KEA

An undiscovered paradise for hikers and travelers searching for ‘the real Greece’.

It has exceptional beaches and one of the best system of walking paths and trails of any Greek island.

Kea is a hiker’s paradise with numbered routes that take you through a variety of landscapes to remote coves and the ruins of ancient cities.

The most famous sight on the island is the Lion of Kea, or Lionda. It is a big, archaic sculpture of the mythical lion (see history).

The monastery of Panagia Kastriani is also worth a visit, and you can even stay here in one of its cells. The monastery dates back to the 18th century.

There are many sandy beaches on Kea, and just to mention a few, there is Otzias, Koundouros and Korissia. At Koundouros you’ll find most of the watersports.
The island has been inhabited since Neolithic times, and later on, in the 6th cent., The poet Simonides was born here.

The island was quite prosperous and it was known for its Kean Law, which made all citizens who lived to be 70 commit suicide by drinking hemlock, which still grows on the island.

In the 13th century, the island was ruled by the Venetians, and 300 years later by the Turks. Meanwhile, Kea was often raided by pirates, and the locals suffered greatly.

It is therefore not surprising that Kea was one of the first Greek islands to enroll in the War of Independence in 1821. In 1930, it was liberated.

Kea was once called the Water Island, Ydroussa, and it is believed that the name is connected to the water nymphs, that lived here according to mythology. Because it was such a pretty island, the gods’ got jealous, and sent a lion to ravage the land. The nymphs fled, and as a subsequence, the island dried out. The Keans then asked Apollo’s son Aristaeus for help, and he built a temple to Zeus, who apart from being the highest god, also was the one who sent rain. This pleased him, and the nymphs and waters returned, giving Kea a fertile soil with good crops.
Mykonos according to mythology, this was where Heracles killed the giants. The rocks around the island are supposedly their corpses!!!
Psarou Beach: Fully organised beach offering water sports (including a diving school).

Platis Gialos Beach: A very popular beach on the south side of the island. It is also one of the longest beaches on Mykonos.

Paranga Beach: One of the island's smallest beaches, it is a combination of two sandy beaches separated by a headland. Although organised, it has a new-age feel about it, with fine sand and huge rocks juxtaposed with blue water.

Agrari Beach: Located right next to Elia beach, they form together a huge sandy beach. Agrari is less popular than its neighbour and much calmer.

Elia Beach: The largest of the southern beaches, it has good restaurants, hotels, bungalows. In the area just before Elia beach, there is "Watermania", a 60,000 square metre water park with dare devil chutes, a host of water-based activities, music and dancing.

Kalo Livadi Beach: It is the perfect place for those who look for a peaceful environment. If you like to stay overnight, there is one hotel and a few rooms to let.

Ornos Beach: Perfect family beach with all amenities. This bay which also provides a good anchorage for yachts.

Paradise Beach (Kalamopodi): One of the most famous beaches of Mykonos, nudist friendly, attracting mostly a young crowd by its 24 hour music and its day and night beach parties. Water sports, diving centre and beach bars are available.

Super Paradise Beach (Plintri): Just as famous as Paradise, it lies on the south side of Mykonos, next to Paradise beach. The setting truly is paradisiacal but don't come here for a peaceful family picnic - music blares from huge loud speakers and during high season the beach partying often continues all day long. Full nudity is permitted.

Korfo Beach: Attracts mainly wind surfing enthusiasts, due to the frequency of good on-shore winds. Not suitable for swimming or sunbathing.
Paros has many beautiful sandy beaches for all tastes. Some are hidden, tiny little bays, enclosed by extraordinarily "sculptured" rocks ("Kolimbithres"), others are long and wide. The typical countryside with its gentle, terraced hills and magnificent rock formations, endless vineyards, olive groves and fruit trees is overwhelming. In the spring, the island is completely green, with flowers growing everywhere!

Paros Island was known in antiquity for its fine marble. The main town is Parikia. The most cosmopolitan area of the island is Naoussa.
At Dilio are the remains of the ancient temple to Apollo, and about 11km outside Parikia is the famous Aesclepio, the temple to the god of medicine where the ancient Greeks sought remedies for various illnesses. Naussa is a picturesque town on the north side of the island. Here there exists the ruins of a Venetian citadel from the 15th century.

Paros has many beaches and it is difficult to say which are the best. For families, the Kolymbithres beach is considered ideal. This is an amazing location with fine sand and a rock formation which resembles a lunar landscape. At the Golden Beach the sea can get quite rough, but the winds attract windsurfers from all over. Piso Livadi on the east coast has golden sands with very good tourist facilities and also some good hotels and other forms of accommodation. Close to Naussa on the north coast are the beaches with the quaint names of 'large and little piperi'.

For nature lovers a few kilometres outside Parikia is the Valley of the Butterflies.

Also there is the beach of Lymnes, the beaches of Santa Maria, Xifari, Lageri and, a little further to the south is the beautiful beach of Ampelas.

Just like anywhere else in Greece, you will find little bars and taverns even in the smallest village on Paros. If you really want to party, it's best to stay in Parikia - that's where the clubs and discos are.
Santorini is one of the most magical islands of Greece. It is a barren, rocky island just opposite a volcano, with black and red beaches and towns situated on high cliffs offering breathtaking views and fantastic sunsets. Santorini has a dramatic beauty as opposed to lush and green islands.

