GO AHEAD TOURS



Greek Islands for Solo Travelers: Crete & Santorini

9 days | 12 days with Rome extension

In Greece, you don't just visit ancient ruins. You step back into the world of Zeus and Athena. And dinner at a taverna is more than a daily activity. It's a chance to mix and mingle with friendly locals while practicing your Greek. (Yamas, which means cheers, will get you far!) As you hop from Athens to Crete and over to Santorini, you and your group of like-minded travelers will find that the best sunset is the one enjoyed with a glass of Assyrtiko wine in hand and new friends at the table.



Your tour package includes

7 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
7 breakfasts
4 dinners with beer or wine
1 wine tasting
3 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach
2 ferry transfers
1 on-tour flight

Included highlights

Acropolis
Parthenon
Ruins of Knossos
Heraklion Archaeological Museum
Santorini wine tasting
Oia village visit
Akrotiri excavations
Village of Pyrgos

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep hills and stairs.

Group size

14–20

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Greek Islands for Solo Travelers: Crete & Santorini

9 days | 12 days with Rome extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

Athens → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Athens
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Greece! Settle in to your hotel. Then, gather with your Tour Director and fellow group members at a mixer before enjoying a welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens
Included meals: breakfast
A local guide introduces you to the highlights of this bustling ancient capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Pass by the Olympic Stadium, Syntagma Square, and the Arch of Hadrian
- View the sixth-century Temple of Zeus
- See the classically inspired Old Royal Palace, home of the Hellenic Parliament, and drive through the Plaka district
- Set off on a walking tour around the ancient Acropolis, site of the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion

Enjoy a free afternoon in Athens or add an excursion.
+ Greek Cooking Class & Dinner

Crete → 2 nights

Day 4: Flight to Crete & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Fly to Crete and take a guided tour of Heraklion, the largest city on the island.

- Visit the ruins of Knossos, where King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in a labyrinth, according to the myth
- Step inside the Heraklion Archaeological Museum

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Free day in Crete
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Crete or add an excursion.
+ Chania

Santorini → 2 nights

Day 6: Ferry to Santorini, wine tasting & Oia village visit
Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, light dinner
Take a ferry to Santorini.
This evening, pay a visit to a local winery.

- Tour the winery and learn how the grape vines are trained to grow close to the ground to protect themselves from the strong ocean winds
- Sit down for a light dinner and tasting featuring some signature wines including Assyrtiko and Vin Santo

After dinner, pay a visit to the picturesque village of Oia, perched atop the cliffs of the Santorini Caldera.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Santorini
Included meals: breakfast
Today, take in the local sights on a guided tour of Santorini.

- Visit the prehistoric settlements that were unearthed during the archaeological excavations at Akrotiri
- Ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for panoramic views of the whole island
- Stop in the small, picturesque village of Pyrgos

Enjoy a free evening in Santorini or add an excursion.
+ Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

Athens → 1 night

Day 8: Ferry to Athens
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Spend a final morning in Santorini before boarding a ferry back to Athens.
This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Flight Home

Day 9: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to visit Rome.

+ Rome extension

Have your sights on more art, history, and street life? Rome is sure to deliver. Only in the Italian capital can you sip cappuccino in front of the Pantheon and have an audience with the pope all in one morning. After a flight, soak in the sites and admire the highlights during a guided sightseeing tour.

Rome → 3 nights

Day 9: Flight to Rome
Included meals: breakfast
Fly to Rome and spend a free evening in the Italian capital or add an excursion.
+ Food of Rome: Walking Tour of Trastevere

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Rome
Included meals: breakfast
Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass by Palatine Hill to see Circus Maximus, the stadium where ancient Romans raced chariots, and the Baths of Caracalla

Spend a free afternoon in Rome or add an excursion.
(Please note: On some departures, the Rome sightseeing tour and the Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs excursion may take place on day 11 and the Iconic Sights: Vatican City excursion may take place on day 10.)
+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

Day 11: Free day in Rome
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

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Enjoy a free day in Rome or add an excursion. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.
(Please note: On some departures, the Iconic Sights: Vatican City excursion may take place on day 10 and the Rome sightseeing tour and the Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs excursion may take place on day 11.)
+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save $10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.ca/GI6 | 1-800-754-5066**

Day 3: Greek Cooking Class & Dinner
$185CAD/$195CAD* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Learn the ins and outs of the Greek culinary tradition during tonight's cooking class. Join local chefs in the kitchen to prep three dishes. Then, head upstairs to the dining area where you'll sit down to enjoy the meal you've made along with beer or wine.

Day 5: Chania
$165CAD/$175CAD* (8 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)
Travel to historic Chania, where a local guide introduces you to the city's Old Town. You'll visit Chania's cathedral before a walk through the Venetian quarter, where you'll step inside Etz Hayyim, the only synagogue on the island of Crete and a symbol of the city's enduring Jewish community. After exploring the synagogue, your guided tour ends at the port, where you'll visit an ancient Turkish Ottoman mosque. Lunch is included on this excursion, as is free time to get to know this beautiful city at your own pace. Please note: Etz Hayyim is closed on Sundays.

Day 7: Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner
$205CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)
Board a catamaran and sail in comfort through Santorini's awe-inspiring caldera on this scenic excursion. You'll cruise around the volcanic island of Nea Kameni for views of the picture-perfect cliffside village of Oia (pronounced "EE-ah"). Situated on the western end of the island, Oia was once a maritime center, and stately captains' houses still sit on its high ridges. Spend the afternoon on the open waters as you snorkel in the ocean, sunbathe on the deck of the catamaran, and swim in a natural hot spring that was once the crater of a volcano. You'll enjoy unlimited wine, water, and soft drinks, as well as a buffet-style dinner of home-cooked Greek specialties, on board the boat as you take in the beautiful scenery. Please note: We recommend packing a bathing suit. This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through mid-October only. It is also weather-dependent. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Extension excursion options

Day 9: Food of Rome: Walking Tour of Trastevere
$189CAD/$199CAD* (3.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Meet up with a local guide for a culinary-themed walking tour of Trastevere. This historic neighborhood is located across the Tiber River and is home to some of the Rome's best shops, bars, and restaurants. Step inside four handpicked eateries, each of which showcases the area's rich culinary traditions. You'll enjoy tastings of aperitivi, pasta, pastries, and gelato—all quintessential Italian foods. Over an aperitivo and a glass of wine, your guide will talk about the various flavors and cooking techniques that have come to define the local cuisine. Watch locals go about their daily lives as you stroll along the charming trattoria-lined streets during your tour.

Day 10: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs
$125CAD/$135CAD* (4 hours, departure time varies)
Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through the burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome. Originally founded by Constantine the Great, the Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul.
Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the Basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be challenging for claustrophobic travelers.

Day 11: Iconic Sights: Vatican City
$175CAD (3.5 hours, departure time varies)
This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known: Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà.
Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms