



Cyclades

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Thalassaki (p159)
- ➔ M-Eating (p171)
- ➔ O! Hamos (p231)
- ➔ Omega 3 (p238)
- ➔ Metaxi Mas (p222)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Semeli Hotel (p169)
- ➔ Studios Eleni II (p158)
- ➔ Makares (p200)
- ➔ Red Tractor Farm (p243)
- ➔ Aroma Suites (p216)

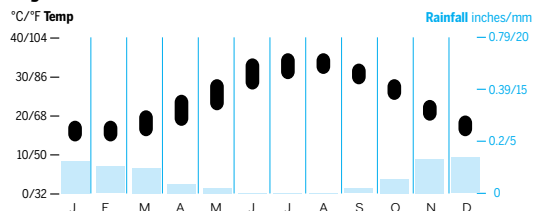
Why Go?

On a quest to find the Greek islands of your dreams? Start here, in the Cyclades (Κυκλάδες; kih-*klah*-dez). Rugged, sun-drenched outcrops of rock, anchored in azure seas and liberally peppered with snow white villages and blue-domed churches, this is Greece straight from central casting, with atmospheric archaeological sites and dozens of postcard-worthy beaches. Throw in a blossoming food scene, some renowned party destinations and a good dose of sophistication that seems to have bounced its way down from Athens, and you really do have the best of Greece's ample charms.

The biggest surprise may be the variety. You can indulge in any favourite holiday pursuit: chase hedonism on Mykonos or Ios, history on Delos, hiking trails on Andros or Amorgos. Want to woo your beloved? Try Santorini. To escape reality? Pick Donousa. You can ferry hop to your heart's content, enjoy long lazy lunches at waterside tavernas, or simply lay claim to a sunbed by a spectacular beach. You're living the dream.

When to Go

Mykonos Town



Apr–Jun Catch the early-season sun without overheating and boats without overcrowding.

Jul & Aug Pros: sun, sea and sand, balmy nights and lively company. Cons: peak crowds and prices.

Sep & Oct Quieter beaches, open spaces, the sweet scent of herbs and great walks on island hills.



Cyclades Highlights

- 1 Immersing yourself in the spellbinding archaeological sites of **Ancient Delos** (p175) and **Ancient Akrotiri** (p220).
- 2 Slipping away to serenity on the remote-feeling islands of the **Small Cyclades** (p195).
- 3 Partying until dawn on glamorous **Mykonos** (p165) and party-hard **Ios** (p206).
- 4 Exploring quaint villages then reclining on the white sand of **Naxos** (p185).
- 5 Ambling along ancient footpaths through the valleys of **Andros** (p151).
- 6 Marvelling in the dazzling monastery, clinging to a cliffside on **Amorgos** (p201).
- 7 Making a pilgrimage to **Tinos** (p155) with its famous icon and marble villages.
- 8 Joining the chic holiday atmosphere on idyllic **Sifnos** (p234) or **Antiparos** (p184).
- 9 Being mesmerised by the dramatic, volcanic coastlines of **Santorini** (Thira; p210) and **Milos** (p229).