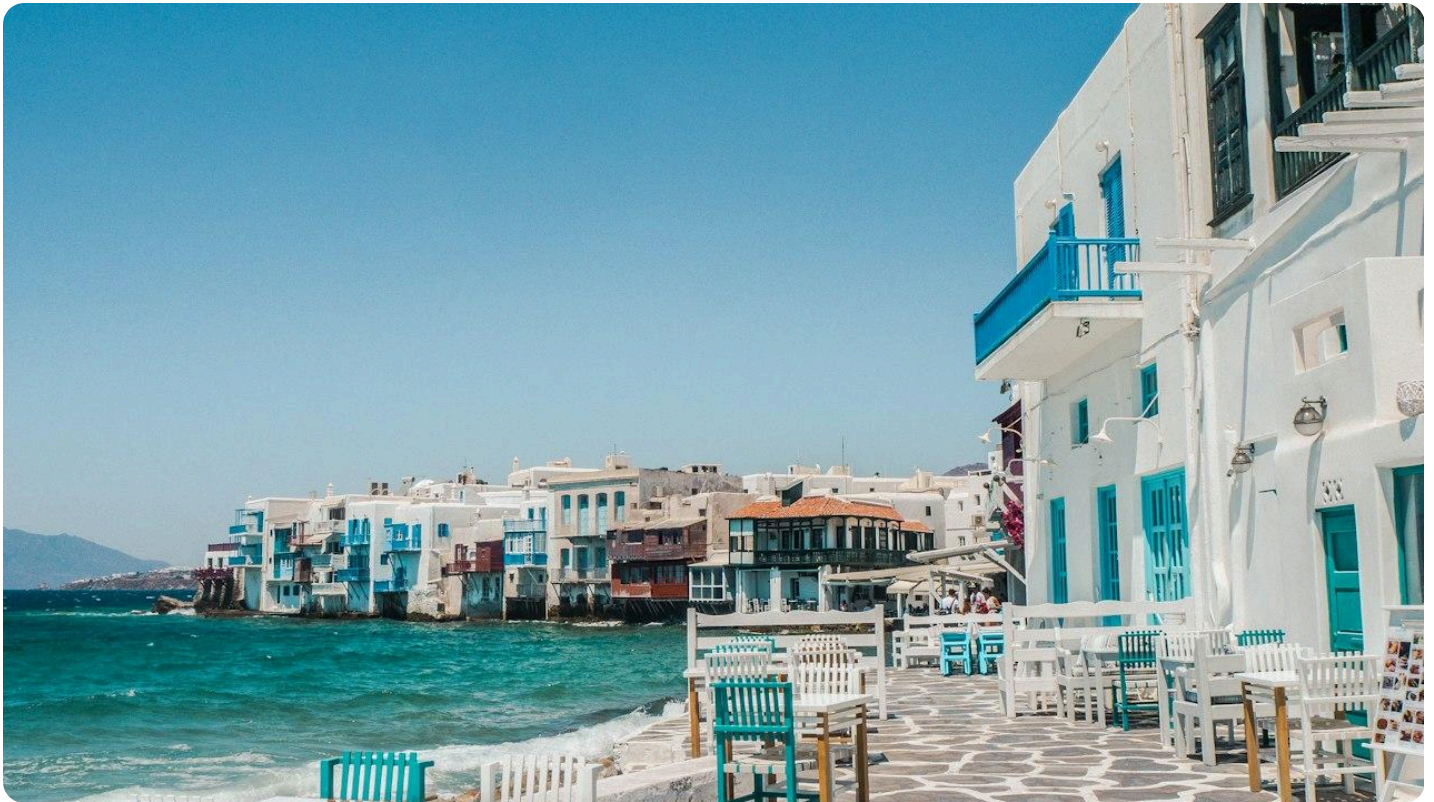


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# Gay Mykonos Travel Guide: LGBTQ+ Beach Clubs, Hotels, and Nightlife

A complete LGBTQ+ Mykonos travel guide covering Jackie O' and Super Paradise beach clubs, gay-friendly hotels, Cavo Paradiso nightlife, and when to visit.

Prepared by Terrance Bortell · April 29, 2026

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Mykonos is a small Cycladic island that became one of the most iconic LGBTQ+ destinations on the planet, and it earned that status the way the best gay destinations do: organically, over decades, by being beautiful, hedonistic, and unapologetically welcoming. The whitewashed lanes of Mykonos Town, the windmills above Little Venice, and the legendary beach clubs strung along the south coast have anchored the gay summer for generations of travelers.

