

Cycladic Treasure: the islands of Andros, Tinos, Mykonos, Delos, Paros

Andros

Trip code: CYCGP0018

Guided hike

• Hiking • 14 days



Here is a long journey in the Cyclades archipelago bringing together five atypical islands in a unique program. We will visit Andros, a mountainous island crisscrossed by marvelous traditional paths bordered by low walls made of schist and granite stones, and whose remarkable capital, Chora, boasts houses with neoclassical architecture. An hour by boat, Tinos boasts its dazzling white villages and its countryside dotted with dovecotes in front of the deep blue of an omnipresent sea during our...

Highlights

1. An archipelago, five islands, surprisingly different
2. The sublime hikes of Andros, the dazzling villages of Tinos, the archaeological site of Delos, the charm of Paros
3. A program combining hikes, swimming and good times on the terrace of taverns

PROGRAMME



D1 Athens - Mati / Rafina

Flight arriving to Athens then transfer (included) to the hotel in Mati or Rafina. Meeting with your guide at the hotel.

Dinner and overnight in Mati or Rafina.

Accommodation : Hotel

D2 Andros: Apikia and its sources

Ferry to **Andros** (Between 1 hour and 2 hours crossing). From the port of Andros, Gavrio, transfer by bus (45 mins) to Chora. Installation at the hotel for 4 nights. Stroll to Apikia, through a surprising wooded valley, where water springs from fountains, to the point that mineral water - Sariza - is bottled there. Descent to Nimborio beach. Bathing. At the end of the afternoon, visit the town of Chora, its long picturesque pedestrian street lined with arched passages and stairs, its superb neoclassical-style shipowners' houses...

Dinner in a tavern or at the hotel and overnight in hotel in Andros.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D3 Andros - Monastery "Moni Panachrandou"

From Chora, we go up on ancient paths lined with stone walls and frequented by semi-wild goats, along the sides of the mountain of Gerakonas, towards the Monastery "Panachrándou", at an altitude of 500m. This imposing fortified monastery superbly dominates the valley of Megálos Potamós and offers remarkable views over the entire Chora region. Its church houses beautiful icons as well as a magnificent 18th century iconostasis. Return to Chora by a beautiful kalderimi to the valley of Megálos Potamós.

Dinner and overnight in Andros.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D4 Andros - Korthi Bay

A superb hike to Ormos Korthiou (Korthi bay) and its large beach, following magnificent paved paths and going up the valley of watermills, most of them ruined, moving testimonies of a history marked by the wealth of water on this island. After crossing the picturesque villages of Sineti and Kochilou, and the optional climb to the eagle's nest of Epano Kastro, descent into the large bay of Korthi. Return by public bus after a well-deserved swim.

Dinner and overnight in Andros.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D5 Andros: Palaiopoli Pitroforos - Menites - Lamyra - Chora

Morning transfer by bus to Palaiopoli. It is almost a crossing from west to east of the island with superb views over the beautiful valleys that descend to Chora. Passage through the magnificent villages of Menites and Lamyra where water abounds, giving a record afforestation rate to this part of the island. To adapt to the bus schedule, this step can be done in reverse.

Dinner in a tavern or at the hotel and overnight in a hotel in Andros.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D6 Tinos - Chora - Ktikados - Kionia beach

Morning transfer to the port of Gavrio (45mn), then ferry transfer (1h45) to Chora (or Tinos), a small lively town of nearly 5,000 inhabitants organized around its basilica dedicated to Virgin Mary which attracts pilgrims in large numbers. Installation at the hotel for 4 nights. Then we go up on pleasant slopes revealing a magnificent view over the bay of Chora, the islands of Syros and Mykonos, up to Ktikados. This beautiful village is perched above a valley dotted with dovecotes that we descend to the beautiful Kionia beach for a popular swim. Return to Chora by following the small coastal road, for a visit of the city to meet its astonishing religious rituals and... in search of Markos, the pelican mascot of Tinos!

