



PARSIFAL
YACHTING

SYMI
itinerary



Symi island

Thrumming with day-trippers, beautiful Symi (see-me) evokes oohs and aahs from ferry passengers before they've even got off the boat! For sailing into the Italianate harbour of Gialos with its biscuit- and wine-coloured houses is a sight for sore eyes. Indeed if the Greek isles were models, Symi would be the dainty diva, drawing as she does regular visits from Hollywood A listers. Gialos (the capital) must surely have one of the prettiest ports in the whole of the Dodecanese (thanks to Italian colonisation) with its neoclassical facades. Above it rising steeply up the mountainside is the village of Horio, to which it is connected by the Kali Strata, a steep cobbled stairway winding through sea captains' houses and crumbling remains.

This magical island aglitter with crystal-clear water so transparent in places the boats look as if they're floating on thin air, has plenty of blue coves and beaches to explore, as well as professional walking tour operators.



Moni Taxiarchou Mihail Panormiti

A winding road leads through scented pine forests, before dipping spectacularly down to Panormitis Bay, and Syri's biggest attraction – the large Moni Taxiarchou Mihail Panormiti.

A monastery was first built here in the 5th or 6th century, however, the present building dates from the 18th century. The principal church contains an intricately carved wooden iconostasis, frescoes, and an icon of St Michael that supposedly appeared miraculously where the monastery now stands. St Michael is the patron saint of Syri and protector of sailors. When pilgrims and worshippers ask the saint for a favour, it's tradition to leave an offering; you'll see piles of these, plus prayers in bottles, that have been dropped off boats and found their own way into the harbour.



Nautical Museum

The Nautical Museum of Simi, Dodecanese: The Naval Museum of Simi is located in Gialos, just 2 km from the main town. The museum was established in 1983 and in 1990 it found its home inside an elegant neoclassical house, where the central shipyards of Simi were housed in the past.

The Nautical Museum of Simi displays old maps, ship models, diver suits, nautical tools and other exhibits that depict the long marine and sponge-fishing tradition of the island. In fact, there is a special section dedicated to sponge diving with exhibits including diving suits, diving machines for oxygen production, a collection of sponges, diving stones and others. The museum also hosts paintings and wooden-carved sailboats of the craftsman Antonis Polias.



Around Symi

Pedi is a little fishing village and busy mini holiday resort in a fertile valley 2km downhill from Horio. It has some sandy stretches on its narrow beach and there are private rooms and studios to rent, as well as hotels and tavernas. Walking tracks down both sides of Pedi Bay lead to Agia Marina beach on the north side and Agios Nikolaos beach on the south side. Both are sandy, gently shelving beaches, suitable for children.

Nos is the closest beach to Gialos. It's a 500m walk north of the clock tower at Panormitis Bay. There you'll find a taverna, bar and sun beds. Nimborios is a long, pebbled beach 3km west of Gialos – take the road by the east side of the central square and continue straight ahead bearing left after the church and following the stone trail.



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