

Paros

Paros (/ˈpɛərɒs/; Greek: Πάρος; Venetian: *Paro*) is a Greek island in the central Aegean Sea. One of the Cyclades island group, it lies to the west of Naxos, from which it is separated by a channel about 8 kilometres (5 miles) wide.^[2] It lies approximately 150 km (93 miles) south-east of Piraeus. The Municipality of Paros includes numerous uninhabited offshore islets totaling 196.308 square kilometres (75.795 sq mi) of land.^[3] Its nearest neighbor is the municipality of Antiparos, which lies to its southwest.

Historically, Paros was known for its fine white marble, which gave rise to the term "Parian" to describe marble or china of similar qualities.^[4] Today, abandoned marble quarries and mines can be found on the island, but Paros is primarily known as a popular tourist spot.

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Geography

Paros' geographic co-ordinates are 37° N. latitude, and 25° 10' E. longitude.^[2] The area is 165 km² (64 sq mi). Its greatest length from N.E. to S.W. is 21 km (13 mi), and its greatest breadth 16 km (10 mi).^[2] The island is of a round, plump-pear shape, formed by a single mountain (724 m (2,375 ft)) sloping evenly down on all sides to a maritime plain, which is broadest on the north-east and south-west

Paros Πάρος



From top left: Parikia, Panagia Ekatontapiliani, the Frankish Castle and a typical Paros street



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΠΑΡΟΥ

Flag



Seal



Location within the region

sides.^[2] The island is composed of marble, though gneiss and micaschist are to be found in a few places.^[2] To the west of Paros lies its smaller sister island Antiparos. At its narrowest, the channel between the two islands is less than 2 km (1 mi) wide. A car-carrying shuttle-ferry operates all day (to and from Pounta, 5 km (3 mi) south of Parikia). In addition a dozen smaller islets surround Paros.

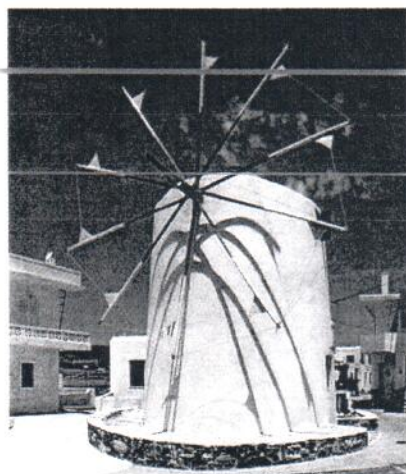
Paros has numerous beaches including Chrissi Akti (Golden Beach, Greece) near Drios on the east coast, at Pounta, Logaras, Piso Livadi, Naousa Bay, Parikia and Agia Irini. The constant strong wind in the strait between Paros and Naxos makes it a favoured windsurfing location.

Islands

- Gaiduronisi – north of Xifara
- Portes Island – west of the town of Paros
- Tigani Island – southwest of Paros
- Drionisi – southeast of Paros

History

Antiquity



A windmill in Marpissa is of the traditional Cyclades design.

The story that Paros of Parrhasia colonized the island with Arcadians^[5] is an etymological fiction of the type that abounds in Greek legends. Ancient names of the island are said to have been Plateia (or Pactia), Demetrias, Strongyli (meaning round, due to the round shape of the island), Hyria, Hyleessa, Minoa and Cabarnis.^{[2][6]}

The island later received from Athens a colony of Ionians^[7] under whom it attained a high degree of prosperity. It sent out colonies to Thasos^[8] and Parium on the Hellespont. In the former colony, which was planted in the 15th or 18th Olympiad, the poet Archilochus,^[9] a native of Paros, is said to have taken part. As late as 385 BC the Parians, in conjunction with Dionysius of Syracuse, founded a colony on the Illyrian island of Pharos^{[2](Hvar)}.^[10]

Shortly before the Persian War, Paros seems to have been a dependency of Naxos.^{[2][11]} In the first Greco-Persian War (490 BC), Paros sided with the Persians and sent a trireme to Marathon to support them. In retaliation, the capital was besieged by an Athenian fleet under Miltiades, who demanded a fine of 100 talents.^[2] But the town offered a vigorous resistance, and the Athenians were obliged to sail away after a siege of 26 days, during which they had wasted the island.^[2]



