



# Milos

I S L A N D

[www.milos.gr](http://www.milos.gr)

*Natural beauty,  
colorful escape!*



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# Welcome to Milos

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Milos is the fifth largest island in Cyclades (24 islands in Cyclades total) located on the southwestern edge. It lies 86 miles (138.40 km) from Piraeus and locates in the middle of the route Piraeus- Crete. With cultural heritage, history, special geographical phenomena and morphology, Milos is regarded to be **the island of Venus**, which symbolizes natural beauty, the island of lovers as many couples prefer this destination for their vacation and the island of colors due to its unique, picturesque places.

## Do you want some more motives in order to visit Milos island?

- The port of Milos is one of the **largest and safest** natural Mediterranean ports.
- The island's climate is mild Mediterranean with **plenty of sunshine** most days of the year. From mid July to mid August there are often winds blowing (northerly periodic winds), while southerly winds are usually neither frequent nor strong.
- Its length of **coastline** is... **125 km!**
- As opposed to other Greek islands, Milos comparative advantage lays exactly

on the volcanic origin of its geology. It is not only the **impressive landscapes**, beaches, rock formations, colors and other geological phenomena (caves, fumaroles, geothermal, prismatic lofty cliffs, etc.) but also the **human footprint** on the island related to geology: Phylacopi prehistoric settlement (obsidian trading was its main activity), the Early- Christian catacombs, the pirates' shelters in caves, the 19th c. mining installations on the island that consist significant monuments of industrial archaeology.

- Milos is the ideal destination for **restful or intense vacation**. You can have it all, any time!
- Its location helps also for **fun and activities** such as water sports, climbing, trekking or horse riding.
- The **traditional gastronomy** has a big variety for all tastes.
- The **sunset from Castro village** (on the top of Plaka) is regarded as one of the best in Greece.
- You can make **daily excursions** to near islands such as Kimolos.

# Location & map

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Here is a useful map, which will help you to locate Milos Island by area. Some areas may not appear on the map in their exact physical location.

# History

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**Milos was one of the first Aegean islands that had prospered and started to create an important civilization. For example Fylakopi -a city in Milos- apart from being an important center of Cycladic civilization, it is known as one of the first European cities of a history over 1500 years!**

Most of Cycladic islands started to rise out of the Aegean Sea some 2.7- 1.8 million years ago, as the result of volcanic eruptions on land and beneath the sea, the activity of which continued for hundreds of thousands of years. Thanks to its strategic location, between the mainland of Greece and the island of Crete, to its natural and safe port and mainly thanks to the mining of obsidian\*, Milos Island has an interesting history. Its «volcanic heritage» consists of a broad range of minerals such as pumice, sulfur, alunite, melian earth (kaolin), perlite, bentonite, manganese etc.

Minerals, being the resources for the manufacturing of useful everyday life tools and materials, were exploited on Milos as early as the Neolithic Age

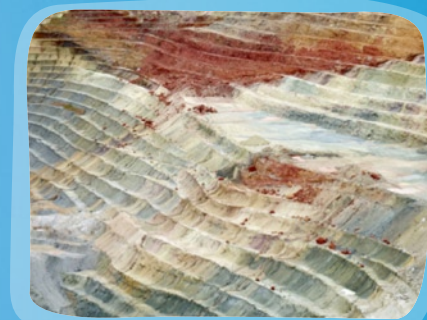
(8,000 B.C.), providing also the reason for the genesis of trade in the pre-historic Aegean. Late in the 19th century minerals exploited on Milos were manganese, sulfur and kaolin in various locations of the island. The economic boom that followed World War II and the need for raw materials heralded a new rise in the mining activity of the island.

Another strong aspect of Milos Island's history is the city of Klima, which presents an intense financial and cultural development. The ceramic art flourishes with the famous «Melian urns» decorated with elements from the Greek mythology, the sculpture, the miniature art, the seal engraving on stones, the goldsmithery with the filigree technique whereas we have the mint of coins originally carrying the apple symbol. In addition, during that times, there is an increase in the trading activities, the exploitation of ores, whereas the local-Melian alphabet is also developed, samples of which are preserved till the present day in tombstones...

