



Northeastern Aegean Islands

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Samos.....	398
Chios.....	407
Lesvos (Mytilini).....	417
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Samothraki.....	434
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Hotzas Taverna (p409)
- ➔ Thea's Restaurant & Rooms (p395)
- ➔ Taverna Angelos (p423)
- ➔ Taverna Artemis (p401)
- ➔ Mandouvala (p396)
- ➔ Soulatso (p426)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Rooms Dionysos (p393)
- ➔ Archipelagos Hotel (p397)
- ➔ Kouitou Hotel (p426)
- ➔ Ino Village Hotel & Restaurant (p401)
- ➔ Aldebran Pension (p441)
- ➔ Alkaïos Rooms (p419)

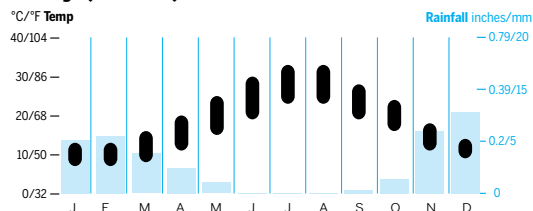
Why Go?

The northeastern Aegean Islands (τα νησιά του Βορειοανατολικού Αιγαίου) are notable (like the Dodecanese) for their proximity to the Turkish mainland. Influences from Asia Minor abound in old-fashioned island cuisines, traditional village culture, dramatic celebrations and even the language.

Eccentric Icaria is marked by jagged landscapes, pristine beaches and a famously long-lived, left-leaning population. Nearby Chios provides fertile ground for the planet's only gum-producing mastic trees. Other islands range from rambling Lesvos, producer of half the world's ouzo, to midsize islands such as semitropical Samos and workaday Limnos, and bright specks in the sea such as Inousses and Psara. Samothraki is home to the ancient Sanctuary of the Great Gods, while well-watered Thasos seems an extension of the mainland. Lesvos, Chios and Samos offer easy connections to Turkey's coastal resorts and historically Hellenic sites.

When to Go

Vathy (Samos)



Apr & May Wild poppies adorn the back roads and Greek Easter livens up every village.

Jul & Aug Succulent apricots are in season, perfect for a picnic at the beach.

Oct & Nov Summer crowds evaporate, and hearty soups return to the tavernas.



Northeastern Aegean Islands Highlights

- 1 Challenging your brain cells at **Icaria's** annual international chess tournament (p388).
- 2 Enjoying sunset and the Aegean's best lobster on the **Fourni Islands** (p396).
- 3 Wading through the river to wooded waterfalls near **Potami Beach** (p406).
- 4 Wandering the winding medieval alleyways of **Mesta** (p412) on Chios.
- 5 Savouring hill-top views and medieval manuscripts at **Moni Ypsilou** (p425).
- 6 Getting up close to 20-million-year-old trees at the petrified forest (p425) in **Lesvos**.
- 7 Contemplating the mysteries of the 10th-century-BC **Sanctuary of the Great Gods** (p436) on Samothraki.
- 8 Cycling through lush old-growth forests at **Thasos'** annual international mountain-biking race (p441).