

Mini Travel Guide To Karpathos Island



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Introduction

Karpathos is the second largest island in the Dodekanese – after Rhodes. It is located among Crete and Rhodes, in the “Karpathian Sea”. It is an exceptionally traditional island whose people take care to preserve local traditions and where you will discover the authenticity and warmth of Greece much as it was fifty years ago. Karpathos is an island with stunning beaches and a diversity of scenery - its southern part has valleys and plains whilst central and northern Karpathos is mountainous.

Key Facts


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|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Altitude | 0-1.215 m |
| Inhabitants | 5.400 (Census 2001) |
| Area Code | + 30 (0)22450 |
| Currency | Euro |
| UTC difference | + 2 h (summer time + 3 h) |
| CET difference | + 1 h |
| Surface | 330 km ² |
| Population density | 16 inhabitants/km ² |
| National language | Greek |
| Highest Mountain: | Kali Limni, 1215 m |

Access to Karpathos


Access to the island is feasible via ferry boats which connect Piraeus with the two ports of the island: Diafani at the north and Karpathos at the south. The ferries of the line also connect the island with the neighboring islands. There is also air connection with Athens and with Rhodes and Kassos; charter flights, flying only in summer, connect the island with the most important European cities.

Geography


The island is located about 29.4 miles southwest of Rhodes and 45 miles east of Crete, in the "Carpathian Sea". Karpathos comprises 10 villages. All villages maintain intensively the traditional style of the island. In the southeast of the island you can find Pigadia the capital which is enclosed by the villages of Menetes, Arkasa, Aperi, Volada, Othos, and Piles. In the North one can find Mesochori, Spoa and Olymbos the last village in the North of the island, of great folkloric and architectural interest.




PIGIADIA: The modern town of Pigadia, the capital of Karpathos, is situated at the southeastern coast of the island built on the place of the ancient settlement of Poseidion. In the heart of this attractive small town visitors will find all the public services of Karpathos such as banks, the Post Office, the Telephone Company, as well as plenty of shops.



ARKASA: Arkasa is the second largest village in Karpathos. It is located by the sea on the southwestern part of Karpathos, roughly 16 km from Pigadia. Very popular with tourists because of its quaint charm and narrow streets Arkasa is one of the developing tourist centres of Karpathos which lives a modern life together with very old memories.




APERI: It is situated 8 kilometres north of Pigadia and used to be the capital of Karpathos. It is lying at an elevation of 320 meters, in a green area of one of the slopes of Mount Hamali.




AMMOPI: It is a tourist resort, situated at a distance of 6,5 kilometers southern to Pigadia, on the mid-way to the airport. The settlement offers facilities for accommodation and eating and some beaches that are protected from the strong northeastern summer winds.


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MENETES: It is situated 8 km southwest of the capital Pigadia. Menetes was built after the ruin by the pirates of the Byzantine city of Thaetho. It is constructed with little whitewashed houses with yellow and blue shutters and doors, with narrow alleys and the flowered balconies and yards.




MESOCHORI: The beautiful scenic village of Mesochori is lying 31 kilometers northwestern to Pigadia, with breathtaking view and a traditional architecture, which make it a pole of attraction for many visitors.




SPOA: The village lies on a hill side, located 38 kilometers far away from Pigadia at the Northwest and 4 kilometers eastern to Messochori, watching tow seas at the same time. The long-established architecture of the village, well preserved up to now, is a pole of attraction for many visitors.




LEFKOS: The coastal village with its bright green valley, with pine and olive trees, leads to indented shores with deep blue waters. A few accommodation amenities are available in the village, where you will take pleasure in a quiet staying. The beach in front of the settlement is ideal for a pleasant swimming.



FINIKI: The lovely settlement it is positioned on the west coast of Karpathos, 21 kilometers from Pigadia. It is a small and charming fishing port, offering a fine sandy beach, suitable for mooring of small fishing and tourist boats. Well known for all the fish restaurants and taverns.




DIAFANI: It is a small Greek seaside fishing village positioned in a bay on the north-east coast of Karpathos, below the traditional hilltop village of Olymbos. Accommodation facilities are few, while there are a few taverns at the sea front offer tasty local dishes.




OLYMPOS: An impressive traditional village located in the northern part of the island of Karpathos. It is described as a living museum, of architecture, ethnology, linguistics, and musicology while Women over forty, still wear their colorful traditional robe. It is certainly worth the visit.


