The Cyclades are a group of islands of varying sizes scattered over the deep blue waters of the Aegean. Some of them are well-known, while others remain little known and scarcely figure on the tourist scene. Taken as a whole, they make an ideal holiday destination for visitors of the most varied tastes.

A fusion of stone, sunlight and sparkling sea, the Cyclades lie to the east of the Peloponnese and southeast of the coast of Attica; they stretch as far as Samos and Ikaria to the east, and are bounded to the south by the Cretan Sea. According to the most likely tradition, they owe their name to the notional circle which they appear to form around the sacred isle of Delos.

The Cyclades have exercised a powerful charm since ancient times, even though access to them then was not particularly easy. This was the birthplace of one of the Mediterranean’s most important civilisations, one which took its name from the islands: the Cycladic civilisation (3000-1000 BC). Geologists attribute the peculiar form which the Cyclades have today to a succession of geological upheavals - earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, movements of the earth’s crust - which resulted in the submergence of large chunks of land. Many believe that one such stretch of land was the lost continent of Atlantis.

The diverse outlines of the islands as they protrude from the blue waters of the Aegean, bathed in the dazzling sunlight and embellished with little white houses, resemble, in the words of the Nobel Prizewinning poet Odysseas Elytis, “stone horses with rampant manes.. Above all, the people who live here, with their own individual approach to the world, bring to life the narrow alleyways of the villages and the pathways of the countryside, the countless tiny chapels, the windmills, the dovecotes or the windbeaten hillsides and are themselves a basic feature of the charm which these possess. Yet, in spite of the characteristics which the islands have in common - sparkling sea, sun, the austere landscape and the characteristic line of the architecture - each retains its uniqueness, which visitors can discover as they explore them one by one.

The Cycladic islands enjoy a Mediterranean climate, with an average annual temperature of 18-19° C. The winters are mild and the summers - by Greek standards - cool, thanks to the beneficial effects of the seasonal winds known as “meltemia”.
ANDROS
(Area 380 sq. km., distance from Piraeus 89 nautical miles, distance from Rafina 36 nautical miles).

It is the most northerly island in the Cyclades, the second-largest in the group and also among the most beautiful.

Successive mountains ranges with steep slopes, separated by gorges, river-beds and large valleys planted with olive trees, figs, oranges, lemons and vines through which run numerous streams, go to make this a landscape which often goes beyond what we think of as typically Cycladic.

The mountains end as rocky cliffs or steep promontories, while at the mouths of the valleys are sandy beaches.

In the south-east is Andros or Hora, the capital of the island and its second most important harbour.

This is a most attractive town, with neo-classical mansions side-by-side with Cycladic houses, steep and narrow alleys lined with arcades, fine churches and two pretty squares in the centre of a town which will make a lasting impression.

Among the most important monuments of Hora are the castle, now ruined, and the church of Our Lady Palatiani, within its walls.

On the cultural side, there is an Archaeological Museum with finds from the Geometric, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods, a Museum of Modern Art with works by the sculptor Michalis Tombros as well as other significant Greek and foreign artists, while during the summer season it also organises temporary exhibitions of international importance, and a Nautical Museum (the island has an important nautical tradition), with a rich collection of ship models, photographs and ship’s instruments.

Andros has good tourist amenities and can easily deal with the steadily increasing numbers of visitors, who choose it for its natural beauties, its attractive villages, its historical monuments, its superb beaches and its medicinal springs.

How to get there
By ferry from Rafina
Information: Rafina Port Authority, Tel.: 22940 22.300

Useful telephone numbers
Police: 22820 22.300
Port Authority: 22820 22.250
Municipal Offices: 22820 22275
Archaeological Museum: 22820 23.664
Museum of Modern Art: 22820 22.650

Things to buy
Cheese pies (“kaltsounia”) almond confectionery (“amygdalota”) preserved fruit.

2. Andros. Hora
3. Andros. Batsi
4. Andros. Stenies
Tinos

(Area 195 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 86 nautical miles. Distance from Rafina 62 nautical miles).

Tinos lies very close to the southern tip of Andros. This is the holy island of Our Lady, which in August is swamped by pilgrims, who go there to pray in Her church or in fulfilment of a vow.

As Our Lady’s feast day on 15 August approaches, the church and the town of Tinos become crammed with people, and religious services take place next to the commercial fair held in the surrounding streets.

A mountain range, whose highest peak is Mt Tsiknias (in the myths, the home of the wind-god Aeolus), runs the length of the island. On its lower slopes, walls like the fortifications of old castles divide the terraced fields. The coast of the island is mostly steep, but there are also numerous coves with sandy or pebbly beaches.

Among the special characteristics of Tinos are its dove-cotes. These structures developed from simple roosts for pigeons into works of art - and the stone-built fountains to be seen in the villages evolved in a similar manner.

Tinos, capital of the island and its port, is where most of the population lives. A broad street leads from the harbour to the low hill on which stands the magnificent church of Our Lady. Built in 1823 in marble from Paros and Tinos itself, the church stands overlooking the town on the site where a miraculous icon of Our Lady was discovered.

Next to the church is the Gallery of Tiniot Artists and Modern Greek Painters, which has a very interesting collection. Close by is the Archaeological Museum of Tinos. It houses finds from the temple of Poseidon and Amphirthe (at Kionia beach) and from the Geometric burials of Exo Meria.

At Xombouro, we can admire the ruins of the medieval castle, on the south side of which is a sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone.
NORTH CYCLADES

The interior of the island has been little affected by tourism, and the 45 villages have retained much of their traditional character and distinctive vernacular architecture. Amongst others, it is worthwhile to pay a visit to the villages of Volax, with its peculiar boulders that make it a unique phenomenon, Kardiani and Isteria, with a wonderful view of the sea, and Pyrgos, one of the most picturesque of the Cyclades. The latter boasts a museum dedicated to the great Greek sculptor Halepas, the Pyrgos Museum of Tinian Artists, a branch of the School of Arts as well as numerous marble-sculptors’ workshops.

Among the monasteries of the island, many of them built on superb sites, we could single out that of Our Lady of the Angels at Kehrovouni (Panagia ton Angelon) (in the area of a village called Steni) which has the appearance of a Tinos village in medieval times. Also, in the village Xinaria you will find the island’s Catholic Cathedral (Our Lady of the Rosary).

There are plenty of good beaches, too, notably at Agios Fokas near the town, Kionia, Porto, Panormos bay, Kolimbithra, Agios Sostis and Pahia Amos. The beauties of Tinos are gradually making a name for themselves. Although amenities for tourists outside the town are scanty, they are constantly expanding.

