

MAKRIA MITI, PAROS

EPHYRA

A much-loved and beautifully cared-for family home, Ephyra embraces guests with warmth and an authentic sense of hospitality. The luminous interiors are suffused with a laid-back beachfront vibe, while outside, the easy flow of terraces and the pool are a delight for those who love to live a carefree, barefoot lifestyle. And then, just a flip-flop away through the mature gardens and along a short path, are the golden sands and azure waters of Makra Miti beach.



PRICES, AVAILABILITY
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Service

Features

Dreamy sea views

A few minutes' stroll to a beach

Wraparound terraces and gardens

Plenty of al fresco dining areas

Walking to tavernas and shops

Nearby

THE THINKING TRAVELLER

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ABOUT THE VILLA

6 GUESTS 3 BEDROOMS 4 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Ephyra is laid out over three floors.

One of the entrances leads into free-flowing, clearly delineated communal spaces that are characterised by white-washed, wood-beamed ceilings, white walls, sea-view windows, and an assortment of grey-framed doors opening out onto the surrounding terraces and gardens. Ceramics, artwork, and soft furnishings offer splashes of colour here and there, and the atmosphere is at once welcoming, familiar and tranquil - one feels immediately at ease and at home.

To the left, is the well-equipped, well-organised kitchen, with its bronzed wooden cabinetry, its light grey marble worktops, and its view out over the gardens to the sea. To the right is the convivial dining room, which has a round table, French doors opening out onto the secluded rear terraces, and, uniquely, a wall-to-wall triptych depicting a bucolic, archetypally Greek scene of olive groves, vineyards, and Arcadian hills.

Straight on from the kitchen, meanwhile, is the living area, which features a central decorative fireplace flanked by two sets of French doors looking out to sea, and a sofa and three comfortably cushioned armchairs collected around a wooden coffee table.

A staircase in one corner of the living room provides access to the upper and lower floors, and beyond this is a bathroom with a sunken shower, a door accessing the gardens, and the first bedroom, a double with sea views and French doors opening out onto the terraces.

The first floor is home to:

- the main bedroom, a double-aspect double with superb sea views, an en-suite bathroom with a tub and a rainfall shower, and access to a large and fabulously panoramic private terrace
- a sea-view double with its own balcony

- a shower room

Accommodation at Ephyra is completed by a triple bedroom on the lower floor. This is available on request only for children under 15 years old. It is served by a nearby shower room

Outside: terraces, mature gardens and an olive grove wrap around Ephyra on all sides, and there are numerous spots in which to while away the days, laze in the shade, dine al fresco, and generally commune with your gorgeous surroundings.

All the rooms on the ground floor offer seamless access to the terraces and gardens. To the front, accessed from the living room and the ground floor bedroom is a wide expanse of paved, sea-view terrace furnished with a sitting area to one side and a shaded al fresco dining table half-way along. Between and around them, aromatic plants perfume the air, leafy trees whisper in the gentle sea breeze, and boisterous pink bougainvillea climbs skywards.

Just behind the sitting area on this section of terrace, a stone wall encloses an al fresco shower, and, via a central opening, provides access to the olive grove to one side of the house.

The front terrace flows around to the other side of the house and up a few steps, where, also accessed from the kitchen, is a second shaded al fresco dining area looking out to sea. Sheltered on three sides by stone walls, and served by a barbecue and twin sinks carved out of stone, this is a fabulous option for grilling up long dinners under the stars.

An opening in the back wall of this dining area allows the terraces to flow round behind the house, where there are even more al fresco pleasures on offer. There's a well-shaded, comfortably cushioned sitting area, another dining area, this time under an olive tree, and then, as if sculpted out of the stone paving, an inviting pool. Stone walls, climbing plants and trees provide seclusion, and raised stone platforms topped with mattresses offer plenty of space for lounging in comfort.

At the end of the pool, a few steps lead down to a sunken courtyard sitting area with a water feature feeding into an old stone trough, and access to the indoor dining room.

The best views in the house are reserved for those staying in the main

bedroom on the first floor, courtesy of a wonderful terrace. Featuring both sun-kissed and shady spots, and furnished with well-cushioned, built-in seating, this romantic belvedere gazes out across the gardens to the sparkling azure sea.

Last but not least, just outside the garden, a public footpath leads down to the idyllic sandy-shingly beach of Makria Miti, where, in just a few minutes, you can immerse yourself in the transparent waters of the Aegean.

CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the nature of the property including terraces low walls and several drops around the grounds, children must be supervised at all times.

The number of steps that must be negotiated to get into and/or around this property might make it unsuitable for people with mobility problems.

Some parts of the pool at this property are overlooked.

Please note that there is no real shallow end in the pool, whose minimum depth is over 1.3m.

Because of natural changes to the coastline from season to season, the sandy beach in front of this property may not look as it does in the photos.

In high season, and particularly on weekends, flights can be heard coming in to land at nearby Paros airport.

