

KAMINI - a 20 minute easy walk to the West

Kamini is a small fishing boat harbour located within easy walking distance of Hydra Port.

Easiest approach is the coastal walk, heading out of Hydra port towards the west (that is, opposite to the side where the ferries dock). walk for about 15 minutes on flat path at easy pace - this path is well lit after dark also.

GOOD SWIMMING SPOTS along this walk ... approach via steps downwards to swimming rocks, which often have ladder entry into the water. Some have closed gates, but there are others with free access.

SWIM LIKE LOCALS - don't go out 'til after siesta time (5pm)

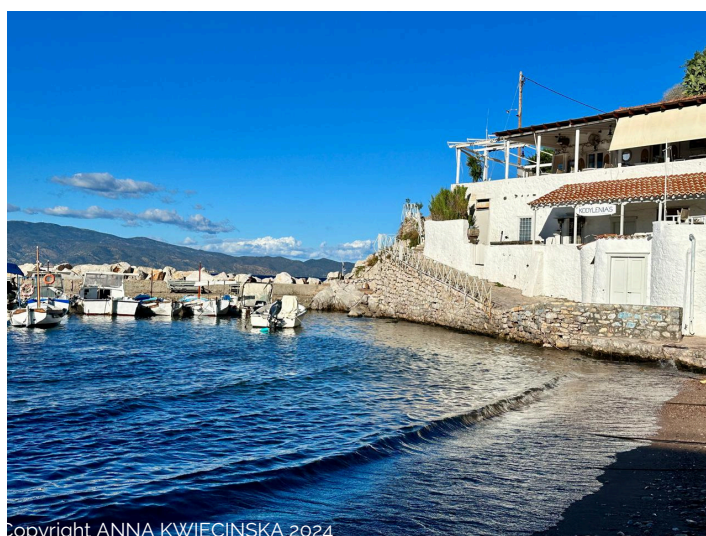
IN KAMINI

A couple of tavernas - one with a great sunset view, and then set back a little along the pathway that is the internal route to Kamini is another.

If you continue down the white Kamini seaside steps, cross the slipway to the fishing boats and cross over towards the big yellow building on the other side, you can continue of for a few more minutes to reach KAMINI BEACH, which you find by walking past the big yellow building, then taking the small track immediately to your right as you leave the main concrete quay, and then push on to the pebble Kamini bay beach (10 mins).



BELOW : this is a great swimming spot just near the end of the port on the eastern side. There are a couple of cafes nearby. Lit at night for night swimming. Be careful of undertow towards caves



Kamini is one of the the best places for an uninterrupted sunset drink - try KONDALENIYA'S shown here.

The slipway is in the foreground. there is a bridge to avoid getting wet feet.

KAMINI - the inland pathway - steps, and more steps

In the photo (R) you see a Dimitri's Taverna, which is on the end of the path as you emerge from the inland track to Kamini - it is generally not open for business before lunchtime.

Lets' say you want to go back to the Port of Hydra along this track (which is easier and less huffy than going to Kamini along this track) :

So you will turn from the slipway which you see at the far end of the photo, and follow the wide path, which soon leads into steps, rising up the saddle of the hill. Do not deviate left or right if your intention is to return to the port.



Eventually you will come to a grocery store on the right side (called 'Four Corners') and if you continue straight you'll reach the wide steps going to the port so turn left and you'll soon reach the area behind the Pirate Bar.

If you turn LEFT and continue on a bit of a twisty turny pathway you'll eventually reach:

- the Lazaros Koundouriotis Museum, in an admiral's house featuring an interesting and varied collection of historical artifacts, costumes, and contemporary interventions and responses.
- OPEN 10-4pm, (entrance fee)
- the Tetses House Museum (famous artist from this island)
- pass Leonard Cohen's House (there is intentionally no signage)

and you can get down from this path by steep steps that bring you directly onto the port front OR continue along until you reach the pine forest, follow the low steps from there and meet up with the Kamini path described above.

IKAMINI BEACH

Kamini beach is reached by crossing the slipway, walking around the path to the right and continuing until you reach steps taking you to the pebbly cove shown here from the other side. A large building known as The Castello presides over the beach.

In summer time the only seating available is payable to the same people who operate the busy bar and restaurant.

