

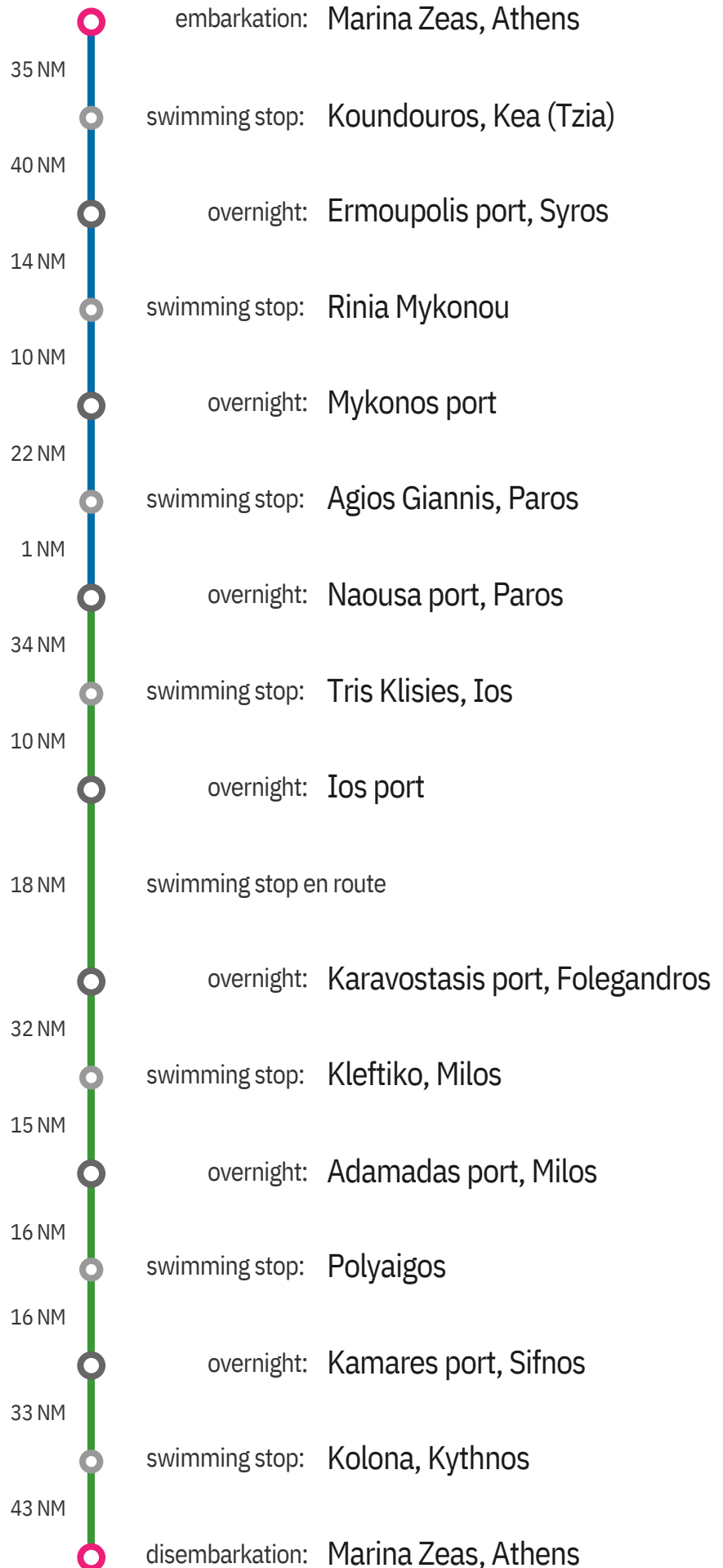
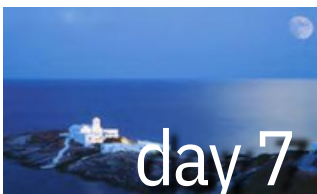
M/Y EXPLORION

Cyclades Islands 7-day Indicative Itinerary



Itinerary changes might occur due to weather conditions. Any change will be conducted in consultation with the client.

