

Mykonos, Greece (Special Eastern Mediterranean Itinerary)

Legend has it that Zeus and the **Titans battled** on the island of Mykonos. These days, the small resort island is more likely to attract celebrities and tourists than a primeval race of deities. The golden beaches, stylish shops and eateries, and picturesque streets draw visitors far and wide.



A vista of Mykonos

This small Greek island in the middle of the Aegean Sea is part of the Cyclades, known as the pearls of the Greek isles. The idyllic landscape is covered in **whitewashed dwellings**, packed into a labyrinthine maze of tiny streets and alleys. Hot, dry air and little rain makes for a sunbaked experience, mitigated only by the constant wind. Beaches ring the island and sunbathers—many who consider clothing optional—throng the shores. Mykonos is the quintessential “Greek Island Getaway” and is very popular (and crowded) as a result.

Like so many places in the Mediterranean, Mykonos’ roots go back a long way. The island has been inhabited since 3000 B.C., and the Ionians settled here in the 11th century B.C. Delos, a holy sanctuary, is less than two miles away and this made Mykonos a convenient supply stop as well as destination for the Delians. The island flourished as a **crossroads for shipping** during the reign of Julius Caesar. In the Middle Ages, Mykonos was ruled by the Venetians, and fell victim to the Saracens and Turks. Thousands of islanders were taken from their homes as slaves. Pirates and buccaneers also used Mykonos for dealings. Finally, in 1830, the Greek War of Independence liberated the island. Tourism began in the 1950s and it soon became a popular spot for the rich and famous, thanks to its beautiful architecture, gorgeous views, and relative seclusion.

Size: 40.6 sq. mi. (105 sq. km.)

Climate: Hot subtropical

Temperatures: 57°F (14°C) to 82°F (28°C)

Population: 10,000

Busy Season: July and August

Language: Greek

Money: Euro (€)

Time Zone: EET

Transportation: Walking, taxis, buses

Phones: Area code +30-22890, dial 112 for emergencies

AMBIENCE

HISTORY

FACTS

Introduction

Reservations

Staterooms

Dining

Activities

Ports of Call

Magic

Index

Making the Most of Mykonos

GETTING THERE

The Magic docks at **Tourlos**, which is 1.2 miles north of the town of Hora (the capital of Mykonos). Shuttles are available at the port to take you into town (3 min. ride), as are taxis at the Taxi Square on the Mykonos waterfront (central square). If you prefer to walk, plan for a 30 minute journey. The Magic is scheduled to arrive in Mykonos on Sunday, June 23, 2013, Monday, June 21, 2014, and Sunday, July 3, 2014. All ashore is 7:15–7:30 am, all aboard is 6:30–6:45 pm.

GETTING AROUND

Mykonos is the sort of town you'll want to **walk** about. It's small, maze-like streets are much easier to deal with on foot! If you want to move greater distances than your feet will allow, taxis and buses are both available. As expected, **taxis** are expensive—rates are fixed (no meters) and posted at the Taxi Square (which is the best place to find a taxi). Due to the island's small size, there are only about 30 taxis, so don't be surprised if you have to wait awhile. If your pocketbook prefers a **bus**, note that there are two main bus stations—the North station is behind the archaeological museum, and the South station is in Fabrika square. Bus tickets are usually less than €2. We do not recommend you rent a car or scooter because this is a very congested island. It's also possible to take a boat to Delos—daily excursions from the pier at the west side of the harbor leave at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 am—cost is €17.

SAFETY

The best way to stay safe and happy in Mykonos is to follow this advice: wear sunscreen and a hat, drink water, do not rent a car or scooter, and bring a map (if you get lost, look for the water to get your bearings). Also, if you or someone you're with is uncomfortable with nudity and/or partying, avoid beaches like Paradise or Super Paradise. Finally, if you have issues with **seasickness**, the wind can make any boat rides (like to Delos) very choppy—plan accordingly.

SHOPPING

Shopping is fun in Mykonos, with all its little boutiques amongst the narrow alleys. Look for jewelry, trendy clothes, and art galleries—Mykonos is home to a **thriving art colony**. Traditionally woven scarves, rugs, and tablecloths are also available here.

If you want to hit the **beaches**, Omos and Agios Stefanos are both family friendly spots. Psarou and Agia Anna are both small and pretty. If you're looking for the "party," go to Paradise or Super Paradise. Beaches where nudity may be encountered include Elia, Paranga, Agrari, Agois, Kapari, Paradise, and Super Paradise.

Touring Mykonos



The Temple of Isis in Delos

Delos is a “must see” for a visit to Mykonos. The Ancient Greeks considered Delos to be the birthplace of the twin gods Apollo and Artemis, and was thus considered a sacred place. If you visit, lookout for the Sacred Lake (now in a circular bowl and left dry), the Minoan Fountain (rectangular public well), the Temple of the Delians, the Terrace of the Lions (with seven marble lion statues), the Stoivadeion (either side of the platform supports giant phallus statues, the symbol of Dionysus), the Doric Temple of Isis (built on a hill), the Temple of Hera the House of Dionysus (great floor mosaics), the House of the Dolphins (more mosaics), and the Delos Synagogue (which happens to be the oldest synagogue known today). If you’re up to it, you can climb the 368-foot high Mt. Kynthos’ summit for amazing views of Delos. There is no shade or food/drink on this tiny, rocky island—bring proper sun protection and water. Also be aware that the ground is strewn with small rocks, so be careful of your footing.

© Alex Healding

ACTIVITIES

Introduction

Reservations

Staterooms

Dining

Activities

Ports of Call

Magic

Index

Embarking on Port Adventures in Mykonos

Of the 17 excursions offered by Disney Cruise Line at press time, here are our **recommended port adventures** for visitors to Mykonos:

Low Budget: Kalafatis Beach (\$34/\$24 ages 3 to 9/\$0 ages 0 to 2) offers bus transportation to the Kalafatis Beach, which is a public beach where you can rent chairs and umbrellas for an additional fee.

Big Budget: The Mykonos In Style Resort Stay (\$699-\$999) offers a private car and driver and a private room at the Mykonian Imperial Resort & Villas (accommodates up to 3 guests, or 4 guests if two are 12 and under) to enjoy the luxury and amenities of this seaside resort.

Archaeological: Delos Island (\$85/\$49 ages 0 to 9) is a boat ride and 135-minute walking tour of the Delos sanctuary. There's also an adults-only offering of this excursion (\$85).

Beach: Besides the Kalafatis Beach adventure, you may want to consider the Elia Beach (\$79/\$49 ages 3 to 9/\$0 ages 0 to 2) adventure, which offers bus transportation to the pretty Elia Beach. Here you'll enjoy a lounge chair, shared umbrella, and a light Greek lunch.

Family: Delos Island Featuring Exclusive Youth Activity (\$179/\$139 ages 5 to 9) offers a walking tour of Delos as well as a mosaic workshop for the kids in Mykonos.

Armchair: The Island Drive and Ano Mera Village (\$79/\$45 ages 3 to 9/\$0 ages 0 to 2) gives you a scenic and air-conditioned motorcoach ride to the village of Ano Mera to visit the small monastery Panagia Tourliani, after which you'll taste ouzo and a Greek appetizer in the village square.



Elia Beach on Mykonos

© Glen Scarborough

