

## Greece - Mykonos

Mykonos is perhaps the most famous of the Greek islands and the jewel of the Cyclades. This rugged and cosmopolitan island is dotted with picture postcard white and blue houses with balconies and stairs decorated with geranium and basil plants all linked by narrow, paved lanes still worked by donkeys and interspersed with many small churches with blue and red domes.

The island has become a haven for those seeking relaxation but also lively nightlife, boutiques and is one of the handful of chic, must-visit destinations in the Mediterranean. The island is fun, sexy and unashamedly expensive compared to its neighbours.

The harbour is the heart of Hora, the island's commercial and social centre, bedecked with picturesque fishing boats. Alefkantra is another charming corner of Hora, the "Venice" of Mykonos. The houses are built on the sea, with wooden balconies that evoke Venice. These were built from the mid 18th century onward and were homes of wealthy merchants and captains.

The most photographed monument on the island (and one of the most photographed churches in the world) is Ayios Efstyhios, an inspired architectural complex of five churches with the Paraportiani Chapel perched on the roof and reached by an exterior stone staircase.

The windmills constitute one of the symbols of the island. From wherever you are, you can see their silhouette, either on the heights above Chora or on the level area near Alefkantra. Today, of course, they are no longer used for grinding, but their position and importance remains. A few have been restored and operate as museums, such as the Bonis mill. Others have been renovated and are used as dwellings.

The entire island is studded with beautiful villages, interesting churches and dreamy beaches.