

*Cyclades :*  
*Naxos,*  
*Amorgos*



**Kélifos**  
TREK & NATURE

# SUMMARY

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Greece • Cyclades



Self guided hike



8 days



7 nights



Semi-itinerant trip



Nothing to carry



2 / 5



CYCLP0009

## HIGHLIGHTS



Hiking holidays in 2 splendid Cycladic islands from mountainous Naxos to wild Amorgos

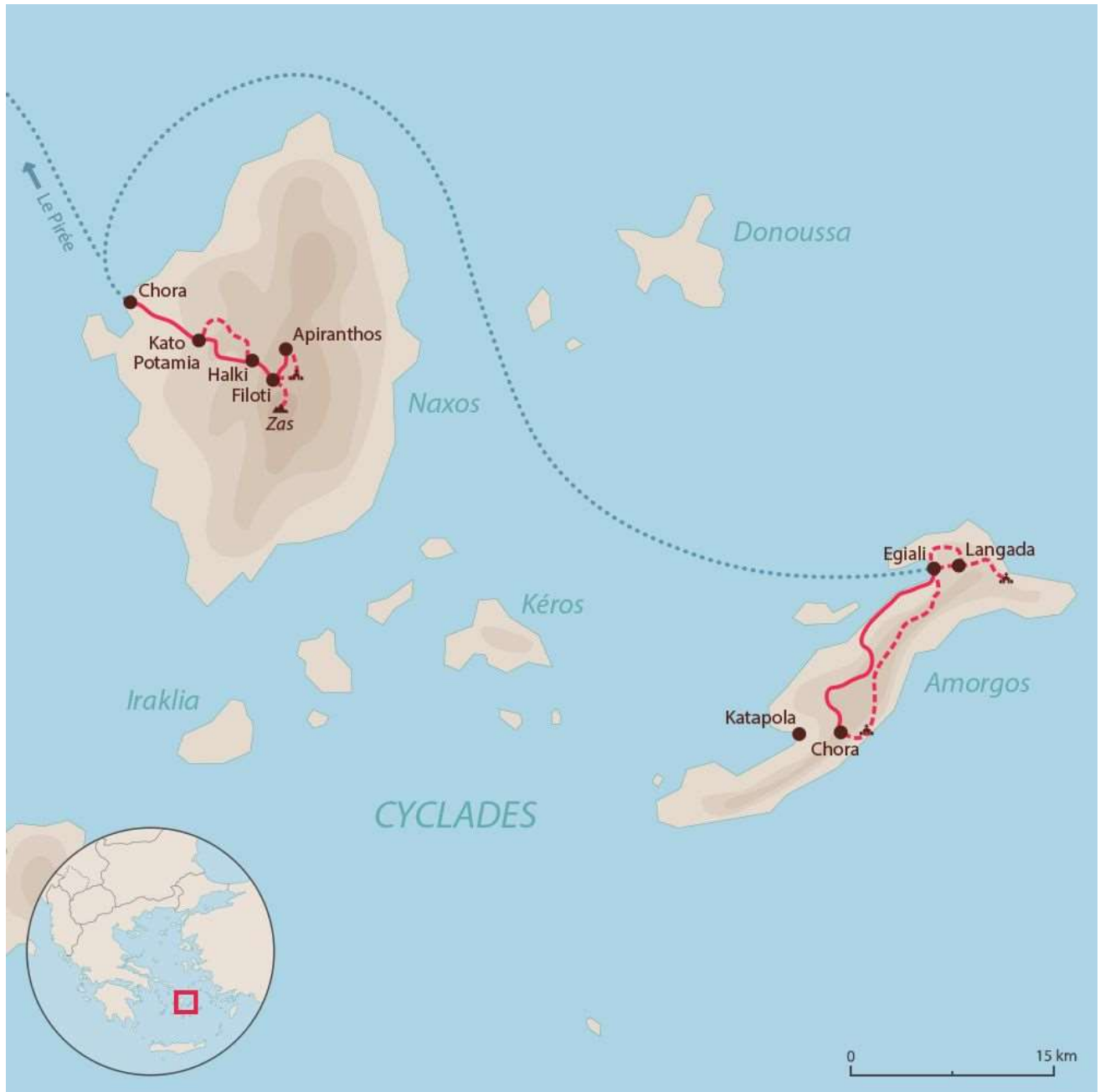


A simple paradise where an authentic everyday life prevails



A good mix of walking, swimming, relaxing and visits of sites

# MAP



# PROPOSED ITINERARY

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Born in the mythical waters of the Aegean, these are two very different islands, in the matter of geology, landscape, and history. Naxos, the largest, is also the most wooded. Composed of granite, marble and limestone, bordered by beautiful sandy beaches near its attractive capital, Chora (6500 inhabitants), it is home to Mount Zas (1001 m), the highest peak of Cyclades islands.

Amorgos is located further east. This long though narrow rocky island, lying in the sea is less populated. This fascinating island offers austere and grandiose scenery promise of sumptuous treks. This austerity is softened by the charm of the villages and the hilltop capital, Chora, with typical Cycladic architecture. Amorgos is also known for the extraordinary image of his monastery Chozoviotissa, stuck in the cliff. An image that many European people discovered in 1988 in the movie "The Big Blue". Many scenes of Luc Besson's film have been shot in Amorgos.

## D1 • Piraeus

Arrival in Athens. Go to your hotel in Piraeus either by subway or bus (easy and cheap). You can pick up your boat tickets upon arrival; otherwise, you collect them the next morning.



Hotel (<https://piraeusporthotel.com/en/> or equivalent)



Dinner is not included



L'Érechthéion sur l'acropole d'Athènes © Kirk Fisher, Pixabay



Le Pirée © Jeffrey, Flickr