How to get there

By ferry from Piraeus Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
By ferry from Rafina Information: Rafina Port Authority, tel.: 22940 22.300 There are daily sailings from Tinos to Delos.

Useful telephone numbers
Police: 22830 22.255, 22830 22.100
Municipal Offices: 22830 22.234
Port Authority: 22830 22.348
Archaeological Museum: 22830 29.063
Holy Foundation of Our Lady: 22830 22.830

8. Tinos. Xombourgo
9. Siros. The Town Hall with Ano Siros above

SYROS (SIROS)

(Area 86 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 83 nautical miles, distance from Rafina 62 nautical miles).

The northern part of Siros is mountainous and the island stands out in general for the variety of the landscape in its hinterland, where hills alternate with low-lying farming areas. The coastline is indented with inlets of all sizes between capes. There are two large bays, of Ermoupoli to the east and Finikas to the west.

Archaeological excavations have shown that Siros was inhabited in Neolithic times. Digs at Kastri and Halandriani have revealed a prehistoric acropolis, a settlement and a burial ground, and yielded artefacts of the Early Cycladic period.

Ermoupoli, ‘Queen of the Cyclades’, is the capital and main harbour of Siros. It is also without doubt the capital of all the Cyclades. Ermoupoli stands on a naturally amphitheatrical site, with neo-classical buildings, old mansions and white houses in the island style cascading down to the harbour. The centre of the town, where Miaouli Square stands ringed with cafés, has a grandeur all its own.

Among the most important buildings are the impressive Town Hall (built in 1889 to plans by Ziller) and the Apollo Municipal Theatre (1864), which is a copy in miniature of La Scala, Milan. There is also a statue of Admiral Miaoulis. Ermoupoli has numerous magnificent churches, the most interesting of which are those dedicated to the Transfiguration, the Dormition of Our Lady, St. Demetrius, the Three Hierarchs, and St. Nicholas.
The Archaeological Museum has a collection of notable finds, and the Municipal Library contains numerous interesting and rare editions. The quarter of the town known as Vaporia, where the sea-captains lived, is of special interest. Along its narrow streets stand neo-classical mansions. Finally, because of the island’s significant economical bloom in the 19th century, of high interest are the town’s industrial buildings such as, amongst others, the Neorio shipyards, the Customs building and the Transit Warehouses in the port, the building of the old lazaret (Lazaretto), as well as old factories scattered all over the island.

Ano Siros (Upper Siros), with its walls, narrow lanes and arches, has kept much of its medieval character. The steep streets and countless steps lend the town the charm of a bygone age. At the very top of the town is the catholic Cathedral of St. George (San Tzortzis), next to which stands the Centre for Historical Studies. Not far below are the monasteries of the Jesuits and Capuchins. In the centre of the town is the Town Hall, with the Historical Archives of the Municipality of Ano Siros, and the Museum devoted to the popular composer Markos Vamvakaris, revered as one of the masters of Greek music. Various folklore events take place in Ano Siros, generally during the summer. On the north-east side of the island, which consists of an especially rich biotope, are Halandriani and Kastri hill, where important prehistoric finds have been made.

The beaches of north-west Siros are difficult to reach. Among places of interest here is Gramata, where inscriptions dating from the Roman and Byzantine periods are to be found carved on the rocks. The southern and western parts of Siros are the most densely-inhabited. The best beaches are also here, including Galissas, a fine, large resort with a long sandy beach; Possidonia or Delagratisia, a coastal area with a good beach at Angathopes and neoclassical houses of great architectural interest; Vari, with an attractive beach, Finikas bay, Kini and Megas Gialos.

There are more good swimming beaches at Kimata, Agios Nikolaos (in Ermoupoli), Delfini and Akladi. Siros is well-supplied with tourist amenities and its natural beauties and interesting monuments make it an ideal holiday destination. Characteristic product of the island: Turkish delight (loukoumia).

How to get there

By ferry from Piraeus
Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel. : 1440

From Rafina
Information: Rafina Port Authority, tel. : 22940 22.300

By air from Athens
Information: El. Venizelos Airport,
Tel.: 210 3530.000

Useful telephone numbers
Police: 22810 96.100
Municipality of Ermoupoli: 22810 82.934
Municipality of Ano Siros: 22810 82.934
Archaeological Museum: 22810 88.487
Port Authority: 22810 88.888
Airport: 22810 87.025

10. The northern part of Siros consists of an especially rich biotope
11. Siros. Panoramic view
12. Siros by night
MYKONOS
(MIKONOS)
(Area 88 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 94 nautical miles).

Mykonos is world-famous. It is no coincidence that this, the most cosmopolitan of all Greek islands, attracts so many visitors from all over the globe, including large numbers of artists and intellectuals.

Here, the steep mountains to be encountered in most of the Cyclades give way to low, rocky hills which combine with superb beaches to make up the landscape of the island. The capital, Hora, with its colourful harbour in which little fishing-boats nestle happily side by side with luxury yachts, presents quite a different picture from the majority of Aegean island towns. While it is usual for island villages to be built on naturally amphitheatrical sites, Mykonos is spread out over a flat area and conveys an impression of solid aesthetic cohesion.

Along the whitewashed streets stand brilliant white box-shaped houses with stepped walls for sitting on, wooden doors and windows and brightly-coloured balconies. These are interspersed with small but impressive churches, pretty little tavernas and shops selling souvenirs and other goods, and the overall sense is of being inside a film set. One of the most picturesque neighbourhoods of Hora (and often photographed) is famous 'little Venice'.
On the low Kastro hill is the complex of churches known collectively as Our Lady 'Paraportiani', a superb arrangement of whitewashed masses created over the centuries and now recognised as a national cultural monument.

Of particular historical and aesthetic interest are the medieval houses in this district of the town, which stand like a wall above the sea protecting the west side of Hora.

The Archaeological Museum of Hora contains finds from tombs on the nearby island of Rhenia, sculptures, vases and figurines. The Folklore Museum brings together a number of collections of furniture, icons, pieces of sculpture and folk musical instruments. Mykonos is also the home of the Nautical Museum of the Aegean, which is particularly interesting.

The countryside of Mykonos is a mixture of grey-green rocks ringed by prickly pear plants and little fertile areas carpeted with wild flowers. Here and there are tiny whitewashed chapels and windmills.

