



Amorgos- The Big Blue/Le Grand Bleu !



Amorgos is a 40 km. long mountain ridge, jutting out of the bluest sea imaginable. It was put on the map by Luc Besson's film "Le Grand Bleu" (The Big Blue) 1988, still playing in the island's tavernas! The villages are so white it makes your eyes water. Mainly visited by yachties and independent travellers, it has spectacular views, a lovely little harbour at Katapola with excellent tavernas, funky, charming shops and bars, and hugely expensive fish....and an *unbelievable* monastery. Pictures cannot do it justice.



Panagia Chozvriotissa Monastery is one of the most stunning sights we've seen anywhere in the islands with its dazzling white 8-storey, amazing building clinging to the cliff 260 metres over the sea. It is a mere 5 metres wide with steep staircases linking each floor- pirate-proof since 1088! The icon at the tiny church on the top level is said to perform miracles. The construction itself must have been one of them. The walk itself, up a long, stone staircase chiselled out of the rockface, is another...breathtaking (in two senses...).

The monks are polite but rather stern and monitor all visitors ...the usual being dressed reasonably modestly is not enough. Women must wear a skirt even over their trousers?!

As we entered the monastery a strange thing happened. A glass heart pendant I was wearing suddenly broke (for no apparent reason) and flew straight into a gap in the stone. With difficulty, a woman managed to retrieve it for me, saying the usual greek blessing "your health". For some reason, I felt a chill, that it was a bad omen. Perhaps something would break my heart soon? A few days later on Naxos, I was right.... After your visit you are offered a glass of their local liqueur of warm raki, honey and cinnamon, a piece of turkish delight (loukoumi) and a glass of water and are asked to sign the visitors book.



The 1800 inhabitants raise sheep, bees, fish and nowadays run a few shops and tavernas at the lovely little harbour. We had one of the best dinners ever here..it was lamb in the oven, baked in honey, ouzo and thyme.



A wet spaniel is a happy spaniel !