\* black, hard, volcanic stone that was used for the manufacture of weapons and tools

# Geology

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**The island of Milos is almost entirely a volcanic island. The colors and morphology of the geological phenomena, the coastlines, the gulfs, the cliffs, the gorges and the hills are unique and it would be difficult to tire of gazing at them. Visitors, even without specialized knowledge, will surely be impressed!**

Eruptions took place on land and sea and as evidence of this, fossils of both land and sea organisms, can be found in the tufa (volcanic rock). Some examples of these are: pecten jakobaeus, pinna pectinata, ostrea edulis and balanus. Apart from these volcanic rock types, there are also examples of sedimentary rocks (Provatas, S. Milos) and metamorphic rocks. Another geological formation is that of the steep-sided hills such as Castro, which rises above Plaka, and Prophet Elias. These volcanic «plugs» were formed when magma, from under the earth's crust, failed to erupt, due to low gas pressure. This molten rock solidified inside the volcanic pipe to form a hard rock called andesite. The «Seagull Islands», off the north coast, are also a remarkable and rare example

of andesite column formation. Also on the north coast is Sarakiniko where fossils of land and sea organisms abound. This, together with the total absence of vegetation, gives us the distinct impression that we are flying to the... moon!

There are also a number of hot springs, some of which are spas and Hippocrates mentions them in his writings «On Epidemics». These springs are at sea level in Adamas for example, where public baths have been built- the temperature reaching 33,3° C. Others are Alikes (22° C), Kanava (50° C), Paliohori (50° C), Mandrakia (54° C), Adamas Haros (42° C), Provatas and Tria Pigadia. The spa waters are considered to remedy rheumatoid arthritis, gynecological and dermatological illnesses among others. These areas also exhibit elevated land temperatures.

Today there is still strong evidence that Milos lies on the southern Aegean volcanic arc. The old volcanoes may be extinct, but there are still numerous indications that the surface is directly influenced by the core of the earth.

# Architecture & color

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**Milos is also known as the island of colors thanks to the unique combination of Aegean's blue waters, radiant sunlight, small white houses and its volcanic origin. The colors, the architecture and the picturesque look are just impressive!**

Milos, as the majority of the Cycladic Islands, have a minimal vernacular architecture. One of the most popular traditional villages in Milos is Klima. A special feature of these settlements are "wires", cave accommodation by the sea, painted in bright colors, which originally served to protect the fishing boats during the winter and during periods of bad weather, but then turned into houses of fishermen and summer accommodation. A village you really must visit...

In general, traditional villages like **Klima, Mantrakia, Fyropotamos, Areti, Saint Constantine, Fourkovouni** and **Empourios** are small fishing ports and they are built on small creeks, dug into soft rock or natural cavities of the rocks and have rare island architecture.

From the past, there are also a few remaining architectural edifices from the past. Despite the frequent earthquakes that had as a result various devastating raids on the island, Milos has a few old buildings which have been saved. One of these is the **Ancient Theatre** near the **village of Tripiti** and another is the **Venetian Castle** in Chora.

As far as the houses are concerned, most of the traditional Aegean houses have one or two floors, built with bricks, with small windows and flat roofs. Their interior is simple and divided into three areas, a sitting room, a kitchen and a bedroom. The little houses are whitewashed and usually have blue painted windows and doors. They stand closely one to another and are surrounded by narrow stone paved streets, adorned by brightly colored flowers. Apart from the traditional architecture, modern buildings are also found on Milos, such as the newly-established Conference Centre near Adamas village.

# Sightseeing & attractions

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**Milos Island has a very rich history starting from the Neolithic period (7,000 BC) and the prehistoric town of Filakopi. The rich history is revealed to visitors through the monuments that have been preserved. Milos has museums, which attract thousands of visitors every year from all over the world and monuments of a unique historical, geological and architectural interest.**

## The Museums

- **Archaeological Museum of Milos** is situated in Plaka in a beautiful, neoclassical building by Ernst Ziller.
- **Folk Museum** will bring you back into another time, as you will see how a city Melian household of the 19th century was like.
- **Mining Museum**, an urban non-profitable company, which was made by S&B Industrial Minerals S.A. in 1998 in order to honor and promote the mineral history as well as the geologic and natural heritage of Milos Island.
- **Naval Museum**: Its exhibits go back to prehistoric age and the Naval Museum gives also tourists the opportunity to admire rare maps, made by special cartographers as well as the wooden boat «Irene».