Ano Mera is, after Hora, the most important of the older villages on the island. Standing 8 km. to the east of the town, Ano Mera has the interesting monastery of Our Lady Tourliani, ornamented with fine wood-carvings. The church has a collection of valuable ecclesiastical vessels, vestments and embroideries. The courtyard contains an interestingbell-tower and a marble fountain. Here lovers of the sea will find outstanding golden beaches such as Agios Stefanos, Psarou, Kalafatis, Platis Gialos, Ornos, Elia, Panormos, Paradise and Super Paradise.

Mykonos is a busy island with all the amenities of a modern resort and with plenty to do, day or night. Yet visitors fond of more peaceful holidays will still find quiet corners in which to relax.
DELOS (DILOS)
(Area: 5 sq. km. Distance from Mykonos: 6 nautical miles).
The sacred island of Delos was, in the myths, the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. Today the island is uninhabited: it is a vast archaeological site whose superb monuments draw thousands of visitors in pilgrimage to what was, for a thousand years or so starting from the ninth century BC, the political and religious centre of the Aegean. The archaeological site covers almost the entire island, starting on the west side, where the sacred harbour was. From the harbour, a majestic sacred way led to the Sanctuary of Apollo, where there were temples, altars, votive offerings and other buildings. There are ruins of four temples to Apollo, one of them known as the Temple of the Athenians.
To the east is the Sanctuary of the Bulls, an oblong building, and to the north are the Treasuries and the long, narrow Stoa of Antigonus. In the north-west corner is the much smaller Sanctuary of Artemis, with an Ionic temple to the goddess, and the Tomb of the Two Hyperborean Maidens. Still further north is the region of the sacred lake, with the famous Terrace of the Lions, the Letoon, the Agora of the Italians and the Institution of the Poseidoniasts of Berytos.
A little farther on are some fine examples of houses and a palaestra. To the north-east of the lake are the Stadium and the Gymnasium. Some of the houses yielded superb mosaic floors with representations of Dionysus, a dolphin and a trident. A narrow channel separates Delos from Rhenia, where there is an important burial ground.
The museum of Delos houses sculptures of the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods, together with a collection of vases from various periods.
How to get there
Access to Delos is by caique, principally from nearby Mykonos but also from other Cycladic islands. Information: Mykonos Port Authority, tel.: 22890 22.218
Useful telephone numbers
Delos Archaeological site: 22890 22.259 . Delos Museum: 22890 22.259
18. Mykonos. The agricultural Museum, housed in a converted windmill
19. Delos. Archaeological site
20. Delos. The Hermes House
21. Delos. The Sacred Way of the Lions
CENTRAL CYCLADES

ANTIPAROS
(Area 35 sq. km. Distance from Paros (Pounda) 1 nautical mile. Distance from Paros (Parikia) 4.5 nautical miles). Antiparos and Paros are divided by a narrow channel.
The island is notable for its golden, sandy beaches and for its authentic natural beauty.
The capital, Antiparos or Kastro, stands around the original nucleus of the medieval castle.
Among the principal attractions of Antiparos is the famous cave of stalactites on Agios Ioanis hill. There is a chapel to St John of the Cave (Agios Ioanis Spiliotis) at the mouth of the cavern.
Antiparos has a number of great beaches with golden sand and bluegreen water.
Every year, more and more visitors come to Antiparos, and as a result the hotels and limited number of rooms to rent have difficulty in meeting demand at peak periods.
All around Antiparos are scores of tiny islands, like guards posted out at sea, inhabited only by wild rabbits and pigeons.
Archaeologists have investigated two of these islets: Despotiko (opposite the Agios Georgios area, from where the caiques take off) produced very important finds from the Early Cycladic period, while Saliangos has the ruins of a neolithic settlement.

How to get there
By ferry from Paros (Pounda) By caique from Paros (Parikia) Information: Paros Port Authority, tel.: 22840 21.240 Useful telephone numbers Police: 22840 61.202 Community Offices: tel.: 22840 61.570

PAROS
(Area: 195 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus, 95 nautical miles, distance from Rafina 82 nautical miles).
Paros, the third-largest of the Cyclades after Naxos and Andros, has developed into one of the most popular tourist destinations of the Cyclades during the past three decades.
Gently rolling hills, which lock within themselves the famous Parian marble, surround the centre and south-east of the island, which is predominantly agricultural and is occupied by endless vineyards.
The coastline is indented, with numerous small inlets and two large bays, those of Naoussa in the north and Parikia in the west.
Paros has been inhabited since very ancient times, and was one of the centres of the Cycladic civilisation.
Parikia, the island’s capital and port, stands on the site of an ancient city.
There is a picturesque decrepit Venetian castle, on the cutting edge of the old town, with the courtyards of the houses of the town . all of them painted white . full of pots of basil and hung with jasmine and honeysuckle.
There are also wonderful neoclassical houses in the centre’s main roads. A broad paved avenue leads to the church of Ekatondapiliani or Katapoliani (6th century), one of the most important Byzantine monuments in the whole of Greece and a place mentioned in many legends. It is dedicated to the Dormition of Our Lady, and on her feast day (15 August) there is a great celebration on the sea-front with fireworks and songs of the sea. In Parikia you will also find the extremely interesting Archaeological Museum as well as the cemetery of the ancient city.
Near the village of Marathi (3km. east of Parikia) you will encounter the ancient quarries where Paros marble was extracted and northwest of Pankia the Sanctuary of Apollo (at Dillo).
Naoussa, one of the prettiest villages in the Cyclades, with the picturesque port (site of a Venetian fortress), whitewashed houses, narrow paved alleys, arches and churches, also offers a range of excellent beaches and attracts many visitors each summer, as it is considered to be the hot spot of the island.
Near Naoussa, special mention should be made of Kolimbithres, where huge rocks eroded into strange shapes remind the visitor of sculptures embedded in the sand.

The chapels and monasteries of Paros are famed for their picturesqueness; among the most characteristic are the monastery of Zoodohos Pigi “Longovarda” and that of Christ of the Forest (Hristos tou Dassous).

In the centre of the island is Lefkes, a beautiful village and the old capital of the island, while farther east you will find Marpissa, a picturesque large village with a medieval layout, scores of churches and a Venetian castle with a 16th-century monastery on a close-by hill.

Finally, in the lush verdant area of Petaloudes, during the summer you can admire large populations of unusual species of butterflies.

Among the best swimming beaches are Livadia, Krios, Agios Fokas (at Parikia), Mikro Piperi and Megalo Piperi, Limnes, Agii Anargiri, Langeri, Alki (with an interesting exhibition of traditional crafts), Santa Maria, Ambelas, Pisso Livadi, and Drios (on the eastern side).

