

GREECE

THE CYCLADES
BY YACHT

CHARTERLINK
Private Yacht Vacations



THE CYCLADES

The Cyclades are among Greece's most iconic yacht charter destinations, scattered across the heart of the Aegean Sea southeast of Athens. Famous for their whitewashed villages, blue-domed churches, dramatic coastlines, and crystal-clear waters, these islands offer some of the most spectacular scenery in the Mediterranean. The region includes world-renowned destinations such as Mykonos, Santorini and Paros, alongside lesser-known gems like Milos, Sifnos, Serifos, Kithnos, Syros, and Kea. With stunning anchorages, vibrant waterfront towns, and countless opportunities for exploration, the Cyclades provide an unforgettable cruising experience.

Each island has its own distinct character. Mykonos is known for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, luxury beach clubs, and vibrant nightlife, while Milos offers some of the most unique landscapes in Greece, featuring colorful rock formations, sea caves, and secluded beaches accessible only by boat. Sifnos is celebrated for its exceptional gastronomy, Serifos for its rugged beauty, Folegandros for its authentic Greek charm, and Paros for its beautiful beaches, traditional villages, and relaxed blend of sophistication and island life. Together, the islands create an itinerary that blends world-famous highlights with hidden corners that remain largely untouched by mass tourism.

The Cyclades are renowned for their exceptional cuisine, with each island contributing its own specialties. Fresh seafood, grilled meats, locally produced cheeses, chickpea dishes, capers, honey, and traditional pastries feature prominently throughout the region. Waterfront tavernas, elegant restaurants, and relaxed beachside dining provide endless opportunities to experience authentic Greek hospitality.

Unlike the nearby Argosaronic Islands, the Cyclades offer a more adventurous style of cruising. Distances between islands are often greater, with sails of three to six hours being entirely normal and occasionally longer. For guests accustomed to Caribbean charters, where short hops between anchorages are common, it is important to understand that Cyclades sailing itineraries often involve significantly more time underway. To an experienced Greek captain, a three-hour sail is generally considered a routine and enjoyable part of the day. While most charters begin and end in Athens, guests may also choose to pay a one-way fee and start or finish in destinations such as Mykonos or Paros.

The Cyclades are heavily influenced by the Meltemi, a strong northerly wind that typically blows during the summer months. This wind is one of the defining features of sailing in the region, often providing exhilarating sailing conditions, cooler temperatures, and clear skies. However, it can also create rough seas and challenging conditions, particularly in July and August.





The strength of the Meltemi varies significantly and can require adjustments to a yacht's itinerary. In stronger weather, your captain may choose to focus on the western Cyclades, where islands such as Kea, Kythnos, Serifos, Sifnos, and Milos enjoy some protection from their eastern neighbours. Should the Meltemi become particularly severe, itineraries departing from Athens may even shift entirely to the Argosaronic Gulf, which is largely sheltered from these winds.

Having flexibility is a vital ingredient to enjoying chartering in Greece. Rather than having an entire vacation disrupted by poor weather, relocating to a different cruising area and accepting itinerary changes can ensure there is no disappointment and that the enjoyment of your vacation as a whole can continue. The Meltemi commonly blows for three to seven consecutive days and can sometimes persist even longer, potentially impacting your entire charter week. It is for this reason that trusting your captain's judgement is essential. Their ability to shift locations and adapt the itinerary means that you do not find yourself confined to a marina for extended periods, waiting for conditions to improve.

That all said, the iconic Cyclades are absolutely worth waiting for. There is a reason why they are world-renowned. When the weather cooperates, few destinations can match the combination of dramatic scenery, exhilarating sailing, authentic island culture, and unforgettable anchorages. And if your first encounter with the Cyclades is interrupted by the Meltemi, it is well worth returning, because when the Cyclades are perfect, they are truly perfect.

July and Aug: Busiest and hottest months, with the strongest Meltemi. (82° - 90°F with water temperatures from 75° - 80°F)

June and Sept: Excellent shoulder season with slightly less wind. (75° - 84°F with water temperatures from 72° - 78°F)

May and Oct: Quieter and less hot for sightseeing but chillier water. (66° - 77°F with water temperatures from 67° - 73°F)

Language: Greek (English widely spoken in tourist areas)

Time zone: Eastern European Time (EET), UTC+2 (summer: UTC+3)

Electricity: 230V, plugs type C and F

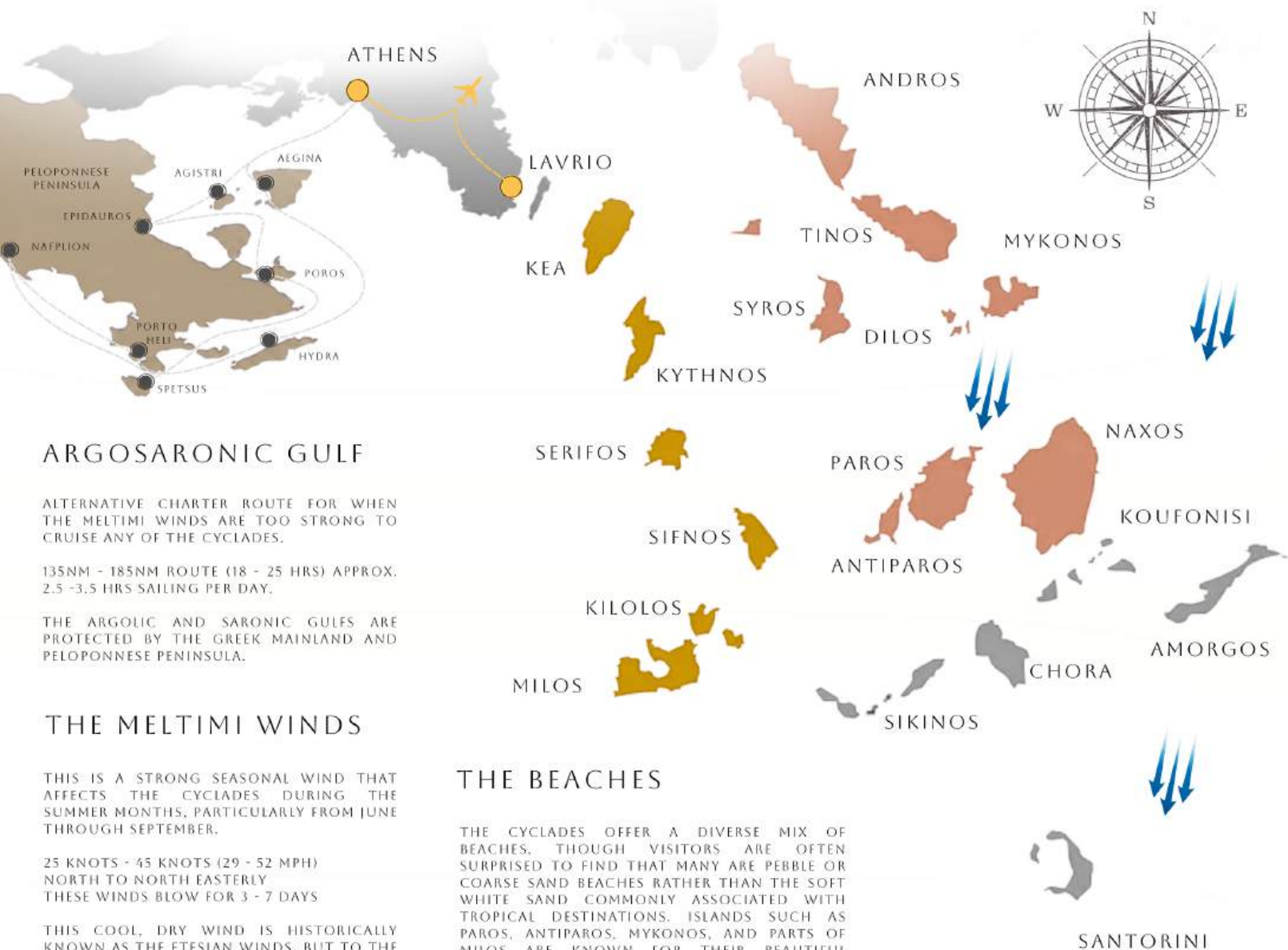
Tap water quality varies between islands; bottled water is commonly used throughout the Cyclades.

