



Περίληψη :

## Γενικές Πληροφορίες

**Area:** 8 km<sup>2</sup>

**Coastline length:** 12.964 km

**Population:** Uninhabited

**Administrative structure:** Region of South Aegean, Prefecture of the Cyclades, Province of Milos, Municipality of Milos

**Natural monuments:** The island has been included in the European network "NATURA 2000" as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) and has been declared an Important Bird Area of Greece

## 1. Location and geomorphology

Islet located northeast of [Milos](#), 5 miles away from cape Vani. Its common name is Erimomilos, and so it has been already since the Middle Ages. In ancient times, it was known as Ephyra or Ephora, meaning Watch Tower. Indeed, from its highest point one can view the sea for many miles. According to an interpretation of Homer, Antimilos was the place where [Ulysses' companions](#) slaughtered the oxen of the sun god Helios.

It belongs to the Southern Aegean [volcanic arc](#). It comprises of a large massif, with steep slopes that fall vertically to the sea without forming any shores at all. Only its upper parts are less rough. Up until the early Quaternary Era, Antimilos was an active volcano, while nowadays there is an inactive crater at the island's top, 670 m high. Volcanic formations throughout the whole island are quite impressive.

## 2. Flora and fauna

Antimilos is treeless, but with rich bushy [vegetation](#) (genista, maquis, thyme, poirets). It has been designated as a national park and has been included in the "NATURA 2000" network as a Site of Community Importance (SCI). Antimilos harbors a rare species of wild goat (*capra aegagrus pictus*), akin to that of Mount Ida in Crete, the Spanish Granada and the Northern Sporades islands of Greece. However, intermarriage with domesticated goats threatens the species. On the island also proliferate the native species *macrovipera schweizeri*, the viper popularly known as viper of Milos, one of the most poisonous snakes in Greece and threatened with extinction too, as well as the *podacris milensis* lizard. The island is also included among the 196 Important Bird Areas of Greece (IBAG).

## 3. Habitation remnants and archaeological finds

Nowadays, Antimilos is uninhabited; however, remnants of field walls and traces of threshing floors attest earlier habitation. Plenty of wrought [obsidian](#) and also several arrowheads found attest habitation even at [Prehistoric Times](#).

At the highest point of Antimilos, there is a circular cistern made of rectangular stones placed so that the walls expand gradually as they get closer to the water level. It is possibly dated in the Roman or Early Christian period.

Shortly before World War II, the Navy established an observatory and a radio station near the top, building a small dwelling and a subterranean tank. Worth mentioning is also a legend about an apparition called "Arapis" that lived at the cave of the same name and never let anyone come near the island.

The Greek State has designated Antimilos as an area of special natural beauty.

Visiting the island nowadays requires permission from the Hunt Commission of the Cyclades.



(We wish to thank Mr. M. Papatotiriou, agronomist of the Municipality of Milos, as well as the Milos Commission of Woods and Forests, for the valuable information they provided.)

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#### Βιβλιογραφία :

	<b>Βάος Ζ.</b> , <i>Θρύλοι και μύθοι, παραδόσεις, προλήψεις, δεισιδαιμονίες της Μήλου</i> , Επτάλοφος 1988
	<i>Μήλος-Κίμωλος. Πλήρης τουριστικός οδηγός</i> , Αθήνα 1996
	<b>Καλλέργης Γ.</b> , "Η θέση της Μήλου στο ηφαιστειακό τόξο του Ν. Αιγαίου", <i>Μηλιακά</i> , 1, 1983-1985, 7-32
	"Αντίμηλος", <i>Νεώτερον Εγκυκλοπαιδικόν Λεξικόν</i> , τόμ. 3, Αθήνα 1977, 47
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#### Δικτυογραφία :

	List of sites of Community importance <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_259/l_25920060921en00010104.pdf">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_259/l_25920060921en00010104.pdf</a>
	Natural habitat of Antimilos <a href="http://natura.minenv.gr/natura/server/user/biotopos_info.asp?siteCode=GR4220007">http://natura.minenv.gr/natura/server/user/biotopos_info.asp?siteCode=GR4220007</a>

#### Γλωσσάριο :

	<b>obsidian</b> Black volcanic glass, suitable for the manufacture of resistant sharp tools.
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#### Πηγές

Λούπης, Δ., *Ο Πιρί Ρεϊς (1465-1553) χαρτογραφεί το Αιγαίο. Η οθωμανική χαρτογραφία και η λίμνη του Αιγαίου* (Athens 1999)

#### Παραθέματα

Antimilos the black

"Five miles to the northwest lies the island of Antomilos (*Antimilos*), which is black and round".

Λούπης, Δ., *Ο Πιρί Ρεϊς (1465-1553) χαρτογραφεί το Αιγαίο. Η οθωμανική χαρτογραφία και η λίμνη του Αιγαίου* (Athens 1999), p. 362.