



# Italy & Greece

11 days | 15 days with Santorini & Athens extension

There's something comforting about arriving in Italy: Azure waves lapping at picturesque seaside towns, piazzas teeming with locals sipping aperitivi, and monuments that have witnessed thousands of years of history all come together to create a sense of timelessness. Linger over a limoncello and savor Italy's lush Sorrento Peninsula and Isle of Capri before continuing to the ruins of Pompeii and the Eternal City—Rome. Your journey then winds through Greece, where temples and colossal amphitheaters still stand amidst modern metropolises. Extend your trip to Santorini and revel in the sun-splashed island's iconic whitewashed buildings and pristine beaches.



## Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 on-tour flight

## Included highlights

- Capri
- Pompeii ruins
- Colosseum
- Roman Forum
- Epidauros & Mycenae
- Acropolis
- Parthenon
- Temple of Zeus

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and unpaved trails, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

15–38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Naples today.

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## Sorrento Peninsula → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Naples & transfer to Sorrento Peninsula

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Italy! Travel to your hotel on the Sorrento Peninsula, which opens to the Bay of Naples and the Tyrrhenian Sea. Our recommendation for freshening up? Order an espresso con panna, served with a heaping dollop of fresh whipped cream. And take your time—Italians don't usually take their coffee to go, so sidle up to the coffee bar and savor yours slowly.

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

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Capri

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join your local guide and sail across the Bay of Naples to the famed Isle of Capri. Known around the world as a playground for chic jet-setters, Capri's dramatic coastline is dotted with colorful cliffside hotels and lavish villas. You'll traverse crystalline waters by boat and spend time on the island before returning to the Sorrento Peninsula.

- Boat around the island and bask in the romance of Capri's caves and grottoes (*weather-dependent*). You can admire the elaborate White Grotto and Faraglioni rocks as they jut out of the water.
- Stroll through the winding alleys of the village of Capri, lush with Mediterranean flora—palm trees, umbrella pines, and bright pink-and-purple bougainvillea.
- Take a funicular ride to Capri's upper town and watch the island's vistas unfurl below you.
- Explore the Gardens of Augustus—a botanical garden with an intimate setting, intoxicating blooms, and a dreamy view of the water.

End the day by adding an excursion to an agriturismo—or farm stay—where you'll indulge

in a four-course, farm-to-table meal, as well as a tour of its fertile grounds. Prefer to spend the time exploring on your own? Enjoy your free evening in the Sorrento region by tracking down the best limoncello.

+ Rustic Italy: Farmhouse Dinner & Wine Tasting

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## Rome → 3 nights

### Day 4: Rome via Pompeii

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

En route to Rome, stop at Pompeii for a guided walking tour of the city's ruins, frozen in time since the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. The former port town lay buried under ash for 1,500 years before being rediscovered, and ongoing excavation continues to uncover remnants of everyday life before disaster struck.

- Discover how Roman citizens lived 2,000 years ago as you stroll through remarkably preserved temples, public baths, and amphitheaters.
- View the excavated ruins of Roman theaters, villas, temples, and baths.

Then, continue to Rome and sit down for dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Rome

*Included meals: breakfast*

Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Immerse yourself in the grandeur of Imperial Rome, where history unfolds around every corner.
- Experience the awe-inspiring Colosseum, a 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.

- Pass the collapsed ruins of the once-sumptuous Baths of Caracalla, an integral part of Roman social life.

This evening, choose to get your hands dirty—with flour, that is—by adding an excursion to a pasta-making class. You'll learn traditional techniques for preparing and rolling out fresh pasta before digging into the dishes you prepared.

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 view of St. Peter's Basilica.

+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

### Day 6: 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 admire the exquisite art and architecture of the Galleria Borghese, use your free day at your leisure. You can descend into the eerie underground chambers of the Capuchin Crypt—also known as the Bone Chapel, the way it's adorned with skeletal remains in a unique display of artistic macabre—or add an excursion to the sacred walls of Vatican City, where the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, and countless masterpieces await.

*Please note: On some departures, the optional Iconic Sights: Vatican City excursion may be moved to day 5.*

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

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## Nafplio → 2 nights

### Day 7: Flight to Athens & Nafplio via Corinth Canal

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Fly to Athens, Greece. Then, stop at the Corinth Canal as you travel to Nafplio. This narrow waterway connects the Gulf of Corinth to the Saronic Gulf and was an important navigational route upon its opening in 1893. While it's too narrow for today's modern vessels, its steep limestone walls provide a scenic contrast to the aquamarine waters.

Romantic and slightly out of the way, Nafplio is a

thriving seaside town with a rich history that exhibits Roman, Venetian, and Ottoman influences. After settling into your hotel in Nafplio, join your fellow travelers this evening for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

#### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Nafplio, Epidaurus & Mycenae

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join your Tour Director on a walk through Nafplio's charming Old Town: Take in Syntagma Square (alive with locals enjoying a coffee or a nightcap), quaint restaurants, and historical buildings around every turn. For a keepsake to take home, look for shops selling worry beads. Used for relaxation or stress relief across Greece, the city has a storied tradition of producing them.

Visit Greece's archaeological wonderland of Epidaurus, famous for its amphitheater. Remarkably well preserved, it was constructed toward the latter part of the fourth century B.C. as a site for religious ceremonies. In the theater's current incarnation, visitors can enjoy performances of Greek dramas, set against a backdrop of the surrounding valley and mountains.

Your guided tour continues in the UNESCO-listed archaeological site of Mycenae. No visit to the eastern Peloponnese would be complete without a visit to the cradle of Mycenaean civilization, which peaked between 1400–1200 B.C. As you walk through the hillside citadel, you'll come across the remains of homes, storefronts, ancient tombs, and Agamemnon's Palace.