Unlike the urban gay scenes of Barcelona or Berlin, gay Mykonos is mostly built around the beach. Daytime party at Jackie O' Beach Club or Super Paradise, sunset drinks in Little Venice, dinner late, and a club like Cavo Paradiso that does not get going until 2 a.m. and runs until sunrise. The pacing is half the experience.

This guide is built around how Mykonos actually works in season: which beach clubs to plan your days around, where to stay relative to the action, and how to pace a few days of high-output island time without breaking yourself.

#### IMPORTANT

Prices in Mykonos spike sharply from June through August, and the island is genuinely expensive at peak. Beach club sun bed minimums of 100 to 300 euros per person are normal, taxis can run double mainland Greek rates, and prime hotels book out six months in advance. Late May, early June, and September deliver near-identical weather for substantially less.

## At a Glance

### WEATHER

#### BEST TIME

**Late May through  
mid-September**

#### AVG HIGH

**85°F**

#### AVG LOW

**63°F**

#### RAINY SEASON

**November through  
February**

MAP · NOT INCLUDED IN PDF

An interactive map appears here in the online guide.

## Why LGBTQ+ Travelers Love Mykonos

Mykonos hits a specific note that few other destinations can match: an island that is small enough to feel intimate, beautiful enough to feel like a movie set, and gay enough to feel like home from the moment you step off the plane in summer.

- **Beach club culture as the main event:** Mykonos' south coast is a string of legendary beach clubs (Jackie O', Super Paradise, Elia, Paradise) that run all-day pool-and-DJ parties from late morning through sunset. The day is the destination, not the night.
- **Mykonos Town as a backdrop:** Whitewashed Cycladic architecture, blue doors, bougainvillea, and the famous windmills above Little Venice. Walking the old town at dusk is a non-negotiable part of the trip.
- **A long-running gay scene:** Mykonos has welcomed LGBTQ+ travelers since the 1970s, and the local hospitality industry is fully oriented around it. Same-sex affection is the visible default in town and on the beaches.
- **Sunset as a daily ritual:** Sunset drinks at Babylon, 180° Sunset Bar, or any number of waterfront spots in Little Venice are a defining moment of every Mykonos day. Plan around it.
- **Easy island access:** Direct flights from Athens (45 minutes) and a growing list of European cities in summer, plus high-speed ferries from Athens (Piraeus or Rafina) for a slower approach.

## Gay Beaches and Beach Clubs

Beach clubs are the core of gay Mykonos. Plan your days around which one you are going to, when you arrive, and how long you intend to stay. Most beach clubs require a sun bed reservation in peak season, and prices are tied to the location and the day's DJ.

### Jackie O' Beach Club at Super Paradise

The crown jewel of gay Mykonos and the most concentrated gay daytime scene on the island. A pool-and-beach club at the western end of Super Paradise Beach with go-go dancers, drag performances, daily pool parties, and a serious lunch service. Reserve sun beds well in advance, especially for Saturday and Sunday parties, and arrive by 1 p.m. to settle in.

### Super Paradise Beach

The beach itself, beyond Jackie O', has been the historic gay beach of Mykonos since the 1980s. The far-right (eastern) end of the beach is the traditional gay/nudist area, with a more bohemian feel than the polished beach club scene. A great mid-day stop in addition to or instead of a full Jackie O' day.

## Elia Beach

The longest beach on the island and home to a long-standing nudist and gay-friendly section at the eastern end. Quieter than Super Paradise, with a more relaxed vibe. A good choice for travelers who want sun and sea without a full DJ-and-cocktail scene.

## Paradise Beach

The mainstream party beach next to Super Paradise, with Tropicana and Paradise Club drawing a younger, mixed (gay and straight) crowd. Less specifically gay than Jackie O' but plenty of LGBTQ+ travelers in the mix, especially during peak season weekends.

## Cavo Paradiso

Not a beach club but the island's most legendary nightclub, perched on the cliffs above Paradise Beach. Cavo Paradiso runs the tentpole DJ events of the season, with sets that start at 2 a.m. and run past sunrise. Cover charges are steep, the lineup is world-class, and a night here is a defining Mykonos experience.

