

📍 MILOS, GREECE

Skip Santorini. Go to Milos.

The guide: 3 days, every spot pinned, every number sourced.

Milos sits in the same volcanic arc as Santorini, about a three-hour fast ferry from Athens. What it doesn't have is the Santorini crowd. Here's the comparison, using official counts where they exist.

~2×
the size. Milos ≈ 151 km², Santorini's main island ≈ 73 km².

⅓
of the population. 5,193 residents vs 15,480 (2021 census).

30×
more cruise passengers on Santorini in 2024: 1,345,837 vs 44,080 on Milos.

24×
more air passengers through Santorini's airport in 2024: 2,875,052 vs 117,687.

70+
beaches, per Greece's official tourism site.

1820
The Venus de Milo was found on Milos on 8 April 1820. It's now in the Louvre.

#1
Best island in the world, Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards 2021 (reader vote).

Population and area figures are by municipality; Santorini's includes tiny Therasia. Cruise figures come from the Hellenic Ports Association (ELIME) and airport figures from an MTC Group analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data. Full sources are on page 3.

Heads-up: Milos is getting busier. Cruise calls went from 81 in 2023 to 109 in 2024. Go soon, and go in June or September.



📍 KLEFTIKO, MILOS

3 days on Milos



DAY 1 · NORTH COAST

Moon rock and a hilltop sunset

- **Sarakiniko** first thing: white volcanic rock shaped by wind and waves. There's no shade, so go early.
- **Papafragas**: a narrow sea gorge between cliffs. The path down is steep and loose, but the lookout by the car park is an easy walk.
- **Firopotamos** for a swim, then **Mandrakia**, another fishing hamlet.
- Sunset from **Plaka Kastro**: about 15–20 min uphill from the parking lot, past the church of Panagia Thalassitra. If you'd rather skip the climb, **Panagia Korfiatissa** in Plaka is the other popular sunset spot.



DAY 2 · BY SEA

Kleftiko, the pirates' cove

- Take a **boat day trip to Kleftiko**, sea caves and white rock arches in the southwest. Its name comes from *kleftis*, Greek for thief, after the pirates said to have hidden there.
- A rough hiking trail exists, but most guides recommend the boat. Book it early.
- Evening: **Klima**. Its *syrmata* are fishermen's houses with boat garages on the ground floor and painted doors.
- The **Catacombs of Milos** at Trypiti are early-Christian burial tunnels cut into the volcanic rock. The Venus de Milo was found nearby, around Trypiti, in 1820.



DAY 3 · SOUTH COAST OR KIMOLOS

Pick by the wind

- **Windy day:** head south to **Paleochori**, **Firiplaka** and **Tsigrado**. Tsigrado is reached by a rope and a wooden ladder, at your own risk, and is not for kids.
- **Calm day:** take the small ferry from **Pollonia** to **Kimolos**, about 20–30 min. Tickets are sold at the port.

The wind rule: in July and August the *meltemi* blows from the north. Then the north beaches (Sarakiniko, Papafragas) get rough and Kleftiko boats can be cancelled, so swap to the south coast. Keep a spare day in your plan.

Plan it

Getting there

- **Fly** Athens → Milos (MLO) in about 40 min with Olympic Air or Sky Express. The planes are small turboprops because the runway is short.
- **Ferry** from Piraeus: high-speed boats take about 2.5–3.5 h, and conventional ferries take longer. Times change by season, so check before you book.

Getting around

- **Rent a car or ATV** in Adamas, the port. It's the easiest way to see the island.
- **KTEL buses** leave from Adamas for Plaka/Trypiti, Pollonia and more. Service is limited and usually cash only.

Where to stay

- **Adamas**: the port, with the most buses and boat trips.
- **Pollonia**: quieter, and the Kimolos ferry leaves from here.
- **Plaka**: on the hilltop, with sunsets, but you'll want a car.

When to go

- **June or September**: warm sea and fewer people.
- **July–August**: hottest and busiest, plus the meltemi wind.
- Book Kleftiko boats and rooms ahead in summer.

📌 Every spot, one tap in Google Maps

Sarakiniko Beach
Papafragas Beach
Firopotamos
Mandrakia
Plaka Kastro (sunset)
Panagia Korfiatissa
Kleftiko
Klima (syrmata)
Catacombs of Milos
Paleochori Beach
Firiplaka Beach
Tsigrado Beach
Pollonia (Kimolos ferry)
Adamas Port

Sources

Population (2021 census) & area: wikipedia.org/wiki/Milos, wikipedia.org/wiki/Santorini · Cruise 2024: Hellenic Ports Association (ELIME) final 2024 arrivals table, elime.gr · Airports 2024: news.gtp.gr (MTC Group / HCAA) · 70+ beaches: visitgreece.gr · Venus de Milo: wikipedia.org/wiki/Venus_de_Milo · T+L 2021: news.gtp.gr. Checked 14 Nov 2026. Ferry and flight times are typical and change by season.

Photos (Wikimedia Commons)

Sarakiniko aerial & Kleftiko aerial: dronepicr, CC BY 2.0 · Sarakiniko, Kleftiko cove, Klima syrmata: Zde, CC BY-SA 4.0.