



# Greek Islands Adventure: Athens, Naxos & Paros

9 days | 12 days with Crete & Athens extension

Imagine a place that you've never heard of becoming your all-time favorite destination. That's the Cyclades island chain for you, home to both Greece's most beloved, and most under-the-radar, destinations. Indulge in delicious Greek cuisine, dive into history that traces back thousands of years, and island hop across the Aegean Sea—all while discovering a new side of the idyllic country during this small group Adventure Tour.



## Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 wine tasting
- 2 tastings
- 1 cooking class
- 2 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 ferry transfers

## Included highlights

- Athens food markets
- Acropolis
- Parthenon
- Paros wine tasting
- Eggares Olive Press Museum
- Greeking cooking class
- Portara
- Temple of Apollo

## 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

10-22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

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## Athens → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Athens

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Greece! Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner this evening.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

A local guide introduces you to the ancient highlights and traditional flavors of this bustling capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Set off on a guided walking tour of the Plaka District and the markets in the Monastiraki neighborhood
- Stop to sample a variety of cheeses and loukoumades, a type of sweet fried dough
- See the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion on a walking tour of the Acropolis

Enjoy free time in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Mount Lycabettus Hike & Sunset Dinner

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## Paros → 2 nights

### Day 4: Ferry to Paros & wine tasting

*Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner*

Take a ferry to the beautiful island of Paros. Enjoy free time to explore, before heading to the charming seaside village of Naousa this evening.

- Visit a family-run winery where you'll learn about the production of their red and white wines during a tour of the vineyard
  - Learn about the vineyard's unique type of grape vines, which are trained to grow close to the ground to protect themselves from the strong ocean winds
  - Sit down for a wine tasting to try fruity, white Monemvasia wine and native, red Mandilaria wine, the two most popular varietals on the island
  - Sit down for a dinner of Greek specialties
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### Day 5: Free day in Paros

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day on the island of Paros or add an excursion.

+ Paros Boat Cruise & Snorkeling

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## Naxos → 2 nights

### Day 6: Ferry to Naxos, Eggares Olive Press Museum & cooking class

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch*

Take a short ferry ride to the neighboring island of Naxos. Then, discover the flavors and ruins that make the largest island in the Cyclades such a hidden gem.

- Visit the Eggares Olive Press Museum, one of the oldest remaining olive mills on the island, and learn about the different stages of olive oil production
  - Sample some of the locally produced olive oil
  - Head to a nearby village and join a local Naxos family for a hands-on cooking class
  - Learn how to make traditional Greek cuisine and enjoy eating the meal you crafted for lunch while sipping local wine
  - Make your way to the Old Town and walk along a causeway to reach the Palatia Islet and view the Portara, a marble doorway that's part of the unfinished Temple of Apollo
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### Day 7: Free day in Naxos

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day on the island of Naxos or add an excursion.

+ Apeiranthos Village Hike, Lunch & Liquor Tasting

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## Athens → 1 night

### Day 8: Ferry to Athens

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Board a high-speed ferry back to Athens. Then, celebrate your trip with your fellow group members during a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

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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 continue on to visit Crete and further explore Athens.

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## + Crete & Athens extension

Haven't had your fill of Greece's ancient history and island life? Luckily, Crete has it in spades.

Stay a little bit longer to put on your archaeologist hat with local experts and uncover the past (and plenty of sea views) in Chania.

Then, catch a flight back to Athens for one more night in the capital.

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## Chania → 2 nights

### Day 9: Flight to Crete, olive oil farm & winery

*Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, liquor tasting, tasting, dinner*

Fly to Chania, a city located on the western end of the island of Crete and embark on a journey to discover the local flavors.

- Join a local guide for a tour of an olive grove, olive mill, and modern bottling factory
- Continue on to a winery to learn about the island's wine-growing traditions, as you explore the vineyard
- Sit down for a tasting of extra-virgin olive oil, as well as several types of Cretan wine and Raki liquor
- Pair your samples with small bites, such as fresh bread with olive oil and oregano-lemon salt, cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers, olives, or smoked ham

This evening, head to a local restaurant in the countryside and admire scenic views of the olive groves, as you enjoy an included dinner.

### Day 10: Free day in Chania

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Chania or add an excursion.

+ Cretan Coast Boat Ride, Samaria Gorge Hike & Lunch

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## Athens → 1 night

**Day 11: Flight to Athens**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly back to Athens this afternoon. Then, raise a glass and toast to your trip with a farewell drink this evening.

