Why A Greek Island-Hop is Your Perfect Celebration Vacation

By My Greek Friend

Celebration vacations have become a rising travel trend in recent years, and island-hopping packages have proven to be one of the most popular getaways for couples looking to celebrate a milestone anniversary or birthday in an unforgettable way.

The Greek islands, with their white-washed, bougainvillea-covered houses, delicious food, and hospitable local culture are arguably some of the best in the world to plan a vacation around.

An excellent way to experience them while commemorating a special event is to book an organized island-hopping package. Here’s why:

CONVENIENCE

An island-hopping package eliminates the hassle of planning a multi-stop vacation. Instead of spending hours online researching hotels and arranging transportation, travelers simply choose the package that interests them. The company will arrange airport/port/hotel transfers, ferry tickets and hotel reservations; all you’ll need to do is arrive at your meeting place. This leaves you and your loved one more time to celebrate and enjoy your trip and minimizes stress over timetables and other travel details.

That being said, organized island-hopping trips offer vacationers flexibility and the chance to experience the local culture. As opposed to an island cruise that keeps passengers on a strict arrival/departure schedule, island-hopping packages allow visitors to wake up on the island, eat a traditional Greek breakfast and explore the location as they wish.

On Santorini, for example, you’ll decide if you want to spend your day at the Akrotiri archeological site, a local winery or both. For dinner, you can reserve a table at that cute restaurant in the village you read about. With island-hopping packages, you are at your leisure to plan your day, eat where you like and return to your hotel when you choose.

THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT ISLANDS

The Greek islands are famously unique, differing from one another. An itinerary such as Mykonos-Tinos-Syros is a great example. In cosmopolitan Mykonos, you’ll be enchanted by white windmills, picturesque Little Venice and, if you’re up for it, energized by the nightlife. Tinos, on the other hand, has a religious atmosphere with its awe-inspiring monasteries, churches and museum of marble art. Syros, however, is one of the few areas of Greece to have experienced the Renaissance, and its well-preserved city squares and beautiful architecture, including an opera house, attest to its history.

For a couple’s celebration vacation, such variety ensures that every day you and your significant other will experience something memorable.

ROMANCE

Finally, there’s a certain air of romance to the Greek islands. On an island-hopping vacation, you really will swim in turquoise seas so calm and clear that you’ll see small fish gliding beneath you. At sunset, you’ll trek through winding village streets to watch the sun descend into the sea. And after nightlife, the jovial atmosphere is contagious. You’ll see Greeks and other visitors strolling the streets, dining beneath the stars, and clinking glasses in garden-bars. You’ll feel as though you’re all friends, all on vacation together. In our modern, tech-driven world, it’s a rare experience and one that is wonderful to share with someone you love.

This article has been released by My Greek Friend, an online travel agency specializing in creating personalized vacation packages to Greece. You can reach us out via email at info@mygreekfriend.travel, phone on +30 2810247365 or visit our website at www.mygreekfriend.travel.
Interview with the Mayor of Paros

“A top tourist destination in the Cyclades”

Markos Koveos: Paros, thanks to the consistent and continuous marketing strategy that it has implemented in recent years, has reached the top of the tourist destinations in the Cyclades, ranking a successful 2018 tourist season. This was also helped by the expansion of the airport, which given more significant growth prospects for the coming years. This expansion has brought development to the island, which is financed by the Greek government. Arrivals at the port were the best they have been in 35 years.

Does Paros have anything to get tourists in the off-season months?

Given the success of the peak months, we are now seeking to extend the tourist season by promoting, above all, alternative activities for future tourists. This is precisely the goal that reflects the strategy that has been drawn up for 2019 to highlight the cosmopolitan dimension of the island, which, unlike many other destinations, contains all the elements of culture, including historical and religious monuments, along with gastronomy and all the other advantages it has at the level of tradition, such as the activities of the Cultural Associations, the festivals, etc. Our main concern, however, is the Hellenic protection of our island and the preservation of its traditional Cycladic character.

Can the tourist infrastructure of Paros support a larger flow of tourists or the lengthening of the tourist season? What can be done to improve tourism in Paros?

