

## Paros island (Cyclades – Southern Aegean Sea)



Paros is the second largest island of the Cyclades, located centrally in the Cyclades near Naxos, Ios, Sifnos and Syros. Famous world-wide among fans of water sports, especially windsurfing enthusiasts, it also offers a variety of vacation possibilities to suit every taste. Although a laid-back island with small churches and monasteries, picturesque white villages and old monuments, it retains a cosmopolitan ambience and offers a rich cultural life.

Paros is characterized by the many charming villages Parikia (the main town), Naoussa, Lefkes, Marpissa, Piso Livadi, Drios, Aliko and other. It is actually a mix of whitewashed villages, blue-domed churches, blonde-sand beaches, fishing harbors overlooked by taverna tables, plus lively bars and cafés. Naoussa is an old fishing village marked by tourism but not too overwhelmed with a clear focus on harbor activities (e.g. fishing, island trips, etc.). The village is characterized by its Venetian port and its many fish restaurants. The architecture of the area is also incredible. A local bar scene welcoming to international tourists is growing as visitor numbers increase to Paros. Drios by comparison specializes in water sports (especially windsurfing), with beach clubs/luxury bars at Golden Beach catering to tour groups and higher budget independent travelers. Paros offers a great selection of pensions, hotels, villa rentals and more to choose from.



Antiparos, the small island-brother of Paros, is an ideal destination for a day trip to those who love tranquil holidays, in the isolated Cyclades setting. Guests can access Antiparos by ferry boat from Punta beach (10 minutes away) or by a smaller boat from Parikia (30 minutes). Antiparos is worth a visit not only for the beauty of its main village, but also for its wonderful sandy beaches with azure waters. The impressive cave on Agios Ioannis hill is the number one attraction of Antiparos.



Paros Island is well known for its busy and popular beaches such as Punta Beach, Golden Beach and Kolimbithres Beach featuring vibrant beach bars and modern facilities. But quiet, private beaches such as Lolantonis Beach are also available.

Paros offers a wide variety of sightseeing, including the church of Ekatontapiliani (the church with the hundred gates) one of the most important Byzantine monuments in the whole



Greece located next to the port of Parikia, the archaeological museum, located close to the church of Ekatontapiliani, The "Skorprios" Folklore Museum in Alyki, the Venetian Castle situated north of Naoussa village, the Butterfly Valley in Psychopiana, approximately 6 km away from Parikia, being the finest natural site on Paros and much more.

Distances are short, the roads are good and every ride has its own charm. Concerning transportation, within the resorts, walking is the best method of transport. Bus services operate between the towns with a very frequent departures in season. Car hire is readily available in all towns. Also, there is possibility for rental motorbikes, ATVs or bicycles.

Like other island in the Cyclades, the most enjoyable time to visit in late spring – when the landscape is still green, the sea has warmed up to feasible swimming temperatures, but the crowds have yet to descend – and early autumn, when the summer hordes have departed and the sea is at its warmest. After late September, though, many facilities close down and ferry links get sparse.

You can get there from Athens by plane (45 minutes), normal ferry (between 4 and 5 hours) or fast boat (about 3 and a half hours). Due to its position, it is linked with many other islands. Ferries and Highspeed catamaran services run daily from Piraeus, Rafina, Cyclades and Heraklion (Crete island). Most of the ferries to Naxos and Santorini make a stop first at Paros. Paros can be beautifully combined with an island hopping itinerary around the Cyclades.

**Paros Photo Gallery:** <https://www.fantasy.gr/paros-photo-gallery.zip>

