

MUNICIPALITY
OF
ΚΕΑ

▶ How to come to Kea

Kea is linked by ferry with the ports of Lavrio, Kythnos and Syros. There are daily routes between Lavrio and Kea. You reach Lavrio via Attika Tollway driving towards Markopoulo, or either via the coastal road Poseidonos Avenue and Athens-Sounion Avenue.

▶ Alternatively:

- You take Suburban Railway (Proastiakos) and stop in Koropi. From there you take the bus to Lavrio and in about 40 minutes you are in the port.
- From Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos you take the bus that goes to Lavrio via Markopoulo.
- You reach through the green metro line Victoria Station and at a 100 m. walking distance, you find the Bus Terminal in Pedion tou Areos. Buses to Lavrio leave every 30'.

▶ How to move in Kea

As soon as you are out of the port, you'll find buses and taxis that will bring you to your final destination. You are going to use the same means of transport for your transportation across the island, in case you don't have a car. You may also rent a vehicle at the port.

For more traditional types, there is the possibility of a tour or special delivery via mules and donkeys, a special way to tour around loulis and the paths of Kato Meria towards Karthaia. As for the tour in the path, keep in mind that you must have a good physical condition due to the difficulty of ascending and descending.

Moreover, for special or urgent transportation, you may use the water taxis, also for the route Kea-Lavrio. The water-taxis may carry from 4 to 8 persons

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Useful Numbers

First Aid | 166

Health Center | 22880-22200

Pharmacy in Ioulida | 22880-22277

Pharmacy in Korissia | 22880-22000

Fire Brigade | 199

Police | 100

Kea Police | 22880-21100

Kea Port Authority | 22880-21344

Lavrio Port Authority | 22923-20400 / 401

Municipality of Kea | 22883-60000

Citizen Service Center | 22880-21150

Tourist Info | 22880-21500

Archeological Museum | 22880-22079



The island

Kea or Tzia is an island full of beauty, cultural tradition and strong contrasts in its geophysical profile, where at distances of 10 kilometers, the island with the mountainous nature conflict peacefully, creating a charming result for the visitor.

Regarded as the “gate of the Cyclades”, and indirectly connects mainland Greece with the Cyclades and separates the Archipelago from the South Evian Gulf.

It is the northernmost island of the western Cyclades and the closest island to Attica, located only 16 miles from Lavrio, with which it is connected with daily ferries. Access to Lavrio is easy and feasible, either via Attika Tollway towards Markopoulo, or either via the coastal road Poseidonos Avenue and Athens-Sounion Avenue. The boat trip lasts just 1 hour. Kea has also ferry links with the ports of Kythnos and Syros. The island, has the shape of a “droplet”, a total surface of 131 sq. Km., and a perimeter coast of 85 km., and it is the 6th in size Cycladic island, with about 2.500 residents.

Combining a one of a kind natural landscape, beautiful beaches, thrilling sights and a rich historic tradition, Kea is an enchanting destination that fulfills the expectations even of the most demanding visitor.

The short distance from Athens, makes it easily approachable throughout the year, for many Athenians and aspirant travelers in general, looking for two-day trips or long vacations. It is also a favorite destination for sailing boats, seeking for a calm and picturesque port for calm weekends.







THE FOOTPATHS OF KEA

THE FOOTPATHS OF KEA





The footpaths of Kea

One of the most interesting ways to discover Kea is by walking. The well-preserved network of footpaths in the island includes 12 routes that will offer you unforgettable experiences. Wander around the green creeks in the inland, the most isolated small bays, the most picturesque chapels, the imposing ruins of an ancient tower. Check out the suggested routes and let Kea reveal to you its natural beauty and its enchanting history.

Discover Kea walking

Kea is a paradise for the walkers as it has a footpath network of a total length of 81 km, many of which are stone-paved. The footpaths were part of an ancient road network that in the 7th – 6th century B.C. connected the cities-states. In every path you will find wooden signs with practical information about each route and small metal signs indicating the number of each path. Put on comfortable clothes and shoes, take supplies and let the island reveal to you its secret beauty.

1 | “Leon” Route: Ioulis – Leon – Dossinari – Diaselli - Otzias

Length: 5.100 m. You start from Ioulis following the sign with the indication "Leon". Passing through the "stegadia", the typical Cycladic galleries, you will make your first stop to the famous Lion of Kea, a rock with a sculpture in the shape of an imposing lion that, sunk into bliss, is gazing towards Ioulis. The Lion dates back in the archaic years and the legends around him are many. Moving further to the path, you will find Benjamin 's spring accompanied

by a centenarian sycamore. There you can quench your thirst with pouring water and rest under the sycamore' shadow enjoying the enchanting view. Then take the road to Dossinari, walking through the oaks and the almond trees. After a while, you will meet the first houses of Otzias and if you cross Diaselli, you will end up to the beach in Otzias bay

2 | “Elixos” Route: Ioulis – Roukounas – Komi – Aghios Konstantinos – Mylopotamos – Flea – Korissia

Length: 3.100 m. Starting from the famous spring of Rokomenos at the exit of Ioulis, where according to the legend whoever drinks its water will marry someone from Kea, you go down to Korissia. After 1.800 m., you meet the church of Aghios Konstantinos and the homonym spring. Here starts a cobbled path that lays over the remains of the ancient road Ioulis-Korissia and crosses the valley of the watermills, where the water of Flea, the rich spring of Kea, flows. From Mylopotamos you may take the central road that after 2 km ends up to Korissia. It's better, however, to go on walking through cypress-flooded creek in the area of Flea. Along the river, there are still preserved 11 grinding watermills, typical samples of the Kean architecture in total harmony with the environment. In the past, they functioned all year round along with the windmills grinding cereals and suppling with flour and animal food the villages. Today most of them are abandoned while a few of them are inhabited.



3 | “Aristeos” Route: Ioulis – Messaria – Profitis Ilias – Astra – Ellinika – Aghios Symeon – Karthaia



Length: 11.850 m. This route connecting ancient Ioulis to ancient Karthaia runs the inland of Kea. It is intersected with the road network with which it meets in four different spots. You may walk it from the beginning following the signs but you also have the opportunity to wander around some of its parts as small complete routes. The starting point is Ioulis. Climbing up the stone path from the square, you reach the Aghia Trias spring. After the first crossroad with the village road, the path goes on to the old windmills, that are a representative samples of the local folk architecture. You meet again the village road after the old mill and you continue to the path that leads to Messaria and its beautiful spring. In Gyristi you will go out again to the village road, continuing to the path of Profitis Ilias that leads to the highest spot of the island. The entire route is stone-paved and passes through the oak woods. After Profitis Ilias you go out to the village road in Astra area. From there you will walk for a 1.700 m. distance on the asphalt road until Ellinika area where a wooden sign shows you the way to the path that ends up to the archeological site and the coast of Karthaia. From Ellinika as well as from Aghios Symeon you may also take the alternative route 8 with destination Aghios Filippos.

4 | “Drys” Route: Moni Episkopis – Sotira – Perameria – Tria Maderika – Sykamia

Length: 4.450 m. From Ioulis you take the village road to the east areas of Kea. From the village road Ellinika-Katomeria, in the location Gyristi, you take the dirt road that will lead you to a significant byzantine monument: the Episkopi monastery. Many of the church's spots are built with ancient building material. From here you will start your tour. First stop: Sotira and its spring. The area is full of oak trees, so you will cross a part of one of Kea's oak

forests and at the same time one of the last forests of Royal Oak left in the Aegean Sea. Next stop: the location Tria Maderika. Here the landscape starts getting more rocky. You will walk on a rough slope but at the end you will get rewarded by the beautiful sandy beach of Sykamia where it ends. You may start the same route also from Sotira to which the next dirt road leads you.



5 | “Karthia” Route: Katomeria – Kalodouka – Vathypotamos Spring



Length: 3.150 m. The village of Kato Meria is located in an area with great natural beauty in the heart of Kea and this route is connected with the broader archeological site of Karthaia. Reaching the location Kalodouka, you will find the homonym spring, where until today survive the ancient leveled surfaces of cultivations. The Kalodouka and Vathypotamos springs that you will meet further are the most ancient water supply resources of Karthaia. This route can be connected with route 3, in location Chimoniki. From there, a partially stone-paved path will lead you to Atzeritis in Kato Meria, an alternative route to access Karthaia, through the inland of the island.

6 | “Karthaia” Route: Stavroudaki – Vathypotamos Spring - Karthaia

Length: 2.300 m. This tour has village Stavroudaki as starting point, at 17 km distance from Ioulis. After approximately 400 m of dirt road, you will meet a stone-paved path. At that point, you leave contemporary Kea and you start sinking in one of the most important natural and historic landscapes in Cyclades. While you move further to the ancient path that crosses Vathypotamos, you will see the entire flora and fauna of the island gradually being revealed in front of you. This is the area where the theater and the water supply system of the ancient town were discovered. At the end of this route, you will see Panagia ton Polo sprawling. After you take a swim in its deep blue waters, you may start your exploration. In the south end of Aspri Vigla you will find the acropolis of Karthaia, with the most important buildings of the ancient town: the temple of Athena and the temple of Apollo. Two more buildings, “propylon” and “building D”, are located around the temple of Athena. On the east side of the acropolis, there is the cemetery of the town. In the whole site there are currently being conducted excavations and works of preservation.



