



# A Week in Greece: Athens, Mykonos & Santorini

9 days | 12 days with Rome extension

Cobblestone streets, arched, whitewashed facades, cobalt-colored roofs, and rustic windmills are just a few of the picturesque Greek landscapes you can expect to find on this tour. Walk through ancient history and open-air museums in the capital, Athens. Then, revel in the serenity and diversity of the Greek Islands on the isles of Mykonos and Santorini—daydreams come to life in a hundred shades of blue. Extend your trip to Rome and bask in the Eternal City's glow for three more days of art and history, gelato in hand.



## Your tour package includes

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

## Included highlights

- Temple of Zeus
- Acropolis
- Parthenon
- Windmills in Mykonos Town
- Black sand beaches on Santorini
- Akrotiri excavations
- Mount Profitis Ilias

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep hills and stairs.

## Group size

15–30

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## 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*

Close your eyes and take in the smell of orange blossoms and olive trees—you're in Greece.

Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens

*Included meals: breakfast*

Nothing can prepare you for the sheer sense of awe you'll feel when you come face-to-face with Athens, where ancient architecture and artifacts coexist with modern life. Meet up with your dedicated local guide, who will introduce you to the highlights of this bustling capital.

- Pass by the Olympic Stadium, whose curved roof was designed by noted architect Santiago Calatrava.
- Continue to Syntagma Square, home to the neoclassical Greek Parliament building, and admire the plaza's imposing marble steps, fountain, and lush shade trees.
- Reflect on the Arch of Hadrian, built to honor the Roman emperor, and imagine how its Pentelic marble stones were carted more than 11 miles from Mount Pentelikon in 131 AD.
- View the remains of the sixth-century Temple of Zeus and gaze up at its 16 ornate Corinthian columns.
- Drive through the Plaka district, one of the oldest parts of Athens, known as "the neighborhood of the gods" due to the dozens of monuments strewn throughout the area at the foot of the Acropolis.
- Set off on a walking tour around the ancient Acropolis—site of the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion. You may have

seen these enduring icons of antiquity in books and film, but now you're traipsing through the work of craftsmen who quarried and honed these marble blocks thousands of years ago.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Plaka, a neighborhood largely unbothered by time and modernity, with distinctive red-tiled rooftops, outdoor cafes, and colorful street vendors. Prefer to taste your way through Athens? Add an excursion and remember to say *kali orexi*—local speak for "have a good appetite."

+ Food of Athens Walking Tour

## Mykonos → 2 nights

### Day 4: Ferry to Mykonos & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

We're off to the islands! Travel by ferry to Mykonos and join your Tour Director on a walk through Mykonos Town's narrow, labyrinthian streets bursting with cafes, galleries, and shops. Surrender to the soft, salty air on The Island of The Winds.

- See the iconic white windmills in Mykonos Town, built as early as the 16th century and originally used to mill wheat and barley, and watch their thatched roofs dance in the sea breeze.
- Delight in Little Venice—perched right alongside the Aegean Sea shoreline and inspired by its Italian namesake—where the colorful sun-splashed residences seem to melt into the water, their balconies hanging over the sea.
- Pass the Church of Panagia Paraportiani, eminently photographed for its Byzantine-era, whitewashed facade and intriguing curves.

Sit down this evening for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 5: Free day in Mykonos

*Included meals: breakfast*

Want to add another island to your list? Add an optional excursion to legendary Delos for a guided tour steeped in history and Greek mythology.

Not joining the excursion? Use your free day in Mykonos to hit the cobblestones early and take

your time. If visiting the island's famous beach clubs isn't your speed, head back to Little Venice for a stroll along the Old Harbor; hike down to Armenistis Lighthouse, one of the oldest in Greece; or get lost in Matogianni Street's shops and galleries.

+ Delos Cruise & Temple of Apollo

## Santorini → 2 nights

### Day 6: Ferry to Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

You've seen the photos—now get ready to star in them yourself. Take a ferry to Santorini and enjoy a free afternoon on the island. You can admire the steep cliffs that plunge into the Aegean and the island's iconic caldera, dotted with whitewashed buildings. You can eat your way through traditional dishes—like moussaka, a hearty eggplant dish, or tomato fritters—then use your free time to explore unique pebbly beaches and crystal clear waters.

Looking to expand your palate? Add an excursion to a local winery for a tour and a tasting.

*Please note: For an additional cost, you can book a visit to the village of Oia through your Tour Director. The visit will either take place on the evening of day 6 or the morning of day 8, depending on ferry and flight schedules.*

+ Santorini Winery Visit & Tasting

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

Your guided tour of Santorini will take you from dramatic black-sand beaches to jagged cliff-lined shores and back—a stark contrast to the island's beloved whitewashed buildings and sprays of bright fuchsia bougainvillea vines.

- Visit the archaeological excavations at Akrotiri, a settlement buried in volcanic ash, where richly pigmented Bronze Age frescoes and other Minoan artifacts survived a devastating volcano eruption in the 16th Century BCE.
- Ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias panoramic views of Santorini, neighboring island chains, and the blue waters kissing the horizon.

- Stop in small, picturesque Pyrgos, where you'll weave through the steep streets of this slightly off-the-beaten-path village.

Spend a free afternoon poking around authentic shops and sampling the local wine, or join the optional excursion and hop on a catamaran for a steal-your-breath-away cruise starring the village of Oia.

+ Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

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## Athens → 1 night

### Day 8: Flight to Athens

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

This afternoon, fly to Athens and celebrate your trip with your group at tonight's farewell dinner, served with beer or wine. Kali antamos—or “until we meet again.”

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## 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 the Eternal City—Rome—where you'll traipse across timeworn paths as the city's monuments keep enduring watch. And if you have the chance to cap off a week of Greek food with a few days of pasta and gnocchi, seize it!

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### + Rome extension

Rome wasn't built in a day and, if you ask us, it wasn't meant to be enjoyed in a day, either. Whether you play time traveler while hopping between historic sites or live out your best take on Roman Holiday, it's in your hands, and we're here to help. Ask your Tour Director for their favorite ways to savor the city—like their secret spot for pasta carbonara—and get going.

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## Rome → 3 nights

### Day 9: Flight to Rome

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly to Rome and use your free evening for an optional excursion that guides you through the (many, many) flavors of Rome—complete with gelato, ovviamente. (That's Italian for “obviously.”) Prefer time to yourself? Take in the bustling

nightlife and the city's beloved monuments, like the Baroque Trevi Fountain, illuminated after sunset. Bring a water bottle to fill at any of Rome's nasoni—cast-iron water fountains and an authentically Roman way to stay hydrated.

*Please note: On some departures, the optional Food of Rome: Walking Tour of Trastevere may take place on day 10 instead of day 9.*

+ Food of Rome: Walking Tour of Trastevere

### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Rome

*Included meals: breakfast*

Step into Rome, a living tapestry of contradictions where ancient ruins coexist with a vibrant, modern spirit. Lose yourself in a chaotic symphony of honking Vespas, busy markets, and secret alleyways hiding centuries-old stories that your local guide can't wait to share with you.

- Immerse yourself in the grandeur of Imperial Rome, where history unfolds around every corner.
- Experience the awe-inspiring Colosseum, the monumental amphitheater that reverberates with the roar of ancient spectacles. Walk in the footsteps of gladiators and feel the weight of history pressing down from all directions.
- Traverse the evocative ruins of the Forum, once the pulsating heart of Roman life. Listen for bygone echoes of parades and gripping trials as you explore the remnants of this marketplace of yore.
- Imagine the deafening roar of the crowds at Circus Maximus, where Romans raced chariots and gladiators faced off against each other.
- Wander through the collapsed ruins of the once-sumptuous Baths of Caracalla, an integral part of Roman social life.

Need a moment of respite? Use your free time this afternoon and evening to visit Aventine Hill, home to the peaceful Orange Garden (Giardino degli Aranci) and a keyhole view of St. Peter's Basilica. Add an excursion to Rome's timeworn catacombs for a journey through complex underground burial chambers.

*Please note: On some departures, the optional Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs may take place on day 9 instead of day 10.*

+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

### Day 11: Free day in Rome

*Included meals: breakfast*

It's your final full day in Rome. Whether you want to take it easy over a morning cappuccino or take in the beauty of the Galleria Borghese, use

your free day at your leisure. You can descend into the eerie underground chambers adorned with bones and skeletal remains in a unique display of artistic macabre at the Capuchin Crypt—also known as the Bone Chapel—or, add an excursion to the sacred walls of Vatican City, where the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, and countless masterpieces await.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

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## Flight Home

### Day 12: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. If you've left your heart on Santorini—or on Mykonos or in Athens or Rome—we know the feeling.

# 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/GIT](https://goaheadtours.ca/GIT) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Food of Athens Walking Tour

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Spend the afternoon in the vibrant Psyri neighborhood, which is known for its galleries, boutiques, and delicious foods from all over the country. Join your local guide in Monastiraki Square for an introduction to the neighborhood, which is often considered the city's melting pot thanks to its variety of cultures. Visit a historic Athenian bakery that's famous for its koulouri—bagel-like baked goods sprinkled with sesame seeds—and learn about the health benefits of the tiny, tasty, nutty-flavored seeds. Then, sit down at a classic Greek cafe, where you'll learn about local eating and drinking customs as you share plates of local specialties with your fellow travelers. Next, enjoy a little caffeine jolt with a coffee or iced cappuccino before picking up a box of fresh loukoumades, or donut balls coated with honey and nutella. Wrap up the afternoon at the Metropolitan Cathedral, where you'll enjoy tastings of olive oil, balsamic vinegar, ouzo, mastiha, loukouri, and—of course—baklava. You'll be sure to leave with a stomach full of Greek goodies.

## Day 5: Delos Cruise & Temple of Apollo

\$165CAD/\$175CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the morning)

Journey by boat to the island of Delos, rich with mythological history and once one of Greece's most sacred spots. Your guided tour of the island's ancient city will transport you to the time when it was an important center for trade. You can explore the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Sacred Cave, the Lion Terrace, and the House of Dionysus, where you'll find a breathtaking mosaic of the god of wine. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through the end of October only. It may also take place in the afternoon on some departures.

## Day 6: Santorini Winery Visit & Tasting

\$95CAD/\$105CAD\* (2 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Discover another side of Greece's culinary scene on today's excursion, which takes you to a beautiful winery on the island of Santorini. Here, you'll join a trained sommelier to learn about Greece's proud grape-growing tradition and the types of grapes that thrive in Santorini's volcanic soil, including assyrtiko. Then, enjoy tastings of different local wines paired with a variety of small bites.

## 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](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)