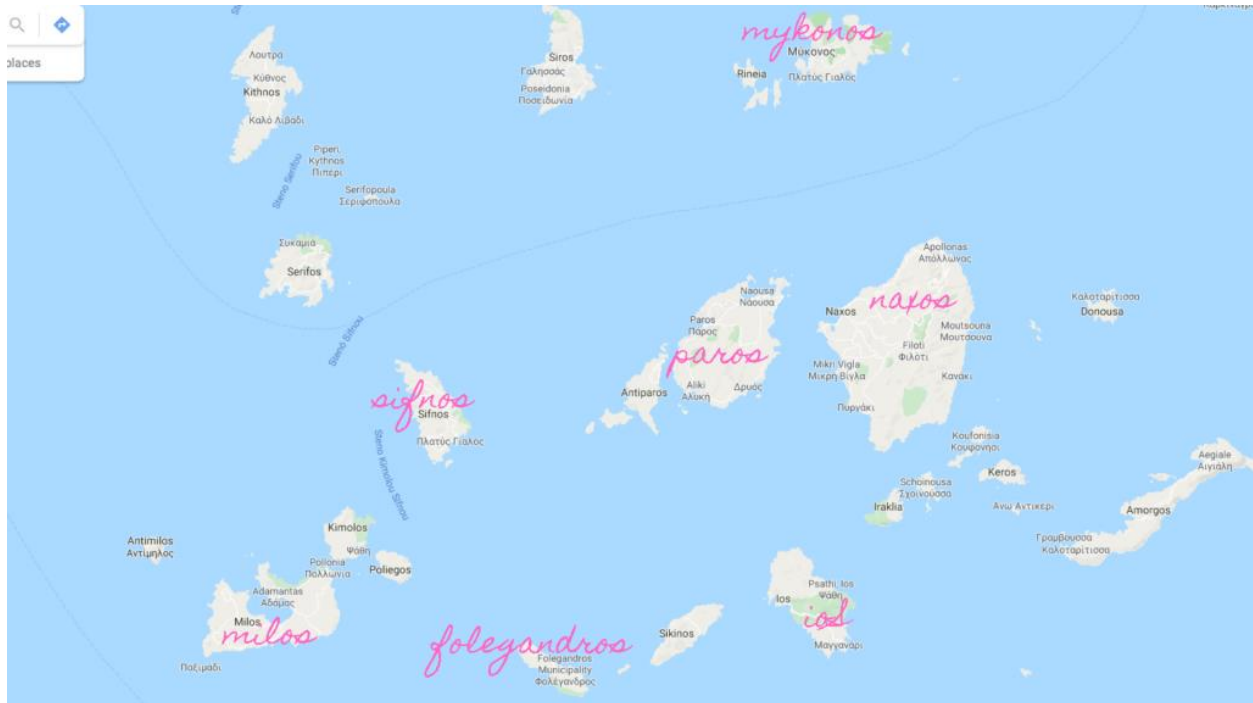


## PAROS TRAVEL GUIDE – LOGISTICS AND ITINERARY



My husband and I recently visited Paros along with [Mykonos](#) and Milos on a one week trip in August of 2019. When planning for this trip, I was stressed about what islands to pick. We could either stick to where I had been before ([Santorini](#) and Mykonos), which I loved and knew he would love, or venture out to some islands off the beaten path. I had always heard that the other islands were amazing and gave you a more authentic experience, but I didn't know how dreamy and pretty they would be. We ended up picking Paros and Milos and leaving off Santorini, and I'm so happy we did! If we went back to Greece a third time, I would probably skip Mykonos too. I do really love Mykonos, but the other islands are literally 1/2 to 1/3 the cost which just can't be beat. We also had Folegandros, Sifnos, and Naxos as contenders for our islands. I read lots of reviews and ultimately picked Paros because the beaches looked really pretty. I had no idea how cute it would actually be though until I got there!