Euro is the currency.

Intl. Flights in/out Athens.



UNDERSTANDING THE CYCLADES



ARGOSARONIC GULF

ALTERNATIVE CHARTER ROUTE FOR WHEN THE MELTEMI WINDS ARE TOO STRONG TO CRUISE ANY OF THE CYCLADES.

135NM - 185NM ROUTE (18 - 25 HRS) APPROX.
2.5 - 3.5 HRS SAILING PER DAY.

THE ARGOLIC AND SARONIC GULFS ARE PROTECTED BY THE GREEK MAINLAND AND PELOPONNESE PENINSULA.

THE MELTEMI WINDS

THIS IS A STRONG SEASONAL WIND THAT AFFECTS THE CYCLADES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, PARTICULARLY FROM JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

25 KNOTS - 45 KNOTS (29 - 52 MPH)
NORTH TO NORTH EASTERLY
THESE WINDS BLOW FOR 3 - 7 DAYS

THIS COOL, DRY WIND IS HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS THE ETESIAN WINDS, BUT TO THE GREEKS IT IS THE MELTEMI, WHICH HAS SHAPED SAILING, TRADE, AND MARITIME LIFE FOR CENTURIES.

BEFORE & AFTER

A TRIP TO GREECE WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT VISITING ATHENS. THE ACROPOLIS, PARTHENON, EXCELLENT MUSEUMS, AND VIBRANT DINING SCENE MAKE IT WELL WORTH ADDING TWO TO THREE NIGHTS BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR CHARTER.

MANY VISITORS CHOOSE TO ADD A NIGHT OR TWO IN SANTORINI BEFORE OR AFTER THEIR CHARTER. THE ISLAND IS EASILY REACHED FROM ATHENS BY EITHER A SHORT FLIGHT OR HIGH-SPEED FERRY.

THE BEACHES

THE CYCLADES OFFER A DIVERSE MIX OF BEACHES. THOUGH VISITORS ARE OFTEN SURPRISED TO FIND THAT MANY ARE PEBBLE OR COARSE SAND BEACHES RATHER THAN THE SOFT WHITE SAND COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH TROPICAL DESTINATIONS. ISLANDS SUCH AS PAROS, ANTIPAROS, MYKONOS, AND PARTS OF MILOS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR BEAUTIFUL STRETCHES OF GOLDEN SAND AND SHALLOW TURQUOISE WATERS. BY CONTRAST, ISLANDS INCLUDING SYROS, KYTHNOS, SERIFOS, SIFNOS, AND MUCH OF KEA FEATURE A GREATER NUMBER OF PEBBLE, STONE, OR COARSE SAND BEACHES, OFTEN WITH EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAR WATER. EVEN ON SANDY BEACHES, THE SAND IS TYPICALLY GOLDEN AND SLIGHTLY COARSER THAN CARIBBEAN POWDER SAND, CREATING A DISTINCTLY MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL LANDSCAPE.

CHARTER DATES

ECHARTER DATES: WHERE POSSIBLE, CONSIDER ARRIVING MIDWEEK, AS MANY CHARTER FLEETS OPERATE SATURDAY TO SATURDAY ITINERARIES. STAGGERING YOUR DEPARTURE MAY RESULT IN QUIETER PORTS AND ANCHORAGES.

THE AEGEAN SEA

THE WESTERN CYCLADES ISLANDS, THE NORTHERN SECTION IS OFTEN INCLUDED IN A EASTERN CYCLADES ITINERARY.

THE EASTERN CYCLADES ISLANDS ARE THE MOST WELL KNOWN BUT ARE THE MOST EXPOSED TO THE MELTEMI.

REACHING THE SOUTHERN CYCLADES ISLANDS CONSUMES A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF CRUISING TIME ARE OFTEN EXCLUDED FROM A 7 NIGHT CHARTER.

THE EASTERN CYCLADES ROUTE

EASTERN

160NM - 200NM ROUTE
18 - 28 HRS TOTAL
APPROX. 3 - 4 HRS SAILING PER DAY.

WHEN CHARTERING THE CYCLADES, WE TYPICALLY FOCUS ON THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ISLANDS. THESE CAN BROADLY BE DIVIDED INTO AN EASTERN AND WESTERN CRUISING ROUTE.

OFTENTIMES, YOU WILL SEE THE EASTERN CYCLADES EXPERIENCING WINDS OF 28-33 KNOTS, 32-38 MPH (FORCE 7), WHILST THE WESTERN CYCLADES ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEING MORE MODERATE CONDITIONS OF 17-21 KNOTS, 20-24 MPH (FORCE 5).

ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE, THE LARGER ISLANDS OF TINOS AND ANDROS, AS WELL AS THE GREEK MAINLAND, TEND TO OFFER A NATURAL BUFFER TO THE WESTERN CYCLADES. WHICH MEANS THAT WHILST PLANS TO VISIT ISLANDS SUCH AS MYKONOS AND PAROS MAY HAVE TO BE PUT ON HOLD, GUESTS CAN STILL EXPLORE THE ICONIC DESTINATIONS OF MILOS, KIMOLOS, SIFNOS, SERIFOS, KYTHNOS, AND KEA.

VISIT SANTORINI?

ONE OF GREECE'S MOST ICONIC DESTINATIONS, AND WHILST IT CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO YOUR YACHT CHARTER, MANY CAPTAINS (AND ME) RECOMMEND AGAINST IT.

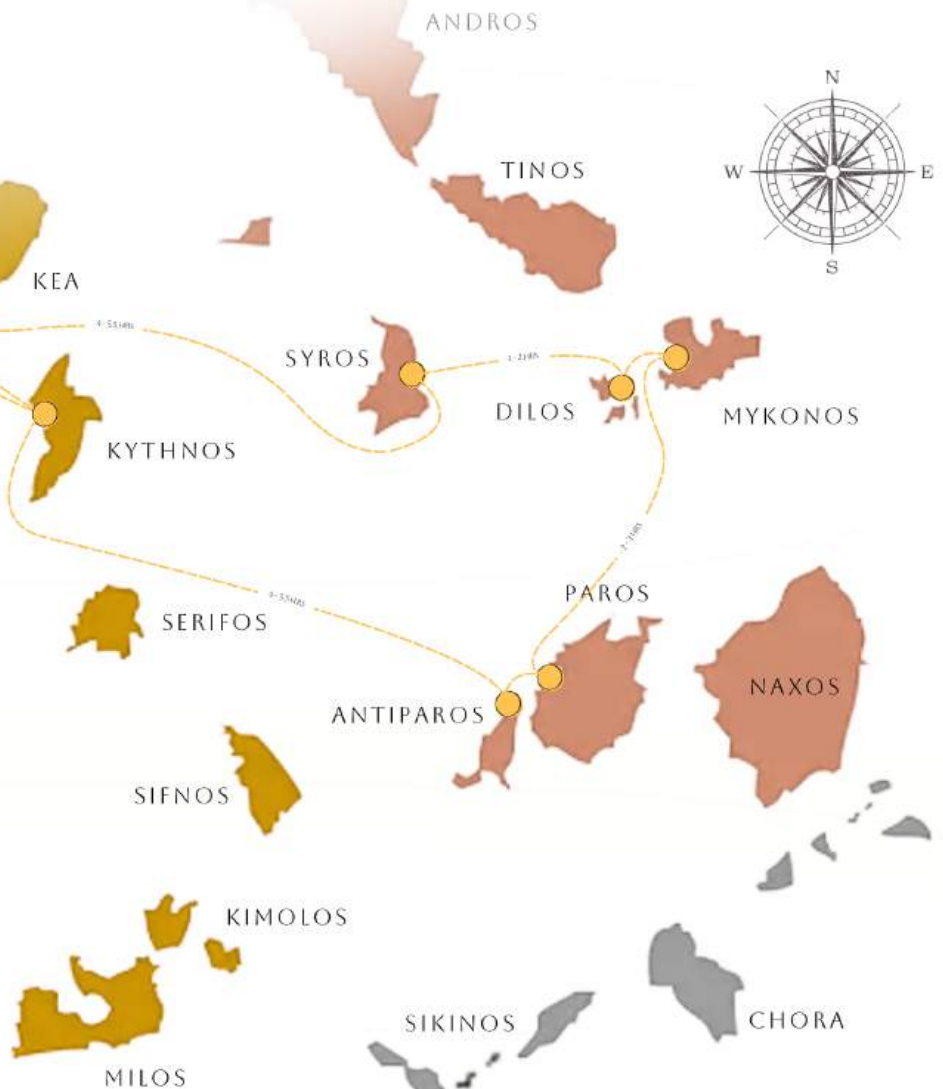
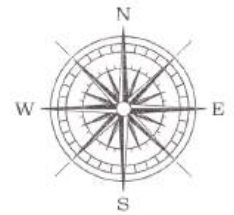
THE PRIMARY REASON IS LOGISTICS. LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN CYCLADES, SANTORINI REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT DETOUR FROM THE CHARTER ROUTES THAT OFFER THE BEST BALANCE OF SAILING, SIGHTSEEING, SWIMMING, AND SHELTERED OVERNIGHT STOPS. REACHING SANTORINI MORE THAN DOUBLES THE DISTANCE TRAVELLED AND CONSUMES A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF CRUISING TIME COMPARED TO THE EXPERIENCE GAINED. MILOS IS OFTEN CONSIDERED THE SOUTHERN TURNING POINT FOR MANY SEVEN-NIGHT ITINERARIES, AND EVEN REACHING MILOS CAN BE AMBITIOUS DEPENDING ON WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THE ISLAND'S DRAMATIC VOLCANIC LANDSCAPE, WHILST SPECTACULAR FROM SHORE, PRESENTS SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES FOR YACHTS. MUCH OF THE COASTLINE DROPS

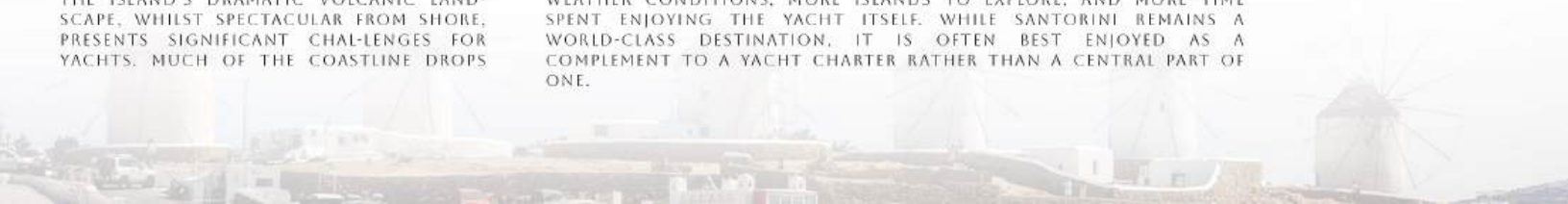
AWAY INTO DEEP WATER, LIMITING ANCHORING OPPORTUNITIES, AND THERE ARE VERY FEW PROTECTED HARBORS. SANTORINI IS ALSO HIGHLY EXPOSED TO THE MELETEMI, AND WITH NO CONVENIENT SAFE HAVENS NEARBY, CAPTAINS HAVE FEWER OPTIONS IF CONDITIONS WORSEN.

