

Greece- Wandering the Greek Islands on Foot (2025-2026)

14 Days/ 13 Nights

Group Guided



Our island hopping trip begins in Greece's capital, Athens, before exploring the gleaming waterfront harbours, rocky coves and long sandy beaches of the Cyclades. Visit the islands of Syros, Paros, Santorini and Naxos by ferry.

- **Santorini** Discover its stunning volcanic scenery and whitewashed churches with their iconic blue-domed roofs
- **Syros** Capital of the Cyclades Islands; take coastal walks and sample cuisine in authentic seafront tavernas
- Paros Chance to walk along an ancient Byzantine road and go snorkelling from Golden Beach.



Day by Day

DAY 1 - Join trip in Athens

Arrive in Athens. The city is a heady mix of ancient and modern, having been the capital of Greece for less than 200 years, but with a history dating back over 3,000 years. Located on the Plain of Attica, an area of amazingly varied scenery, from high mountains covered by pine forests to a stunningly beautiful coastline with a myriad of harbours.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 7.30pm and for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner. Due to a number of flights arriving into Athens later in the evening, our welcome meeting will take place on the morning of day two. There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Athens at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Athens International Airport (ATH), which is about one hours' drive, depending on traffic.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, perhaps you might choose to visit one of the cafes in the colourful Psyrri district which offer traditional Greek cuisine of scrumptious aubergines, tomatoes and cheese washed down with ouzo or raki. There are traditional rustic tavernas in the well-known Plaka area at the foot of the Acropolis. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: NONE



DAY 2 - Walking tour of Athens; chance to visit the Acropolis

After our Leader does an initial welcome meeting, we'll take a walking tour of Plaka with our leader to soak up the atmosphere of the old town. You'll notice the contrast between the modern capital - the well-heeled inhabitants of Kolonaki on the one hand and the animated Plaka old quarter on the other. Along the way we'll see Syntagma Square and the Roman Agora. Every hour it's possible to see the changing of the guard at the Parliament building. Our walk will end at the Acropolis and you have the afternoon free.

You might like to take a tour of the Acropolis and climb the winding path to the top of this sacred rock that has been used since Neolithic times. At the top you'll find the majestic ruins of the Athens of Pericles: the Propylaea (or marble entrance hall), the Parthenon (built by Ictinos 2,500 years ago), the Temple of Athena Nike (the Wingless Victory) and the monument most venerated by the ancient Athenians themselves - the Erechtheion. Tradition relates that the gods Athena and Poseidon quarrelled here; the sea-god struck the rock with his trident, causing salt water to gush out, while Athena hit it with



her spear and brought forth an olive tree. As olives were deemed to be more useful, the other gods let her take the city under her protection.

Alternatively, you might choose to stroll around the shops or listen to bouzouki music in an outdoor cafe. For those that love to shop and like trying local food then the central market is a must with a huge variety of fruit, meat, fish and bread on sale amongst other things. Other attractions that you could visit include the Acropolis Museum, which is about 5-minutes' walk from the main site, the National Archaeological Museum or the Olympic Stadium. You may like to walk up or take the funicular train to Likavitos, which has great views across the city below. As well as exploring on foot you could purchase a 24-hour ticket for the local trams and public transport to help you cover as much ground as possible. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST



DAY 3 - Ferry to Syros island; afternoon coastal walk

This morning we drive from our hotel to Piraeus harbour where we board the ferry to Syros (which departs at around 7.30am and takes just under four hours). On the ferry we will have reserved seating, so we are assured of a seat, but you\ re also free to take in the view from the deck. We disembark at Ermoupouli Harbour and drive to our hotel in Galissas. Syros is the capital of the Cyclades and covers an area of about 56 square kilometres.

This afternoon we will drive along the coast to Kini where we'll have the opportunity to purchase a picnic lunch or dine in a local tavernas. From here we'll take an easy coastal walk back to Galissas (covers approximately 4.7kms with 100m ascent and 100m descent and taking around two hours). This peaceful walk takes us through typical Mediterranean scenery with cypress and olive groves and great sea views.

If you don't wish to join the walk then this afternoon is free for you to relax on the long beach near our hotel; with shallow waters it's an ideal spot for swimming. Alternatively you can explore the tranquil village of Galissas, which is set around a small harbour in a scenic agricultural area. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Free day; chance to take a coastal walk and tour of the island

Today is free for you to relax in Galissas or to explore more of the island. This morning you may like to join a coastal walk with our Explore Leader. Taking a public bus the short drive to Azolimnos where the walk begins. The walk takes around one and half hours to Vari (covering approximately 4kms). This walk

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gives you an excellent taste of the island's scenery. Once you arrive in Vari you can enjoy a swim, relax on the beach and have lunch in a nearby tavern before taking the public bus back to Galissas.