Approaching the island by boat the immediate impression obtained is this is a Greek island unlike any other. The island of Santorini was formed out of the lava from the volcanic eruption in 1660 BC. The central part of the volcano sank into the sea leading to the emergence of Santorini itself and the tiny neighbouring islands of Thirasia, Palaia and Nea Kameni close by.

The coloured strata of the volcanic rock of these cliffs are spectacular in themselves: chocolate brown, rust red, yellow ochre, white and cream. The geological uniqueness however is not the only thing that makes Santorini a special holiday destination.

Everyone has read about the spectacular sunsets that occur on this island and the sceptic may question whether the setting sun can really appear differently here than from the neighbouring islands of Naxos or Ios. Nevertheless, the sunsets at Santorini, viewed from the Caldera, really are breathtakingly beautiful when seen as a backdrop to the volcano. The colours that streak the sky change from lilac to deep purple, from yellow to orange to red, as the golden sun sinks and becomes blood red reflecting its light on to the sea and the surrounding little islands. The eastern slopes of the island are green and fertile, even in October.
Santorini main beaches have water sports. In general, Santorini beaches are wide with mainly black sand. Kamari and Perissa are popular beaches with their beautiful surroundings and black sand. If you seek calmer beaches, it is better to go to Monolithos, Vlichada or Agios Georgios. For snorkelling visit Amoudi.

Fira the capital of Santorini is built on the edge of the caldera at the west side of the island, at an altitude of 250 meters and was founded in the late 18th century. What impresses at first glance in Fira is the typical architecture of the houses and the stunning views. In Fira you can visit also the art exhibition in the famous mansion Gizi, the Archaeological museum and the Prehistoric museum.

At Oia you get the best sunsets, and both Oia and Fira are excellent towns for just strolling around and shopping. Imerovigli It is located about 2 miles north of Fira and south of Oia. The village of Imerovigli is build on the top of the Caldera at 300 metres over the sea level.

In Pyrgos a few kilometres from the capital you can see the medieval fortress Kasteli and admire a 10th century church and a monastery both with beautiful Byzantine icons and relics. The village of Messaria is also located close to Fira and is surrounded by vineyards, you should visit the two small churches that are built in caves. Ancient Thira: is situated on top of high cliff just above Kamari, and there is also and old church there from 1100.
With its relatively green, mountainous landscape, where tiny chapels and dovecotes are scattered everywhere, Tinos is a very beautiful island. There are many villages, and exploring the surroundings. The perfect island to explore on your own.

The many villages, 750 churches and dramatic nature makes Tenos one of Greece’s most interesting islands. The most popular beaches of Tinos are probably Agios Fokas and around Porto. Around Kionia you’ll also find some beaches, and there are many bays on the East coast.

The island of Virgin Mary. The traditional villages and the magnificent beaches of Tinos are expecting you for unforgettable holidays with view of the Aegean. Chapels, monasteries, windmills, pigeon houses, sculpture on green marble and painting are waiting for you to have a close look.

According to mythology the island was originally called "Snakeisland", Ofioussa, because of the many snakes. Poseidon chased them all away and was therefore a special god to the locals. Together with Delos, this was considered one of the holiest of islands, and the ancient Greek would come here to worship Poseidon, Amphitrite and Demeter, and drink from its holy, healing water.
Syros, Aegean’s nymph. This baronial island of Cyclades is in the center of the complex, enchanting visitors with its unique beauties.

Syros, the capital of Cyclades islands, is the ideal destination for short or long vacation, as it offers various options of activities, entertainment and touring. Being close to Piraeus’ port (80n.m.) and its frequent connection with it, make it popular to lovers of travelling.

Touring around the island can be full of surprises.

Syros has an extend of 86sq.km and characterizes for the alteration of sceneries.

As you walk through the inland you see infertile hilly bulks giving their place to fertile plains and cosmopolitan beaches giving their place to small, isolated coves.

The coasts on the South and West side are generally considered to have the best beaches. Galissas beach is a very beautiful sand beach, Vari, Finikas Bay and Gialos are also popular beaches without being overcrowded. It is worth trying a few of them. For families with children Ag Nikolaos, Ermoupolis and Ambela are recommended.
Legend has it that the first inhabitant, Keraunus ("Lightning"), came to the island riding on the back of a dolphin after his ship had sunk.

On Syros the oldest acropolis in the Cyclades have been found.

The name Syros probably comes from the ancient name "Sour" or "Osoura" which meant rocky in ancient Phoenician language.
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The Starfish Story

There was a young man walking down a deserted beach just before dawn. In the distance he saw a frail old man. As he approached the old man, he saw him picking up stranded starfish and throwing them back into the sea. The young man gazed in wonder as the old man again and again threw the small starfish from the sand to the water. He asked, "Old man, why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of time?"

The old man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. "But there must be thousands of beaches and millions of starfish!" exclaimed the young man. "How can you make any difference?"

The old man looked at the small starfish in his hand and as he threw it to the safety of the sea. He said, "It makes a difference to this one!".

The Sea

I am the beautiful sea, the provider for many. You may know me but only for what is in me. For the beauty I hold, it is I who chooses to make me beautiful. But only for those who deserve it. For being so mysterious and silent it is anger and frustration for what goes on around me. The way I work no one shall ever know. For my secrets you will never understand them. I am the great provider and if you give up on me, you shall lose me forever.

Wishing you a pleasant cruise !!!
Save the sea and her precious habitants.....
KYTHNOS