

The best Greek islands to visit in 2025

With 227 Greek islands to choose from, here are the ones that make for the best holiday

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Whitewashed churches with blue domes emerging out of rocky cliffs, gentle beaches rivalling that of the Caribbean and fresh fish suppers at rustic tavernas – it's no wonder that the Greek islands explode with sun-seeking holidaymakers. Despite their abundance, no two Greek islands feel quite the same – from the Cyclades in the south Aegean to the Ionian and Dodecanese to the west near the Turkish coast. We take a closer look at what makes some of the standouts.

When is the best time to visit the Greek islands?

The Greek islands' summer holiday season begins around late [spring](#) in April and ends in autumn around October. The weather is at its hottest (and the crowds are at their fullest) between early July and the end of August. If you want the warm weather with less of the crowds, visit in June or September. Autumn is also beautiful and the Aegean islands, the southerly Dodecanese and Crete are extremely pleasant.

How many Greek islands are there?

There are an impressive 6,000 islands and islets scattered in Greece, most of which are located in the Aegean and Ionian Sea. Of those thousands, only 227 islands are inhabited. The Cyclades is a popular group of islands in the Aegean Sea which includes Mykonos, Santorini and Naxos in its number, along with plenty of smaller, quieter islands. The Dodecanese islands are located further east towards Turkey, with Rhodes being the main island and the gateway to others such as Patmos and Symi. Another popular group is the Ionian islands, which lie off the west coast of Greece and include popular holiday [destinations](#) like Corfu, Kefalonia and Zakynthos. Closest in to the mainland are the Saronic islands, of which Hydra is a longstanding favourite for Greek holidaymakers.

Which is the most beautiful island?

If you close your eyes and imagine a Greek island, all whitewashed [houses](#), blue roofs, craggy landscapes and sparkling sea, Santorini is probably the closest you'll get to this mental image. There are some caveats, however: it's a pretty crowded place from a tourism point of view, with visitors landing in planes and cruise ships every day. For a more unspoiled beauty, head a little further north-east to Amorgos, where you can find equally dramatic landscapes and charming villages without the crowds.

Which is the quietest Greek island?

There are plenty of quiet islands out there, but Antiparos and Amorgos in the Cyclades are the best ones for our money; the former has some stylish and understatedly scene-y places to stay, while Amorgos is more determinedly unspoilt. If peace and tranquility is a priority, we recommend staying away from the [hotels](#) and renting a [villa](#).

The best Greek islands

Mykonos, Cyclades

Why go?

Mykonos has a longstanding and well-deserved reputation as a party island, and this is a place where you go for the scene and expect to pay for it. Visiting the island in July and August, expect to be cheek by jowl with other tourists, but you can still find a little peace and quiet in the spring and autumn. Mykonos Old Town is awash with high-end boutiques, high-fashion restaurants, and glamorous hotels, so it's not exactly a retreat from the outside world, but that can be part of the fun. For a quieter life, head to Kalafatis, which has a much more rural feel, though there are still bars and open-air restaurants to enjoy in the town. It's also an easy trip to the spectacular classical ruins of Delos, with easy ferries every day. The bonus with Mykonos is how easy it is to get to, with direct flights from many major cities. Make sure you hire a car, as getting around the island can be tricky.

For hotels, we love [Cali](#) in the low-key seaside town of Kalafatis on the south-eastern side of the island, which combines an emphasis on sustainability with discreet luxury in its 40 villa like suites. It's far removed from the hustle and bustle of Mykonos city, but still has a great bar and restaurant so you won't feel like you're missing out on the nightlife.

Located in the same town is [The Wild](#), a rustic-chic hotel with a spa, glorious hillside pool and the most charming private beach.

Big groups should make a beeline for [Villa Ipanema](#). Sleeping twenty guests in comfort with lots of space is no mean feat, but cleverly, this Mykonos villa is split into three main residences, allowing lots of privacy for all. It's on the north of the island, close to Mersini beach and set in a secluded spot on a hill, with sweeping views across the sea beyond.

How to get there

It's super easy to get to Mykonos, with regular flights running from London and most other major European cities. Ferries also run frequently from Athens.

Where to stay

- **For laid-back foodies:** [Kalesma Mykonos](#),
- **For discreet luxury:** [Cali](#)
- **For exclusivity:** [Soho Roc House](#)