

Chios Island, Aegean Islands, Greece

A quieter corner of the Aegean where medieval fortress villages sport black-and-white geometric facades, mastic trees drip their rare resin, and an 11th-century monastery glows with gold Byzantine mosaics.

Docked (Chios Town harbor)

Typical call: 7–9 hrs

Euro (€)

Greek

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Quay berths at Chios Town harbor, 5-min walk to town center

Best For: Mastic villages, Byzantine art, authentic island culture

Don't Miss: Pyrgi's xysta facades and Nea Moni UNESCO monastery

Getting Around: Car hire or taxi essential — villages are 25–35 km from port

Getting around: Taxi €3–€10

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Pyrgi & the Painted Village** — Pyrgi is the largest mastic village and the most visually arresting — every building facade is etched in intricate black-and-white geometric "xysta"...
 - Mesta — Medieval Fortress Village** — Mesta is the best-preserved of the mastic villages, its stone houses locked together in a single defensive mass against pirate raids.
- Nea Moni UNESCO Monastery** — Built by Byzantine Emperor Constantine IX in 1042, this hilltop monastery is one of Greece's three UNESCO-listed Byzantine monuments.
 - Chios Mastic Museum & Groves** — Chios is the world's only source of natural mastic gum — a resin unique to this corner of the island, where it has been cultivated for centuries.
 - Chios Castle & Old Town Walk** — The Byzantine-era castle that towers over the port is free to enter and offers sweeping harbor views.

BEST WALKS

- Chios Town Waterfront & Castle Walk** 1.5 km · 30–45 min · Easy — From the cruise pier, stroll north along the harbor promenade to the main square, then turn inland toward the Byzantine castle.
- Kampos Citrus Estate Walk** Easy walk around estate roads · 45 min · Flat — The Kampos district, 4 km south of the port by taxi, is a grid of quiet lanes running between centuries-old Genoese mansions and walled citrus orchards.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		68°	55°	6d
Jun		85°	70°	3d
Aug		92°	76°	1d
Sep		84°	70°	2d
Oct		74°	63°	4d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:39AM–7:51PM · Jun 5:51AM–8:40PM · Aug 6:30AM–8:08PM · Sep 6:57AM–7:23PM · Oct 7:24AM–6:37PM

Euro (€)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Rent a car early. The mastic villages and Nea Moni are spread across the island — a rental car is by far the most flexible option and lets you combine all three in one day.
- Buy mastic products at the source. Chios mastic liqueur (Mastika), chewing gum, and cosmetics are genuinely unique. Best prices are in the mastic villages or the Masticulture cooperative shops, not the port.
- Nea Moni closes midday. The monastery shuts from 1 PM to 4–5 PM daily. Aim to arrive by 10–11 AM or plan an afternoon visit after 5 PM in summer.
- Carry cash in the villages. Credit cards work fine in Chios Town, but Pyrgi, Mesta, and rural tavernas often prefer cash.
- Try the local food. Chios has its own distinct cuisine — look for soufiko (ratatouille with mastic), mastelo cheese, and anything flavored with mastic resin. The waterfront tavernas in Chios Town are solid.
- Short on time? If you only have a few hours, Chios Town's castle, market street, and Byzantine Museum are all walkable from the pier and make for a satisfying half-day without needing a car.

Chios Island, Aegean Islands, Greece — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Byzantine Museum of Chios (Mecidiye Mosque) | Byzantine museum housed in a former Ottoman mosque. | 2 Castle of Chios | Explore a medieval castle with Venetian and Ottoman history. |
| 3 Chios Port | Main port of Chios, bustling with ferries and life. | 4 Ottoman Bath in the Castle of Chios | Ancient Ottoman bathhouse ruins within the castle walls. |
| 5 Windmill of Chios | Iconic traditional windmill offering scenic coastal views. | 6 Filoproodos Omilos Vrontados (F.O.V.) | Local cultural association promoting Vrontados traditions and events. |
| 7 Kampos | Historic area with unique mansions, gardens, and citrus groves. | P Cruise port / terminal | |