

FABULOUS PAROS
PRESENTS

TRAVEL to PAROS

YOUR GUIDE TO PAROS
2024





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HOW TO REACH PAROS



By Ferry boat is the cheapest option to reach the island. Ferry boats prices are around 40€ (one way) and there is a small discount if you book your ticket round trip. There are multiple daily ferries from Piraeus (the mainland Athens port) as well as nearby Cycladic islands and is serviced by Blue Star Ferries, Minoan Lines, Seajets and Fast Ferries.



There is no international airport in Paros. So if you are flying from other countries have in mind that you have to fly into Athens first. There is, however, a domestic airport on the island, meaning daily flights are possible from Athens.

That means you'll need to fly to the nearby city of Athens, and then catch a ferry or domestic flight to Paros.

The prices for the flights vary depending on season and the Airline between 120€ - 200€ (one way).



BEST SEASON TO VISIT

Well, of course, everything depends on your specific needs!

You should really ask yourself what you would like to take with you on your way back home after the end of this journey...

The busiest time of year for Paros is during the summer.

More specifically, the months of July and August are considered peak season.

For someone who wants to party and enjoy lively nightlife, I would recommend visiting during the peak season.

If you also want to spend most of your time swimming in warm water, You can visit the beach for sunbathing and chilling from the end of May until the end of September, the sea water is warmer but it's more crowded.

If your goal is pleasant weather for sightseeing while avoiding the crowds, April and May or mid-September through October is generally an ideal time.

Also, traveling off-season can save you money because the prices are lower, usually 50% down.

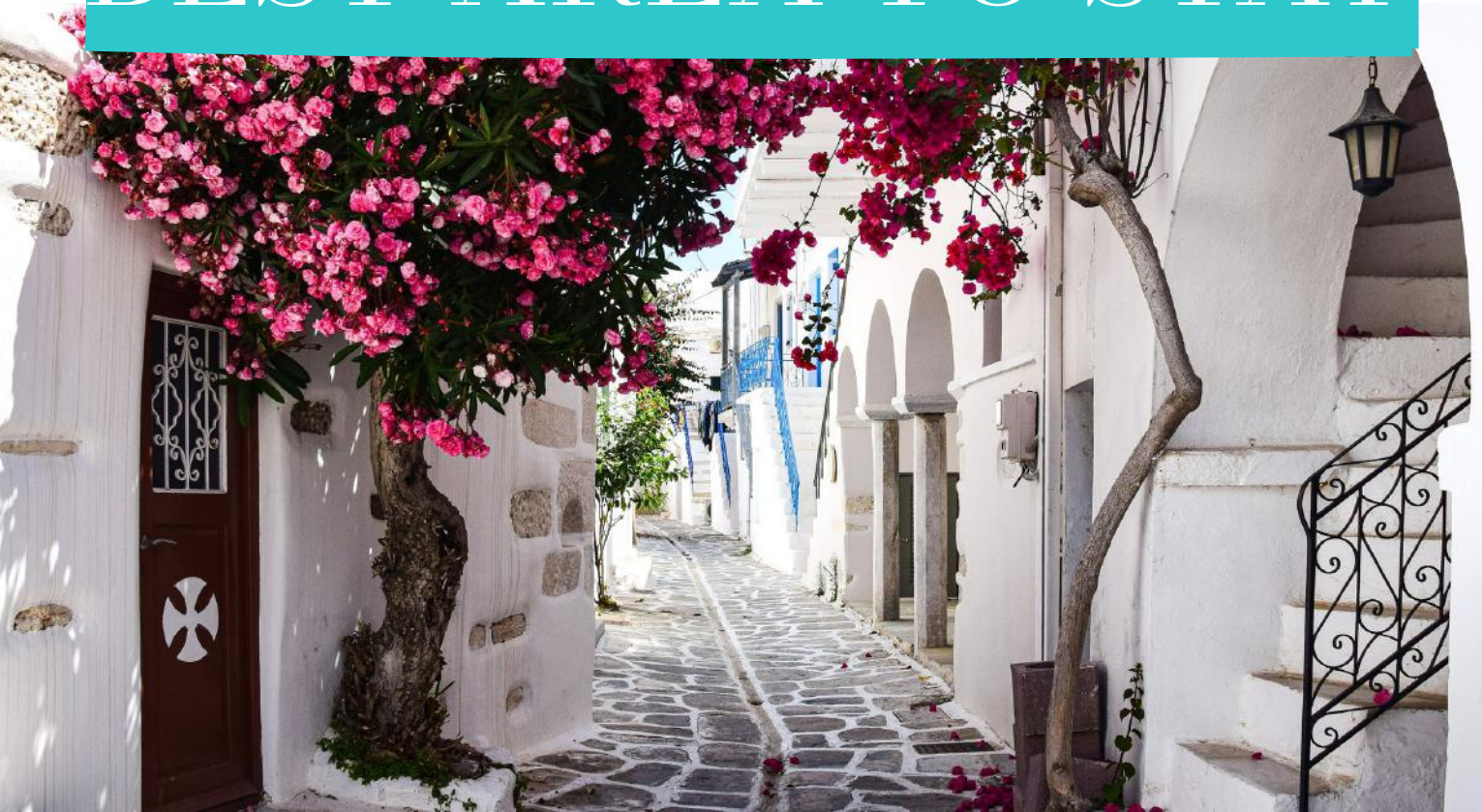
In the first place, I would suggest that you break down what you really need for your trip in Paros. If your goal is to relax, read a book At the beach, take a stroll along some alleys, etc. I would avoid Naoussa or Parikia. Naoussa, especially is very noisy area during the peak season. If you want though to stay close to the action, choose a location nearby. A room not located in the center but in walking distance will save you some money.

If you're visiting Paros for parties, Naoussa is the place to be. Your one and only choice! Don't look anywhere else. Only budget Reasons will guide you to consider other options.

I love Naoussa, but my favorite place is Aliko! I am that party guy chasing parties, to be honest i suffer with noisy and loud environments... Aliko village is a fishing village, and it can offer an authentic experience. Experience Greek hospitality away from the crowds.

If you are interested in discovering natural wonders, you may prefer Livadia or Pissouri, or Prodomos and Marpissa.

BEST AREA TO STAY



If you rent a car, consider saving some money and renting a room in a smaller village than Naoussa and Parikia, since both these are the main villages of the island, but if you don't have a car, simply choose one of these. Parikia is the main port of the island if you decide to stay there you don't even need a taxi to take you in your room!

You can make it most of the times by walking.

If you are considering to move around the island using public transportation, Parikia is your best choice.



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• HOW MANY DAYS YOU NEED



Honestly? My whole life I could spend in this island! Ok! I am satisfied with the entire summer 😊

Well, if you are not sure how many days the perfect length trip should be in terms of length,

i recommend you staying in Paros for at least 3 nights and 4 full days.

to see the island's highlights. However, for a more relaxed atmosphere on the island without feeling pressured to see every single attraction, a 5 nights stay is ideal, giving you plenty of time to explore every corner.

Parikia and Naoussa are definitely worth visiting for a day each, but there are many other charming villages on Paros worth exploring as well during your visit.

Prodromos, Lefkes, and Marpissa are worth at least half a day, plus some extra time

for some awesome days on the beach... yes! I will say again that five nights will be the ideal.



FACTS ABOUT PAROS



Paros is located in the heart of the Aegean Sea and is the second largest island in the Cyclades complex, with a coastline of 125 km.



Parikia is the capital of the island and is situated where the ancient capital once stood. With a large harbor connecting Athens with Santorini, Mykonos, Ios, and Naxos, it is always the first stop for ferries along the way.



The island has been inhabited since 4000 BC, according to the excavations, but it began to flourish around 3000 BC. During the Persian Wars, Paros sided with the Persians to fight against Athens. After the victory of Athens, the island joined forces with Athens but was later ruled by Spartans by the end of the Classical period. The island was also ruled by the Ottoman Empire (Turks) and the Venetians until the Greek revolution of 1821. The island's role during the Greek Revolution was very important.



▲ The Parian marbles were the primary source of wealth for the island during the classical period. One of the finest varieties of pure white marble has been found on the island and was considered the highest quality in antiquity. The island's marble was much preferred by renowned Greek sculptors.

▲ Today, the island is famous for its vibrant nightlife, picturesque alleys, whitewashed houses, flowered entrances and balconies, and numerous chapels and churches.



The romantic destination

If you are a couple who loves to travel and are planning a trip to Greece, Paros island is undeniably one of the most romantic destinations in the Cyclades!

From stunning sunsets to beautiful beaches, whitewashed architecture to medieval lanes, the island is enchanting.

Whether you're witnessing ancient ruins or eager to sample wines steeped in tradition, romance will inform every moment of your custom-tailored couple's trip.

But what is the most romantic activity you could share with your partner to create unforgettable memories from your trip?

Definitely, a sunset cruise is a must-do. You absolutely shouldn't miss it!

There are a few companies that offer sunset cruises. Unfortunately, I don't have one to recommend but it's easy to find by searching the internet.



The donkeys of Paros are part of the tradition, history and daily life of the island. They have contributed to transportation, trade and communication among people. It is an animal known for its patience and determination. You can safely move around with a donkey due to its exceptional patience and endurance.

Indeed, donkeys have a long history of assisting humankind in everyday tasks and transportation.

Paros Island has an excellent tradition in cheese and wine production.

Around 700 tons of Parian local milk are produced annually at the Cooperative's facilities.

Fresh xynomyzithra (soft creamy cheese), ladotiri, excellent gruyere, and kefalotyri. Tulumisia and kopanisti are some of the local cheeses you don't want to miss.

Combining them with wonderful local olives and the famous barley buns or Parian nuts, and you will have a delightful meal.

A first-class meze dish to accompany a glass of local suma.





Top 10 Best Beaches

Paros Island has some spectacular beaches for everyone: relaxing, organized, and non-organized, sandy and rocky beaches with stunning sapphire waters, creating a picturesque scenery. Beaches with dramatic landscapes offer activities for families and those who are searching.

Some adrenaline, and even a healing mud beach for a natural spa day. But which ones are the best? I will break down below some of my favorite ones.

10. Agia Eirini, also known as Palm Beach, is a small beach located on the west coast of Paros Island. The most iconic part of Agia Irini is the palm trees on the beach. Most of the time you will not find waves here because the beach is tucked away in a bay.

9. Laggeri beach is an unspoiled sandy paradise situated in a large bay. It is not easy to reach, as you will drive on a dirt road for a few minutes. Please do not expect beach bars or any amenities here.

8. Livadia Beach is also known as the main beach of Parikia, the capital of Paros Island. Situated just 1 km from the main port of Paros.

7. Molos beach, is situated in one of the most beautiful coastal areas of Paros. The water is shallow.

Crystal clear and it is perfect for families with children.



Top 10 Best Beaches

- 6. Monastiri Beach** is one of the best beaches in Paros and is my personal favorite due to its remote location and picturesque cove-like shape. The area is organized with beach bars and restaurants.
- 5. Piperi beach, Piperi Beach** is a small beach located on the west end of Naoussa, Paros. Though small, it can be a wonderful place to relax and enjoy the day. Piperi has a heart of sand with rocks at each end.
- 4. Parasporos Beach**, this beach offers all the amenities one could desire for an idyllic seaside afternoon: wide golden sands, numerous sunbeds and umbrellas, even volleyball nets.
- 3. Santa Maria Beach** is one of the famous beaches on Paros Island. This sandy paradise is located on the northeast coast, just 5 km from Naoussa village. The main beach of Santa Maria stretches for about 500 meters.
- 2. Golden Beach**, with its golden sand, is located south of Parikia and is considered to be one of the best destinations for swimming and watersports on the island.
- 1. Kolymbithres beach** is almost like God never intended to create a beach there, but he did it anyway, and it was a delightful surprise. Kolymbithres Beach looks different from the beaches you are used to visiting; it is definitely the best on the island.

