

PARSIFAL  
YACHTING

# HYDRA

itinerary



## Hydra island

Hydra (ee-dhr-ah; **Ύδρα**) is truly the gem of the Saronic Gulf and stands alone among Greek islands as the one free of wheeled vehicles. No cars. No scooters. Just tiny marble-cobbled lanes, donkeys, rocks and sea. Artists (Brice Marden, Nikos Chatzikyriakos-Ghikas, Panayiotis Tetsis), musicians (Leonard Cohen), actors and celebrities (Melina Mercouri, Sophia Loren) and travellers have all been drawn to Hydra over the years. So in addition to the island's exquisitely preserved stone architecture, criss-crossing rural paths and clear, deep waters, you can find a good cappuccino along the people-watching harbour.

The mules and donkeys are the main means of heavy transport and they, along with the rustic aspects of life on the island, give Hydra its two faces: chic and earthy.



## Hydra town

Life in Hydra centres around the gorgeous port. Whether you sail or ferry in, the sparkling boat-filled harbour and the bright light striking the tiers of carefully preserved stone houses make a lasting impression. The harbour in high season is an ecosystem of its own, with yachts, caiques, water taxis and sailboats zipping in and out. The marble quay is a surging rhythm of donkeys, visitors, cafe denizens and boat-taxi hawkers. By night the scene becomes a promenade: grab a chair, order a drink, and watch the world go by.

Of course, if you head back into the warren of port-side houses, and especially if you climb the steep slopes banking away from the town centre, you get a totally different view on Hydriot life. Grandmothers chat in quiet lanes about what's for dinner, and roads peter out into dirt paths that head into the mountains, ever-changing in colour, depending on the season and the time of day.



## Historic Archives and Museum

This fine harbourfront museum houses an extensive collection of portraits and naval artefacts, with an emphasis on the island's role in the War of Independence. It hosts temporary exhibitions in summer, and concerts on the rooftop terrace.



## Lazaros Koundouriotis Historical Mansion

Hydra's star cultural attraction is this handsome ochre-coloured arhontiko (stone mansion) high above the harbour. It was the home of one of the major players in the Greek independence struggle and is an exquisite example of late-18th-century traditional architecture. It features original furnishings, folk costumes, handicrafts and a painting exhibition.



## Kimisis Tis Theotokou

Housed in the peaceful monastery complex on the harbour, the cathedral dates from the 17th century and has a Tinian marble belltower. Its Ecclesiastical Museum contains a collection of icons.



yacht agency

69 Posidonos Ave. & Alimou Ave., 17455, Athens, Greece

T. +30 210 9880 572, F. +30 210 9880 279

management@parsifal.gr - www.parsifal.gr