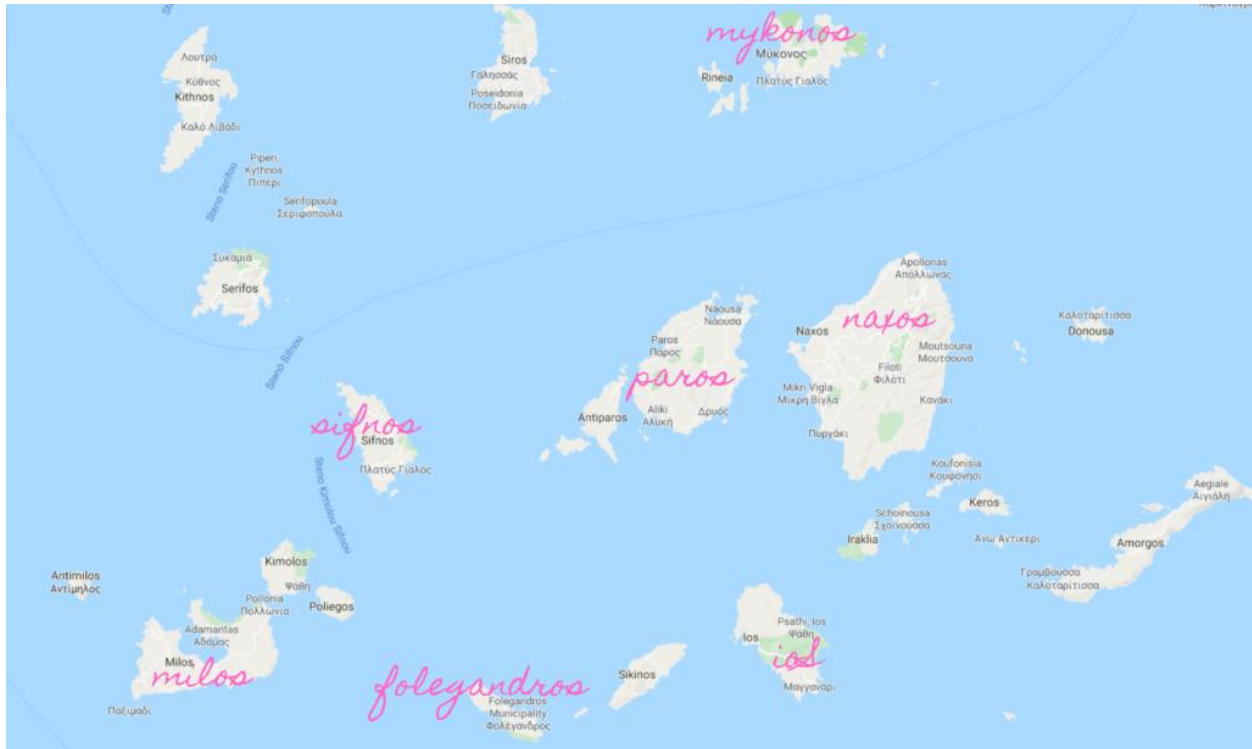


## MILOS TRAVEL GUIDE – LOGISTICS AND ITINERARY



My husband and I traveled to Greece in summer of 2019 – choosing to island hop to Mykonos, Paros, and Milos. I had fallen in love with Milos from some of my favourite travel bloggers' posts about it – the crazy lunar landscape of the beaches, the remote beaches – it was so up my alley! Unfortunately, it was “uncharacteristically windy” the whole time we were there so much of the beaches were a little too dangerous. Even with that, my husband and I both picked this as our favorite greek island (even above Santorini which I had been to on a previous trip). The island is a lot hillier than Mykonos or Paros, making it more similar to Santorini in its beauty. But unlike Santorini, it's a LOT less crowded and the beaches are actually worth visiting. It's nothing like Mykonos – you won't find any trendy beach clubs or bars on this island. The beauty is in the actual beauty of the island, the uniqueness of the beaches, riding around in an ATV or rental car (on this island, it's a must), and getting lost on the back roads because google maps absolutely sucks in Milos. If we went back to Greece a third time, I would go to Milos and maybe only Milos.... or try out Sifnos, Naxos, or Folegandros too.



## SHOULD I VISIT MILOS?

If you are planning your trip to Greece, check out my overall guide to Greece to help pick what islands are best for you. A lot of logistics and thought has to go into figuring out what islands are easy to get to, what the ferry schedule is, etc! If you are really into the look of Santorini but not necessarily the price tag, Milos is a great alternative. I loved Santorini, but would pick Milos every single time. It is beyond gorgeous and feels remote and authentic in every way. Our days were spent plotting out our beaches in the morning, taking our ATV there, stopping somewhere for lunch, and then picking another beach on our ATV. Every corner of this island is gorgeous, and I could have spent a lot more time there than what we had (3 nights).