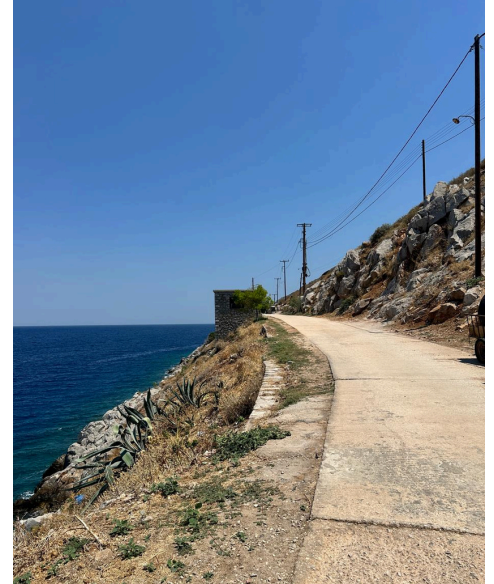


MANDRAKI - the path eastwards to the old boatbuilding cove

If you start from the place where you first alighted into Hydra near the ferry terminal and keep walking past the cannon, you'll quickly turn a corner onto a wide cement pathway that rises to a slight incline for a couple of hundred meters before flattening out. You'll know you're on the right track as you'll pass the old slaughterhouse - shown here - and the more recent mechanical wind sculpture created by Jeff Koons in 2022 as part of the Delta Foundation Project.

<https://www.deste.gr/hydra/jeff-koons/>

The 30- 40-minute walk is quite solitary in that there are no shops, facilities etc, until you reach the cove known as MANDRAKI BAY.



Here you'll find safe swimming, a taverna in the season serving really delicious fresh food - seafood is special here - and a less visited spot to spend a lovely relaxing time on the beach or beneath shady eucalyptus trees.

WALKERS WILL LOVE THE PATH LEADING BEYOND MANDRAKI

In the cooler seasons, this is a pleasant area to start a trek.

YOU MUST CARRY WATER AND A PHONE AS FACILITIES BEYOND THIS POINT ARE ZERO.

A LITERARY STARTING POINT

If you enjoy the contemporary thriller genre, then you'll probably like Lawrence Osborne's *BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS*: In July 2017 it was featured on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review*. In her long review of the novel in *The Washington Post*, Lionel Shriver wrote: "So let's not mince words. This is a great book." Its opening scenes are right here on this very beach ...

TREK TO THE CEMETERY for simply beautiful vistas at either end of the day

As final resting places go, this lovely spot enjoys commanding views across the port of Hydra, stretching to the Peloponnese and witnesses both the sunrise to the right and the last rays of the day emanating from the left.

The Path to the Cemetery

There is a wide cobbled road that leads down the hill from the stables of the donkeys and horses, and opens into the area near the PHAEDRA HOTEL.

Follow this path upwards, and keep to the right as it takes you across some rocky tracks (not advisable for those unsteady on feet - you are advised to approach from the other direction, via the wide set of steps described in the Kamini section above)



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Keep veering right and eventually you'll come across a pine-needles path, scented and quiet, with iron gates that may be open, allowing you into the cemetery.



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From here you can continue eastwards, intersecting with the steps and go down to the port or cross country it across to Kamini ... and beyond ...

LEFT: the panorama from Hydra cemetery across to Peloponnese

BELOW: vista showing hydra port and the saddle of the hill that separates it from Kamini on the left



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Painting by the Sea in Hydra

Rediscover your original, intuitive & unique way of knowing the world! When you let go of the thinking mind and surrender to an open, fluid way of being, you experience yourself and your surroundings in a deeper way, leading to creative insights and inspiration. Creativity researcher and artist Tee Hardman has been teaching this way for many years. She is also an architect and will guide you through many modes of artistic expression. No art experience necessary - enlivening for both beginners and experienced creatives.

CLICK on TEXT or IMAGE for more information

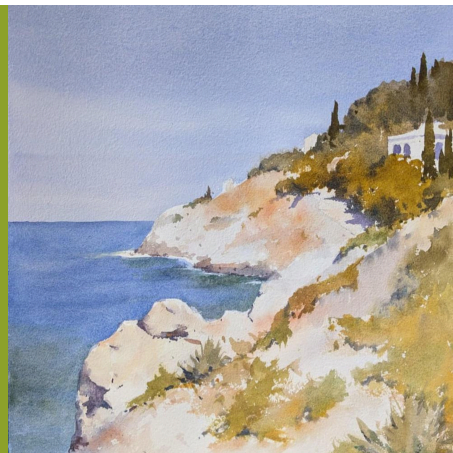
**'DRAWING WATER'
INTUITIVE ART
RETREAT**
with
TEE HARDMAN
13 - 20 Sept.



