

TIPS FOR ENJOYING A KYTHERIAN SUMMER

by Kalie Zervos

Here are some tips designed to assist you in making the most of what our island has to offer.

Getting Around

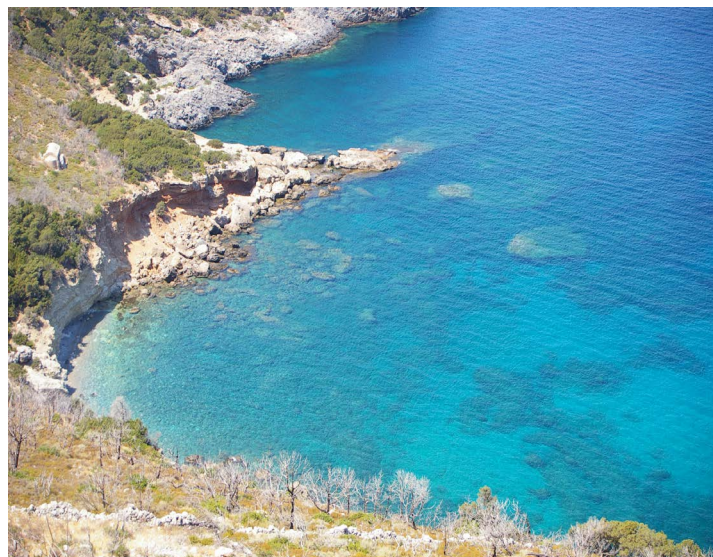
- Best way to get around is by car. Kythera's road network is good however to access many places and beaches be prepared to drive on dirt tracks. Some car rental companies have 4WDs for rent..
- A bus service is available from Agia Pelagia to Kapsali during summer, check with store owners for timetables as it is not a frequent service.

Mobile phone reception and Internet Cafes and Wireless hotspots

- International mobile phones will operate on roaming networks in most parts of the island. For cheaper phone calls to Greek numbers you can purchase a Greek SIM from the Germanos shop (selling Cosmote) or Vodafone stores in Livadi. Take your passport with you, as all Greek mobile phone numbers are required by law to be registered. If you have an existing Greek number that was not registered before the 31st July 2010, it will no longer work. Recharge cards for the Cosmote, Wind and Vodafone networks may be purchased at the Kiosk (Periptero) in Potamos, post offices, and selected souvenir shops around the island.
- Internet Cafes are found in the main towns (ask locals for specific shops offering the service)
- The majority of towns on the island has broadband internet cabling, so many more hotels, and rooms for rent will now have internet connectivity.
- If you have your own laptop or iPad or smartphone there are several towns around Kythera, such as Potamos, Agia Pelagia, and Hora that are Wi Fi hotspots.

Beaches

- The bulk of Kythera's beaches are located along the east coast, with various coves and inlets sprawled around the island. Accessing most beaches is easy, however be prepared to rough it on dirt tracks to reach the most spectacular ones.
- You will now find that more and more beaches around the island now have kiosks selling light snacks, with umbrellas and chairs for hire or at some beaches for free if you make purchases from the kiosks. However you will notice an absence of public toilets on the beaches.
- Please remember to take any rubbish with you when you leave.



- The best beach for children is Diakofti with white sandy shores and clear blue shallow water. Agia Pelagia, Kapsali, Limiona and Platea Amos are also suitable for families as there is food outlets located on or near the beach.

Weather Tips

- Kythera is known for being windy. If you prefer to swim in still waters here is a list of beaches that are best depending upon which way the wind is blowing:-
 1. Northerly wind (Vorgias) – Kapsali, Halkos, Melidoni, Likodimou and Limiona
 2. Southerly wind (Notias)- Limiona, Likodimou and all east coast beaches except Paleopoli.
 3. Westerly wind – all beaches except Likodimou and Limiona
 4. Easterly Wind- Halkos, Melidoni, Kapsali, Liomiona and Likodimou
- Nights can get quite cool and damp. Always carry a jacket and your mosquito cream if you are prone to getting bitten.

