

Think of Cyclades



*Nature
Beat*

*Beauty
Leisure*

*History
Savour*

*Tradition
Uniqueness*

*Sun
People*

*Sea
Fun*

*Cyclades is a cluster of
56 islands in the center
of the Aegean Sea.
All you know or dream
about vacations in the
Mediterranean Sea,
you will live it here.*

*Cyclades is the one
destination for each and
every, whatever you aspects,
desires and wishes are.*

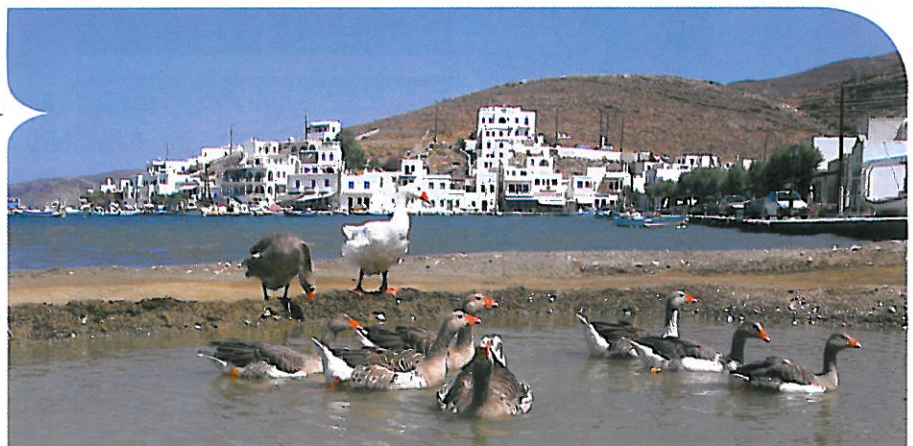
*Follow your heart to
Cyclades. Find yourself in
the land of vacations, meet
the people you have been
missing, enjoy life the way
you want.*

In a way



«Home is where you get when you run out of places».

animastudios • Sparta Libre



Cyclades

...a cluster of islands in the centre of the Aegean Sea,
one of the most delightful tourist destinations in Europe
and the world.



The islands of the Cyclades (56 small and big islands) are spread out in the centre of the Aegean Sea, but only 24 of them are inhabited.

The sea seductively embraces each one of the Cycladic islands and unites the magnificent masses of rocks and light.

It penetrates deeply into the terrain of the islands, forming multitudes of bays with big and little havens that afford anchorage to big and little boats, as well as passenger and cargo vessels.

The short distances between them makes it possible in a brief space of time to visit more than one island and make the most of the time available.

The sea unites yesterday and today, for it protects the natural beauty of the landscape and the local tradition, keeps its people effortlessly happy and is a source of enjoyment, exploration and survival.



Cyclades

This is where
your exploration begins...
In myth and in history...

The position of the Cyclades on the passage from East to West and vice versa creates a kind of floating "dispersed city", the cradle of the Early Cycladic civilization of the sea.

The Cyclades, so full of history, myths and traditions, present an unbroken historical continuity from the 8th millennium until today. They are frequently mentioned in mythology, for instance in the expedition of the Argonauts, the Homeric epics and the myth of Theseus and Ariadne (**Naxos**).

There are many traditions about the name of the Cyclades. It is said that they took their name either from the Cyclades Nymphs, whom Poseidon turned into rocks, or from the word "Cyclos", because the strong winds that blew forced ships to circle round them.

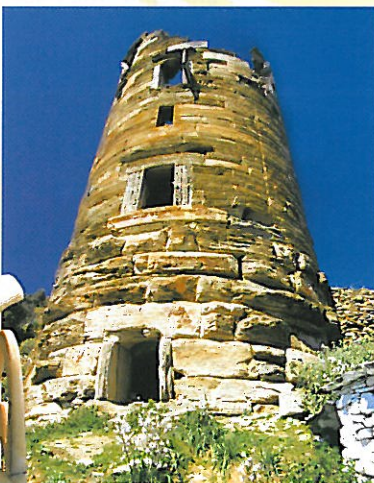
The most accepted tradition is the one linking the islands to the Sanctuary of **Delos**, around which they form an imaginary circle.

The Cyclades have an important role in mythology. Dionysus was born and worshipped on **Naxos**, Apollo the god of the sun on **Delos**, and Perseus with his mother **Danai** took refuge on **Serifos**.

According to excavation finds from **Kimolos**, **Kefala on Kea** and **Saliagos**, the islands were inhabited as early as the Mesolithic period (7th millennium BC). At the end of the 4th millennium BC and throughout the 3rd a brilliant culture with its own special characteristics flourished strongly, the **Cycladic civilisation**, divided into three long periods: Early Cycladic 3200-2100 BC, Middle Cycladic 2100-1550 BC and Late Cycladic 1550-1100 BC. It left behind unparalleled examples of art, among them the famous **Cycladic figurines**. Other masterpieces are the frescos that decorated some of the rooms of the buildings in the settlement that flourished at **Akrotiri on Thera** during the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC, and was one of the largest centres of social, cultural and economic prosperity in the prehistoric Aegean.

