

Naxos

Cyclades // Naxos by Greeka.com



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About Naxos

Located in the centre of Cyclades, Naxos is among the most popular and beautiful islands of the complex. The capital of Naxos is Chora and half the population of the entire island lives there.

Known for its incredible natural beauty and the rich music tradition, Naxos is a mountainous island with impressive rock formations, green plants, fertile and verdant valleys and beautiful, long golden beaches with crystal turquoise waters. Holidays in Naxos are ideal for young people, romantic couples or families.

Because of the high mountain in the centre that causes some rainfalls in autumn, Naxos has had a fertile land since the ancient times. In fact, the ancient Greeks believed that Dionysus, the god of wine, was living there because Naxos produced the finest wine in Greece. Even today, the production of wine is large and people also cultivate other agricultural products, like potatoes and olive trees.

All over the island, there are beautiful beaches and coves. The beaches close to Chora are the most popular and tourist-developed. Going to the south of the island, the beaches are not that crowded and offer more chances for privacy: Orkos, Mikri Vigla, Kastraki, Pyrgaki, Alyko and Sahara are great places to relax. In fact, Mikri Vigla is a popular spot for windsurfing, among the greatest windsurfing and kitesurfing spots in Greece.

The inland of Naxos is dotted with picturesque villages, Byzantine churches, lush greenery and interesting archaeological sites. Among the most beautiful villages to visit is Aperanthos with the four museums, Koronos and Halki, the first capital of the island. As for archaeological sites, it is worth to visit the temple of Demeter in Sangri, the sanctuary of Dionysos in Iria and the statues of Kouros in Melanes and Apollonas.

The most developed side of Naxos is the western. The eastern side of the island gets pretty windy in summer and doesn't receive many visitors.

Villages of Naxos

Town

Location: On the north western side of the island

Description: Also called Chora, Naxos Town is the capital and main harbour of the island. With a lovely waterfront and elegant Venetian architecture, it is considered as one of the most beautiful Cycladic villages.

Sightseeing: Archaeological Museum, Catholic Cathedral, Kastro, Monastery Of Agios Ioannis Chryssostomos, Museum Of Naxos Ancient Town, Orthodox Cathedral, Panagia Mirtidiotissa, Portara, Venetian Museum

Apiranthos

Location: 26 km east of Chora

Description: Apiranthos is a beautiful, mountainous village in the centre of Naxos. Surrounded by lush greenery and keeping its elegant architectural style, Apiranthos is still untouched by tourism.

Sightseeing: Archaeological Museum, Folk Art Museum, Geological Museum

Halki

Location: 16 km south east of Chora

Description: Halki is a lovely, traditional village in the centre of Naxos. It used to be the old capital of the island and has maintained its Venetian style.

Sightseeing: Panagia Protothrone, Vallindras Distillery

Koronos

Location: 30 km north east of Chora

Description: Koronos is a traditional village built amphitheatrically on the slopes of a hill. It has houses of exceptional architecture, a picturesque square, paved streets and many arches that create a romantic atmosphere.

Apollonas

Location: 36 km north west of Chora

Description: This is a charming fishing village with a couple of great fish taverns and a sandy beach. An ancient statue of Kouros is found close to Apollonas.

Sightseeing: Apollonas Kouros Statue

Beaches of Naxos

Plaka

Location: 10 km south of Chora

Description: The famous Plaka Beach is a long, sprawling, strip of white sand with sand dunes behind the beach. Here you can enjoy the lovely water, a view of Paros and some space.

Agios Prokopios

Location: 6 km south west of Chora

Description: Agios Prokopios is one of the most beautiful beaches on Naxos. This is a long, golden beach with many watersports and surrounded by plenty of tourist facilities.

Mikri Vigla

Location: 16 km south of Chora

Description: Mikri Vigla is one of the most famous windsurfing spots in Naxos. The wind is perfect for windsurfing and kitesurfing and many watersports centre line this beach.

Sightseeing: Panagia Parthena Islet

Orkos

Location: 10 km south of Chora

Description: Orkos is a beautiful beach next to Plaka. With soft sand and green ambience, Orkos attracts many visitors every summer.

Maragas

Location: 7 km south of Chora

Description: Maragas is an endless, picturesque beach with soft sand and crystal water. Although it is close to Chora and the popular beach resorts of Naxos, Maragas is calmer than the other beaches in the area.

Sightseeing in Naxos

Kastro

Location: Town

Kastro is the most picturesque quarter in Naxos Town. It is actually the old castle of the village, which is now inhabited. Around this castle, the modern part of the town has been constructed.

Portara

Location: Town

Portara is the trademark of Naxos. This is the first sight of the island that you get as the ferry approaches the port. It is the unfinished gate of a big temple dedicated to Apollo.

Melanes Kouros Statue

Location: Melanes

The giant statue of a young man (Kouros) can be seen outside the village of Melanes. It lays on the site where it was excavated.

Temple Of Demeter

Location: Sangri

Recently restored, this ancient temple is dedicated to Demeter, the goddess of grain. It dates back to the 6th century B.C. and it was discovered in 1949. A small church to Saint John stands next to the temple.

