

## 16 of the best Mediterranean islands to visit

Whether you're looking for culture, beaches or some world-class partying, here's where to find your island idyll



Elafonissi beach in Crete  
ALAMY

**T**he Mediterranean coastline is home to a geographically diverse array of must-visit islands, from the turquoise waters of Menorca to Santorini and its deservedly popular sunsets. Whether you're looking for culture, world-class partying, or unsung beaches, you'll find it on one of the Med's many islands. You'll find ancient ruins in Crete and Corfu, unbeatable clubs in Ibiza, and fabulous gastronomy in Corsica. If you're after a lesser-known spot, try Italy's La Maddalena with its superb dive sites or the delightful car-free Buyukada in Turkey. And there's no need to head to the Caribbean for spectacular beaches — you can find equally picturesque spots closer to home. Here's our pick of the best Mediterranean islands to visit.

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#### 7. Santorini, Greece



Rivalling Mykonos for its cosmopolitan edge, [Santorini](#) is perhaps the most recognisable Greek island of them all. Its white-painted villages and blue-domed churches gaze down at the cobalt Aegean from the sweeping rim of an ancient volcanic crater — the remnants of a cataclysmic eruption some 3,500 years ago. Of its villages, Oia is the go-to spot for sunsets (if you can handle the crowds), Fira is brilliant for clubs, bars and restaurants, and Imerovigli is more chilled out. Take in all three with a lovely hike along the crater's-edge footpath. Andronis Concept is a sea-facing spa retreat in Imerovigli where all rooms have private terraces and plunge pools.

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