

Ikaria

Eastern Aegean // Ikaria by Greeka.com



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About Ikaria

Ikaria owes its name to Icarus, the hero of Greek mythology son of Daedalus, both of which managed to escape from the labyrinth of Crete, due to the feathers and wax wings they made. However, Icarus flew too close to the sun, so his wings melted and he fell into the Aegean Sea, where he died. When he was found, he was buried in an island that was given its name (Ikaria), in honour of the **fallen Icarus**.

However, apart from the legend of Icarus, Ikaria has been known from ancient times due to elements, such as its thermal springs, east and west of the main port of Agios Kirikos, and its famous dark red wine. In comparison to its neighbors, Ikaria may not result immediately appealing for some types of visitors. However, those who love hiking around wild beauty, with no added infrastructure and crowds will enjoy the typical immaculate ancient Greek vibe of the island, almost untouched by tourism influence.

For example, the twisting, mountainous road that connects Agios Kirikos, the capital of the island, with its second port, named Evdilos in the north. This is recommended for those who like adventure, and as a final result it offers the greatest views of the coast, the sea and neighbouring islands.

In fact, Ikaria is one of the greenest islands of the Aegean Sea, counting on a great variety of wildlife. The most popular resort is found in Armenistis, an area with some excellent beaches and an increasing amount of tour facilities, which does not mean it ends up being ideal for back-packing holidays.

The whole profile of the island is orientated to those who enjoy simple and traditional facts, instead of tourist whims. But despite these facts, Ikaria counts on several places for amusement, since locals are actually fun and hospitable people that enjoy to socialize and party.

However, Ikaria is not an isolate island in its culture. It is welcoming foreign cultures and people and show them the Greek culture. In fact, a center for **Greek Language Courses** works in Ikaria to get foreigners in contact with the Greek spirit.

Villages of Ikaria

Armenistis

Location: 50 km north west of Agios Kirikos

Description: This lovely fishing village has become the major tourist centre of Ikaria, but is still very authentic and has managed to keep its relaxed and traditional atmosphere.

Agios Kirikos

Location: On the eastern side of the island

Description: Agios Kirikos is the capital of Ikaria and the second largest port, after Evdilos. This is a lovely village full of two and three-storied Neoclassical houses with flowered balconies.

Sightseeing: Archaeological Collection, Church Of Agios Kirikos, Fourni Island

Evdilos

Location: 38 km north west of Agios Kirikos

Description: Evdilos has a very interesting architecture with Neoclassical buildings, old traditional stone houses and mansions, modern houses and narrow streets. Evdilos hosts a main port of the island.

Beaches of Ikaria

Kambos

Location: 40 km north west of Agios Kirikos

Description: Kambos has clean shallow waters and it is boarded by short vegetation. The characteristic of this beach is the soft sandy shore.

Sightseeing: Archaeological Museum, Church Of Agia Irini

Livadi

Location: 48 km north west of Agios Kirikos

Description: Livadi is a long beach with fine sand and exotic water. It is located close to Armenistis and a part of this beach is organized with sunbeds and umbrellas.

Messakti

Location: 47 km north west of Agios Kirikos

Description: Messakti is among the prettiest beaches on Ikaria. It is actually a bay of soft sand, exotic water and green ambience. Some cool beach bars can be found in Messakti.

Nas

Location: 55 km north west of Agios Kirikos

Description: Nas is the most picturesque beach of Ikaria. This narrow coast is surrounded by rocky cliffs and it gives the best sunset on the island.

Sightseeing: Halari Gorge, Temple Of Artemis

Seychelles

Location: 20 km south west of Agios Kirikos

Description: This pebbled beach has emerald waters and it is surrounded by impressive rocks, creating a wonderful setting.

Sightseeing in Ikaria

Halari Gorge

Location: [Nas](#)

This magnificent gorge is found close to Nas beach and it is a great area to stroll around, with natural lakes, plane trees, small waterfalls and stone bridges.

Fourni Island

Location: [Agios Kirikos](#)

This island is quiet and somehow isolate from tourist destination. It has only a few tourist amenities because it has not yet been much developed. Fourni would be a nice two-day excursion from Ikaria.

Temple Of Artemis

Location: [Nas](#)

The ruins of the Temple of Artemis built in the 6th century BC can be seen in the archaeological site of Nas, on the north western spot of Ikaria. Goddess Artemis was worshipped there from the Classical till the Roman times.

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Greeka.com

- **Adress:** Makrigianni 26A, 18537 Piraeus/Athens, Greece
- **E-mail:** info@greeka.com
- **Tel:** +30 210 4526900
- **Fax:** +30 210 4526960

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