SANTORINI'S MOST FAMOUS ATTRACTIONS ARE ALSO BEST ENJOYED FROM LAND RATHER THAN FROM A YACHT, WHILST THERE ARE DAY-CHARTER VESSELS OPERATING AROUND THE ISLAND, MANY GUESTS ARE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT THE ICONIC CALDERA VIEWS, CLIFFSIDE VILLAGES OF OIA AND FIRA, RENOWNED RESTAURANTS, WINERIES, AND SUNSET VIEWPOINTS ARE ALL BEST EXPLORED ON FOOT.

SO FOR MOST GUESTS, THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL CYCLADES OFFER A MORE REWARDING CHARTER EXPERIENCE, ENCOMPASSING LESS DISTANCE, BETTER SWIMMING ANCHORAGES, GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS, MORE ISLANDS TO EXPLORE, AND MORE TIME SPENT ENJOYING THE YACHT ITSELF. WHILE SANTORINI REMAINS A WORLD-CLASS DESTINATION, IT IS OFTEN BEST ENJOYED AS A COMPLEMENT TO A YACHT CHARTER RATHER THAN A CENTRAL PART OF ONE.



SANTORINI



THE WESTERN CYCLADES ROUTE

WESTERN

130NM - 180NM ROUTE
14 - 26 HRS TOTAL
APPROX. 3 - 4 HRS SAILING PER DAY.

WHEN CHARTERING THE CYCLADES, WE TYPICALLY FOCUS ON THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ISLANDS. THESE CAN BROADLY BE DIVIDED INTO AN EASTERN AND WESTERN CRUISING ROUTE.

OFTENTIMES, YOU WILL SEE THE EASTERN CYCLADES EXPERIENCING WINDS OF 28-33 KNOTS, 32-38 MPH (FORCE 7), WHILST THE WESTERN CYCLADES ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEING MORE MODERATE CONDITIONS OF 17-21 KNOTS, 20-24 MPH (FORCE 5).

ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE, THE LARGER ISLANDS OF TINOS AND ANDROS, AS WELL AS THE GREEK MAINLAND, TEND TO OFFER A NATURAL BUFFER TO THE WESTERN CYCLADES. WHICH MEANS THAT WHILST PLANS TO VISIT ISLANDS SUCH AS MYKONOS AND PAROS MAY HAVE TO BE PUT ON HOLD, GUESTS CAN STILL EXPLORE THE ICONIC DESTINATIONS OF MILOS, KIMOLOS, SIFNOS, SERIFOS, KYTHNOS, AND KEA.

FLEXIBILITY

PLEASE KNOW THAT THE SUGGESTED EASTERN AND WESTERN ROUTES DO NOT MEAN THERE IS NO FLEXIBILITY. ONE OF THE GREATEST ADVANTAGES OF A PRIVATE YACHT CHARTER IS THAT YOUR CAPTAIN IS EXPERIENCED AND ABLE TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADAPT THE ITINERARY TO BEST SUIT YOUR GROUP'S INTERESTS, COMFORT LEVEL, AND PREVAILING CONDITIONS. THESE DISCUSSIONS GENERALLY TAKE PLACE ONCE ON BOARD, WHEN YOUR CAPTAIN HAS ACCESS TO THE LATEST WEATHER FORECASTS.

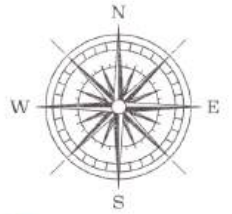
A 7 NIGHT CHARTER GENERALLY HAS A PRACTICAL TURNING POINT AT PAROS, MILOS, OR MYKONOS, BUT ATTEMPTING TO INCLUDE ALL THREE WOULD NOT MAKE FOR A BALANCED ITINERARY. HOWEVER, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INCORPORATE MYKONOS AND PAROS INTO A SINGLE ITINERARY, OR ALTERNATIVELY, MILOS & ANTIPAROS. THESE DECISIONS ARE OFTEN MADE BASED ON WHICH ISLANDS OFFER THE ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES MOST IMPORTANT TO YOUR GROUP.

TO REACH SANTORINI, ONE OF THE SOUTHERN MOST ISLANDS IN THE CYCLADES, A CHARTER WILL GENERALLY REQUIRE 10-14 DAYS OR A ONE-WAY ITINERARY. ONE-WAY

ROUTES INCUR ADDITIONAL RELOCATION FEES AND MAY STILL RESULT IN A RELATIVELY FAST-PACED EXPERIENCE. WHILST THIS DOES MAKE SANTORINI POSSIBLE, MANY GUESTS FIND THAT THE ADDITIONAL CRUISING TIME IS BETTER SPENT EXPLORING A BROADER RANGE OF ISLANDS THROUGHOUT THE EASTERN AND WESTERN CYCLADES, PERHAPS INCLUDING ONE OR TWO OF THE SOUTHERN CYCLADES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE SAME COMMITMENT OF TIME AND DISTANCE AS SANTORINI.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT GREEK CAPTAINS ARE SAILORS AT HEART AND THEY ARE ACCUSTOMED TO TRAVELING GREATER DISTANCES THAN CHARTER GUESTS MAY EXPECT. WHAT FEELS LIKE A LONG DAY UNDER SAIL TO ONE GROUP MAY FEEL ENTIRELY NORMAL TO A LOCAL CAPTAIN. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE HONESTLY ABOUT THE TYPE OF EXPERIENCE YOU ARE SEEKING. IF YOU TELL YOUR CAPTAIN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE, THEY WILL LIKELY DELIVER EXACTLY THAT. IF YOU WOULD PREFER SHORTER PASSAGES AND MORE TIME ASHORE, THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL ITINERARIES THAT STAY WITHIN THE VICINITY OF KEA, KYTHNOS, SERIFOS, AND SYROS THAT ALLOW FOR A MORE RELAXED PACE.

THERE ARE COUNTLESS WAYS TO ADAPT THESE ITINERARIES, WHETHER YOUR GOAL IS TO COVER MORE GROUND, SPEND LONGER IN FAVOURITE DESTINATIONS, OR MAKE THE MOST OF THE WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING YOUR CHARTER: GREECE HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.





