



★ *Destination* GUIDE ★

Athens to Marmaris

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# THE AEGEAN ISLANDS

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Mythical, magical, majestic; yachting through the islands of the Aegean is a gift to the senses and an adventure in time. Goatherds flute in harmony across impassable ravines. Ancient marble stone gleams white in contrast to thirsty mountain landscapes. Amphora shards and Byzantine hulls decorate the ocean floor. Arm-in-arm the villagers promenade at dusk. Every sunset is a masterpiece. As you relax on deck, entranced by the panorama of the sea, you realize why the Greeks have forty words that each describe a shade of blue.



## *Kéa*

“Kea has some of the best diving in Greece, especially for advanced divers. Some of my favorites are the wreck of the famous HMS Britannic, sister ship to the Titanic, the wrecks of a French cargo ship and a WWII transport plane, the Koundouros reef and Xyla cape, an amazing wall dive.”

— Captain Aris Yatsos

Kéa is quiet and traditional, strange and slightly mysterious. The island's farmers and fisherman are used to keeping to themselves. Without a private yacht, Kéa is not that easy to reach. The absence of throngs of tourists helps preserve the island's architecture, history and cultural authenticity. Among the many picture perfect bays and tiny beaches you can likely claim a private spot. Most of the bays, with no significant current, are ideal for launching the yacht toys. Well marked trails that crisscross the island bisect centuries-old farms, and lead to ancient villages with stone streets set a thousand years ago. When you reach Loulis, find Rolando's Taverna just off the main square. Order the mezedes pikilea, (tidbits variety) that is always served with a glass of ouzo.

Kea Guide Book — [www.kea.gr/index.php/en/tourism/245-tourist-guide-book](http://www.kea.gr/index.php/en/tourism/245-tourist-guide-book)

Megazes Restaurant, Koressia, Kéa — [www.kearestaurant.gr](http://www.kearestaurant.gr)

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The oldest settlement and capital city of nearly every island is called Hora or Chora, usually preceded by the name of the island. The old capital was almost always located high above the main harbor to protect the village from pirates and invaders from the East, most notably Barbarossa, an especially vicious Ottoman admiral known to massacre entire villages.

## *Syros*

Classical Greece meets European Belle Epoch in Ermoupolis, (city of Hermes) the capital and main port of Syros and the trade and industrial center of 19th century Greece. Ermoupolis has been declared a National Historic Landmark by the Greek government. From public buildings to private mansions the architectural and cultural integrity of the town is beautifully preserved. Wind your way up through narrow streets on St. George Hill to reach the medieval quarter and breathtaking views of Mykonos, Naxos, Paros, Siphnos, Serifos, Kythnos, Kea and Giaros. Classical music festivals and Italian opera companies perform at the Apollo Theatre, a miniature model of La Scala with a little museum on the top floor.

Taverna Lilis Greek Music, Ano Siros, Syros — [www.greek-tourism.com/syros/restaurants/lilis-restaurant](http://www.greek-tourism.com/syros/restaurants/lilis-restaurant)

The Apollo Theater — [www.festivaloftheaegean.com/theater.html](http://www.festivaloftheaegean.com/theater.html)

Oneiro, Vaporio, Ermoupolis Restaurant (00 30 69365 26298)

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## *Mykonos*

Fifty years ago nude beaches on Mykonos shocked the conservative peoples of the Aegean yet lured some of the world's wealthiest eccentrics. Today the scene is a hip melange of celebrities, students, artists, yachtsmen and cruise ship passengers, which gives the crowded, noisy, touristy island its vibrant character and carefree party atmosphere. In the busy Hóra, Matoyánni Street is a St. Tropez-esque, stretch of designer stores, stylish cafés and upscale restaurants. The remarkable architecture of Alefkántra or "Little Venice" is dominated by mansions with loggias, balconies and windows of bold colors suspended over the water. Circumnavigate the island to explore beaches of distinct character. Immerse yourself in reef and wreck dive sites all along the southeastern coast.