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Itinerary map



Day 1

departure from:
Marina Zeas, Athens

swimming stop:
Koundouros, Kea (Tzia)

overnight:
Ermoupoli port, Syros



Syros has been inhabited since the stone age. We do not know which was the first people to settle here, but it could have been Phoenicians. Homer mentioned the island and called it Siriin. Legend has it that the first inhabitant, Keraunus ("Lightning"), came to the island riding on the back of a dolphin after his ship had sunk. The oldest acropolis in the Cyclades has been found on Syros. The most striking feature of the island is the Venetian influence. Just like most of the Cycladic islands, the Venetians came here at the beginning of the 13th century, and stayed until the Turks took over in the 16th century. The great thing about this island is that it has everything a Greek island should have: nice beaches, taverns and bars, but it has not been too adjusted to tourism. The reason is that it is the administrative centre of the Cyclades, so the economy is doing well enough for people not to be too desperate for tourism.

It also has the very unusual characteristic for Greece, half the population is Catholic. Despite the fact that the island is very harsh, people grow vegetables, make wine and breed animals. They also build ships and make cloth - the shipyards of Syros is one of the most important factor that helps the economy of the island. Syros is also famous for its loukoumia (the Greek version of the Turkish delight sweets) that are exported to Greece and many countries. Syros is the main administrative island of the Cyclades prefecture and the island is a very popular holiday destination for Greeks and foreign tourists.



Day 2

departure from:

Ermoupoli Port Siros

swimming stop: Rinia Mykonou

overnight:

Mykonos port



Mykonos sits amidst the Aegean Sea like a unique jewell handcrafted by time, the greek sun and an anonymous local craftsman. All that can be said or written about Mykonos would be just too little. For centuries Mykonos existed under the shade of the religious centre of Delos and it had to wait until the 20th century to reach its international

status and win a place on the world tourist map. Mykonos, famously called 'the island of the winds' due to the constant wind that blows, is the most popular and cosmopolitan island of the Cyclades and considered as one the most famous islands of the world. The sunlight of Mykonos from its first sunshine of dawn all the way to its last of the sunset is astonishing and supplements an atmosphere of images that seem to have sprung out of a

painting.



Day 3

departure from:

Mykonos port

swimming stop:

Agios Giannis, Paros

overnight:

Naoussa port, Paros



Naoussa is a traditional fishing village, owning the largest fishing fleet in the Cyclades. Located at the northern coast of Paros, Naoussa hosts one of the most picturesque in the Aegean Sea. The large number of facilities for accommodation and nightlife has not eroded the traditional character of the village. During your stay, visit the interesting archaeological sites such as the settlement of Koukounaries hill, the cemetery Plastiras dated back in the Bronze Age and the Venetian castle on the north side of the harbor. You may also admire the impressive frescoes and the unique design of the nearby religious monuments. Undoubtedly, the most famous are Logovarda monastery, the medieval church dedicated to Saint George (Agios Georgios) and the Cathedral of the Assumption (Panagia).

