



Paros, Greece

COMPANION.

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Trip Overview

Welcome to Paros, the crown jewel of the Cyclades, where every day feels like a postcard come to life.

Known for its pristine beaches and vibrant culture without the crowds of popular big siblings Santorini and Mykonos, Paros is the perfect blend of relaxation and adventure.

Whether you're soaking up the sun on golden sands, strolling through charming whitewashed towns, or exploring the rugged beauty of its sister island, Antiparos, there's something here for everyone.

This island invites you to slow down and savor its natural beauty, delicious cuisine, and warm hospitality. From hidden beaches and lively tavernas to boutique shopping and stunning sunsets, Paros offers an unforgettable escape that captures the magic of the Greek islands.

Whether you're a seasoned traveler or embarking on your first Cycladic adventure, Paros will leave you dreaming of your next visit.

WHERE TO BASE

**Naousa, Paros,
Greece**

HOW LONG TO STAY

**Minimum of
three days**

PHYSICALITY OF LOCATION

**Some walking
Easily accessible
beaches
Gentle hills**

GO FOR THE

**Quintessential
and idyllic
Greek island
charm**

DON'T MISS

**Sipping a spritz
at sunset on
Antiparos**

PREPARE FOR

**Hot days and
tiny cars**

When to Visit

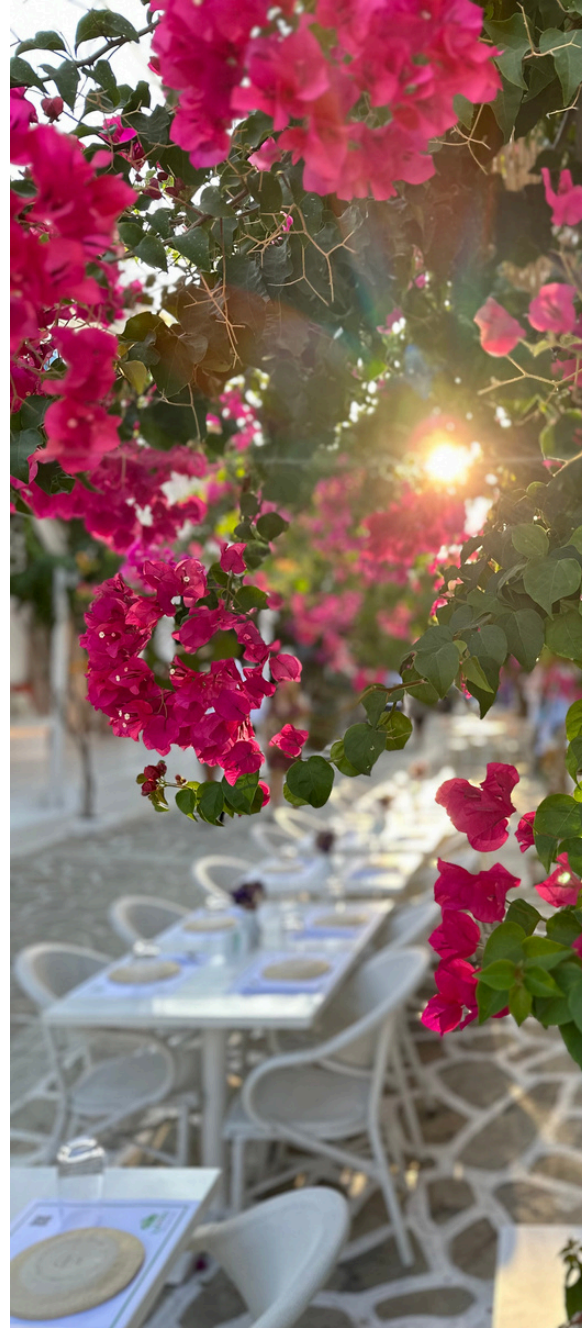
Planning when to visit Paros is just as important as planning the trip itself. The island is a completely different experience based on when you go.

