



## Περίληψη :

### Γενικές Πληροφορίες

**Area:** 15.842 km<sup>2</sup>

**Coastline length:** 39 km

**Population:** 698

**Island capital and its population:** Leipsoi

**Administrative structure:** Region of South Aegean, Prefecture of the Dodecanese, Province of Kalymnos, Municipality of Leipsoi

**Museums:** Ecclesiastical and Folk "Nikiforio" Museum

**Archaeological sites and monuments:** Ancient castle, "Panagia tou Kouseliou", "Panagia tou Charou"

**Natural monuments:** The island has been included in the European network "NATURA 2000"

**Cultural clubs:** Leipsoi Cultural Association

**Events:** Wine feast (August 10th)

**Religious feasts:** Feast of Panagia Charou (August 23d)

**Sport Clubs:** Leipsiotes Sport Club

### 1. Position and coastline

Leipsoi is between [Patmos](#) and [Leros](#). There are a large number of inlets and small islands and in particular Makronisi with its impressive rock formations and caves have made it a popular tourist destination.

### 2. The island's name

In mythology Leipsoi is identified as Ogygia the island of the nymph Kalipso, who tried to get Odysseus to stay with her for ever. On a marble tablet dated 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>C BC the island is referred to as Leipsoi.

### 3. History

The Carians inhabited the island in about 1200 BC and were succeeded by the Dorians. The inscription on a marble tablet refers to people from Miletos confirming the arrival of the Ionians who came from Asia Minor.

The island's museum houses remains of the [Mycenaean](#) period 1600-1100 BC and of the Geometric period 1100-800 BC. The remains of foundations of a 4<sup>th</sup>C BC fortification are the basis for the theory that there was an acropolis on the SE side of the hill where there is a village today which was probably the site of an ancient town. Between the town and the acropolis there is an extensive burial ground which was used from [Classic](#) to Roman times. During the Peloponnesian War ships of both sides anchored off the islands of the area.



At the church of Panaghia of Kouselio, there are the remains of an early Christian church with a large Baptistery in the shape of a cross. During the [Byzantium](#) period the increase of pirate activity lead to a population decrease and the island becoming a pirate hideaway.

In 1088 Alexios the First, Komninos granted St Christodoulos the Latrinos the whole island of Patmos and the surrounding islands with a golden bull. One of these islands was Leipsoi which came under the jurisdiction of The Monastery at Patmos. For about six centuries the island functioned as farm land and grazing pastures for the Monastery.

In 1308 Leipsoi along with the other islands of the Dodecanese was occupied by the order of [Knights of St John](#) of Jerusalem and in 1522 it became part of the [Ottoman Empire](#). According to some sources after the Ottoman suppression of Crete in 1669 the Cretans sought refuge on Leipsoi. During the Greek War of Independence of 1821 the island offered hospitality to the Patriarch of Alexandria Theophilus and to the sea captains of Hydra, *psarianos* and Spetse. Then after the treaty of Constantinople was signed, on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1832, Leipsoi once again came under Ottoman rule. In 1912 it passed into [Italian hands](#), 1943 saw the German occupation and in 1945 it was under temporary British administration. Finally in 1948 it was united with the rest of [Greece](#).

The island has a large number of churches many of which were renovated and maintained by Archimandrite Nikiphoros Koumondouros the remainder are maintained by their owners. Among the local [specialities](#) are the Leipsoian bread, which smells deliciously of caraway, mastic and nutmeg, and the local sweet red wine. During the Italian occupation the Vatican was supplied with *avamma* that same wine. Leipsoi belongs to union of winemaking towns of Europe 'Resevil' and on 10<sup>th</sup> August they have a wine festival.

#### 4. The church of Panaghia of Charos

The church of Panaghia of Harou is one of the oldest churches on the island. It was built in 1600 by the Monastery of Patmos. The name of the church, which means Our Lady of Death, originates from the icon showing The Virgin Mary holding a crucifix of Christ. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, nine days after the assumption of the Virgin, there is a festival that is attended by people from all the surrounding islands. Since April 1943 it is considered that the miracle with the lilies is repeated, so in spring people put lilies on the Icon where they are left to dry. In August the dried stems are said to bud and on the day of the festival flower. After the evening service everyone celebrates outside in the two squares of the village until morning.

#### Βιβλιογραφία :

	Κουμουνδούρος Νικηφόρος, <i>Η Λειψώ</i> , Αθήνα 1994
	Βολονάκης Ιωάννης, <i>Ιστορία και μνημεία των Λειψών Δωδεκανήσου</i> , Λειψοί 2002

#### 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 Arkoi, Leipsoi, Agathonisi and Farmakonisi <a href="http://natura.minenv.gr/natura/server/user/biotopos_info.asp?lng=GR&amp;siteCode=GR4210010">http://natura.minenv.gr/natura/server/user/biotopos_info.asp?lng=GR&amp;siteCode=GR4210010</a>



## Χρονολόγιο

1370 B.C.: Settlement of the Cares

1200 B.C.: Settlement of the Dorieis

12th century B.C.: Settlement of the Milisioi

4th century B.C.: Building of the walls of the Castle

1078: Concession of the island to Patmos Monastery (Chryssovoulo of Alexios A' Comninos)

1308: Occupation by the Ioannites Knights

1522: Occupation by the Ottomans

17th century B.C.: Settlement of the Cretan refugees

1912: Occupation by Italian army

1943: Occupation by the Germans

1948: Unification with Greece