Kivotos Hotel & Spa — [www.kivotosclubhotel.com/mykonos-luxury-spa-club-leisure.php](http://www.kivotosclubhotel.com/mykonos-luxury-spa-club-leisure.php)

Myconian Imperial Resort & Spa — [www.myconianimperial.gr/en/spa-leisure.html](http://www.myconianimperial.gr/en/spa-leisure.html)

Nammos Restaurant, Beach & Dance Club, Psarou Beach — [www.nammos.gr](http://www.nammos.gr)

Astra Nightclub — [www.astra-mykonos.com](http://www.astra-mykonos.com)

“As an avid kiter I always take guests to Korfus Bay to sail the kiteboards and windsurfers. The wind is steady, the beach is wide and safe, and flat shallow water makes ideal conditions, especially for beginners. Fteliá beach is more secluded and very popular with international windsurfers and Meyáli Ámmos and Kalafátis beaches are also beautiful.”

— Captain Petros Makis

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“Anchor off Agia Irini, a small sandy beach shaded by palm trees that is a short cruise southwest of Parikia. The bay is rarely crowded and always calm, perfect for relaxing, picnicking and playing on all the yacht toys. New Golden Beach, to the southeast, is the most popular for kite surfing.”

— Captain Petros Makis

## *Paros*

Parikía, capital of Páros, hides its charm a few paces inland. Neoclassical and Cycladic architecture, marble fountains, intricate doorways and the Pangia Ekatontapyliani (100-door church) make an unhurried stroll about town worthwhile. Hikers traverse breathtaking landscapes on Byzantine footpaths connecting picturesque villages. Cruise northeast along the island’s cave-riddled coast to anchor off the imposing rock formations that partition Kolymbíthres beach. At the fishing hamlet of Náoussa choose a waterfront table at Barbarossa Ouzeri. Sample superb fresh fish mezedes and raise a glass of ouzo. Náoussa and nearby Santa Maria are world renowned windsurfing destinations. Naxos town is just five nautical miles across the sea from Santa Maria beach.

Le Sud Restaurant, Naoussa — [www.restaurantlesud.com](http://www.restaurantlesud.com)

Yemeni Restaurant, Náoussa — [www.yemeni.gr](http://www.yemeni.gr)

Moraitis Winery, Naoussa — [www.paroswines.gr](http://www.paroswines.gr)

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## *Naxos*

Approaching Naxos harbor, the majestic fortifications of the Venetian empire loom large. This childhood home of Zeus combines historic ruins and beach culture. Beyond the port, rugged mountains, agricultural valleys and scattered villages with medieval architecture have been largely undisturbed by time. A remarkable number of Byzantine chapels contain exceptional frescoes from the 9th to the 13th centuries. The architectural legacy of 14th century Venetian rule can be seen throughout the town and countryside. In the mountain top villages it is still possible to see residents wearing exotic traditional clothing. Apérathos is a village to delight history and folklore enthusiasts. Stone houses, sunny squares, marble alleyways, a beautiful church and four museums illuminate the past.

Ippokampos Restaurant, St. George's Beach — [www.ippokampos-naxos.com/en](http://www.ippokampos-naxos.com/en)

Naxos Island Resort & Spa — [www.naxosislandhotel.com](http://www.naxosislandhotel.com)

Ostria Restaurant, Moutsouna — [www.ostria.com](http://www.ostria.com)

“The Byzantine Trail is an ancient route from the mountain village of Lefkes to the fishing village of Piso Livadi. If you get tired of walking the buses stop when you wave them down, as will many islanders, who may also invite you home for coffee. DO NOT stick out your thumb to hitchhike because in Greece this gesture is an insult.”

— Captain Kostas Drivas

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“Homer’s tomb, on a hilltop on the northern tip of Ios, was once part of an ancient town and is a very popular place for guests to visit. It is about five miles from the port of Ios and Mylopotas Beach. Bicyclers beware the hilly terrain. The scooters on board are best for this scenic ride across the mountains.”

