

Chios

Eastern Aegean // Chios by Greeka.com

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About Chios

It is located very close to Asia Minor and is separated from the Erithrea peninsula by the canal of Chios (it is at a very close distance from the town of Cesme, in Turkey).

It is a very beautiful island that is still quite untouched by tourism despite of its various beauties such as its wonderful beaches and its superb medieval villages.

Low tourism is due to the fact that Chios was economically self-sufficient for many years because of its shipping industry and the production of gum from its unique mastic trees.

The tranquillity and authenticity of Chios, along with its varied and verdant landscape, its fine villages and its idyllic beaches make this island an excellent holiday destination. The most famous products of Chios are the **mastic** and the **wild tulips** that grow on the island every spring.

A notable person from the island was **Erasistratus of Cheos** (310 BC- 250 BC). He was a physician and studied the functions of the human heart in a purely scientific way, through performing dissections on criminals. He founded a medicine school in Alexandria of Egypt and is believed to be the first to measure heart palmitations.

Chios is today a modern town with a rich culture. The **Homerion Cultural Centre**, founded by the Municipality of Chios, helps in promoting arts to the young residents of the island.

Villages of Chios

Pyrgi

Location: 24 km south west of Chios Town

Description: Pyrgi is a traditional village, among the most beautiful on the island. It distinguishes for its architecture, with the geometrical figures of black and white on the walls.

Sightseeing: Folklore Museum

Olympi

Location: 30 km south west of Chios Town

Description: Olympi is among the most picturesque villages on Chios. This traditional village has Medieval architecture, with stone houses and arched streets. Close to Olympi, there is an impressive cave.

Sightseeing: Olympi Cave

Town

Location: On the eastern side of the island

Description: Chios Town is the capital and main port of the island. The architecture of the town is modern but it still has many Medieval elements.

Sightseeing: Byzantine Museum, Justinian Museum, Maritime Museum, Medieval Castle, Oinousses Island, Psara Island

Beaches of Chios

Emporios Mavros Gialos

Location: 28 km south west of Chios Town

Description: Its name means "black beach" due to the black pebbles on the shore. It is considered the most beautiful beach on the island.

Karfas

Location: 10 km south of Chios Town

Description: Karfas is a long and organized beach in close distance to Chios Town and the airport. This is the busiest tourist resort of the island.

Vrondados beach

Location: 4 km north of Chios Town

Description: Vrondados is a small, organized beach with pebbles on the shore and clean water. Delicious fish taverns line the coast.

Agia Fotini

Location: 15 km south of Chios Town

Description: Agia Fotini is a pebbled beach with a lovely family atmosphere. Some delicious taverns line the coast, which is partly organized.

Sightseeing in Chios

Medieval Castle

Location: [Town](#)

Its construction started in the 10th century by the Byzantines and went through some reconstructions by the Venetians in the 16th century. Today it is an impressive and strong building that reminds the historical importance of Chios.

Nea Moni Monastery

Location: [Karyes](#)

The Monastery of Nea Moni, between the villages of Karyes and Avgonyma, is one of the oldest monasteries in Greece. It was constructed in the 15th century and recently it was declared a World Heritage Monument by Unesco.

Olympi Cave

Location: [Olympi](#)

This cave close to Olympi village is another miracle of nature. It was explored in 1985 and it is actually a cave gorge, 60m wide and with a humidity of 95%.

Oinousses Island

Location: [Town](#)

This tiny island with the rich natural history is a great daily excursion from Chios. It has traditional architecture, lovely beaches and a calm environment. Daily boats to Oinousses depart from the port of Chios Town.

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