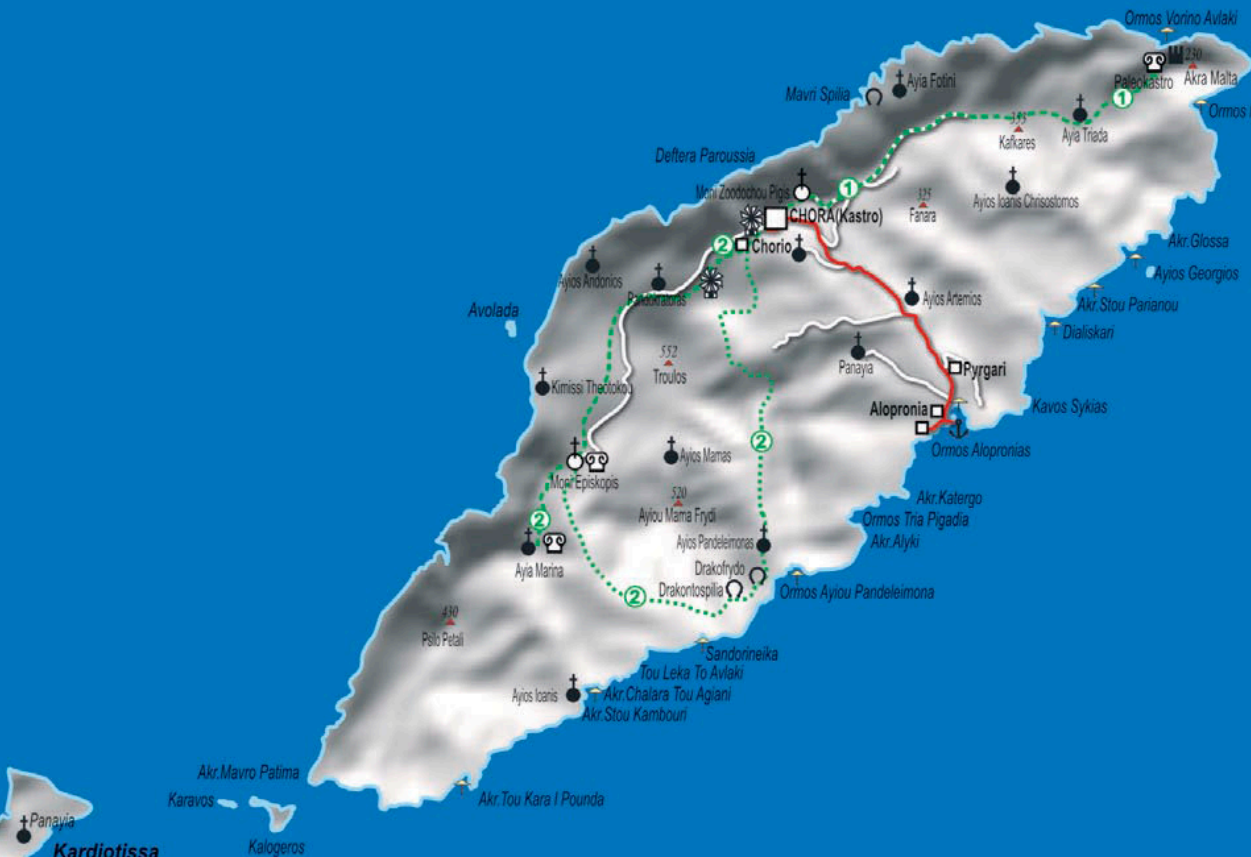


SIKINOS ISLAND

www.sikinos.gr



- Main roads
- Minor roads
- Waymarked walking paths
- Windmill
- Archaeological site
- Castle/Tower
- Mountain top
- Town/Village
- Monastery/Church
- Port/Anchorage
- Cape
- Old mines
- Beach
- Cave



CHAT ROOM

"Sikinos"

- This is a totally different world.
- I've heard that it is a calm, hospitable and beautiful island.
- That's an understatement. Sikinos cannot be described with words.
- You don't get enthused easily. So, what is it about you and Sikinos?
- It is a welcoming island that charmed me with its simplicity.
- You're going back? I'll join you, I've missed beauty.

Get recommendations

Sikinos is a totally different world. It's difficult to say if it's the beauty or its character that wins you over. After all, it all comes down to a combination of these two elements that compose a proposal for life, a life that is there to enjoy during holidays, and to cherish in everyday life. The 300 residents have managed to maintain a humane and relaxed culture where everyone is welcome.

How to get there

Ferries connect Sikinos with Piraeus all year round. Ferry and speedboat connections are available with most islands of the Cyclades.

SIKINOS



Sikinos is a small island of the south Cyclades, covering an area of 41km². It is located east of Folegandros and west of Ios. Surrounded by islands that attract masses of tourists, Sikinos has remained intact, retaining its originality and being an ideal destination for relaxed holidays in a calm and beautiful set next to the clear blue sea.

