

SIFNOS ISLAND

www.sifnos.gr



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

CHAT ROOM

“Sifnos”

- He had a wonderful time in Sifnos. He's fallen in love with the island.
- He always liked the Cyclades and Sifnos really is special.
- This time, it's serious! He's looking for a house and says he wants to live there, even permanently.
- That would be nice. I would have done the same.
- But, what sets Sifnos apart, besides its Cycladic beauty?
- What makes someone you fall in love with special?!

Get recommendations

“Sifnos is, in a very special way, absolutely compatible with the Cyclades and at the same time entirely different. Every description makes it sound attractive; however, only after the first visit does it actually become a favourite destination. If you have not visited, then perhaps you should, to give as much time as you can to a thrilling, once in a lifetime, experience.”

How to get there

There are daily ferry and fast boat connections between Sifnos and Piraeus, other islands of the Cyclades, as well as Crete.

SIFNOS



Sifnos belongs to the West Cyclades and is situated in the middle of the triangle formed by Serifos, Kimolos and Antiparos. Its pristine white settlements, blending superbly with the natural environment, its sandy beaches, picturesque churches and monasteries, its Venetian castle and ancient towers, and the wise cultivation of the land, its ceramics, hospitality and local feasts make up a superb, exciting and alluring setting for every traveller.

The part of the island from Profitis Ilias to the west coast – a verdant area, even during the summer, with many springs – has been included in the European Natura 2000 network as many hawks nest or stopover in this area.

During the summer months, the night life in Sifnos is concentrated in Apollonia and Kamares, but recreation centres and clubs are found in almost every settlement.

Sifnos

Sifnos has been inhabited since the late 5th millennium B.C. In the 3rd millennium mining activities began on the island and the early Cycladic civilisation blossomed. In the 12th century B.C. Ionians from Attica settled on the island, lead by Sifnos, who gave his name to the island, and founded the “asty” (township), today's Kastro.

From the 8th to the 5th century B.C., Sifnos experienced a great financial boom, due to its mineral resources, and minted its own currency.

The capital of Sifnos is Apollonia, a beautiful settlement with cobblestone streets, whitewashed cuboid houses and picturesque churches with elaborate bell towers and white or blue domes, that



shimmer under the “apollonian” light of the Aegean. Apollonia forms almost a single complex with six other traditional settlements – a residential curiosity unique to Sifnos – as a pedestrian way extends from Artemonas to Katevati, after passing through Ano Petali and Apollonia, while the settlements of Agios Loukas, Exambela and Kato Petali are also connected by a cobblestone road.

to the marvellous modern day art of ceramics.

Every step another discovery

Walking is the ideal way for the visitor to get to know the villages of Sifnos and its landscape, with the characteristic “themonies” – small clusters of cottages scattered all over the island – and the terraces, interspersed with olive groves and cedar and oak forests. At the same time, walking will reveal to the visitor an age-old cultural wealth: from the prehistoric citadels and the ancient towers (at least 55 beacon towers dating from the 6th to the 3rd century B.C. have been recorded in Sifnos)

Routes for all

1 Katavati – Apollonia - Artemonas. Starting from Katavati with the church of Panagia Angeloktisti, visitors will admire the cobblestone road connecting the island's main settlements. In Apollonia, they will savour traditional delicacies, visit the Folk Museum and see churches with outstanding icons and ornate screens: Panagia Ouranofora or Geraniofora, Agios Spyridon (cathedral), the former Catholic monastery of Agios Artemios (1629), the churches of Agios Athanassios, Metamorphosi tou Sotiros, Timios Stavros.

Artemonas is the gem of Sifnos, with a panoramic view, neoclassic mansions, traditional restaurants and patisseries, gardens, flowered courtyards and old windmills. The sights in Artemonos include the churches of Panagia tis Koghis and Panagia tis Amμου, with the famous icon of the Virgin “Panagia tis Monachis”.

2 Artemonas - Panagia Poulati - Kastro. A 30 minute route passing through Panagia Poulati with a wonderful view and reaching perhaps the most beautiful place on the island: the Kastro (Castle), built on a steep rock on the eastern coast. The settlement is in fact an outdoor museum: it has been inhabited from prehistoric times until today and (together with the castles of Antiparos and Folegandros) is one of the most important settlements, in terms of medieval architecture, exhibiting all the characteristics of a typical Venetian fortress. Arches, arrow slits, two-storey and three-storey mansions, Venetian coats of arms and epigraphs, and takes us back to other eras. The visitor can admire the small, picturesque church of Epta Martyron, the church of Panagia Eleoussa (1653), Kastro's cathedral, and the church of Panagia tis Koimiseos (1593), with the ancient sacrificial altar in place of the High Altar. The Archaeological Museum houses finds dating from the



prehistoric period to Byzantine times.