If you are seeking an alternative, unique, and authentic Greek Cycladic experience during your trip to Paros, you should read this post to the end!

Every year, throughout the year but especially during the summer season, visitors to Paros have the chance to join the island's residents in celebrating at one of the many festivals. There are numerous reasons to celebrate in a region that knows how to honor Greek customs and traditions in the best possible manner. At times with solemnity and at other times with boundless enthusiasm, the Parians revive religious traditions in the quaint cobblestone streets of the villages, bringing new perspectives to the celebration that are different from those we are accustomed to.

Traditional dishes featuring ingredients from both the sea and land take a starring role. Local wine flows freely, delicacies delight the senses of visitors, and the music unites the hearts and uplifts the souls of everyone in attendance.

Schedule your holiday, even in the heart of winter, to coincide with one of the many festivals on Paros. It will be worth your time.

That's the most known every year in Paros island :

(Notice that dates are not stable every year)

With (*) I have marked the biggest ones

***23 June: The day of the well-known Kleidonas festival. It is celebrated with solemnity and fires in Alikí, Naoussa and Prodromos.**

Music, dance, traditional delicacies and plenty of wine surround the lighting of the bonfire, and the burning of the Mayday wreaths, and the opening of Kleidonas, after which youths and children jump over the fires. According to tradition, this turns away evil spirits.

24 June: Agios Athanasios the Parian in Kostos

30 June: The eve of the festival is celebrated at the monastery of Agion Anargyron, near Parikia.

2 July: Notable events and activities at the renowned Fish and Wine Festival in Naoussa.

16 & 17 July: The festival of Agia Marina in Kostos

17 July: Revival of the Bagpipes in Naoussa.

24 July: Festival of Agia Anna in Parikia.

26 July: Festival of the churches of Agios Panteleimonas in Kostos and Prodromos.

6 August: Festival of Sotiros in Aliko and Marpissa

***15 August:** The feast of Panagia on Paros is synonymous with the Ekatontapiliani church.

Thousands of devout Christians gather at the temple for the Holy pilgrimage and solemnly attend the events. The ceremonious liturgy is followed by a parade and the procession of the

icon through the roads of Parikia. At night, all vessels in the harbor are illuminated and fireworks light up the night sky in an incredible spectacle. Events with traditional music and dance take place on the beach of Parikia.

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***23 August:** The Festival of the Pirates marks the anniversary of the pirate raid on Naoussa, led by Barbarossa in 1537. The legendary pirate's men kidnapped the women of Naoussa and the locals engaged in battle to get them back.

27 August: Festival of Agios Fanourios, with a traditional celebration in Ampelas.

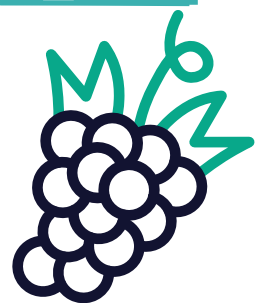
28 & 29 August: Feast of Agios Ioannis Detis, the monastery in the Environmental & Cultural Park. The celebration takes place in Lefkes.

Early September: Traditional festival with seafood, wine and souma (local spirit) for the Celebration of the Trata (a type of fishing boat) in Parikia.

8 September: Celebration and feast of Panagia Faneromini church in Marmara.

14 September: Festival to celebrate the Ypsoseos tou Timiou Stavrou (Exaltation of the Holy Cross). A celebratory Divine Liturgy is held in the courtyard of the church in Agairia, and traditional delicacies are offered. Traditional dances and songs from various regions in Greece are presented that night in Aliki.