7 | “Karthaia” Route: Chavouna – Aghios Taxiarchis – Pigadaki – Kaliskia – Karthaia



Length: 1.700 m. The traditional village Chavouna is at a 18,5 km distance from Ioulida. Chavouna belonged to ancient Karthaia and until today has undergone minimal interventions. After going down the cobbled path and having always view to the sea, you meet the little church of Aghios Taxiarchis. In location Pigadaki you have the chance to see signs of a farm of the classical era, with a precinct and towers. After about half an hour you will find yourselves in front of a deviation. If you move into the main road, you will end up to Vathypotamos stream, where the route is connected with the previous ones. If you follow the deviation, you will reach the isolated beach of Kaliskia.



8 | "Seirios" Route: Ellinika – Chouchli – Vryses – Aghios Filippos – Aghios Symeon

Length: 4.300 m. Starting point for this route is Ellinika, at a 10,3 km distance from Ioulis. If you start from Aghios Symeon, the route towards Aghios Filippos is shorter. From Aghios Symeon you may also choose to follow route 3 towards Karthaia. After Ellinika, in location Chouchli, survives a part of an ancient

tower that was used as an observatory for the control of the area. When you reach Vryses, you will see the stone-made constructions used for watering the cultivations. The route ends up to the isolated pebbled beach of Aghios Filippos.



9 | "Artemis" Route: Ioulis – Myloi – Tholos – Kalogerados – Amarathia – Ellinika – Aghios Panteleimonas – Panagia Loutriani

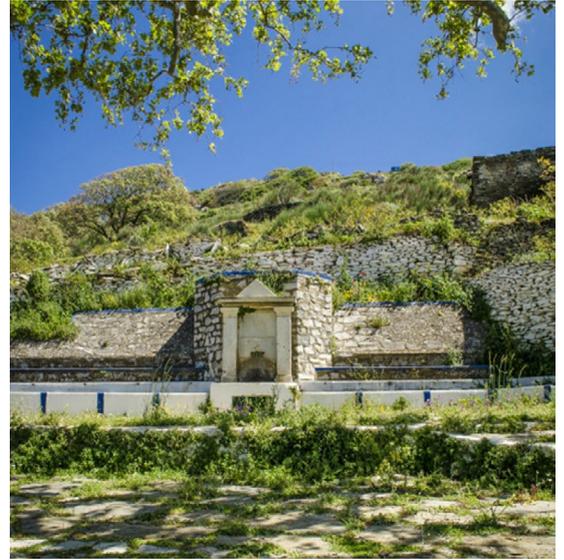
Length: 5.500 m. This route through a green landscape starts from the south fringes of Ioulis, in location Synetairismos, and goes up to the Mountain of the Mills, at a 500 m. altitude. Walking further for quite a while on the village road, you will find in the area of Tholos the historic temple of Ioannis Theologitis and then you will enter the dense oak forest of Kalogerados. You will cross a creek of unique wild beauty and you will reach at the clearing with the church of Aghios Nikolaos, a point where the route may split into two smaller parts, because of

a road passage. The path continues always through a virgin oak forest in Amarathia and, just before it ends up to Ellinika, it turns again to a track. This route is connected with Ellinika with route 3 that leads to Karthaia. On the opposite direction, to the west, you may expand your route towards the post-byzantine monastery of Aghios Panteleimonas and Aghia Irini, having as final destination Panagia Loutriani, in the depths of a forest valley, where you will see one more ancient tower and other buildings of the same era.



10 | “Hydroussa” Route: Benjamin Spring – Aghios Dimitrios – Spathi

Length: 4.800 m. Following initially the same route of exit from Ioulis with the one that leads to Otzias (Route 1), you reach Benjamin’s spring. This location functions as the starting point of the route because it has also a road access from the village road, leading from Ioulis to Spathi and Kastri. After the spring the path ramifies and its east branch leads to Aghios Dimitrios. Following for a 150 m distance the village road, you will meet a sign that will get you again into the path. You go down to the deep creek of Spathi, the most impressive one in the island. The biggest part of this route is shadowy. Getting close to the bank of the stream, you may observe the terraced stone road with continuous angular turns that is a unique sample of the rural folk architecture of Kea. After a tour through the stream and the dense vegetation, passing from dispersed country houses and chapels on the slopes, you end up to the big idyllic sandy beach of Spathi, where you have the chance to swim in the crystal waters or just to rest in the fish-tavern. On the southern hill next to the beach there has been discovered an ancient mine.



11 | “Poiessa” Route: Sklavonikolas – Panachra – Aghia Marina – Pisses – Pisses beach

Length: 5.500 m. “Poiessa” Route: Katomeria – Chionatos spring – Pisses – Pisses beach Length: 4.700 m. In location Sklavonikolas, you turn right from the village road and you take the track to Vroskopos. After 1,5 km, you meet on your left the entrance to the path Panachra-Aghia Marina. Very soon you reach to the abandoned, yet quite impressive ancient Hellenistic Tower of Panachra. If you continue to the same path, you will reach to a biggest tower, the Tower of Aghia Marina, that dates back to the Classical-Hellenistic years and still stands there resisting to the corrosion by the centuries, the earthquakes, the invasions and the hurricanes. Next to it you will find the snowy little catholic church of Aghia Marina that belonged to the early Byzantine monastery. At a short distance, you will meet the homonym spring known for the best running water in the island. Leaving behind you the

Tower, you will go on through a narrow village road that after a while, in location Kremasti, turns into a descending path towards Pisses. In this amazing route, you will enjoy wild nature’s beauty, walking through the rocky mountainside and gazing across the picturesque area Plagia that ends up to the creek. After your descent to Pisses valley, you will get rewarded with the view of a serene landscape with fields, fruit trees and farms. What you will most enjoy though is swimming in Pisses beach and enjoying its velvet sand. You may reach the same destination starting from Aghios Nikolaos in Kato Meria and following that wonderful route full of dense vegetation and beautiful landscapes. After you pass Chionatos spring, you will end up to the big creek and then to Pisses beach. This alternative route is connected with the previous one in the big creek, at a 2 km distance from the beach.



12 | “Orkos” Route: Profitis Ilias – Laoudi – Kampouri – Orkos

Length: 4.200 m. “Orkos” Route: Velado – Grikou – Gerantoni Spring – Panagia tou Grikou Length: 1.900 m. A route that was recently characterized as a “Route of Cultural interest”, starting from Profitis Ilias and ending up to the picturesque bay of Orkos. You may start this route also from Loulis. In this case, the route until Profitis Ilias is identical with “Aristeos” Route (no. 3). From the village road at the level of Profitis Ilias, the route leads to a narrow track that after a while turns into a path. After transforming in a cobbled track, the route goes down towards a creek full of oaks and maples. At its last part, it leads to the stream, ending up

to Orkos, in a beautiful sandy beach with trees, clear waters and a few cottages. Here you will see old iron ores some of which are open to the public. You may return by car through a quite good road. The same route in the broader area Velado – Profitis Ilias may include an idyllic tour that leads from the village road Loulis-Katomeria to Velado. There you will see little churches, cottages and villas. From the location Grikos, the route goes down to a stone-paved narrow path framed by “xerolithia” walls. Through an oak forest you come down the stairs, pass from Gerantonis spring and end up in the picturesque chapel of Panagia of Grikos.



Water Sports

The deep blue water of Kea and the special morphology of its bays form a welcoming environment for the friends of the water sports. Apart from the classic sailing that counts a tradition of decades in the island, the visitor has the opportunity to do water skiing, wakeboarding, surfing, wakesurfing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, jet skiing, diving and more fascinating activities.

In the island there are several water sports centers, where you may find all the necessary information, special equipment as well as the appropriate trainers.



Shipwrecks

Kea is a one of a kind destination for the aficionados of diving tourism as in its seabed lay four extremely interesting shipwrecks, that marked its recent history: Titanic' s twin sister, floating hospital Britannic and French ocean liner Burdigala, paddlewheel steamboat Patris and a German Junkers 52 airplane from WWII.

HMHS BRITANNIC

In 1975, off the port of Kea and at a depth of 120 m., Jacques Cousteau discovered the shipwreck of the Britannic, which sunk accidentally having hit a German mine in November 1916, and whilst sailing on route to the hospital station of Lemnos, carrying British wounded crew. The Britannic, launched in 1914 and with a length of 269 m., was one of the largest ocean liners running the North Atlantic route and sister ship of the Titanic. With the declaration of the WWI, however, she was requisitioned by the British Admiralty and converted immediately into a floating hospital. Despite the fact that its design had improved considerably after the sinking of the Titanic, the ship sank in only 55 minutes. However, thanks to the appropriate rescue equipment onboard, but also to its proximity to Kea, roughly 1.300 passengers were rescued, mainly due to the quick launch of the lifeboats and the continued operation of the engines, while only 30 lost their lives. (Photo: Michail Michailakis collection)