Paros is an ideal destination for those in search of cosmopolitan bustle and for lovers of solitude alike. It has a full range of tourist amenities.

**How to get there**

*By ferry from Piraeus* Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440

*From Rafina* Information: Rafina Port Authority, tel.: 22940 22.300

*By air from Athens* Information: El. Venizelos Airport, Tel.: 210 3530.000

**Useful telephone numbers**


**Things to buy**

Ornamental pottery in Naoussa . elegant silver jewellery.

22. Paros. Parikia

23. Antiparos

24. Paros. Naoussa
CENTRAL CYCLADES

NAXOS
(Area 430 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 103 nautical miles).
Naxos, the largest and most fertile of the Cycladic islands, lies almost at the centre of the Aegean. Meadows running down to vast beaches, cliffs sinking suddenly into the sea, rocky mountains side-by-side with fertile valleys, abundant springs and streams are just some of the features of a natural environment marked for its variety.
The coastline of Naxos is abrupt on the south side and more sheltered to the west, with numerous inlets and sandy beaches.
The island is first heard of in the myths and then mentioned throughout every period of history, though it was at the peak of its glory during the period of the Cycladic civilisation.

Naxos or Hora, built amphitheatrically on a hill-side on the northwest side of the island, is one of the most attractive towns in the Cyclades. As the visitor climbs from the harbour, where the imposing “Portara” (522 B.C.) stands on an islet, up to the Venetian castle (13th century), he will be struck by the beauty of the narrow winding lanes and the old stone houses lining them.

Interesting monuments from various periods are to be found all over the town. They include fine Byzantine churches, the castle itself (with its tower and battlements), and traces of Mycenean buildings at Grota site.

The Archaeological Museum of Naxos has some notable exhibits.

Given that traces of Greek antiquity are to be seen everywhere, each part of the island has something of interest. Near the pretty coastal village of Apolonas, for instance, on the north side of the island, is a half-finished outsize kouros (statue of a youth), dating from the 6th century BC, still lying in the marble quarry where it was abandoned. Another such statue can be seen at Melanes. An interesting archaeological museum is to be found at Apirathos, a village where a number of odd customs and habits have survived.

Among churches of interest are those of Our Lady “Protothroni” at Tragea and Our Lady “Filotitissa” in the village of Filoti, close to which the Za cave is situated.
There are good swimming beaches at Agios Prokopios, Mikri Vigla, Kastraki, Agia Ana, Alkos, Pirgaki, Agiassos (on the west side), Apolonas, Psili Amos, Panormos, Pahia Amos and elsewhere.
The superb beaches of Naxos, its attractive villages and its wealth of monuments draw thousands of visitors to the island each year.
The good tourist amenities of the island make it easy to tour its innumerable charms.

How to get there

By ferry from Piraeus
Information:
Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
From Rafina
Information: Rafina Port Authority, tel.: 22940 22.300
By air from Athens
Information:
El. Venizelos Airport, Tel.: 210 3530.000

Useful telephone numbers
Archaeological Museum: 22850 22.725 . Airport 22850 23.969

Things to buy
Woven goods . embroideries . woolens . honey . various cheeses . citron liqueur.

25. Naxos. Portara
27. One of the scores of beautiful beaches of Naxos
These small and beautiful islands, few of which have any special amenities, are an ideal destination for those in search of solitude and peace. The rugged beauty of the barren landscape, the sea-lashed rocks, the little coves along the coastline, a chance to get away from the crowds and the culture of technology, these are the charms that attract visitors to these virtually virgin islands. Archaeological excavations have shown that the islands were inhabited in prehistoric times. In Iraklia, where there is a cave (Ai. Yannis) with superb stalactites, traces of the Cycladic civilisation have been found. At the pretty harbour of Messaria on Shinoussa, there are ruins of medieval fortifications. Koufonissia has a fine sandy beach at Finikia (Pano Koufonissi), where the water is crystal-clear, and (on Kato Koufonissi) beaches with coarse sand. Here the remains of buildings from the Hellenistic and Roman periods have come to light.

Keros has yielded the remains of settlements from the Early Cycladic period, together with archaeological finds of the same date which are considered among the finest anywhere in the Cyclades.

Donoussa, too, with its incomparable beaches, has traces of prehistoric habitation. A few rooms are available for rent in Iraklia, Pano Koufonissi and Shinoussa.

How to get there
The smaller islands of the Eastern Cyclades are served by ferries from Piraeus (information from the Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440) and Rafina (information from the Rafina Port Authority, tel.: 22940 22.300).

Useful telephone numbers:
AMORGOS
(Area 134 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 138 nautical miles to Katapola, 148 nautical miles to Aegiali).

The oblong shape of the mountainous and barren island of Amorgos lies on the eastern edge of the Cyclades, almost in the Dodecanese. In some places, the coastline is steep and rocky, while elsewhere it forms quiet, shady bays.

The ruins to be found all over the island and the important archaeological finds discovered there (some of which are in the National Archaeological Museum, Athens) are testimony to the fact that Amorgos was inhabited in prehistoric times and was a place of great importance during the period of the Cycladic civilisation.

In antiquity, there were three flourishing and independent cities on Amorgos: Minoa, Arkessini and Aegiali.

At Katapola, the main harbour of the island today and the location of the interesting church of Our Lady Katapoliani (built on the site of a temple of Apollo), traces of ancient Minoa have come to light. Swimmers will be delighted by the superb beaches to be found in the vicinity.

The capital of the island, Hora or Amorgos, a typical cycladic settlement, is built around and beneath the Venetian castle, which stands on the peak of the hill.

The typical Cycladic architectural style of the double or twin church is much in evidence here.

The Archaeological Museum, which is housed in the Venetian Tower of Gavra (16th century), has finds from all over the island and is well worth a visit.

To the north-east of Hora, at the foot of a steep rock, is the impressive Byzantine monastery of Our Lady "Hozoviotissa", one of the most important monuments of its kind. It was founded in 1088 by the Byzantine emperor Alexis Komninos, it is 180 m. high and houses rare religious heirlooms.

The second port of Amorgos, Aegiali, is a pretty village famed for its superb sandy beaches and consisting of four distinct quarters. (Tholaria, Potamos, Omos and Langada). If you like walking, two hours north of Langada, following an impressive route, you will reach the highest spot of the island (Krikellos mountain), offering a fascinating view of the island.