25 November: The feast of Agia Aikaterini is solemnly celebrated in Lefkes. The Divine Liturgy takes place at the church in the morning, followed by the procession of the icon through the streets of the village. 25 November is also a memorial day for the Resistance of the Greeks against conquerers.





ANTIPAROS ISLAND

If you are visiting Paros island next year, you should know that Antiparos shouldn't be missed!

Antiparos is the sister island of Paros and an incredibly inviting and "laid back" destination for relaxing holidays. There aren't many things to see and do, which is why most visitors come to Antiparos for a day trip.

If you have your own car, take the ferry, which only takes 7 minutes, and explore this small gem at your own pace.

The main attractions on the island include its famous cave, the castle of Antiparos, and the excellent beaches.

Ideally, in my opinion, you'll need a minimum of two nights to explore the island, especially if you are a beach lover and enjoy discovering new beaches. But that's just me—I loved that island from the first sight.

If you're seeking to get off the main tourist trail and truly savor a peaceful stay, Antiparos is the superior choice.

Well, to be honest. Touristy, yes it is! But not as busy as Paros island.

Tip: Take note of one of the most popular and frequently visited beaches on Antiparos

Island Camping Beach, or Camper Beach, is absolutely beautiful.



MUST DO IN PAROS



One of the most significant early Christian monuments in Greece is Panagia Ekatonpiliani, which means "church of the hundred doors." Founded by Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine (the first emperor of Constantinople) during the 4th century. During the 6th century, the Byzantine Emperor Justinian made reconstructions to the church and added a dome. According to the myth, the church has 99 doors, and there is a secret door that will open when the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople becomes Orthodox again. It is located in the northeast section of Parikia, just steps away from the port, and it is a world-Renowned cathedral that is worth a visit.

The Archaeological Museum of Paros is small, but its collection is wonderful and deserving more recognition. With a small entrance fee of 2 euros, there is no excuse to miss it. Exhibits from the Mycenaean to Hellenistic periods, including some masterpieces of Parian sculpture and pottery, as well as inscriptions from excavations on the islands of Paros and Antiparos, include the Nike of Paros, Cycladic figurines, mosaics, and the Archaic marble statue Gorgon.



... (according to the myth, Gorgon was a monster that terrified and petrified those who faced) kouroi, the poet Archilochus, amphorae from a Parian workshop, deities, and many more.

Paros has a rich history of wine production dating back to ancient times.

Vineyards on Paros have centuries-old historical roots. The weather conditions in the region is favorable and allow the grape varieties to thrive, so much so that they are now referred to as organic crops.

Paros continues its winemaking tradition to this day.

Most vineyards on the island employ the "aplotarias" technique, a system in which vines are planted some distance apart and are left to grow along the ground without support.

The vineyards of Paros are mainly planted with the white Monemvassia and the red Mandilaria varieties. These two varieties yield a unique red wine, as the white Monemvassia contributes to its distinctive flavor -

aromas and softens the roughness of Mandilaria.

Monemvassia is also used for the Production of a dry white wine.

Don't miss in Naoussa, Moraitis Vinothèque, one of the most interesting places to visit when in Paros.



You will fall in love with the old traditional villages of Paros Island!

Naoussa and Parikia are absolutely fabulous, but the old, traditional, charming, whitewashed alleys of some villages are worth exploring from end to end.

Some of my favorite places are Marpissa, Lefkes, Prodromos, and Marmara.

Lefkes village comes highly recommended. If I had to choose only one village to explore and visit, it would be Lefkes! Once you visit Lefkes, you'll understand why it's a must-visit on the island.

Marpissa is an authentic village that offers only a few accommodation choices, and you can

explore it in combination with my other favorite, Prodromos.

The village of Prodromos still remains off the radar.

Actually is tiny, and you can walk down every street in 20-25 minutes. You'll find picturesque streets lined with Parian marble, whitewashed houses adorned with colorful doors, and blooming flowers everywhere you look.

