Naxos—Life, the Greek way

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The old landlady is waving to visitors from afar. In Lionas Bay, however, no further invitation is needed to indulge in dolmades and satsaki, followed by a serving of grilled fish. During the off-season, the remote beach strip in the northern part of Naxos is only inhabited by a dozen people, all making their living at the local taverns. The few visitors, who stray from the main roads and wander down the narrow, dusty path, are treated to a delicious meal and home-made wine bottled in plastic water bottles—one of the many provisional arrangements you are certain to fall in love with.

Upon exploring the Hellenic civilization, the famous German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe remarked: “Of all peoples, the Greeks have dreamt the dream of life.” On Naxos, this dream is still much alive. According to the myth, Dionysus and Ariadne were still much alive. According to the best”; on Naxos, this dream of life was greeted by the iconic Portara, the entrance to an unfinished temple from the 5th century BC. Although visitors take the ferries that leave from the main roads and Plaka, just outside Naxos-City, there is the still intact, picturably beautiful Castro in Naxos-City with its good conditions.

There is plenty to explore on the island: the still intact, picturesque Castro in Naxos-City with the Venetian Museum; the Temple of Demeter in the Naxos-City centre; the unfinished Kroussos statue of Apollo; the Dimitra temple near Sangri, and the Dionysus temple at Glinado, to the centre and north of the island. Agia Anna and Plaka, just outside Naxos-City, are the most well-known beaches. But only a few kilometres south, each remote and beautiful beach is followed by another, connected only by twisting dirt tracks that challenge even the most experienced drivers.

A dusty road meanders invitingly down to Lionas Bay, and the journey is absolutely worth it as the landlady is sure to be expecting you already.

More information can be found at www.visitgreece.gr

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