



#### Poros island

Poros  $(\Pi \acute{o} pos)$  is separated from the mountainous Peloponnese by a narrow sea channel, and its protected setting makes the main settlement of Poros Town seem like a cheery lakeside resort. Its pastel-hued houses stack up the hillside to a clock tower and make a vibrant first impression.

Poros is made up of two land masses connected by a finy isthmus: Steria, which is occupied mainly by the town of Poros, and the much larger and mainly forested Kalavria, which has the island's beaches and seasonal hotels scattered along its southern shore. Poros still maintains a sense of remoteness in its sparsely populated, forested interior.

The Peloponnesian town of Galatas lies on the opposite shore, making Poros a useful base from which to explore the ancient sites of the Peloponnese. For example, the exquisite ancient theatre of Epidavros is within reach by car or taxi.





### Poros town



Poros Town is a mishmash of charming ice cream-coloured houses that look out across the narrow channel at Galatas and the shapely mountains of the Peloponnese. Sailboats bob along the lengthy quay while ferries glide through the channel and smaller vessels scurry to and tro. Behind the harbour, plateies (squares) and tavernas hide from view and a rocky bluff rises steeply to a crowning clock tower.



## Temple of Poseidon



There's very little left of this 6th-century temple: once it was a magnificent building giving sanctuary to fugitives and wrecked sailors, but in the 18th century it was mostly dismantled and the materials used to build a monastery on Hydra. Still, the walk to the site is worthwhile and there are superb views of the Saronic Gulf and the Peloponnese.



## Russian Bay



Secluded Russian Bay is the best beach on Poros (an island admittedly not famous for its sandy strands). The water is clear, and the backdrop ruin of a 19th-century Russian naval base lends the beach not just its name, but an appealingly historic atmosphere.



# Moni Zoödohou Pigis



The 'Monastery of the Life-giving Spring', was constructed in the 18th century and has a beautiful gilded wooden iconostasis (a screen bearing icons) from Asia Minor. The monks have moved on to less-touristed places, but the caretaker should be able to let you in.



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