Coordinates: 37°5'N 25°9'E

Country	Greece
Administrative region	South Aegean
Regional unit	Paros
Area	
• Municipality	196.3 km ² (75.8 sq mi)
Highest elevation	724 m (2,375 ft)
Lowest elevation	0 m (0 ft)
Population (2011) ^[1]	
• Municipality	13,715
• Municipality density	70/km ² (180/sq mi)
Community ^[1]	
• Population	6,058 (2011)
Time zone	EET (UTC+2)
• Summer (DST)	EEST (UTC+3)
Postal code	844 00
Area code(s)	22840
Vehicle registration	EM
Website	www.paros.gr (http://www.paros.gr)

It was at a temple of Demeter Thesmophoros in Paros that Miltiades received the wound from which he died.^{[2][12]} By means of an inscription, Ross was able to identify the site of the temple; it lies, as Herodotus suggests, on a low hill beyond the boundary of the town.^[2]

Paros also sided with shahanshah Xerxes I of Persia against Greece in the second Greco-Persian War (480–479 BC), but, after the battle of Artemisium, the Parian contingent remained inactive at Kythnos as they watched the progression of events.^{[2][13]} For their support of the Persians, the islanders were later punished by the Athenian war leader Themistocles, who exacted a heavy fine.^{[2][14]}

Under the Delian League, the Athenian-dominated naval confederacy (477–404 BC), Paros paid the highest tribute of the island members: 30 *talents* annually, according to the estimate of Olympiodorus (429 BC).^{[2][15]} This implies that Paros was one of the wealthiest islands in the Aegean. Little is known about the constitution of Paros, but inscriptions seem to show that it was modeled on the Athenian democracy, with a *boule* (senate) at the head of affairs.^{[2][16]} In 410 BC, Athenian general Theramenes discovered that Paros was governed by an oligarchy; he deposed the oligarchy and restored the democracy.^[17] Paros was included in the second Athenian confederacy (the Second Athenian Empire 378–355 BC). In c. 357 BC, along with Chios, it severed its connection with Athens.

From the inscription of Adule, it is understood that the Cyclades, which are presumed to include Paros, were subjected to the Ptolemies, the Hellenistic dynasty (305–30 BC) that ruled Egypt.^[2] Paros then became part of the Roman Empire and later of the Byzantine Empire, its Greek-speaking successor state.

Crusades

In 1204, the soldiers of the Fourth Crusade seized Constantinople and overthrew the Byzantine Empire. Although a residual Byzantine state known as the Empire of Nicaea survived the Crusader onslaught and eventually recovered Constantinople (1261), many of the original Byzantine territories, including Paros, were lost permanently to the crusading powers. Paros became subject to the Duchy of the Archipelago, a fiefdom made up of various Aegean islands ruled by a Venetian duke as nominal vassal of a succession of crusader states. In practice, however, the duchy was always a client state of the Republic of Venice.

Ottoman Era and independence

In 1537, Paros was conquered by the Ottoman Turks and remained under the Ottoman Empire until the Greek War of Independence (1821–1829). During the Russo-Turkish War (1768–1774) in 1770–1775 Naoussa Bay was the home base for the Russian Archipelago Squadron of Count Alexey Orlov. Under the Treaty of Constantinople (1832), Paros became part of the newly independent Kingdom of Greece, the first time the Parians had been ruled by fellow Greeks for over six centuries. At this time, Paros became the home of a heroine of the nationalist movement, Manto Mavrogenous, who had both financed and they fought in the war for independence. Her house, near Ekatontapiliani church, is today a historical monument.

On 26 September 2000 the ferry MS Express Samina collided with the Portes islets off the bay of Parikia, killing 82 of those on board.^[18]



Church of Zoodohos Pigi, Parikia



Manto Mavrogenous

Parikia



Panoramic view over the bay of Parikia

The capital, Parikia, situated on a bay on the north-west side of the island, occupies the site of the ancient capital Paros.^[2] Parikía harbour is a major hub for Aegean islands ferries and catamarans, with several sailings each day for Piraeus, the port of Athens, Heraklion, the capital of Crete, and other islands such as Naxos, Ios, Mykonos, and Santorini.