In order to avoid any problems from the increase in tourist traffic to the island in the summer, we focus on the quality of alternative forms of tourism, but, as I said before, our main goal is to ensure the sustainability and the preservation of the island – its environment and its tradition. Our goal is primarily to ensure the growth that we expect during this year. This means that we want to keep our tourists satisfied – which makes their happiness the focal point of our policy.

Markos Koveos.

How can tourism in Paros be improved?

‘Our main concern, an aim before, is to improve infrastructure as well as to protect the environment and the nature of the island, preserving its photogenicity, highlighting its traditions and preserving its unique historical and cultural heritage. We do this first and foremost as a debt to our country, but also because we realize that the tourist development of an area cannot go against its values. Additionally, our aim is to maintain our reputation and, if possible, to increase them. This means that we want to keep our tourists satisfied – which makes their happiness the focal point of our policy.’

What drives the tourism of Paros?

‘Markos Koveos.

Island hopping is a great way to discover the Greek islands and to experience the uniqueness of each one of them. Because of their proximity to one another, the Cyclades and the Dodecanese are two wonderful island groups to explore in this way. Island hopping allows tourists and locals alike to enjoy the blue Aegean Sea, set sail and feel every island’s unique vibe.

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The Cyclades are filled with beaches ranging from pleasant to amazing, but for those who love lists, here are the top 5:

**Red Beach, Santorini**

The Red Beach is a very unique and scenic beach, located near Akrotiri village. Many people visit the beach solely because of its wonderful colors – dominantly red, the steep hills create captivating scenery. The sand is mostly red as well, and the contrast between the blue sea and red landscape is truly picturesque. The beach is semi-organized with sunbeds.

**Paradise Beach, Mykonos**

Paradise Beach is known for hosting the best beach parties on the island. It is fully organized with sunbeds, toilets, bars, and cafes, making it a perfect place for a swim and sunbathing during the day. At night the beach is full of party people, cocktails, and music. It’s a great place for those enjoying company and meeting new people.

**Sarakiniko beach, Milos**

Sarakiniko beach is one of the most photographed places on the island. The rocks surrounding the sea are bright white and full of huge hollows eroded by time and salt water. There is no vegetation, and the contrast between the bare smooth white rocks and the deep blue water is something unforgettable. Many people say it looks like the Moon on Earth!

**Plaka, Naxos**

Beaches in Naxos are known for their characteristic length – many beaches continue for kilometers. Plaka is the longest of them all – approximately 4 kilometers of soft, white sand and beautiful landscape. Some parts of it are organized with sunbeds and umbrellas, and even though it’s rather busy during the high season there’s enough space for everyone. Because of its length, one of the most popular things to do at Plaka is beach walking – take off your shoes and stroll by the waterline!

**Gialos beach, Ios**

This sandy beach is covered by trees and surrounded by beautiful white Greek houses. Those looking for an easy day under the sun will enjoy the fully organized tourist facilities, like sunbeds, toilets, and taverns close to the beach. It’s very popular due to the fact it’s easy to reach from the port, which also makes it a nice spot to observe the ferries from a distance.

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**Top 5 Beaches in the Cyclades**

By Hein-Sofia Alavuo
Top Things to Experience in the Cyclades and the Dodecanese

by Heini-Sofia Alavuo

Greece is a country that is known for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. It is a paradise for tourists who are looking for an idyllic vacation spot. The islands of the Cyclades and the Dodecanese offer a unique experience with their stunning landscapes, rich history, and cultural heritage.

Discover the Blue Cave, Kastellorizo

This beautiful cave is one of the most famous caves in Greece and is located on the island of Kastellorizo. The cave is formed by a natural phenomenon where seawater has eroded the limestone rock. The cave is approximately 200 meters long and has a dome-shaped ceiling. Visitors can explore the cave by boat and witness the stunning underwater view with its crystal-clear waters and colorful coral formations.

Sunset Sailing, Santorini

Santorini is known for its breathtaking sunsets and is a popular destination for sunset sailing. The best way to fully appreciate the sunset is to set sail and enjoy the view from the sea. Visitors can hire a boat with a professional captain and enjoy a personalized sailing experience.

Visit the Valley of Butterflies, Rhodes

This nature reserve is located inland on the island of Rhodes and is a popular destination for nature lovers. The valley is home to a large population of butterflies, specifically the painted lady and the Vanessa cardui. Visitors can also witness the butterflies in their natural habitat and learn about their life cycle.

