

Kythnos

Cyclades // Kythnos by Greeka.com



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About Kythnos

The beautiful island of Kythnos, belonging to the Cyclades chain of islands, is a popular tourist destination, mainly because of the wide variety of activities it offers the visitors.

Believed to have been named after the leader of the Dryopes and the first inhabitant of the island, Kythno, the island has seen its share of civilizations inhabiting it. The Dryopes are believed to be the earliest civilizations to have settled on Kythnos, with ruins of Cyclopean walls and temples having been found. Herodotus claimed that the Dryopes migrated to Kythnos around the 13th century B.C.

The Dryopes were followed by the Ionians, after which the island participated in the Persian Wars and came under the Athenian Alliance. The Romans then gained control of the island, followed by the Byzantines. Conquered by Marko Sanoudo under the Venetian rule, the island was renamed Thermia, for its hot springs.

After this period control was transferred to the Castelli family, followed by the Gozadini family. Even after being marauded by the pirate Barbarossa, the island still remained under family rule until 1827, when the island was renamed Kythnos and took part in the war against the Turks.

After being turned into a place of exile for rebels, under the rule of King Otto, 1862 saw an attack on the island by rebels from Syros. This led to further oppression of the rebels and the death of many brave men. Today the island provides many attractions to its visitors, while it still maintains its Greek culture. Agriculture and fishing are still the primary occupation, while tourism is also a major contributor to its economy.

Moreover, the Cycladic architecture characterizes Kythnos with white washed houses with wooden balconies full of flowers and narrow pebbled streets. Merichas is the main port of the island and provides visitors with every imaginable comfort, from numerous taverns, restaurants, hotels, apartments, bars and cafes.

The beaches are also beautiful, long stretches of sand, sapphire water, ideal for swimming or just for a day getting the perfect Greek tan. The sunset at Kavos Marko is not to be missed while on Kythnos.

The island also offers many historical sights such as the [Katafiki Cave](#), the monastery of Panagia Kanala or the Castle of Orias. Providing a truly wonderful experience to all visitors, trekking and diving are the major activities available on the island. Kythnos is also the island where the first [Aeolic Park](#) of the country was created, on a hill above Chora.

Villages of Kythnos

Chora

Location: On the northern side of the island

Description: Chora, also known as Messaria, is the capital of Kythnos. This is a picturesque village with small squares, paved streets and traditional houses.

Sightseeing: Church Of Agios Ioannis

Driopida

Location: 12 km south of Chora

Description: Driopida is a mountainous picturesque village with narrow alleys and beautiful surroundings. It was the capital of Kythnos in the 19th century.

Sightseeing: Byzantine Museum, Folklore Museum, Katafiki Cave

Loutra

Location: 6 km north of Chora

Description: This seaside village is the most tourist resort of the island. It is particularly known for its thermal spas, which are said to have healing properties.

Beaches of Kythnos

Kolona

Location: 6 km west of Chora

Description: It is a narrow strip of land that connects Kythnos to the islet of Agios Loukas. It is the most famous beach of the island and particularly charming.

Agia Irini beach

Location: 6 km north of Chora

Description: This is a small pebbled beach within tranquil environment. It has clean water and doesn't usually get very crowded.

Gantromantra

Location: 22 km south of Chora

Description: This is a long beach that doesn't get very crowded. A few summer houses have been built by the seaside.

Agios Dimitrios beach

Location: 24 km south of Chora

Description: This is a sandy beach surrounded by some trees. It doesn't get very popular, so you can enjoy all the peace you need there.

Sightseeing in Kythnos

Folklore Museum

Location: [Driopida](#)

The extensive collection of the Folklore Museum includes traditional uniforms and significant folk art objects. The exhibits provide a glimpse into the life of the the locals not just in the near past but much further into history.

Church Of Panagia Kanala

Location: [Kanala](#)

All over Kythnos, there are many Cycladic churches that depict the religious feeling of the inhabitants. The most famous is the church of Panagia Kanala, which is also the protector of the island.

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