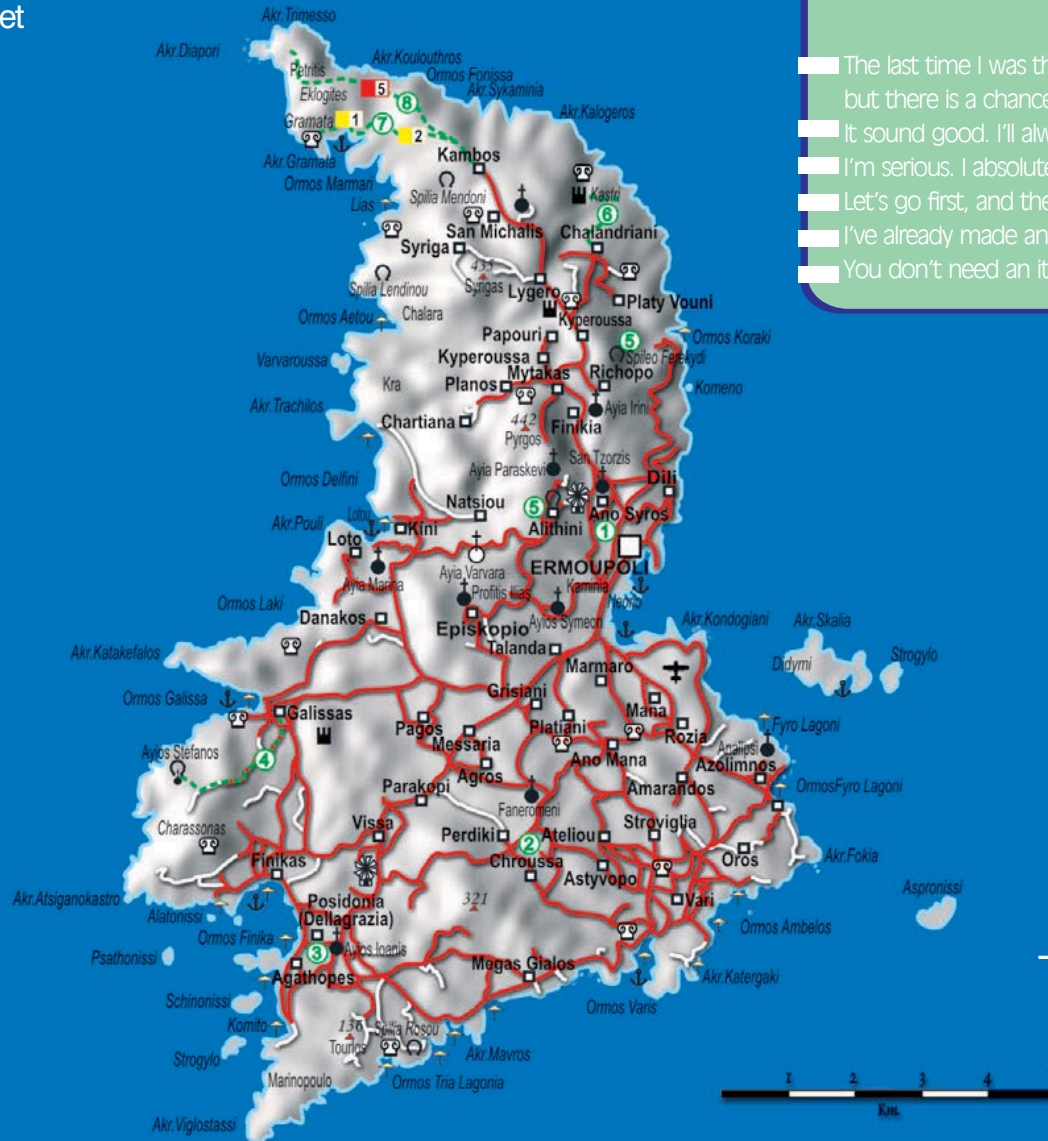


SYROS ISLAND

www.syros.net



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

CHAT ROOM

"Syros"

- The last time I was there it seriously crossed my mind not to come back. We can go, but there is a chance that I'll move there permanently.
- It sound good. I'll always have a place for holidays.
- I'm serious. I absolutely love this island, it feels like home.
- Let's go first, and then we'll see. Whatever happens, we'll have a fantastic time.
- I've already made an itinerary of all the great places to visit
- You don't need an itinerary - the whole place is magical.