PATRIS

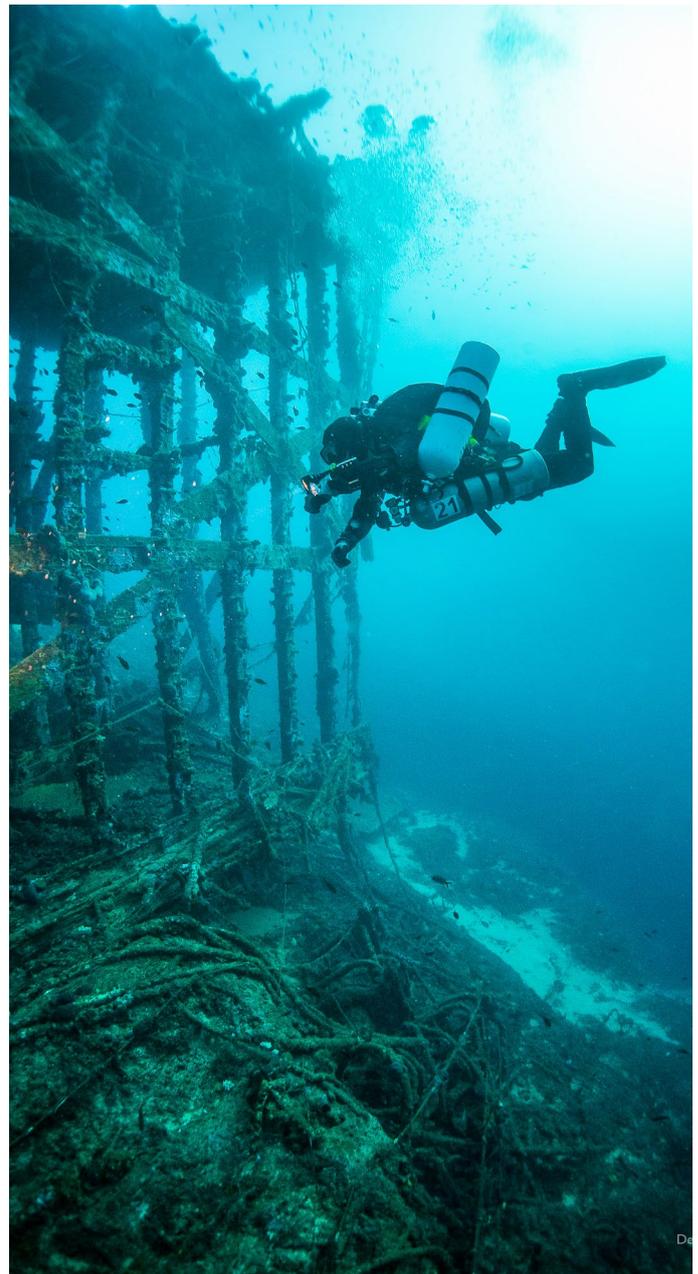
On a night in February 1868, eight years after its construction, the luxury steamship "Otho", later renamed to "Patris", following the overthrow of King Otho, on whose order the steamship was built on the River Thames in England, hit the reef off Koundouros (Makriopounta) on a journey from Piraeus to Syros. The roughly 500 people who were on board survived. The wreck, which remained unknown even to the inhabitants of the island, was discovered after 138 years and after more than 30 plus dives in a period of three years. The hull, 217 feet in length and weighing 641 tones, was found cut in two pieces, at a depth between 28 and 54 m. According to the head of the exploration team, Mr. Vasilis Mentogiannis it is the first time that such a ship is discovered in the Mediterranean, which the newspapers of the time described as "one of the nicest, if not the greatest, steamship of the Greek Steamship Company". The 30 objects that have been recovered can be seen on display at the Syros Industrial Museum. (Photo: Derk Remmers)

S/S BURDIGALA

In September 2008, the diving team of Kea Dive Expedition, revealed the existence of an unknown shipwreck that had been discovered by coincidence with the use of a side scan sonar one year previously by Dr. Georgios Papatheodorou (hon. professor of the dept. of Geology of the University of Patras) at a depth of 70 m. and about 2 miles from the point of sinking of the Britannic. This is the French commandeered ocean liner S/S Burdigala, the former S/S Kaiser Friedrich, built in 1897 and 180m in length, which sank on 14 November 1916, by a mine laid by the same German submarine U73, that just one week before had caused the sinking of the Britannic. (Photo: Derk Remmers)

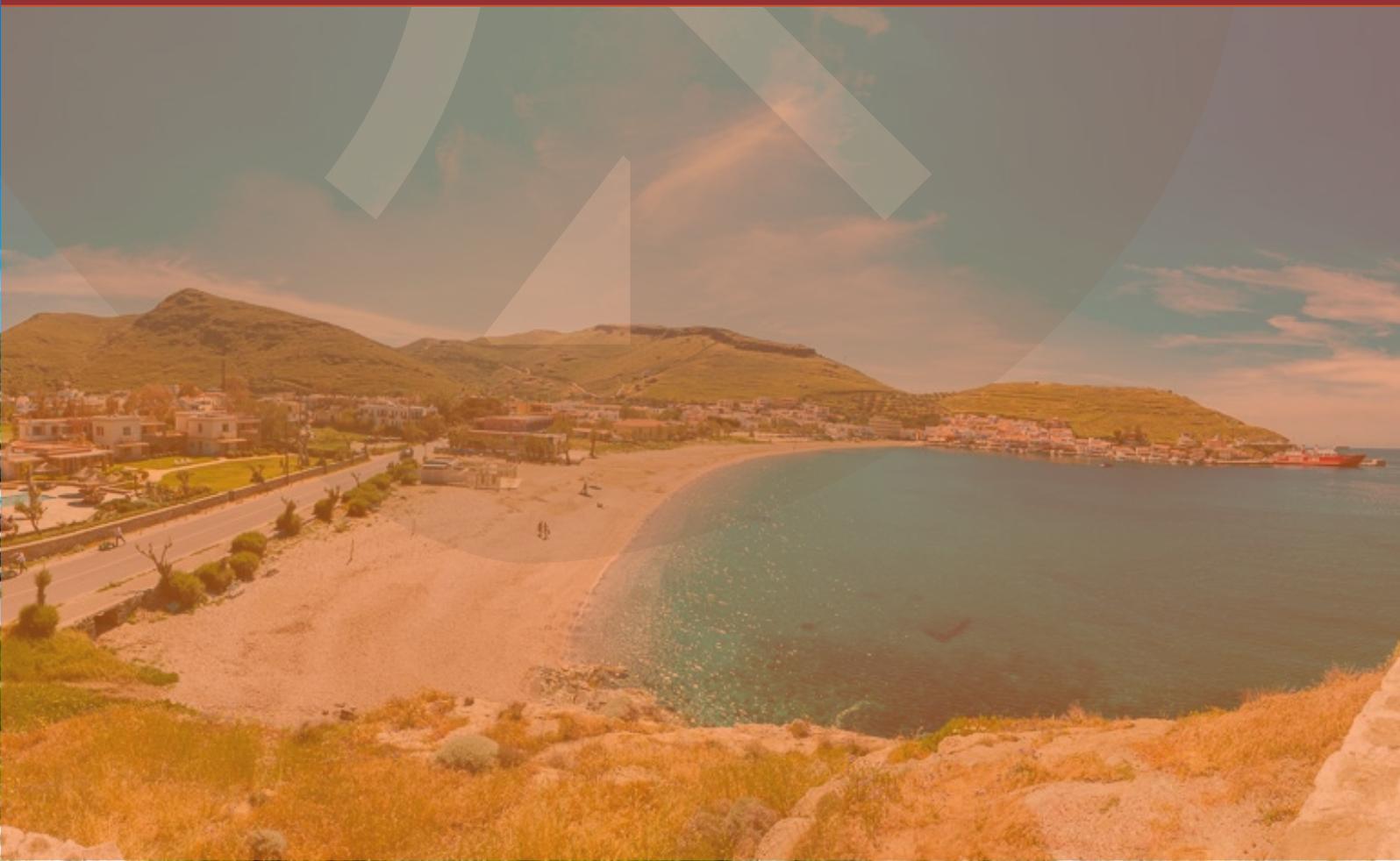
JUNKERS 52

During the mission for the discovery of S/S Burdigala, the side scan sonar detected at a short distance from the wreck and at a depth of 65 m. an unknown aircraft, which the same diving time did not manage to identify until the spring of 2009. The find was the remains of a three engine transport Junkers 52 airplane (with a wing span of approximately 26 m. and a fuselage length of about 20 m.) of the type involved in the operations of the German army in the Aegean and specifically employed during the battle of Crete (1941) and the battle of Leros (1943). It is the best preserved of the four similar aircrafts that have been located within Greek territorial waters, and the only one that sits in a horizontal position, with all of its equipment intact and undisturbed. Its position indicates that the engines were not in operation during its crash, so most probably it was forced to land on water in September 1943. One of its occupants perished and two were wounded, while the rest of the crew were transferred unharmed to Athens. (Photo: Areti Kominou)





HISTORY





MONUMENTS

MUSEUMS

RELIGIOUS TOURISM

MYTHOLOGY



Monuments

An island with such great history as Kea could not but be full of disperse monuments in land and sea. Either you take a short walk in Chora or you make an explorative trekking through the footpaths, you continuously stumble on interesting landmarks, dated from the prehistoric period to the previous century.



The Lion

On the footpath that starts from Aghios Spyridon area and ends up to Otzias bay, you will meet the renowned Lion, the trademark of the island. It's an archaic sculpture of the 6th-7th c. B.C. carved on a solid schist rock of approximately 8 m. The lion is connected with many legends related to the drought that had affected the island in the ancient times. According to the most dominant legend, the time when Kea was still called "Hydroussa" because of its abundant waters, a ferocious lion appeared in the forests of the island that until then were populated by Nymphs, the water

fairies, and he chased them. Then the urge of the gods caused the drought of the climate in Cyclades and especially in Kea, which was restituted with the arrival of demigod Aristeos from Thessaly, son of god Apollo and nymph Cyrene. Aristeos managed to appease the gods, the drought was significantly confined and the beneficial northern winds of the summer, cool "meltemia", began.