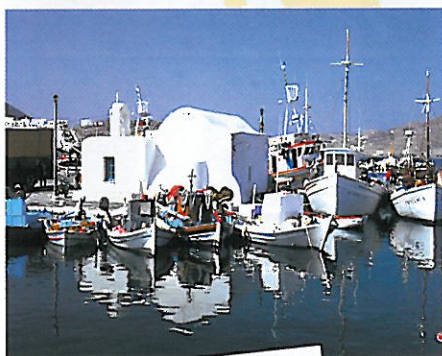
Over the centuries many conquerors have passed through the Cyclades: the Minoans of Crete, the Mycenaeans, Ionians and Dorians; they were claimed by the Macedonians, the Ptolemies of Egypt, the Rhodians and the Romans. After the capture of Constantinople by the Franks in 1204, the Cyclades fell into the hands of the Venetians and formed the Duchy of **Naxos** or the Archipelago, which was divided up into little baronies and counties between different families, chiefly the dynasties of the **Sanoudi** and **Crispi**.

In 1537 and 1538 the islands were pillaged by **Khayr ad-Din Barbarossa**, and around the mid 16th century nearly all the Cyclades were in the hands of the **Turks**. Some of the islands enjoyed a special privileged status (**Naxos**, **Andros**, **Tinos** and others). For a brief period (1770-1774) Russian ships under **Orloff** anchored in many of the islands, and during the 1821 War of Independence virtually all the Cyclades took part in the freedom fight against the **Ottomans**.





In the unparalleled nature of the Cyclades...



The Cyclades have 1974 kilometres of coastline with the finest seas and beaches, attested by the "Blue Flags" they are awarded (www.thalassa.gr).

The archipelago with its huge variety of forms and kinds of life is an incomparable biological laboratory. More than 5,000 different species of fauna are to be found on its seabed and in its waters, and on its ground some 1,000 kinds of plants, which tell of a history of evolution of over 120 million years. All these make up a unique spectacle of many colours and sharp contrasts, and are a pole of attraction for everyone who simply loves the sea and diving, and even more so for those who are specialists, the initiates into the secrets of the sea world. Many areas of sea and land are refuges for several sea and land creatures and birds (for example the Mediterranean seal, *Monachus-monachus*, laryus audouinee, aquila chrysaetos) and are protected by European law and have also been incorporated in the NATURA 2000 regional system. So, don't miss a visit to the Sea Park of the islands of Kimolos-Polyaegos.

The geological richness of the Cyclades is of especial importance, taking in monuments of the widest geological interest (volcanic, geological formations), as well as monuments of ancient archaeological and historical interest, like fossils of plants and animals, and numerous quarries of different historical periods, and rocks, for example the 5 million year old volcanic centre on the island of Kaloyiros, the Valley of Dipotamata on Andros, or on Tinos the spherical weathering structures and Taphoni geomorphs in Tinos Granite, the Katapyki Cavern and Thermal Baths on Kythnos, the dwarf elephant fossils of Delos, the Koutala Cavern and ancient mines on Serifos, the mushroom-shaped weathered shapes of Kimolos, Yerakia Cave, and the fossilized invertebrates and hot springs, the Santorini volcanic group (volcanic crater - Caldera - natural sections of the Caldera - strata of the Minoan eruption - modern volcanicity - Kameni). On Naxos there are the Geological Museum at Apeirathos, the emery mines, the Cave of Zeus and dwarf elephant fossils, on Herakleia the cave of Aghios Ioannis, on Milos the ancient obsidian quarries, the iron-manganese quarries in the Vani district and the catacombs, on Sifnos mines with ancient deposits of silver, lead and mercury and gold, on Paros marble quarries, ancient lignite quarries, and the weathered shapes at Kolymbithres, volcanic structures on Antiparos, the Cave of Oliaros and mineral galleries.



In architecture...



The architecture of the Cyclades, an important factor in the beauty of the landscape, is something special. Countless settlements of startling beauty and architectural interest, based on simplicity and purity of form, are scattered throughout all the Cycladic islands, and confer on each one a unique identity.



They often have a castle-like shape of medieval origin (the Kastro of Naxos, Kastro of Sifnos, Plaka on Milos, Ano Syros, Chora on Serifos, Chora on Ios, Chora on Amorgos, etc.). Sometimes they present a linear development, as in the case of Chora on Tinos.

