

## Delos

Where light was born

It's a **UNESCO world heritage site**. It's an ark of history, floating lazily on the waters of the Aegean Sea, just a few miles away from cosmopolitan Mykonos. It's a chance to walk around the revival of the glory of the Greek civilization. It's the head priest of the Cyclades, the birthplace of the immortals. It's Delos.

In the ancient times, the myth of god Apollo, god of light, and goddess Artemis having been born there rendered the island sacred: no mortal would ever be allowed to be born on its land. But, a cradle of gods as the island has been, no mortals would ever be allowed to die on it either. So, apart from it being a conspicuous religious and economic center, the island had also been exclusive in that: even during the years of peak of the Delian Alliance, women on the brink of childbirth and people close to dying would be carried to the neighboring island of Rineia. The whole of the known world of that age was aware of the sacredness of the island and of its uniqueness.



Nowadays, Delos reserves its uniqueness to the known world: nowhere else in the Globe is there a natural insular archaeological site of this size and importance. No other island on Earth hosts so many monumental antiquities from the Archaic, the Classical, and the Hellenistic periods, i.e. the centuries of the great Greek art, on a territory used exclusively as an archaeological site. **Delos is not a museum; Delos is not there to tell a story. Delos is history itself.**

Visitors coming from the neighboring islands are not there on an educational trip; they have rather embarked on a lifetime experience. And, as if by magic, the sacredness of the island lives on: the multitudes of people, who flock to share the island's uniqueness, can do nothing but just visit it. The archaeological experience is the one and only activity the island is about. Its enchanting landscape is home to nobody. History is thus repeating itself: in a place of such importance, no person is ever born or dies.

**Getting to Delos:** The island is accessible on a daily basis by boat from Mykonos, weather permitting. In the summertime, boats from Tinos and Naxos too round off the service.