ATHENS

Athens, the historic capital of Greece, is a city where ancient civilization and modern energy exist side by side. Dominated by the iconic Acropolis, this vibrant metropolis is widely regarded as the cradle of Western civilization and democracy. The UNESCO-listed Acropolis and its crowning jewel, the Parthenon, offer a remarkable glimpse into Greece's classical past, while the surrounding neighborhoods blend centuries of history with contemporary culture, lively cafés, and bustling city life.

To fully appreciate Athens, a guided tour of the Acropolis and the nearby Acropolis Museum is highly recommended. Wander through the charming streets of Plaka, often referred to as the “Neighborhood of the Gods,” or explore the vibrant district of Monastiraki, known for its markets, rooftop bars, and views of the ancient monuments. For a broader perspective, climb Lycabettus Hill for panoramic views across the city, stretching all the way to the Saronic Gulf.

Athens has also emerged as one of Europe's most exciting culinary destinations. Fine dining enthusiasts can enjoy innovative Greek cuisine at acclaimed restaurants such as Varoulko Seaside and Hytra, while traditional tavernas throughout Plaka and Psyrri serve authentic local specialties in atmospheric settings. From fresh seafood and grilled meats to world-class olive oils and regional wines, Athens offers an exceptional introduction to Greek gastronomy.

Whether you choose to spend a single night or several days before or after your yacht charter, Athens is well worth exploring. The city offers a wide selection of luxury hotels, boutique properties, and historic accommodations, many within walking distance of its most famous landmarks. With its unique combination of ancient wonders, vibrant neighborhoods, and outstanding cuisine, Athens provides the perfect beginning or ending to a yacht charter through the Argosaronic Gulf.



LAVRIO

While many visitors pass through Lavrio on their way to the Greek islands, those who take the time to explore will discover a fascinating town with a rich history and a distinctly local atmosphere. Located on the southeastern tip of the Attica Peninsula, Lavrio has been shaped by the sea and the silver mines that once helped finance the rise of ancient Athens. Today, its working harbor, waterfront cafés, and authentic character offer a refreshing contrast to some of Greece's more heavily visited destinations.

Many yacht charters begin from marinas located between central Athens and Lavrio, each offering slightly different advantages depending on your chosen yacht. Lavrio is particularly popular for charters heading into the Cyclades, as its location on the southeastern tip of the Attica Peninsula provides the closest mainland access point to these iconic islands. Starting your charter here can significantly reduce the time spent cruising on the first and last days, allowing more time to be enjoyed among the islands themselves.

The town center is compact and easy to explore on foot, with pedestrian streets, local shops, and inviting cafés providing a glimpse into everyday Greek life. Seafood lovers will find plenty of excellent waterfront restaurants, many serving the day's catch just steps from the harbor.

The silver mines were among the most important in antiquity, generating the wealth that helped Athens build its powerful navy and establish itself as one of the dominant city states of the ancient world. Visitors interested in the area's industrial and archaeological heritage can explore remnants of the historic mining operations, which remained active in various forms until the 20th century.

Just a short drive away lies Cape Sounion, home to the magnificent Temple of Poseidon. Perched dramatically on a cliff overlooking the Aegean Sea, it is widely considered one of the most spectacular viewpoints in Greece, particularly at sunset. Whether beginning or ending your charter, Lavrio offers a memorable combination of authentic Greek culture, maritime tradition, and interesting stops prior to joining your yacht.



KEA

Kea marks the gateway to the Cyclades and offers a striking contrast to both Athens and the Saronic Gulf. Despite being one of the closest Cycladic islands to the mainland, it remains refreshingly authentic and uncrowded. Rolling hills, traditional stone villages, crystal-clear waters, and golden sandy beaches combine to create an island that feels distinctly Cycladic while retaining a relaxed and understated charm.

As one of the first Cycladic island encountered by many yachts departing from the mainland, Kea provides an excellent introduction to the region. Whitewashed architecture, rugged landscapes, and the deep blue waters of the Aegean immediately signal a change in scenery and atmosphere. The island's protected bays and convenient location have made it a popular first-night stop for generations of sailors exploring the Cyclades.

Take time to explore the island's picturesque capital, Ioulida, a traditional hilltop village where narrow stone alleyways wind between whitewashed houses, small squares, and local cafés. The village remains largely unchanged by modern tourism and rewards visitors with beautiful views, authentic tavernas, and a glimpse into everyday island life. Along the coast, visitors will find a series of beautiful bays and beaches, many with soft golden sand rather than the pebble beaches commonly found elsewhere in the region.

Kea is also known for its extensive network of walking trails, many of which date back centuries and connect villages, beaches, and historic landmarks across the island. Hidden among the hills are ancient ruins, small chapels, and panoramic viewpoints that reveal spectacular views across the Aegean. The island's slower pace of life and strong local character provide a glimpse into a more traditional side of the Cyclades that has largely escaped mass tourism.

Whether spending the afternoon swimming in a sheltered bay, exploring ashore, or simply relaxing on deck with a drink in hand, Kea encourages visitors to slow down and embrace the rhythm of island life. Its combination of authentic Greek character, beautiful sandy beaches, dramatic landscapes, and easy accessibility makes it one of the most rewarding and overlooked islands in the Cyclades.



KYTHNOS

Kythnos is an island that rewards those willing to venture beyond the well-trodden tourist path. Known for its rugged beauty, traditional villages, and countless sheltered bays, the island offers a quieter and more authentic Cycladic experience. Rather than grand attractions or bustling towns, Kythnos captivates visitors with its simplicity, natural beauty, and relaxed pace of life.

One of the island's most remarkable features is Kolona Beach, a spectacular strip of golden sand that connects Kythnos to a small rocky islet. Surrounded by crystal-clear water on both sides, it is widely regarded as one of the most unique and beautiful beaches in Greece. Arriving by yacht offers the perfect perspective, allowing guests to fully appreciate this extraordinary natural formation and enjoy swimming in its turquoise waters.

Away from the coast, the island's traditional villages provide a glimpse into a slower way of life. The charming capital, Chora, is a maze of whitewashed alleyways, bougainvillea-covered courtyards, and small family-run tavernas where locals gather in the evenings. Nearby Dryopida offers a distinctly different character, with tiled roofs, narrow streets, and one of the few natural caves open to visitors in the Cyclades.

Kythnos is also famous for its natural hot springs, which have attracted visitors since ancient times. Located near Loutra, the island's thermal waters are believed to have therapeutic properties and remain one of the area's most distinctive attractions. Combined with the island's many sheltered anchorages, they contribute to a sense of relaxation that defines a visit to Kythnos.

