

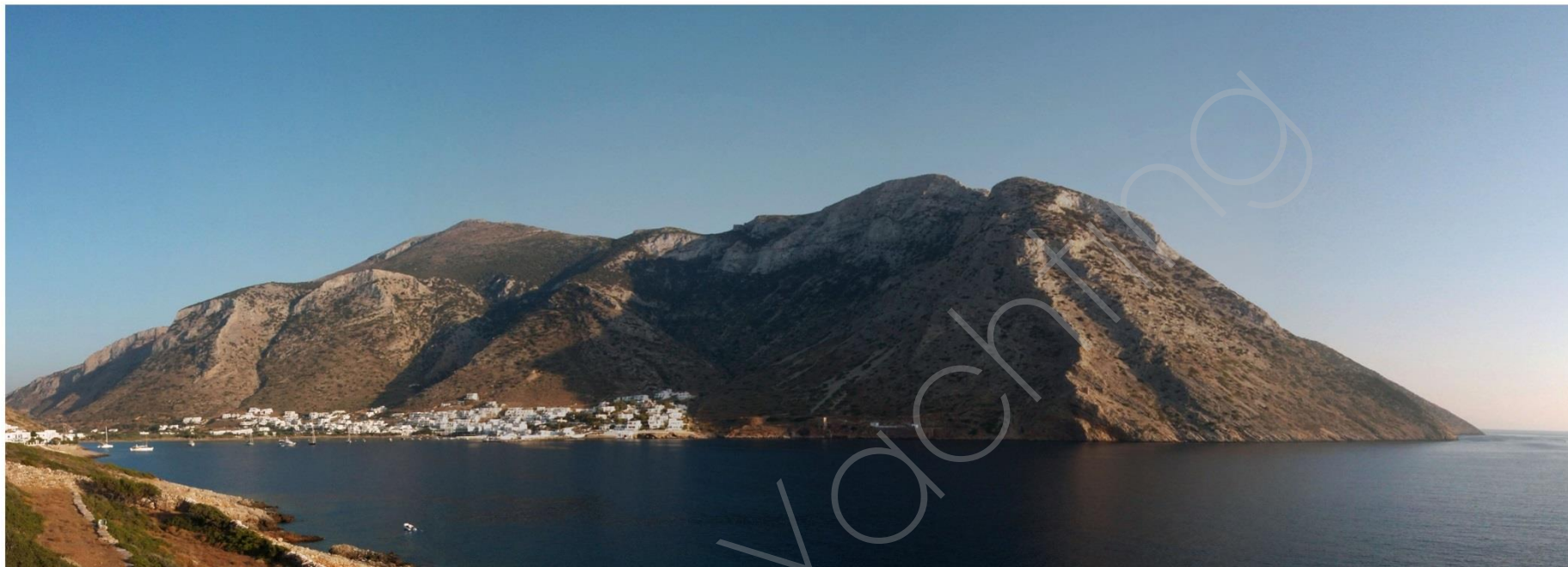
A scenic view of a white church with a blue dome on a rocky cliff overlooking the sea. The church is perched on a rugged, brown and grey rock formation. A winding white path leads up the cliffside. The sea is a deep blue, and the sky is a vibrant blue with scattered white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and picturesque.

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# SIFNOS

itinerary



## Sifnos island

Sifnos has an exquisite dreamlike quality. A string of three whitewashed villages, anchored by the capital Apollonia, sit like pearls along the crest of the island. The changing light kisses the landscape and as you explore the flanking slopes of the central mountains you'll discover abundant terraced olive groves, almond trees, oleander and aromatic herbs. Each of the island's bays harbours a spectrum of aqua waters, and offers breathtaking vistas.

Unspoiled footpaths link villages, such as the one encircling tiny hilltop Kastro. During the Archaic period (from about the 8th century BC) Sifnos was enriched by its gold and silver deposits, but by the 5th century BC the mines were exhausted. Sifnos is now known for pottery, basket weaving and cookery.



## Apollonia

Apollonia comes alive in high season with its parade of well-dressed Athenians strutting their stuff along the Steno (Odos Prokou, known as Steno because of its narrowness). Cafes, bars, clubs, shops and eateries buzz with life.

Quirky Museum of Popular Art at the central junction contains a fun confusion of old costumes, textiles and photographs. The main vehicular road cuts right through the centre of town, but park at the large tree car park downhill from the village and walk up and into the warren of streets.



## Kamares

The port of Kamares always seems to have a holiday atmosphere with its large beach and waterfront cafes, tavernas and shops. But the real action is up near Apollonia or at more idyllic bays.



## Kastro

The walled cliff-top village of Kastro is a magical place of buttressed alleyways and whitewashed houses. A pleasant path circumnavigates the village, which was once the capital of the island. There's a small archaeological museum to peek in but the real pleasure lies in strolling through the streets.



## Around Sifnos

The handsome whitewashed monastery of Chrysopigi perches on an islet connected to the shore by a tiny footbridge and is abutted by spectacular beaches with clear, azure waters. Footpaths rim the headlands. Platys Gialos, 10km south of Apollonia, has a big, generous beach entirely backed by tavernas, domatia and shops. Vathy, on the southwest coast, is a super-low-key village on an almost circular bay of aquamarine beauty.

In the north, wild barren cliffs drop to the sea and small, bedraggled Heronisos sits on a protected bay 15km from Apollonia. Excellent Vroulidia Beach requires four-wheel drive or a boat. On the southeast coast, the little fishing hamlet of Faros has a couple of nice beaches nearby, including Fasolou, reached up steps and over the headland from the bus stop.



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