## Aphrodite of Milos or Venus de Milo.

Is one of the most famous original ancient Greek sculptures worldwide - created sometime between 130 and 100 BC - which symbolizes the Greek goddess

of love and beauty (Aphrodite or Venus). It was discovered on 8 April 1820 by a Greek peasant named Yorgos Kentrotas, buried in the ancient city ruins of Milos Island, the current village of Tripiti. The statue was found in two large pieces (the upper torso and the lower draped legs) along with several herms (pillars topped with heads), fragments of the upper left arm and left hand holding an apple and an inscribed plinth. The arms and original plinth were lost in the discovery. Aphrodite of Milos or Venus de Milo it's currently on permanent display at the Louvre Museum in Paris. Today a striking copy of Venus de Milo is at the entrance of the Archaeological Museum of Milos.

## Milos Statue of Poseidon

Like the Venus De Milo, it is believed that this statue was created during the Hellenistic Period. It was found in the traditional village of Milos island, Klima, in 1877. During the Hellenistic period, the Macedonians ruled this island until they fell apart after Alexander the Great died. Except for Venus de Milo, all these statues as the one of Poseidon can be found at the National Museum in Athens.

## Must visit!

Other special sights that every visitor should see are:

- **The Venetian Castle**, which was built in the 13th century on the hill of Prophitis Ilias, on the northwest edge of the island. Nowadays it is not inhabited, but its visitors can admire a wonderful view of the entire island bay and the unique sunset.



# Sightseeing & attractions

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• **Early Christian Catacombs:** The catacombs are situated near Trypiti village, in caves of 150 meters above the surface of the sea and constitute one of the most famous and remarkable Christian world monuments next to the catacombs of Rome and of the Holy Land. It was the gathering place of the very first Christians and they were used as a municipal cemetery in the end of the 2nd century BC.

• **Church Museum:** Milos is one of the few islands that have Ecclesiastical Museum and more than 140 churches. The Church Museum is very close to Adamas port in the church of The Holy Trinity. This church, which is over a thousand years old, is made of three aisles on which the dome rises vertically having the shape as the temple. This type of church is very rare (there is only one more such church, in Peloponnese, in Levidi, Arcadia) and it is a monument of a special architectural interest.

• **Kleftiko**, a complex of volcanic original rocks which consist a magical landscape. Kleftiko used to be an old hide-out for pirates from where the pirates'

ships used to pass and anchor so as to get protected in its small creeks and imposing rocks. Today, these unique geologic formations created by the wind and sea, are ideal for swimming and exploration.

• **Klima:** a traditional village where visitors can see the ruins of the old city of Klima, which used to be the island's first port.

• **Sarakiniko**, the volcanic eroded Rocks penetrate into the emerald-colored sea creating small and big caves, whereas the lack of green in combination with the rocks' white color and the intense reflection of the light, create a landscape similar to the moon's surface. Sarakiniko, named after the Saracen pirates overlooks Sifnos and Kimolos and it is recommended you visit it when the wind is not north.

• **Thiorihia:** In the small Paliorema bay, you can enjoy swimming in a beach with geologic sights and crystal clear waters, whereas you can experience a trip back in time thanks to the ruins of the old mines' installations used for the mining of sulphur.

# A famous coastline

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**Milos is famous for its coastline. With more than 75 small and big beaches of crystal, deep blue waters, multi-colored carved rocks and white-yellow coasts, it is certain that you will be more than impressed!**

Due to the volcanic origin of its ground, Milos presents an impressive coastal morphology and diversity. There are white-yellow beaches, bays with pebbles surrounded by stones, and white, red, yellow or black rocks. You can choose either an organized beach for swimming or a more isolated and wild one.

We suggest you choose the beach your swim not only by its natural beauty, but also based on the wind's direction. During the season of north winds it is best to choose beaches located within the bay or better yet in the south side of the

island. On the other hand, when the wind is south, we recommend you visit the beaches in the north side of the island.