### ADVISOR TIP

Reserve beach club sun beds 24 to 72 hours in advance through the venue (most have WhatsApp reservations now), and confirm the minimum spend before you commit. Walk-ins on a busy Saturday at Jackie O' will get turned away.

## Where to Stay

Mykonos is small but not a single town. Where you stay determines how often you taxi, how close you are to the beach scene, and how much sleep you actually get. Three areas matter.

### Mykonos Town (Chora)

The main port town, with the windmills, Little Venice, and the bulk of the restaurants and bars. Stay here for walkability, sunsets, dinner, and late nights in town. Beaches are a short taxi or bus ride.

**Best for:** first-timers, dinner-and-bar focused trips, walkable nights.

### Psarou and Platis Gialos

A short south-coast stretch with luxury beach hotels and excellent restaurants (Nammós, Scorpios). Less

### Super Paradise / Paradise Area

On the south coast, walking distance from the gay beach scene. Quieter at night and oriented around beach club days. A taxi to Mykonos Town takes 15 to 20 minutes and can be hard to get on busy nights.

**Best for:** beach-club-first trips, return visitors who want to roll out of bed and onto the sun bed.

### Ornos and Agios Ioannis

West-side beaches with calm water, family-friendly resorts, and the most beautiful Mykonos sunset

specifically gay than Super Paradise but stylish, easy, and a popular base for LGBTQ+ couples.

**Best for:** couples, honeymoons, luxury-first trips.

views over Delos. Very close to Mykonos Town.

Quieter, with a different rhythm than the south coast.

**Best for:** honeymoons, slower-paced stays, sunset lovers.

## Gay-Friendly Hotels in Mykonos

Mykonos is overwhelmingly LGBTQ+-friendly across its hotel inventory. The properties below are favorites for combinations of location, vibe, and quality.

### Belvedere Hotel

A boutique luxury property on the edge of Mykonos Town, with a famous pool scene, a Matsuhisa restaurant on site, and a clientele that has long included a strong LGBTQ+ contingent. Walkable to town, polished service, and one of the most beautiful pool decks on the island.

### Cavo Tagoo

A design-forward five-star property cut into the cliffs above Mykonos Town, with infinity pools, a spa, and rooms that have become one of the most photographed Cycladic interiors anywhere. Splurge territory, ideal for honeymoons and special occasions.

### Bill & Co Mykonos

A small-luxury hotel on the west coast at Megali Ammos with serene rooms, a Michelin-starred restaurant (a rarity in the Cyclades), and a pool that catches the Mykonos sunset perfectly. Quiet, romantic, and short taxi distance to the action.

### Elysium Hotel

The most openly gay-popular hotel in Mykonos, perched on a hillside above Mykonos Town with one of the best pool scenes for LGBTQ+ travelers on the island. Daily pool parties in season, drag shows, and a clientele that runs heavily gay all summer. The default for travelers who want the gay scene at the hotel as well as outside it.

### Andronis Concept Wellness Resort

A wellness-led luxury resort on the north coast, with cliff-side suites, a serious spa program, and a much quieter feel than the south-coast scene. Best for couples seeking decompression rather than party energy.

### Mykonos Theoxenia

A mid-luxury boutique just outside Mykonos Town with a more reasonable price point than the Belvedere or Cavo Tagoo, walkable access to the Chora restaurants and bars, and a comfortable pool. A solid value choice for a strong location.

## Mykonos Town Nightlife

Mykonos Town comes alive after dinner. Sunset drinks in Little Venice flow into long Greek dinners, and the bars in town fill up around midnight before the late-night migration to Cavo Paradiso.

### Babylon

The flagship gay bar in Mykonos Town, on the waterfront in Little Venice. Sunset cocktails on the small terrace are a daily ritual; the bar gets busier and louder through the evening. The reliable starting point of any night in town.

### Lola

A small, intimate gay bar tucked into the lanes of Mykonos Town, with creative cocktails, a drag-leaning vibe, and a less-touristy feel than Babylon. A good middle-of-the-night stop.

### Jackie O' Town

The Mykonos Town outpost of the Jackie O' brand, doubling as a restaurant earlier in the evening and a high-energy bar later. A natural progression after dinner, with the same brand DNA as the beach club.

### Down Under Bar

A late-night staple a few minutes from the harbor, mixed-crowd, often packed, and famous for cheap drink specials. A common stop before heading to Cavo Paradiso.

