



PARSIFAL  
YACHTING

# PATMOS

itinerary





## Patmos island

In AD 95 St John the Divine received a vision in a cave and wrote the sinister Book of Revelations here. Exuding a bewitching spirituality, Patmos is special. No, really, David Bowie thinks so, as do the thousands of pilgrims who annually travel to the whitewashed sanctity of hilltop Hora; scattered with crow-black pensioners, galleries, fine boutiques and tavernas.

As one free-diver commented: 'The island either rejects you or holds on to you.' And from the moment you enter Hora's 10th-century monastery with its diabolical friezes of demons and hell, you'll either be creeped or enraptured. Patmos also has more than its fair share of gas-blue coves, green mountains and fine-pebble beaches, while its stylish harbour of Skala buzzes and is full of tasteful boutiques.





## Skala

Photogenic Skala hugs the dock with whitewashed houses rising amphitheatrically up the hill, and is threaded with boutiques, shadowy bars, guesthouses and aromatic tavernas in its web of backstreets. Periodically quiet then suddenly busy with throngs of pilgrims disgorged from cruise ships, it's a great place to meet the locals.





## Hora

Visit hilltop Hora and its centrepiece monastery of St John, and you cannot help but pick up its rarefied vibe. By night it's ghostly, sanctified and creaking in the wind. Revelations, that curiously frightening book, was written in a cave nearby and some of its Boschian spectres seem to scuttle invisibly behind as you wander the 17th-century maze of streets. A five-minute walk west of St John's Monastery, the Holy Monastery of Zoodohos Pigi is a women's convent with incredibly impressive frescoes. On Good Friday, a beautiful candle-lit ceremony takes place here.

Just east of St John's Monastery, Andreas Kalatzis is a Byzantine icon artist who lives and works in a 1740s traditional home. Inside, you'll find an interesting mix of pottery, jewellery and paintings by local artists. Seek out Patmos Gallery (run by Kalatzis) for an eclectic range of abstract and figurative paintings, jewellery and illuminated sculptures.



# Monastery of the Apocalypse

The immense Monastery of St John the Theologian crowns the island of Patmos. Attending a service here, with plumes of incense, religious chants and devoted worshippers, is unforgettable. To reach it, many people walk up the Byzantine path which starts from a signposted spot along the Skala-Hora road.

Some 200m along this path, a dirt trail to the left leads through pine trees to the Monastery of the Apocalypse, built around the cave where St John received his revelation. You can see the rock the saint used as a pillow and the triple fissure in the roof from where the voice of God issued. Grab a pew and try not to think of The Omen!





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