## WHAT TIME OF YEAR SHOULD I VISIT MILOS?

The Greek islands are best visited when it is warm. July and August are the busiest months, with May, June, and September being ideal as well. I have only been in August both times and learned that this is the windiest month of the year. So in the future, now that I know this, I would probably not go in August again! However, I had friends go in September and they said it was still insanely windy – the locals said that was strange.



## HOW DO I GET TO MILOS?

Milos can be reached by either plane or ferry. Milos does have an airport that can be reached from Athens. Most islands have ferries that go to Milos with Athens, Santorini, Mykonos, Paros, Sifnos, and Naxos being the most popular routes. I use **Ferryhopper** for all of my ferry tickets. We ferried to Milos from Paros. The ferry from Athens is 5 or 7 hours depending if you do the fast or slow ferry.

The fast ferry will obviously get you somewhere faster, but it definitely has its downsides. First, it is more expensive. Second, in windy conditions it can get extremely choppy. If you have any motion sickness at all, you will throw up. We had to take a fast ferry from Paros to Milos as it was the only option and nearly the entire ship was throwing up. You have assigned seats and everyone faces in the same direction so it's not very enjoyable. Slow ferries are slower, cheaper, but also much more enjoyable. They are usually very large with multiple levels and you can lounge on a couch near the cafe, stand on the upper deck and look out as you come to port, enjoy a coffee outside on the porches, etc. I recommend them because they're an experience and they're so enjoyable!

A side note about ferries – they are not always on time and are a little disorganized. When you get to a ferry port, there is really no one there to ask questions to, no boards that tell you status. You kind of just hang around until you see a ferry approaching and see if it is your ferry or not. For our ferry to Milos, it wasn't coming on time, no one in the line was saying anything, there were no employees telling us this. I was so frustrated of how to find out when to expect it. I had read that sometimes ferry companies will email you if it is late, but I didn't get one. So after some googling at the port, I found **this link** that tracks all ferries in Greece. It was relatively accurate and gave me an estimate of when to expect the ferry. Keep this in mind and check it out before heading to the ferry port!

The ferry drops off on the west side of the island in Adamantas, and Pollonia is about a 15 minute drive away (if this is where you are staying). Plaka, the main town, is right next to Adamantas. To get to your hotel, you have three choices – rental vehicle, taxi, private transfer – and you will need cash for the last two. I highly, highly recommend renting a car or ATV in Milos. It is nearly impossible to see the island without one. I'll discuss this more in the how to get around section below. But essentially when we got off the ferry, we walked a few feet to our rental car spot to pick up our ATV, strapped our bags on using bungy cords, and then took off for our hotel (mind you, this was at about midnight since our ferry was so late). If your hotel has a private transfer option and you are willing to spend a little extra – go with this if you don't want to rent a car.

If you are flying into the airport, you can either work with the company you are renting from to deliver your vehicle to the airport for when you arrive, or you can take a cab to where the vehicle is to pick up. The airport should have taxis that you can take to your hotel as well if you are not renting a car.

**[Check out flights here](#)**

## IS THERE A LANGUAGE BARRIER IN MILOS?

No – everyone spoke English. You will not be able to read all the signs because they will be in the Greek alphabet, but most all of the signs will have English translation anyways.

## WHERE SHOULD I STAY IN MILOS?

When you look up the nice hotels in Milos, they're pretty much all in Pollonia. I was a little disappointed with the restaurants in Pollonia, but it was too windy when we were there to venture up to Plaka to eat. So I think I would still recommend Pollonia as the village to stay in, mainly because the hotels were so nice.

We ended up going with a less expensive hotel that was honestly so incredible. It was called **Nefeli Sunset Studios** and has one of the most beautiful spots on the island to catch the sunset. Our room was pristine, we could buy bottles of wine from the owner throughout the day, and the breakfasts were incredible. Ugh, seriously take me back.



If you want to go a little more luxurious, here are the ones I recommend looking into from my research, **Salt**, **Melian**, **Milos Breeze**, and **Tania**. They're all in the same area so I would take a look at the websites and see which one looks the best to you and then compare prices!