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**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.com/GPN](http://goaheadtours.com/GPN) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Mount Lycabettus Hike & Sunset Dinner

\$115/\$125\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Head to the National Gardens in Syntagma Square and join your Tour Director on a hike to the top of Mount Lycabettus. The summit of the mountain is just under 1,000 feet, making it the highest point in the city. According to Greek mythology, the limestone hill was once a refuge for wolves. This tale may also be where the name of the site comes from, as *lycos* is Greek for wolf. Admire the stunning views of Athens below as you hike up the hill. Once at the top, sit down for an included dinner at the Orizontes restaurant. You'll watch the sun set over the city while admiring a one-of-a-kind view of the Parthenon and Acropolis. Take a cable car ride back down the mountain after dinner. Please note: The hike is not difficult, but it is steep and prolonged. There are many steps over a wide, flat pathway. The hike takes around 90 minutes, and we strongly recommend wearing closed-toe shoes. Travelers have the option to take a cable car from the midway point to the top.

## Day 5: Paros Boat Cruise & Snorkeling

\$145/\$155\* (7 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Head to the port in Paros and board a catamaran sailboat to cruise to the nearby islands of Antiparos and Despotiko. You'll enjoy swimming and snorkeling at the picture-perfect Blue Lagoon on Antiparos, as well as in local sea caves, at the uninhabited Despotiko island, and on the idyllic Faneromeni Beach. A full Greek barbecue lunch of pork, chicken, and fish souvlaki paired with vegetables will be served aboard the boat. You'll also enjoy unlimited wine, beer, water, and soft drinks. After spending a full day sailing, island hopping, and taking in the beautiful coastal scenery of the Cyclades Islands, dock at the port in Paros and make your way back to your hotel. Please note: We recommend packing a bathing suit, sunscreen, and towel. Snorkeling equipment is provided. This excursion is seasonal and runs from May through early October. It's also weather-dependent.

## Day 7: Apeiranthos Village Hike, Lunch & Liquor Tasting

\$105/\$115\* (7 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Drive into the mountainous region of Naxos and enjoy an hour-long hike to the picturesque village of Apeiranthos, alongside your Tour Director. Then, set off on a walking tour along the marble streets in the village. You'll see Venetian towers, classic white archways, and charming two-story homes as you pass through tiny squares and by quaint cafes. Visit the Apeiranthos Women's Traditional Crafts Cooperative to learn how the women who work there produce traditional woven textiles. This handicraft has been passed from generation to generation, and you'll see the loom they use to make the traditional pieces. Your next stop is at

Panagia Drossiani Church. This is one of the oldest Christian monuments in the Mediterranean, and you'll enter the grounds to learn about the historic buildings. Then, enjoy an included lunch served with local wine at a nearby tavern. The day ends with a visit to Vallindras Distillery in the village of Halki. You'll take a tour of the distillery and learn about the production of *kitron*. This liquor is made from citron, a citrusy fruit that's similar to a lemon, but is less bitter. You'll enjoy a tasting of this traditional island liquor before heading back to your hotel. Please note: The hike is 60–90 minutes long over a hilly dirt and rock path with uneven terrain and lots of steps.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 10: Cretan Coast Boat Ride, Samaria Gorge Hike & Lunch

\$149/\$159\* (10 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Eat, hike, and swim your day away, as you explore picturesque southern Crete. Start the day by visiting the village of Chora Sfakion to enjoy a tasting of *tiropita*, a flaky cheese and egg pastry made with honey. You'll then board a boat and set off for Agia Roumeli. This village is home to rare flora, fauna, geology, and hiking trails through unspoiled nature. Join your Tour Director on a four-mile hike through Samaria Gorge, which is a Greek National Park, and part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Admire the towering rock walls as you make your way through the winding pathways. You'll also have free time to explore the village or swim at the beach in Agia Roumeli after your hike. Sit down for an included lunch before boarding the boat back to Chora Sfakion. Then, continue on to your hotel in Chania. Please note: We recommend packing a bathing suit and sturdy walking shoes. The hike is 1.5–2 hours long over a hilly dirt and rock path with uneven terrain and lots of steps. This excursion is seasonal and runs from May through early October. It is also weather-dependent.

\*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.com/terms](http://goaheadtours.com/terms)