

#DestinationHighlight **Kythira**

Kythira:

The Island of Aphrodite



Kapsali Bay



Where Sky Met Sea



The Myth: Birth of Venus

According to Hesiod's *Theogony*, the **Titan Cronus** rose against his father **Uranus**, the primordial **god of the sky**, after he had imprisoned his own children, provoking the anger of **Gaia, the Earth**.

In an act that reshaped the cosmos, Cronus severed Uranus and cast his divine essence into the sea of Kythira.

As **sky merged with water**, the waves began to foam.

From that foam - ἀφρός (aphros) - Aphrodite (Venus) emerged.

According to this ancient myth, Aphrodite was born in the sea foam of Kythira, before the currents carried the goddess onward to **Paphos** in Cyprus.

Kythira was not just scenery in myth.

It was sacred ground.





From Myth to Sacred Ground



"The Birth of Venus" by Sandro Botticelli

Aphrodite was known as **Kythereia** - goddess of **Kythira**.

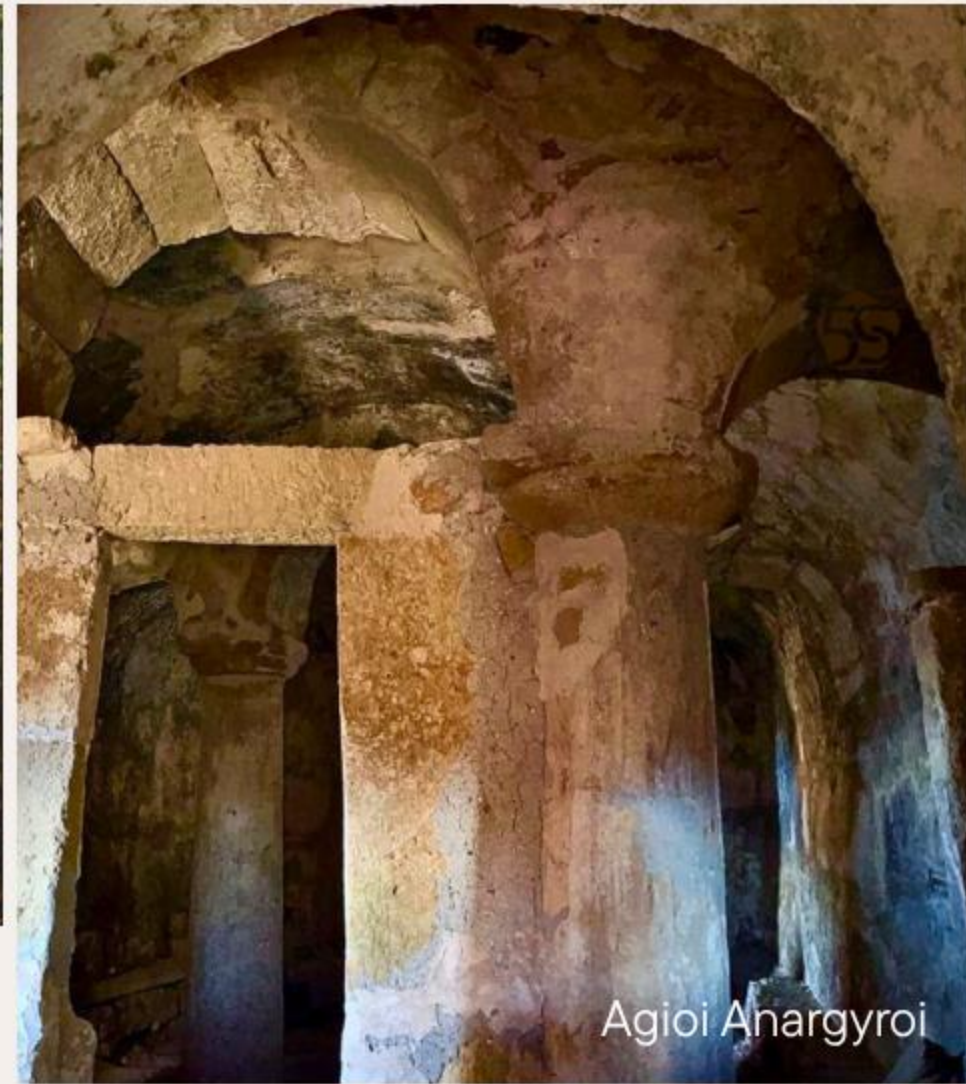
A name that permanently linked her to Kythira.