Get recommendations

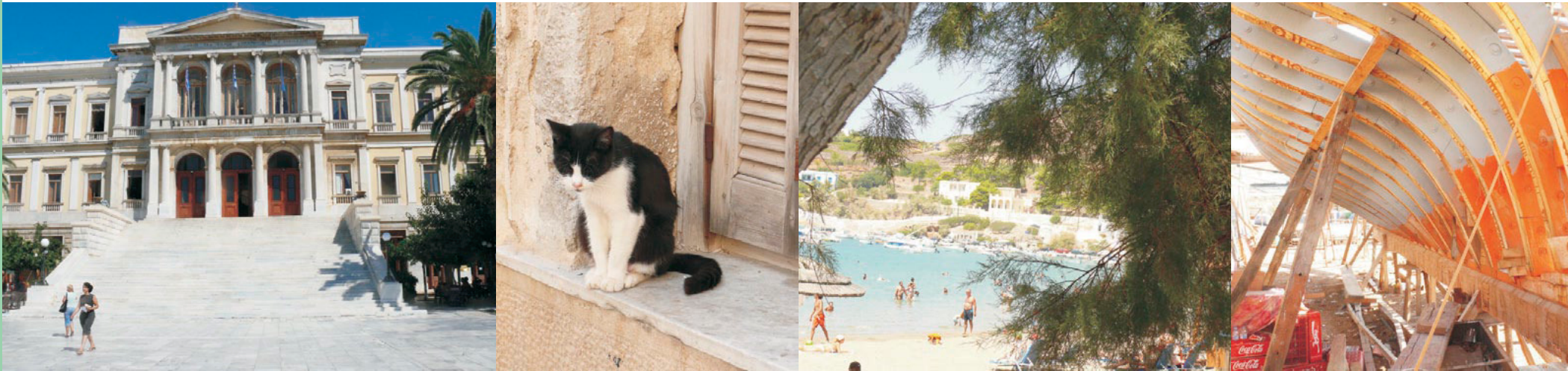
The main characteristic of Syros is that everyone who goes there loves it, and everyone has a good time. Think of this island like the perfect hostess who takes care of all the details for her guests, so that everyone has a good time, no matter the preferences and the mood of each one. No invitation is required, Syros is always welcoming.

How to get there

Syros is connected by air with Athens Eleftherios Venizelos airport.

It is connected with Piraeus by sea with ferries and fast boats, whilst there are daily connections to Tinos, Mykonos and other islands.

SYROS



Syros, or Syra, is the geographical, administrative and commercial centre of the Cyclades. With its unique history, its special cultural heritage and inspiring natural environment, Syros is uniquely radiant. Visitors can see traditional and cosmopolitan, medieval and modern, Cycladic and neoclassical elements, in a place where Catholic and Orthodox traditions co-exist harmoniously. Syros is a living museum of culture, a “time capsule” that instantly carries the visitor from one period to the other, in an absolutely natural, but impressive and intriguing way. Ermoupoli, the capital, is a city by the sea that charms from the very first moment, with its imposing neoclassical mansions embracing the large natural port.

A history of prosperity and growth

Syros is the most densely populated island of the Cyclades with more than 20,000 residents. Homer referred to the island as Syrie; the oldest signs of settlements date back to the end of the Neolithic period, between 4000 and 3000 BC. Here the famous Syros-Keros civilization was developed during the peak of the Cycladic civilization (3200-2000 BC).

In modern history, in 1207, Syros was conquered by the Venetians. It's administration was highly privileged during the Turkish occupation, while it was a French protectorate when the Greek War of Independence broke out in 1821.

Ermoupoli is unique

Ermoupoli is the capital of Syros and all islands of the Cyclades. It developed during the War of Independence and soon became a large transit centre between the East and the West.