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AGHIOS NICHOLAOS: Well organized beach in Arkasa situated southwestern to Pigadia. It is one of the best beaches of the island with sandy beach with nice white sand and shallow sea while it is very popular because of big wave. There are sun beds and umbrellas, showers, restaurants and it is reachable by car.




DIAKOFTIS: Situated at the southern coast of Karpathos, some 21 kilometers far from Pigadia. A beautiful beach with white sand and shallow emerald waters situated within a wonderful landscape. The last 6 kilometers of the road to the beach are a dirt road and there are no umbrellas, sun beds or restaurants at the area.




APPELA: Most well recognized beach of Karpathos situated some 16 kilometers northern to Pigadia. It can be accessed the beach by car, via the road departing from the village of Aperi or by boat from the port of pigadia. Within a captivating pine-clad environment with the rocks surrounding the beach there are sun beds, umbrellas and restaurant.



ACHATA: The little beach of Achata is a charming and quiet beach with nice sand and pebbles and a wonderful sea with fascinating colors. It is situated in a cove, surrounded by mountains and verdant vegetation about 13 kilometers northern to Pigadia. A small tavern is standing on the beach with sun beds and umbrellas.




KYRA PANAGIA: Lying in a bay flanked by the mountains and has a fine blend of white sand and smooth pebbles, and crystalline waters. It is situated at a distance of about 15 kilometers northern to Pigadia. A tavern is standing while there are sun beds and umbrellas. It is easily accessible from the village of Aperi while there are excursion boats go there every day from Pigadia town




LEFKOS : Nearby the coastal village, Located 33 kilometres north-west of Pigadia, guests will find three beaches with white sandy beaches and shallow waters. Gialou Chorafi is the best organized of them, the small quite sandy beach of Panagias Limani and the last is the beach of Francolimnionas. Accommodations and touristy facilities are available.


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AMMOPI: It is situated at a distance of 6 kilometers southern to Pigadia and it is consisted of 3 main beaches, and a lot of small ones. Mikri Ammopi, has light yellow sand and crystal clear sea, Megali Ammopi has golden sand and the clear blue waters and Votsalakia it is better known due to the fine pebbles. Umbrellas, deck chairs and restaurant are all at your disposal.




AFIARTIS: The windsurfing paradise is located 11 kilometers southern to pigadia. Afiartis it is consisted of many sandy beaches with crystal clear clean sea. The beach of Vata is the most popular for windsurfers, due to the strong currents while the two successive beaches of Valia and Punta, also attract numerous surfers. Finally the huge beach of Makrys Gialos with nice sand and shallow sea is also popular for the sport.



AGIOS THEODOROS: A small beach with fine pebbles and emerald green shallow waters, grate for underwater fishing. At southwestern part of Karpathos it is from 22.3Km away from Pigadia and from Arkasa 6,8Km.




KAMARAKIA: Located 300m after Foiniki, a small beach with clean golden sand and magical waters it is one of the best beaches to escape. There are restaurants, no drinking water, and of course, no umbrellas or deck chairs. The only touch of "civilization" is a sign warning about the undertow




AFOTIS: The second beach of Pigadia well organized, with nice sand, very clean sea and sea sport facilities and also offers an array of taverns, umbrellas and deck chairs.

SIGHTSEEING




Folklore Museum: The Folklore Museum gives you an overview on archaeological records of the island. There are museums in Olymbos and Othos - they focus on the history and culture of the island's inhabitants. Traditional costumes, pictures and various objects and items are exposed.


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PALIOKSATRO: Rising beyond the village is the "Acropolis" the PALIOKASTRO (old castle). At the "Paliokastro" there are vestiges from the Mycenaean acropolis and its Cyclopean walls. The acropolis was inhabited until the late Byzantine period. A colorful mosaic floor may be seen in its 5th Century Church of Aghia Anastassia.




CAVE OF POSEIDON: In Pigadia situated the Cave of Poseidon in the area of Mili. It was used either as a rock-cut tomb or a shelter dedicated to Poseidon or Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty.



POTIDEON: Archaeological findings have shed light on the significant role of Potideon for the prosperity of the island. The ancient city of Potideon was founded by the Mycenaean people who occupied the island of Karpathos during the 14th century B.C



SARIA: Located on the northern edge of Karpathos, is divided from the mainland of Karpathos by a narrow, long strait. Historical records reveal that a kingdom existed there in the ancient times, probably the ancient town of Nisyros. It can be accessed by boat from the port of pigadia




FESTIVALLS: Local folklore celebration on 15th of August on Panagia's (Madonna's) honor, that takes place in Menetes and Aperi. The festival of Kyra Panagia on 23rd of August. The festival of Saint Jhohn at Vroukounda on 28-29th of August. The wine festival at Lasto, on changing date during August.