In antiquity, she was revered here as **Aphrodite Urania** - protector of affection and pure love - with the island serving as one of her principal places of worship.

Her presence shaped the development of **Paleopolis**, the ancient capital known as "Upper Kythira," near the coastal port of **Skandia**.

High above the sea, on the **hill of Paleokastro**, stood the sanctuary often referred to as **the Throne of Aphrodite** - a site overlooking the waters from which she was said to have emerged.

Centuries later, on that same sacred ground, the **Basilica of Saints Anargyroi (Agioli Anargyroi)** was built. From its narthex, Doric capitals and columns from the ancient Temple of Aphrodite remain visible.



Agioli Anargyroi



Preserving the Legacy

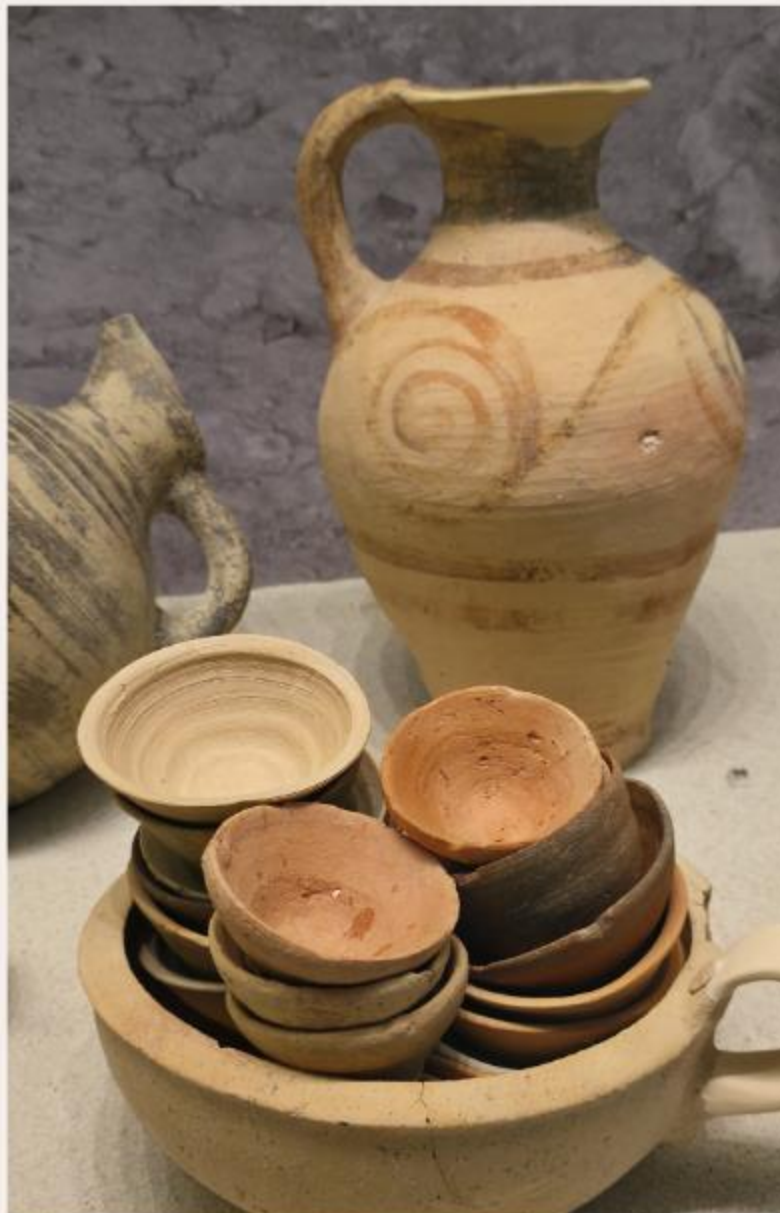
Today, the renovated **Archaeological Museum of Kythira**, located in **Chora**, brings together the island's most important findings.

From prehistoric artifacts to classical remains, it preserves the material evidence of its mythological and historical depth.

Sculptural fragments, architectural elements, inscriptions, and everyday objects trace the island's evolution from myth to organized religious life and structured society.

The museum does not simply display objects. Visitors do not only hear the story of Aphrodite. It connects visitors to the civilization that developed around and followed her legend.