For many charter guests, however, the greatest appeal of Kythnos lies in the water itself. The island's deeply indented coastline creates countless bays and coves that are ideal for anchoring, swimming, paddleboarding, and simply enjoying a peaceful day on board. Less visited than many of its neighboring islands, Kythnos offers a welcome opportunity to slow down, disconnect, and experience the quieter side of the Cyclades.



SERIFOS

Rising dramatically from the Aegean Sea, Serifos is one of the most striking islands in the western Cyclades. Defined by rugged mountains, whitewashed villages, and a spectacular coastline, the island has retained an authentic character that feels increasingly rare in the modern Mediterranean.

The island's most iconic sight is the village of Chora, perched high on a hill overlooking the harbor below. Visible from miles away, the village appears to cascade down the mountainside, its maze of whitewashed houses, blue-domed churches, and narrow alleyways creating one of the most photogenic scenes in the Cyclades. A stroll through the village encounters hidden squares, local restaurants and breathtaking panoramic views across the surrounding islands and sea.

Serifos has a fascinating history shaped by centuries of mining activity. Iron ore extraction played a significant role in the island's development, and remnants of its industrial past can still be found throughout the landscape. Today, these historic sites provide a striking contrast to the island's otherwise timeless appearance and offer a glimpse into a lesser-known chapter of Cycladic history.

The coastline of Serifos is equally impressive, with numerous bays, secluded beaches, and crystal-clear swimming spots scattered around the island. Many of these are accessible only by boat, making a yacht charter one of the best ways to experience them. Golden sand beaches, dramatic cliffs, and turquoise waters create an ever-changing backdrop for a day spent exploring the coast.

Despite its growing popularity, Serifos remains refreshingly unspoiled. Whether wandering the winding streets of Chora, enjoying a long lunch overlooking the sea, or spending the afternoon swimming from the yacht in a secluded bay, visitors quickly discover that the island's greatest luxury is its authenticity. Serifos offers the perfect balance of dramatic scenery, traditional charm, and relaxed Cycladic living.



SIFNOS

Sifnos has long been regarded as one of the Cyclades' best-kept secrets, combining traditional island charm with exceptional food, beautiful villages, and a sophisticated yet unpretentious atmosphere. Unlike some of its more famous neighbors, Sifnos has managed to retain its authentic character while quietly developing a reputation as one of Greece's premier culinary destinations. Whitewashed villages, terraced hillsides, and dozens of churches scattered across the landscape create the quintessential Cycladic setting.

Take time to explore the island's picturesque villages, each with its own distinct personality. The hilltop capital of Apollonia is a lively maze of narrow pedestrian streets lined with boutiques, cafés, and restaurants, while nearby Artemonas offers elegant architecture and a more tranquil atmosphere. One of the island's highlights is Kastro, the ancient capital, dramatically positioned on a cliff overlooking the sea. Its narrow alleyways, historic churches, and stunning views make it one of the most beautiful settlements in the Cyclades.

Food plays a central role in life on Sifnos. Widely considered the culinary capital of the Cyclades, the island is famous for traditional recipes that have been passed down through generations. Local specialties such as revithada, a slow-cooked chickpea stew, and mastelo, lamb cooked in a clay pot, reflect the island's rich gastronomic heritage. From simple family-run tavernas to refined restaurants overlooking the sea, Sifnos offers some of the finest dining experiences in the Greek islands.

The island's coastline is equally appealing, with sheltered bays, golden beaches, and crystal-clear waters inviting visitors to slow down and enjoy the natural surroundings. Once again, many of the most beautiful coves are best accessed by yacht, while the island's numerous walking paths reveal hidden chapels, scenic viewpoints, and quiet corners away from the waterfront villages.

Whether dining ashore at one of Sifnos' renowned restaurants or enjoying your yacht chef's private culinary creations on board, Sifnos is a wonderful place to slow down and savour the evening. As the sun sets, enjoy the island's peaceful atmosphere with a glass of wine on the flybridge, stargaze beneath some of the Cyclades' clearest skies, or settle in for a relaxed movie night under the stars.



KIMOLOS

Kimolos is often overshadowed by its more famous neighbor Milos, so the island has preserved its slower pace of life and a genuine sense of Greek island culture. Whitewashed houses, quiet village squares, and uncrowded beaches create an atmosphere that feels relaxed, welcoming, and refreshingly uncommercial.

At the heart of the island lies Chorio, a charming village where narrow alleyways wind between traditional Cycladic homes, small churches, and family-run tavernas. Unlike many of the larger islands, life here moves at an unhurried pace, with locals gathering in shaded squares and visitors encouraged to explore without any particular destination in mind. The village's simple beauty and authentic character are among Kimolos' greatest attractions.

Kimolos is perhaps best known for its remarkable geology. The island's name is believed to derive from the Greek word for chalk, a reference to the brilliant white volcanic rock that forms much of its landscape. Along the coastline, unusual rock formations, hidden sea caves, and striking white cliffs create a dramatic backdrop. One of the island's most recognizable landmarks is Skiadi, a naturally sculpted mushroom-shaped rock formation created over thousands of years by wind and erosion.

Enjoy more the secluded coves, crystal-clear water, and quiet anchorages surrounding the island, providing countless opportunities for swimming, snorkeling, paddleboarding, and simply enjoying your yacht, family and friends and the tranquility of the Aegean. The waters around Kimolos are among the clearest in the Cyclades, making it an ideal destination for a day spent on and in the sea.

After a day on the water, evenings aboard often become some of the most memorable moments of the trip. Gather for family games, share stories from past adventures, laugh over the day's highlights, and create new memories together.



MILOS

Few islands in Greece possess a coastline as dramatic and diverse as Milos. Formed by volcanic activity over millions of years, the island is renowned for its extraordinary landscapes, colorful rock formations, and crystal-clear waters. Home to more than seventy beaches, each with its own distinct character, Milos has become one of the most sought-after destinations in the Cyclades.

The island's volcanic origins have created some of the most recognizable scenery in the Aegean. Sarakiniko, with its smooth white rock formations sculpted by wind and sea, resembles a lunar landscape and is one of the most photographed locations in Greece. Along the coast, hidden caves, towering cliffs, and secluded coves reveal themselves around every headland, many of them accessible only by boat. Exploring these dramatic shorelines from the water is one of the great highlights of visiting Milos.

