



# The Greek Islands: Mykonos, Santorini & Crete

14 days | 16 days with Athens extension

It's nearly impossible to get a true taste of Greek culture without sampling its flavorful isles. Experience the relaxed lifestyle and meet friendly locals as you discover the character and history unique to each island. Absorb Hellenic heritage in ancient Athens before anchoring on the beaches of lively Mykonos. Cruise on the Aegean to the volcanic shores of Santorini and soak in Crete's legendary landscapes.



## Your tour package includes

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

## Included highlights

- Acropolis
- Parthenon
- Windmills in Mykonos Town
- Akrotiri excavations
- Village of Pyrgos
- Ruins of Knossos
- Heraklion Archaeological Museum

## 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.

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## Athens → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Athens

*Included meals: dinner*

Welcome to Greece! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight.

### 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.

+ Cape Sounion

### Day 4: Free day in Athens

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Delphi

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## Mykonos → 3 nights

### Day 5: Ferry to Mykonos & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel by ferry to Mykonos and join your Tour Director on a walk through Mykonos Town.

- See the iconic windmills in Mykonos Town, built as early as the 16th century
- View Little Venice, the charming neighborhood right along the Aegean Sea
- Pass the Church of Panagia Paraportiani and admire its unique architecture

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 6: Free day in Mykonos

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Mykonos or add an excursion.

+ Mykonos Cooking Demonstration & Lunch

### Day 7: Free day in Mykonos

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Mykonos or add an excursion.

+ Delos Cruise & Temple of Apollo

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## Santorini → 3 nights

### Day 8: Ferry to Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Take a ferry to Santorini, then enjoy free time to discover the island's volcanic black sand beaches, cliff-lined shores, and stunning whitewashed architecture.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 9: 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

### Day 10: Free day in Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Santorini or add an excursion.

*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 10 or the morning of day 11 depending on the ferry schedule.*

+ Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch

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## Crete → 2 nights

### Day 11: Ferry to Crete

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Take a ferry to Crete, the largest of the Greek islands, this afternoon.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 12: Free day in Crete

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Crete or add an excursion.

+ Chania

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## Athens → 1 night

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Heraklion & transfer to Athens

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Enjoy a guided tour of Heraklion this morning.

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

Then, fly to Athens and celebrate your trip with your group at a farewell dinner.

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to continue exploring Athens.

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## + Athens extension

All those ancient myths? Continue your trip to Athens, and you'll practically walk right into 'em. Ask your Tour Director for their best tips in this unforgettable Greek capital, then go ahead and discover the city your way.

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## Athens → 2 nights

### Day 14: Free day in Athens

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Athens Home-Hosted Dinner

**Day 15: Free day in Athens**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Athens or add an excursion.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers to enjoy a farewell drink.

+ Corinth Canal, Epidauros & Mycenae

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**Flight Home****Day 16: 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/TGI](https://goaheadtours.com/TGI) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: 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.

## Day 4: Delphi

\$119/\$129\* (11 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Journey to the slopes of Mount Parnassus and the archeological site of Delphi, home of the mystical oracle. Embark on a guided tour featuring the Temple of Apollo, where, according to legend, the god Apollo once communicated with mortals. Greece's ancient military leaders customarily left gifts here in hopes of good fortune in battle. Then, take time to explore the ancient treasures, including a huge bronze charioteer, on display at the Delphi Museum. Continue on to the picturesque town of Arachova and enjoy a traditional Greek lunch at a local restaurant. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain and hills.

## Day 6: Mykonos Cooking Demonstration & Lunch

\$119/\$129\* (4 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Your first stop is the village of Ano Mera, where you'll pay a visit to the 18th-century Monastery of Panagia Tourliani and enjoy free time to explore the surrounding town square. After you've worked up an appetite in town, make your way to a local farm. Learn how to make traditional foods such as Mykonian pie and tzatziki and sample some of the regionally sourced ingredients used in the dishes. As you craft the cuisine, chat with your local host to learn about Greek culture. Then, try three different Greek wines and Raki, an anise-flavored liquor, as you enjoy lunch.

## Day 7: Delos Cruise & Temple of Apollo

\$125/\$135\* (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 9: 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 10: 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.

## Day 12: Chania

\$119/\$129\* (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.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 14: Athens Home-Hosted Dinner

\$79 (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Athens to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Grecian. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Greek culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your

Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 15: Corinth Canal, Epidaurus & Mycenae

\$119/\$129\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Begin the day with a visit to the Corinth Canal. Everyone from Julius Caesar to emperor Nero dreamed of building this canal to connect the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf and cut down on the time it took to transport goods by boat. The present-day canal was completed in 1893 and separates the Peloponnese peninsula from mainland Greece. While it's too small for modern boats, the canal symbolizes the vision of these ancient rulers. After, head to the Ancient Theater of Epidaurus and learn about one of the world's best-preserved Greek amphitheaters. End the day with a tour of the UNESCO-listed Archaeological site of Mycenae, an important city in the Mycenaean civilization that's linked to Homer's famous Greek epics the Iliad and the Odyssey.

\*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)