

## **Social media event: exploring the unknown Gyaros island**

*On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2016 WWF Greece invites you to participate in a virtual live trip to Gyaros island. During this expedition in the field, the CYCLADES Life team will be sharing secrets, experiences and beautiful landscapes while having direct interaction with the participants of the event.*



On February the 17<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting, the WWF vessel will travel to Gyaros island. Christos Papadas and Elina Samara, the CYCLADES LIFE field team, will be broadcasting a live transmission that will show the secrets of this former exile island while sharing the CYCLADES LIFE project's vision for the establishment of a novel and a model marine protected area that will not be based on prohibitions, but will be an example of a harmonic coexistence between man and nature.

During this winter, full-day expedition to Gyaros, the participants of the event will virtually experience a dive in the cold waters, a visit the exile prison buildings, and a climb to the mountaintop to admire the breathtaking views. This will be a revealing and unforgettable experience.

### **What do the people of the neighboring island of Syros know about Gyaros?**

The CYCLADES Life team has talked to the people of Syros in order to discover what they know, how they envision, and what they would like to learn about the unknown island of Gyaros. Watch their answers at this short video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWwveyaVxVk&feature=youtu.be>.

### **Underwater diving trails: a harmonic coexistence between man and nature**

The participants of the event will have the opportunity to experience virtually one of the numerous dives conducted by the CYCLADES LIFE field team for the designation of underwater trails around Gyaros. This isolated and windswept island hides unique treasures under the surface of its troubled and often inaccessible waters.

The main goal of the CYCLADES Life project is the conservation of the natural environment while promoting sustainable local development. To that end, WWF's field team is working towards the creation of underwater trails, a tool of environmental education that allows us to have a first-hand experience of the marine

environment. These trails are an example of sustainable tourism activities that will be promoted as part of the establishment of a Marine Protected Area around the island.

### **What is the current condition of the former prison buildings?**

This former “death island”, as referred to by the exiles, hides a heavy historical past that is best represented by the impressive prison building. Not many have had the opportunity to visit it and witness the marks of the past exile life, which is still evident in the adjacent bays. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February the participants of the [event](#) will be able to see a unique historical snapshot of the past through videos and photos.

The CYCLADES LIFE project is being implemented by WWF Greece together with the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Decentralized Administrative Authority of the Aegean, the Development Corporation of the Cyclades SA, the Harokopio University of Athens, MOm/Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Monk Seal and the Italian Institute Tethys.

#### **Notes for journalists:**

Find more material about Gyaros [here](#).

#### **More information**

Jason Kantas, Press Officer WWF Greece, tel: 210 33 14 893, cell: 697 185 9632, [j.kantas@wwf.gr](mailto:j.kantas@wwf.gr)

Amalia Alberini, CYCLADES LIFE Communication, tel: 210 33 14 893, [a.alberini@wwf.gr](mailto:a.alberini@wwf.gr)

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