With the passage of time, small industries, workshops and the Neorion shipyards were set up in the city. The economic peak of Ermoupoli was accompanied by cultural growth, thus resulting in the formation of the first purely Greek bourgeoisie. This was also depicted in the architecture of the new city, with impressive results.

Today Ermoupoli forms a monumental architectural set, unique in all of Greece!

Beauty unveiled on every corner

Towards the heart of the city lies an impressive 19th century square with the statue of Andreas Miaoulis (1899), a marble music podium (1907), tall palm trees, and several cafes. The grand three-storey building of the Town Hall dominates the square. It is an architectural gem, designed by Ernst Ziller and established in 1876, featuring towers, a monumental staircase, internal courtyards, colonnades and galleries. The Town Hall also accommodates the Archaeological Museum of Ermoupoli.

The “Hellas” club (1862-63) building accommodates the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Ermoupoli, a rich Municipal Library, the “Ermoupoli” art gallery, and the large ball room.

In the area known as Vaporia, a genuinely neoclassical architectural



set with wonderful 19th century mansions, lies the sublime church of Agios Nikolaos (the Rich), established in 1848. This is also the location of the monument of the Unburied Soldier, a work of the sculptor G. Vitalis (1880). The famous icon of the Virgin, a signed El Greco piece, painted in his early period, is exhibited at the church of Kimisi (Dormition of the Virgin) (1828). Evangelistria is the Catholic cathedral in Ermoupoli, while the Orthodox cathedral is the church of Metamorfoosi Sotiros (Transformation of the Saviour).

The neoclassical building of the Customs Office (1834) which currently accommodates the Cyclades Art Gallery, the quarantine building with its impressive architecture, and the Neorion shipyards established in 1860, are all located in the port area.

The ship repair and building yard which continue the island's shipbuilding tradition are located in the same area.

The Industrial Museum of Ermoupoli is a unique museum with rare exhibits from the industrial, marine and commercial life of the island.

Beauty at every step

South of Ermoupoli are the settlements of Manna and Ano Manna, featuring wonderful neoclassical mansions, and Azolimnos, with numerous lodging options and taverns serving local wine and delicacies.

Vari, located in the southeast area of Syros, is a village with beautiful beaches, and nearby at Vounaki lies the Catholic church of Amiantos Sylipsi (Immaculate Conception), offering a stunning view of the area. The village of Finikas features a safe natural port, an organized marina and a cosmopolitan beach. The cove of Agathopes has a beautiful beach with thick sand and clear blue waters.

Galissas is a touristic yet cosmopolitan village, whilst Kini is set in a cove, with an attractive beach and great fish taverns.

Routes for all

In Syros, hiking lovers will take routes that capture the balance of time and space.

- 1 Ano Syros.** Ano Syros, the island's medieval settlement with mainly Catholic residents, is built on the hill of Agios Georgios overlooking Ermoupoli. This is a typical fortified medieval settlement: small detached houses arranged in a circular fashion which acted as a defence against pirate attacks, narrow cobbled roads fanning out and branching off uphill, with high steps and infinite branches, roofed terraces and small doors.

The cathedral of Agios Georgios (or San Tzortzis) is built on the top of

the hill. The Historical Archive of the Syros Catholic Archdiocese is exhibited next to the cathedral, in the building that used to accommodate the Religious School (1837).

Other sights of Ano Syros include the Capuchin monastery with the church of Agios Ioannis (1635), the Jesuit monastery with the church of Panagia Karmilou (Lady of Mount Carmel) (1740) which includes an impressive library, the churches of Agia Triada and Agios Nikolaos the Poor (the only Orthodox churches in Ano Syros), the Folk Art Museum, the traditional handicraft exhibition, and the Museum of Markos Vamvakaris with personal items and records of the great master of Greek popular music, whose bust stands in the square named after him. In Ano Syros you will find little taverns where every corner echoes with the sounds of "rembetika" and offers an enchanting view.