## SHOULD I VISIT PAROS?

If you are planning a trip to Greece, check out my [overall Greece guide](#) to help you in selecting your route. Paros can be best described as Mykonos without the price tag. The island itself is larger than Mykonos with slightly more vegetation, but it is a mostly flat island like Mykonos and unlike Santorini or Milos. The village that we loved the most and where we stayed was Naoussa. I would compare Naoussa to the Old City of Mykonos but eliminate all of the cruise ship tourists, all of the cheesy souvenir shops and bad restaurants catering to those tourists, and make it the cutest Greek-feeling village you've ever imagined. Yes, I loved it. So when thinking of getting that authentic, Greek-y feel with the white houses, unique stone / white paint walkways, bougainvillea hanging everywhere – Naoussa has you covered.



When it comes to beaches, the beaches in Paros are a little more unique than the ones in Mykonos with interesting rocks (which I love). They are definitely not as luxurious as the ones in Mykonos but I think that's for Mykonos and Mykonos alone. You can rent chairs and you can have waiter service to those chairs, but it's just not as fancy. Granted, we only had the chance to visit one beach while we were here so maybe other beaches are more luxurious on the island.

## WHAT TIME OF YEAR SHOULD I VISIT PAROS?

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 PAROS?

Paros can be reached by either plane or ferry. Paros does have a tiny airport that can be reached from Athens. Depending on where you are coming from, there could be a limited number of ferries that come to Paros. I use **Ferryhopper** for all of my ferry tickets. On here it says that ferries come from Athens, Crete, Santorini, Naxos, and Mykonos to Paros. We ferried to Paros from Mykonos. The ferry from Athens is 3 or 4.5 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 disorganised. 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 one of our ferries from this last trip, 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 Parikia, and Naoussa is on the north side of the island (if this is where you are staying). To get to your hotel, you have three choices – bus, taxi, private transfer – and you will need cash for all of these choices. If your hotel has a private transfer option and you are willing to spend a little extra – go with this for the most peace of mind. If you've been reading me long enough, you know I am cheap! So we decided to do a taxi or bus. When we got off the ferry, we walked straight to the taxi stand and all the taxis were empty – no drivers! We waited maybe like 15 minutes and still couldn't figure out what was going on. Then we started realising that these taxis were pre-booked by some people as the ferry passengers walked to the taxis from the port with the taxi drivers. I would contact your hotel before hand and try and figure out how to book a taxi or get a car to your hotel.

Of course the cheapest but least convenient option is to take the public bus – which we did, no surprise! The bus website and schedule is **here**. The bus stop is right next to the port, you can't miss it. There is a little booth where you buy your tickets for 1,80€ each if you are going to Naoussa. You have to wait in the heat as there is no seating or shade here. Feel free to grab a snack across the street at Hellas if you want a gyro! When the bus comes, tell the driver where you are staying so he will know where to drop you off.

The ride was about 20 minutes to our hotel.

If you are flying into the airport, there is a very limited bus service into town. It would be best to book a taxi or private transfer pick-up ahead of time with your hotel. A taxi should cost you 15€ and take about 15 minutes.