Dinner in a tavern or at the hotel and overnight in a hotel in Tinos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D7 Tinos - Mykonos - Delos - Tinos

Morning crossing to Mykonos (30 minutes) the famous Cyclades island which mixes traditional population and jet-setters in a colorful atmosphere. Then we will embark for Delos the sacred island of the Cyclades which we will visit before returning to Mykonos which we will visit before returning to Tinos.

Dinner in a tavern or at the hotel and overnight in a hotel in Tinos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D8 Volax - Myrsini Falatados Xombourgo Chora

Short transfer to Volax, adorable village bursting with whiteness, in an extraordinary granite environment. Hike to the villages of Myrsini and Falatados then between the fertile lands bordering the peak of Xombourgo where the capital of the island was built in classical times. During the Venetian occupation, a fortress, the ruins of which can still be seen, was built at the top. Christianized since, the site is a famous climbing site in Tinos. Descent to Chora

along the beautiful slopes overlooking the city.

Dinner in a tavern or at the hotel and overnight in a hotel in Tinos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D9 Tinos - "Balcony" hike on the southwest coast - Pyrgos, the village of marble

Transfer to the village of Kardiani. Magnificent balcony hike above the southwest coast of the island, facing the island of Syros. Possible ascent to the top of the shoulder of Polemou Kambos. Then, we switch north to descend towards **Pyrgos**, certainly the most beautiful village on the island and its profusion of marble and whiteness in its typical Cycladic architecture. The recent and exciting Marble Museum is there to remind us of the importance of marble mining on the island of Tinos (visit possible, not included in the price). Descent to **Panormos**, a magnificent coastal village. Transfer back to Tinos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D10 From Tinos to Paros

Depending on the time of the ferry, we can complete our tour of Tinos town or hike to the Kechrovouni Women's Convent which overlooks Chora Bay. Ferry to Paros. Visit of Parikia, the port capital of the island, and its famous windmill. It is somewhat the guardian of the port of this busy city, which conceals a pleasant historic center, rich in the remains of the ancient city of Paros and where the famous church of Panagia Ekatonpiliani (the Virgin Mary with a hundred doors) stands. It is one of the most important Christian monuments in Greece. Continue on foot to the hotel.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D11 Paros: Parikia - Panagia Thapsanoon - Agios Minas - Marathi - Naoussa

From **Parikia to Naoussa**, here is a discovery of Paros which does not spare surprises: a windmill, two monasteries, an old marble quarry, stroll in the dry bed of a stream... We finish in Naoussa, one of the most charming Cycladic towns with its superb fishing port. The bay of Naoussa is also famous for its beaches including that of Kolymbithres with its rocks polished by the wind and its creeks of fine sand.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D12 Paros: Prodhromos - Lefkes - Aspro Horio - Dryos

Transfer to the beautiful village of Prodhromos on the eastern side of the island. A famous path of medieval origin, "the Byzantine road", leads us to Lefkes before continuing south to the chapel of Agios Nikolaos. A magnificent path takes over in the valley of Kavouropotamos to the houses of Aspro Horio (literally: the white village) from where we just have to drop down to the sea and the village of Dryos. Possibility of continuing along the coast for 1 hour 15 minutes to Piso Livadi, passing by beautiful beaches including the Golden Beach (Chrysi Akti).

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D13 Paros - Piraeus - Athens

Depending on the time of the ferry, we can enjoy Apikia or go for a last hike before the crossing (duration: 4 to 5

hours). Transfer to Athens.
Free dinner.

Accommodation : Hotel

D14 End of stay and return flight

Transfer to the airport (included) and return flight.

Itinerary

On site, we may sometimes have to modify somewhat the itinerary indicated: either at the level of the organization (problem of overloading of accommodation, modification of the boat rotations), or directly because of the guide (weather forecast, group level ...). Trust us, these changes are always in your best interest. Warning ! In the Mediterranean, the weather can change and the boats shifted in their passage. We adapt to the circumstances. All indicated boat times are subject to change.

