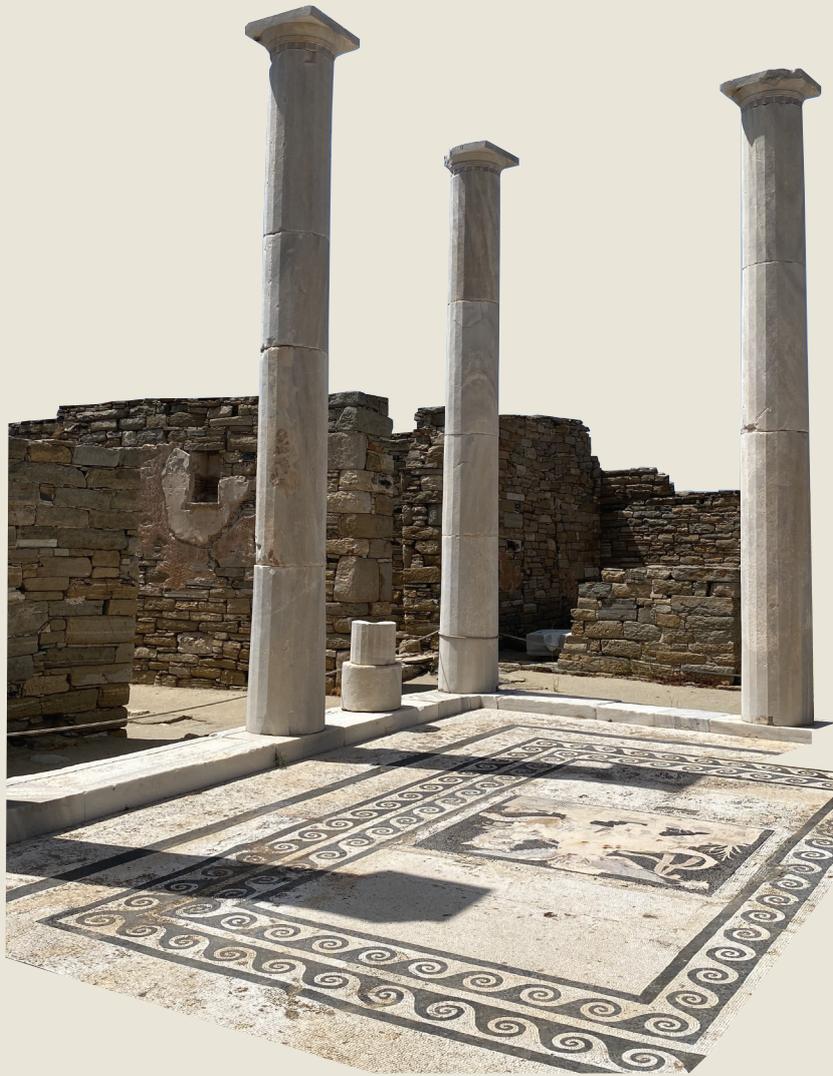


THE SACRED ISLAND OF
DELOS



SANTA MARINA

MYKONOS



Delos Island is an archaeological site of great importance and heritage, with an ancient civilization flourishing circa 1000 BC. Amongst the monuments there is a museum protecting many of the treasures from this island, as well as being to walk through the marble ruins and buildings of the ancient town on its original location. There houses with mosaics on the walls and floors, the ancient theatre, the water cistern, the old market, are all still there. Just a 20-minute speedboat ride from Santa Marina, this UNESCO World Heritage is a special place. Ancient Greek Mythology says that Delos was the birthplace of the twin son and daughter of Zeus, Apollo (god of the sun and light) and Artemis (goddess of chastity and the moon); an island of light and energy. The Treasury of the Athenian Empire, 500BC, was located on the sacred island of Delos, finding protection from pirates of those times. The first world's Synagogue can also be found in the history of Delos

Rhenia Island: This unspoiled, uninhabited island adjacent to Delos, is separated by a small strait. Discover sandy coves, crystal clear waters and remote beaches for a memorable experience of the Greek seaside, a short boat ride from Mykonos.