The Lighthouses

In Kea there are two lighthouses: the lighthouse of Aghios Nikolaos in Korissia and the lighthouse of cape Tamelos in the southern part of the island.

The lighthouse of Aghios Nikolaos is located at the edge of the port in the big natural gulf of Kea 's canal and is built over the ruins of Poseidon Temple. It was built in 1831 by the French Lighthouse Company, it has 8 m. height and was the first lighthouse ever

functioned in Cyclades and the second one in modern Greece. Next to it you will find the little church of Aghios Nikolaos. Since 2010 it is characterized as a monument and appertains to the category of the antiquities under protection.

The lighthouse in cape of Tamelos was built in 1893 to light the strait between Kea and Kythnos. Its tower has a height of 7,5 m.



Karthaia

Karthaia is the most important archeological site of the island. As it occurs by the finds, it should have been the most prominent from the four cities-states. The earliest finds in the area date back to the early Cycladic period but are sporadic and do not support such an early installation at the site. The first nucleus habitation of Karthaia reached the Geometric period. Gradually the city grew, reaching its height in the 6th and 5th century B.C. and it seems that it survived as a settlement until the Paleochristian years.

The site includes an acropolis fortified with walls of more than 2 km. length with gates, towers and boulders. The main area in the city is the Doric Temple of Pythian Apollo (c. 530 B.C.). In the vestibule and the "square" in front of the temple, many bases and offerings pedestals are saved, like a series of voting pedestals of the parliament and the municipality of the Karthaians. Another Doric temple (c. 500 B.C.) found in the area is allegedly attributed to Athena because of a statue of the goddess, which probably comes from the pediment of the temple.

It is the oldest known Doric temple in Cyclades. Its pediments and promontories were decorated with sculptural compositions depicting the Amazons Battle, which ones you may see in the Archeological Museum in Ioulis. In the same area there is also the building of unknown function "building D" (c. 300 B.C.), which owes its conventional name to letter D that Danish archeologist Brondsted noted on his first sketch of the area in 1811. Finally, at the western side of the acropolis lies the stone theater of the ancient town, that dates back to the Hellenistic times. In 2015 its excavations were completed, revealing a small sized, simply constructed and totally built up theater with 880 seats capacity. It was constructed in the Hellenistic period while in the Post-Roman

period there was added a baths complex.

In the dual bay of Karthaia distinguished today is the submerged ancient breakwater while at the top of the hills of Aspri Vigla, where today stands the church of Mirtidiotissa, there was an ancient temple. On the slopes of the hills spread out houses, as evidenced by sections of walls, staircases, stone piles and utilitarian objects.

South of the theater, to the east of the temple of Apollo and on the road connecting the two terraces survives a tank system for the water supply of the city (Hellenistic and Post-Roman times). Inside the temple of Apollo and around of the temple of "Athena" there are graves (6-7th century A.D.), often lined with ancient architectural elements in secondary use. The most important finds of the excavations in Karthaia are exhibited now in the Archeological Museum in Ioulis.



The new and the historic Town Hall

The visitors of Ioulis have the opportunity to admire two significant architectural monuments, both works of the great German architect Ernst Ziller, the new Town Hall and the historic Town Hall of the island.

The building where is based the Municipality of Kea used to host Ioulis' Elementary School. It is built based on Ziller's designs and has in its 100-year life hosted, among others, a Pre-Secondary School, a Secondary School and a High School. Today it is regarded as a building under preservation while recently it has been restored.

The historic Town Hall is a remarkable neoclassical building of 1902, decorated by finds from the archeological sites of the island. In its façade stand out the clay statues of Hermes and Apollo, while on the western side an ancient female sculpture and a relief of the classical era have been built into the wall. Inside the building more reliefs have been built into the walls while the conference room of the Municipal Council contains impressive ceiling paintings.



The Enamel Factory

In Korissia, your attention will be drawn to a chimney of 45 m. height; it is the chimney of the Enamel Factory, the only Greek factory that produced enamel utensils and the biggest one in the Mediterranean area, which functioned between 1927 and 1957, playing an important role to the economic and social life of the island. The founder of the factory was tobacco trader Ioannis Gleoudis and most of the workers were refugees from Asia Minor. Before the war it used to produce household utensils and signs for public or private use. In 1936, under the direction of Athanasios Konstas, the factory got its first state order for military canteens and then expanded to the war industry by manufacturing mortars. These are the most glorious days when the factory reaches the point to export its production to the Balkans and the Middle East and occupies 300 workers.

Due to this successful procession of the enamel factory, Kea, sees a great economic boom until 1957 when the factory closed

permanently, after the death of its inspired financial manager, Athanasios Konstas, and after numerous financial problems.

In 1991 its biggest part was regarded under protection for its contribution to the study of industrial culture in Greece. In 2002, a group of craftsmen who used to work in the factory and were in possession of a huge amount of machinery, molds, utensils, models and other objects laid the foundations for the creation of the "Association of Friends of the Enamel Factory of Kea ". After mobilization of the members, they gathered from other factories in Attica the machines from the factory that had been sold and are now exhibited in a municipal area in Korissia. The main objective of the association is the return of the machines in the factory and the creation of an Industrial Museum.



The Tower of Aghia Marina

The tower of Aghia Marina is an impressive 5-level tower from local schist stone and marble (4th century B.C.), a typical sample of an independent fortification tower from the Hellenistic period and one of the tallest ancient buildings that have survived until today. It was built in Kea's inland, between the ancient cities of Korissia and Poiessa and it functioned as a fortification construction for the protection of the broader rural area. Around 1600, when Aghia Marina Monastery was founded, the tower was included in its

precinct again for defense reasons. On September 8th 1858 a big segment of it collapsed after an earthquake and part of its building material was used for the restoration of neighboring buildings. Today only the northern part of the tower is preserved in a good condition, but as soon as the maintenance and restoration interventions are completed, it will be again open to the public.



The prehistoric settlement of Aghia Irini

Just on the opposite site of Vourkari lies the peninsula of Aghia Irini, that was named after the homonymous picturesque church. Here, the excavations conducted in 1960 revealed one of the most important prehistoric settlements, which had been reconstructed multiple times after natural disasters; the result was that the architectural ruins of previous periods became the foundations for the next generations, creating a tight urban tissue, in which it's difficult to identify the chronological relevance.

Here were found the only Temple of Dionysus of this period (2000 B.C.), a part of the fortification along with a tower and a gate (2000-1500 B.C.), the ruins of a sewer and a water supply network (15th century B.C.), "master's mansion", the ruins of a luxurious house built according to the Mycenaean standards (16th-15th century B.C.). The most impressive and internationally unique find are "Kores", 50 clay figurines from the Late Bronze Age, that were discovered in the area of the temple and are assumed to be worshippers, priestesses or even goddesses. Today they are exhibited on a prominent position in the Archeological Museum of Ioulis, together with more finds of the area.

The Kokka

In the Kokka area there are remarkable buildings of industrial architecture (on the coast of the bay of St. Nicholas, a former station of steamboat coalition).



Makronissos

Makronissos or alternatively known as "Nisos Eleni" (Helen's island) belongs to the Municipality of Kea and is located between Kea and Lavrio. According to the legend, it was in a cave in the northern part of the island, that Paris hid Helen of Troy after kidnapping her. That's why the island was named after her.

The Watermills

In the Fleas Valley, along the river, eleven watermills are preserved, typical examples of Tziotic architecture and fully harmonized in the environment. Previously, they operated all year round and along with the windmills, were grinding grain. Most of them are abandoned and some are inhabited.

The Forest of the Basil Oakland NATURA Area

Kea differs from the other Cycladic islands for its rich flora and especially for the royal oak forests, which cover the central and eastern part of the island. The southeastern part of the island has been integrated into the Natura 2000 Network.

Among the species of flora there are 16 endemic plants. There are wild orchids, medicinal plants, aromatic bushes, rare mushrooms, multicolored lichens, perennial chestnuts, maple trees, Juniperus phoenicea, Pistacia terebinthus, Cercis siliquastrum, yarrows, bells, anemones, wild gladioli, asphaltis, sparta. These species, particularly in the spring, make Kea a destination for the observation of wild flora (botany tourism)

Μουσεία

An island with such rich history and tradition as Kea could not but have remarkable museums. In the Archeological Museum in Ioulis you will have the opportunity to make a journey in historic and prehistoric Kea through the impressive archeological finds from the excavations performed on the island. In Mylopotamos you will get a taste of Kea's tradition and rural life in the Folklore Museum of Kea.



Archeological Museum

On the incline from the Piazza towards the square of Chora, you will come across the Archaeological Museum. This is one of the most important museums in the Cyclades, with unique finds from excavations on the island, from the Neolithic period up until the historic period (7th B.C. – 2nd century A.D.). It has been open to the public since the 1970s, while in 2000 it was repaired and extended to welcome new exhibits. The exhibit sections have been organized into themes, covering daily life, worship and burial customs.

Architectural pieces, inscriptions, sculptures, votive reliefs, everyday objects, pottery and coins, provide a representative picture of the island's history. Among them, highlights include the marble protocycladic figurines from the prehistoric settlement of Aghia Irini, the reliefs from the pediment of the temple of Athena at Karthaia and the headless statue of Victory. The renowned Kores, the clay statues of female figures of Aghia Irini, are exhibited in a prominent position in the new annexe, in an oblong curved showcase.