Activities




SCUBA DIVING: In the beginning of 2007 in the beautiful island of Karpathos was established the first diving school. The main office is located in the center of Pigadianext to the big church of Aghi Apostoli. Observe and admire the Karpathian underwater beauties by attending small groups with the view of absolute safety and environmental protection. Demo lessons will be given in Arkasa Bay Swimming Pool.
Contact Information: Telephone: 30 22450 23760 Email: info@diveinkarpathos.gr


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SURFING: Karpathos is a great place for windsurfing with the meltemi blows full force starting from the north down throughout the high mountains, with high-wind days being virtually an everyday occurrence in July and August. Club Mistral operates two surf centres in Afiartis. Contact Information: Telephone: 00 30 22450 91061.



CLIMBING: The rocky interior, a favourite with climbers. A broad selection of climbs with different challenges and nature wait for rock climbers at each of the island's crags. Contact Information: Email: Franz@Ehrnthaller.de
Read: <http://www.max-aumueller.de/Karpathos/ClimbingGuideKarpathos2007.pdf>



TREKKING: Karpathos has well preserved and signaled footpaths leading to the remote places of the island. All the routes are very scenic, some of breathtaking beauty and the fans of trekking will certainly enjoy them.

EAT AND DRINK

There are many restaurants and taverns to eat . You should not miss the local "Marounes" homemade pasta, the local fish skaros, karpathian salad, karpathian stifado, kouloura karpathiki, karpathian cheese, sardines, local wines and many more.

RESTAURANTS IN ARKASA AND FINIKI

- Dimitrios Fisherman's Tavern (Fresh Fish Greek Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61368
- Crete, Restaurant (Greek and Karpathian Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61069
- Petalouda, Restaurant (Greek Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61065
- Family House, Restaurant (Greek and International Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61350
- Glaros, Restaurant (Greek and International Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61350
- Sun Ray, Restaurant (Greek and International Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61350
- To Steki tou Markou (Ouzeri-Tavern) Telephone: 22450-61271
- Taka Taka Mam (FastFood-Tavern) Telephone: 22450-61405
- Finiki View (Tavern) Telephone: 22450-61400
- Marina's, Restaurant (Greek and International Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61357
- Nikos, , Restaurant (Fresh Fish Greek Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61453
- Delfini, , Restaurant (Fresh Fish Greek Cuisine) Telephone: 22450-61060

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CAFE SNACK BAR

-Sweet Time (Creperie-Sweets-Beakfast) Telephone: 22450-61006

CAFE MUSIC BAR

-Kozi (Cafe-Bar-cocktail) Telephone: 22450-61326

-Retro (Cafe-Bar-cocktail) Telephone: 22450-61002

-The Parthenon (Cafe-Bar-cocktail) Telephone: 22450-29144

-Stema (Cafe-Bar-cocktail) Telephone: 22450-61231

CAR & MOTO RENTALS

-Two Brothers Moto Rentals Telephone: 22450-61433

-St.Nicholas Beach Car Rentals Telephone: 22450-61360

-Sofia's Car Rentals Telephone: 22450-61465

-Drive Rent A Car Telephone: 22450-61249

-Arkasa Moto and Car Rentals Telephone: 22450-61329

RESTAURANTS IN PIGADIA

-Maistrali Restaurant directly at the beach. Find a large selection of dishes- Greek salad, fish, pizza or burgers. Afoti beach, Telephone: 22450-233 17

CAFE MUSIC BAR IN PIGADIA

-Liquid Bar rated the hottest cafe bar in karpathos town is located in a very graphic corner of Pigadia. Telephone: 22450-233 17



Useful Telephone Numbers

Municipality of Karpathos 22450 – 22294 and 22450 – 22427

Police Station 22450 – 22224

Tourist Police 22450 – 22212

Greek National Tourist Organization 22410 – 22661

Hospital 22450 – 22228

Medical Center 22450 – 22228

Port Authority 22450 – 22227

Airport 22450 – 23101

Olympic Airways – Karpathos 22450 – 22057

Taxi Station 22450 – 22705