Festivals and Dances

- Cultural festivals and dances take place throughout late July and all of August and some of September. Keep an eye out for notices posted on shop windows. Most will be written in Greek so ask the locals to translate them for you.
- The place to be on Sunday mornings is Potamos. Locals and tourist merge to meet up with friends over a coffee or to buy fresh local produce, arts and crafts and jewellery from the bazaar. Parking is available in the free council parking lots.

Exploring Kythera

Some of the best sights are only reached on foot. Wear

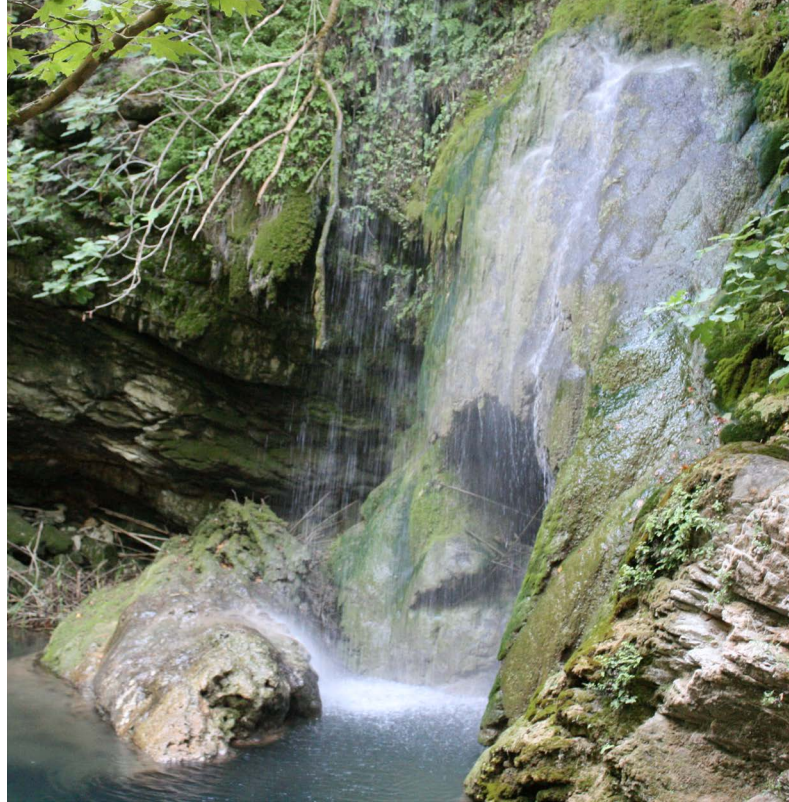


comfortable walking, sensible clothes, sunscreen and a hat and always carry water. Here are some sights not to be missed:-

- Venetian castles – Hora, Kato Hora (great to watch the sunset), and Avlemona
- Caves – Agia Sophia Milopotamos which are opened most mornings in August and Agia Sophia Kalamos open all the time.



- Paleohora- The deserted town of Agios Demetrios ransacked in 1537 by Barbarossa and was the capital of Kythera. Best time to visit is late in the afternoon. In 2012 the restoration works were completed to the unstable remains caused by the 2006 earthquake.
- Waterfall known as Neraida located below Milopotamos.
- Natural Springs – Karava, Viaradika, Mitata and Galani.
- Monasteries– Mirtidiotissa, Agios Theodoros, Agia Elesa, Agia Moni. (Wear modest clothing when visiting monasteries).
- Archaeological dig site at Paleokastro – During 2010 and 2011 there was a hive of activity at the dig site, however due to the economic crisis the digs have ceased for the moment, visitors can still go to see the site and the church of Agios Kosmas.



We encourage you to explore the enchanting isle that is Kythera. Enjoy!

Locals preparing for the coming Summer

This photo makes you appreciate the hardwork the locals put into getting the island for the summer season. It was snapped on a cool Spring afternoon at the beach of Likodimou whilst work was being carried out by locals to remove the excess sand build up on the Jetty at Likodimou beach.

Photo courtesy of Stephen Trifyllis