Folklore Museum

In the heart of Mylopotamos you meet the Folklore Museum of Kea, a place dedicated to the preservation and the promotion of Kea's cultural heritage, established in an old stone building of 1845 which originally functioned as an inn. Today visitors may see here a variety of folklore exhibits such as old agriculture tools, objects of domestic use and decoration for the houses of

Kea, traditional costumes from the 19th century and photos but also an improvised hydroelectric mechanism from Mylopotamos, constructed in Kea's Enamel Factory in 1950. Outside the museum, surrounded by orange trees, there is a stone theater that hosts cultural events and festivals during the summer.



Religious Tourism

Kea, as every island, is dispersed with religious venues of pilgrimage, special monuments of architecture and art, some of which are located in the hearts of the villages, while other ones on the slopes of the hills with a view towards the sea.

These monasteries, churches and chapels apart from their position in the local community, become meeting points for the locals and the visitors every year on the occasions of the big celebrations of Orthodox Christianity, in Christmas, in Easter, on August 15th and in the feasts in the memory of the saints.



Easter in Kea

In springtime Kea gets full of colors. So, there couldn't be a better scenery than this landscape to celebrate Easter, the most important celebration of Orthodox Christianity. Every church, from the little monasteries to the little chapels of the island, honors the Holy Week with grandiosity and devoutness,

culminating with the litany of Epitaphios on Good Friday and with Christ's Resurrection on Saturday night.

Don't miss the chance to find yourself in the heart of Cycladic traditions and taste the original Easter atmosphere just a breath away from Athens.

Panagia Kastriani

According to the Orthodox tradition, a winter night in 1699 a strong ray of white light on the abrupt hill Kastri lead the inhabitants and the shepherds of the area to a little cave. There, they saw a Christian icon depicting the Dormition of Virgin Mary covered with some ground. The believers interpreted this sacred and precious find as a divine indication about where a church of Virgin Mary should be built and decided to start constructing it there despite the roughness of the location. In spite of all difficulties, the monastery was completed in 1700 and since then it safeguards the discovered icon. Each August 15th, when the celebration of Virgin Mary's assumption takes place, there is a pilgrimage by the inhabitants and visitors of the island and a big feast, while many people visit also the monastery all year round.



Aghia Anna

Just a short distance after Chora, in the junction of the road that leads to the Monastery of Panagia Kastriani, lays the byzantine Monastery of Aghia Anna, looking towards Chora and the Aegean. If you observe it carefully, you will notice many elements that prove that it has been constructed by ancient building material. It was one of the most prominent and best-organized monasteries in Kea in the 17th century. Today, apart from the church of Aghia Anna, there are only a few ruins left from several parts that composed the historic monastery. It celebrates each December 9th and July 25th.



Evangelismos tis Theotokou – Dimotikia

The church of Evangelismos, the cathedral of Ioulis, towers over the entrance of the town in Katochori. It was built in 1867 and is a

three-aisle basilica. The most important celebration takes place there on March 25th.

Aghios Spyridon

The church of Metamorphosi tou Sotiros, alternatively known as Aghios Spyridon, is a building of byzantine rhythm and one of

the three churches that belong to the parish of Ioulis.

Aghios Georgios

You will see the little church of Aghios Georgios at the end of the beach on the rock, as soon as you reach the port. Especially in the evening it is a beautiful and unique view, when is lit up

Aghia Trias

The first view you have when you reach the port of Kea is the cross-shaped church of Aghia Trias that belongs to the parish of Korissia.



Episkopi

On the way to Pera Meria, you will see over the hill the byzantine Monastery of Episkopi, one of the oldest monasteries in Kea. There are still remains of the fortified wall that protected the monastery. Probably Episkopi and the broader area of Messaria were the byzantine centers of the island.

Inside the temple there has been discovered a very significant inscription from 4th century A.C. with a list featuring the names of the inhabitants of Ioulis and Korissia. In many spots of the church you can detect ancient building material, such the Doric capital that is embedded in the altar. According to these hints, there should have preexisted in the area of the hill an ancient temple dedicated to goddess Artemis. It celebrates each year on August 15th.



Aghios Timotheos

Just a short distance before Kato Meria, you will find Aghios Timotheos. It is built in the last years and is of byzantine rhythm. Next to the church, there is a cavern, where Saint Timothy used to during the summer, from where water spouts only the summer months. His memory is honored on August 16th and July 13th.



Aghios Symeon

The church of Aghios Symeon, after which the homonym village was named, towers over the top of the hill. It is built on the foundations of a temple dedicated to goddess Venus and celebrates each September 1st and February 3rd.



Aghios Charalambos

The church of Aghios Charalambos, who is the patron saint of the island, is located in Kastro district in Ioulis. Its memory is celebrated on February 10th and is a very important day for the inhabitants of the island.

Aghios Panteleimon

This monastery is located 12 km southwest from Chora, on the top of the homonym mountain and is estimated to have been built in 16th century and restored in 17th century. Today only the monastery's church has survived, which is dedicated to John the Baptist.

Aghios Nikolaos

The byzantine church of Aghios Nikolaos is in Ellinika area, built on the ruins of a tower from the Hellenistic years, one of the 73 towers that existed in the island. Inside this little church there are still noticeable wall paintings.

Aghioi Apostoloi

The church of Aghioi Apostoloi is built on the ancient junction in the route Ioulida-Karthaia-Poiessa. It was built in 12th century and is a classical byzantine cross-shaped church. Inside there are still preserved remarkable wall paintings estimated to date back to 13th century.

Panagia ton Polo

The church of Panagia ton Polo is located in the archeological site of Karthaia. It is a picturesque little church dedicate to Virgin Mary, built on the edge of the rock on the ruins of ancient temples.



Aghios Dimitrios

The church of Aghios Dimitrios is located at a prominent position in Panochori in Ioulis. It was built in 1833 in a cross-shaped rhythm with a dome. Inside the church, there is a remarkable marble altarpiece, constructed by an artist from Tinos.

Aghios Emilianos

The picturesque little church of Aghios Emilianos is located in the area of Koundouros and celebrates each year on July 18th.

Aghios Sostis

The little chapel of Aghios Sostis is located at the end of Otzias beach.

History

Kea has a very rich history that is reflected in every corner of it until nowadays. Monuments, archeological sites, architectural sights and museums narrate the most fascinating episodes from the past of the island.



Its older name was “Hydroussa”. The name “Kea” derives from hero Ceos, the leader of the Locrian settlers from Nafpaktos who occupied the island in the ancient times.

The prehistoric settlement of Kefala, located in the homonymous cape in the northwestern coast of the island, was established during the Neolithic Period, around the end of the 4th millennium. The settlement of Aghia Irini in the northern part of Aghios Nikolaos bay was one of the most significant cultural centers in the Aegean Sea from the end of the Neolithic Period, when the first human establishment is dated, to 15th century B.C., when it was destroyed by the heavy earthquakes in an era of high prosperity. In the archaic years

(7th-6th century B.C.) four independent and economically and culturally powerful cities-states (Ioulida, Korissos, Karthaia and Poiessa) were established, having a separate management structure but usually a unified presence in foreign policy.

In 1204, when the Franks conquered the Byzantine Empire, they named the island Zia, from where the current name of Tzia came. Since 1830, Kea, like all the Cyclades, was included in the newly established Greek state and began to develop agricultural, livestock and commercial activity. With the urban development of Athens in the 20th century, however, the population decreased significantly and gradually began to decline.

Stories from the Ancient Times

Simonides of Ceos (556 B.C. – 468 B.C.) was one of the most important choral and lyric poets of ancient Greece, having to his credit hymns, paeans, dithyrambs, praises, partheneia, laments, elegies and epigrams. He was the first poet who wrote poems upon request and payment and is considered the greatest epigrammatist of antiquity. His poetry during the war with the Persians invigorated the Greeks' national consciousness, while his poems for the fallen soldiers at Thermopylae and Marathon are considered awe-inspiring. From his

poems only excerpts have survived but with his dithyrambs, which were the ones that have not survived, he achieved 56 victories. Death found him in the Court of the Tyrant of Syracuse, Hieron, where he was a host and a glorious monument was erected on his honor in front of the main gate of the at-that-time Greek state. He was famous for his knowledge and he was appreciated and honored for that with the friendship of many great men of his time, like Aristides, Themistocles, Pausanias.



An epigram by Simonides of Ceos dedicated to the fallen soldiers in the Battle of Thermopylae, 480 B.C.

“Ὁ ξείν’, ἀγγέλλειν Λακεδαιμονίοις ὅτι τῆδε κείμεθα τοῖς κείνων
ρήμασι πειθόμενοι.”

“Stranger, tell the Spartans that we are buried here obeying the laws.”

Prominent personalities from Kea of the antiquity

The poet Bacchylides, nephew of Simonides, was also one of the greatest lyric poets of ancient Greece, who praised particularly his fellow citizens, winners of the Panhellenic games.

The spiritual life of the country includes more prominent figures of the antiquity who were born and active in Kea, but also in other locations in the Aegean, such as sophists Thiramenes and Xenomedes, doctor Erasistratus, philosophers Pythokleidis (teacher of Pericles), the Prodikus (teacher of Thucydides, Euripides and Isocrates), Ariston, and more.

Ancient Kea also contributed with important athletes at the Panhellenic Games. There are reported 69 victories of Kean athletes at Isthmia, Nemea and Olympia Games, who were all praised by Kean poets.