Visit a Distillery on Naxos

Visitors can dive into the deep blue waters of the Aegean Sea, and some include a convenient hotel package. The island is known for its top-quality wines and spirits, and beer taste sessions are also available. The island is also home to a variety of sailing clubs that offer trips to the island's beautiful coastline.

Top 5 Beaches in the Dodecanese

Top 5 Beaches in the Dodecanese

Thermes beach, Kos

The beach is known for its white sands and crystal-clear waters. Visitors can enjoy water sports such as windsurfing and snorkeling.

Agios Minas Beach, Karpathos

This beach is quite close to the town of Karpathos and is famous for its lush greenery and crystal-clear waters. Visitors can also enjoy water sports such as windsurfing and scuba diving.

St. George Beach, Kastellorizo

Located on one of the remotest islands of Greece, St. George Beach offers a unique and peaceful experience. Visitors can relax on the beach and enjoy the stunning views of the surrounding area.

Koutsounari, Astypalaia

Koutsounari is a small island close to Astypalaia and is known for its crystal-clear waters and sandy beaches. Visitors can enjoy water sports such as windsurfing and scuba diving.

Anthony Quinn Bay, Rhodes

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The light of Greece is legendary, lauded by authors and visual artists alike, but in the Aegean and especially in the Cyclades, the panorama of unending sea, radiant sun, and the infinite blue sky does something that even body and soul simply don’t experience elsewhere.

Sifnos is one of the islands especially beloved by photographers and painters. Those days there is hardly a booklet or video promoting Greece that does not feature the dazzling white churches of Panagia Chrysopigi or the Eptapyrgia. The island is one that perfume time upon time the people of Sifnos were among the richer in Hellas – but the exhaustion of the Sifanto Mare Apartments, whose rooms cascade down the hill into an Aegean cove that does not feature anywhere else...
Kalkithoie Thermal Springs

Kalkithoie Thermal Springs: A hidden gem of Rhodes

Kalkithoie Thermal Springs is a hidden gem, a public secret. Located at the bay of Kallithea just 9 kilometers from the city of Rhodes, it is an ideal spot to spend the day and to enjoy the unique and abundantly formed nature of architecture, landscape, and history.

Kalkithoie Springs was built by the Italians in 1928, but the therapeutic properties of the thermal springs have been known in ancient times. The complex was designed by Italian archi- tect Pietro Longhi, who made an important design that captured the natural beauty of the area.

The springs are frequently source of inspiration, and many artists have been attracted to the place. The atmosphere is serene, welcoming visitors from the 19th century to the present day.

Visitors enjoy the hot springs daily, which are not only beneficial for the body but also for the soul. The springs are surrounded by lush gardens and picturesque pathways, making it a perfect place to relax and unwind.

The outdoor area includes a large pool, a fountain, and a beautiful garden. A café is open from 9 AM until late at night, offering a variety of refreshments and meals.

To enjoy the full experience, visitors can purchase a deck chair as well. The price includes a deck chair as well, while visitors can spend the whole day relaxing. The bus ticket from the city costs Euro 4.50, and it's a 20-minute ride to the location. The bus service runs daily from 8 AM to 8 PM, with visitors spending the whole day relaxing.

It is no coincidence that, according to TripAdvisor, it is easy to see the beauty and uniqueness of this hotel gem.

Algakis Hotel & Spa

Aegiali Hotel & Spa offers an enchanting experience on the beautiful island of Amorgos in the Cyclades. The owners have special feelings for visitors from the States, they told The National Herald that "our hotel is a little get-away. The temperature of the water of the springs is lovely, and Greek-American guests look for the most when they plan their stay at Aegiali." The hotel is a perfect destination for leisure holidays, with comfortable facilities and a warm welcome.

The hotel has a capacity of up to 16 people, so visitors don't necessarily need to pack their own lunch. It’s a beautiful scene surrounded by palm trees offer an exotic feeling and make it a perfect place for a relaxing getaway. The temperature of the water of the springs is lovely, and Greek-American guests have special feelings for visitors from the States, they told The National Herald that "our hotel is a little get-away. The temperature of the water of the springs is lovely, and Greek-American guests look for the most when they plan their stay at Aegiali." The hotel is a perfect destination for leisure holidays, with comfortable facilities and a warm welcome.

