

The Greek islands are so familiar to most that the mere mention of the Aegean Sea can jolt the memory and senses. From their ubiquitous olive groves to their sandy coves and azure waters, it's easy to forget how distinct each Greek island is.

Each one's history and culture reflects the shifting sands of the centuries before modern Greece's existence — the Venetians, Ottomans and Knights of St John, among others, have all shaped these Mediterranean outposts.

Of the 227 inhabited islands and the thousands spread across the six main groups, how many do you really know? Corfu, Rhodes and Santorini maybe, but Syros, Lemnos and Milos? How about Skopelos, Poros and Lefkada?

In this newsletter, we celebrate the Greek islands you know, and those you possibly don't, as well as the myriad experiences they offer — from ghost towns and active volcanoes to shipwreck dives and a dune-filled desert.

— Pat Riddell, editor



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## The 31 best Greek islands to visit in 2024

From the gastronomic isles of the Cyclades to the enigmatic ruins of the Dodecanese, each of the six main Greek island groups has its own distinct character. There are secluded towns loved by local gourmands, hidden coves brimming with mythical associations and, above all, a natural splendour that's captured the minds of artists and adventurers through the ages.

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