Bacchylides' victory hymn:

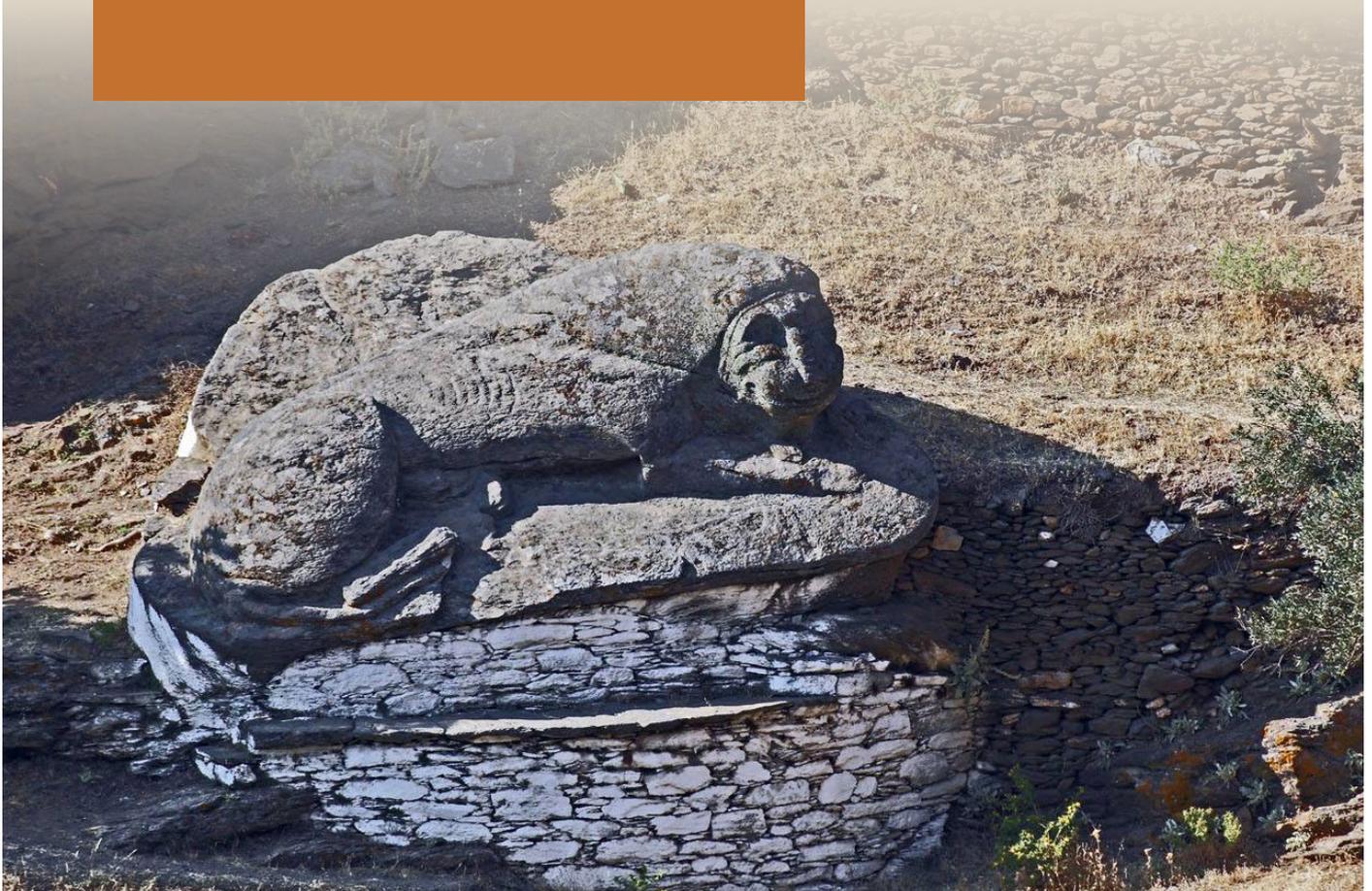
“There are many victories in Olympia that once upon a pastime glorified the vine planted Kea.”

Keion to Nomimon

Kea was famous for its political system, which caught the attention of Aristotle and is described in his “Keion Politeia”, only an excerpt of which has however survived. The lawmaker Aristides, one of the seven sages of ancient Greece and known for his strict and exemplary legislation, also hailed from Kea. One of this laws was “Keion to Nomimon”, a particular custom –the only one in the Greek territory- that was preserved until the 3rd century A.D., when Christianity prevailed in the area. According to this custom, every citizen over 60 years old committed suicide drinking conium or mandrake. Any citizen who felt that he was no longer useful to the community because of his senility ought to expose to the leaders of his city the motives for his decision in order to receive permission for suicide. Then, in the presence of his fellow citizens, after a festive ritual, he fulfilled his obligation, drinking readily the conium. In this way, the need for food supplies for the younger was covered –in a society where people reached an old age because of the good climate- and at the same time the will of the citizens themselves to retire thriving and proud was respected. According to the legend, the conium that Socrates used to put an end to his life was also from Kea.

Mythology

Kea is the Island of legends and myths. The humid climate that prevailed during the historic years and the abundance of water springs fostered the lush vegetation of the natural landscape but also the lush imagination of the people. This is evident in that Kea's first name appears to be "Hydroussa", which derives from the Ancient Greek word for water "Hydor".



That landscape inspired many narrations about the Nymphs, the fairies of the waters, who used to live in the numerous springs in the woods. Legend has it that they vanished, terrified, towards the northern shores of the island as soon as a ferocious lion appeared in the area. Then the most radiant star of the celestial dome rose in the sky, Sirius. It burned with its dreadful rays the Cycladic land and more specifically the land of Kea, causing a dramatic shortage of water reserves and, after an extended period of drought, shrinkage of the vegetation. In order to atone for the "sacred rage" they caused, the inhabitants of the island asked for help from the son of god Apollo and nymph Cyrene that lived in Thessaly, demigod Aristeos.

Aristeos reacted to their call coming to Kea as the leader of a group of settlers from Arcadia and he established sacrifices

on the highest mountain top of the island to win the gods' appeasement. In this way, the drought was significantly confined and the annual cool winds known as "meltemia" began. According to the legend, Aristeos organized the agriculture and animal husbandry, especially beekeeping and olive tree cultivation.

Today, a stone lion, the renowned "Lion of Kea" stands in Ioulis inviting us to its mythical journey. It's an archaic sculpture of the 6th-7th c. B.C. carved on a solid schist rock of approximately 8 m. length. You are going to meet him on the footpath that starts in the area of Aghios Spyridon and ends up to Otzias.

Another myth relating to the island's name of "Kea" comes from the prehistoric settlement of Locrians from Nafpaktos led by the hero Keo, also son of Apollo and the nymph Rodoessa.



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MUNICIPALITY OF KEA





B E A C H E S





Beaches

With the endless kilometers of its coastline, Kea offers even to the most demanding visitor idyllic beaches with impressive crystal waters: organized beaches, beaches with wild beauty, beaches in the very heart of action, isolated beaches, beaches accessible from the land and the sea as well as hidden beaches that invite the visitor to explore them.

Ladou

A small isolated and quite protected beach where you will go on foot through a small footpath in the north side of Otzia or by boat.



Otzias

The longest beach of the island is Otzias bay, a majestic coast of 700 m. length, partly organized. Here you may find a golden sandy beach, deep blue waters, dense salt cedars, and a picturesque landscape surrounded by the white little churches of Aghios Sostis and Ai Giorgis from both sides. It is the ideal place to stay, swim or eat in one of the seaside taverns.

Kefala

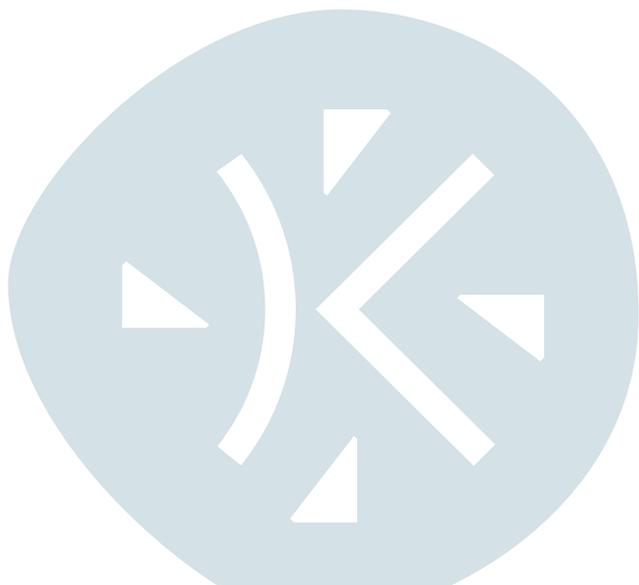
The access to this beach is feasible only by boat. If you have the chance, however, don't leave without swimming in the wonderful waters of this ancient area.

Treis Ammoudies

Treis Ammoudies in Greek means literally "three sandy beaches". However, only one of them is accessible and only with a 4 4 vehicle. It is a tiny lovely beach with little rocks and sand, protected from the southerly winds

Kokka

A special small beach with wild beauty and the old storage warehouses of coke defining the landscape. From here you have a view to Vourkari and to the port.



Gialiskari

On the west side of Aghios Nikolaos bay you will find a small but beautiful bustling beach and the homonymous village with many accommodations in an amphitheatrical formation over the hill. Enjoy the sand and the clear waters and when the sun starts chasing you, try to resort under the shadow that the salt cedars and the eucalypti lavishly offer you. Stay until late so that you don't miss an unforgettable view of the sunset



Korissia-Livadi

The port of Kea is also offered for swimming. The beach is sandy and the sea clear, given the fact that the gulf is open and the water is being continuously renewed. As in every port, you may find here restaurants, bars, cafes and shops for every taste.