Beyond its natural beauty, Milos is rich in history and traditional island culture. The island is famously known as the discovery site of the Venus de Milo, one of the most celebrated sculptures of the ancient world. Today, picturesque fishing villages such as Klima, with its colorful boat houses built directly on the waterfront, offer a glimpse into a way of life that has endured for generations. Wandering through the charming streets of Plaka, the island's hilltop capital, rewards visitors with stunning views, boutique shops, and inviting tavernas.

Milos is also a destination that invites exploration beyond the main towns and beaches. Scenic roads connect traditional villages, hidden swimming spots, and spectacular viewpoints overlooking the Aegean. Whether renting a vehicle for the day or discovering the coastline by tender, there is always another beautiful corner of the island waiting to be found.

Milos consistently leaves a lasting impression on its visitors. Its unique combination of volcanic beauty, fascinating history, and world-class cruising grounds has earned it a reputation as one of the most remarkable islands in all of Greece.



SYROS

Syros stands apart from every other island in the Cyclades. Rather than whitewashed villages perched on remote hillsides, the island's capital, Ermoupoli, greets visitors with grand neoclassical architecture, elegant squares, and a rich cultural heritage that reflects its history as one of the most important commercial and shipping centers in Greece. The result is an island that feels sophisticated, authentic, and distinctly different from its Cycladic neighbors.

The heart of the island is Ermoupoli, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful towns in Greece. Marble-paved streets, ornate mansions, impressive public buildings, and the magnificent Town Hall create an atmosphere more reminiscent of a European capital than a typical Greek island village. Climbing to the hilltop district of Ano Syros allows for breathtaking views, mazes of alleyways, and a glimpse into the island's medieval past. The contrast between the elegant waterfront and the historic upper town is one of Syros' most captivating features.

Syros is also known for its vibrant cultural scene. Throughout the year, the island hosts concerts, festivals, theatrical performances, and art exhibitions that attract visitors from across Greece. This creative spirit is woven into daily life and contributes to an atmosphere that feels both lively and refined. Combined with a thriving local population that remains active year-round, Syros offers a more bustling experience than many islands that depend primarily on seasonal tourism.

Beyond the capital, the island does offer a quieter side. Traditional villages, sheltered beaches, and scenic coastal roads provide opportunities to explore at a more relaxed pace. The coastline offers beautiful swimming spots and crystal-clear waters, while the surrounding hills reveal panoramic views across the Cyclades and the Aegean Sea.

Syros offers a different perspective on the Greek islands and remains one of the Cyclades' most rewarding destinations.



DILOS

Few places in Greece offer such a powerful connection to the ancient world as Delos. Today uninhabited and protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the island was once one of the most important religious, cultural, and commercial centers in the Mediterranean. According to Greek mythology, Delos is the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, making it one of the most sacred islands of antiquity and a destination that continues to captivate visitors thousands of years later.

Arriving at Delos is unlike visiting any other island in the Cyclades. Rather than beaches, villages, or waterfront tavernas, visitors are greeted by one of the most extensive archaeological sites in Greece. Ancient streets, temples, marketplaces, theaters, and residential quarters stretch across the landscape, providing a remarkable insight into daily life more than two thousand years ago. The island's famous Terrace of the Lions remains one of the most recognizable symbols of ancient Greece.

A guided tour is highly recommended, as the history of Delos is both fascinating and complex. At its peak, the island was a thriving international trading hub, attracting merchants, pilgrims, and travelers from across the known world. The scale and sophistication of the ruins reveal the immense wealth and influence Delos once enjoyed, while beautifully preserved mosaics, columns, and foundations help bring the ancient city to life.

One of the highlights of any visit is the climb to Mount Kynthos, the highest point on the island, with sweeping views across Delos, neighboring Mykonos, and the surrounding Cyclades. The perspective provides a unique appreciation for the island's strategic importance and its central role in the ancient Aegean world.

While many destinations in Greece are celebrated for their beauty, Delos is treasured for its extraordinary historical significance. Walking among the ruins offers a rare opportunity to step directly into the heart of ancient civilization and experience one of the most important archaeological sites in the Mediterranean.



MYKONOS

Mykonos is where the Cyclades trade tranquility for energy. Known internationally for its glamorous beach clubs, luxury boutiques, world-class restaurants, and vibrant nightlife, the island has evolved from a traditional fishing community into one of the Mediterranean's most iconic destinations. Despite its global reputation, Mykonos has managed to retain its charm as classic Cycladic island, with whitewashed buildings, blue shutters, and maze-like streets weaving through the heart of the town.

At the center of the action is Mykonos Town, where narrow alleyways spill into lively squares filled with cafés, designer boutiques, art galleries, and cocktail bars. Exploring on foot is part of the experience, with each turn revealing hidden chapels, stylish terraces, and postcard perfect corners. The famous windmills overlooking the harbor remain one of the island's defining landmarks, while nearby Little Venice offers one of the most spectacular waterfront settings in the Aegean.

Mykonos has also established itself as one of the Mediterranean's leading culinary destinations. From traditional Greek tavernas tucked away in quiet corners of town to internationally acclaimed restaurants attracting visitors from around the world, the island offers an exceptional dining scene. Long lunches overlooking the sea and elegant dinners beneath the stars have become as much a part of the Mykonos experience as its beaches and nightlife.

By day, much of the island's social scene revolves around its coastline. Guests can choose between lively beach clubs, stylish waterfront lounges, and quieter stretches of sand where crystal-clear water invites swimming and relaxation. Whether seeking a vibrant atmosphere or a more secluded escape, the island offers a beach to suit every mood.

Arriving by yacht provides the opportunity to experience both sides of Mykonos. Spend the day exploring hidden coves and enjoying the privacy of life on board before heading ashore to immerse yourself in the island's famous energy. Whether your evening involves sunset cocktails in Little Venice, a memorable dinner overlooking the harbor, or dancing long into the night, Mykonos delivers an atmosphere unlike anywhere else in Greece.



PAROS

Paros effortlessly balances traditional Cycladic charm with a vibrant, cosmopolitan atmosphere. Over the past decade, the island has become one of Greece's most sought-after destinations, attracting visitors with its beautiful villages, golden beaches, excellent restaurants, and relaxed sophistication. While it offers many of the luxuries and amenities found on neighboring Mykonos, Paros retains a more authentic and laid-back character that appeals to a wide range of travelers.

The island's main port, Parikia, welcomes visitors with whitewashed alleyways and one of the most important Byzantine monuments in Greece, the Church of Panagia Ekatontapiliani, often referred to as the Church of One Hundred Doors. Wandering through the old town reveals hidden courtyards, flower-filled lanes, and charming cafés that embody the timeless appeal of the Cyclades.