In the south of the island, Arkessini stands near the site of the ancient city of the same name, amid a group of picturesque whitewashed hamlets. Amorgos has few hotels or rooms to rent. Yet, despite the limited facilities available for visitors, the fine beaches and particular beauty of the island attract more and more tourists each year.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus (to Katapola and Aegiali)
Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
From Rafina (to Katapola)
Information: Rafina Port Authority, tel.: 22940 22.300

Useful telephone numbers
Police: 22850 71.210, Community Office: 22850 71.246, 74.035, Port Authority (Katapola): 22850 71.259
FOLEGANDROS
(Area 32 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 102 nautical miles).
Folegandros is a small and rocky island between Sikinos and Milos. Visitors will be struck by the wild beauty of the barren landscape, where huge rocks alternate with sandy beaches. On a flat expanse above the pretty harbour of Karavostassis is Hora or Folegandros, which consists of two settlements, among the most picturesque of the Cyclades. In the old settlement in the Kastro area (13th century), the outer walls of the houses form the sort of defensive precinct to be found elsewhere in the Cyclades. The new quarter is just as pretty, with narrow alleys, stepped walls, courtyards, wooden balconies and typically Aegean churches. The finest church on the island, that of Our Lady, stands on top of a section of the ancient wall. Chryssospilia, nearby to the north, with stalactites, stalagmites and traces of ancient occupation, and the small settlements in the Ano Meria district are the sights to be seen around the island’s main village. Ano Meria also has a Folklore Museum, with exhibits that reconstruct the farming practices of the islanders. Among the best beaches for swimming are Karavostassis, Livadi and Agios Georgios bay. Although Folegandros has little in the way of tourist amenities or roads, it attracts more and more visitors each year. Chiefly those in search of solitude close to nature. There are a few rooms to rent.

SIKINOS
(Area 41 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 113 nautical miles).
Sikinos has fully retained its island character, and this adds to its attraction for those in search of peace and an authentic atmosphere. The island has been inhabited since ancient times, as has been proved by the finds made in the Episkopi district. The main road on Sikinos links Alopronia, the island’s harbour, with Hora or Kastro, one of the most beautiful villages anywhere in the Cyclades. There are fine stone mansions to admire, and the church of Our Lady, Pantanassa. The Zoodohos Pigi monastery, built on the peak of a rock, from a distance reminds you of an impregnable castle. As on all the more isolated Cycladic islands, the local religious festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm. There are a few rooms for rent on Sikinos, all of them in Hora. Simple meals are served at the island’s restaurants and tavernas.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus
Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
Useful telephone numbers
SOUTH CYCLADES

IOS
(Area 108 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 113 nautical miles).
The coastline of this predominantly mountainous island with its countless chapels, olive trees, vineyards and its limpid air, is adorned with small, attractive coves. Those features combine with the crystal-clear sea, the superb sandy beaches and the improving range of amenities to make Ios a magnet for tourists, especially young people, as Ios (Nios for the natives) is well known for its booming nightlife.
The island's history goes back to prehistoric times. According to Herodotus, the ‘poet of poets’, the ‘god-like’ Homer was buried at Plakotos, in the north of the island. Pausanias tells us that there was an inscription at Delphi confirming the poet's interment on Ios, which was the homeland of his mother, Clymene.
Above the pretty harbour of Ormos, where fishing-boats and yachts bob at anchor, stands the capital Ios or Hora. The town stands on the site of the ancient city of the same name and is a typical Cycladic settlement, with white-washed houses, narrow alleys and chapels. Among the churches, those of St Catherine, St John the Baptist and Sts Cosmas and Damien stand out.
The whole beautiful image is rounded off with the bulk of the medieval castle (which was built by M. Crispi) and the row of windmills which top the town.
The sites of Ios include a Hellenistic tower and the remains of an ancient aqueduct at Agia Theodoti, traces of an ancient temple at Psathi, a ruined Venetian castle at the site known as Paleokastro, and the Hellenistic tower at Plakotos which we have already mentioned. The Archaeological and Folklore Museum in Hora and the Museum of Modern Art (Drot-Gaiti) at Kolitsani are also worth a visit.

Lovers of the sea will be enraptured by the superb beaches of Ios, some of them busy (such as Milopotas and Manganari), and others no less attractive but much quieter (Agia Theodoti, Psathi, Kalamas, Plakes, Tzamaria, Kolitsani and others).

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus
Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
By ferry from Rafina
Information: Rafina Port Authority, tel.: 22940 22.300

Useful telephone numbers
Police: 22860 91.222 . Municipal Offices: 22860 91.505 . Ios Port Authority: 22860 91.264 . Information Bureau: 22860 91.936

37. Ios
38. Ios Beach
ANAFI

(Area 38 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 145 nautical miles).

From a distance, Anafi, in the southeast corner of the Cyclades, looks like no more than an isolated rock in the ocean.

According to the myths, the Argonauts sought refuge from a storm on the island. Archaeological finds have demonstrated that Anafi was inhabited in antiquity. A road leads from the picturesque harbour of Agios Nikolaos up to Hora, the only settlement of any size, built amphitheatrically in the centre of the island.

The monastery of Our Lady “Kalamiotissa” (18th century), standing in the precinct of a temple of Apollo Aegletus (at the southwest end of the island), as well as the Venetian castle and the church of St. Athanasius in Hora are among the special sights.

The beaches of Anafi, whether sandy or pebbly, are lapped by crystal-clear water. The local religious feasts are very lively, and so are the island dances. A few rooms are available for rent on the island for those who enjoy quiet holidays close to nature.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus
Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440

Useful telephone numbers
Community Office: tel.: 22860 61.266

39. A typical Cycladic chapel
40. Anafi
SOUTH CYCLADES

SANTORINI (THIRA)
(Area 97 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 130 nautical miles).

Santorini, one of the most famous islands of the Aegean, differs from the other islands of the Cyclades thanks to its geographical morphology, the result of the activity of a now dormant volcano. The large eruption which took place in the 16th century B.C. caused large parts of the island to sink and created a large crater (caldera), a phenomenon rarely seen anywhere in the world. Some scientists make indeed a connection between Santorini and ancient Atlantis. The steep coastline to the west gives way to vast beaches on the east side, some of them sandy and others with pebbles.