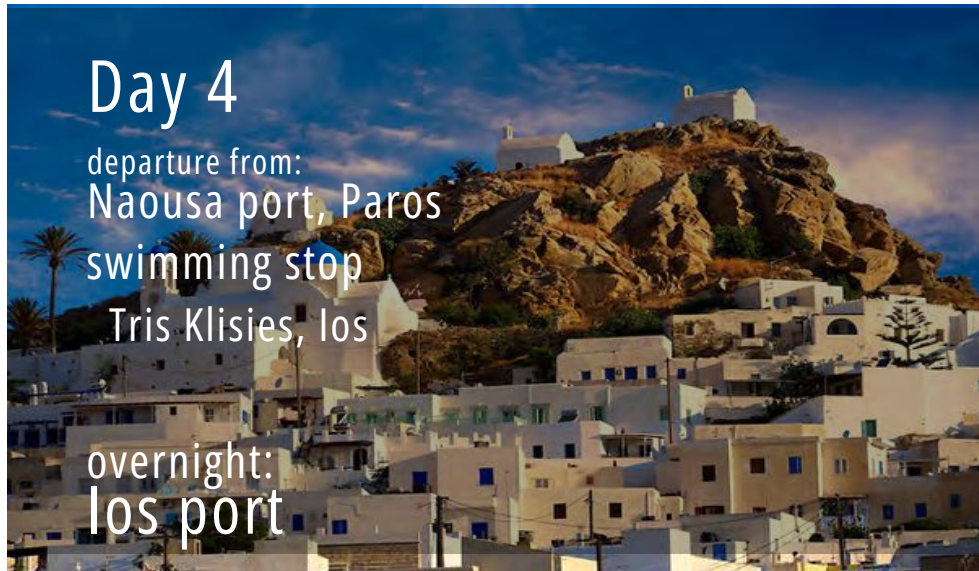


Day 4

departure from:
Naousa port, Paros

swimming stop
Tris Klisies, Ios

overnight:
Ios port



Ios island is one of the most atmospheric Cycladic Islands. Her unique beauty is characterized by its traditional architecture and beautiful golden beaches. Ios island took her name from the Ancient Greek word 'Ia', referring to the flowers that grow in abundance on its surface. Others believe that the name Ios derives from the same Phoenician word, meaning a pile of rocks. Today the inhabitants of the Cycladic Islands call the island Nio, a name deriving from the Byzantine Era. Ios island since the prehistoric times and due to its naturally protected harbour played a pivotal role as part of the maritime passages towards Crete. The First Cycladic settlement on the hills of Skarkos and other prehistoric smaller settlements found on the island can tell us a lot about that period in time. During the Classical and Hellenistic Periods Ios town had a strong and powerful position. Its decline began when the Romans took over and appointed the island for exiles. Its bad name carried on to the Byzantine years. A small derotation commenced during the times of the Duchy of Naxos but the abrupt invasion from the Ottoman Empire interrupted its recovery. Ios island despite a not so powerful naval force was one of the first islands who raised proud the flag of the Greek Revolution in 1821. Ios island took part on the naval battle at Kousantasi on July 9th 1821, on the 2nd National Assembly at Astros in 1823 and its 3rd National Assembly at Troezen in 1827.





Day 5

departure from:
los port

swimming stop en route

overnight:
Karavostasis port, Folegandros



Folegandros is a small island (32 km², 650 inhabitants) that has become fashionable, but it is still an untouched piece of true Greece. On account of the simple and relaxing atmosphere that reigns all around the island we like to distinguish it as the "island of Peace". Folegandros Chora, closed to car and motorcycle traffic, has a unique "center" of three squares in a row with trees under which you can enjoy a drink or food in a quiet, romantic atmosphere. In the gentle breeze passing through the small streets you may feel the perfume of lime trees or of the local (exceptional) bread. Bougainvillea and hibiscus color the small wooden balconies around the Kastro (XIII century). At Folegandros, the church of Panaghia on the top of a hill, offers a nice walk and a magnificent view of the Chora and of the west coast. Also, the area of the Kastro, a small fortress made by the Venetians in 1210, a small village into the Chora village, will take you back to the Middle Ages. The village of Ano Mera is spread over cultivated fields and "dry-placed" walls and has typical "kafeneio" and taverns. It has also a Folkloristic museum, open from 10 to 18.



Day 6

departure from:

Karavostasis port, Folegandros

swimming stop:

Kleftiko, Milos

overnight:

