

MYKONOS AND DELOS

Picturesque Mykonos, a well-known cosmopolitan center, is a small Aegean island 92 nautical miles from Piraeus. It is an inexhaustible source of interest for Greek and foreign artists attracted here by the Athens School of Fine Arts (Summer session). Its 3,600 inhabitants live an untroubled, leisurely and simple life.

HOTELS: Leto, "A" category; Delos, "D" category; Apollo, "D" category. Many private houses in Mykonos let very pleasant rooms at most reasonable prices.

RESTAURANTS: The hotels Leto and Delos, and the small taverns along the quay.

BEACHES: Aghios Stephanos, near the town, (4km. by road and 20 minutes by motorboat) has a beautiful beach and the Lido seaside summer resort. Megali Ammos, beyond the Leto hotel (2 km. by road). Ornos (4 km.). Aghios Ioannis (6.5 km.). Phtelia (4.5 km.) and Panormos (9.5 km.). Beaches may be reached from the town by car or motorboat.

WALKS-EXCURSIONS: Raphaki (50 min. walk), a well-planted park. Profitis Ilias (by foot or mule $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hrs). From the summit, a splendid view of Mykonos and the surrounding islands.

On the return journey, a little harbour of Panormo and Palaiokastros with remains of a medieval castle.

Monastery of Tourliani ($2\frac{1}{2}$ hours walk), on the east point of the island.

Opposite, a mile from the shore, is the islet Tragonesi, with its remarkable caves.

SPECIALITIES: Specialities of Mykonos are the tasty "louza" (a kind of smoked meat), pork sausages, and the well-known almond sweetmeats.

LOCAL CRAFTS: No visitor will fail to acquire after a few days the "Mykonian look". This is due chiefly to the tasteful products of the local craft industries: woven materials, skirts, belts, shorts, sandals, bags, shirts, handkerchiefs, ornaments etc. These are an irresistible attraction to the summer visitors of both sexes. Shirts hand-woven in the shop of Vienola Kousthonsa are highly recommended.

From Mykonos, one can travel by caique (a small boat) to the island, of Delos. In good weather, the trip lasts 20 minutes; if seas are rough, one hour.

According to legend, it was to Delos, then a wandering island, driven here and there by wind and wave and with no fixed position in the sea, that Leto fled to escape Hera's jealousy and to give birth to Zeus's son, Apollo, the god of light, harmony and beauty. After the child's birth, (at which his sister Artemis, born earlier on the neighboring island of Ortygia) the sea-wandering Delos became static, rooted to the seabed on adamantine columns, and acquired as its protector the

powerful Apollo and it has remained one of the most renowned places of the world.

The rise of Delos began in the 7th century B.C. with the Ionians and reached its peak in the 4th century B.C. Between those dates a rich city-state came into being, with temples, public buildings, marketplaces, baths, theaters and palaistras.

In 476 B.C., Delos became the headquarters of the first maritime confederacy under the direction of Athens (Delian League). It served as a port of call for ships sailing between the East and West and developed into a thriving commercial center.

Under the dominion of Athens it was established that every four years Athens and other cities should send delegations to Delos, bringing gifts to the temple of Apollo and sacrificial offerings for the god. The treasury of the sacred island grew to such an extent that in 454 B.C., the Athenians had it transferred at the last minute to the neighbouring island of Rhenea.

Later, under the protection of Rome, Delos experienced a fresh period of prosperity. Two large foreign trade guilds, the Hermaistai of Rome and the Poseidoniastai of Beirut, had their headquarters there and developed a lively commercial activity.

But the close connection of the island with Rome and the wealth it acquired led to its downfall. First Mithridates plundered the island in his war against Rome, and later it suffered a series of piratical raids. The city was destroyed, the inhabitants fled, and when in 200 A.D. Pausanias put it up to auction, no buyer was to be found for the ruined island, where only a few shepherds and their flocks now lived.

In the 19th century excavations by the French School at Athens uncovered a whole dead city, one of the most important of ancient Greece.

ACCOMMODATION-FOOD: Delos is still uninhabited. But food and accommodation are to be found at the Tourist Pavilion.

ANTIQUITIES: On arrival, go south from the landing stage to visit first the Agora of the Compoteliastae and the Portico of Philip, dedicated in the 5th century B.C. by Philip of Macedon to Apollo. Beyond are the traces of an ancient road leading to the Herseion of the Delian Apollo, to the Propylaea and to the House of the Naxians. In the same area are the Monuments of the Hexagons, the Agora of Theophrastus and the Shrine of Artemis, where many images and statues of the goddess were found.

Going down towards the southern shore we find three temples: the Temple of Apollo, a large Doric building erected between 50 and 30 B.C.; the Temple of the Athenians, and the Archaic Temple (6th century B.C.), with pronaos and cella, where the archaic statue of Apollo was discovered.

To the north the three temples are enclosed by five buildings built in a semicircle, like those at Olympia and Delphi, where the various treasures were kept.

Beyond the treasuries are the Shrine of the Bulls where virgins danced during the Delian festival in honor of Apollo; the Portico of Antigone (125 m. in length); and the Minoan Fountain, an oblong basin surrounded by a wall and a row of Doric columns.

Sacred Lake Quarter - In this quarter and forming a separate community the merchants and shipowners lived and carried on their business.

Round the Sacred Lake were grouped the various Agoras: the Stoa of Poseidon, and the Agora of the Italians (2nd century B.C.), the largest building in Delos; round a large central court with a Doric peristyle are porticos, exedrae, cells, and underground storerooms richly decorated with mosaics and statuary. The establishment was directed by a council of six members and was under the protection of Hermes; hence the appellation, Hermæistes, given to those belonging to it; c, the "Establishment of the Poseideoniasies of Bairut with chapels and a cistern. Here various noteworthy statues were found.

Still standing on the west shore of the Sacred Lake is a row of archaic marble lions, a gift of the Naxians to Delos.

Beyond the Lake are the Gymnasium, the Stadium and the Palaestra. Theater Quarter and Shrine of Mt. Cyntha - Following the paved road to the theater we come across a series of houses, with peristyles, cisterns, wells, and workshops, reminding the visitor of Pompeii. Particularly interesting, on account of their mosaics, are the House of Dionysos and the House of the Trident.

At the end of the road is the theater (late 4th century B.C.), with stage, orchestra, and tiers of seats. From the highest point of the theater there is a remarkably fine view over Delos.

Going towards the summit of Cyntha we reach the House of the Dolphins, with splendid mosaics; the House of Inopos, with a reservoir and various other works used for the water-supply of the lower city; and the quarter of the Shrines of the Eastern Gods, the gods of the Egyptians and the Syrians. The final halt before the summit is at the Lair of the Dragon. On the summit is the temple of Zeus and Athena, with votive offerings and a reservoir with mosaics.

The Commercial Quarter: Between the Theater quarter and the shore, are the ruins of the offices of trading companies, bathhouses and warehouses of the marine city.

The Museum: In the Museum are exhibited sculptures of the Archaic period (7th and 6th centuries B.C.), rich in Kouroi and Korai, with a few pieces from the classical period. There is a rich collection of funerary steles and votive offerings, and of household objects.

Rhenea or Great Delos: Ten minutes away from Delos by motorboat is the Island of Rhenea, with the necropolis of the ancient Delians.

A WORD OF CAUTION: On the island of Delos are open cisterns which could be a hazard to personnel unaware of their presence.