In Parikia town, houses are built and decorated in the traditional Cycladic style, with flat roofs, whitewash walls and blue-painted doors and window frames and shutters. Shadowed by luxuriant vines, and surrounded by gardens of oranges and pomegranates,^[2] the houses give the town a picturesque aspect. Above the central stretch of the seafront road, are the remains of a medieval castle, built almost entirely of the marble remains^[2] of an ancient temple dedicated to Apollo. Similar traces of antiquity, in the shape of bas-reliefs, inscriptions, columns, and so on, are numerous. On a hillside in the southern outskirts of Parikia on the left of the Parikia – Alyki road are the remains of a temple dedicated to Asclepius. In addition, close to the modern harbour, the remains of an ancient cemetery are visible, having been discovered recently during non-archaeological excavations.

Back from the port, around 400 m left of Parikia's main square, is the town's principal church, the Panagia Ekatontapiliani, literally meaning "church of the hundred doors". Its oldest features almost certainly predate the adoption of Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire in 391. It is said to have been founded by the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (ruled 306–337), Saint Helen, during her pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There are two adjoining chapels, one of very early form, and also a baptistry with a cruciform font.^[2]

Parikia town has a small but interesting archaeological museum housing some of the many finds from sites in Paros. The best pieces, however, are in the Athens National Archaeological Museum. The Paros museum contains a fragment of the Parian Chronicle, a remarkable chronology of ancient Greece. Inscribed in marble, its entries give time elapsed between key events from the most distant past (1500 BC) down to 264 BC.^[19]



Panagia Ekatontapiliani in Parikia



Parikia, Paros

Other settlements



Street of Naoussa

On the north side of the island is the bay of Naoussa (Naoussa) or Agoussa, which provides a safe and spacious harbour. In ancient times it was closed by a chain or boom. Another good harbour is that of Drios on the south-east side, where the Turkish fleet used to anchor on its annual voyage through the Aegean^[2] during the period of Ottoman rule over Paros (1537–1832).



View of Lefkes village

The three villages of Dragoulas, Mármara and Tsipidos, situated on an open plain on the eastern side of the island, and rich in remains of antiquity, probably occupy the site of an ancient town.^[2] They are known together as the "villages of Kephalos" after the steep and lofty hill of Kephalos.^[2] On this

hilltop stands the monastery of *Agios Antonios* (St. Anthony). Around it are the ruins of a medieval castle which belonged in the late Middle Ages to the Venetian noble family of the Venieri.^[2] They gallantly but vainly defended it against the Turkish admiral Barbarossa in 1537.

Another settlement on the island Paros is Lefkes (Λεύκες). Lefkes is an inland mountain village 10 km (6 mi) away from Parikia. In the late 19th century, Lefkes was the center of the municipality of Iria which belonged to the Province of Naxos until 1912. The name of the municipality Iria was one of the ancient names of Paros. Lefkes was the capital of the municipality Iria which included the villages Angyria or Ageria, Aliki, Aneratzia, Vounia, Kamari, Campos, Langada, Maltes and Marathi. Iria became Lefkes Community following the law enforcement DNZ/1912 "On Municipalities". At that time, the village managed to achieve great economic development. In the 1970s many residents moved to Athens, Maroussi and Melissia due to urbanization. However, the last few years, tourism presented to be a new source of income for the locals that led to the reconstruction of homes and landscaping for a peaceful and sweet life. Lefkes became part of the municipality of Paros in the Kapodistrias local government reform. In the latest census (2011) the population numbered 545 inhabitants.



Traditional street of Lefkes

Marble quarries

Parian marble, which is white and translucent (semi-transparent), with a coarse grain and a very beautiful texture, was the chief source of wealth for the island.^[2] The celebrated marble quarries lie on the northern side of the mountain anciently known as Marathi (afterwards Capresso), a little below a former convent of St Mina.^[2] The marble, which was exported from the 6th century BC onwards, was used by Praxiteles and other great Greek sculptors. It was obtained by means of subterranean quarries driven horizontally or at a descending angle into the rock.^[2] The marble thus quarried by lamplight was given the name of Lychnites, Lychneus (from *lychnos*, a lamp), or Lygdos.^[2]^[20] Several of these tunnels are still to be seen.^[2] At the entrance to one of them is a bas-relief dedicated to Pan and the nymphs.^[2] Several attempts to work the marble have been made in modern times, but it has not been exported in any great quantities.^[2] The major part of the remaining white marble is now state-owned and, like its Pentelic counterpart, is only used for archaeological restorations.

Beaches to visit in Paros

LIVADIA

It is the most central beach in Paros since it is located only 700 meters from the port of Parikia. It is ideal for those who want to be in the centre of the island. It is enormously wide and is separated in a lot of sections, with or without umbrellas, with or without trees and for this it satisfies the preferences of most visitors.