From the landing-place, Athinios, we can climb up to Fira, the capital, on foot, go by car or on donkey-back. There is a funicular railway for those who wish to avoid the hundreds of steps. Fira is very attractive, with winding narrow streets, arcades and a quarter where the Catholic nobility once dwelt. There is a most important Archaeological Museum, with a large collection of vases dating from the 7th and 6th centuries BC (including the pieces known as
“Thera ware”), a few Archaic and Classical pieces, and some Hellenistic and Roman sculptures and portraits, as well as the Museum of Prehistorical Thera, with an exhibition of the finds from Akrotiri and other areas of the island, dating from the neolithic era up to the 17th century B.C. There is a superb view from Fira to the Kamenes, the two islets of black stone created by the volcano. The islets can be visited by launch. Ancient Thira is a site of great archaeological interest which was occupied by Phoenicians, Dorians, Romans and Byzantines. Down the centre of the city runs the Sacred Way. The buildings include groups of houses, marketplaces, baths, theatres, sanctuaries, the residence of Ptolemy Euergetes, tombs of the Archaic and Classical periods and Early Christian remains. On the surrounding rocks the names of the god Apollo and of men and boys are inscribed in the ancient alphabet of Thira. The site at Akrotiri, one of the most significant archaeological sites of Greece, has yielded the remains of a Minoan city destroyed around 1500 BC by an eruption of the volcano. In effect, this is a prehistoric version of Pompeii buried beneath volcanic ash, with two and three-storeyed houses, with squares, shops, workshops and so on. Among the finds from the houses are marvellous murals (on display in the National Archaeological Museum, Athens), vases, and every-day utensils. On the highest peak of Santorini is a monastery of the Prophet Elijah (Profitis Ilias), where a picturesque religious feast is held on 20 July each year. The traditional village of Ia, 11 km. to the north of Fira, is a place of incomparable beauty. The unique appeal of Ia lies in its little houses hewn out of the soft rock (some of them whitewashed, others painted blue or ochre), its neo-classical mansions with their courtyards, its narrow paved alleys. There is a superb view out to sea, while it is also famous for its sunset. Also of interest are the villages of Imerovigli, (which has been declared a preservable settlement), with a marvellous view of the entire area, and medieval Pyrgos. Among the best bathing beaches - some of them with black sand and others with pebbles - are Kamari or Armeni, Ano Moud, Baxedes, Perivolos, Perissa, Monolithos and Kokini Paralia. Finally, it is worthwhile to take an undersea trip with the submarine Atlantis. Trips take place only during the summer. The peculiarities of the natural environment, the unusual architecture and the outstanding monuments of Santorini attract very large numbers of visitors in the summer.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
By ferry from Rafina Information: Rafina Port Authority, tel.: 22940 22.300
By air from Athens Information: El. Venizelos Airport, Tel.: 210 3530.000
Useful telephone numbers
Things to buy
Embroideries, knitted goods, rugs, handicrafts, local wines, chick-peas.

41. Santorini
42. Santorini, Fira
43. Santorini, Imerovigli
44. Santorini, Panoramic view from the top of the volcano

THIRASSIA
Thirassia, off Santorini near Ia, is the largest of a chain of islets formed by volcanic activity and the only one inhabited. Its sole village, Horio, is a pretty place with whitewashed houses, reached by a flight of 250 steps from the landing-place, while it is worthwhile to pay a visit to the villages Potamos and Riva. In the winter, there are caiques from Ia to Thirassia, while in the summer months the travel agencies of Santorini run trips from Fira and Athinos. There are a few rooms to rent on the island.

Information: Community Office: tel.: 22860 29.143.22
KEA or TZIA
(Area 131 sq. km. Distance from Lavrio 12 nautical miles. Distance from Piraeus 42 nautical miles).
This exceptionally picturesque island lies very close to the south-east coast of Attica and for this reason it is one of the most popular destinations of Athenians. The mountain masses, which are encountered in most of the Cyclades, are broken up by small valleys sparsely planted with vineyards and fruit-trees and run right down to the sea, opening out into pretty little bays.

On the western side of the island is Agios Nikolaos bay, which is considered to be one of the safest natural harbours in the Mediterranean. Ferryboats call at Korissia, also known as Livadi. It is built on the site of the city of Korissia, which in ancient times, together with Ioulis, Karthea and Poissia, was one of the island's four independent city-states. Two kilometres from Korissia is Vourkari, a cosmopolitan fishing village with a lee harbour.
The island's capital, Hora or Ioulida (6 km. from Korissia), has maintained its Cycladic idiom intact. Built in the shape of an amphitheatre, at the site of ancient Ioulis, it presents the visitor with an impressive vista of two-storey houses and tiled roofs, steep cobbled alleyways and splendid churches with elaborately carved wooden icon screens. At the highest point of the village, on the site of the ancient acropolis, is a quarter known as Kastro which commands a breathtaking view of the nearby islands off the coast of Attica.

Not far from here is the famous "Lion of Kea" (6th century BC), hewn out of the slate.

The Archaeological Museum in Ioulida contains interesting finds dating from the Cycladic period. The interior of the island is dotted with small chapels, windmills and monasteries, including that of Our Lady Kastriani, Kea's patron saint.
Kea offers those who are seeking a restful holiday clean, uncrowded beaches at Pisses, Korissia, Yaliskari, Koundouros, Agios Emilianos, Otzia bay and Poles bay; here they can enjoy delicious fresh fish in picturesque little tavernas.

How to get there
By ferry from Lavrio and Piraeus Information: Lavrio Port Authority, tel.: 22920 25.249
Piraeus Port Authority (a few ferries each week), tel.: 1440

Useful telephone numbers
KYTHNOS
(KITHNOS)
(Area 99 sq. km. Distance from Lavrio 26 nautical miles, from Piraeus 52 nautical miles).
It was on the small island of Kithnos, famous in antiquity for the excellence of its administration (according to Aristotle in his Constitution of Kithnos.) that recent archaeological finds have provided evidence of the earliest presence of man in the Cyclades.
Here, too, the terrain is mainly mountainous, but the harshness of the bare earth is relieved here and there by vineyards or fig-trees, while pretty little bays form indentations in its coastline.
Ferries put in at Merihas, the port on the western side of the island.
Hora or Messaria, the island’s capital, is 8 km. from Merihas and stands on a hillside plateau. A typical Cycladic village, it is noted for its beautiful churches with their fine wood-carving, sanctuary screens and icons (St. Savas, church of the Savior, Holy Trinity, Theologos). At the monastery of Our Lady “tou Nikous”, which stands on an attractive hill, the feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary on 15 August is observed with the traditional festivities. A little way to the south is the island’s former capital, which retains its ancient name of Driopida - a picturesque village, very typical of the islands. Close to Driopida is the Katafyki cave, one of the largest of Greece, with an interesting interior decoration. 4.5 km. northeast of Hora lies Loutra, renowned for its radioactive thermal springs, which are considered beneficial to sufferers from arthritis, dermatitis and gynecological problems, while north of Loutra lies the impressive Katakefalo castle.
In the south-east, the monastery of Our Lady Kanala, the patron saint of the island, stands on an attractive promontory facing the island of Serifos, with a beautiful expanse of sandy beach. The building is of great interest and the scenery is reminiscent of a fjord - in Greek colours.
Other good beaches for swimming can be found at Merihas, Episkopi, Flambouria bay (accessible only by boat), Loutra, Agios Stefanos and elsewhere.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus and Lavrio Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440 Lavrio Port Authority, tel.: 22920 25.249

