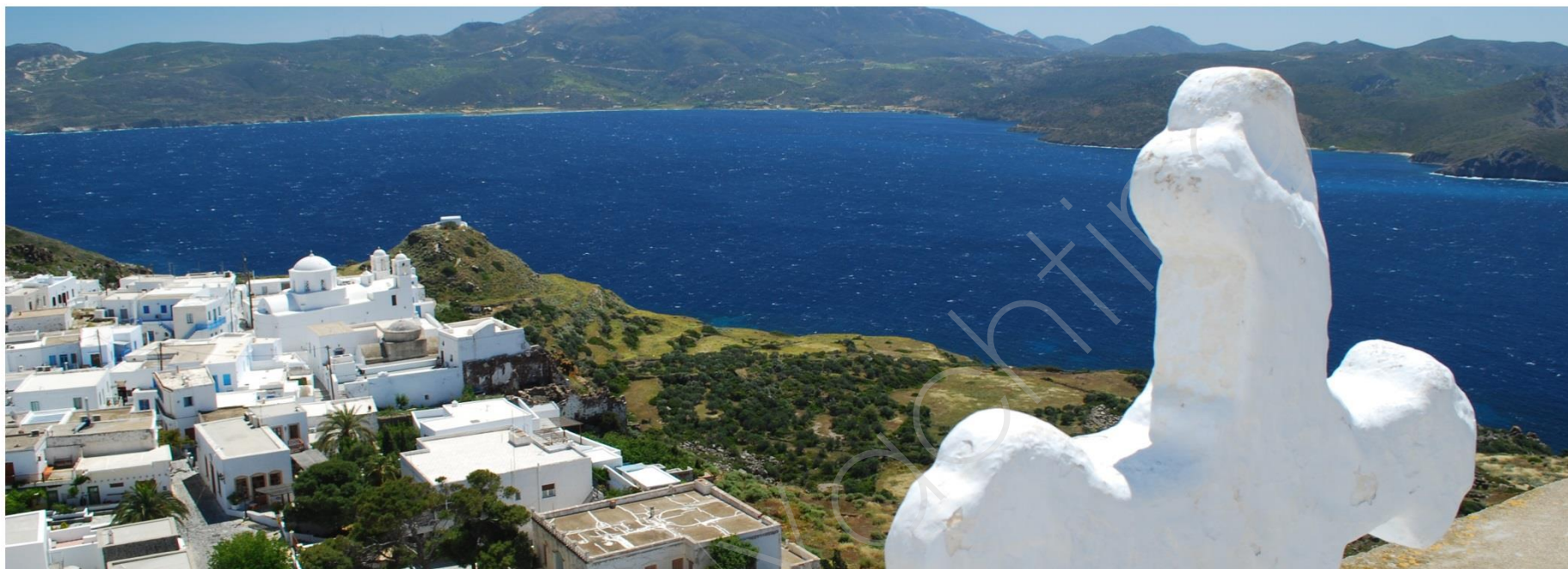




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MILOS

itinerary



Milos island

Volcanic Milos arches around a central caldera and is ringed with dramatic coastal landscapes of colourful and surreal rock formations. The island's most celebrated export, the iconic Venus de Milo, is far away in the Louvre but hot springs, the most beaches of any Cycladic island and a series of quaint villages populated by friendly people add to its current, compelling, attractions.

Capital Plaka and stunning Klima are just two of the little villages worth visiting and Filakopi, an ancient Minoan city in the island's northeast, was one of the earliest settlements in the Cyclades. The island has a tascinating history of mineral extraction dating from the Neolithic period when obsidian was exported to the Minoan world of Crete. Today Milos is the biggest bentonite and perlite centre in the EU.



Adamas

Fishermen sell their wares in the early morning at the lively port of Adamas (also Adamantas). Loaded with accommodation, shops and general services, the modern village also has a diverting waterfront scene.



Firopotamos

A seaside settlement with a small, yet organized beach, appropriate for swimming and fishing. It is full of tamarisks and a creek surrounded by "symmata". At its edge, after the fishing houses, you will see the deserted ladder used for loading and the Church of Saint Nikolaos.



