

Amorgos

Le Grand Bleu



The island of the film “Le Grand Bleu”

Did you know that the 1988 movie “Le Grand Bleu” with Jean Reno was shot on the island of Amorgos, at the south eastern edge of the Cyclades? Parts of the island reach a considerable height above sea level, offering superb views out over the Archipelago, Amorgos is one of the most impressive Cycladic islands, boasting marvelous beaches with azure waters, gorgeous caves, ideal spots for diving, scenic bays and ancient footpaths leading through its steep rocky terrain... Inhabited since the Early Cycladic Era, as indicated by archaeological finds brought to light in the area, Amorgos has a long cultural history and tradition. Step off the beaten track and visit an island that has preserved its traditional color, where the locals welcome you with a smile on their face and make you feel at home!



LE GRAND BLEU

A FILM BY LUC BESSON

Chora of Amorgos

Built at the centre of the island and surrounded by rocky hills, the maze-like Chora of Amorgos is considered to be one of the most picturesque in the Cyclades!

Here you can admire a breathtaking setting with scenic squares, traditional Cycladic houses with bougainvillea trees in their court yards and Lilliputian whitewashed alleys. In the morning you can wander around the narrow streets, visit the 13th century castle and the monasteries or relax at a local coffee shop; in the evening pick one of the cosy bars and tavernas scattered around Chora's streets and squares and enjoy local specialties accompanied by a shot of psimeni raki! Don't be surprised if you come across a big group of people enjoying an impromptu feast - it is a very common event on the island- feel free to join in!





Katapola

Katapola is the main harbor of the island as well as a haven for boats and small cruise ships. Set off on a boat trip from Katapola and explore the island's sun kissed beaches!



Aigiali

Aigiali is the second harbor of Amorgos Island. It is a place very popular among young people. Along its lively waterfront you will find plenty of cafes and restaurants. Perched on the mountain side beyond Aigiali there are three picturesque villages: Tholaria, Lagkada and Potamos. Make a point of visiting them at the end of the day – the sunset view is beautiful