## D2 • Naxos

From Piraeus, ferry to Naxos, the largest island of the Cyclades archipelago. Transfer from the port of Chora to your accommodation. You can also go to your accommodation on foot (15 min) for a first direct contact with the charming town of Naxos (your baggage is transferred with vehicles). Depending on your time of arrival, you can go for a swim or walk to the site of Portara at sunset (Apollo's temple gate dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC) or take a stroll through the ancient venetian citadel.



Hotel ([www.hotelgalini.com/](http://www.hotelgalini.com/) or equivalent)



Dinner is not included




Naxos - Portara and Naxos © François Ribard





Naxos - A street of Chora © François Ribard

### D 3 • Naxos : Halki – Apano Kastro – Kouros of Flerio

Hike in the fertile inland of the island towards the valley of Tragea and its wonderful villages, like Halki, in the middle of olive groves at the foot of the highest mountains in the Cyclades. Via old paved paths, you will go to the Venetian fortress, Apano Kastro, then, to former marble quarries with their huge unfinished statues (Kouros).

 5 hrs of walk

 +400 m

 -300 m

 Hotel ([www.hotelgalini.com/](http://www.hotelgalini.com/) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Naxos - Apano Kastro © François Ribard





Naxos - The Potamia Kouros © François Ribard

### D 4 • Naxos : mount Zas – Ferry to Amorgos

Today, you climb Mount Zas (1,004 m) which is the highest peak in Cyclades islands; it is also called Zeus' mountain! You start in Filoti, a white village built in the slopes of the mountain and main town in the region of Trachea easily reached by bus. Start early in the morning because there is no shade along this route. The panorama is breathtaking. If you want to do an easier hike or if the boat is too early in the afternoon, we suggest a hike on old paths to the nice village of Apiranthos, then to Moni, across varied landscapes. Boat in the evening or at night to Amorgos, immortalized by the film "The big Blue". Transfer to your hotel.

 5 hrs

 +900 m

 -900m

 Hotel ([www.askaspension.gr](http://www.askaspension.gr) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Naxos - Going down from Mount Zas to Filoti © François Ribard



Naxos - Sunset and Portara © François Ribard

## D 5 • Amorgos

Today, the programme is flexible.

### Possible hikes:

1/ A short hike from Aigiali to Lagada and Tholaria. Splendid villages and ancient paths.

🕒 2 to 3 hrs of walk      ⬆️ +400 m      ⬇️ -400m

2/ A longer hike: Aigiali – Lagada – Monastery Agios Ioannis Theologos round trip, with an extension to the Chapel of Stavros in a sumptuous mountain environment.

🕒 4 to 5 hrs of walk      ⬆️ +800 m      ⬇️ -800m

🛏 Hotel ([www.askaspension.gr](http://www.askaspension.gr) or equivalent)

🍴 Dinner is not included




Amorgos - Moni Ag. Ioannis Theologos © François Ribard





Amorgos - Path between Tholaria and Aigiali © François Ribard

## D6 • Amorgos : Chora – Moni Chozoviotissa - Aigiali

One of the most beautiful hikes in Amorgos, in a quiet and deserted area of the island. You will start from Chora, the main town of the island, and you will arrive at the superb monastery of Chozoviotissa; it is dazzling white and situated in a quite amazing site clinging to the cliff. Then, you will follow the ridge of the island; an ancient path crosses the island and leads you to Aigiali.

 5 hrs of walk

 +600 m

 -800 m

 Hotel ([www.askaspension.gr](http://www.askaspension.gr) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included




Amorgos - Moni Chozoviotisas © François Ribard




Amorgos - Descent towards Asfodilitis © François Ribard

## D7 • Amorgos - Piraeus

Transfer to the port of Aegiali or Katapola. Ferry to Piraeus where you will arrive at around 15:00 (schedules subject to change). Transfer to the center of Athens (underground, taxi or bus, not included in the price).

 Hotel([www.athenshoteleconomy.com](http://www.athenshoteleconomy.com) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included





Amorgos - Aigiali as seen from the harbour © François Ribard



Athens - Archeological museum © François Ribard

## J8 • End of the trip

Free time then transfer to Athens airport (not included)

### Route changes

Sometimes we have to make slight changes to the outlined itinerary and programme as local condition can change due to the weather or to the non-availability of our usual hotel or guesthouse, or in case the Greek authorities forbid the use of a path. Be sure that changes are always done in your interest, for your safety and a better comfort

# FURTHER INFORMATION

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## Level 2 / 5

Moderate. Nothing to carry. Of course, it is necessary to enjoy walking and be in a good physical condition. 3 to 6hrs of walk every day. The maximum difference in height is +/- 900 m in Naxos (mount Zas walk).

## Baggage transfers

You only carry a small daypack with your personal belongings, picnic, water and snacks. You will have to transfer your main luggage during your transfers from / to the airport to your hotel in Piraeus and in Athens.

## Group size

From two people

## Duration

8 days, 7 nights, 4 ½ days of walking.

## Departure period

April to end of October

## Travel documents

This is a self-guided trip. You will have no guide with you. We take care of the booking of hotels and luggage transportation. You will be given a travel pack containing all the necessary documents for your trip: a detailed guidebook with the maps, a list of your accommodations and the vouchers. You will either receive your travel pack before you start or it will be given to you at your accommodation on the first night of your trip.

## Comfort

### Accommodation

In 2\*\* hotels, equipped apartments or comfortable family guesthouses, in double/twin bedrooms with bathrooms. It is possible to have a single room according to availabilities with extra charge.

### Catering

Breakfasts are included. A dinner is 15 to 20 euros p/p. For your packed lunch, you can easily find local products in all the villages. There are several local tavernas and it is a real pleasure to try and find the one you will choose for a meal.

Please let us know when you register if you have allergy or if you need a special diet; we will do our best to adapt your breakfasts.

## Beginning / End

### Beginning

D1 in the airport of Athens.

### End

D8 in the airport of Athens

## Convening notice

You will receive about two weeks before your departure, a convocation precisng the time and place of the transfer from the airport, and the address of the first accommodation.

## Extend your stay

If you wish to visit Athens, we can book your accommodation and organize your stay depending on your wishes.