- 2 On the way to Chroussa** Chroussa is all-green with running water, old mansions, a lovely view, and the Catholic church of Panagia Faneromeni which was built in 1890. The old chapel right next to the main church dates back to the 14th century. The celebration of the church is held on 24 September. The road towards the centre of the village and to the children's camp is worthwhile for its lush vegetation. Approaching the stone-paved alleyways, villas can be glimpsed through the pine trees. The churches of Panagia and Agios Spyridon are located at the centre of the village.



3 Tour to Posidonia or Delagratsia Delagratsia, named after the Catholic church of Madonna della Grazia, is a seaside settlement with neoclassical mansions and beautiful beaches.

4 Galissas-Agios Stefanos A wonderful route that leads to the picturesque chapel of Agios Stefanos, built inside a cave.

The northern part of the island, Ano Meria, is a rugged, hilly area, with terraces and a few valleys, ideal for hiking. The highest peak is Pyrgos at an altitude of 442m. Sign-posted paths traverse Ano Meria, where rare rock formations have been identified. Eclogites, as they are known, are impressive, rounded formations of dark-coloured rocks which significantly mark the landscape.

Some interesting destinations in Ano Meria are:

5 Pherecydes caves In Alithini (1km from Ano Syros) and far north in Platy Vouni (5km) there are caves, some of which, according to tradition, were home to the 6th century philosopher from which they take their name.

6 Halandriani-Kastri In Halandriani, excavations have brought to light of an early Cycladic necropolis with significant finds, including the famous Cycladic figurines and frying pan-shaped vessels. A path to the north leads to the hill of Kastri, where the remains of a settlement and a prehistoric citadel have been found.

7 Kambos-Grammata A route which takes you through a varied landscape and a breathtaking view leads to Grammata, a location in the western coastal area where sailors carved signs, wishes and names on the rocks during the Roman period, when the area provided shelter from storms.

Feasts and flavours

On the Sunday of Tyrini during the carnival of Ano Syros, the holiday atmosphere in the narrow alleys is infectious.

The cultural events of “Ermoupolia”, “Apanosyria” in Ano Syros, “Music routes” as a tribute to Markos Vamvakaris in Kini and Galissas, all take place during the summer months.

In Posidonia, in July, everyone waits for the catch to be hauled in and the traditional feast on the beach of Agathopes. An event called “Avgoustiatikes Meres” (August Days) takes place in Vari on the 15th of August, where old customs and crafts are revived with structures on the sand, and a Venetian evening. On the third Friday of August, the feast of “kakavia” (fish soup) is organized on the beach of Finikas, including dancing and music. The traditional “Trygopati” (crushing of the grapes)

Syros

is organized in September, at Kambi in Vari.

Visitors to Syros can taste the traditional recipes of octopus cooked with vinegar and sun-dried tomatoes, fish with dried capers, silverside cooked with fried onions, fennel pie, “strapatsada” (eggs in tomato sauce), and delicious dairy products, the best being “San Michalis”, a cheese exclusively produced in Syros, together with hard strained cheese. Some rare vine varieties are cultivated on the island: “avgoustiatis” and “katsano” (white), and “armeletousa”, “proniko”, and “romeiko” (red).

Action and trips

Take an unforgettable trip to the nearby islets of Strongylo, Varvarousa, Aspro, Nata, Schinonisi, which have been declared areas of outstanding natural beauty. On the islet of Didimi or Fanari, opposite the port entrance, stands the monumental 30m stone lighthouse, built in 1834.

A beach volley tournament is organised in Ermoupoli, while the island has football, mini soccer fields, basketball, volleyball, tennis courts, track and swimming pool.

ONLY IN SYROS

The first high school of free Greece, which operated for the first time in 1833, is located close to the Town Hall of Ermoupoli (currently accommodating the University of the Aegean). In the same area is located the municipal theatre “Apollon” (1862-64), a faithful copy of the Scala in Milan.



Syros is famous for its sweets: halvadopita, but mainly the world-famous loukoumi (try the rose flavour with walnuts, it's out of this world!)



Let's go to Paros...

Only a stone's throw away!!!