Xyla

An organized beach with crystal waters, just 4 klm. south from Korissia. The biggest part of the route is a dirt road.



Mavrambeli

A heavenly beach with transparent waters, thin pebbles and sand. Access is possible only through the track Mylopotamos-Sklavonikolas and by boat.

Kalogeros

A beach with sand and crystal waters. Access is possible through the dirt road that leads to Voskotopos, while you may also go by boat. It would be wise to have supplies with you, given the fact it is not organized.

Pisses

A large and very well organized beach with a volleyball net and sunbeds on the sand, shadowy trees and crystal clear waters for revitalizing dives. A few meters from the beach, you will find the only camping of the island and of course restaurants and mini markets.



Pisses

Koundouros

An organized sandy beach, the most cosmopolitan one in the island, awarded with a blue flag by the Greek National Tourism Organization, also an ideal anchorage of boats, at a 16 km distance south from Ioulis.

Aghios Aimilianos

A tiny beach with splendid waters just below the little church of Aghios Aimilianos. Don't forget to take an umbrella and supplies with you.

Mpouri

A small but very well organized beach with sand and fine pebbles and wonderful waters, ideal for water sports

Kalamitsi

An isolated sandy beach with access from a difficult dirt road and by boat. Don't forget to take an umbrella and supplies with you.

Vroskopos

A beach with emerald waters with access clearly easier by the sea given the fact that the dirt road is still quite rutty. Don't forget to take supplies with you.

Kastelakia

Between Pisses and Koundouros, two small lovely and isolated beaches accessible through a track.



Koundouros

Frea

A beach with thin pebbles, trees and kiosks just at a few meters distance from Koundouros.

Lygia

A small bay on the road from Koundouros to Kampi, with pebbles and crystal clear water.



Kampi

At a 3 km. distance from Koundouros, with access from the asphalt road. The typical little houses over the rocks used to be storage buildings for acorns. The beach has sand, pebbles, trees and kiosks. There you will also find a small tavern, a good reason to prolong your stay.

Schinos

A beautiful clean beach with sand and rocks, where there used to be a fish farming unit. You will reach it with a 4x4 vehicle from the road of Chavouna area.

Kaliskia

An idyllic beach with a few shadowy trees and emerald waters

Aghios Filippos

A wonderful beach with thin pebbles, sand and crystal waters, accessible only by boat or through a footpath

Orkos

An idyllic beach with sand and pebbles, crystal waters and shadowy trees. The ruins from the old mines give a special atmosphere

Liparo

The access to this beach with the splendid waters and the golden sand is through a private road, so you should be careful with the doors you find on your way; close back again the ones you have found closed. You can only reach there with a vehicle that is dirt-road-friendly.

Stravotrachila

A small isolated beach with sand and pebbles which you will reach if you turn to the right on the dirt track that leads to Kaliskia.

Karthaiia-Poles

Two beaches that are separated by the Ancient Karthaiia hill. Both of them have crystal clear waters, sand and pebbles and are accessible through a footpath. Their location next to the archeological site and the church of Panagia ton Polo makes them unique.

Tilegrafos

An isolated charming beach with sand and pebbles. Access is possible by the sea but also from a particularly rutty dirt track.

Psathi

A small isolated beach with sand and thin pebbles where you reach through a short dirt track.

Sykamia

One of the most beautiful beaches on the island. It combines sand, thin pebbles and shadowy trees. A short part of the road before you arrive is a dirt track. Don't forget to take with you food supplies and water.

Kalydonychi

You will reach this beach with the emerald waters if you turn to the left in the fork dirt road you will find in Perameria.

Kastriani

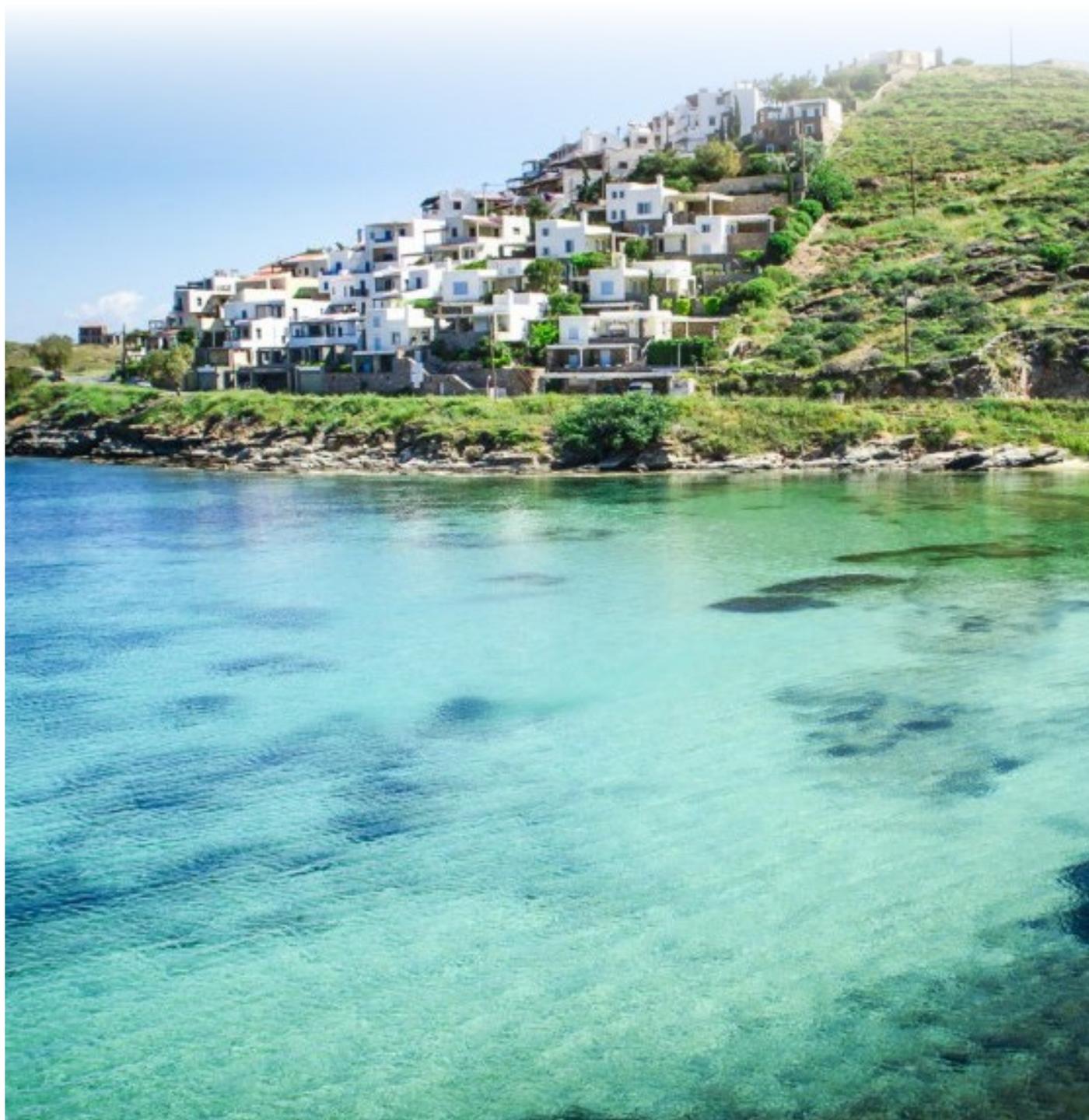
A small sandy beach with wild beauty, just below Kastriani Monastery, accessible only by boat.

Psili Ammos

You will get to this dreamy little sandy beach swimming or walking from Kalydonychi or by boat.

Spathi

Just before Kastriani Monastery, a deviation from the asphalt road crosses a part of the inland and ends up to Ioulis, while its east part leads through a fordable track to Spathi bay with the picturesque country houses. The beach will reward you with its lovely sand and transparent waters. There you will also find a great tavern-beach bar.



Villages

Apart from the port of Korissia and Chora – Ioulida, Kea has four other villages where tourist island life focuses: Koundouros, Otzia, Vourkari and Pisses. Among them you will find smaller villages with less tourist traffic, such as Kato Meria.



Ioulis

As the boat approaches the port, in the background, you see Ioulis, the Chora of Kea, welcoming you spread on the top of the three hills. Ioulis is today's capital of Kea and a point of reference to the history of the island. Get ready for a walk in a fairytale village full of tightly built traditional white houses with reddish tile roofs, but also more recent multicolored houses, arches with "stegadia", the typical Cycladic galleries, narrow stone-paved alleys with white landings, numerous chapels and disperse picturesque little shops.



Korissia

Korissia is the port of the island and the basic starting point for your excursions. It is located at the edge of a big natural bay, which makes it a safe port.

The beautiful church of Aghia Trias is the first view you'll have as soon as the boat's hatch lowers. Livadi, as is also known Korissia, is a village built on the edges of the hill where ancient Korissos was located and it has traditional Cycladic architecture. Here you may find many shops, restaurants, cafes, bars and accommodations and a public parking lot.

Vourkari

Just at a 2 km distance from Korissia, after Gialiskari, the coastal road will lead you to the famous Vourkari, a small picturesque fish village that has developed the last years into a cosmopolitan town. In its closed and protected bay, you will see dozens of boats and sailboats anchored, while frequently ending up here sailing races starting from the Saronic Gulf. Taste some fresh fish, sea food and local delicacies in the beautiful taverns along the beach, take a walk to Aghia Irini, enjoy your drink or your coffee at the cafes and the bars and discover souvenirs and fine contemporary art works in the art galleries. Vourkari is a village that keeps pulsing day and night.