WRITTEN BY DR. THEODORE PAPAKOSTAS, ARCHAEOLOGIST



THE STORY OF DELOS

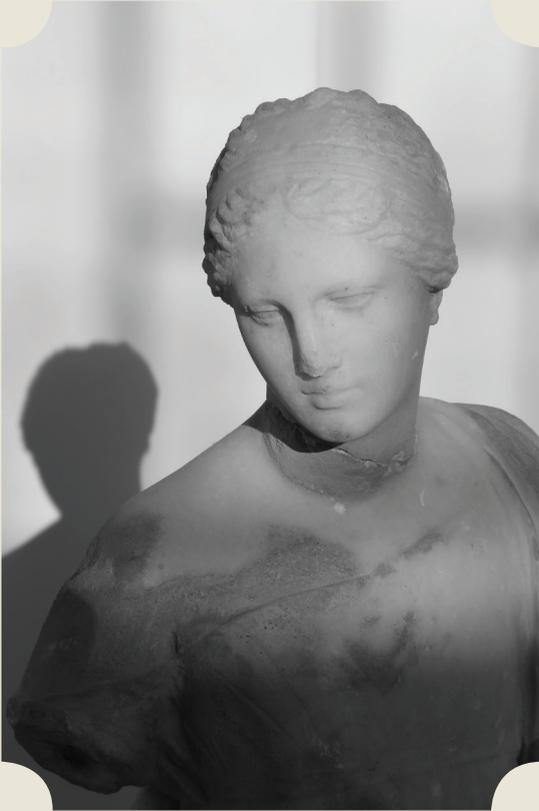
Leto grabbed a palm tree found on the centre of the island where she gave birth to Apollo. A group of swans flew from the north and started circling the island to honour the child. Apollo instantly transformed into a full-grown man. The god of divine light had been born. The entire Aegean Sea was bathed in sunlight. All other gods came to watch the miracle of light being born. The small rock, took its place in the centre of the Aegean. From undetermined, 'Adelos', it became 'Delos'. It had found its place in the world. All other islands came to pay tribute to the small rock that gave birth to the eternal Greek light.

They formed a circle around Delos. And they stayed there for all eternity. A cycle of honour to the birth of light. They were named the Cyclades. To this day, divine light still hugs Delos and the Cyclades as if Apollo still honors his birthplace.

Delos is
much more
than that.

The three princesses of Delos

When the Greeks sailed with a thousand ships to reach Troy and fight the most legendary war in human imagination, they crossed the Aegean and stopped at the sacred island of Delos to pay tribute to Apollo. Anius was king of Delos, a son of Apollo himself. He had three daughters, Oeno, Spermo, and Elais.



The three girls had magical powers: Oeno could produce endless amounts of wine, Spermo sheaves of wheat and Elais gallons of olive oil. These were the three most basic elements of food and sustenance at the time. The army generals had a huge army to feed. So, they took the three girls with them, lest they starve, as they were besieging the legendary walls of Troy. But these are all myths and legends. The true story of Delos is even more remarkable.





Located in the centre of the Aegean, this small sacred island was where all islander Greeks would meet to celebrate every summer. It became the greatest, richest, most powerful port in the ancient world. People from every land would come here to make a fortune. And if you could make it here, you could make it anywhere. The site still echoes the riches and the fortunes, the trials and tribulations of all people, rich and poor who ended up here.

As the ancient world started to fade out, this small flat island was susceptible to plundering. Pirates came and laid waste to all the riches, and the vibrant community eventually faded into oblivion.