Kleftiko

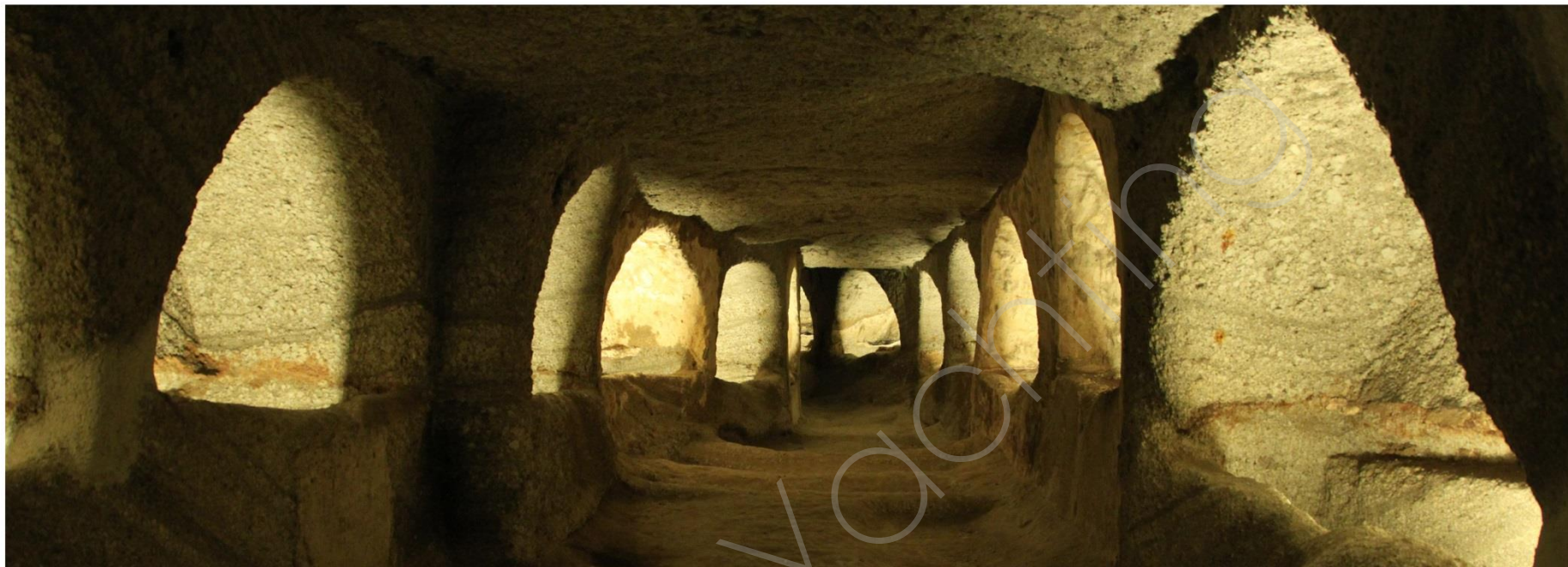
The famous cove of Kleftiko (Bandits' Lair) was an old pirates' hideout and now one of the most popular tourist attractions in Milos island. Kleftiko is famous for its crystal-clear water, elaborate caves and imposing rock formations, and is the destination for several daily sailboat cruises during the summer months. Kleftiko, on the southwest tip of Milos island, is only accessible by boat. Sailboats for hire go as far as Kleftiko stopping there for 2-4 hours for swimming, snorkeling and cookout on the beach. The larger, "Round of Milos" boats go by Kleftiko making approx. a 2-hour stop for swimming before continuing their regular route around the island. You cannot claim to have seen Milos island if you haven't visited Kleftiko at least once.



Sarakiniko

In the Northeast part of the island, you will find the most photographed Aegean landscape: Sarakiniko. This moonscape is unique. The volcanic eroded Rocks penetrate into the emerald-colored sea creating small and big caves, whereas the lack of green (vegetation), in combination with the rocks' white color and the intense reflection of the light create a landscape similar to the moon's surface, thus making this experience unforgettable for all of its visitors. Sarakiniko, named after the Saracen pirates overlooks Sifnos and Kimolos and it is recommended you visit it when the wind is not north.

It is worth noting that you should also visit Sarakiniko at night, especially when the moon is full, as the snow-white rocks of soft material reflect the light even the moonlight vividly, thus, creating an unforgettable landscape.



Christian Catacombs

Milos is home to Greece's only Christian catacombs, which date from the 1st century and were the burial site for early believers. Nearby are Roman ruins, including a well-preserved ancient amphitheatre (site of the two-day Milos Festival each July). Follow the signs to the rather forlorn spot nearby where a farmer found the Venus de Milo in 1820.



Sulphur Mines

In the east side of Milos lies Paliorema, a bay with crystal clear waters and yellowish pebbles, colored by the sulphur. There the sulphur mine of Victor Melas used to be in operation, the oldest business for the mining of sulphur all over Greece . In Paliorema or Theioryheia you can combine your swim with a visit to one of the geologic sites of the island's mining history. You can rest on the beach with the colorful pebbles and the fine sand and you can enjoy your swim viewing the old quarries for the mining of sulphur and the ruins of offices, spare parts and personal items of the quarries' workers which compose an attractive landscape.

Historically, between 1890-1905, the mines were in function, owned by the Company of Public and Municipal Works. In 1905 their function stopped due to the production of cheap sulphur in the U.S.A. In 1910-1918 they were functioning sporadically, whereas in the 1930s there were in full operation and the installations - seen even today- were made. The sulphur mines, the Theioryheia, were in operation until 1960, whereas the business was put to a permanent stop in 1978.



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