Geological Museum

Location: Apiranthos

The Geological Museum is located in the village of Apiranthos Naxos and it houses a rich collection of more than 2000 rare exhibits. The Geological Museum of Naxos is considered as one of the most interesting museums of this kind in Greece.

Panagia Drossiani

Location: Moni

This beautiful church is standing near the little village of Moni, in the inland of Naxos. This is an Early Christian church, one of the oldest churches of the island, dating back to the 6th- 7th century. It has round, smooth shapes and a dome. The interior is decorated with beautiful wall paintings.

Archaeological Museum

Location: Town

The Archaeological Museum is situated in the quarter of Kastro, Naxos Town. It is housed in a superb 17th century Venetian mansion, which used to be the Jesuit School of Commerce before. This really interesting museum exposes a collection of objects and art works dating from the late Neolithic period until the early Christian times.

Temple Of Dionysus

Location: [Glinado](#)

The ancient temple of Dionysus is located close to Glinado village, in Iria position. As Naxos was the residence of god Dionysus according to the myth, it comes as no surprise that there is such a temple on the island.

Some Accommodations in Naxos

Naxian Collection

Location: **Agios Prokopios**

Class: Luxury

Number of rooms: 10

Type: Apartments, Villas, Maisonettes, Suites, Junior Suites, Honeymoon

Phone: 0030 22850 24300

Naxian Collection is a new hotel (opening middle of July 2008) Constituted of 8 luxury villas 80-100 m² and two suites 30 – 40 m² each with panoramic sea view and most of them with private swimming pool. Hardly ten minutes away from the city, harbor and two minutes away from the airport, in panoramic view, region of Stelida, built in 2008.

Aegean Palace

Location: **Plaka**

Class: 3 Stars

Number of rooms: 70

Type: Hotels, Apartments, Suites, Honeymoon, Family Rooms

Website: www.aegeanpalace.gr

Phone: 0030 22850 42871

On the popular seaside settlement of Plaka, lies the luxurious Naxos Hotel Aegean Palace. In the beautiful garden of the hotel there is a pool. For the little ones, there is also a children pool. In each one of its fully equipped rooms (refridgerator, internet, mini-bar, baby swing, air-condition, flat screen tv, jacuzzi, hairdryer etc.) you will find the relaxation you seek for your holidays and the proper care for you and your company. While at the Aegean Palace, you do not have to put aside your favourite habits, since you will find a gym available for you at the hotel and a sauna as well.

Katerina Naxos

Location: **Agios Prokopios**

Class: 3 Stars

Number of rooms: 32

Type: Hotels, Apartments, Studios, Suites, Family Rooms

Website: www.hotel-katerina-naxos.gr

Phone: 0030 22850 42537

Katerina Hotel at Agios Prokopios Naxos, with all comforts, in a picturesque tranquil ambience. Swimming pool with Jacuzzi installation. Preferred for real vacations.

Plaka

Location: Plaka

Class: 3 Stars

Number of rooms: 25

Type: Hotels, Studios

Website: www.plakahotel.com

Phone: 0030 22850 42700

Plaka Beach Hotel is situated on one of the cleanest and most beautiful and quiet beaches in Greece. An unpaved and not so busy road is separating the hotel from the beach. Its peaceful atmosphere, its length-several meters long- and its fine sand makes Plaka Beach, ideal for relaxing and unforgettable holidays.

Plaza Beach

Location: Plaka

Class: 3 Stars

Number of rooms: 82

Type: Hotels, Suites, Junior Suites, Family Rooms

Website: www.plazabeachhotel.gr

Phone: 0030 22850 29400-9

A luxurious hotel complex built in traditional island style. Special care is given to every detail. Your stay here will be unique and unforgettable. The Plaza Beach Hotel is located on one of the most beautiful beaches in Greece. An unpaved road separates the hotel from the beach. Plaka beach is a wide stretch of fine-sand beach, several kilometers long.

Other places of interest in Naxos

Kontos

Category: Restaurants

Location: [Mikri Vigla](#)

Back in 1986, Antonio and Maria Salteris built a tavern on Mikri Vigla beach. Since then, “Kontos” restaurant and bar has been a top destination for holiday makers across Europe.

Faros

Category: Restaurants

Location: [Aliko](#)

Faros Restaurant has always caught the eye of tourists because of its sheer location. The restaurant, known as the Faros Tavern was started in 1992 and it specializes in Mediterranean-Greek cuisine.

Wind/Kite Surfing in Naxos

Naxos Sports Thalasea

Category: Windsurfing

Location: [Mikri Vigla](#)

The Thalasea Sports Center is located on Parthena Beach, in the bay of Mikri Vigla. The bay boasts some of the strongest winds in the Cyclades. Regular winds and sparkling waters make it one of the best in Naxos for kite surfing and windsurfing.

Flisvos Mikri Vigla Centre

Category: Kitesurfing

Location: [Mikri Vigla](#)

Opened in June 2007 and located down south in Mikri Vigla the Flisvos Kite Centre provides a unique opportunity to water sport enthusiasts to get the best out of their holiday by combining kite surfing and windsurfing in a single spot.

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