



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Athens, Santorini and Crete

7-Day, 6-Night Journey

Athens, Santorini, Heraklion

This Greek adventure kicks off in Athens and explores Crete, Santorini and other glittering island gems in the Aegean Sea. Discover the treasures of an ancient world before spending glorious days getting lost in the labyrinthine lanes of old towns. You'll combine your love for history with laid-back island life, visiting volcano craters, idyllic coves, seaside cafés and ancient forts. Enjoy the local cuisine and wines throughout your journey.



Athens Acropolis



Parthenon at sunset



Oia, Santorini



Santorini Caldera



Venetian Fort, Heraklion Harbor



The Rock of Spinalonga

Inclusions

- ▶ Ferries
- ▶ Private Airport & Ferry Terminal Transfers
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

Exclusions

- ▶ International Air Fare
- ▶ Air Fare from Heraklion/Crete to Athens
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee (if applicable)
- ▶ Gratuities
- ▶ Personal Expenses

Nearby Airport

Athens – Athens International Airport (ATH)

Heraklion – Heraklion International Airport (HER)

Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE ATHENS, GREECE

At **Athens airport** you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. Start your vacation with a group **evening excursion of Athens** (group, 4 hours @6pm). Beginning with a short panoramic drive through the city center. Then walk through the narrow picturesque streets of Plaka to a typical taverna for a traditional Greek dinner and a performance of live music and Greek Folk Dances in traditional costumes.

Note: Your flight must arrive by 1 pm to enjoy this add-on or partake this add-on on Day 2.

[2 nights in **Athens**. Meals: Dinner]

DAY 2: ATHENS CITY ORIENTATION TOUR WITH ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

Visit the key famous attractions of ancient and modern Athens on this comprehensive half-day group tour (group, 4 hours @9am)

Includes Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Greek Parliament building, Presidential Palace, photo stop at Panathinaiko Stadium (where the first Olympic Games took place), Zappeion and Temple of Olympian



Zeus, Athens Trilogy, National Garden, Hadrian's Arc, St. Paul's Church, Schliemann's House (Numismatic Museum), Catholic Cathedral, Old Parliament, Constitution Square, Russian Orthodox Church. The tour ends at the Acropolis (admission included).

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 3: ATHENS - SANTORINI BY FERRY

Check-out and travel by high-speed ferry to arguably the best-known and most breathtaking of all of the Greek islands - **Santorini**. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel for check-in. The rest of the day is free.

Believed by some to be the lost continent of Atlantis, this historic and unimaginably picturesque island is situated on the edge of a submerged volcano. Stand high on the cliffs to admire the incredible views of the white Cycladic houses with blue painted windows that have inspired artists over the ages. During your free time, sample the distinguished local wines and sunbathe on one of its many beautiful beaches which are home to transparent azure waters, with black, red or white sand depending on which beach you visit.

[2 nights in **Santorini**. Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 4: SANTORINI - VOLCANO AND HOT SPRINGS EXCURSION

Today we sail on a traditional boat to small islands that are home to volcanos, hot springs and traditional villages. Visit the crater of the active volcano on the top of the island of **Nea Kameni** ("new burnt" in Greek) for a 1.5 hour visit. Then sail to **Palea Kameni** ("old burnt") where thermal springs provide natural warm-water bathing. The surrounding water and beaches may be cold, and winds can be daunting. Your visit will be about 30 minutes long.

The next destination is **Therasia Island** and its typical Cycladic village. Tiny houses of various colors give a special character to these small settlements. You have about 1.5 - 2 hours to explore on your own. For example, discover Manolios village by walking up winding stairs (250 steps) or by a donkey ride; taste some of the traditional Santorini cuisine on your own; or enjoy a swim.

(group, 6 hours @9am)

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 5: SANTORINI – HERAKLION, CRETE

Check-out and proceed to the port to board the high-speed ferry for **Heraklion, Crete**. Arrive and check-in to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

[2 nights in **Heraklion**. Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 6: SPINGALOGA ISLAND EXCURSION

A full day group Spingaloga Island excursion on the sparkling waters of **Mirabello Bay** in east Crete.

Lunch is included. (group, 10-12 hours @8am)

Transfer to **Elounda** village for a short cruise across the clear blue waters to reach the tiny island of **Spinalonga**. A guided tour explores the island and its 16th century **Spinalonga Fort** “The Rock” (tentative UNESCO Heritage Site) which was used by the Venetians and the Turkish Ottoman Empire, and later as a Leper colony.

Continue on your cruise across Mirabello bay to **Kolokytha island** to swim, relax and enjoy a delicious **barbeque lunch** under the Cretan sun.

On your return, a stop at the picturesque town of **Agios Nikolaos (Saint Nicholas)** where you may take a stroll around the 'bottomless" lake, the pretty harbor, cosmopolitan shops and tree-lined avenues.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

DAY 7: DEPART HERAKLION –ARRIVE IN N. AMERICA

After breakfast, transfer to **Heraklion Airport (HER)** for your flight home. Most flights arrive back in North America the same day.

[Meals: Breakfast]

*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested

*The duration and start time of excursions are subject to change without prior notice.

Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

