

Astypalea

Dodecanese // Astypalea by Greeka.com



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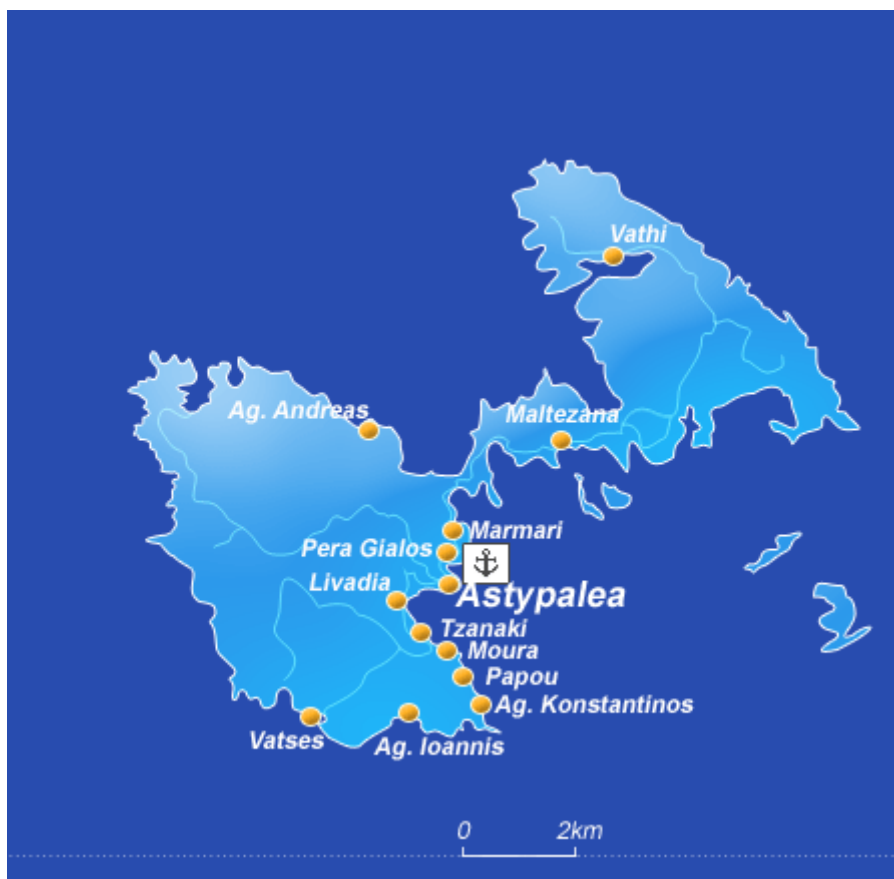
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Map of Astypalea



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About Astypalea

Astypalea is one of the Dodecanese islands. It is actually a small but lovely typical Greek island washed in blue and white. It has only a few inhabitants, about 3,000, most of who deal with agriculture, fishing and tourism. Tourism has been developed on the island over the last years only, however there are enough tourist facilities to offer you a comfortable holiday.

The history of Astypalea starts in the prehistoric times and was named after the wife of the sea-god Poseidon. It was particularly developed in the Hellenistic times thanks to the fishing activity of its inhabitants. In the Roman times, the island was used by the pirates as a regular base of operations. Then it was conquered by many different races, such as the Venetians, the Turks, the Italians, until it was finally united to the Greek State in 1948.

The island of Astypalea has four small but picturesque villages: Chora, Analipsi (or Maltezana), Vathi and Livadia. The most typical feature of Astypalea is the small or bigger churches that are spread all over the island. The most famous is the church of Panagia Portaitissa, all in white, with a beautiful wooden iconostasis and a big bell tower.

Life on Astypalea is very quiet. Do not expect lots of wild clubs there that play loud music all night long. There is certainly some nightlife in Chora, but you will mostly find seaside coffee shops and traditional taverns. The beaches are mostly short and sandy. Some of them are difficult to go but almost all give you the peace you may need. After all, the whole island gives this vibe of peace and tranquility.

Villages of Astypalea



Town

Location: Located on the southern side of the island

Description: Town, or Chora, is the capital village of the island. It is known for its traditional architecture and the Venetian Castle. The most picturesque corner of Chora is the path that leads to the Castle, lined by nine windmills.

Sightseeing: Archaeological Museum, Church Of Panagia Portaitissa, Monastery Of Saint John, Traditional Windmills, Venetian Castle



Beaches of Astypalea



Maltezana

Location: 9 km north east of Chora

Description: Maltezana is one of the most popular beaches on Astypalea. Its soft sand and the tourist facilities attract many visitors.



Pera Gialos beach

Location: 1 km south of Chora

Description: Located in a walking distance from Chora, Pera Gialos is a long beach with sandy and pebbled spots. It is surrounded by many fish taverns and small hotels.



Livadia beach

Location: 2 km south west of Chora

Description: The long beach of Livadia is sandy and organized with sunbeds and umbrellas. Few tourist facilities are found in the region.



Agios Konstantinos

Location: 7 km south of Chora

Description: Part of this beach is organized. Located on the southern side of Astypalea, Agios Konstantinos is a great place to relax.

Sightseeing in Astypalea



Venetian Castle

Location: Town

The Venetian Castle of Astypalea stands on a hill above Chora. The walls survive till today, but the constructions inside the walls are mostly ruined.



Traditional Windmills

Location: Town

Nine traditional windmills line the path to the Castle in Chora. They have been preserved and they mark probably the most picturesque spot of the village.

Credits

Greeka.com would like to thank the following members for their valuable contribution, as some of the photos included in this guide belong to them.

MSPANAKIS, alexis, marie, z965kab, zscooter

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