My preferred time to go is late September into October. The ocean is still warm, the days are still hot, and the winds are picking up. But by November, the island starts to rest for the winter.

May and June are also lovely times to visit, and while you'll get cooler water temps you'll also get a tourism industry that hasn't been burned out by the season yet.

I would avoid visiting in July or August, because of both the heat and the crowds. July is the most popular month for Americans to visit and August is prime time for Europeans on holiday. Even early September can still be busy and exceptionally hot.

Be sure to check both hotel and intra-island flight availability before you decide on a date. The earlier or later into the season you visit, the fewer options you'll have.



BEST TIME TO VISIT

Late September into October

WEATHER EXPECTATION

Paros gets hot and windy. The days are either stifling or breezy. The wind can get very strong, so pay attention to the wind forecast.

Parian beaches *at a glance*

Paros is famous for its beaches. Some include facilities like sunbeds, tavernas, and water activities. Others are just untouched sand and rock.

Each beach club has a different vibe. Some are relaxed and others are a party. You can scope it out before committing and look up reviews from other visitors ahead of time if you strongly prefer a specific vibe.

If it's exceptionally windy, the beaches on the south and west sides of the island are generally more protected.

Beaches without amenities



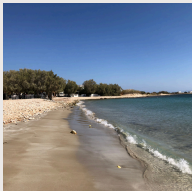
Molos Beach

An EU Blue Flag Beach, Molos Beach cannot be missed. There are watersports available, but no facilities.



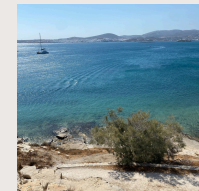
Kalogeros Beach

Also known as "mud beach" here you can scrape mud from the rock walls and give yourself a spa treatment.



Piso Alik

Conveniently located near the tiny town of Alik, this unorganized beach is perfect for sunbathing.



Livadia Beach, Antiparos

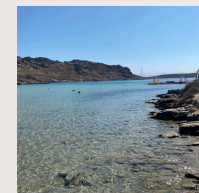
If it's windy enough, this Antiparos beach has huge waves and it's fun to watch surfers take them on.

Beaches with amenities



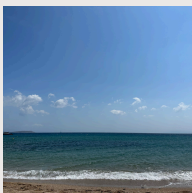
Golden Beach

The sandiest and most expansive beach on Paros, there are plenty of beach clubs and activities to enjoy.



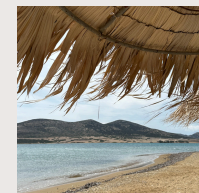
Monastiri Beach

Easy to get to from Naousa and a perfect cove to spend the day lounging.



Punda Coast

A pricey beach club with more of a party atmosphere, but a great selection of beds and a pool option.



Vathis Volos, Antiparos

Located on Antiparos, this dreamy beach is facing an ancient Greek temple of Apollo.

My Parian Itinerary

Explore Paros over a minimum of three days. If you have time, stay an extra few days to really soak in the magic.

PRE-TRIP

Arriving in Paros



There are two ways to reach Paros: by plane and by ferry. Unless you're coming from another nearby Cycladic island, book the flight. Ferries are long and subject to cancellation much more easily than a flight. They're not as stressful as you may have seen on social media, but I still wouldn't book one just because of the time I could save by flying.

To fly here, you'll board a prop jet operated by either SkyExpress or Olympic Air. It's a short, 45-minute flight and usually the captain will announce the islands you're flying over.

DAY ONE

Paros



Personally, I always like to start my trip at a beach club. My favorite is Blue at Golden beach. Take the dirt road to get there, park, and walk into a bustling Aperol-themed beach club. You'll meet the chair girl at the end of the boardwalk, choose whichever chair you like, and settle in. Prices change each year, but in 2024 the back row was running for €30 and the front for €50. Spend the day here, then clean up for dinner at Daverona, and do some nighttime shopping in Naousa. The stores here stay open very late, sometimes until midnight or later.

