmill and old abandoned stone-built houses, reminiscent of another era.



Mesaria is followed by vineyards and Kambos, a large, almost flat cultivated area, and a pastureland. The route ends at the beach of Psili Ammos, where the sand reaches up the hill.

- 3 Chora - Stavros – Profitis Ilias hill - Almyros** A 1.5km route that crosses the old settlement of Stavros and continues to the peak of the Profitis Ilias hill, where a fort from the Classical Period is located. The route ends at the beautiful beach of Almyros.



- 4 **Chora - port** A 1.2km route, meeting the Pirate's cave, which is situated near the beach and next to a well, right above the small port.
- 5 **Chora - Tsigouri** A short route (500m) that ends at the cosmopolitan beach of Tsigouri, with its crystal clear waters. A large settlement from the Hellenistic and Roman Periods, as well as an Early Christian basilica have been identified in Tsigouri.
- 6 **Chora – Livadi - Agios Vasilios peninsula** A 1km route with a great view to the islets of Ofidoussa and Agrilos, leading to the peaceful beach of Livadi with its crystal clear waters. It is the starting point of the Agios Vasilios peninsula, featuring an all-white Byzantine church and the beach of Agios Vasilios at the tip.

Beaches and attractions

Other wonderful beaches include Alygaria, Lioliou (with trees for shade), Bazeou, Fountana, Fytkio and Sifneiko. For those who love underwater fishing and sea sports, the sea of Schinoussa is ideal. The bays on the south and southeast side of the island are secure places to dock. The nearby islets of Ofidoussa, Agrilos and Klidoura have been listed as highly-valued areas and perfect for trips and diving.

ONLY IN SCHINOUSSA

The island is famous for its residents' love of singing, so much so that

S c h i n o u s s a

every house has a musician. Indeed, Schinoussa is the homeland of many famous singers, musicians and composers.

Imagine, then, how worthwhile it will be to experience the festivals and celebrations - so plan ahead! .



Let's go to Koufonissia...

Only a stone's throw away!!!