

# Spotlight on Mykonos

## HISTORY

The Cyclades islands, situated in the Aegean off the east coast of the Peloponnese, are named for the circle they form around the sacred island of Delos in the center. They make up a most satisfying archipelago for island hopping, owing to their proximity of each other and numerous and regular ferry services between islands. The Cyclades epitomize the postcard image of the Greek islands with their dazzling white buildings offset by bright blue church domes, while golden beaches meet an aquamarine sea. Some of the islands have vigorously embraced tourism while others have maintained their idyllic secluded and ancient charm.

Originally only visited as a stop on the way to ancient Delos, Mykonos has become easily the most popular island of the Cyclades. The island offers beautiful beaches (many clothing optional/nudist), picturesque windmills and a rolling interior with the sea never very far away. The island has also hosted many a famous visitor including John Kennedy and Jacqueline Onassis and the filming of "Shirley Valentine".

The capital city is still one of the most beautiful of all island towns, with its whitewashed houses hiding dozens of little churches, shrines and chapels. The labyrinth design of the streets were intended to confuse the pirates who plagued Mykonos town in the 18th century. They still confuse visitors today but a stroll through town will reveal ample boutiques, art galleries and restaurants and cafés amid narrow alleyways and arched streets.

The small Archaeological Museum houses a collection of ancient vases and a bas-relief from the early archaic period, depicting scenes from the Trojan War. A Folk Museum displays local handicrafts and depictions of life here before tourism. The museum shares the same promontory as the Venetian kastro (castle). The entrance to this part is marked by Mykonos' oldest and best-known church, Paraportiani, and the windmills next door.

The shore leads around to the area known as "Little Venice" because of its high, arcaded Venetian houses built up to the water's edge. It is a trendy district packed with art galleries, boutiques, restaurants and upscale bars.

The island is ringed with magnificent sandy beaches, picturesque coves and pretty bays. The crystal clear aquamarine waters allow a clear view to the bottom, even in 40 to 50 feet of water. The coastal towns offer their own unique flavor. Shops, restaurants and cafés, offering views out over the water, provide a comfortable relaxed atmosphere.

## TRANSPORTATION

There will be a limited number of taxis available when you come ashore and a shuttle service will be available to take guests into Mykonos town. For those wishing to visit one of Mykonos's beautiful beaches, public buses or taxis are the best means of transportation. Taxis are metered but it is best to agree on a rate before departing.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location for your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

## HOW TO GET TO TOWN

Once in town, all of the downtown area is accessible on foot.

## SHOPPING INFORMATION

Shopping hours vary, but shops are generally open when ships are in port from arrival to departure. Some stores will close in the afternoons from noon to 2:00 pm.

## VAT

Many stores participating in the Value Added Tax (VAT) refund program in which non-European citizens may be entitled to re-claim a portion or all of the tax paid (depending on the total purchase price). Each store's participating in the VAT refund program is discretionary. In addition regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change. It is the responsibility of each cruise ship guest making a purchase to inquire as to whether or not store participates in VAT refund program and if the purchase qualifies for a refund. For general questions regarding the participation of stores, please see your Port & Shopping Guide.



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# MYKONOS

## PORT & SHOPPING MAP



## CAPITAL

Athens, the capital of Greece, has been inhabited continuously for over 7,000 years and has been one of the most important and influential cities in the western world. Mykonos is 94 nautical miles from Athens (Piraeus).

## SIZE

Around 85 square miles in size.

## LOCATION

Mykonos is part of the Cyclades island group. Mykonos is situated south-east of Tinos and north of Paros and Naxos.

## POPULATION

Mykonos has an approximate population of 15,000 permanent residents. This figure increases substantially during the summer months.

## LANGUAGE

Greek is the spoken language throughout Greece. The language is probably the oldest in Europe with a 4,000 year-old tradition and a 3,000 year-old written tradition.

## CURRENCY

The Euro is the national currency in Greece. Recommended stores accept credit cards and traveler's checks.

## TIME ZONE

Mykonos is on Eastern European Time. The ship may not always follow local time. Please adhere to the ship's time while in port.

## SIGHTS TO VISIT WHILE SHOPPING

### A. FOLKLORE MUSEUM

This museum is housed in an 18th century mansion and features one bedroom furnished and decorated in the fashion of the period. The displays include looms and lace-making devices, Mykoniot musical instruments, old photographs and Cycladic costumes. It shares the same promontory as the old Venetian kastro.

### B. PARAPORTIANI

This church is the island's most famous and is a sloping, whitewashed conglomeration of four chapels, mixing Byzantine and vernacular idioms. Its unique architecture is offset by its position on a promontory overlooking the water.

### C. WINDMILLS

This famous Mykonos landmark is located in an area known as "Little Venice" or Alefkandhra, which is a trendy district filled with art galleries, high arcaded Venetian houses built right up to the water's edge, and chic bars and discos. This area is famous for enjoying the colorful sunset, listening to good music and sipping a cocktail at one of the many local bars.

Locations found inside on map



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