As far as the access is concerned, the road network is very good in the north and in most of the south beaches. For those located in the east and west side of the island, getting there is relatively difficult and in the bigger part of the route there is earth-road. Moreover, there are beaches such as Kleftiko, Geras, Sykia and many others, which you can access only by sea. Sea trips that set out from Adamantas are in the daily schedule.

It is certain that the island's clear, crystal, deep blue waters and its beaches of incomparable beauty will be for you a unique, unforgettable experience...

# Gastronomy & products

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**Melian cuisine combines variety with simplicity. Strong and clean tastes, pure materials, numerous taverns, of course fresh fish from Aegean and an interesting variety of dishes for all tastes, will surprise and awake your senses.**

The most popular and representative dishes of Melian cuisine are pitarakia (small pies filled with peppered dry cheese or cream cheese with mint), ladenia (tasty pie with oil, tomatoes and onions), karpouzopita (a traditional sweet pie made of watermelon) and glyko koufeto (made of a sweet pumpkin kernel with honey and almonds). As far as the last is concerned, glyko koufeto is traditionally served at weddings and engagements by the bride's mother. The honey symbolizes the sweet life the couple is going to live and the almonds the fertility. We strongly suggest you to try the delicious astakomakaronada, lobster spaghetti, grilled octopus or octopus cooked in wine, fresh fish and some

traditional dishes made of local meat such as braised rooster or rooster cooked in wine and lamb baked in the oven with sauce.

## **Local Melian Products: Taste or buy them...**

- **Glyko koufeto** in a jar (It is made of pumpkin kernel, honey and almonds)
- **Local Cheese** such as **touloumotyri**, **dry cheese** and **sour cream cheese**, all made in the traditional manner
- **Organic Melian thyme honey**
- **Homemade sauce** of Melian tomatoes
- **Capers in a jar** (the traditional capari, frequently used in Greek salad)
- **Homemade barley and wheat rolls** (the barley rolls were made of the new wheat crop, initially dipped in salt water, before some fresh tomatoes will be added to them)

# Daily excursions

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**Boat trips, especially to beaches and places which are accessible only by sea such as Kalamos and Kleftiko, are in the daily schedule of Milos Island.**

From Adamas port many boats set off daily, that cruise around the island, visiting a large number of beaches. From Pollonia (Apollonia), a small boat often open-ended sets off for a visit to the beautiful nearby island of Kimolos, while

from Kipos beach a small boat sets off for the popular for their natural beauty and wealth, beaches of Geroda , Kleftiko, Geraka and Thiorihia.

Such trips around Milos give the opportunity to explore this colorful island's coastline with its numerous geological forms. Apart from visits to beaches and swimming in their crystal clear blue waters, visitors will take a tour to some of the most beautiful sights of the island such as Glaronissia, Arkoudes and Sykia.

# Fun & sports

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**Milos opportunities for activities of many different kinds and taste. Water sports, climbing, hunting, horse riding and trekking are only some of these. Every summer there is also organized an annual cultural festival. From July till September tourists can participate and enjoy many events related to art, music, sports, theatre, tradition, trekking etc.**

## What about Water Sports

With more than 75 beaches, Milos Island is ideal for a variety of water activities. Visiting the island you can admire the amazing depths through scuba diving, wander into the sea, volcanic islands and traditional villages by canoe-kayak, navigate to unique beaches, participate in a marine excursion and upload adrenaline with windsurfing or kite-surfing! Alternatively you can relax with fishing or sailing, enjoy the sea, sun and beautiful sailing bays.

Especially for sailing, scuba diving and fishing the triangle Milos-Kimolos-Polyegos, a natural water park with countless caves and one of the most important fishing grounds in Cyclades, is ideal.

## Other Activities

- **Climbing:** There are two climbing fields in Milos. One in Tourla, Vanio and

another in Glaronisia. In cape Vani climbing is possible on a huge conic-shaped rock. The climbing ground is called Tourla tou Vaniou or Tourla of Vanio and it's considered to be one of the best climbing fields in Greece. In Pollonia, climbers can climb in Glaronisia. Glaronisia are also some of the best climbing fields in Greece and the only islands made of basalt.

