

Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Arrival day, short walking tour of Athens, Welcome dinner

Our first group meeting will be at 5:30PM at our first night's hotel in Athens. That evening we'll meet with our local guide for an orientation walk of Athens and then share a welcome dinner in a traditional Greek taverna in Plaka, the old part of Athens, overlooking the Acropolis.

Included Meals: Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel in Athens

Daily Activities: Orientation Walk of Athens, Welcome Dinner

DAY 2

Half day sight seeing tour of Athens, flight to Paros

After breakfast, a half day sightseeing tour of the Acropolis with a professional guide will introduce us to one of the crowning glories of Greek culture. At the top we learn all about the history of the glorious monuments of the Acropolis (the Parthenon, Erechtheion, Propylaia, and Nike Temple) as well as the surrounding monuments (the Dionysus sanctuary, Pnyx Hill, Odeon of Herodes Atticus, and the Ancient Agora). We will spend some extra time at the Parthenon, the finest sanctuary of ancient Athens, originally dedicated to its patron the goddess Athena. We will then continue our tour with a visit to the New Acropolis Museum. The walk is 10 minutes along a beautiful pedestrian area that was created around the Hill of the Acropolis, as a way to join most of the Archaeological Sites of Athens together. Seeing the museum after our visit to the Acropolis really helps "put together" the archaeological site with the findings displayed in the various exhibition areas.

After lunch, we transfer to the Athens airport in order to catch our 40-minute flight to the beautiful island of Paros, our first island. Along the way, if time allows, we'll stop for photos at the Panathenaic Stadium, the stadium where the first Olympic Games were held in 1896, and the Parliament. Upon arrival in Paros we transfer to our hotel and enjoy our first island dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel in Naousa

Daily Activities: Walking/Sightseeing

Travel: Airplane (Athens to Paros)

DAY 3

Hike from Marathi quarry to Lefkes and on to Prodromas, late afternoon cooking class

Today, we will begin with a visit to Lefkes village (the old capital of Paros) with its amazing marble church and its (paved) portion of the Byzantine trail with magnificent views to the Aegean Sea and the island of Naxos. Along the way, we'll see the impact of a wildfire that burned part of this area in 2021. We will stop for refreshments in the village of Prodromos and then hike towards the cultural village of Marpissa. Here, we will enjoy a traditional Parian lunch and have the opportunity to visit some of the shops operated by local women producing local products.

Late afternoon will find us learning some of the secrets of delicious Greek cooking as we participate in a Greek cooking class. We'll learn how to make several authentic Greek dishes, and once the food is cooked, we will enjoy our own typical Greek meal.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel in Paros

Daily Activities: Hiking (3-5 miles)

DAY 4

Ferry to Naxos, hike to Ano Potamia

This morning we'll take the ferry to the island of Naxos. Naxos is the largest of the Islands, known for its natural beauty and also its "kouros". Remnants of ancient Greece, kouros are full-sized statues of male youth which may or may not be related to the god Apollo.

After lunch, our hike literally starts in the backyard of a Greek family, at the site of Kouros of Melanes statue. Our hike along an old footpath gradually descends to the picturesque village of Ano Potamia. We'll pass by a rural stone church and gaze up at the Apano Kastro (Upper Castle). Built in a very strategic position, it commands expansive views of Naxos town and port and surrounding towns. Our hike finishes with an easy walk to the village of Halki and if time allows, a visit to a small distillery that produces Kitron, the local specialty liquor.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel in Naxos

Daily Activities: Hiking (4-5 miles)

DAY 5

Climb Mt Zeus, hike to Filoti, free afternoon

We start today with a drive to the little chapel at Santa Marina, where we start our hike to the summit of Mount Zeus. Known as Zas in Greek, the peak is the highest point in the Cyclades with incredible panoramic views from the summit. The ascent and descent take about 3.5 - 5 hours, including ample time for lunch on the trail, pictures and stories about Zeus' childhood home.

After returning to our hotel, we'll have the rest of the afternoon free for swimming or visiting the old part of Naxos town. If you prefer not to hike, spending the day relaxing and wandering through town or swimming are excellent options. Dinner is on our own tonight and our Greek guide can suggest a favorite, or you can choose one of the many quaint taverns as you wander the narrow streets of the town.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Hotel in Naxos

Daily Activities: Hiking (4-5 miles)

DAY 6

Relaxed morning, ferry to Santorini, visit Acrotiri

Time for a relaxed morning and lingering over breakfast. Today we take a ferry to the fairest island of the Cyclades, Santorini. Santorini, probably the best known of the Cyclades, was shaped by a huge volcanic eruption in 2000 B.C. that destroyed the town in the central part of the island and left a huge crater behind. Upon arrival we will visit Acrotiri, a Bronze Age Minoan settlement also called the "Greek Pompeii". Dinner tonight will feature a spectacular sunset over the volcano, islands and the sea while sampling some of the local foods of Santorini.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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Accommodations: Hotel in Santorini

Daily Activities: Sightseeing

Travel: Ferry (Naxos to Santorini)

DAY 7

Hike from Fira to Oia, Final dinner

Today we hike to the picturesque village of Oia. The hike goes along the rim of Caldera (the collapsed crater) where the picture opportunities are legion. We end up in the village of Oia where we have time to explore its narrow passageways and quaint shops before having lunch and returning to Fira. There may be some free time in the afternoon to visit one of its famous wineries or just wander in its picturesque alleys and do some shopping.

Tonight, we'll all celebrate our island-hopping tour and our new understanding of Greek life at our final meal together with wonderful food. Note: this is our last dinner all together. After our morning activities tomorrow, some people will continue on the Crete Extension, and others will enjoy a final night in Santorini.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel in Santorini

Daily Activities: Hiking (6-7 miles)

DAY 8

Private Sailing Cruise and Final Night in Santorini

Today, we'll set sail on an unforgettable cruise through Santorini's stunning Caldera! Our adventure begins at the port of Vlychada, where we'll glide past the striking Red and White beaches before making our first stop at the Black Mountain—time to jump in for a refreshing swim! Grab your goggles and take in the crystal-clear waters.

We'll continue past the historic Venetian Lighthouse of Akrotiri, entering the breathtaking Caldera. As we sail, keep your ears open—our guided tour begins, revealing the island's volcanic history and the mesmerizing layers of color in the cliffs.

Next, we'll head toward the Hot Springs, where the volcanic energy of Santorini comes alive! Feel the magic of the island as we cruise on to Thirassia, a charming fishermen's island, perfect for swimming and snorkeling.

Our journey wraps up in one of Santorini's most picturesque spots, the old harbor of Ammoudi, tucked beneath the iconic village of Oia. Spend your last evening in Santorini free to explore the shops, museums and restaurants.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Hotel in Santorini

Daily Activities: Private sailing cruise with optional swimming

DAY 9

Depart anytime or continue on the Crete Extension

If this is the end of your trip, you're free to leave for the Santorini Airport at any time today.

Included Meals: Breakfast

For a full overview of our optional Crete Extension, please [CLICK HERE](#).