DAY TWO

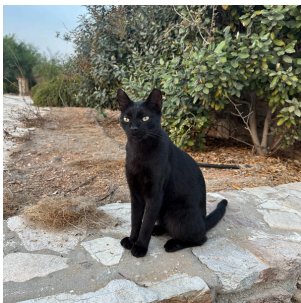
Paros



Today try some unorganized beaches. Head first to the E.U. Blue Flag Molos Beach. Watch the windsurfers and feel the soft clay-like sand beneath your toes. Next, head to TAVERNA NAME for lunch. When you're ready, head over to nearby Kalogeros beach. You might see people already giving themselves a mud treatment, but if not the key is to look for a piece of solid clay, break it up with water on the rocks, and let it dissolve into a mud application consistency. Afterwards, stop by Moratis winery for an aperitivo, then head to dinner at trendy Siparos.

DAY THREE

Antiparos

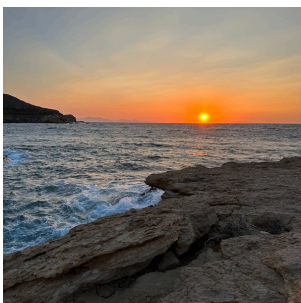


Some people only come to Antiparos for the nightlife. I think that's a huge mistake. Come during the day to enjoy lunch at Captain Pipino's, visit the Temple of Apollo ruins on Despotiko, lounge by the water and watch the yachts at Vathis Volos for around €15 per chair. Or, spend the afternoon embracing your ritzy side at Soros Beach Club where you might bump into Tom and Rita themselves (running around €40 per chair in 2024).

Bring a change of clothes and when you're ready, head into the quaint downtown strip of Antiparos. The shopping is phenomenal and every restaurant is excellent. Be sure to follow the sunset path (use Paralia Sifneiko as your map pin to find the way) to watch the most incredible sunset of your life.

DAY FOUR

Leaving Paros



If you're leaving by plane, you do not need to get to the airport more than an hour before your flight, at the earliest. There aren't many places to sit and wait and only one cafe with anything to eat and drink. You will go through security as you line up to board the plane.

If you're leaving by ferry, you'll check the terminals to see which hallway to wait in. It's best to join the line, but you can wait until about 30 minutes before your boat is scheduled to arrive. There are plenty of cafes to sit in before you leave.

Can't-Miss Highlights

Paros is a feast for the senses. But between beaching, shopping, and eating, be sure you don't miss these highlights!

- ✓ Watch Naousa come alive in the evening
- ✓ Try a watersport at Molos Beach
- ✓ Cool off with a drink by the ocean
- ✓ Pick out a freshly-caught fish for lunch or dinner
- ✓ Taste local Parian wines, beer, cheese, honey, and olives
- ✓ Watch the sunset from the western side of Antiparos
- ✓ Give yourself a mud facial at Kalogeros Beach
- ✓ Try a traditional Greek taverna meal
- ✓ Blast Mamma Mia while driving over the mountain
- ✓ Go snorkling at different beaches to compare what you find
- ✓ Visit the Temple of Apollo ruins on Despotiko
- ✓ Enjoy an afternoon at Moratis winery



Where to Stay

I recommend basing yourself in or near Naousa for several reasons. First, it's the most idyllic town on the island and home to the best restaurants, bars, and shops. Second, it's centrally located to most of the best beaches. It's a small town without too much hustle and bustle. There's no central port here, so you won't be interrupted by ferry arrivals or departures throughout the day and it's easy to walk everywhere.

However, if you're looking for larger accommodations or seeking total seclusion, I would recommend looking all over the island. In my experience, airbnb listings are generally very reputable here, even with limited reviews. The Greeks take hospitality very seriously and I've experienced five-star service from airbnb hosts on the islands.