KRIOS

It is a beach opposite from the port of Parikia and you can visit it by boat or by car. You can find there organized camping, taverns, bars, beach volley and other activities. There are crystal-waters and the view to the port is unique.

AGIA IRINI

It is a small sandy beach south-west of Parikia. The palm trees make this bay particularly scenic. It is a beach to relax far from the trouble and the crowd. Certainly worth visiting although you may have to walk a bit from where the nearest bus stop is.

KOLIMPYTHRES

It is a separate beach in the western part of Naoussa. You can go there either by taxi-boat from the port of Naoussa or by car. This beach is unique because it is full of rocks, which create independent sections. It is a quiet beach, well organised with a restaurant near by and umbrellas. The scene is rocky and quite different from the sandy beaches you would normally expect in Paros. Well worth the visit. If you don't like it you can always go to monastiri beach which is next to it.

MONASTIRI

It is located in a distance of 2 kilometers from Kolympithres, west of Naoussa. It is a long sandy coast between rocks. It is suitable for the fans of parties and events. Monastiri also has a restaurant which in addition to its normal Greek menu, offers a range of sandwiches to take away with you on the beach.

PIPERI

Piperi is the central beach of Naoussa and is only 250 meters away from the port. It is suitable for swimming and sunbathing and is located between imposing rocks, offering an amazing view.

SANTA MARIA

It is in the Eastern coast of island near Naoussa and includes many sandy beaches. There are many facilities such as camping, beach volley and a windsurfing school. You can go there by car or by boat. A beach bar that plays music and offers cocktails is there to keep you company. The music is mostly lounge or chill out music so don't worry if you are not into loud party music.

GOLDEN BEACH - NEW GOLDEN BEACH

It is one of the most famous beaches of Paros in the south-east part and you can visit it by bus or by car. It is a very long and wide sandy beach, with spotless waters. It became famous because it offers ideal weather conditions for windsurfing and kite surfing. Here every summer the World Cup of Professional Windsurfing takes place and for this reason it is well organized. You can find equipment for windsurf, taverns, hotels and rented apartments near by.

PUNDA BEACH

Punda beach is located in the south-east part of the island and is very popular for the ongoing party that is organized on the beach. It is relatively small in size but very beautiful, because it will remind you of tropical and exotic places. It is always over-crowded, especially by young people, that enjoy partying and extreme sports such as bungee jumping. You can go there by bus or by car.

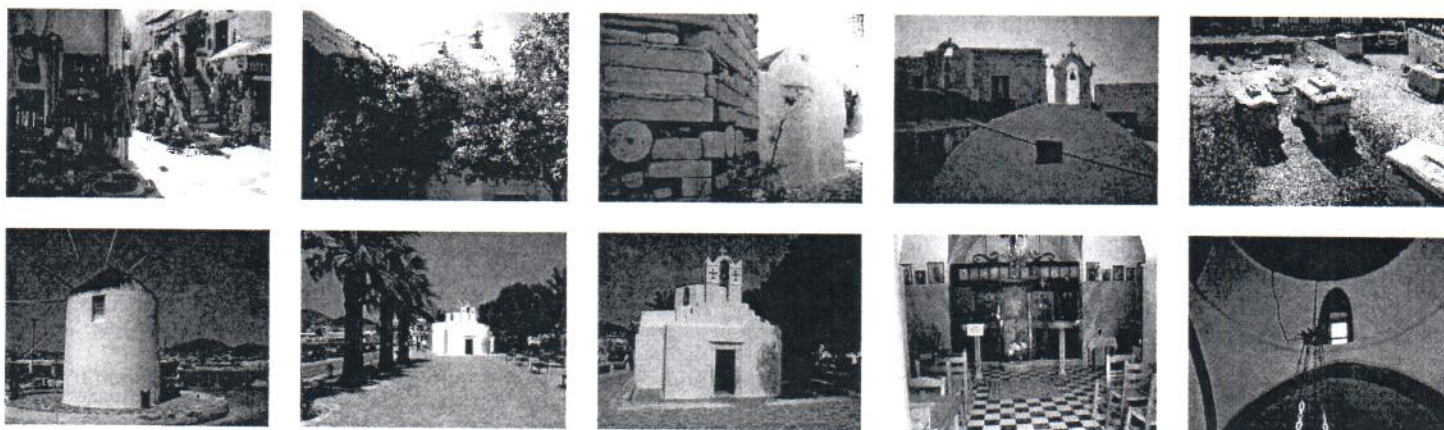
MOLOS

Molos beach is located near the village of Marmara (which means marbles in Greek), in the Eastern coast of the island and you should visit it by car because the bus station is far away. It is a beautiful beach, with deep crystal waters and offers unique view to the island of Naxos.