3 Apollonia - Exambela. The monastery of Vryssi or Kyra-Vryssiani, with its carved screen and Cretan School icons, which also houses the Museum of Ecclesiastic Art and Tradition, with particularly interesting exhibits, is situated in Exambela.

4 Agios Minas - Agios Sostis - Metallia. From the settlement of Agios Minas in northern Sifnos, a cobblestone path leads to Agios Sostis and the old gold mines. The area is ideal for swimming if you like rocks and deep water.

5 Herronisos - Agios Georgios. In Herronisos, a lovely fishing village with a wonderful sandy beach at the north end of the island, one can find





some of the oldest ceramics workshops on the island, where the visitor can admire the ancient art of the wheel and witness how clay becomes a work of art.

The route ends at the northern-most point of the island, at the very edge of the cliff, at the chapel of Agios Georgios.

6 Faros - Chrysopigi. From Faros, a quiet fishing village on the southeast coast, which is considered the safest port on the island, a coastal path leads to the imposing monastery of Panagia tis Chrysopigis (1650), the patron of the island, built on a rock in the sea. The gorgeous screen of the church and the artful icons are imposing.

7 Platys Gialos - Monastery of Panagia “to Vouno”. From Platys Gialos, the busiest beach on the island and one of the largest beach in the Cyclades, we climb up to the Monastery of Panagia, “to Vouno”, with the icon of Panagia Macherousa (1813).

8 Katavati - Agios Andreas citadel. A route of exceptional archaeological and cultural interest to the hill of Agios Andreas, where the ruins of one of the four prehistoric citadels of the island, with impressive fortifications dating to the Mycenaean period, lie.

9 Katavati - Profitis Ilias monastery. A route with a wonderful view and natural beauty to the highest point of the island (680m), where the monastery of Profitis Ilias of the 8th century is situated. The church has a marble screen and a marble baptistery and is the most important Byzantine monument in Sifnos.

10 Katavati - Agios Ioannis Mougos Monastery - Agios Eleftherios – Kamares - Toso Nero. In the monastery of Agios Ioannis you will see the Venetian coat of arms on the lintel, the gilded carved screen and the 15th century icon of Agios Ioannis.

Kamares, with one of the most beautiful beaches on the island, is the port of Sifnos. The settlement is adorned with the churches of Agia Marina and Agios Georgios, as well as the monastery of Panagia “Toso Nero” to the south. In Kamares windsurfing equipment can be rented.

11 Katavati - Mavro Chorio - Vathy. A 3-hour route leading to Vathy, a picturesque village on the southwest coast of the island, in an enclosed cove with a wonderful beach and crystal waters.

Here, the visitor will discover some of the oldest pottery workshops in Sifnos.

Feasts and flavours

You can experience a genuine island feast at the festival of one of the numerous – as many as the days in a year! – chapels and monasteries on the island. There you will try tasty dishes at a communal supper reminiscent of the ancient “estiassi” and “agapes” (loves) of the Early Christian Period, such as the traditional “revithada” (chick pea soup), meat or cod with potatoes, you will become high on the local “serifiotiko” wine and you will let the island music and sounds of the violin sweep you into dancing. The epicentre of the island's cycle of celebrations is the feast of the Panagia tis Chrysopigis, which is held 40 days after Easter (Ascension Day).

The cycle of celebrations in Sifnos also includes other local customs: the carols of Sifnos (ad lib ditties about people and situations), the “Lolopanigyro” (Crazy Feast) on the 2nd of February (on the Day of the Presentation of Christ at the Temple or “Ipapanti) at Panagia i Ouranofora and the dance of Kyr-Vorias on the Sunday of “Tyrini” week (Cheese Week, the second week of the “Apokries” or Carnival).

Sifnos, the birthplace of many famous chefs such as Tselementes and Markou, offers a wide selection of very tasty dishes, such as the revithokeftedes (chick pea croquettes), ambelofassoula (string beans) with skordalia (garlic paste), kaparosalata (caper salad), xynomyzithra. The revithada on Sundays under the “skeepastaria” (porch) is an old tradition for Sifnos families. And every Holy Saturday the formal Easter dish, the “mastelo”, lamb baked in the oven on vine twigs with local red wine and dill, is prepared. No festive table is without the fantastic melopita (cake made of honey and mizithra cheese) and the wonderful bourekia, pastries with almonds, honey and sesame.



ONLY IN SIFNOS

The traditional wedding, with its lengthy ritual, two-day celebrations and hundreds of spontaneous wishes.

The castle is one of the most important medieval settlements, and bears all the characteristics of a typical Venetian fortress. Is it in fact an open-air museum, inhabited since the prehistoric period until the present day!!!!



Let's go to to Milos...

Only a stone's throw away!!!