## Swimming

This program includes several swimming opportunities during or at the end of the hikes. It would be a pity not to make the best of it. However, we would like you to note that you are the only one who can estimate whether it is advisable to swim or not. Hence, these activities are your sole responsibility and entirely at your own risk.

## How to get to Piraeus from Athens airport

### With the underground

From the airport, you have to take Line M3 (blue) to Monastiraki, then Line M1 (green) to the terminus "Piraeus". Allow about 1hr 30min for the travel.

Price: between € 10 / person / one way. The hotel is 800 m away from the underground station.

<https://www.athensairporttaxi.com/metro/athens-airport-metro>

### With a bus

From the airport, there exists a direct bus to Piraeus (Ligne X96). The travel lasts about 1hr 50min and costs € 6. The hotel is 800 m away from the bus stop.

<http://www.athensairportbus.com/en/bus/tickets.html>

### With a taxi

Day time: about € 45

Night time: about € 65.

We can book a private transfer for you. Please contact us.

## How to get to Athens airport from Athens city center

### With the underground

The hotel in Athens is 350 m from the underground station Omonia, Line M2 (red). You can take this line towards Elliniko; change at Syntagma and then, take Line M3 (blue) towards the airport. You can also go directly to the station Syntagma for a direct travel to the airport (15 minutes by foot from the hotel). All in all, the travel lasts about 1hr and costs € 10.

### With a bus

There exists a direct bus between the square Syntagma (about 15 minutes by foot from the hotel) and the airport. You have to take the bus line X95. You need 1hr 20min for the travel and it costs € 6 / person / one way.

### With a taxi

About € 45 / 65.

We can book a private transfer for you. Please contact us.

# KIT LIST

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## Hiking equipment

- Good quality waterproof walking boots with a moulded sole and deep tread and which provide good ankle support are essential for the walking programme on this holiday
- Hiking poles (telescopic) are very useful to ease your walk in the steep or rocky part of the paths

## Picnic lunches

- Bowl, box or plate
- Cutlery (spoon, knife...)
- Water bottle (1,5 to 2 litres per day and per person)

## To protect you from the sun and the rain

- High SPF sun block
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- A rain jacket or an umbrella

## For the evening

- A pair of light sport shoes
- Spare clothes and personal clothes
- A mini toilet bag and a towel
- A bathing suit (it is often possible to swim)

## Clothes

### For hiking

- Comfortable walking socks
- A fleece jacket
- Comfortable hiking trousers (technical material drying quickly)
- Technical shorts, tee-shirt and underwear (material drying quickly)
- A shirt with long sleeves (technical material drying quickly)
- A first-aid kit: personal medication, disinfectant, plasters, blister treatment, antiseptic etc.

Note: Synthetic technical clothing is very efficient. New merino wool clothing has also appeared; they are very efficient and pleasant to wear, and have the advantage of not developing the smell of perspiration! (Icebreaker brand, Ruka, etc ...).

## Baggage

- A small and comfortable daysack (from 30 L) with a waist strap to carry your personal belongings, water and picnic during the day.
- The main baggage that will be transferred every day : a rucksack, a travel bag in good condition or a not bulky suitcase. **Only one bag per person**, 20 kg maximum

# USEFUL INFORMATION

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Country : Greece (Hellenic Republic)

Population : 10 757 292 inhabitants

Capital city : Athens

Archipelago : Cyclades

## Documents

Travelers from the European Union, including children, must have a valid identity card or a passport.

Do not forget your social security card (European Health Insurance Card). You can get it from your health insurance company, at least two weeks before your departure.

## Climate

Hot and dry. The weather is usually very pleasant in Cyclades. The north wind (*Meltemi*) is frequent in the Cyclades and with the proximity of the sea it moderates the midday heat; this is the moment during the day when you should avoid walking. In spring and in autumn, take warmer equipment for the night.

## Language

Speaking Modern Greek is a definite advantage to get in touch with a very friendly population. English is universally spoken.

## Currency

Euro = €



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