A special form and place in Cycladic architecture are presented by Ermoupolis and by Chora on Andros, whose neoclassical buildings, the result of their inhabitants' prosperity, were designed by craftsmen and architects of repute, like Ziller.

The dovecots of Tinos are unique example of popular art. The characteristic windmills are well known, and so are the fountains in the countryside, the thousands of little rural chapels and the splendid monasteries.

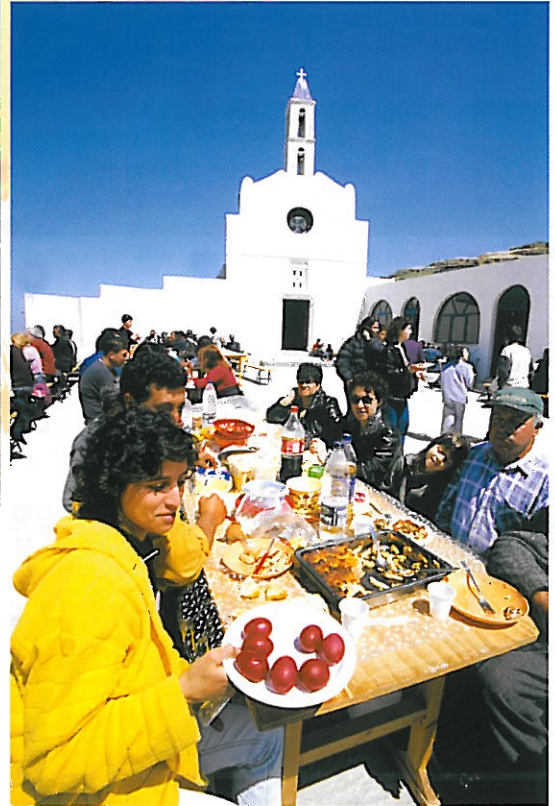
The countryside is dominated by stone benches, dry-stone walls, stone paths and the cottages built of stone and perfectly adapted to Cycladic landscape.



Travel to the Cyclades at all times of the year

The winter is particularly mild, with an average temperature of over 12°C on many Cycladic islands. In summer the average temperature exceeds 25°C on most islands, though the atmosphere remains cool thanks to the sea breezes. The autumn is of course warmer than the spring, enabling one to enjoy the sun and the sea until November, while the bravest can swim throughout the winter.

In addition there are so many activities to be enjoyed during these months, such as the grape harvest (the picking and pressing of the grapes in traditional wine presses), taking part in the pig slaughter (many families slaughter a pig), while some municipalities organize feasts with food and wine.



It's also worthwhile the Pathway Network of Cultural Interest offering footpaths across countrysides of great cultural and natural wealth. There are such rambling networks almost on every island of the Cyclades such as Amorgos, Andros, Kea, Naxos, etc.

Not to be overlooked is a visit to the remarkable traditional workshops: marble sculpture in Tinos, Andros, Naxos and Paros, basket-weaving in Tinos, wooden boat-building in Syros and Koufonissia, weaving in Mykonos, Naxos, Kea and the Lesser Cyclades, mosaic art in Ios, pottery in Kythnos, Naxos and Sifnos, wood-carving in Amorgos.

The special nature of the Cyclades is what makes their cooking so tasty.

The aromatic mountain herbs, watered by the saltiness of the sea and the brilliant sun, the clean open seas, the liking of the local inhabitants to offer their family and visitors tasty dishes ...these make the special characteristics of Cycladic cuisine.