Useful telephone numbers
Kithnos Port Authority: 22810 32.290

48. Characteristic Kithnos landscape
49. Kithnos
50. Kithnos. Episkopi beach
KIMOLOS

(Area 36 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 86 nautical miles).

Very close to Milos lies mountainous Kimolos, whose predominant colour is as blinding white as the chalk it produces. The necropolis found at Elinika, in the south-west of the island, and the remnants of the ancient city of Kimolos on the islet of Agios Andreas (facing Elinika) are testimony to habitation as far back as the Mycenaean period. Much later, in the Middle Ages, pirates used the well-concealed caves of Kimolos as hiding places. In general terms, the island's history has been that of Milos. From the quiet harbour of Psathi a road leads uphill to the capital of Kimolos or Hora, where almost all the islanders live.

The houses of Hora, in the authentic Cycladic style, are clustered around the nucleus of the castle, which is itself divided into two settlements, Messa Kastro (Inner Castle) and Exo Kastro (Outer Castle). In the former, the outer walls of the houses form a defensive wall with loopholes for windows and four entrance gates. The overall impression is of a painting in white against a blue background. Flowers are grown in all the courtyards, and the alleyways are cobbled.

Prassa, in the north of the island, is the area where the chalk is mined. There are also medicinal springs with sulphurous waters, while farther to the north lie the caves of Vromolimni and Konsolina.

The little tavernas in Hora can provide a basic range of food, and there are some rooms to rent.

Apart from the beaches at Psathi and Prassa, there is good swimming at Aliki, Limni, Elinika, Bonatsa, Klima, Monastiria, et al.

During the past few years a start has been made to construct tourist amenities on the island; however, it still has no massive influx of tourists and is therefore an ideal destination for those who love solitude and the quiet of an idyllic landscape.

How to get there

By ferry from Piraeus
Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440

From Milos (Apolonia) There are daily caique services in the summer and regular ferry departures.
Information: Milos Port Authority, tel.: 22870 22.100

Useful telephone numbers
Police: 22870 51.205
Community Office: 22870 51.218
MILOS
(Area 151 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 87 nautical miles).
Milos is the most southerly island in the western Cyclades. It is notable for its volcanic soil and for the rich deposits of minerals that lie beneath. It has a distinctive horseshoe shape. Its civilisation is considered equal to that of Crete and covers at least 5000 years.
It became famous in the civilised world thanks to the masterpiece of the Venus de Milo, a statue found buried on the island in the 19th century and now in the Louvre Museum in Paris. Adamas, one of the safest natural harbours in the Aegean, is a particularly charming spot, with whitewashed houses, cobbled alleys, balconies crammed with flower-pots and fragrant tamarisks which have been extolled by the poets. Of particular interest is the Minerals Museum, with exhibits of the island’s rich variety of minerals.
Milos or Plaka, capital of the island, today stands on a hillside overlooking the sea at the foot of the castle. It is a most attractive town, with architecture in the characteristic Cycladic style. Among the most notable of its churches are those of Our Lady “Korfiotissa”, Our Lady “Thalassistra” and Our Lady “Messa Panagia”.
The Archaeological Museum has a copy of the Venus de Milo as well as other finds from various periods. The Historical and Folklore Museum has a collection of folk artifacts, samples of the island’s minerals, photographs and historical documents of the greatest interest. Moreover, in the nearby village of Klima the ruins were found of ancient walls as well as an ancient theatre where performances are held during the summer.
At the north-eastern extremity of Milos is the modern resort of Polonia or Apolonia. Three km. from there is Filakopi, an important centre in Minoan times; three successive cities were built on this spot. Next to the archaeological site is the spectacular Papafranga cave. The sea-cave called Kleftiko at the south end of the island, is one of Milos’ most impressive landscapes. However, the most important monument is the famous catacombs, now open to the public. They are located at the village of Tripiti, two km. from the main town of Plaka and they are among the most important of Early Christian monuments. Milos has many excellent beaches such as Sarakiniko (with beautiful cliffs hewn by wind and sea), Hivadolimni, Polonia, Adamas, Emborio, Provatas, Paleohori, Agia Kiriaki, Firiplaka, Papakinou and others.
The extensive infrastructure for tourism of Milos, its clear waters and its fascinating monuments are helping to attract more and more visitors to the island.
The nearby islets of Antimilos, Arkadies and Glaronisia are also of interest, each in its own way.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus
Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
By air from Athens
Information: El. Venizelos Airport, Tel.: 210 3530.000

Useful telephone numbers
Catacombs: 22 870 21.625.

SERIFOS
(Area 73 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus 70 nautical miles). Bare, undulating hills interspersed with small, fertile valleys cover this picturesque island. The rocky coastline is deeply indented with a succession of coves and bays. The curious rock formations resemble human figures which call to mind the myth of Danae, Perseus and Medusa, as if these prehistoric inhabitants of the island had been turned to stone. Ferries call at Livadi, the sheltered port on the eastern side of the island, where there is a long, horseshoeshaped sandy beach.

Perched on the top of a steep hill, Hora or Serifos, the main town of the island, with its little cube-shaped house and churches in the island style and its Venetian castle higher up, looks like a fairytale town.

The fortress-like monastery of the Archangels (Moni Taxiarhon), near the village of Galani, which houses some fine wall-paintings and important books and manuscripts, is of special interest. The village of Panagia (which takes its name, meaning .Our Lady., from the fine 10th century church which bears the same name) commands a panoramic view of the whole island.