Otzias

Otzias is one of the rapidly growing popular villages of Kea during the last years. It has a variety of accommodations and touristic businesses and is the ideal place for family vacation because its bay offers many alternative suggestions for swimming: a huge organized sandy beach and smaller bays around it.

How to go: From the port of Korissia by car spanning a distance of 5,5 km.

Koundouros

The village of Koundouros, which in the ancient times was known as Nirissos, is one of the most developed touristic resorts of Kea. Here you will find restaurants and accommodations and, among others, restored stone windmills. A series of beaches in the area will fulfill every taste, either you are looking for a cosmopolitan beach, water sports, an anchorage for boats, or an isolated beach.

Where to go: From Ioulis by car spanning a distance of 16 km.

Pisses

On the southwest side of Ioulis lay the fertile valley of Pisses reaching until the coast. One more picturesque and quiet village with rooms to let, a camping, super markets and taverns.

Kato Meria

The village of Kato Meria is located in the inland of the island and is really worth a visit, if you want to discover one more face of Kea. Its few inhabitants are mainly farmers and life has either slow, not at all touristic rhythms. In Kato Meria you will find a beautiful stone-made square, a grocery store and a tavern.

How to go: From Ioulis by car spanning a distance of 14 km towards the south part of the island.



Caves

The friends of exploration have a good motive for excursions. The small caverns that are dispersed around the island are of a particular geological interest. The two most significant caves of Kea are Trypospilies in Kalamos and the cave of Saint Timotheus in Aghios Panteleimon.



Trypospilies

The cave of Trypospilies is located in a green area in Kalamos, southeast of Otzias. The cave is consisted of cavernous alcoves that were used as galleries from where milto mining took place, an iron ore similar to hematite.

The cave of Saint Timothy

The cave is a cavity in a shale rock and with 7,8 meters depth, where lived as an eremite Saint Timothy. According to the local tradition there is the inexplicable phenomenon that water appears inside the cave only during the summer months.



GASTRONOMY





LOCAL PRODUCTS

LOCAL CUISINE



Local Products

Kea, as any other small area, has its own traditional products, fruits of apiculture, agriculture and animal husbandry that are the basic activities of the island's inhabitants. You will have the opportunity to taste and buy them everywhere. When leaving the island, along with the memories of your vacation, take literally a bit of its taste with you.

Sausages and Loza

A recipe that passes from one generation to the other in every family of stockbreeders. The sausage is made by pieces of pork meat and spices and is the ideal side dish for wine. Loza, Kea' s version for prosciutto, is an equally special delicacy tightly connected with the island's tradition. It is made from pork meat and it is "smoked" in steam for a couple of weeks before it becomes available for sale, a procedure that gives it a characteristic intense aftertaste.

Honey and apiculture products

Keas' honey is originated from the purest plant, thyme. Its color is gold and its texture is thick. The benefits of honey are many and all contribute to the proper functioning of the body. Apart from being an exquisite delicacy and source of energy, it fights inflammation and cough, it has sedative benefits and it also helps prevent respiratory diseases.



Herbs and spices

From such a fertile place like Kea, they could not miss the herbs and spices. Chamomile, sage, lavender, verbena, basil, oregano, rosemary, "thrymbi" and sedge are among the most common herbs on the island. Each one is known for either their therapeutic or soothing benefits, such as sedge from which the "spatholado" is made, that has therapeutic benefits and is a valuable anti-inflammatory and healing herb. On the other hand, "thrymbi" tea helps stomach pain, strengthens the body and improves hearing, while when added to roasted meat it gives to it a more intense flavor.

Fruits, vegetables and nuts

The most popular fruits because of the island's climate are the waterless cherry tomatoes and the figs or "ambourkounes", as they are called in local dialect. Kea's trademark though is definitely the acorn. The oak forest of the island gives plenty of nuts that are the basic material for original recipes as well as an exportable product used in leather processing and decorative arts.



Kea 's cheese

From the island' s delicatessens couldn't be missing of course various kinds of cheeses made with care and love for tradition as "ksino", "kopanisti" "xyrotyri" and "ladotyri".



Mavroudi

The vines of Kea's land give many wine varieties, with the dominant "mavroudi", a variety of red wine with intense taste.



Sweets and drinks

As every Greek island, Kea will leave you a sweet taste through its unique variety of "amygdalota", spoon sweets and liqueurs made of the local herbs.

Loza

Typical mezze of Cyclades with corned pork, the so called "prosciutto of Kea"



Ksino and Kopanisti

Local types of cheese with distinctive flavor that accompany local cuisine



Tsigara

A traditional dish based on pork with fat,



Tsigaropita

The original pie of Kea made with tsigara, eggs, milk, anise and sesame



Paspalas

The typical dish of Kea with pork meat cooked together with tomatoes and eggs



Lobster spaghetti

Kea's version for one of the most popular dishes of the islands

Rooster in wine sauce

A traditional Greek dish with the determinant contribution of Greek wine



E V E N T S & F A I R S



Events and Fairs

In Kea, music, religious worship, tastes and products of the earth are directly interwoven with each other. Every year on the island are organized events of varied content and it is certain that any time anybody finds on the island will surely succeed one.



KEA RUN

There are 10 km and 5 km race for adults, and 600 meters. for children starting with and termination in the settlement of Korissia and more specifically on the road to Vourkari and Otzias. The races are organized every May from 2015 with the participation of runners inside and outside of Kea, and part of the revenue is available to support the multifunctional regional clinic of Kea. The Tziotic hospitality and the landscapes of Kea, change every such event into a unique celebration of sport..



Simonideia

These are track and field games organized on the island for over 25 years. The games are held in the port of Korissia with the large participation of adults and children.

Feast of Agricultural Products

This festival was organized for the first time in August 2015 with enthusiasm and great response from the visitors of Kea, so its transformation into an institution became a common goal. It is the most "savoury" festival of the summer. That time the heart of the island's countryside beats in the rhythm of a feast of great gastronomic and cultural interest. Find out the great range of fine products straight from the nature of Kea, talk with the producers, discover the myths and the stories behind each product, get informed about their beneficial effects and taste the local cuisine. Before you leave, don't forget to take a bit of Kea's flavor with you, as most of the products are available for sale. Don't miss summer's most tasteful festival, a feast of aromas, dance and music!





The Fairy Tales Festival

An island with so many myths and fairy tales from the ancient times until our days would be meant to be the homeland of a great Fairy Tales Festival. Every July, storytellers, charismatic narrators, musicians and artists from all over the world invite you to Kea for this extraordinary international festival, aiming to disseminate and to rescue the folk legends, the folklore and the traditions. The Nymphs and the Fairies leave their springs for a while and appear on the seashores, the stone-covered paths, the squares of the island and anyplace the festival spreads.

Festivities in memory of Lambros Katsonis

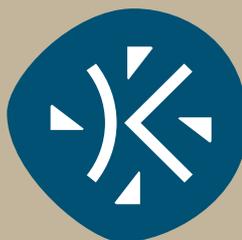
One more series of events that take place in the island every July since 2011 are the Festivities in memory of local hero Lambros Katsonis. The program includes talks and art events based on Lambros Katsonis' life and his contribution to Kea's history, tours in archeological and folkloric sites and traditional dances.



The best occasion for the visitor to experience the authentic culture and the local color of a small place like Kea is of course a folk feast, a little festive gathering. The inhabitants of the island try to keep the tradition alive, so, in every occasion such as a religious celebration, an anniversary or a festival, you will have the chance to taste local delicacies and wines from Kea, to listen to traditional tsambouna and violins and to dance syrtos and balos.

Each church and shrine always celebrates the festive celebration of the saint to which it is dedicated. Both public and private churches, which are kept with reverence of the families to which they belong, open to all, especially the name day of each saint.

So note the important days of the Orthodox church calendar and be sure to find yourself in the right place at the right time! Indicatively, apart from the Assumption celebrated with magnificence throughout Greece and in Kea with big festivals Kastriani monastery and Ioulis, important are the feasts of Aghios Charalambos on February 10th in Ioulida, the Holy Spirit 50 days after Easter in Karthaia, of Aghioi Anargyroi on July 1st in Vourkari, on August 6th in Pisses and Aghios Sozon on September 7th in Otzias.



MUNICIPALITY
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ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ
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ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ
ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΑΣ



ανάπτυξη - εργασία - αλληλεγγύη



Αναπτυξιακή Εταιρεία
Κυκλάδων Α.Ε.



ΔΗΜΟΣ
ΚΕΑΣ

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ 2014 - 2020

ΕΝΔΙΑΜΕΣΟΣ ΦΟΡΕΑΣ: ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΕΦΑΡΜΟΓΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΑ 2014 - 2020

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ΠΕΡΙΗΓΗΤΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΑΔΡΟΜΩΝ - ΜΟΝΟΠΑΤΙΩΝ ΝΗΣΟΥ ΚΕΑΣ

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ΠΡΟΫΠΟΛΟΓΙΣΜΟΣ ΠΡΑΞΗΣ: 103.980,56 €

ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΗ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ (ΕΓΤΑΑ): 85.156,49 € - 95%

ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ: 4.481,92 € - 5%

ΜΕ ΤΗ ΣΥΓΧΡΗΜΑΤΟΔΟΤΗΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΕΝΩΣΗΣ



ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ
Η Ευρώπη επενδύει στις αγροτικές περιοχές