### Cavo Paradiso (Late Night)

Worth listing twice. The cliff-top club is the focal point of any serious night out. Buy tickets in advance during peak DJ weeks, and plan to taxi back to town between 5 and 6 a.m.

## Things to Do Beyond the Beach Clubs

Even on a beach-and-party trip, build in at least one or two non-beach experiences. The island has more depth than the south coast suggests.

### Mykonos Town at Sunset

Wander the lanes of Chora in the late afternoon, head to Little Venice for sunset drinks, watch the windmills catch the last light. Plan dinner around 9:30 p.m. so the entire arc unfolds without rushing.

### Day Trip to Delos

A short ferry from Mykonos Town to one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece. Half-day guided tours run from the old port. Bring water, sunblock, and a hat; there is no shade on the site.

## Boat Day Around the Island

Charter a small group boat for a day around Mykonos and the southern beaches, with a stop at Rhenia Island for swimming. Several gay-friendly operators run shared and private charters with onboard lunch and DJ.

## Greek Cooking Class

Several local hosts run small-group cooking classes in Mykonos Town, often with a market visit, demonstration, and long lunch. A welcome change of pace from beach club rhythm.

## Ano Mera and the Inland Villages

Mykonos is more than its beaches. The inland village of Ano Mera, the Panagia Tourliani monastery, and small wineries on the northern half of the island offer a slower, more local feel. Rent a small car for a half-day.

### ADVISOR TIP

Plan one full rest day in the middle of any trip longer than four nights. Mykonos pacing burns through travelers fast; a slow morning, a long lunch on a quieter beach, and an early dinner is what lets you get through the second half.

## When to Visit

Mykonos has a sharp seasonal arc. The island shuts down a large share of its hospitality industry from November through April; the season runs roughly from May to mid-October.

### High Season

**July and August.**

Peak heat, peak prices, peak crowds. Every beach club is at full volume, and big-name DJs anchor the Cavo Paradiso calendar. Book hotels and beach club sun beds well in advance.

### Shoulder

**Late May, June, September.**

The sweet spot. Weather is nearly identical to peak, the scene is fully open, prices are noticeably lower, and the island feels more livable. The best time for a first or return trip.

### Low Season

**November through April.**

Most beach clubs and hotels close, ferry service is reduced, and the gay scene is essentially dormant. Skip these months unless you want a quiet, off-grid Cycladic visit.

## Key LGBTQ+ Events

- **XLSIOR Mykonos Festival:** Late August. The island's flagship gay circuit event, a week of parties at Cavo Paradiso, Jackie O', and surrounding venues. Hotels book out six to nine months ahead. The single biggest week of the year for LGBTQ+ travel to Mykonos.
- **Mykonos Pride:** Late August, often overlapping with XLSIOR. Smaller and more local in flavor than the major European Prides, but a natural complement to a circuit-week trip.

- **White Party Weeks:** Various themed party weeks dot the calendar from June through September. A travel advisor can map your dates to the events you want and steer you away from the ones you do not.

## Travel Tips for LGBTQ+ Visitors

- **Safety:** Mykonos is very safe for LGBTQ+ visitors. The biggest risks are sunstroke, dehydration, and overdoing it on Day 1. Standard precautions on belongings at crowded beach clubs.
- **Public affection:** Same-sex affection is normal and accepted across the island, especially in town and on the gay beaches.
- **Currency and payment:** Euros. Cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and beach clubs; carry some cash for small tavernas, taxis, and tipping.
- **Tipping:** 5 to 10 percent at restaurants is appreciated; round up at bars; a few euros for taxis and bag handling.
- **Getting around:** Taxis are limited, especially at peak hours. Pre-book transfers, use the local KTEL bus for Super Paradise and Paradise from Mykonos Town, or rent an ATV or small car for flexibility (the roads are narrow but manageable).
- **Sun and water:** The sun is intense. Reef-safe sunblock, a hat, and constant water are essential. Beach club water bottles are heavily marked up; hydrate at the hotel before heading out.
- **Language:** Greek is the local language; English is universal in tourism contexts.
- **Power and plugs:** European 230V, type C/F plugs. Bring an adapter.