## HOW DO I GET AROUND MILOS?

As mentioned, it will really, really benefit you to rent a car in Milos. I didn't realise this until about a week before the trip and could barely find anything to rent. Don't be like me, and please rent your car whenever you book your trip to Milos. We ended up renting an ATV because there were absolutely no more automatic cars left on the island, but oh my gosh was it fun. I would probably rent an ATV again. First off, it was just super fun. Second, it's a lot easier to find parking and navigate the streets with a smaller vehicle. Honestly, it would have been a lot nicer if it hadn't been so windy. If you are traveling with more than a carry-on, you'll also have to figure out how to get your bags to your hotel. Since we just had carry-ons and backpacks, we were able to strap them to the ATV no problem. One more thing is that I only had dresses so had to buy some shorts and just wore them every day – something to think about!

A car would have been nice to go to Plaka at night in the wind. It would be nice if you don't want to get as much sun exposure. It would be nice if you appreciate the safety of a car over an ATV. It's a total personal preference.

We used **Nikos Rental Cars** and had a great experience, but there are loads of companies in the port town of Adamantas. Do a little Google search and contact the companies to check rates and availability to deliver the vehicle to the airport if you are flying in.

To drive in Greece, you will need an International Driver's Permit that you can get through AAA if you are in the United States or online if you are elsewhere. Your rental company should help you figure this out.

Since I was an American but not able to go to AAA, they sent me a website where I was able to fill out all the forms and print one out on my own. They are VERY STRICT about this in Greece (I've never had to do this in any other country except for Thailand), so don't forget to get it done ahead of time.

One thing to note too is that Google Maps always seemed to give us the route home that was on some dirt backroad that barely fit the ATV. I'm not sure why!! So it's worth it to keep in your mind where the main roads are and try not to rely on Google Maps too much.

## HOW MANY DAYS SHOULD I SPEND IN MILOS?

We had two full days in Milos and would have been better off with three. The longer the better, but do not spend less than two full days! There's no point in just spending a day on this island. If we had a third day we would have taken a boat trip to Kleftiko. Our hotel host offered it to us when we arrived, but we knew we had enough to see for free during our two days there that we didn't need to pay for this trip. But it looks incredible!

## WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN MILOS?

You are in Greece, and I'm assuming you want to come here because you love beaches. So yes, the beaches in Milos are where you should focus your time because they are incredible!!! I'm seriously sighing so much over here at my computer remembering how gorgeous all these beaches were!!



## BEACHES

### SARAKINIKO BEACH

Sarakiniko Beach is the most famous beach on the island for its lunar-like landscape. We weren't able to get in the water because of how windy and choppy it was while we were there, but I had envisioned myself spending the whole day sunning on the white rocks and diving into the deep blue water. We got to walk around and take pictures, and oh my gosh is this place large. Even on a bad day and we got there at 10:30, there were so many people. So I would try and get here as soon as possible. You'll see signs for it on the road and a big parking lot. Then from there you walk towards the ocean and start walking around the white rocks. There are no facilities here to rent chairs, buy food, or buy drinks. So make sure to pack some water and snacks and towels.













## **FYRIPLAKA BEACH**

This ended up being our favorite beach – we came here both days. Mainly because the southern coast of the island was sheltered from the winds. When you drive here, the road winds down towards the beach with parking all along the road. Because we had our ATV, we were able to park pretty close. This beach also has no chair rentals but did have a tiny shack that sold sandwiches and water bottles (apparently some years / times of year there are chairs you can rent). You have to walk through some slightly rocky/shallow water spots to get to the beach so we held our shoes in our hands. Then you walk along this narrow beach until you find a spot you like!! The water is incredible shallow for at least 50 m so it felt like bath water. I just sat in the water and relaxed for hours – it's so nice.







## **TSIGRADO BEACH**

This is a tiny beach close to Fyriplaka that you have to climb a ladder to get down to. The fun is all in the adventure, and the beach is gorgeous. You have to wait quite a bit of time for your turn on the ladder as only one person can go at a time, and of course the girl in front of us was scared and got stuck for at least half an hour... It was worth it and is the perfect spot to come to if you are also going to Fyriplaka. The pictures from the ridge above the beach are also beautiful, it's worth coming to the beach just to take those pictures! There are no services on this beach.









## **PALIOCHORI BEACH**

This beach actually has chairs that you can rent, and it's super pretty! There's also a restaurant/bar nearby called Deepblue. We got some drinks there and they were not great, but the views were.







**AGIA KIRIAKI**

This beach is in between Paliochori and Fyriplaka and also has chairs you can rent. We didn't go here, but it looks super gorgeous.

## EXPLORING

If you have some time to kill and want a break from the beach, there are a couple fishing villages close to Sarakiniko that are really pretty and worth seeing just to walk around and take pictures. Mantrakia and Firopotamos are the two fishing villages. There is also a seafood restaurant next to Mantrakia called Medusa on the water.