Last but not least, Marmara is a farming village where tourism is not the main source of income for the villagers. Beautiful white-washed houses, narrow streets, and stunning views of the Aegean Sea.

Hiking on Paros Island

If you are a nature lover, hiker, or simply enjoy walking and seeking amazing views, Paros island is home to a 36km hiking trail network.

You can easily find a variety of beautiful short or longer walking trails in Paros that suit your needs.

Delion Sanctuary of Apollo in Parikia, the Byzantine road to Lefkes, or the environmental park of Paros, you have plenty to choose from!

Remember that activities are recommended during the off-season or the low season. If you're hiking during the peak season - warmer months, it's important to be prepared with a hat, sunscreen, and plenty of water. Picture yourself on an adventure through lush green landscapes, conquering steep inclines and rugged mountain paths, passing by stone-built white houses and chapels with a view of the Aegean Sea.

Paros may not be considered a top hiking destination in Greece, but if you are a nature lover, you will not regret the hike.





Are you enthusiasts of extreme sports or water sports?

Punda Bay is arguably the most renowned beach in Paros. Aside from frolicking in the clear water

Waters and sunbathing make it a paradise for every water sports lover!

It's also very popular among young people for beach parties and extreme sports such as bungee jumping, kitesurfing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, scuba diving, and many others.

For beginners, there is a school where you can take lessons, challenge yourself, and learn some basic tricks.

Additionally, you can enjoy water sports at other organized beaches such as Chrissi Akti. It is fully equipped with sunbeds, umbrellas, beach bars and water sport activities, including scuba diving.

Monastiri Beach also offers a wide range of water sports.

If you are interested in scuba diving, I would recommend Alyki beach for its green-blue water and diving activities. Additionally, you can also explore diving opportunities in Punda Bay and Chrissi Akti, as mentioned earlier.

If you are looking for a one-of-a-kind, unforgettable experience that will mark your holiday on Paros island memorable. That's definitely a day for a boat sailing trip!

With the cycladic legacy of crystal-clear blue waters and an amazing underwater landscape, I am sure that it will become the highlight of your trip.

First of all, you will have the opportunity to discover some hidden gems the island has to offer.

From secluded beaches to tranquil hidden coves, the locals will take you there to attempt some daring jumps from the boat into the blue of Aegean waters or snorkel in the clear waters.

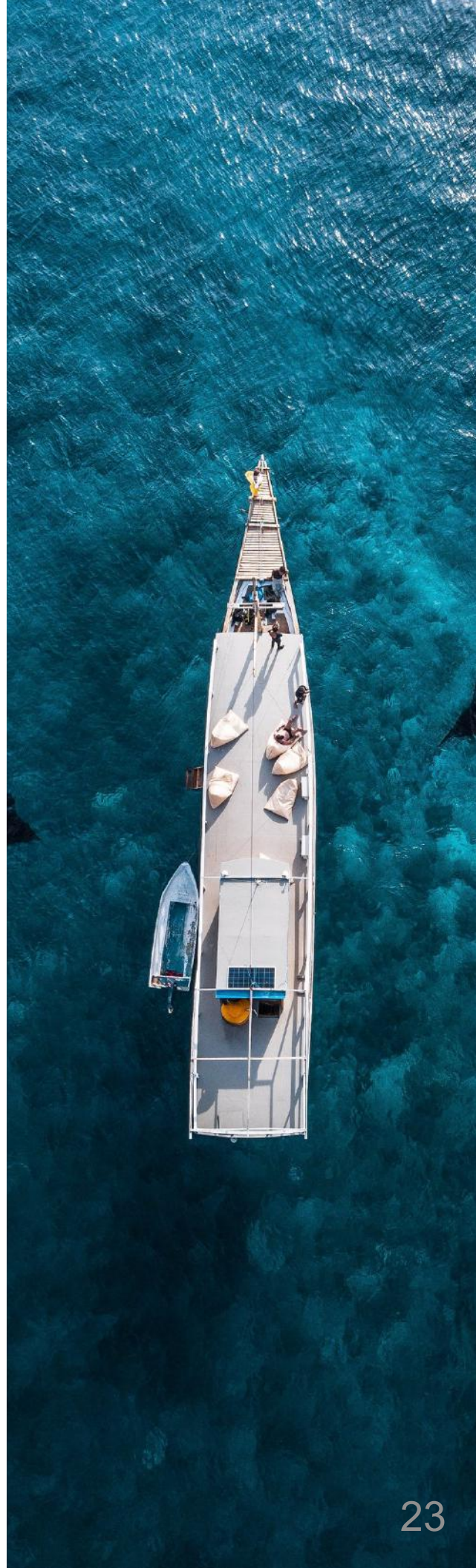
Between the group boat tours and the private boat tours, choose the private one if you can afford it. It is more expensive, but it's worth it.