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

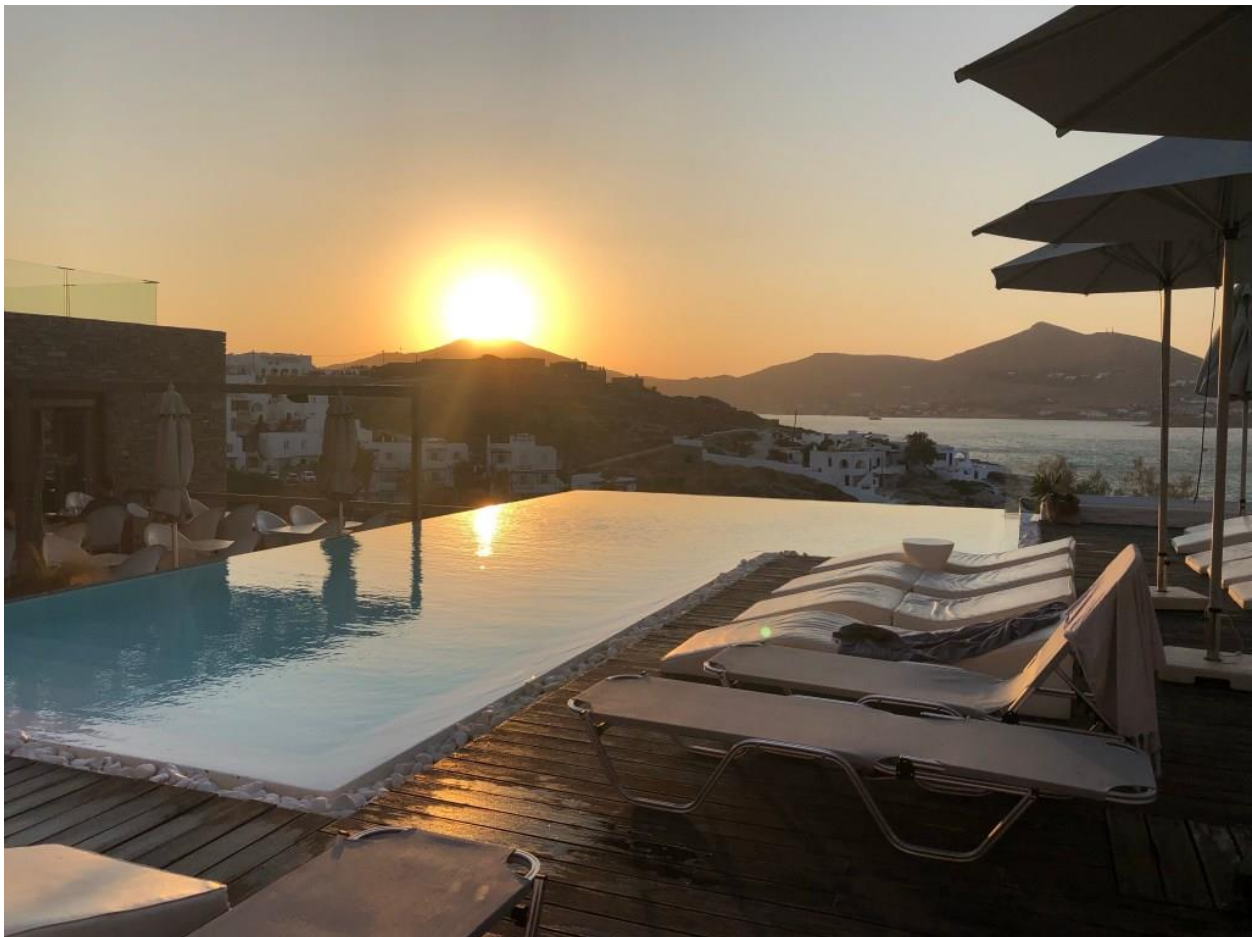
## IS THERE A LANGUAGE BARRIER IN PAROS?

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 PAROS?

The best part about Paros?? It's not Mykonos! Which means you can stay in a super beautiful hotel for less than 200€ a night – unlike our 200€ a night hostel in Mykonos! You can seriously find 3 and 4 and 5 star accommodations for less than you would pay for a teeny tiny room on the more popular islands.

Unless you want a really romantic, secluded stay away from any people – I would highly recommend staying in or near Naoussa. Paros is a relatively newer international destination so the accommodations on offer are more geared towards local Greek families staying for a few weeks – finding 4 or 5 star accommodations is kind of rare. My husband and I stayed at **[Hotel Senia](#)**, a 3-star hotel, and thought it was great. It was nothing super fancy, but the rooms were comfortable and super clean and the views from the beautiful pools were amazing. It was also a short 7 minutes walk into Naoussa.



Mr. and Mrs. Smith, my favourite website for booking fancy hotels, has one on the island that looks gorgeous – **[Parilio Hotel Paros](#)**. It is a 35 minute walk to Naoussa which isn't totally ideal and will most

likely require a taxi, but it does look stunning. It looks like it could be super new – probably opened in 2019. Nearby Hotel Senia, **Kanale's** looks like a great option with pretty views and pretty rooms. Their newer “design rooms” look nice! This hotel, **Lilly Residence**, is catching my eye for it's design, location, and amazing reviews on Tripadvisor. The rooms are really pretty and it's a 5 minute walk to Naoussa.

Finally, **Stelia Mare** looks like a slightly older but still really beautiful hotel very close to Naoussa. The reviews on Tripadvisor are flawless and the rooms are so cute. Probably the best local option! Those are my 5 picks for you.