— Captain Dimitris Tsiatokos

## *Ios*

Ios has been dubbed the eastern Mediterranean Ibiza. Like Ibiza, a serene land of pastoral charm exists beyond the frenetic concentration of nightclubs. The vineyards of Ios produce Niotiko wine and provide fresh vine leaves for dolmadákia, (stuffed vine leaves). Goats, sheep and cows graze everywhere and cheese from Ios is outstanding. Yachting around the island you will find many secluded spots that can only be reached by boat, including the Black Cave on the north side of the island, one of the largest caves in the Cyclades. Anchor off a tiny, empty beach like Eva’s, just 100 feet across, for a romantic afternoon, sunning, swimming, kayaking and snorkeling. Your crew prepares a picnic buffet that features dolmadákia, slices of fresh goat cheese, and a chilled bottle of Niokito.

Free Beach Bar & Restaurant, Mylopotas Beach, Ios — [www.luxorios.gr](http://www.luxorios.gr)

Liostasi Hotel & Spa, Ios — [www.liostasi.gr](http://www.liostasi.gr)

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“Dive sites on the reef and down the caldera basin wall are spectacular, you really need to pay attention to your dive computer because the scenery is mesmerizing, it's easy to just keep going down. In the area, and especially around Akrotiri, there are ship wrecks, caves, caverns and very special reefs.”

— Captain Aris Yatsos

## *Thyra (Santorini)*

Grab your camera and head to the sundeck for cocktails, canapés and the wondrous passage between the islands of Thyra and Thirassia. Your yacht floats above a still-active volcanic crater. The crescent of its ancient rim thrusts upwards 1,100 feet. To the right, the village of Oia sits atop, a beehive of white-washed dwellings balanced on Santorini's northernmost cliff. Ahead, Fira, the island capital, gleams like white icing on the crater's rim. Beneath your hull the sea floor drops to 1,300 feet, so deep that boats docked in the port of Athinios do not drop anchor. About 1600 BCE an eruption here destroyed the sophisticated Minoan empire, a people that Jacques Cousteau and others theorize were the architects of ill-fated Atlantis. Akrotíri, like Pompeii, is an ancient village preserved in the volcanic ash.

Kirini Hoyel & Spa — [www.kirini.com](http://www.kirini.com)

Selene Restaurant, Santorini — [www.selene.gr](http://www.selene.gr)

Santo Wines Cooperative Winery — [www.santowines.gr](http://www.santowines.gr)

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## *Astipálaia*

On your approach to Astipálaia you will note the illusion of two islands, but in reality the butterfly-shaped island is two mountain ranges joined by an isthmus just 100 meters wide. The island belongs to the Dodecanese archipelago but the whitewashed buildings and string of windmills are of Cycladic design. The traditional Chora, crowned by the imposing Venetian castle, soars above the main harbor. Browse the shops, linger at a café, indulge in spa services, or dine with spectacular views. The island's heavily indented and lengthy coastline has sheltered Romans, Venetians, Turks and Englishmen, but mostly pirates. Many natural harbors, bays, beaches and numerous islets make a circumnavigation of Astipálai particularly exciting.

Tholaria Hotel & Restaurant, Chora — [www.tholaria.gr](http://www.tholaria.gr)

Astipálaia Website — [www.astypalaia.com](http://www.astypalaia.com)

“At the very northern tip of the eastern ‘wing’ of the island are the caves of Drakospilia, which can only be reached by boat. They are interesting to explore and have yet to be recognized as an ‘official’ tourist attraction, which proves how off the beaten track much of Astypalaia remains.”

— Captain Petros Makis

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## *Kos*

Kos is so close to Turkey that on a clear day the minarets of Bodrum are visible on the horizon. Dock at the upscale yachting marina opposite a lively seafront promenade with cosmopolitan nightlife. Kos is a large island with a mountain ridge running its length that reaches a height of 2800ft. near the northeast end. In contrast to the severely ragged edges of Astipálaia, a nearly uninterrupted sandy beach encircles Kos. If the sea is calm, swim from Agios Stefanos beach to the little island with the Byzantine basilica, 300 meters across, for fantastic snorkeling. History and archeology enthusiasts may want to hire a guide to explore the multi-level site of Asklipieno. Children love to take the odd, blue train on a scenic, 20 minute ride—you'll enjoy magnificent views at this hillside complex of ancient ruins.