Of course, there are more options such as barbecue, buffet, or even complimentary drinks.

Everything depends on how much you are willing to spend.

If you are traveling as a couple, consider a romantic sunset tour.

However, you don't have to be in a couple to join that option.





SOME MORE TIPS

Paros Island is a large island, and renting a car will provide you with the freedom to move around easily.

If you are on a budget, consider booking your accommodation away from the two major villages of Parikia and Naoussa. With the money you will save, you can book a car, which will be necessary for your transportation.

Alternatively, you have the option to book a lodge in Parikia or Naoussa (Parikia is slightly cheaper than Naoussa) and explore the island using the bus system. The main bus stations are located in Parikia and Naoussa, and all villages are connected to each other and to the two major towns.

Parikia and Naoussa are popular destinations on the island, attracting visitors all year round.

From July to September, the frequency of transportation is regular enough, and you can access nearly all villages using it.

Taxis are quite expensive, but they are the fastest way to get around and to the airport.

Calculate the cost of a single ride from Naoussa to Parikia at around 30€, and approximately 50€ from the airport to your destination.

Naoussa. Just to provide you with an idea of the costs.

Is the island expensive? Can it be done within budget?

The honest answer is yes, for both—definitely! Paros Island has grown in popularity in recent years, and naturally, that has affected the prices. I can say that it is the third most expensive island. After Mykonos and Santorini, Paros is famous for its picturesque whitewashed alleys, while still maintaining its authenticity and traditional charm, especially in the smaller villages. However, it is true that it is an expensive destination. Although I can assure you that it can be done within budget if you conduct thorough research. The elevation of everything on the island is notably higher compared to most other Greek islands.

If you want to visit the island on a low budget, travel during the off-peak season. Do thorough research to find a hotel that fits within your budget. There are some great Airbnb options within walking distance of the town, or you can rent one outside Naoussa or Parikia and use public transportation, but be cautious! The bus system is reliable almost everywhere on the island.

Finally, if you are confident about your trip, book your accommodation months in advance to save some money.





MY LAST 6 TIPS



- ✓ Some Last Tips
- ✓ Rent a car, save time and soak up the maximum from your trip. There are so many stunning beaches to explore and sights you shouldn't miss.
- ✓ Choose your travel season wisely, if you want to avoid the mass crowds choose low season to travel. If you have to travel during the high season wake up early and explore without the crowds.
- ✓ Engage with the locals, don't be shy asking informations, talk with the locals and learn from them. You will find it quite entertaining and I can assure you that every time you will engage, you will learn something interesting.
- ✓ Learn about the island's history and culture, believe me there is no better way to enrich and understand the place your are visiting.
- ✓ Eat like a local, Greece have the most incredible you will ever taste in your life. Don't miss the chance eating out in local restaurants even if you have all inclusive hotel.
- ✓ Bring a mosquito repellent, you will save a dozen of mosquito bites daily! Mosquitoes in Greece literally will attack you during the nights and a repellent is the only answer. Thank me later for that :)

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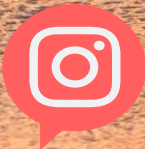


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