This afternoon you may choose to join a bus tour of the island to see more of the fantastic surroundings. The island produces loukoumi, the Greek sweet that is similar to Turkish Delight and you'll have the chance on this excursion to visit a small factory and to purchase this local speciality. As part of our tour we'll take a walk to Ano Syros, which oozes medieval charm. Its long history can be seen its many cultural landmarks including its old castle gates that lead into the old town area. The town is built onto a hill with its tiered white and sand coloured buildings rising up to the Capuchin Church at the very top.

Tonight there is the opportunity to join your Explore Leader for dinner in the islands capital, Ermoupolis. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Free day on Syros; catch the evening ferry to Paros

There's the opportunity to go on a further coastal walk this morning or to relax in Galissas. You may choose to walk from Posidonia to take in the great views from the lighthouse or to walk from Vari to Khroussa or from Agathopes to Mega Gialos. All are great options that allow you to see more of the islands scenery.

Later this afternoon we drive to Ermoupoli, where you can store your main luggage on the bus. You'll have free time to discover the



island's capital and to have dinner before we board the ferry this evening to Paros. There is only one ferry between the islands that departs at around 9pm and the journey is approximately one and half hours. On arrival we'll transfer to our hotel in Drios and we'll arrive at our hotel at around midnight.

Paros is one of the most attractive of all the Cycladic Islands. Its capital is Paroikia, on the west coast. Dominating the interior is Mount Profitis Ilias (770 metres) on the slopes of which are the famous marble quarries. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Walk along the Byzantine road

Paros was the birthplace of the poet Archilochus, the inventor of iambic verse. Among the many places of interest are the marble quarries, the picturesque fishing villages, and a Venetian fortress. Especially interesting is the Ekatontapiliani Church of 100 Doors - legend says that when the 100th door is discovered, the Greeks will take back Constantinople (Istanbul).



Today, you might choose to take a walk along one of the well-preserved Byzantine roads that cross the island. This is an easy walk that takes around two hours. We'll use the public bus to reach the trailhead at the traditional mountain village of Lefkes. This is a very popular walk and the path is lined with wild herbs such as thyme, sage and oregano, so the walk is both fragrant and beautiful. We'll stop in Piso Livadi for lunch, in the side streets you'll usually find the locals playing a game of chess or backgammon. From here, you can either walk back to Drios or take the local bus.

Once back in Drios, you\ re free to relax on the Golden Beach or you might like to join a cooking lesson in the Hotel Anezina, to learn about traditional Greek cuisine. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Free day with the option to go on a caique boat cruise

Today is free to further explore Drios at your own pace or there is the opportunity to explore the islands coast from a different perspective by joining a full day boat trip aboard a traditional Greek caique. During the boat cruise there will be the opportunity to go swimming in the clear blue waters and also to have a barbecue lunch cooked by the crew.

Alternatively, there is the option to discover the marine life of the area with local oceanographers who run diving and snorkelling trips from the Golden Beach. The snorkelling activities are suitable for beginners.

Perhaps you'd prefer to take a local bus to nearby Naoussa or Parikia. Naoussa is a coastal, white village that's buildings practically glimmer in the sunshine. The area is famous for its wine and jam made in the surrounding vineyards which you can try in the village cafes. The Old Port area is the perfect spot to sample the cuisine and a glass of wine in a traditional tavernas by the harbour. It's in Parikia where you can visit the Church of 100 Doors and other historical places found here including the Byzantine site of Panagia Ekatontapyliani, an old Venetian fortress on the hilltop above the town, an 8th century BC waterfront cemetery and the Paros



Archaeological Museum. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST



DAY 8 - Ferry to Naxos, afternoon orientation tour of old town

This morning, we'll drive to Parikia to catch the ferry to the island of Naxos. Our ferry normally departs just after midday, so we'll have a little time to look around Parikia before we board the boat. The crossing takes around one hour and there's no reserved seating as it's a short journey.

The island of Naxos is the largest (and some would argue the most beautiful) of the Cyclades. The god Dionysus is believed to have lived here and taught the inhabitants to cultivate wine, which still has an excellent reputation today.

At the entrance to the harbour sits the grand Portara Stone that has greeted visitors for over 2500 years. The town itself is a mix of whitewashed houses and medieval Venetian mansions, with the fortified 'kastro' (castle) occupying a prominent position overlooking the bay. Our luggage will be taken directly to our hotel, meanwhile our tour leader will make recommendations for lunch after which, we'll be introduced to the town with a wander through the network of alleyways and courtyards, as well as the kastro before returning to our hotel later in the afternoon. Simple Hotel, Single room available, breakfast

DAY 9 - Full day exploring Naxos

Today, you might like to join a full-day boat trip to Delos and Mykonos islands. We'll depart first to Delos, which takes approximately one and a half hours. Delos is covered with ancient ruins, amongst the highlights are the Temple of Apollo, Terrace of Lions, a third-century BC theatre, an ancient town and Mount Kynthos (113 metres). We'll have a bit of time to explore these historic delights before we take the boat on to Mykonos (a journey of around 30 minutes).