Visitors can enjoy swimming, the sun and the sea, while amateur fishermen will find a paradise – underwater fishing at Poulati with its rocky slabs is a unique experience. The beach can be reached by car up to a point, and then on foot. Autumn evenings in Alopronia is

the best time for calamari fishing, using the special fluorescent hooks.

According to tradition, the island was named after Sicinus, the son of Thoas, king of Lemnos. Sikinos was first inhabited by Dorians in the 10th century BC, followed by the Ionians.

Sikinos is a different world

The capital is Chora or Kastro (castle), built on the rim of a steep hill near the northwest coast, at an altitude of 280 metres. Chora comprises two equally beautiful and charming settlements: Kastro

and Chorio.

In Chora, visitors can see one of the few original Cycladic settlements and the fascinating grandeur of simplicity: stone-paved alleys, picturesque cafes, small white houses and stone-built mansions – excellent samples of folk Cycladic architecture – built in a crescent on the hill, with colourful doors and windows and small verandas with wooden handrails, dominated by all-green shrubs and fragrant flowers. At the highest spot of Chora, under the blue sky, stand imposing the old white windmills. The gem of Chora is the church of Pantanassa (cathedral), built in 1787. It is an excellent monument of the Cycladic ecclesiastical architecture with a carved gold-plated screen and wonderful icons of the Cretan School. Another beautiful church is that of Panagia Pantochara, built in the memory of Odysseas Elytis. The Byzantine Museum is located in Kastro, while in Chorio an old olive press plant accommodates the Folk Museum whose exhibits take visitors to a trip through history. Northwest of Kastro lie the picturesque churches of Agios Vasilios and Agii Anargyri.

The top of the rock near Chora is dominated by the historic monastery of Zoodochos Pigi built in 1690. Although Catholic, the church was built in Byzantine style and looks like a castle, since it is surrounded by walls which protected the residents from pirate attacks.

The only asphalt-layered 3.5km-long road of the island links Chora to the port, Alopronia or Ano Pronia, a small popular holiday area on a small bay to the east, where visitors can find small cafes and taverns

that serve delicious home-made dishes, and a wonderful beach with clear waters.

From the small fishing refuge of Alopronia, small caiques take visitors to the beautiful beaches of the Island – Agios Ioannis, Agios Georgios, Agios Panteleimon, Dialiskari – but also to the astonishing caves of Mavri Spilia, Drakontospilies and Drakofrydo.

Routes for all

Sikinos is the ideal place for hiking. Its rocky slopes of impressive relief and shrubby vegetation, the panoramic view, the terraces and dry walls extending down to the sea – reminding of the hard work of old residents – the peaceful nature, all reveal the beauties of the island step by step. West Sikinos demonstrates particular interest due to its flora and morphology – steep rocky slopes and coasts – and it has been included in the Natura 2000 network.

- 1 Chora- Paleokastro** A route to north Sikinos, to the Malta cave, where the ancient citadel of the island lies at the location of Paleokastro. The view is breathtaking!
- 2 Chora- Episkopi- Agia Marina** A route of amazing view to the Aegean Sea, moving west of the imposing mountain of Troulos, the tallest on the island (552m), and leads to Episkopi, 4km southwest of Chora,

where Ionian colonizers built the ancient city of Sikinos. Monuments here are suggestive of the island's history: ruins of houses and a temple from the 3rd century BC, on whose place the church of Kimisi (Assumption of Virgin Mary) was built centuries later. The church is a rectangular building with marble Dorian columns. From Episkopi, the route continues to Agia Marina, where ruins of walls and an ancient settlement were found.

Feasts and flavours

All three hundred residents of Sikinos are very friendly and hospitable, and happy that tourism has not affected the character of their island. They will be proud to show you around the beautiful places of their island and will warmly invite you to their company and feasts at local celebrations, where you can join them in the traditional songs and dances, some with quicker steps – for the young men – and some slower and sensuous. In Sikinos, the celebrations of Virgin Mary are special: The feast of Pantanassa on 27 March, the feast at the monastery of Zoodochos Pigi on Easter Friday, the feast of Kimisi on 15 August, and the feast of the Presentation of Virgin Mary.

The speciality of the island is roast lamb or rabbit stuffed with potatoes, always garnished with salad with local capers, and wine – the fine wine after which the island was named “Inoi” in ancient years (from the Greek word oinos for wine). The select products of Sikinos include fresh fish and cheeses. During the holidays, women make

honey pies, while the traditional treat at weddings and christenings is pasteli, all made with the delicious thyme honey of Sikinos.

The “Sikinia” which include a number of sports and cultural activities take place in Chora every August.

Those who love sea trips should visit the uninhabited islets of Kardiotissa, Kalogeri and Adelfia west of Sikinos, which have been included in the most important areas of the Cyclades in terms of geological interest and natural beauty (characterised as highly-valued areas, and included in the Natura 2000 network).

ONLY IN SIKINOS

Sikinos was the first island of the Cyclades to be listed as a biotope of major importance in Europe. You should definitely explore all places, including the outstanding Mavri Spilia, the largest cave of the island that uniquely combines rocky formations, the cool of caves and the sound of the waves.



Let's go to Santorini...

Only a stone's throw away!!!