The island of Paros in the Greek Cyclades is an island where we have been many times, in the beginning usually just to catch the small ferry to Antiparos, or on the way to another island. This is where almost every ferry in the Cyclades make a stop, and where you can find connections to most other islands. Paros is central station for the ferries. Until recently it was however not very high on my list of Islands I like to visit, but this changed when I started to explore the island. The first time we stayed at the tourist center Naoussa, which is on all the postcards, but can also get pretty busy in high season. But the island Paros has got a good amount of 'hidden treasures' as well. Personally I loved the southcoast. If you want to meet some authentic Greece, and want to get some rest during your holiday as well than go there. If you want life and action and some good (but more crowded) beaches close at hand you can for instance stay in Parikia and maybe rent a scooter or a car to see some more of the island. There are several places for car rental on the island.

The island of Paros is quite large and is centrally located in the Cyclades. Therefore it is called upon by many ferries. Actually the island is hard to be avoided (if you should wish to) by the islandhoppers. This is one of the reasons why during the peak in high season it can get very busy. This is partly to blame on the charm of Paros, because there are plenty of good sandy beaches, it's quite fertile and there is also some kind of nightlife for the people who enjoy that. And now some more very positive news about the beautiful and also quiet eastcoast of Paros with the village of Piso Livadi and the beach at Chrissi Akti. And not to forget there is the amazing and almost deserted southcoast with endless beaches, beautiful rockformations, views over other islands (amongst them Antiparos), the small ferry harbour Punta and the delightful small village of Alyki with its whitewashed houses and plenty of brightly coloured fishingboats. The footnote is that in recent years much has been built on the island and especially along the coast. The people that like it quiet will therefore have to make some more effort and get off the beaten tracks to find an empty beach. The best option still seems the coastline between Punta (in the south opposite Antiparos - with the small ferry going up and down) and Alyki, or also especially recommended: Faranga Beach, which is also close to Alyki in the south of the island. Compared to its neighbours Santorini and Mykonos it is still relatively quiet though, especially if you know where to go to. Paros large map - [click here](#)

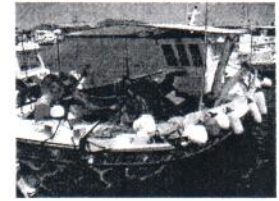
Parikia, the capital of the island of Paros



Parikia is the capital and the main tourist resort and it is located in a protected bay on the west coast. This place has been inhabited since the Bronze Age, and was always the capital. There was once an early Cycladic village on the site. Only during the occupation by the Turks Parikia was not the capital, as they chose Lefkes for that. This place offered a better protection against attacks by pirates. Today Parikia is a long stretched village that extends primarily along the coast rather than up into the hills. In the center is a typical Cycladic Chora, complete with a piece of Venetian wall (built in 1207 on the site of the old akropolis). Even if it gets busy Parikia is still a bit of fun. To the west lies the old part of town and to the east the beach and the more modern part, where most of the hotels are located. The ferries come into the quay where the large white windmill is standing. Nearby you will find the bus station, the taxi stand (behind the mill) and the place where the boat to the island of Antiparos leaves.

Along the quay is a great choice in tavernas, shops, ticket stores (for the ferry) and cafes and you find relics from the ancient Greek time. In Parikia there are also two cinemas, including an open-air theater (with English films). The nightlife is dominated by a large number of cocktail bars at the port and the streets a bit beyond. Behind the promenade of the Port are narrow shopping streets and pretty white houses with bougainvillas and here and there is a small square with a couple of tavernas. Parikia also has a few nice beaches within reach, of which the largest is the townbeach. On both sides (in the east and the west) are even more beaches, including the beach at Livadia in the west and the bays / beaches of Krios still a bit further, which are also used by naturists. Greek wooden boats, buses and taxis will bring you to the other beaches on the island that are often more quiet and more beautiful. We liked the harbour and main-village Parikia, although the beach directly in the port is not very inviting with ferries sailing in all the time. It is better to go to one of the beaches just outside the center, like the long sandy beach of Livadia. Parikia has plenty of sights, some nice shopping streets and lots of terraces overlooking the sea. The only problem is perhaps the waiters in the restaurants, that can sometimes be a bit pushy trying to get you in their restaurant when you are not hungry. A friendly terrace I found was at the end of the boulevard in a cafe called Latte.