A world away from Delos, Mykonos is frequented by the rich and famous. Whilst here you can explore its winding streets lined with boutique shops and the famous windmills, which are one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades. Later in the day, we'll return to Naxos by boat (a crossing of around one and a half hours). ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Simple Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 10 - Free day in Naxos with optional visit to Delos and Mykonos

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DAY 11 -Ferry to Santorini and wine tasting

This morning, we'll walk the short distance from our hotel to the port and hop on the ferry to the island of Santorini.

Santorini (or Thira, as the island is also known) is the most southerly of the Cycladic Islands. It's one of the most picturesque areas in the Aegean and the familiar images of whitewashed churches with blue-domed roofs adorn this beautiful landscape. It's also an area of particular interest to those keen on the Lost Atlantis legend. Formerly a huge volcano, its centre disappeared in an enormous explosion in around 1450 BC and the area now



forms a lagoon where some believe Atlantis sites beneath the waters. Records show that the eruption overwhelmed the Minoan settlements at Akrotiri as well as those on Crete. This evening, we'll sample local wines at Aroma winery in Exogonia or another winery in the area.

ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 12 -Free day on Santorini Island, optional volcano excursion

Today you\ re free to relax, explore the island or join a cruise to an active volcano.

During the boat trip to the volcano, there'll be the opportunity to take the dramatic path to the peak and stand in the centre of the Caldera. The climb takes around 30 minutes each way, and the ascent is steep in places. There'll also be the chance to enjoy a swim in the sea to the warm springs.

The last stop on the cruise is the tiny island of Thirassia. You'll have a couple of hours to relax in the bay with views of the volcano and out to sea. There'll be time for lunch here or you can climb up through the hillside village and walk around the surrounding vineyards.

Alternatively, you might like to take the local bus to the ancient site of Akrotiri to see the remains of a Bronze Age settlement. Note, if you choose to visit the site, we recommend hiring a local to help explain the remains, excavation, and preservation process. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Exploring Santorini Island, including Caldera walk to Oia and free afternoon

This morning, we'll have the opportunity to go on a coastal walk from our hotel to Fira and then on to Oia. This is a moderate walk and should take approximately four hours, covering 16 kilometres. The path goes along the lip of a caldera and offers views along the way out to sea and of the surrounding countryside. Halfway through the walk, there's the option to stop at a coffee shop for refreshments.



The village of Oia is built along a rocky stretch of coastline and is one of the most photogenic places on Santorini. It has a seafaring culture and there are two types of houses here - cave houses that are dug into the volcanic rock in the cliffside and the captain houses above ground where the upper-class ship owners once lived. Many of the churches here are also dedicated to sailors.

After exploring Oia, you can take a local bus back to Fira and then walk the short distance to our hotel (around 20 minutes). Whilst in Fira this afternoon, you might like to visit the Museum of Ancient Thira, which explains the island's ancient heritage, or the Pre-historic Museum of Thera.

From the halfway point of the walk, it's possible to take a public bus back to Fira or to Oia to enjoy more free time in either place. Oia has a host of taverns and cafes; it's well worth spending time here after our walk and getting the bus back to hotel later in the day, it's also a great place to witness the magnificent Santorini sunset. Note, in the busy summer months, this walk might be done in the reverse direction to avoid overcrowded busses, in this case sunset can be enjoyed from Fira. ACCOMMODATION: Grade: Comfortable Hotel SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 14 -Trip ends in Santorini

Our tour ends after breakfast at our hotel in Santorini.

There are no activities planned today, so you\ re free to depart at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you\ d like an airport transfer today, you need to depart from Santorini Airport (JTR), which is about 15-minute drive from our hotel.

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST



Route



This is a moderate paced tour Typically you will be busy part of each day but also have down time to explore and recharge



Dates and Prices All prices subject to confirmation on booking. Currency depends on place of residence contact us for US prices

Date	Double Occupancy	Optional Single Supplement
2025		
April 20	\$4110	\$1170
May 4	\$4110	\$1170
May 11	\$4110	\$1170
May 18	\$4110	\$1170
May 25	\$4110	\$1310
June 1	\$4210	\$1300
June 15	\$4020	\$1310
June 22	\$4210	\$1300
July 20	\$4390	\$1310
Sept 3	\$4020	\$1310
Sept 10	\$4020	\$1310
Sept 14	\$4020	\$1310
Sept 17	\$4210	\$1300
Sept 28	\$3930	\$1170
Oct 5	\$3680	\$1170
2026		
April 19	\$4110	\$1260
May 3	\$4110	\$1260
May 10	\$4110	\$1230
May 17	\$4110	\$1260
May 24	\$4240	\$1340
May 31	\$4240	\$1340
June 7	\$4240	\$1340
June 14	\$4240	\$1340
July 5	\$4480	\$1520
Sept 6	\$4420	\$1430
Sept 13	\$4110	\$1260
Sept 27	\$4010	\$1190
Oct 4	\$4670	\$1680
Oct 11	\$4670	\$1680



Included

- 13 nights accommodation with breakfasts
- Tour guide

Not Included

- Entrance fees and optional activities
- Tips for guide
- Travel Insurance

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