- **Hunting:** Its endemic quarry is the partridge and there are a few shaggy hares. Milos island has also an organized hunting club in order to be informed of the hunting period, the species allowed for hunting and prohibitions.
- **Horse riding:** You can enjoy a horse ride by the sea or to the mountain. You do not need to be experienced in order to ride a horse, as to these rides you are always accompanied by professional guides. You are free to choose the location you wish for the tour or simply follow one of the recommended routes.
- **Visiting a natural park:** Arkeuthos is a field in a gorge of about 500 acres in size, with two waterfalls, in the center of the Natura 2000 area in Milos, in the region of Halakas (2,5 klm away from Emporios village). A small part of it, is an orchard, a vineyard and an old house and another is a waste land with a small chapel. The visitors of this natural park can admire cypresses, cedars, vermicelli (a kind of wild-cypress tree) and other species of rare flora and animals.

# Alternative tourism

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*all the secrets of Milos land*



**Cyclades are in general ideal for walking, exploring the natural astonishing monuments, for «off road» adventures and wandering through the winding alleys of tiny Cycladic settlements.**

The majority of these islands are scattered with ancient paths leading from bustling coastal towns through woodlands and up along cliff-side trails to villages perched atop craggy outcrops. Milos offers also an ideal setting for exploration. So those of you who prefer alternative tourism, this Cycladic island will not disappoint you.

Milos is waiting for you to walk explore and why not, to try some of water sports and other activities such as trekking, climbing, canoe-kayak or horse riding while enjoying its nature. The scenery of Cyclades offers an extraordinary

palette of colors, with bright azure skies, white limestone cliffs, deep blue seas and special vegetation on the slopes of low mountains. Visitors who opt to explore Milos on foot have the opportunity to go beyond the crowds and experience the hidden treasures and authentic culture of the island. The majority of the trails are signed and mapped.

The unique geology, wealth of mining history and present, and its beautiful natural environment of Milos is unravelled through the Miloterranean project, recently introduced by Milos Mining Museum.

**Miloterranean Geo Experiences** caters to the inquisitive traveler's desire to discover the multifaceted beauty of Milos' landscape and volcanic origin through guided bus, 4X4 or ATV (all terrain vehicle) tours.

# Nightlife

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**Milos is the island of relaxation, love and jauntiness but not just cocooning! For those who prefer socializing and intense nightlife, Milos is also the place to be.**

There are many bars and night clubs, trendy- civilized spots where you can enjoy yourselves and have fun with your love, friends or even family. Most of them are located in the port area, called Adamas, and have amazing view.

No dress code, as the summer look in Greek islands is usually casual, with comfortable shoes for dancing you can enjoy your cocktail while listening to Greek and foreign hits till daybreak.

Admire the magnificent view of the harbor and the sea, feel free, have fun and escape through natural beauty, good company, tasteful music and a wide selection of refreshing drinks. You always have the alternative to enjoy a relaxing evening walk in beautiful, scenic Milos' backstreets.

# Accommodation

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**The last ten years Milos has a tourist development and its accommodation services have been improved. Whatever you want, whether you want something quiet and luxurious or an adventurous and interactive exploration, Milos Island has it all! You will definitely get something for your taste and budget when you come to this wonderful, picturesque island of Cyclades.**

You can decide between luxurious hotels and independent studios, homely apartments and classy villas, plain unpretentious single room hotels or local hotels. You get B and C grade hotels, which are equivalent to three star and two star hotels you meet at anywhere else. No matter the choice you make, Milos accommodation offers a unique view of the beaches and surroundings, Greek hospitality, comfort for you, your friends or family.

It is advisable to book your accommodation early, if you are planning to visit Milos Island during its peak season. While looking for best booking choices in

Milos accommodation, you can also use the internet.

Milos accommodation is far beyond your highest expectations. Greek people will show you their famous, since ancient years, hospitality and you will certainly feel that you get value for money.



**Milos  
Travel  
Guide**

APPLICATION



Milos island is waiting for you...



Milos is for restful vacation or intense holiday time full of fun and new experiences...  
Milos is the island of colors, lovers, Venus and natural beauty.



MUNICIPALITY  
OF MILOS