The decoration is different in each of the rooms but they all have the same elegance, comfort, calm coloring and lighting, as well as a distinctive style that makes each one of them unique. They also include private balconies with beautiful views of the island and the surrounding area.

The hotel offers a wide range of activities, from cooking classes to private boat trips. Visitors can also enjoy the natural beauty of the area, with walks through the surrounding forests or leisurely strolls along the beach.

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Milos Breeze Hotel

“Apollonian” Beauty on the Island of Milos

By Ariadna Kornemans

Built around a beautiful bay, the village probably took its name from the Temple of Apollo.

What amenities can your guests enjoy?

Guests can visit the picturesque village and beach of Apollonia and try local delicious dishes, as well as a variety of fresh fish in the best restaurants of the island. Sansalaris, about a 15 minutes drive away, with its magnificent beach and lush landscape, is undoubtedly not only one of the most popular beaches on Milos, but also of Greece. On the way to Pollonia, and at a distance of only 1.2 kilometers from the hotel, are the ruins of the ancient city of Talos, which is one of the most important settlements of the Cycladic civilization and the most important city of the prehistoric Agean.

Are there Americans or Greeks of the diaspora that you visit?

Visitors from the United States are the bulk of our clients. We host many Greeks from the United States as well. It is a large community of Greeks that have settled in other continents like Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) and Europe. These guests join in the opportunity to welcome them and the joy of providing them with a unique experience on one of the islands.

Many say that Milos is the ideal island for couples. What is your view on that?

Milos is popular destination for couples of all ages. It is filled with perfect beaches and romantic spots, the waves of the Indigo and the majestic sunsets make the island paradise. Moreover, Milos has not “experienced” the phenomenon of excessive tourism like other Cycladic islands, which really-values the privacy of the visitors. At Milos Breeze Boutique Hotel visitors can enjoy 4-star services in a modern aesthetic and minimally decorated environment that esouses the island’s traditions in every corner. The hotel’s premises are filled with handmade sculptures that blend harmoniously with the overall feel of the island. The hotel can be characterized by sophistication and offers an unparalleled sense of serenity.

B eautiful, fishy and fertile, Milos is Greece’s most western island and the perfect place to experience all that the Aegean has to offer. Known as the “Island of the God”, Milos is located in the Aegean Sea

Agritourism in Greece

By Heini-Sofia Altans

If you’re looking for alternative ways to spend your vacation, Agritourism is a wonderful place to experience hands-on traditional activities such as farming, cooking, and hosteling.

Participating in these activities is an amazing way to enjoy nature on the beautiful island, and to learn more about the traditional activities people have practiced in Amorgos for decades, if not centuries. It also allows you to gain a new perspective on food sustainability, and to scumble with the locals.

In Amorgos, there are many places providing courses and seminars for traditional cooking, bread and wine making, and colic-making and herbs and greens. Some offer opportunities to join honey production, while others offer courses in cheese making.

One example of a workshop worth mentioning is the Organic Garden in Aegiali. From April-November, they offer a possibility to learn more about the traditional wine making and sometimes even in the distillation process.

In addition to attending the workshops, visitors can also choose to join in on the hard work and spend a few hours helping the farmers with their daily labor. Bookings can be done online and the price is 10€ per person.

After the grapes are harvested, they are spread out in the sun for a few days, after which individuals can join in on the stomping of the grapes! In this way you can be part of the traditional winemaking process. Some places even let you participate in the traditional wine making and sometimes even in the distillation process for real.

Olive picking season lasts from the end of October until the end of November. Traditionally, entire families go out into their olive groves for weeks to pick their olives. In Amorgos, visitors have the opportunity to join in the experience and experience hands-on with the olives. The olive groves also offer beautiful landscapes that are captured during breaks while sitting in the shade enjoying fresh coffee.

After the harvest, the olives are pressed until they become the olive oil made with love. For those who wish to stay a bit longer in Amorgos, Pigadi Hotel is a great choice since the hotel helps visitors find alternative ways to enjoy their holiday. It’s located on the northeastern side of the island, in the mountain village of Lagonisi.
Aquamarina Cruises and Dimitris Elite Travel Offers Dream Vacations

By Elena Sakellis

A
quamarina Cruises and Dimitris Elite Travel specialize in personalized services for travelers in search of the authentic Greece and its enviable hospitality.