## HOW DO I GET AROUND PAROS?

By foot, by boat, by bus, by taxi, by private transfer – it depends on where you are going! Here's how my husband and I did it. By bus to our hotel from port, by foot to town for dinner, by boat to a beach the next day, by foot to dinner, by private transfer to the port the next day, by bus to the port to Antiparos, by ferry to Antiparos, by bus to the port, by ferry to our next island. So many options! Of course another option is to rent a scooter, ATV, or car that will allow you to access to all parts of the island. Let me break them down.

You should look into renting a car/scooter/ATV if you plan on staying in Paros for a while and really want to explore the whole island. This will be very difficult to do via bus or taxi. We rented an ATV on another island and how I did this was google “rental car” on google maps or google and look around for the ones with the best reviews. You can contact them ahead of time and reserve one. 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.

As usual, the bus is always going to be the cheapest but least convenient option. You have to stick to a schedule and also know where the bus picks up from. In our case, our hotel wasn't super close to the bus stop – so that's why we chose private transfer to get to the ferry port our last day. We just asked our hotel to call a car and I believe it was either 20€ total or per person. For the bus, use **their website** to know the schedule. Type into Google Maps “Naoussa bus stop” to see if you are close to where the buses start from.

The unique option is taking a boat between Naoussa and Kolimbithres Beach. Right along the harbour, you will find a little stand that has boats running every half hour between the two. It only takes about 10-15 minutes each way and costs 6.50€ I think per person round trip.

## HOW MANY DAYS SHOULD I SPEND IN PAROS?

We were only able to spend 2 nights in Paros for our trip. Of course, it is always better to spend longer. For me, 2 nights was fine for this cute island. It is definitely more of a relaxing island than an exploring island – so if you stayed more time you're probably just going to relax another day – and what's wrong with that! I would spend a day visiting Kolimbithres beach for sure and definitely put some time aside to explore Naoussa. Beyond that, see if you want to spend a day or two in Antiparos, explore Parikia if you have time, and there are countless other beaches all over the island that can be explored every day though I don't think they are super “unique” from my research. Read more below to see how much time you want to spend in Paros.

## WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN PAROS?

When I was doing my research for Paros, I wasn't really sure if I could fill my days with lots to do. I knew I was obsessed with the cute towns and the cool beach I read about with strange rock formations – but beyond that I wasn't sure. For our trip, I was probably least excited about Paros. But Paros definitely blew me out of the water! What it lacks in “must see attractions”, it makes up for in charm and beauty. It's hard to describe Paros – you just have to see it for yourself.

Essentially like any other island, you're going to want to spend your time in the sun on the beaches and exploring the towns.

## BEACHES

Paros is a flatter Greek island which means it is definitely known for having great beaches! Most of the beaches are your standard, long, sandy beaches. Great for families and relaxation but not necessarily the most scenic. The most scenic one is Kolymbithres below, the most instagrammable club looks like it is on Santa Maria, and I let you know about the other six that I think look the best (I looked up at least 20!). Below is a map of all the places I will mention in this section!



## KOLYMBITHRES

I'll start with what drew me to this island the most – pictures of the beautiful beach!! It looked like a playground almost with lots of rocks to play on and nooks to explore. My husband and I caught a boat here from Naoussa (see how do I get around, above) at 11ish and spent our whole day on this beach. It was interesting going straight from the glitz and glamour of the beach clubs in Mykonos to this beach with barely any service, kind of dingy chairs, and definitely no glamour. But I was still obsessed!



There are some places on this beach where you can rent a chair and have a server with drinks and food. Because this beach is not a long, sandy beach, the front row chairs are only like 10 – so you have to get here pretty early if you want a good spot close to the water. We were maybe 8 rows back with virtually no view of the water. It's not clear online if you can call ahead and rent a chair before you get there – but I highly doubt it considering I can't find a website or phone number or anything.





We found a flat spot on the rocks and put our towels down before asking for beach chairs later. I believe the chairs were 10-15 each, and the food was good I thought! If you're into more luxury, this probably is not the spot for you and you can just take a boat over, explore, and then head back to town.

### OTHER BEACHES CLOSE TO NAOUSSA

A lot of reviews online say there are lots more beaches that are much better for sunbathing and getting a chair around the island. I have mentioned before, but I am such a sucker for rocky beaches. It's something about how exotic they are compared to what I grew up with in Texas. So that's why I wanted to see Kolymbithres.