Monastery of the Virgin Mary

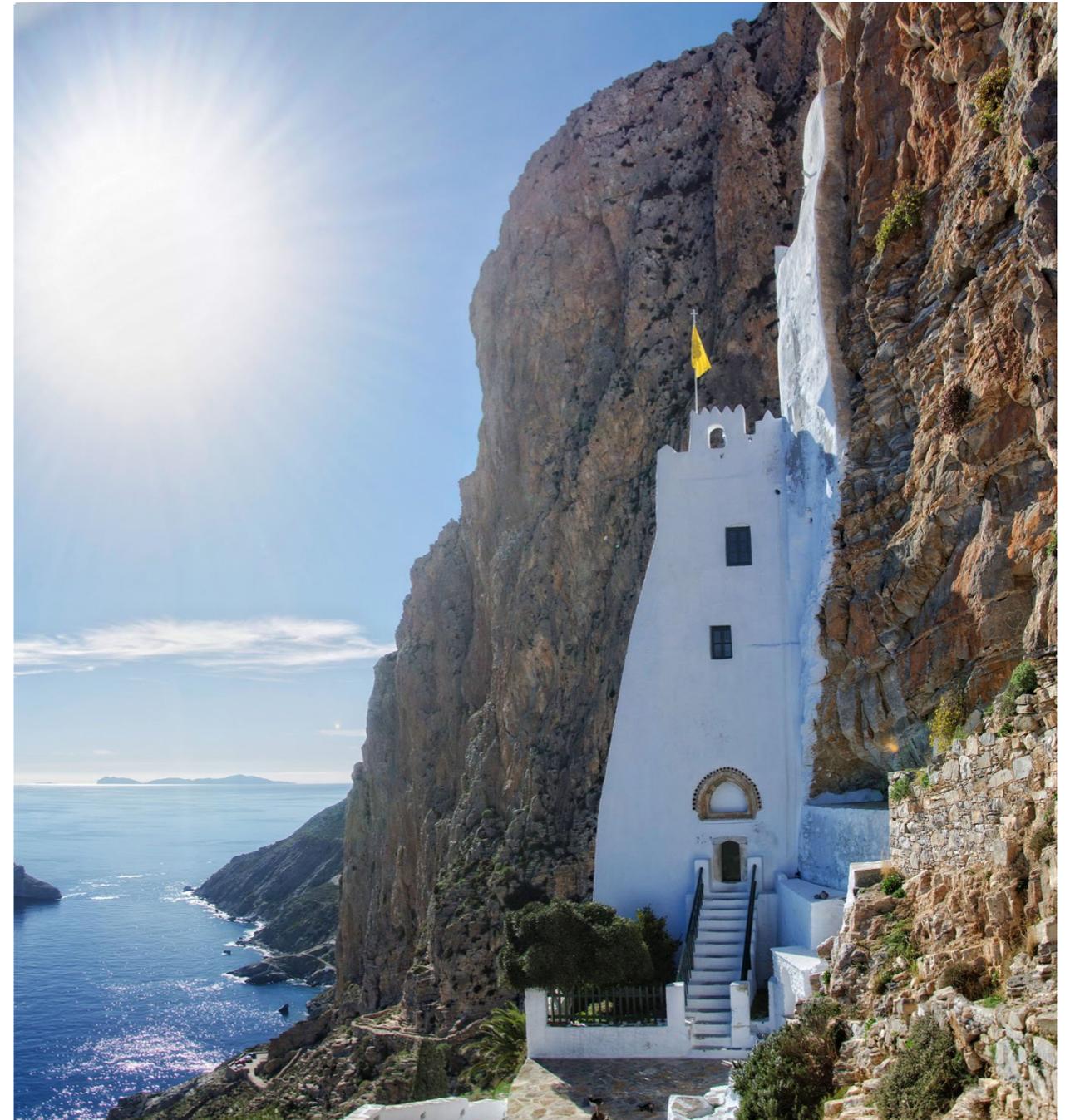
Panagia Hozoviotissa

The island's top attraction is the 10th century cliffside monastery of Panagia Hozoviotissa, dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin, a spiritual haven and one of the most important ecclesiastic monuments in Greece. Set high up on the steepest rock of Mt. Profitis Elias, 300m above the Aegean, the building resembles a "chest of drawers", according to the French explorer Pitton de Tournefort. Visible only from the sea, the monastery is an example of human triumph over nature, a wonder that will leave you awestruck.

According to tradition, the monastery was founded by the Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos in 1088, during the period of Iconoclasm, when the icon of Panayia was sent by a woman from Hozovo from Palestine and miraculously made its way to Amorgos. According to another version, the Monastery was founded in the 9th century by monks from Palestine and was later renovated by the emperor Alexios I Komnenos.

The monastery has eight floors connected by narrow stone staircases carved into the rock. 350 steps lead you to the monastery, the interior of which is like a labyrinth. The cells of the monks are all carved into the rock to form a unique example of traditional architecture. Two icons of the Virgin Mary and other religious relics from the period of Alexios Komninos have been found at the monastery. Important heirlooms such as a manuscript, gospels, vestments and ecclesiastical utensils dating from the 10th to the 19th century are also on display.

There is a stunning view of the island's wild beauty from the highest balcony of the Monastery. On the 21st of November there is a celebration of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary, the highlight of which is the procession of Her holy icon. After the procession there is a massive feast with plenty of food, wine and delicious traditional sweets!



The shipwreck of Olympia



The shipwreck of Olympia (which ironically was previously called 'Inland') sank in February 1980. The captain was seeking for a place near the coast where they could find shelter from the strong north winds. But they were helpless and the rough

sea threw them into the bay of Liverio near to the beach of Kalotaritissa. Luckily the whole crew was rescued. The shipwreck is in many scenes of the movie "The Big Blue" by Luc Besson. It's also a popular diving spot on the island.



Kalotaritissa-Mouros

Kalotaritissa beach is a fairly long beach located at the southern tip of the island and can be reached by car. It's a charming little bay with sandy beach and a numerous of fishing boats are anchored here. There is one small beach cafe and sunbeds and umbrellas for rent.

Mouros is an amazing pebble beach beyond everyone's expectations, situated near the villages of Vroutsi. The waters are crystal clear and you can discover the underwater caves in the far end of the beach by swimming.

Above the beach behind the parking is a tavern and cafe/bar with fantastic view over the archipelagos..