Taverna Oromedon, Kos — [www.pragmata.info/Oromedon\\_gb.htm](http://www.pragmata.info/Oromedon_gb.htm)

Aqua Blu Boutique Hotel & Spa, Kos — [www.aquabluhotel.gr](http://www.aquabluhotel.gr)

“Most beaches on Kos are still wild, that is not ‘organized’ into neat rows of rental chairs and umbrellas. Therma Beach has black sand and water heated by volcanic springs. Theologian is my favorite windsurfing beach, but Kefalos bay is famous for windsurfing and clothing optional beaches. From Limnionas Beach you can snorkel to an islet with lots of marine life, including octopi and barracuda.”

— Captain Dimitris Tsiatokos

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## *Symi (Simi)*

“Nanoù bay is gorgeous, calm, spacious, and often empty. The turquoise water is spectacularly clear and clean for snorkeling. There is a taverna that might be open, but you may feel caged in. It is fenced all around to keep out roaming herds of goats that also graze along the beach and make picnicking impossible.”

— Captain Dimitris Tsiatokos

The Symi shoreline is as jagged as an ink blot. Crystal clear bays with slivers of golden sand beach, dwarfed by a backdrop of giant cliffs, make for a yachting adventure that is private and dramatic. Approaching by yacht from the north, the multi-story houses on the hillside are a conspicuous, geometric stack of irregular pastel blocks. Dock in beautiful Yialos harbor, where a fine assortment of tavernas, bars and cafes encircles the quayside. Mylopetra Restaurant has a dedicated celebrity following and a superb wine cellar. The climb up 400 massive stone steps to the Old Chorio passes neoclassical mansions, ancient ruins, modern renovations and unforgettable views. Recuperate at an outdoor café on the main square while succumbing to the poignant charms of a bygone era.

Mylopetra Restaurant, Yialos — [www.mylopetra.com](http://www.mylopetra.com)

Tsati Bar Nightlife — [www.tsatibar.gr](http://www.tsatibar.gr)

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“ Rhodes has awesome dive sites and non-divers won't feel left out with so much to explore onshore. The Mushroom is a large rock with swim-throughs and live sponges growing underneath. Crystal Fish Alley has schools of tiny fish pursued by schools of young barracuda. The Blue Hole is a dark cave from the outside, but inside daylight shines down.”

— Captain Aris Yatsos

## *Rhodes*

Position yourself on deck to scan the horizon for the castle, massive walls and graceful minarets that create a dramatic prelude on your approach. Pass between two elegant columns supporting bronze deer at the entrance to Mandráki harbor. Rhodes is a marvel of modern, medieval and ancient structures. Vast ruins present a tableau of daily life in 408 BC. The Old Town's medieval fortress palace is fiercely imposing. East coast beaches are ideal for swimming, and the windy west coast for kite surfing, watersports and playing in large waves. Pinewood forests, vineyards and fruit orchards surround villages festooned with hibiscus, jasmine and bougainvillea, which explains the profusion of butterflies. The entire town of Lindos is a UNESCO World Heritage site where medieval houses with mosaic courtyards surround a fairytale castle.

Ta Kioupia Restaurant, 22 Menekleos, Rhodes Town 22410/91 824

Kerasma Restaurant, Rhodes Town — [www.kerasmarestaurant.com](http://www.kerasmarestaurant.com)

Lindos Blu Hotel & Spa — [www.lindosblu.gr](http://www.lindosblu.gr)

Mavrikos Restaurant, Main Square, Lindos

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## *Marmaris*

Marmaris is a favorite destination for yachts cruising the Turkish Riviera. Restaurants, bars, shops and upscale resorts occupy a five-mile stretch of beachfront from Netsel Marina to Icmeler. Wander through the appealing maze of cobbled streets in the old quarter, past white-washed homes, pocket shops, men's coffee houses, food stands and the colorful stalls of the bazaar, where barter is essential. At night along the coast, clubs and bars attract a youthful crowd, while Turkish musicians and belly dancers are popular resort entertainers. Board the tender or launch the Jet Skis to explore the expansive bay, Cennet Adası (Paradise Island) and surrounding beaches. More than 50 well-known dive sites, caves, capes and coves, some with amphorae and shipwrecks, are just a jump off your stern.