A quick Google Search around the island shows me that there are lots of beach bars! Just like with accommodation, you probably won't find anything remotely as luxurious as what you will find in Mykonos. This island just isn't used to having international tourists that are into that sort of thing.

If you just want to lay on a beach and don't want to travel across the island here are your best options – Piperi, Monastiri, and Santa Maria.

Piperi is the beach that the hotels on the west side of Naoussa, like Hotel Senia, look out over. It is small and doesn't have chairs – but would be a great place to throw a towel down (pictured below from our hotel).



Monastiri is cute and has that cove feel and can also be reached by the boat taxi from Naoussa. The boat continues on to Monastiri after it drops off at Kolymbithres.

Santa Maria would require a taxi as the bus doesn't go there, but it is a long, sandy beach that some reviews say can get super windy. It is supposed to get pretty busy and does have a beach bar that looks a little more upscale and pretty instagrammable. Of all the beaches I researched for this travel guide, this one looks the most "Mykonos-y", so tbh it's probably where I would have gone if we had another day!

Check out their instagram account here: [@santamariaparos](#).

Langeri/Laggeri Beach is on the way from Naoussa to Santa Maria and is supposed to be super remote and private and beautiful. A great option if you don't want people around (but you might see naked people too).

## BEACHES TO TRAVEL TO

Parasporos Beach is close to Parikia and very popular with tourists and locals. This is probably because it has lots of fun restaurants and bars. Because it is so popular, the sunbeds and restaurants are said to be overpriced with questionable quality.

Marcello Beach is very close to Parikia and is said to have a boat taxi servicing it from Parikia for 6€ round-trip with the last boat at 7 PM. This beach has great reviews for being fun and large, but it does get crowded since it is so close. It mentions lots of beach bars giving a "party atmosphere", with lots of sunbeds to rent from 10-20€ each. There are tips in the reviews that "Peter's cafe" has free sunbeds and good food. Also, this beach faces south and is in a little cove so it is said to be protected from the bad winds – which is great! It's probably a great beach for people watching!

Agia Irini is a beach on the west coast off the beaten path, and I never read anything about it before my trip. But on a bus journey between Parikia and the ferry port to Antiparos, I saw this beach out my window and thought it looked gorgeous. I looked it up after and saw that it has amazing reviews on Google Maps for how beautiful it is. It's surrounded by palm trees making it feel tropical and has a cove beach look.

There is a restaurant and a tavern along with sunbeds to rent.