What can visitors expect when they choose Aquamarina Cruises and Dimitris Elite Travel for their vacation?

Dimitris Psaltopoulos: “Try as much as possible to have a personal relationship with our customers. We will guide them where we would go with our friends, places the less routinized will never see. We want them to feel the authenticity and unusual charm of Greek hospitality.”

How far in advance should people begin planning for their vacation? Christodoulou said. “It’s nice to be as much as possible. We can then better plan their holidays together. However, our job is to satisfy the demands of our customers even at the very last minutes.”

Are discounts available for those who book well in advance? We don’t have a discount policy. We always give the best possible prices.

What do Greek-American guests in particular look for when they plan their vacation with Aquamarina Cruises and Dimitris Elite Travel? They want to see the dreams of their dreams and we do our best to make their dreams a reality.

What types of activities and amenities do guests enjoy the most? Cruises, local gastronomy, wine tasting, walks in the narrow streets of our picturesque villages, romantic sunsets, and last but not least being transported back into Greek history and mythology by witnessing our archaeological sites. Who has heard of Atlantis and never even dreamed about visiting it?

What special packages are available? We prefer the tailor made services. Santorini is perhaps the most famous Greek island destination, how do Aquamarina Cruises and Dimitris Elite Travel make the experience unique for guests? 90% of tourists visit 3-4 specific places while ignoring the rest of the island. We prefer, apart from the classic places, to show the authentic Santorini, traditional, that of ordinary people, that of the countryside Greek way of living. We will share with them the island’s real culture in a picturesque small fishing tavern and while the bouzouki plays, we will enjoy our own and dance a sirtaki.

Are there any special requirements or licenses required for renting a boat? We have larger boats with oars as well as smaller boats that our customers can operate if they want to drive them on their own and have a speed boat license. Finally, we have smaller boats that do not need a license, but surely previous experience is necessary.

Which are the most popular cruises guests choose? Without a doubt, a cruise on the caldera (volcano).

In a privileged location, amidst the endless golden sand beaches of Milos island, an idyllic summer haven for harbouring your dreams, Surrender to the luxury of personalised services and facilities, and indulge in all the privileges of a truly incredible travel experience!

See our website for more information and details about this new service.

Follow the Wind in Santa Maria, Paros

By Hein-Sofia Alavuo

Because of the sunny north winds that blow over the Cyclades, Paros is a wonderful island for windsurfing as well as kitesurfing. Particularly, Santa Maria is a great place to chase the wind and feel the summer breeze. From the beach, you can also enjoy the beautiful view of the island of Naxos.

Windsurfing can be enjoyed for the whole summer season, but kitesurfing is possible only during the off-season, from October to March. Santa Maria beach is famous for its ideal weather conditions that are suitable for all types of water sports – the temperature of the water varies from 16 °C (61°F) to 25 °C (77°F). The wind force varies from 1 to 8 BFT, depending on the weather, both beginners and experts can ride the waves.

If you don’t feel like taking your equipment with you, or if you don’t own your own board, you can visit The Surf Club by the beach. They offer harnessed equipment (vests, boards and sails) for surfers of all levels, making it easy to enjoy the sunny days and clear waters. Also, they are a nice place to benefit from the windsurfing courses The Surf Club provides.

However, for anyone going to windsurfing in Santa Maria, it’s important to mention that there is a famous beach bar on the beach itself, there is a lot of activity on the beach and many swimmers in the water. Although this is common for any popular Greek summer beach, windsurfers should be slightly cautious when enjoying their sport. The way to get more space is to avoid the busiest summer months. July and August, when Santa Maria will surely be full of life.

If you wish to stay a bit longer in Santa Maria, you can find accommodation options at Beach Paros Camping/Village. They offer options for every basic taste, ranging from traditional Cycladic-style campig for naturists who want to stay in the sea, as well as economical and compact wooden beach huts. Santa Maria can be reached by local buses or by boats departing from the harbor of Naoussa.