The entire island is mostly accessible with main, paved roads, so as long as you have a car and you're willing to drive max 30 minutes, you can stay anywhere and still head to town for a great dinner.

Please note that prices and availability will vary dramatically based on time of year, so research ahead of time to make sure you can find the right accommodation for your budget.

HOTEL SUGGESTIONS

Stelia Mare

\$

Simple accommodations with a lovely pool and common areas. Situated right in Naousa and less than 100 ft. from a beach, it's a perfect budget-conscious choice.

Kallisti Naousa

\$\$

A mid-range option that offers incredible service, a dreamy pool, delicious breakfast, and spacious rooms. It's centrally located in Naousa and the team is hospitable, kind, and helpful. This property can sell out with return visitors,, so book early.

Cove Naousa

\$\$

Cove is a newcomer on the Naousa hotel scene, but it's made a strong first impression. The oceanfront view is jaw-dropping, the food is delicious, and the staff is wonderful.

Andronis Minois Parasporos Beach

\$\$\$

The Andronis family of properties are luxurious with excellent service. Their culinary program is top-notch and the attention to detail is flawless. It's close to the popular Parasporos beach and on the protected western side of the island.

Summer Senses Punda Beach

\$\$

This is a larger resort with amazing pools. It's exactly where I would go for a honeymoon or ultimate relaxation retreat. It's farther away from everything else on the island, but super close to some of the best beaches on the island.

KAMEO Hotel Ag. Georgios, Antiparos

\$\$\$

If you're looking for five-star service in seclusion, this is it. Steps away from the ocean and the best tavernas on Antiparos, KAMEO is remote in the best possible way. The staff is incredible, the rooms are pristine, and the location is idyllic.

Where to Eat

Parian food is a wonderful representation of traditional Greek coastal cuisine. The island offers everything from classic family-run tavernas to high-end fine dining experiences. I would recommend making dinner reservations as most restaurants are small and will fill up. Typically peak dinner time is around 8:00 p.m.

Daverona

An intimate restaurant run by a husband/wife duo that offers more variety and interesting takes on traditional Greek dishes. The wife is a Parisian-trained chef and her husband runs the front of house. I would expect this restaurant to win awards in the near future.

Siparos

The trendiest restaurant on Paros is Siparos. The food is great and the view is even better. It's contemporary fine dining and you want to make a reservation ahead of time.

Charoula's Tavern

This family-run taverna offers traditional food at reasonable prices. And the food is incredible. This has consistently been one of the best meals I've had on the island. You do have to park and walk up some stairs to reach the taverna, but it's so worth it.

Thalassamou

A seaside taverna that offers fresh fish of the day - as in, you can literally pick out the fish you want to eat. It's delicious and the picturesque setting can't be beat.

Loco Coffee and Cocktails

If you're on Antiparos late at night you have to stop for a tiki drink here. The menu is wild and fun and the vibes are relaxed.

Captain Pipino's

A traditional waterside taverna on Antiparos. Stop in before heading to the beach and be sure to order the zucchini fries. It can get very busy here, but it's worth the wait.

Moratis Winery

Come and enjoy a flight, a tasting, or just a glass of wine along with surprisingly robust and tasty food offerings. The winery patio feels like a movie set. It's a perfect shady respite.



Dietary Needs

Most restaurants will offer vegetarian and pescatarian options. It can be difficult to avoid dairy as cheese is worked into most meals.



Getting Around

You need to rent a car on Paros for the best experience. While it's possible to visit without a car, you'll spend hundreds of dollars on private transfers through your hotel.

A car on Paros gives you freedom to see every beach, bay, and cove you want to explore. And specifically I recommend a car, not an ATV or motorbike. ATVs are popular on the island, but they go slowly, have a hard time getting up the mountain, and provide no sun, dust, or wind protection while you're driving around. I have yet to genuinely need an ATV instead of a car while visiting the island.