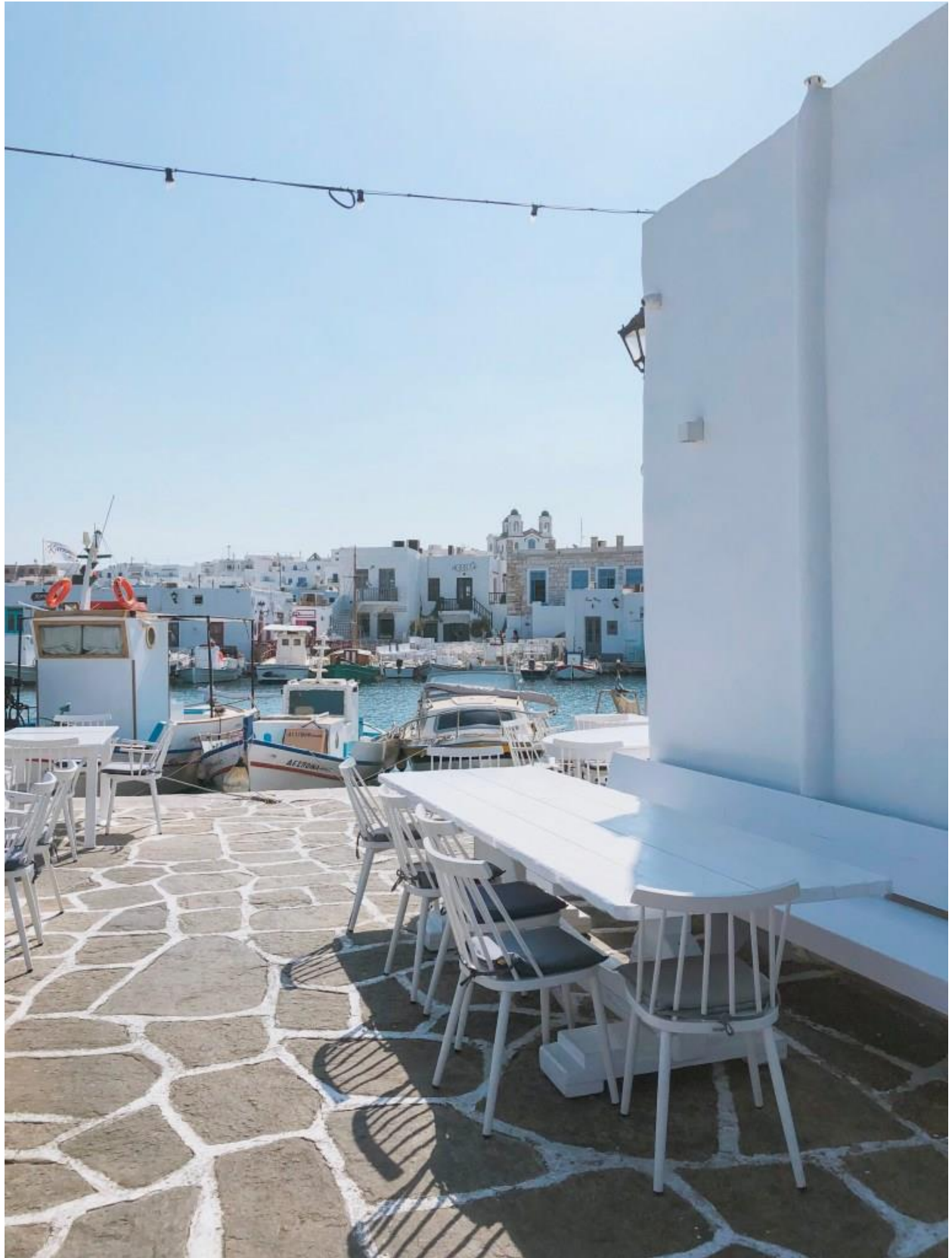
Kalogeros is a locals only secluded beach with no services on the east side of the island. It is supposed to be pebbled and surrounded by cliffs – pretty! The reviews are great. A good option if you want to get away from it all and love the cove beach feel.

## EXPLORE THE TOWNS

Exploring the cute town of Naoussa is a must, and I was surprised to see how cute Parikia was as well. They are so charming and Greek with their blues and whites, bougainvillea everywhere, and that iconic painted white stone on the ground. There really isn't much of a guide I can give to explore, because it's not super big.



You must see everything along the coast though. If you are walking from your hotel like we did, approach it from the west and walk along the marina. Keep walking north and turn the corner after Barbarossa. Pass the cute bar Agosta and get to Linardo for that iconic shot with the pink door! Soak it all in – this part of town is so cute! From there, just wander the streets – popping into cute shops or bars as you please. If you see a sign for Loukoumades (Greek doughnuts), go get them.



In Parikia, you want to make sure you walk west if you are looking at a map from the ferry port and then south to get to the cute part. The east side from the ferry port is not cute at all. Type in “Cafe Symposium Paros” to Google Maps for a reference of what area is cute. There are lots of great shops and cafes around here – though definitely not as cute as Naoussa.

## TRIP TO ANTIPAROS

If you want to check another island off of your list, take a day trip to Antiparos. My husband and I didn't have a ferry until 6 PM our last day so we spent the day in Antiparos. If you are in the same boat, know that you can store your luggage close to the ferry port in Parikia while you explore. There are signs with pictures of suitcases all over the place, but we used this place that was closest to the ferry port by just asking someone in a nearby shop where we could store luggage: Λιμάνι Καφέ. I don't think it was more than 5€ per bag and they were very nice. Of course there's never a guarantee that something go terribly wrong, but we were willing to risk it.



Antiparos is a small island just off the coast of Paros. Because we had a hard backend, we weren't able to explore that much of it. To get there, you have two options. One is a 30 minute ferry from Parikia with tickets costing 5€ each way- you'll see signs for it next to the ferry port. The other is a 7 minute ferry from Punda that costs 1.30€ per passenger and 6.30€ per vehicle (if you rented a scooter or car). Each of these options run about every half hour or hour. Here is the [timetable](#). In windy conditions, the Parikia one will not run (happened to us) because it's too choppy. Getting to Punda is possible by taxi or by bus – so check out the timetable for that. Punda is 9 km south of Parikia.