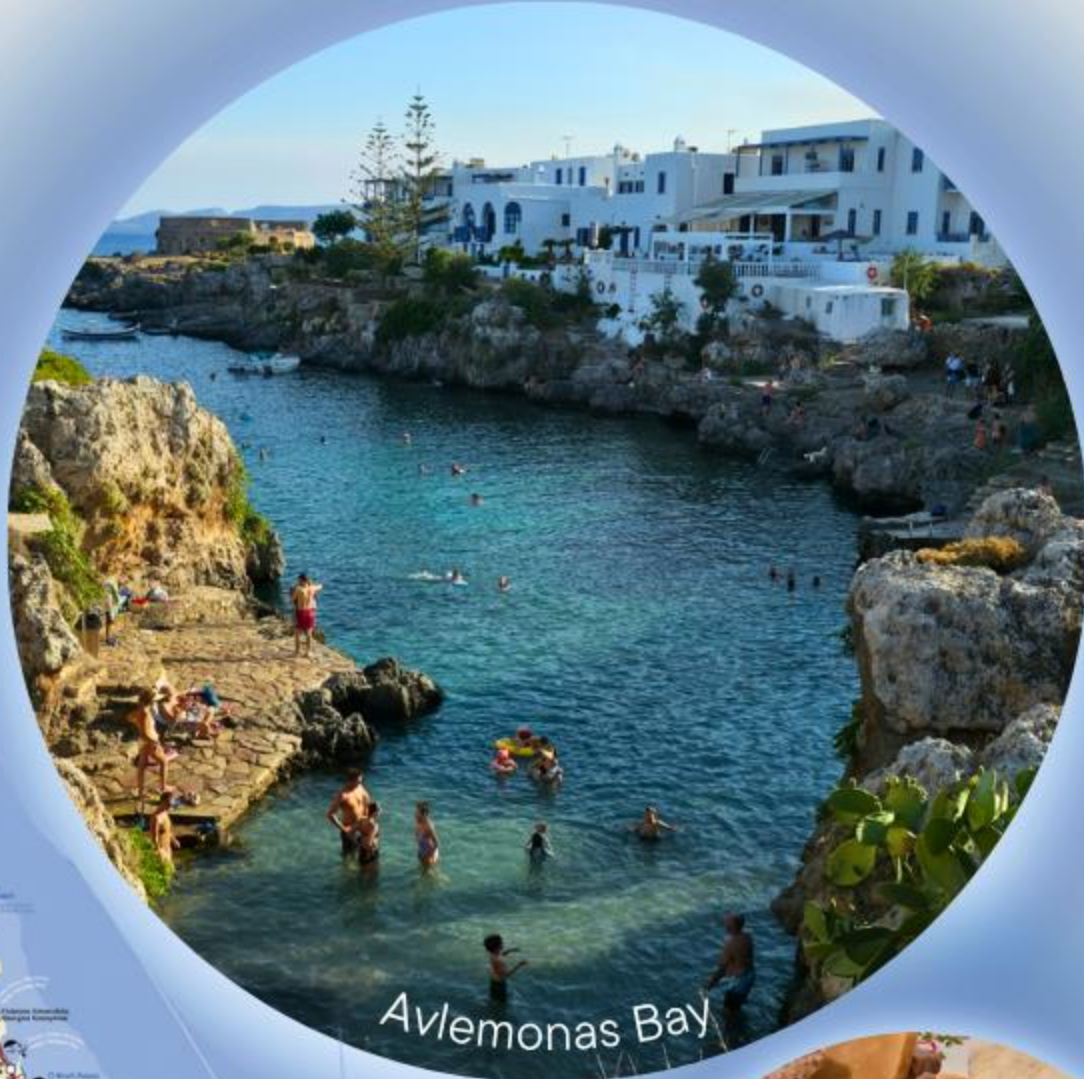
For cruise visitors, this creates narrative continuity.



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Panagia Myrtidiotissa Monastery



Avlemonas Bay



Fyri Ammos Beach



Mylopotamos Waterfall



Kythira Island Map



Castle of Chora



Agia Moni



More Than a Stop. A Story.

Kythira connects myth to monument, and monument to memory.

From the **birth of Aphrodite** to **ancient sanctuaries** and **a restored museum**, the island offers **layered cultural depth**.

For **cruise passengers**, this means more than sightseeing – **it means stepping into a story that spans millennia**.

It means arriving at **a place where legend is anchored in landscape**.

This is not just a port of call.
It is narrative capital.

And stories like this are what transform destinations into experiences.



Chora Castle & Kapsali Bay