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## Athens → 2 nights

#### Day 9: Transfer to 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.

Spend a free afternoon to relax and settle in, or opt into the excursion to Cape Sounion this afternoon, where the remains of the Temple of Poseidon—god of the sea—offer the perfect vantage point to take in panoramic views of the Aegean and its island chains.

+ Cape Sounion

#### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Athens

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Meet up with your dedicated local guide, who will introduce you to the highlights of this bustling capital.

- Pass by the Panathenaic Stadium, built entirely out of marble—the only such stadium in the world.
- 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 A.D.
- View the remains of the sixth-century Temple of Zeus and gaze up at its 16 ornate Corinthian columns.
- Hop off your bus and walk through the Plaka. Situated at the foot of the Acropolis, this district is one of the oldest parts of Athens and is known as “the neighborhood of the gods” due to the dozens of monuments strewn throughout.
- 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 stepping through the work of craftsmen who quarried and honed these marble blocks thousands of years ago.

Spend a free afternoon in Athens to explore on your own. Head back to the Plaka district, or wander through Anafiotika on the northeast slope of the Acropolis. The neighborhood dates to the 19th century and is chock-full of charming whitewashed cottages and vibrantly hued doors, the likes of which you might have seen—or will see soon—on Greece's Cycladic islands. Tonight, celebrate your trip with your group over a farewell dinner, served with your choice of beer or wine.

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## Flight Home

#### Day 11: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or, extend your stay to visit inimitable Santorini, where you'll dive into white-and-cobalt-tinged postcard views of the iconic island. Walk through picturesque fishing villages, enjoy a cruise or local wine tasting (or both), and get your fill of just-caught seafood.

## + Santorini & Athens extension

Experience island time the Greek way. Extend your trip to Santorini—a volcanic outcrop that beckons with cobalt-domed churches, set against a canvas of Aegean blue and dramatic terrain. Its symphony of history, natural beauty, and the locals' zest for life is utterly intoxicating. (And that's before you've seen the island's fiery sunsets.) End your trip with a flight back to Athens's myth-filled streets.

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## Santorini → 3 nights

#### Day 11: Ferry to Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

You've seen the photos—now get ready to star in them yourself. Board a ferry to Santorini today. Watch for the steep cliffs that plunge into the Aegean and the island's famed caldera (the large depression formed by a volcanic eruption), dotted with whitewashed buildings.

#### Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

Your guided tour of Santorini will take you from black sand beaches to jagged cliff-lined shores and back—a stark contrast to the island's beloved whitewashed buildings and sprays of 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 volcanic eruption in the 16th century B.C.
- Ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for a panorama of Santorini, neighboring island chains, and 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 shops and sampling local wine, or opt to join what's sure to be an unforgettable excursion—a steal-your-breath-away catamaran cruise with views to match.

+ Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

#### Day 13: Free day in Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

Santorini's nutrient-rich soil lends itself perfectly to growing wine grapes. Get to know the island's unique vineyards during an excursion to a local winery, complete with a tasting and accompanying lunch.

Prefer to spend the day on your own? You can

sample some traditional dishes—like moussaka (a hearty eggplant dish) or tomato fritters—then explore the unique black-pebbled shores and clear waters of Kamari Beach. End the day with a sunset stop at the lighthouse found on the southern tip of the island.

*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 11 or 13, depending on the ferry schedule.*

+ Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch

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## Athens → 1 night

### Day 14: Flight to Athens

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a final morning on Santorini before flying back to Athens.

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

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## Flight Home

### Day 15: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. And remember—it's not arrivederci or adio, it's see you later.

# 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/ITG](https://goaheadtours.com/ITG) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Rustic Italy: Farmhouse Dinner & Wine

### Tasting

\$125/\$135\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Take a short trip outside of Sorrento for a cultural experience at an agriturismo, or farm stay. Here you'll have a chance to explore the lush gardens, cultivated fields, and vegetation typical of many Mediterranean regions. After touring the farm, savor an aperitif of prosecco, meant to stimulate the appetite. A four-course dinner will follow, complete with a wine tasting led by an experienced sommelier. After an evening experiencing the Italian art of eating, return to Sorrento. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through October and inclusions may vary based on season. In addition, climbing stairs and walking is required in order to tour the farm.

## Day 5: Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

\$119/\$129\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

In this hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef, you'll learn to make pasta—perhaps pillowy ravioli or castellane, a ridged shell pasta that's rolled into a long, oval shape—using traditional techniques you can keep on practicing when you get back home. Then, sit down for dinner and enjoy the dishes you've prepared, along with wine.

## Day 6: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$125 (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.

## Day 9: Cape Sounion

\$75/\$85\* (4.5 hours, departure time varies)

Journey to the southern tip of the Attica Peninsula to take in the sights of the Poseidon Coast, including sandy beaches, natural and manmade harbors, and, of course, the Aegean Sea itself. High above the sparkling shoreline, the Temple of Poseidon dominates the landscape. Of the original structure, 16 elegant Doric pillars remain. Afterward, decide how you'd like to spend your free time. Take a moment to look out from the lofty cliffside vantage point, where you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day. You may also choose to enjoy a coffee, stop in the souvenir shop, or stroll through the area. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain.

## Extension excursion options

## Day 12: Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

\$149 (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.

## Day 13: Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch

\$89/\$99\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon with lunch)

Santorini's volcanic landscape and nutrient-rich soil nurture a wealth of outstanding vineyards. You'll tour a local winery and learn about how the vines are trained to grow close to the ground, which helps protect the grapes from the strong ocean winds. Then, sit down for a lunch and tasting featuring some of their signature varietals including Assyrtiko and Vin Santo.

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