When you get to Antiparos, you can walk around the main shopping street that is directly opposite the second pier (not the Punda ferry pier). It's super cute! Type in Cafe Margarita for the correct street. It runs

east to west. There are cute cafes and shops all along the street, but in my opinion nothing was as cute as Naoussa!





We walked to Agios Spyridonas Beach, but I would not recommend that. Then we walked to Fanari Beach and it was really cute over there. We had friends that went all the way to the opposite side of the island to Beach House Resort and spent the day there – they loved it!

In my opinion, Antiparos was not worth visiting – I would choose somewhere in Paros instead.

## EXPLORE THE INTERIOR

This was something we did not do but was recommended everywhere. The hilltop town of Lefkes in the centre of the island is supposed to be adorable. There are even bus services there!

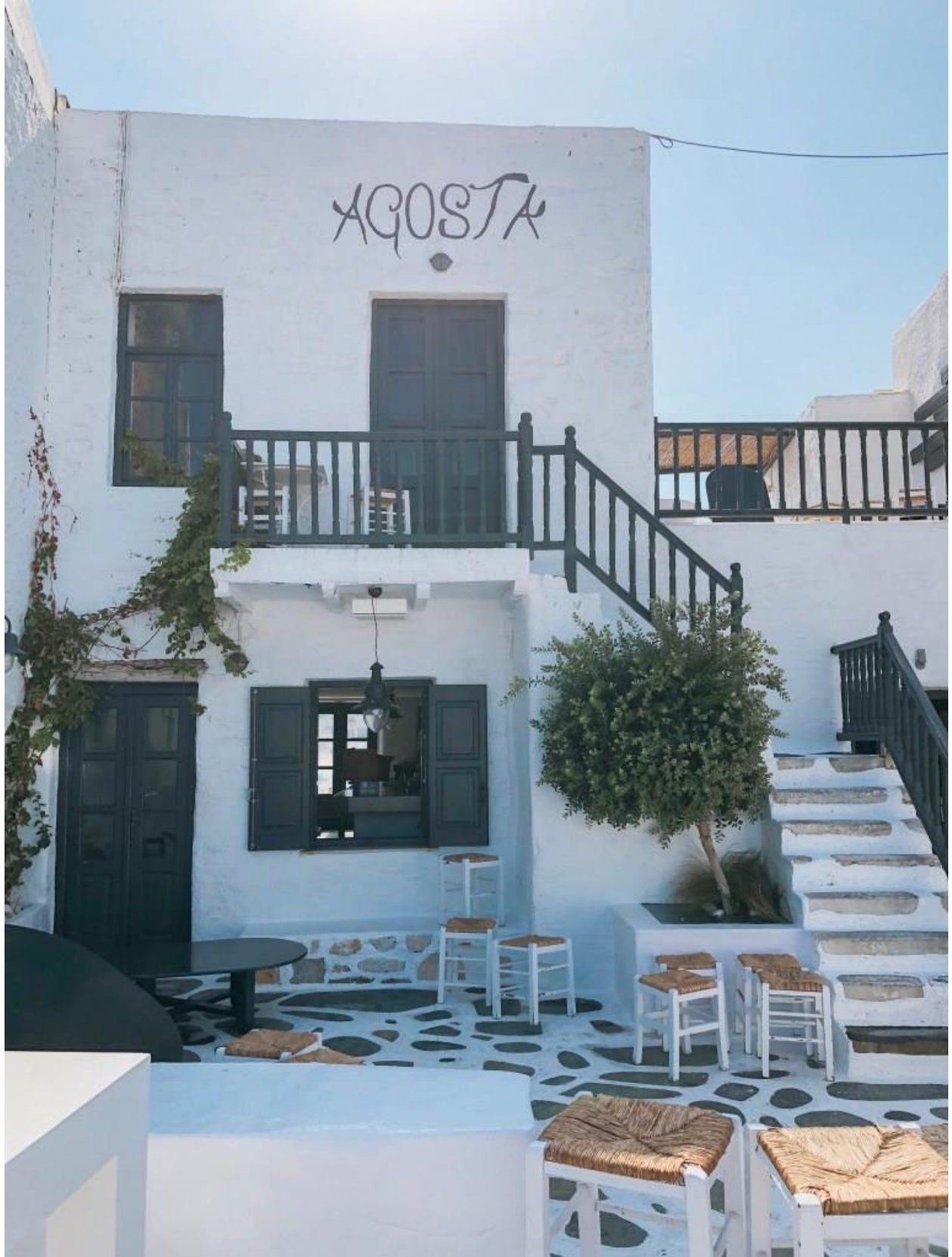
## WHERE DO I EAT IN PAROS?