Plaka is the main town of Milos that is perched right on the highest point on the island. The views from here are supposed to be gorgeous with lots of delicious restaurants and the best sunsets. We weren't able to visit because it was too windy in our ATV, but I am super sad about this, so you should definitely visit!

Papafragas Beach and Caves is supposed to be really pretty and it is close to Sarakiniko. It's more of a stop and take pictures kind of place, and for us it was too windy. There's a small parking lot.



Like I mentioned above, we wished we had an extra day to do a boat trip to Kleftiko. It looks like you can boat and swim around all these gorgeous white caves. I would book this through your hotel.

## WHERE DO I EAT IN MILOS?

We ended up eating all our lunches at random seaside restaurants and bars and all our dinner in Pollonia walking distance from the hotel. You will probably do the same plus you should try and get into Plaka for dinner too!

### LUNCH

We ate at Deepblue bar one day which did not have good food or cocktails, but the views were pretty. You'll discover that on the south side of the island around Fyriplaka and Tsigrado that there are very little restaurants. It looks like there is a decently rated restaurant called **Sirocco** close to Paliochori beach that you may want to center your day around. There is one more close to Agia Kiriaki in a hotel called **Psaravolada** with decent reviews. I see white tablecloths so you may not feel as comfortable in salty beach clothes, but I have no idea what the vibe is like!

We ate at **Astakas** along the water close to Adamantas and Klima and the food was amazing with beautiful views. This wasn't really near anything else though so we went pretty out of the way to eat there. A better option would probably be to eat at **Medusa** which is close to Mantrakia which is close to Sarakiniko.









## DINNER

In Pollonia we ate at Gialos and Hanabi Sushi Bar. I thought Hanabi would just be overpriced, crappy sushi, and it was. So I don't recommend eating there. Gialos was delicious but definitely not some of the best Greek food we had on our trip. Rafiki was also recommended, but we thought the menu looked a little dull. Give us a break, this was our last island on our trip and we had been totally spoiled in Paros and Mykonos!

We didn't get to go to Plaka, but the restaurants I had read about looked incredible – so here's a list of them for you to try and report back! Avil-milos, Archontoula, Phatsos, Ergina.

## WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR MILOS?

Shorts or pants if you are riding an ATV! Whoops! ATVs are a little messy, so no need to wear your cutest resort wear. I truly wore jean shorts, linen tops, and sandals every day for every meal. We also just rode around on the ATVs with shirts off – it's very chill! Milos is not a fancy place, but you may feel like dressing up if you are staying at a more luxurious hotel. There is no need for wedges since the surfaces are so uneven. Bring lots of sunscreen and a big bag or backpack to carry your towels while on the ATV!

## MY PERFECT 3 DAY MILOS ITINERARY

### DAY 1

Get to Sarakiniko early (before 11 AM) to stake out your spot and explore the lunar landscape! Spend your day sunbathing, taking pictures, and diving into the clear blue water.

For lunch, head over to Medusa and explore Mantrakia and Firopotamos if you're interested in seeing these little villages.

If you are trying to cram a lot in, you could go from the north side of the island down to Paliochori for lunch and then beach time before dinner.

Go back to Sarakiniko if you haven't gotten enough, or go explore Plaka and all the views, possibly waiting for sunset.

Another option is to go back to your hotel and enjoy the afternoon at your pool before getting ready for dinner and either heading to Plaka for sunset or eating at Gialos in Pollonia.

## DAY 2

Head down to Tsigrado early to get some uninterrupted time climbing down the ladder and enjoying the beach. When you are over it, make your way over to Fyriplaka and hope the beach bar is operational! You can stop and eat at Deepblue or the Paliochori restaurant if it's not. Spend your day on the south side of the island exploring any of those four beaches (Fyriplaka, Tsigrado, Aghia Kiriaki, or Paliochori).

For dinner, go to Plaka if you haven't been yet or stay in Pollonia if you want to check it out.

## DAY 3

Book ahead of time a boat trip to Kleftiko today. They are usually 4 hours, we were given the options of 10 AM – 2 PM or 3 PM to 7 PM. I would do the 10 AM – 2 PM and then spend the afternoon at any of your favorite beaches from the day before.

## HONESTLY, HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND IN MILOS?

Ferry to Paros – \$70 / person

Hotel – \$225 / person

Food – \$110 / person

ATV Rental – \$75/person

**TOTAL FOR 1 PERSON FOR 3 NIGHTS – \$480**