Taste delicious local specialties



Pasteli (sesame bar)



Patatato (goat cooked with potatoes)

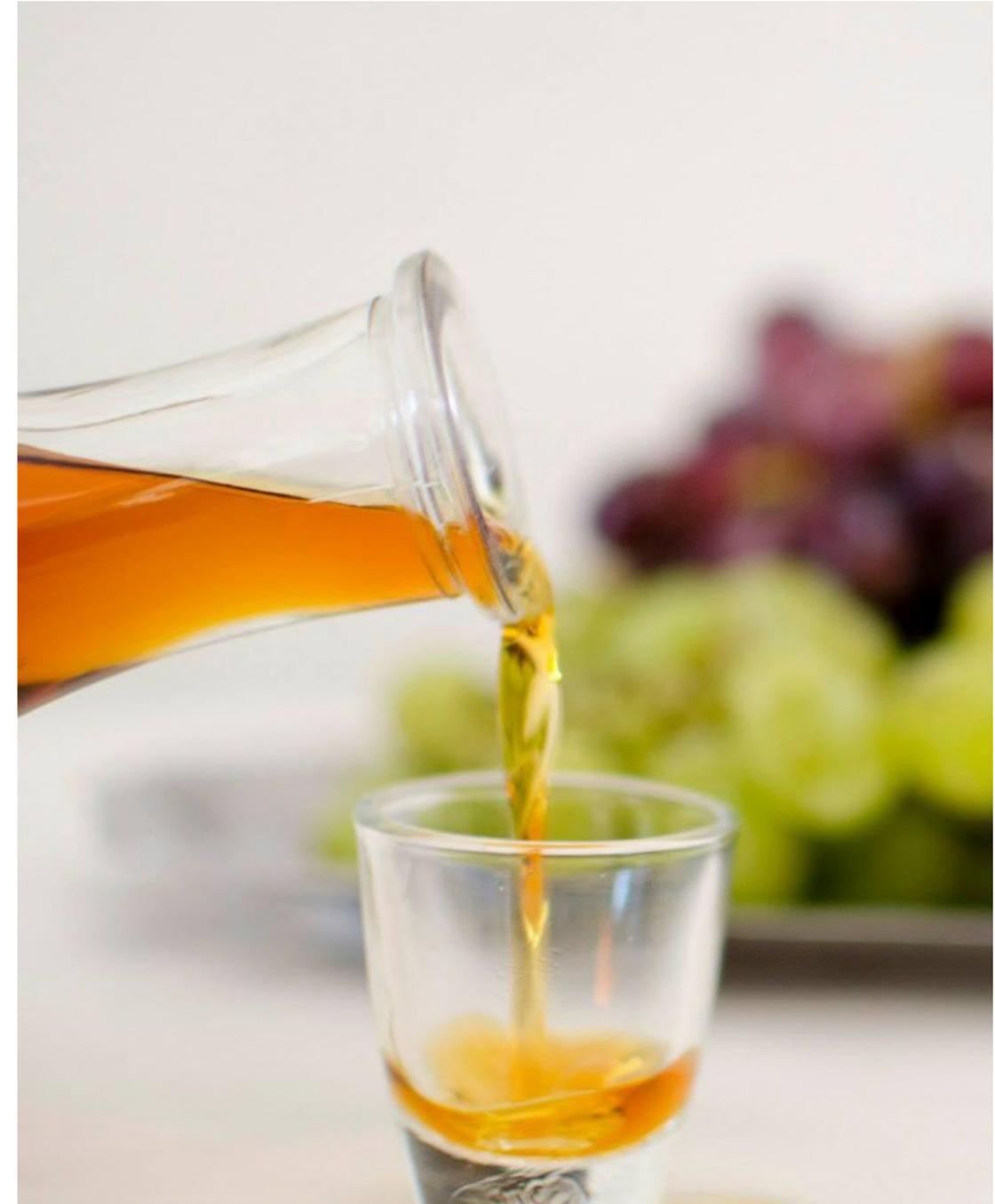
Taste delicious local specialties



Xerotigana (fried pies filled with white beet and fennel)



Ladotyri: sheep's milk cheese stored in olive oil, hence the name "ladotyri" (lit. "oil cheese"). It has a strong, salty taste, a pleasant aroma and a hard, dry skin and is off-white and slightly yellowish in colour.



Psimeni raki (raki – the local spirit – scented and seasoned with herbs)

TRAVEL TO AMORGOS

Amorgos has two ports, the main port in Katapola which is situated in the middle of the island and Aegiali port in the north part of the island. The island has no airport but you can fly to Athens, Santorini, Paros, Mykonos or Naxos and connect with a ferry to Amorgos.

TRAVEL WITH SHIP

The island is connected with ferries from Piraeus, the Cycladic islands, Rhodes and you can always connect via another island from whole of the Aegean sea. We recommend that you book your ticket in advance because it can be very busy in the high season.

TRAVEL BY PLANE

Amorgos has no airport but you can either fly to Athens and take a ship from the port of Piraeus. Or you can book a flight to Santorini, Paros or Mykonos and connect with a ferry to Amorgos. The third alternative is to fly to Naxos via Athens and take a ferry.



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