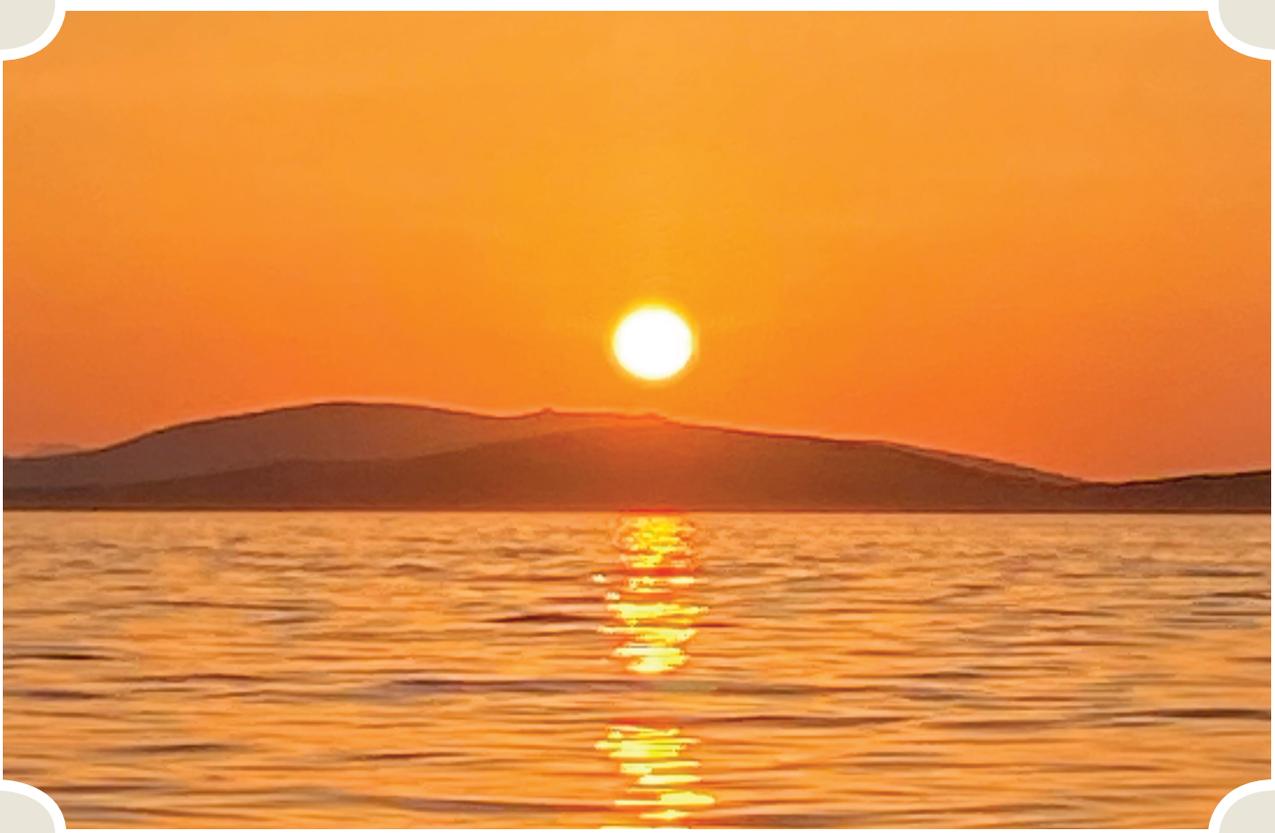
As the world rediscovered the ancient past, Delos has been remembered and re-emerged as it did the first time when Apollo was born. The entire island is a huge archaeological site, uninhabited but still attracting visitors. Among Delos's most noted sculptural artefacts are the remains of the Doric temple of Apollo, a huge amphitheatre and nine marble lions.

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The island transmits the energy of Apollo to this very day, echoing the myths, the imagination, the lives and adventures of thousands of people, from thousands of years ago.



You'll feel it too.
Sunlight on Delos
feels different.
It feels divine.



Mykonos in ancient times was under Delos' wing, like a younger sibling, totally dependent on the sacred island to survive. It was, after all, the one Cycladic island which came closest to the birthplace of Apollo. But the two islands are bound together forever. Two islands in the sea, bathed in the sacred sunlight of Apollo; they are small, but their essence is as huge as the universe itself.



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