

# Symi Island, Dodecanese, Greece

A protected architectural gem rising above a fjord-like harbor, Symi rewards cruise visitors with pastel mansions, 375 stone steps to panoramic ruins, and tiny shrimp eaten whole.

⚓ Tender (large ships); small ships may dock

🕒 Typical call: 6–8 hrs

💶 Currency: Euro (€)

🗣️ Language: Greek

🏰 Protected neoclassical townscape

## 🍷 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive: \_\_\_\_\_ All aboard: \_\_\_\_\_  
Excursion: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Tender for most ships; small/expedition vessels dock at Gialos pier

**Best For:** Architecture, walking, seafood, beach day trips by water taxi

**Walk to center:** 0 min — tender lands in the heart of Gialos harbor

**Don't Miss:** Climbing the Kali Strata and tasting Symi shrimp (simiako garidaki)

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ Varies · 📱 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Kali Strata & Chorio Ruins** — Climb the 375-step stone stairway from the harbor to the hilltop village of Chorio, then continue to the Knights of St.
- **Panormitis Monastery** — The grand 18th-century monastery of Archangel Michael on Symi's southwest coast is a major Greek Orthodox pilgrimage...
- **Agios Georgios Beach by Water Taxi** — Dramatic pebble beach backed by a sheer 300-metre cliff — widely considered the most spectacular on Symi.
- **Symi Shrimp Lunch in Gialos** — Simiako garidaki — tiny sweet shrimp harvested locally, fried crispy and eaten whole including shells and heads.
- **Harbor Walk & Nautical Museum** — Stroll the neoclassical Gialos waterfront past the 1881 Katarinettes clock tower and war memorial, then duck into the...

## BEST WALKS

- **Gialos Harbor Promenade** 30–45 min · Easy · Flat — Circle the horseshoe harbor from the tender quay past neoclassical façades, sponge stalls, and waterfront cafes to the clock tower and...
- **Kali Strata to Chorio & Castle** 1.5–2 hrs · Moderate–Hard · Very steep — From the harbor square, find the start of the Kali Strata and ascend ~375 wide stone steps past derelict mansions draped in...

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear walking shoes, not sandals. Symi's cobblestones and steep marble steps are treacherous in flip-flops — proper grip is essential.
- Start early — it gets brutally hot. Symi sits in a sheltered bowl; by noon in summer, narrow streets become furnaces. Climb Kali Strata first thing.
- Carry euros. Cards work at most restaurants, but water taxis, sunbed rentals, and sponge vendors are cash only.