

Anafi

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Index of Anafi

About Anafi	2
Villages	3
Chora	3
Beaches	4
Kleisidi	4
Prasa	4
Agios Nikolaos	4
Roukounas	4
Sightseeing	5
Monastery Of Zoodochos Pigi	5

About Anafi

Anafi is a small island, located to the east of Santorini. Its shape is triangular and its land is mostly rocky. This island, because of its size, hasn't been too much developed in tourism so it is a great destination for peace and quiet seekers.

According to the myth, Anafi rose from the sea to provide shelter for the Argonauts and to protect them from the wild sea. It has got a semi-mountainous structure with Vigla, Kalamos and Agios Ioannis Theologos being their highest peaks.

Anafi has many beaches, most of them with fine soft sand and some others pebbled. The port of Agios Nikolaos is the busiest part of Anafi. It is provided with the basic facilities a tourist would need, such as taverns and rooms to let. From there, some small tour boats begin to make the round of the island and make some stops to beaches.

Otherwise, the island can be crossed on foot or on mule back. There is one local bus but the itineraries are rather rare. Chora, the capital of Anafi, is built on a natural amphitheatrical site at the centre of the island. It is located 2 km from the port. Chora is characterized by a number of small churches, its white houses and paved roads. A lot of sightseeing can be done on Anafi.

The 18th century Monastery of Panagia Kalamiotissa is an important religious center for the island. Close to the monastery, there are the remains of an ancient temple dedicated to Apollo. The Monastery of Zoodohos Pigi, another important religious centre, was built in the 19th century. A large part of the monastery was destroyed from an earthquake that affected the island in 1956. The temple of Apollo, the Venetian castle and the church of Agios Athanasios are the special tourist attractions of Anafi.

Anafi preserves the local traditions and customs at its best. Religious feasts are celebrated with much enthusiasm. They are accompanied by the traditional music and dance. Villagers and visitors actively take part in all festivities. The climate is dry and cool, ideal for cultivation of barley, wheat and citrus. Vegetables, such as onions and tomatoes grow abundantly.

Wine and olives are important part of Anafi agriculture. Thyme produces good-quality honey. The island also supports stock breeding. After all, stock breeding, along with agriculture and fishing, are the main sources of income for the island, as tourism hasn't yet developed enough.

Villages of Anafi

Chora

Location: On the southern side of the island

Description: Chora is the only village of Anafi, built on the slopes of a mountainside and overlooking the Aegean Sea. Most activity on the island is concentrated here.

Sightseeing: Church Of Agios Spyridon

Beaches of Anafi

Kleisidi

Location: 2 km south of Chora

Description: Kleisidi is a large, sandy beach with crystal water, It is surrounded by huge rocks and can be reached on foot from Chora or by boat from the port of Anafi.

Prasa

Location: 6 km north west of Chora

Description: Prasa is a small pebbled beach that doesn't get as frequented as the beaches on the southern side of Anafi. It is reached through a track road or by boat.

Agios Nikolaos

Location: 2 km south of Chora

Description: The long and sandy coast of Agios Nikolaos is the nearest beach to the port of Anafi. Some rooms to rent and a couple of taverns can be found along its side.

Roukounas

Location: 3 km southeast of Chora

Description: Roukounas is a large sandy beach with some vegetation on the shore that provides shade in summer. It is reached by boat from the port of Anafi.

Sightseeing in Anafi

Monastery Of Zoodochos Pigi

Location: Monastiri

This monastery is located about 6 km east of Chora and its position offers gorgeous views to the sea. It was constructed with stones and material from a close ancient temple of Apollo. The route from Chora to this monastery is a popular trekking path.

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A

Agios Nikolaos Beach 4

C

Chora Village 3

K

Kleisidi Beach 4

M

Monastery Of Zoodochos Pigi 5

P

Prasa Beach 4

R

Roukounas Beach 4