In Naoussa, duh! Are you sensing a theme? I could've eaten every night in Naoussa and never gotten bored – there are so many cute places. We had two nights and I would strongly suggest both places we went! I would also recommend making reservations because when you make reservations, you get the best tables on the water / closest to the water. When we got to our hotel, we just told the lady at the front desk that we wanted seafood, and we wanted something super local and authentic. She gave us these two places and they did not disappoint! Our favorite of the two was Statheros Restaurant. We had this table right on the water with such an amazing view and the food was incredible. The guy serving us said it was his restaurant featuring his grandma's dishes. So cute. The service was honestly super slow, but in such a beautiful place that's not the worst thing in the world. The first night we went to Tsachpinis which is right in this huge square overlooking the water. They do very simply prepared but very fresh seafood. It was a great experience!



I really don't think you can go wrong with any of the restaurants along that northern port – they were all packed with locals. Don't go to a place that's not packed but looks really trendy / catered towards tourists (like Barbarossa). If you don't like seafood, the menus were all very extensive with tons of options other than that. I think we were also able to pay with credit card at all of the spots we went. If you want something cheap, Souvlaki Kargas is great for a gyro or souvlaki.

For breakfast, if your hotel does not serve breakfast – there are tons of cute little cafes in Naoussa. For lunch – same. We ate lunch on the beach in Kolimbithres at Anemos Beach Club when we were there.



For bars, there are so many cute bars with cute views in the city. If you want good seaside views, check out Linardo if you want to be instagrammy, Agosta, Karnagio, come back. I also read that Kosmos Bar is a fun late night bar. That's something to note – the nightlife scene is very much alive in Paros! All the streets are blasting music and you can just pick any little bar to dance the night away in.



## WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR PAROS?

Despite it being more locals than tourists, people still dress very cute in Naoussa in particular. Sundresses, sandals, anything like that is perfect. Like most destinations I write about, heels will be difficult to walk in on the uneven roads and alleys.

## MY PERFECT 2, 3, OR 4 DAY PAROS ITINERARY

### DAY 1

Arrive to Paros and check into your hotel after choosing whether to get there via taxi, private transfer, bus, or rental vehicle. Once you are checked in, go explore Naoussa, Piperi Beach if you are staying close to it, or your hotel pool to start your day as I am assuming you are arriving sometime in the afternoon like we did. Have your hotel call to make you a reservation in town if you want a good table. If not, explore Naoussa for dinner and eat at wherever looks crowded and delicious. Make a reservation for tomorrow night at your second choice.

### DAY 2

If Kolimbithres Beach interests you, go catch the boat taxi there – the earlier the better. Spend your day there, or just a few hours, or maybe just one. Grab lunch at Anemos Beach Club for something casual and easy – or get a late lunch back in Naoussa after riding the boat taxi back. If you want to explore another beach for the second half of the day, grab a cab to any that look nice to you from my list above. Dinner in Naoussa again, duh!

### DAY 3

If you're leaving later in the day, maybe spend the morning either exploring Lefkes and leaving your suitcases in Parikia or going to Santa Maria Beach / Piperi Beach for a few hours. If you have a whole day, do the same thing but spend even more time there!

### DAY 4

Do whatever you didn't do the day before. If you need a sunbathing break, maybe Lefkes could be a good idea! A lunch in Lefkes sounds lovely...

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

Ferry to Paros – \$25 / person

Hotel – \$225 / person

Food – \$110 / person

Public Transportation – \$50/person

**TOTAL FOR 1 PERSON FOR 2 NIGHTS – \$410**