Please note that due to the risk of wildfires, the use of fire pits and barbecues is restricted when the weather is windy or temperatures are high. This is particularly common in July and August. More information will be provided in your House Guide and via your local specialist.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING		→
Amenities		
Accommodates (max)	6	
Bedrooms	3	
Double beds	3	
Bathrooms	4	
... of which en suite	1	
Pool	9x2.4m	
Walkable to beach/sea		✓
Sea views		✓
Short walk to shop(s) / restaurant(s) ⁵		✓
Boat mooring ⁴		✓
Daily maid service		✓
Barbecue		✗
Gym equipment		✓
Private parking		✓
Optional cook ¹		—
Air conditioning ²		✓
Fast Internet connection		✓
Smart TV		✓
Bluetooth speakers		✓
Hairdryer		✓
Iron		✓
Washing machine ³		✓
Safe		✓
Dishwasher		✓
Microwave		✓
¹ the cook can provide lunches and dinners on request, and depending on		

availability

2 in all bedrooms and the living room.

There are ceiling fans in the living areas

3 the laundry facilities are operated by the villa staff and come at an extra cost, payable locally

4 at the marina in Aliko, about 2km away

5 the village of Aliko is a 20-minute walk away, partly steep on the way back.

There is also a coastal path, unlit and unpaved, which will take you to Aliko in around 15 minutes

 = yes/present

 = optional/on request

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Ephyra is situated on the south coast of Paros just to the west of the village of Alikí, whose seafront tavernas, beaches, shops and cafés are just over 1km away (walkable in about 15-to-20 minutes).

There are numerous options in the vicinity for beach lovers. First and foremost, is the golden sandy-shingle beach of Makria Miti, which is just a couple of minutes' stroll away. On the way to Alikí is Agios Nikolaos beach (a few minutes' drive or 15 minutes on foot), while Alikí's beach is just a little further. Others nearby include Paros Kite Beach (13mins), which, as the name suggests, is something of a water sports centre.

For many people, Paros is the most authentic of the Cyclades. One of the larger islands, it has something for everyone, young or old, party-goers or culture-seekers, bourgeois or bohemian. Amongst its many attractions are buzzing little towns, myriad beaches, world-famous windsurfing conditions, gourmet restaurants, sleepy traditional villages with waterfront fish tavernas, religious, cultural and historical sites, and a vibrant nightlife scene.

Thanks to the relatively limited distances involved - the island measures less than 25km from north to south - it is easy to explore in full in a week or two, no matter where you're staying. Its mountainous hinterland, with peaks rising up to around 700m, is dotted with the occasional monastery and crisscrossed by old mule tracks. Down on the coast, meanwhile, there is an array of beautiful sandy beaches and idyllic coves, and a day or two spent on a boat exploring these is heartily recommended.

In terms of towns and villages, buzzing Parikia (the capital and main port), sleepy Marpissa, and picturesque Naousa are just a, 20-, a 25- and a 30-minute drive from Ephyra. The first is a vibrant little town gathered around a semi-enclosed bay that woos visitors with its sandy beaches, its many bars and tavernas, its archaeological museum, and its impressive Byzantine Church. The second is a white-washed beauty that appears unchanged for centuries. It's a pleasure to amble round its narrow streets, while a walk up to the monastery

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Distances

Paros Airport: 6km-3.7miles-10mins

Athens Airport: 40-50mins to Piraeus Port, 3-5h (approx) ferry crossing to Paros Port + 20mins from Paros Port to villa

Nearest shops, tavernas and amenities: Alikí - 1.2km-0.7miles-4mins (or 20min on foot, partly steep on the way back)

Nearest beaches: Makria Miti - a couple of minutes' walk; Agios Nikolaos - 1km-0.6miles-4mins (or a 15-minute walk); Alikí - 1.7km-1.1miles-5mins (or a 25-minute walk); Paros Kite Beach - 5.7km-3.6miles-13mins

Parikia (the capital of Paros): 12.5km-7.8miles-20mins

Marpissa: 19.5km-13.5miles-25mins

Naousa: 22.5km-14miles-30mins

The Mycenaean Acropolis: 22.8km-14.2miles-30mins

Antiparos: 13mins to the port of Pounta + a 10-minute crossing

of St Anthony on the hill above offers spectacular views of the island. The third, on the north coast, boasts a little harbour, a web of narrow streets flanked by shops and tavernas, and the remains of a Venetian castle.

Just across the bay from Naousa is idyllic Kolimpithres beach, renowned for its transparent waters and fascinating rock formations, while for those with an interest in history, a visit to the Mycenaean Acropolis is called for. Sitting atop a rocky scarp high above Kolimpithres, it was built way back in the 13th century BCE and offers not only insights into Paros's long history but also stunning views. It's quite a walk to get up there, so you may wish to tackle it in the early morning or late afternoon when it's not so hot.

Paros's most northerly tip, the Monastiri peninsula, is given over to a protected park covering some 80 hectares of rocky, element-sculpted hills, hidden sandy beaches, walking trails, and undisturbed flora and fauna. It's a great day out for nature lovers and hikers with the added bonus of an end-of-excursion swim in the sea.

Cultural tours are readily available on Paros, so not matter whether you wish to learn about Parikia's old town centre, the ancient marble quarries, or the unique island of Despotiko, you'll be able to delve into the island's history with ease. Children are well catered for too, and a trip to the butterfly nature reserve just north of the airport is good fun.

If all that wasn't enough, Paros's little sister, Antiparos, is just a 10-minute ferry ride across the water from nearby Pounta, making a little island hopping eminently possible.



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GALLERY