Casa de Maris Spa & Resort — [www.casademaris.com](http://www.casademaris.com)

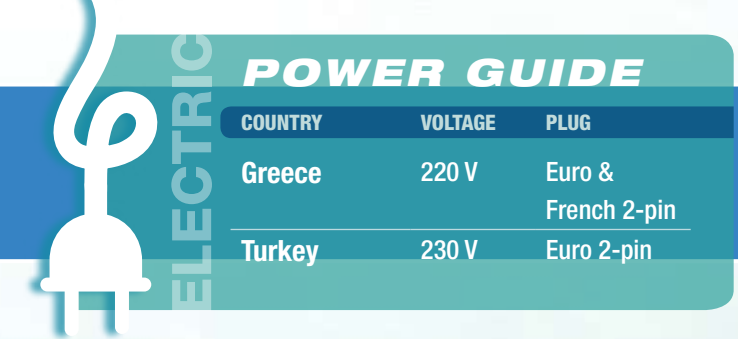
Marmaris Marina — [www.yachtmarin.com](http://www.yachtmarin.com)

Netsel Marina — [www.netselmarina.com](http://www.netselmarina.com)

“Guests who want to shop should be prepared to haggle if they go to the Marmaris Grand Bazaar (Carsi Market). Offer half of what the vendor originally asks and keep negotiating. Walk away and come back. Practice your bargaining skills with a couple of vendors before purchasing anything, especially an expensive item, to determine a fair price.”

— Captain Ibrahim Hasim

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COUNTRY	VOLTAGE	PLUG
Greece	220 V	Euro & French 2-pin
Turkey	230 V	Euro 2-pin

**TIME ZONE:** UTC +2: Daylight saving time is observed: +1hr begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

**ECONOMY:** Tourism, Industry, Agriculture

**DRESS CODE:** Dress is conservative, business casual or resort wear. When visiting museums and churches wear clothing that covers the arms and meets the knee.

**DRIVING:** Motorists drive on the right side of the road as in North America. In Turkey, cell phone use while driving is prohibited.

**GOVERNMENTS & POLITICAL SYSTEMS:** Greece, parliamentary republic; Turkey, republican parliamentary democracy

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:** Greek, Turkish

**OFFICIAL CURRENCY:** Greece: Euro, banks only open in mornings, credit cards rarely accepted. Turkey: Lira (TRY); prices often quoted in € or \$ due to high inflation.

**MELTEMI WINDS:** These strong, dry north winds can occur from May through October and peak in July and August. Speeds can reach 30 knots with wave heights over three meters. Certain straits in the Dodecanese and Cycladic islands can become dangerous due to these high velocity winds and currents.

## When to visit:

April through June the weather is sunny and spectacular, the islands are in bloom, but the water temperature stays below 70 degrees at least until mid-May. Easter is the biggest church holiday in Greece. Many shops, museums and sites are closed Good Friday through Easter Sunday and local people go on holiday to the country and the islands. In September and October yacht charter rates decrease, the weather is dry and warm, and the water is about 85 degrees, ideal for water sports.

CLIMATE DATA FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High °F	56	56	59	67	75	82	88	87	81	73	65	59	71
Average Low °F	45	46	47	52	60	68	72	71	67	60	54	47	57
Average Rainfall (mm)	45	49	43	25	17	7	7	9	10	48	53	67	32

## Climate:

The eastern Mediterranean has hot, dry summers and it is warm eight months out of the year. Winters are mild and wet with temperatures above freezing. Swimming season begins in mid-May and ends in September.

VISA INFORMATION

[www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com)



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