SOME PRECISIONS

Grade

Easy to medium, no portage. You have to love walking and be in good shape. Hike accessible to fit hikers, motivated by walking and group life. 2 to 5 hours of walking per day. The height difference is variable, between 100 and 700m (maximum) per day.

Luggage transport

You only carry a small backpack with your daily things, the picnic and the groceries. You will have to transfer all of your luggage from the boat to the vehicle that transports the luggage to the islands, and then to your room (and vice versa). That's all.

Transfers

The boat

We will travel from island to island on the regular ferries that crisscross the Aegean Sea. These big boats are a guarantee of arrival on the islands. It should be noted that Greek ferries can sail up to force 9/10 depending on their size. It can be very windy at sea without even realizing its effects on the islands. You only need to be in a sheltered cove or bay (or on the right side of the island) to not feel the effects.

Group

From 6 to 15 participants.

Exceptionally, the group may have one more person, for example if a couple registers when there is only one place left, or in the event of simultaneous registrations.

Duration

14 days / 13 nights

Travelling season

From mid-April to mid-October

Guide

By an English or English-speaking certified mountain guide.

Conmfort

? Accommodation

You stay in family hotels type 2 *, in rooms of 2 to 3 (generally 2), with private bathroom. We can be assigned to several different accommodations but we will of course have the evening meal together. Possibility to book a single room (subject to availability).

? Catering

Picnic during the hikes, with local products. Evening meal and breakfast served hot (local cuisine). Every evening we will have dinner in local taverns. Meals included from dinner on D1 to breakfast on D14 (except dinner in Athens on D13). Please let us know when registering any food allergy or special diet; we will do our best to adapt your meals.

Flights

Paris / Athens flights are included in the ticket price. Regular flights (Air France, Aegean...) or low-cost Transavia. The prices are valid for departures from Paris. Departures from other cities are possible, do not hesitate to ask us. Prices shown are only valid for certain booking classes on airlines that serve this destination. They are therefore subject to change in the event of unavailability of places in these classes at the time of booking.

Start / End

? Appointment

The J1 at Athens airport.

? Dispersion

The J14 at Athens airport.

Travel document

Approximately two weeks before your departure, you will receive a summons specifying the time and place of the meeting, the name and contact details of the guide as well as the address of the first accommodation.

Photos

You take great photos! Do not hesitate to send us a CD, a USB key, a Dropbox or WeTransfer link of your best photos taken during your trip. The fact that you provide us with photos implies that you accept that your photos will be used free of charge on our various media (catalog, website, technical sheet, etc.).

Travel Blog

Do you want to share your best moments of the trip and share your experience with the hiking community? Send us your story and some photos illustrating your comments that we will publish for you on our blog.

DATES AND PRICES

Specify

These prices are valid for departures from Paris. Departures from other cities are possible, do not hesitate to ask us. Prices shown are only valid for certain booking classes on airlines that serve this destination. They are therefore subject to change in the event of unavailability of places in these classes at the time of booking.

Prices include

- return flights Paris / Athens
- air taxes
- tourist taxes
- guide
- accommodation for 13 nights
- meals from dinner on D1 to breakfast on D14 (except lunches on D1 and D14 and dinner on D13)
- boat tickets and transfers during the stay
- transfers from and to the airport
- luggage transport

Prices do not include

- drinks and some meals
- lunches on D1 and D14 and dinner on D13
- site visits outside those provided for in the program
- personal expenses
- the insurance
- registration fees
- anything not indicated in "Prices include"

Options, extras and discounts

single room supplement: between € 465 and € 595 depending on the date.

IN YOUR LUGGAGE

Equipment

To hike

- Mountain boots holding the ankle with a good notched sole, having a heel counter and good waterproofness
- Comfortable "special hiking" socks (3 pairs minimum)
- A fleece
- Comfortable pants for walking (technical material that dries quickly)
- Shorts, t-shirts and technical underwear (quickly drying material)
- A long-sleeved shirt (technical material that dries quickly)
- Walking poles (telescopic), very important to facilitate walking

Note: synthetic technical clothing is very efficient. New clothes in merino wool have also appeared; they are very efficient and comfortable to wear, and have the advantage of not developing perspiration odors! (Icebreaker brand, Ruka, etc...).