The village of Naoussa on Paros



On our first visit to Paros, we stayed in the village Naoussa. In itself, this is a very picturesque fishing village with a beautiful harbour with the typical Greek colored boats, nice restaurants and all kinds of things that look good on your holiday snaps. Unfortunately there is no really good beach in the village itself (there is one but it tends to catch some wind) and in the evening it really gets very busy. Apparently, everyone in the village leaves during the daytime in search for the beaches in the area. In the evening everyone comes back and you stumble over the people. Naoussa is located in the north of Paros and is dominated by a large church. In many guides, the village is described as smaller and more beautiful than Parikia, but this is a matter of opinion. If I could choose myself I would prefer to stay in Parikia. The village is overflowed and it is very touristic (especially in the evenings as I just said, it is okay in the daytime), not just during the high season. There will, of course, be people who do not agree with me and that will send me an e-mail to tell so, but this is my humble opinion, and there are others. You have to decide for yourself which has your preference. It is a nice village I agree to go and have a look around because it is indeed colourful and picturesque. In the center of town is the old white chora, there is a nice promenade with tavernas and the harbour with the kaiks and the old Venetian houses in the background will do well in your photo album. Through the centre runs a (in the summer dried out) river. Here you will find the bus station of the village. There are boats and buses to a number of better beaches in the immediate vicinity of Naoussa, including the beach of Santa Maria.

How to get to the island of Paros by ferry or by plane



Paros can be easily reached from Piraeus, where there are daily ferries going to the Cycladic islands. The journey takes three hours or more depending on the speed of the boat you take and the schedule it follows. Sometimes there are ferries from Rafina to the island of Paros. On the airport of Athens there are regular busses going to Rafina, and you don't have to drive through Athens itself. Off course you can also take a taxi. The ride takes about half an hour. It's also possible to fly to the island of Paros from Athens. If you want to check the ferries from and to Paros and order a ticket - [click here](#).














Paros has an airport for for domestic flights and can also be reached by plane from Athens (national flights only because there is no international airport). For plane tickets from Athens to the island of Paros check Aegean Airlines.

Telephone numbers for health and police services in Paros

Health services in Paros

- HEALTH CENTER: +302284360000
- MEDICAL CENTER: +302284024410-1, fax: +302284024412
- MICROBIOLOGICAL LABORATORY: +302284024700
- COMMUNITY CLINIC OF MARPISSA: +302284041205
- COMMUNITY CLINIC OF AGERIA: +302284091277
- COMMUNITY CLINIC OF NAOUSSA: +302284051216
- COMMUNITY CLINIC OF MARMARA: +302284043065
- COMMUNITY CLINIC OF KOSTOS: +302284023730
- COMMUNITY CLINIC OF LEFKES: +302284041728
- IKA DOCTOR: +302284024702
- IKA DOCTOR – GENERAL PRACTITIONER: +302284021075
- MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT OF THE N/E CYCLADES - PARIKIA: +302284022011, fax: +302284024911
- VETERINARY CLINIC OF PARIKIA: +302284021228, fax:+302284028469

-  ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΟΔΟΣ
MAIN ROAD
-  ΑΣΦΑΛΤΟΠΡΟΒΕΛΗ ΟΔΟΣ
PAVED ROAD
-  ΧΥΜΑΙΩΔΩΡΜΟΣ
UNIMPROVED ROAD
-  ΛΙΜΑΝΙ
PORT
-  ΑΕΡΟΔΡΟΜΙΟ
AIRPORT
-  ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΑ
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
-  ΜΟΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΝΑΟΙ
MONASTERIES AND CHURCHES
-  ΣΠΗΛΙΟ
CAVE
-  ΠΕΤΑΛΟΥΔΕΣ
BUTTERFLY VALLEY
-  ΠΑΡΑΛΙΑ
SANDY BEACH
-  ΓΑΜΑΞΙΑ ΣΠΟΡ
WATER SPORTS

N. ΠΑΡΟΣ I. ΠΑΡΟΣ