Painting by the Sea in Hydra

This is truly a retreat to take you, brush in hand, to the most picturesque spots on this beautiful island! 2025 marks 45 years of Kasey Sealy's professional career as a plein air impressionist artist, whose light touch and way of seeing has been shared with countless students. A gifted teacher, Kasey's teaches for ALL levels of experience ... we might have to call this retreat 'Swim and Paint' - our destinations are delicious!

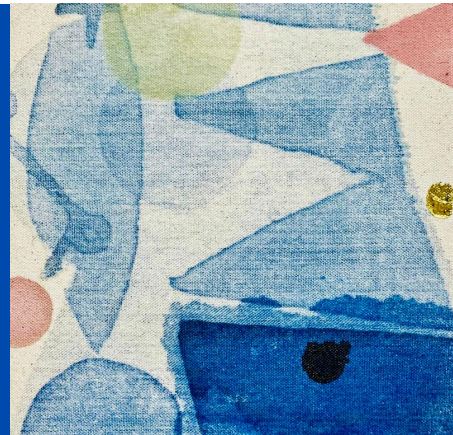
**PLEIN AIR
WATERCOLOURS
ART RETREAT**
with
KASEY SEALY
27 Sept. - 5 Oct.



Painting by The Sea in Hydra

Seeing Hydra as an abstract artist does, and developing your own lexicon of symbols through Becky's playful approach will freshen the design repertoire of anyone who works with visual language. If you're a painter, glass artist, jewellery designer or just starting out to find your own style, this retreat is precious developmental time you can't rush. Take Time, Make Space for this one!

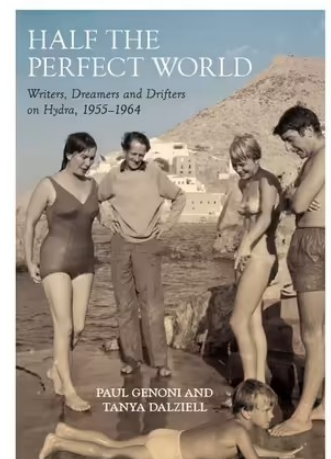
**AN AUTUMN
SKETCHBOOK
ART RETREAT**
with
BECKY BLAIR
7 - 14 October



Writing by the Sea in Hydra

Become immersed in Hydra's past as an epicentre of 1960s bohemianism as the Australian award-winning authors of 'Half The Perfect World' introduce you to Charmian Clift, George Johnston and other creative giants of the time, including Leonard Cohen, Patrick Leigh Fermor, Sidney Nolan. You will encounter this unforgettable island through memorable words and images created by those who knew it best.

EXPLORING HYDRA
in the 20th Century
through Literature & Arts
with
**Dr TANYA DALZIELL
PAUL GENONI**
17 - 23 October



Anna Kwiecinska

Anna was a resident on Hydra for two years and the experience was not only transformative, but indelible. **There's only one Hydra.**

As a professional gallerist for many years, her love of art became a journey to curate workshops and retreats in the places that have changed her life - Hydra is one of those places ... Bali, India and Morocco are others.


In 2025 Anna presents a literary adventure and 3 plein-air art retreats with immensely talented artists and authors on the island of Hydra in the balmy months of mid-September and October, showcasing the talents and expertise of:

- **BECKY BLAIR** whose work I introduced to Australian audiences to great acclaim. Becky has gone on to become an artist with a uniquely original style and approach.
- **TEE HARDMAN** a specialist in creative theory, whose architectural background is a unique boon to an artist wanting to capture Hydra's distinctive architecture.
- **KASEY SEALY**, renowned artist and teacher who loves encouraging those just beginning or eager to expand their artistic journey in watercolour or oils
- **Dr. PAUL GENONI and Prof. TANYA DALZIELL**, Australian academics who have written the awarded and definitive account of Hydra's unique place as the epicentre of bohemianism in the mid C.20th, *Half the Perfect World; Writers, Dreamers and Drifters 1955-1964*

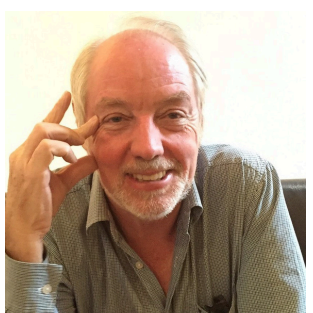
Our retreats are always suitable for all levels of ability, even beginners, and the accommodation on ground level is always included.

If you're curious, or interested to join us in the lovely Autumnal days of 2025 please don't hesitate to get in touch with me,



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All photos are linked to bios - just click on the image