Santa Maria is a part of the Nature 2000 project, which is an environmental conservation program all around Greece. The area is important for migratory wildlife and a place for breedingaptors and seabirds, such as Gull Larus audouinii (Αιγαιόγλαρος), the wild seagull. Visitors must respect nature: for example, collecting all rubbish, especially plastics, and avoiding shampoo or soaps close to the beach.

GREEK TEXT: Apyntoupolos

Reserve Your Spot on Greek beaches

By Matina Demetz

If you are planning your summer vacation in Greece you should check Beachdibs, the website that will make your life easier when you go to the beach. Three brothers, Ted, Tom and George Christodoulou created a website where you can reserve your beach chair before you go to the beach. And why not order your coffee and food too?

This spoke with George Christodoulou who gave more information and details about this new service.

“We have partnership with the beach shops, hotels, and clubs that have chairs so the tourist will be able to reserve his spot before he goes to the beach. Usually around Midly all these summer beach shops are open so everybody can start reserving. It is so difficult to find a chair in the summer when everybody is going to the beach”.

This is the third year that the three brothers running their business and every year they add more islands. So, if this summer you are going to Mykonos, Santorini, Paros, Naxos, Sifnos, or Ios island, start planning your days on the beach before you get there!

“This year we started partnership with other tourist websites and travel agents so people can know about it”, Christodoulou said.

But how does the idea come up?

“All this started, he said, “because in 2016 my brother Tom went to Greece with his family, his wife and his children. He saw in Paros and went to the beach. He couldn’t find a beach chair. I used to another beach and him to another. It was so difficult with his little kids to find a safe place under the sun.

So, we did a little research and that was it. This problem exists everywhere in Greece. Our vision is to cover the whole country.”

The prices are not high. Beachdibs charges 3 euros more than the regular price, or 10% more than the price of the chair. And sometimes you get some extras. For example, if you go to Elia, Mykonos, and you make the reservation from their website, beachdibs.com, you get two towels and two sunshades for free.
A Walk Through the Culture and Art of Andros Island

By Maria Kalogeris

Andros is the northernmost and greenest island of the Cyclades and the second largest after Naxos. It’s mainly a mountainous island, with lots of valleys, small waterfalls, streams, and little rivers. Andros also has numerous top quality beaches that suit the taste of any visitor – beaches that are sandy or rocky, easily accessible or isolated and with cold or warmer waters. With such natural beauty, Andros is characterized as an island of Culture and Art, since many who excelled in letters and arts were from Andros. Anyone who visits Andros, apart from enjoying the natural beauty, can visit and enjoy a number of museums.

We start from Palaiopolis, which was the capital of Andros for twelve centuries. In 1956 they started excavations in the area and in 2002 they opened the Archaeological Museum of Palaiopolis in a building that was sponsored by the Basil and Elise Goulandris Foundation. It’s organized in three thematic units: sculpture, inscriptions, and miscellaneous finds. The most significant objects in the Museum are the tombstone of a male lion in the size that was found in the cemetery of Palaiopolis dated in the 4th century BC, the marble sculpture of the mythical winged horse Pegasos that is dated in the fifth century BC, a marble statue of Hermes dated in the 3rd century BC, and an inscribed marble slab that preserves 118 verses of a hymn to the goddess Isis, who was a major goddess in ancient Egyptian religion and was also revered in the Greek world.

We continue with the Archaeological museum in the capital of the island, Chora. It was built in 1981 and in it was donated by the Basil and Elise Goulandris Foundation. Originally the museum was created to exhibit sculptures by Andros native sculptor Michael Tsimbros. Later the museum was enriched by part of the personal collection of the Goulandris couple. From 1983 to 1985 exhibitions of Greek painters were hosted with major interest on behalf of the public. Thus, the need for expansion was created and on July 20th, 1986 a new building, situated opposite the existing building, was opened to the public. The first part of the museum is now the Old Wing and the expansion is the New Wing. The Old Wing hosts sculptures of Tombos, Zippolisoukis, Chryssos, Nikolaidis and many more. The New Wing has a library, a projection room, a room for international exhibitions and a museum shop.

The Tourism directorate of the municipality of Rhodes warmly welcomed the first tourists of the season at the airport. The season starts with good omens. Rhodes is one of the foremost and safe destinations worldwide and, as everything indicates, 2019 will be a good year for tourism. We expect that the targeted efforts of the municipality for the promotion of the island will bear fruit, underlined Rhodes vice mayor Marisa Hatzilazarou.