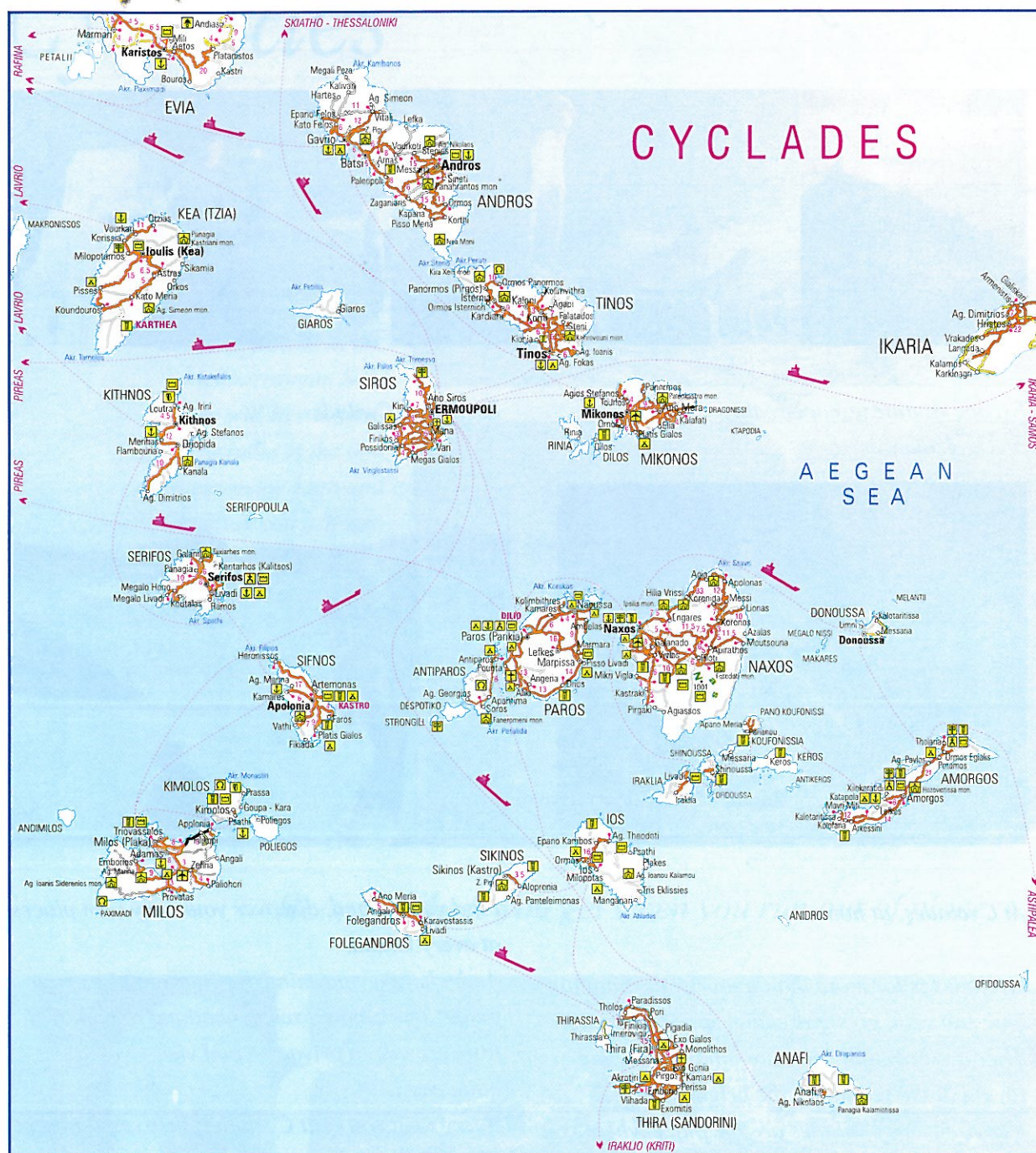
Partake of cheeses that are nowhere else to be found, superb wines, the freshest of fish cooked in different ways, gorgeous appetizers, and choice meat dishes, fruit in season with all the flavour of nature, the freshest of vegetables, and sweets that are a genuine temptation.



The Cyclades possess hidden secrets. Discover them!!!!



To find out what you are looking for. GREECE • CYCLADES ISLANDS



The Cyclades are: Delos, Amorgos, Anafi, Andros, Antiparos, Donoussa, Folegandros, Herakleia, Ios, Kea, Kimolos, Koutonissia, Kythnos, Milos, Mykonos, Naxos, Paros, Thira (Santorini), Schinoussa, Serifos, Sifnos, Sikinos, Syros, Tinos.

The Cyclades have good connections with the Attica's ports of Piraeus, Rafina and Lavrio, while some of them have an airport.

Photos: - Photographic Archive of the Regional Tourist Board of Cyclades - Photographic Archive of Tourist Guide of Greece Ltd. - Andreas Smaragdīs, Photographer
Reproduction of texts or photographs from this publication is strictly prohibited. Copyright rests exclusively with the Regional Development Agency of Cyclades S.A. and the photographers.

... your very own Cyclades !



*Escape routine, escape reality
and welcome ...*

Escape to Cyclades.



At Cyclades, at home.

*Cyclades is far more than a tourist destination.
One can visit, go sightseeing, spend few days.
They are beautiful, they are unique, they are
laying in the sea under the bright sun.
Further more Cyclades are the place where you
can meet your real self, you can live your way,
you can realize what you desire.
Millions of people visit Cyclades every year,
at all seasons. Each and every of them has its
personal definition for Cyclades.*

*Find your island, discover your very own places
at every island.*

*And, change your mind, let your mood be your
guide. Transition, from sunbathing to windsurf,
from crowds to privacy – and vice – versa – is
quite easy.*

*Every time you visit Cyclades, they are different.
They are as different as you are, but still the
same ...*

Your very own Cyclades.

This destination is your destiny.

Cyclades
Where your myth takes place



www.cyclades-tour.gr

Tel. +30 22810 82222 • Fax +30 22810 87982 • e-mail: info@anetky.gr