Adamadas port, Milos



The mythological references to the island of Milos are minimal. The island is mentioned in works of ancient authors using various names such as: Paper, Gorgris, Mimallis, Akita, Zephyr. Because of the fact that the statue of Aphrodite was found on the island, there is the myth of worshipping the goddess and her relationship with Milos. Milos was an important center even before the Minoan era, because of the volcanic ground and especially obsidian (a black, hard, volcanic rock that was used to manufacture weapons and tools). Of course because of its position, Milos was significantly influenced by the Minoan civilization. We know that with the descent of the Dorians, Klima was built around 1100 B.C. Milos is closely linked with Greece. In the Persian wars the Milonians fought in favor of the Athenians. They participated in the battle of Salamis (480 B.C.) and in the battle of Plataea (479 B.C.), while in the Peloponnesian war they wanted to keep a neutral stance. In the year 311 A.D., like all the Cyclades, Milos was conquered by the Macedonians, a time in which the island flourishes economically and in the arts. Milos later is conquered by the Roman and afterwards fell into Byzantine hands. During the early Christian times, the island inhabits a lots of Jews, which is why Christianity spread relatively quickly. The famous catacombs of Milos are from this era. During the Frankish domination, Marco Sanudo captured the island of Milos and in 1207 joined it with the Duchy of Naxos. In 1537 Milos was conquered by the pirate Barbarossa and in 1566 it was passed by the Venetians to the Turks. Throughout the Ottoman occupation, Milos was a pirate base.



Day 7

departure from:
Adamadas port, Milos

swimming stop:
Milos Polyaigos

overnight:
Kamares port, Sifnos



In the 6th century A.D. Sifnos belonged to the 29th Province of the Islands, the capital of which was Rhodes. At that time, ecclesiastically it belongs to the bishopric of Paros - Sifnos - Amorgos. From the excavations it hasn't been possible to find out when Christianity started spreading in Sifnos. During the period of iconoclasm, Sifnos does not rest uninvolved. The occupation of Constantinople by the Franks in 1204 resulted in the redistribution of the empire's territories. The islands were given to private individuals and thus, in 1207 the nephew of the Duke of Venice, Markos Sanoudos, occupies 17 islands - including Sifnos - and establishes the Duchy of the Aegean. Sifnos is an island to

which Apollo gave unsparingly the divine light and maybe this contributed also in its intellectual development. Sifnos in the field of arts and letters has pushed forward excellent poets, writers, folklore scientists, journalists, tutors and legists as well as architects and it has contributed enough to Greece. It has been characteristically written that: "In the antiquity, the wealth of Sifnos was measured in gold and silver, during the last two centuries, however, it is measured in intellectual wealth." More particularly, a great number of Sifnos' residents have contributed in the organization, the social upgrading and the development of the free Greek state: politicians, tutors, religious leaders, fighters, poets, etc.



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Day 8

departure from:
Kamares port, Sifnos

swimming stop:
Kolona, Kythnos

disembarkation
Marina Zeas, Athens



In antiquity, Kythnos was also named Dryopis or Ofiousa. Later on, during the middle ages, the island was called Thermis, due to the thermal springs found in the Loutra area. The Turks called it Hamam Adashi, meaning Baths and the Italians, much later, called it Fermina. Kythnos owes its name to Kythnos, the leader of the Dryopans. The Dryopans originated from Evia and arrived on the island during the 12th and 11th centuries B.C. during the Midan years. The oldest evidence of human activity in the area of Cyclades has been found, dating back to the

Mesolithic Era, which is between 9500 and 8500 B.C. During the Persian Wars, the

Kythnians took part in the battle of Salamina and the battle of Artemisio. Later on, during the Peloponnesian Wars, the Kythnians appear once again as allies to the Athenians. During the Roman Times, the island was occupied

by the Romans who used it as an exile for their most prominent citizens. During the rule of the Emperor Diocletian, the island became a part of the Achaia prefecture. Later on, during the Byzantine Times it was included in the Cyclades. In 1207 A.D., the Venetian nobleman Marco Sanudo imposed Frankish rule on Kythnos. In 1292 A.D., the admiral of Aragonia plundered the island and in 1537 A.D., the island is occupied by the Russians but only for a short time. For a long period after the Roman Times, the island suffered from pirate attacks, who also used it as their base. The island was

heavily plundered and severely destroyed by the notorious pirate Hayreddin Barbarossa, in 1537 A.D. In 1617 A.D. the Turks placed the island under the command of the Sultan and forced out the Venetians. The island, under Turkish Rule and until before the Greek Revolution, flourished both spiritually and artistically. In 1821, Kythnos was among the first islands to join (raise the flag of) the Greek Revolution .