First Tourists of the Season

By ANA

The tourist season officially opened for the island of Rhodes with the arrival of the first charter flight on Sunday, March 31. A Lauda Motion airline aircraft arrived at Diagoras airport on the island at 09:05 on Sunday, carrying 100 passengers—mostly Austrians but also a number of Slovaks and Czechs and passengers from other European countries. The Tourism directorate of the municipality of Rhodes warmly welcomed the first visitors of the season at the airport.

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Elakati Luxury Boutique Hotel

In the perfect place to experience true Greek Hospitality.

It is an adults only themed hotel located in the center of Rhodes, just a few minutes away from all shops, restaurants, bars and a walk away from one of the most beautiful and cosmopolitan beaches on the island, Elli Beach.

As a themed hotel the architecture itself takes you on a whole other journey, where each level has a unique design with a theme that reflects the beauty and history of Rhodes. While taking in one of Greece’s beauties, ecological materials were combined to create a traditional atmosphere with modern comforts.

Aromas, flavors, and tastes convivially displayed in the small Greek Corner, ease the search for the perfect gift to take back home. Embracing a healthier lifestyle physically and environmentally, guests can explore the center of Rhodes on an Elakati bicycle made with natural materials by Coco-mat.

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Visit our website www.elakati.com
Anemomilos Hotel, located in Oia on Santorini, offers the famous Greek hospitality at the ideal vacation spot on the famed island. Anemomilos, of course, is the Greek word for windmill, one of the iconic symbols of the Greek islands. Owner Spyros Kokkalis spoke to The National Herald about his hotel (anemomilos.com).

“In the magnificent village of Oia, one of the most important settlements of Santorini, which stands out for its breathtaking sunsets and cave dwellings, the Anemomilos Hotel welcomes you to its stylish facilities overlooking the endless blue of the Aegean Sea.” He added that, “Anemomilos Hotel is located within a walking distance of the center of Oia and is an excellent but also advantageous choice of accommodation. It offers to its visitors the choices of spacious and well-equipped rooms, studios, and private villas for relaxation. All are decorated and furnished in modern style. Its unique position facilitates guests’ transportation and day-to-day excursions throughout the island of Santorini.”

Kokkalis said, “The high level of facilities in Anemomilos with the variety of its organized services is a perfect and authentic example of Greek hospitality. The restaurant, the swimming pool and its communal areas combined with the friendly staff and the hotel management ensure a pleasant and enjoyable stay, that begins as soon as you hear the words ‘Welcome to Oia and Anemomilos Hotel!’”

Kokkalis noted that, “On our website, you can find discounts for those who wish to book in advance, but also great last minute offers. Anemomilos Hotel and private villas offers a wide variety of rooms, from cozy budget rooms and studios with outdoor Jacuzzi, to private villas with amazing Caldera view, in order to meet the needs of every visitor that wants to come and enjoy the magnificent scenery of Santorini.”

Asked about the best time to book a vacation, he told TNH, “When you start planning your vacation in Santorini, six months in advance is a good idea. This way you will find availability and will be able to choose the exact location and facility that will make your trip a dream come true.”

Kokkalis said, “The main advantage of Anemomilos Hotel and private villas is its people. Each and everyone from the staff will go above and beyond in order for our guests to have a memorable stay. They will understand even before their arrival that we can assist them with every detail of their stay and help them plan whatever they want to do on the island, from relaxing by the pool and enjoying the amazing view, to tasting local dishes in our traditional restaurant – and everything happens with a smile.”

He concluded by saying, “Our guests feel like locals merging into the atmosphere of our amazing island. Hospitality at its best.”

Chef Nikos Pouliasis, famous for his artistry with food and his ability to reinvent himself, together with his team are inviting fine dining lovers for a gastronomic experience at his multi-awarded Restaurant in Fira hosted in a neoclassical mansion overlooking the caldera.

You can enjoy his creative menu where flavors meet art and inventiveness and combine it with excellent wines from the Greek and International terroir.

For reservations:
Tel: +30 2286023807 or email: info@koukoumavlos.com or reservation form at our website www.koukoumavlos.com
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