## Pre-trip Checklist

### PACKING LIST

- Passport valid 6+ months past return date
- European plug adapter (type C/F)
- Travel insurance
- Multiple swimsuits (they will not dry overnight in salt and humidity)
- Reef-safe sunscreen, SPF 50
- Hat and sunglasses with UV protection
- A nice resort-wear outfit for dinner in Mykonos Town
- A going-out outfit suited to Cavo Paradiso
- Comfortable walking shoes (cobblestone lanes)
- Beach bag with refillable water bottle
- Light jacket for cool late evenings, especially in May and September
- Prescription meds in original packaging
- Beach club reservations confirmed in advance

## Sample 4-Day Itinerary

A balanced first-time itinerary that mixes beach clubs, town life, and one excursion.

1

### Arrive and Settle

Sunset and a soft first night

Land at Mykonos Airport, transfer to your hotel and check in. A quiet afternoon at the hotel pool to recover from travel, then a sunset arrival in Mykonos Town. Drinks at Babylon as the windmills light up, dinner at a Little Venice restaurant, and an early night to bank sleep.

2

## First Beach Club Day

Jackie O' to Cavo

A relaxed late breakfast, then a midday taxi to Jackie O' Beach Club at Super Paradise (sun bed reserved). Stay for the full pool party, lunch on the deck, and the late-afternoon set. Back to the hotel for a long shower and a nap. Dinner at 10 p.m. in town, drinks at Lola or Down Under Bar, and a late arrival at Cavo Paradiso for the headlining DJ.

3

## Excursion Day

Reset with culture and a quieter beach

Sleep in. Late-morning ferry to Delos for a guided three-hour visit to the archaeological site. Back to Mykonos Town for a long lunch, then a quieter afternoon at Elia Beach or Psarou rather than another full beach-club day. Dinner in town, drinks at Babylon, and an early-ish night to recover before the next big push.

4

## Second Beach Club, Final Night

Pace the finish

Brunch at the hotel, then a midday at Super Paradise (the beach itself, not the club) for a more bohemian beach feel. Sunset back at the hotel pool. A final dinner in Mykonos Town with friends, drinks at Jackie O' Town, and a final stop at the bar of your choice. If you have stamina, one last visit to Cavo Paradiso; if not, a quiet last drink in Little Venice.

For trips of five or more nights, add a boat day around the island and a slow inland day at Ano Mera between Day 2 and Day 3.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Is Mykonos safe for LGBTQ+ travelers?**

Yes. Mykonos is one of the most LGBTQ+-friendly destinations in the Mediterranean, with same-sex affection and visible queer community as the default in town and on the gay beaches. Same-sex marriage and civil partnerships are recognized in Greece.

## **When is the best time to visit gay Mykonos?**

Late May through June and September deliver near-peak weather with lower prices and a calmer scene. July and August are peak season, with peak prices and peak energy. Late August is the XLSIOR circuit week, the busiest period of the year.

## **Do I need to reserve sun beds at beach clubs?**

Yes, in peak season. Jackie O' and the major beach clubs require advance reservations on weekends and during XLSIOR. Most accept WhatsApp bookings 24 to 72 hours out. Walk-ins on a busy Saturday will be turned away.

## **How expensive is Mykonos really?**

Genuinely expensive in peak season. Plan for sun bed minimums of 100 to 300 euros per person at top beach clubs, dinners that easily hit 100 euros per person at Mykonos Town restaurants, and hotel rates that can rival a New York or Paris splurge. Shoulder season prices are 30 to 50 percent lower across the board.

## **Can I use Mykonos as a base for other islands?**

Yes. Mykonos has fast-ferry connections to Santorini, Naxos, Paros, and several smaller islands, making it a viable hub for a multi-island trip. Many travelers pair four nights in Mykonos with three or four nights in Santorini.

## **Should I rent a car or scooter?**

A small car or ATV is useful if you plan to visit the inland villages or the more remote beaches. For trips focused on Mykonos Town and the south coast, taxis, the local bus, and pre-booked transfers cover everything.

## **Plan Your Trip with Pride Travelers**

Mykonos is a destination where the difference between a great trip and a bumpy one comes down to logistics: the right week, the right hotel for your group, beach club reservations, transfers, and a pacing that does not

flatten you by Day 3. The island is too small and too in-demand to wing it in peak season.

Pride Travelers can match you to the right base on the island, time your trip around (or away from) XLSIOR, lock in beach club sun beds and Cavo Paradiso tickets, and pair Mykonos with Santorini, Athens, or another Greek island if you want a multi-stop trip.

[Book Your Mykonos Trip →](#)

Whether it is your first Cycladic summer or your tenth, we will plan it to land exactly where you want it to.