

PARSIFAL  
YACHTING

---

# PAROS

itinerary



## Paros island

Paros is a Greek island in the central Aegean Sea. One of the Cyclades island group, it lies to the west of Naxos, from which it is separated by a channel about 8 km (5 miles) wide. It lies approximately 100 mi (161km) south-east of Piraeus. The Municipality of Paros includes numerous uninhabited offshore islets totaling 196.308 square km (75.795 sq. mi) of land. Its nearest neighbor is the municipality of Antiparos, which lies to its southwest.

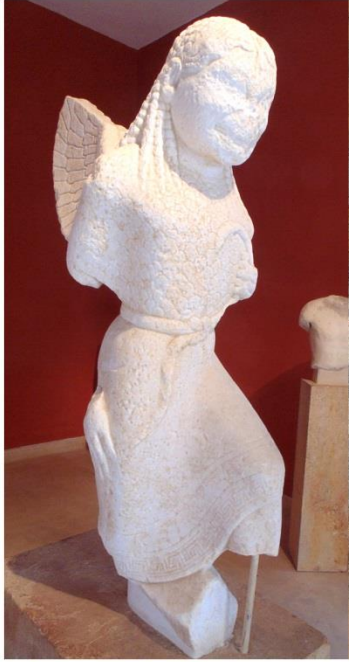
Historically, Paros was known for its fine white marble, which gave rise to the term "Parian" to describe marble or china of similar qualities. Today, abandoned marble quarries and mines can be found on the island, but Paros is primarily known as a popular tourist spot.



# Panagia Ekatondapyliani

The Panagia Ekatondapyliani, which dates from AD 326, is one of the finest churches in the Cyclades. The building is three distinct churches: Agios Nikolaos, the largest, with superb columns of Parian marble and a carved iconostasis in the east of the compound; the ornate Church of Our Lady; and the ancient Baptistery.

The name translates as Our Lady of the Hundred Gates, though this is a wishful rounding-up of a still-impressive number of doorways. The Byzantine Museum, within the compound, has a collection of icons and other artefacts.



# Archaeological & Byzantine Museum

Tucked behind the Panagia Ekatondapyliani, this museum is a cool escape into the island's past. It harbours some marvellous pieces, including a 5th-century Nike on the point of alighting and a 6th-century Gorgon also barely in touch with the surly earth. Earlier examples of splendid pottery include the Fat Lady of Saliagos, while a major exhibit is a fragment slab of the 4th-century Parian Chronicle, which lists the most outstanding artistic achievements of ancient Greece. It was discovered in the 17th century. (Two other slabs ended up in the Ashmolean Museum, in Oxford, England.)

Naoussa's Byzantine museum is housed in the blue-domed church, about 200m uphill from the central square on the main road to Parikia. The inside glitters with over a hundred icons from the 15th to 19th centuries.



## Venetian Fortress & Frankish Castle

The Venetian Fort of Naoussa is located in the old port and it is the most characteristic spot of this lovely town. Originally constructed in the 15th century by the Venetians, the fortress was used as a watchtower for pirate and enemy attacks and as a front line in times of war. Its location was very convenient for monitor the Aegean Sea and due to its architecture, it was very difficult for enemy ships to approach the close port where commercial ships used to moor. Today only part of this fort survives, a half-submerged watchtower that is connected to the mainland with a short path. After the Venetians, the fort was conquered by Russians and finally by Ottomans.

Check out also the outer walls of this fortress, built by the Venetian Duke Marco Sanudo of Naxos in AD 1260. Built with the stones from ancient buildings that once stood on this site, you can find remnants from the arc temple of Athena and an Ionic temple from the 5th century BC.



## Lefkes

Lefkes is an inland mountain village 10 km (6 mi) away from Parikia. It is a picturesque village with narrow streets. A visitor could walk and enjoy the carefully whitewashed houses and streets with beautiful and colorful flowers. In the late 19th century, Lefkes was the center of the municipality of Iria which belonged to the Province of Naxos until 1912. The name of the municipality Iria was one of the ancient names of Paros. Lefkes was the capital of the municipality Iria which included the villages Angyria or Ageria, Alik, Aneratzia, Vounia, Kamari, Campos, Langada, Maltos and Marathi. Iria became Lefkes Community following the law enforcement DNZ/1912 "On Municipalities". At that time, the village managed to achieve great economic development. In the 1970s many residents moved to Athens, Maroussi and Melissa due to urbanization. However, the last few years, tourism presented to be a new source of income for the locals that led to the reconstruction of homes and landscaping for a peaceful and sweet life. Lefkes became part of the municipality of Paros in the Kapodistrias local government reform. In the latest census (2011) the population numbered 545 inhabitants.



## Marble Quarries

Parian marble, which is white and translucent (semi-transparent), with a coarse grain and a very beautiful texture, was the chief source of wealth for the island. The celebrated marble quarries lie on the northern side of the mountain anciently known as Marathi (afterwards Capresso), a little below a former convent of St Mina. The marble, which was exported from the 6th century BC onwards, was used by Praxiteles and other great Greek sculptors. It was obtained by means of subterranean quarries driven horizontally or at a descending angle into the rock.

The marble thus quarried by lamplight was given the name of Lychnites, Lychneus (from lychnos, a lamp), or Lygdos. [18] Several of these tunnels are still to be seen. At the entrance to one of them is a bas-relief dedicated to Pan and the nymphs. Several attempts to work the marble have been made in modern times, but it has not been exported in any great quantities. The major part of the remaining white marble is now state-owned and, like its Pentelic counterpart, is only used for archaeological restorations.



## Cave & Castle of Antiparos

About 8km south of the port, this atmospheric cave remains impressive despite much looting of stalactites and stalagmites in the past. Descending the 400-plus steps into the cave can be a dank and gloomy affair. Follow the coast road south until you reach a signed turn-off into the hills. From the port there are hourly buses to the cave.

From the top of the pedestrianised main street, head for the distinctive, giant plane tree of Plateia Agios Nikolaou. From here, a narrow lane leads to the intriguing remnants of the Venetian Castle of Antiparos, entered through an archway. The castle dates from the 13th to the 16th centuries. The surrounding wall boasts external quirky staircases and balconies while the remains of the central keep is crowned by a stone water tower and clasped round by gnomonic churches. There's a small Folk Museum here also.





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