On the northern coast, the fishing village of Naoussa has become one of the island's most celebrated destinations. Centered around a picturesque harbor where fishing boats share space with luxury yachts, the village is home to stylish restaurants, waterfront bars, designer boutiques, and lively nightlife. Despite its popularity, Naoussa has retained much of its traditional character, creating a unique blend of authenticity and sophistication.

Paros is also blessed with some of the finest beaches in the Cyclades. From long stretches of golden sand to sheltered bays with crystal-clear water, the island offers endless opportunities for swimming, paddleboarding, and watersports. The reliable summer winds have also made Paros a world-renowned destination for windsurfing and kitesurfing, attracting enthusiasts from around the globe.

Whether exploring the winding streets of Parikia, enjoying a leisurely lunch overlooking Naoussa's harbor, or spending the afternoon swimming from the yacht in a secluded bay, Paros offers something for everyone. Its combination of traditional Greek charm, exceptional dining, beautiful beaches, and vibrant atmosphere has made it one of the most beloved islands in the Cyclades.



ANTIPAROS

Just a short distance from Paros lies Antiparos, an island that has quietly become one of the Cyclades' most desirable destinations. Smaller, more understated, and considerably more relaxed than many of its neighbors, Antiparos is known for its beautiful beaches, waters, and effortlessly chic atmosphere. Despite attracting celebrities, yacht owners, and high-profile visitors from around the world, the island aims to preserve its authentic character and laid-back appeal.

The heart of the island is Antiparos Town, a charming settlement of whitewashed houses, narrow pedestrian streets, and inviting cafés that encourage visitors to slow down and linger. Boutique shops, family-run tavernas, and waterfront restaurants create a welcoming atmosphere, while the island's compact size makes it easy to explore on foot. Unlike many fashionable destinations, Antiparos remains refreshingly unpretentious, and much of its charm lies in its simplicity.

One of the island's most famous attractions is the Cave of Antiparos, a spectacular cavern descending deep into the hillside and filled with impressive stalactites and stalagmites. The cave has attracted visitors for centuries, including kings, explorers, and travelers seeking to experience one of the most remarkable natural wonders in the Cyclades. The views from the surrounding hills are equally impressive, stretching across the Aegean and neighboring islands.

For yacht guests, however, the coastline is often the main attraction. Antiparos is surrounded by sheltered bays, turquoise waters, and beautiful swimming spots that are ideal for spending a day on the water. The narrow channel separating Antiparos from Paros creates calm conditions in many areas, while the island's numerous coves provide excellent anchorages for swimming, paddleboarding, and enjoying the scenery from the comfort of the yacht.

Antiparos is an island of understated luxury, natural beauty, relaxed atmosphere, and exceptional cruising grounds earning it a devoted following among those who appreciate the quieter side of the Cyclades.



NAXOS

As the largest island in the Cyclades, Naxos offers a side of Greece that many visitors never expect to find. Fertile valleys, rugged mountains, traditional villages, and long sandy beaches give the island a diversity of landscapes that sets it apart from its neighbors. While the whitewashed architecture and blue-domed churches are unmistakably Cycladic, Naxos feels less defined by tourism and more by the everyday rhythms of island life. Despite being one of the most rewarding islands in the region, Naxos is often omitted from one-week yacht charter itineraries simply because there is so much else to see throughout the Cyclades. Those who do make the journey are often surprised by just how much the island has to offer.

The island's capital, Naxos Town, is built around a historic Venetian castle and a maze of narrow alleyways that climb the hillside above the harbor. Overlooking the entrance to the port stands the Portara, a massive marble doorway dating back to the 6th century BC and one of the most recognizable landmarks in the Cyclades. Particularly beautiful at sunset, it serves as a reminder of the island's long and fascinating history.

Beyond the coast, Naxos reveals a surprisingly different landscape. Mountain roads wind through olive groves, fertile farmland, and traditional villages where local life continues much as it has for generations. Villages such as Halki, Apeiranthos, and Filoti offer a glimpse into the island's rich cultural heritage, with stone houses, family-run cafés, and local workshops scattered throughout the hills.

Naxos is also known for having some of the finest beaches in Greece. Long stretches of soft golden sand and crystal-clear water line much of the western coastline, providing excellent conditions for swimming, paddleboarding, and watersports. Unlike many Cycladic islands, where beaches are often small and sheltered, Naxos offers expansive shorelines that seem to stretch for miles.

For yacht guests, Naxos provides a welcome balance between exploration and relaxation. Spend the morning wandering through historic villages, the afternoon swimming in turquoise water, and the evening enjoying locally produced cheeses, wines, and traditional Greek cuisine overlooking the harbor. The island's combination of natural beauty, agricultural heritage, rich history, and authentic character makes it an unexpected gem in the Cyclades.



SANTORINI

Few destinations in the world are as instantly recognizable as Santorini. Formed by one of the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history, the island rises dramatically from the sea in a series of towering cliffs crowned by whitewashed villages and blue-domed churches. The views across the flooded caldera are among the most famous in the Mediterranean, creating a landscape that has captivated travelers for generations.

The scale of the volcanic cliffs becomes truly apparent when visiting villages such as Fira, Imerovigli, and Oia which appear to cling impossibly to the rim of the caldera hundreds of meters above. The island's dramatic geology is a constant reminder of the powerful volcanic forces that shaped both the landscape and the history of the region.

Beyond its iconic views, Santorini offers a fascinating blend of history, culture, and local tradition. The remarkably preserved archaeological site of Akrotiri provides insight into a sophisticated Bronze Age civilization that flourished here long before the eruption. Throughout the island, traditional cave houses, historic churches, and family-owned wineries reflect centuries of adaptation to the island's unique environment.

Santorini is also renowned for its distinctive cuisine and wine culture. The island's volcanic soil produces unique varieties of grapes that thrive in the challenging conditions, resulting in wines unlike those found elsewhere in Greece. Restaurants perched along the caldera combine spectacular views with fresh local ingredients, making dining an integral part of the Santorini experience.

While many visitors arrive for a few hours and leave with a photograph of the sunset, Santorini reveals far more to those who spend time exploring it by car, scooter or foot. Wandering through the narrow streets of Oia, discovering hidden corners away from the crowds, visiting a local winery, horse ride on the volcanic black beach; Santorini remains one of the most extraordinary destinations in the Mediterranean.