You'll want to book the smallest car you can comfortably live with so that you can park it easily. Be sure to pre-book your car as automatics are not widely available for rent.

I prefer to compare prices through [discovercars.com](https://www.discovercars.com), but if you have status with any of the major car rental agencies they're also available on the island. For the absolute cheapest option call around to the local rental agencies.

As with any car rental, it's best to take a video and document any damage upon pickup so that you aren't liable for damages you may not have caused. And while I've never had a Greek agency ask for proof of insurance, I always have it through either my credit card or travel insurance policy.

As of now, you don't need an international drivers' license to drive in Greece, but research and double check before you leave home. They're easy to get at any AAA location in the U.S.

Getting Around

Visiting Antiparos

Getting to Antiparos is easier than it sounds and oh so worth it.

From Paros, you want to drive to Pounta Port. Here, you have two choices. You can either park your car and walk onto the ferry or you can drive onto the ferry with your car. The ferry runs every 15 minutes for most of the day, but later into the night it extends to every 30 minutes and then every hour, so check the timetable to make sure you don't get stuck.

If you're only going over for dinner or to explore the town it's easier and cheaper to just walk onto the ferry. But if you want to explore the island you'll need to drive on.

Hopefully you can follow someone who is in front of you, but the system is simple. Cars will line up and when the ferry arrives each will take its turn turning around and backing onto the ferry. The ferryworkers will direct you how far to back up. Then, once you're parked, you'll get out of the car and go to the kiosk to pay for passage. The prices change each year but it's generally around €5 per car and €2 per person.

Once onboard you can either stay in the car or go up top to watch the world go by. It's only about a 10 minute ride so I usually stay in the car.

When you arrive on Antiparos they will unchain the back and everyone starts driving off. On the return trip you'll simply repeat the process in reverse.

The first time you drive onto the ferry it's a little scary and chaotic. But you can do it! And the men working onboard are very helpful, even if they don't seem like it at first. The whole process is very fast and before you know it, you'll be cruising around Antiparos.



This is what the ferry looks like

Tips and Practicalities



Do I need to speak another language?

Nope! I never ran into a situation where I couldn't communicate with someone. Learning a few words of Greek will go a long way, but the people here are used to massive influxes of international tourism and English is widely spoken.



Do I need cash?

While I wouldn't say it's absolutely necessary, it is helpful to have cash on hand for low ticket purchases like water at a newsstand. There are only a few ATMs on the island and they tend to run out of cash.



How busy is it really going to be?

It depends on when you go. If you go in July or August expect it to be packed. While Paros isn't as well known as Santorini or Mykonos (yet) it still gets very busy in high season. If you go in a shoulder season expect comfortable crowds.



What should I pack and wear?

Paros is a more casual island. While you might see people dressing to the nines on Mykonos, for the most part they don't on Paros. Neutral colors, loose cuts, and breathable fabrics are key. Bring layers for the evening in case there are high winds. Sandals are appropriate everywhere and I prefer a shoe that can get wet for those rocky beaches. You'll definitely want to pack your own packable beach towel, beach bag, sunglasses, and a hat!

Tips and Practicalities



Will I feel safe?

I have always felt safe in Paros. Of course, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and alert to activities around you, but overall this is a very safe destination as long as you remain a smart traveler. Check the Department of State website before heading out to make sure there aren't any security updates.



How much walking will I do?

Honestly? Not too much. This is a car-heavy destination and once you get to the beaches, you'll do more beach activities. Going into Lefkes or Naousa for shopping does require walking, and Lefkes is on top of a mountain so be aware that it's uphill walking.



How affordable is the island once I'm there?

Paros is an island that relies on most of its goods being ferried in, and prices reflect that. In recent years, I've seen an increase in prices for things like sunbeds, snacks, and drinks. While it will be much cheaper than Mykonos or Santorini, I'd consider it a mid-range price destination.