In general, do not use cotton, which cools when wet.

For the midday picnic

- Plastic bowl, box or plate
- Cutlery (spoon, fork, knife)
- Bottle of a liter and a half minimum (compulsory)

Against the sun and the rain

- Sunscreen (high protection) and sunglasses
- Hat, cap or bob
- A rain cape or a "Goretex" and possibly Goretex pants

After the effort

- A pair of jogging-style sneakers for the evening
- Change of clothes and personal linen
- Kit and towel (mini)
- A mini-pharmacy: personal medicines, elastoplast, biogaze or "2nd skin", gauze, disinfectant, medicine against seasickness, arnica in granules and aspirin in case of small injuries ... (quite a program! But reassure yourself) you, the pharmacy often comes back intact from your week of hiking)
- Swimsuit not to be forgotten, it is possible to bathe every day.

This list must be adapted according to the season.

Luggage

- A small, comfortable 35 to 45 L backpack with a lap belt to carry your personal belongings and the picnic during the day.
- A main luggage: a backpack, a travel bag in good condition, or a suitcase that is not too bulky. One piece of luggage per person; limited to 20 kg.

DETAILS

The country

Country: Greece

Capital: Athens

Archipelago: Cyclades

Population: 10,757,292 inhabitants

Land of myths and sailors

There is not a place, not a Cycladic rock that legends have not clung to.

Mythology steadfastly affirms the Ancients' attachment to the sea and its islands - and, at the same time, the fear inspired by this world on the fringes of the world. Poseidon, accompanied by his retinue of monsters and marine deities, newts and nereids, himself embodies this power, this fascination mixed with fear. It was he who, with a blow of the trident, would have made the Cyclades rise from the foam.

It is a mortal, however, who gave his name to the sea which bathes them: Aegean, father of Theseus, who rushed into the waters believing his son had been devoured by the Minotaur. Ulysses comes again, with his mythical Odyssey, to exhale the ties of Greece to this coming and going of the wave that embraces and invades him like a lover.

The current of history has long sought to wrest the Cyclades from Greece. Conquerors came from all over: Barbarians, Venetians, Franks, Turks. The country's center of gravity has shifted towards the continent. But the link to the sea has never been erased. In fact, the numbers say it is all of Greece that lives on or against the waves. A fifth of its territory is scattered over the blue of the Aegean, Ionian and Cretan seas.

A capricious god has sown more than 2,000 islands there - almost 10,000 if you count all the rocks that touch the surface. There are so many of them, the coastline so jagged, that the country alone has as many coasts as the United States! The Cyclades, on the other hand, group together 39 islands, organized into four constellations (north, center, south and west), of which 24 are inhabited. So many miniature worlds, with their own history, their traditions.

Formalities

? Papers

Travelers to Greece, minors included, must be in possession of a valid national identity card or passport (European Union nationals).

Canadian nationals must present a passport valid for another 3 months after their departure to Greece.

? Health

Bring the European health insurance card, to ask your health insurance fund at least 15 days before departure.

The sanitary conditions are similar to those in most countries in Europe.

Weather

The climate of the islands is Mediterranean, that is to say hot and dry in summer and mild and rainy in winter, but with significant differences depending on the regions and archipelagos. The Cyclades regularly suffer from a lack of rain and during the beautiful season, which lasts here almost 6 months, precipitation is scarce or even completely absent from the end of May to the beginning of October. The Cyclades also benefit from relatively cool summers (for Greece) thanks to the famous "Meltemi", a seasonal wind which during the summer season pleasantly refreshes the atmosphere, but which sometimes gets carried away to the point of immobilizing the boats in the port. for a few hours.

Language

Greek, English and sometimes some French or German