In the village of Kondalas (15 km. southwest of Hora) are the ruins of the Old Woman’s castle, towers from the Hellenistic period as well as the iron-ore loading bridge (19th century). Similar bridges, as well as the neoclassical building of the mining company, still exist in the nearby village of Megalo Livadi. Close to Kondalas you will also find the famous Cave of the Cyclops. The greatest attraction of Serifos is its magnificent beaches (Megalo Livadi, Koutalas, Agios Sostis, Psili Amos, Agios Ioannis, Sikamia). However, its peculiar charm, something in the unique atmosphere of the island, and the harmony of the landscape are the things that attract an ever-increasing number of visitors from Greece and abroad.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440 Useful telephone numbers Police: 22810 51.300 . Serifos Port Authority: 22810 51.470

57. Serifos. The port
58. Serifos
SIFNOS

(Area 73 sq. km. Distance from Piraeus: 79 nautical miles).
A monotonous gray rocky landscape, broken up here and there by a gleaming white chapel, is the first impression visitors get as the ferry draws into the harbour. But this gives them no idea of the beauty-spots waiting to be discovered inland, which, together with the island’s superb architecture, rank it among the jewels of the Aegean. The island was famous in ancient times for the wealth which came from its gold and silver mines and the quarries of Sifnos stone. It enjoyed great prosperity in Classical times, as can be seen from its Treasury, dedicated to Apollo at Delphi. An attractive drive from the port of Kamares, a modern town with pottery workshops, brings us to the island’s capital, Apolonia. Standing on three hilltops, with its typical Cycladic style of architecture, it is breathtakingly beautiful. It has an interesting folklore museum, while the churches of the greatest interest are those of Our Lady Ouranofostra and St. Sozon. Like that of the villages around it (Artemonas, Exambela, Kato Petali), the architecture of Apolonia is an odd assemblage in which walls, terraces, courtyards and alleyways form large cubes in a continuous complex, in total harmony with the natural environment.

The sole exception is the old capital of Kastro, which remains an example of medieval town planning. A collection of Archaic and Hellenistic sculpture and of ceramics from the Geometric to the Byzantine period is on display in its Archaeological Museum. Picturesque windmills surrender their sails to the vagaries of the wind, while no fewer than 365 churches and chapels sprout all over the island like white mushrooms from the gray carpet of the island’s soil.

The monasteries of Sifnos, such as that of St. Symeon, of Ai-Lias, the Vrissi monastery with an interesting little Byzantine museum and that of Our Lady “Hrissopigi”, the patron saint of the island, are held in high esteem. The strong local colour of the mountainous island with its strips of coastal plain is further heightened by its picturesque fairs and festivals. There are clean and attractive beaches at Kamares, Faros and Platis Glados (where you will find fine ceramic artifacts, typical of Sifnos), as well as quieter and lesser-known ones, such as those at Hersonisos, Vrouliuda, Fikiadi, Fassolou, et al. Tourist facilities on Sifnos are of a good standard and it is possible for the visitor to combine a lively nightlife with a peaceful island existence close to nature.

How to get there
By ferry from Piraeus Information: Piraeus Port Authority, tel.: 1440
Useful telephone numbers
Port authority: 22840 33.617.
Community of Apolonia: 22840 31.345.
Community of Artemonas: 22840 32.389.

59. Sifnos The Monastery of Hrissopigi
60. Sifnos. Beach
61. Sifnos. View of Apolonia
TRANSPORT SERVICES
Those wishing to travel from island to island in the Cyclades or from the Cyclades to the Dodecanese, the islands of the North-East Aegean or Crete will find departures frequent in the summer but scarcer in the winter. Information from the local Port Authorities.

High-speed hydrofoils (.Flying Dolphins.) run from Piraeus to Kea and Kithnos. Departures from Zea Marina, Piraeus. Information: Tel.: 210 4287.458.

Hydrofoils (.Flying Dolphins.) also operate from Rafina to Andros, Tinos, Mykonos, Paros, Naxos, Ios, Santorini, the smaller islands of the Eastern Cyclades and Amorgos. Information from Rafina Port Authority, tel. 22940 22.300, 22940 22.481, 22940 22.487.

CAMPING
There are organised campings on the islands of Kea, Andros, Tinos, Siros, Mykonos, Paros, Antiparos, Naxos, Santorini, Folegandros, Amorgos, Ios, Serifos, Sifnos and Milos.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE
Foreign currencies can be exchanged at the banks or bank correspondents. offices on the following islands: Kea (correspondent), Sikinos, Milos, Andros, Tinos, Mykonos, Siros, Paros, Naxos, Amorgos and Santorini. For the rest of the islands foreign currency can be exchanged at the local Post Offices (ELTA).

FACILITIES FOR YACHTS
a) Ports of entry and exit Mykonos, Santorini and Siros are equipped with customs offices, passport control offices and public health services.
b) Yacht supply stations Kea, Kithnos, Serifos, Sifnos, Milos, Andros, Tinos, Mykonos, Siros, Paros, Naxos, Ios and Santorini have yacht supply stations where water and fuel can be obtained.

LOCAL EVENTS
RELIGIOUS FEASTS
The Cycladic islands have a wealth of churches and monasteries and also take their traditional customs very seriously. As a result, local cultural events and religious feasts are attended and celebrated with enthusiasm. The Feast of Our Lady, on the 15th of August, is marked with special ceremony on Tinos, but celebrated on all the islands since each has its own church to Our Lady. Camping is forbidden except at organised camp sites. Enjoy the beautiful Greek countryside and protect if from the danger of fire.

GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION OFFICES
Athens Area: Central Office: 7 Tsoha Str. Athens, tel.: 210 8707.000, e-mail: info@gnto.gr
Athens Information Centre: 26A Amalias Str., Syntagma-Athens, Tel.: 210 3310.392, 210 3310.716, 210 3310.640. El. Venizelos Airport, tel.: 210 3530.000 e-mail: venizelos@gnto.gr, website: www.gnto.gr
Siros: Tourism information office, tel.: 22810 83.400. Regional Directorate of Tourism, tel.: 22810 86.725, Ermoupoli Town Hall, tel.: 22810 82.375

Notes:
a) For reservations by correspondence and on the spot XENEPEL, 24 Stadiou Str.,10564 Athens Tel:003210-3237193 Fax:003210-3225449 and 003210-3236962. E-mail:grhotels@otenet.gr Website: www.grhotels.gr
b) For more information about furnished apartments and rooms, please contact the local police stations.
c) For more information on ship routes, you can call local port authorities or municipal tourist information bureaus; for information about flights contact local airports or:
OLYMPIC AIRLINES:
Tel.: 210 9666.666, www.olympicairlines.com
AEGEAN AIRLINES:
Tel.: 801 11 20000, www.aegeanairlines.gr
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