

GREECE

From Athens to the Islands of Crete and Santorini

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explore Athens and its famous Acropolis and Ancient Agora
- ▶ Meet one of the leading actresses of the Greek Theater
- ▶ Venture to Cape Sounio and Crete, connecting with local designers and savoring a private Chef's creations
- ▶ Discover the "village of jars", engage in a ceramic workshop, and delve into Heraklion's rich history
- ▶ Visit Santorini, exploring Oia and Fira before relaxing in geothermal hot springs

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 land in Athens, transfer to your accommodations, enjoy a welcome dinner and orientation
- Day 2 visit Acropolis and the Mars Hill, sample local delicacies, explore the Ancient Agora
- Day 3 meet a leading actress of the Greek Theater, reach Cape Sounio and its Temple of Poseidon, return to Athens
- Day 4 fly to Chania in Crete, visit its old town, meet with a local fashion designer, transfer to Rethymno
- Day 5 enjoy a day at leisure, take a cooking class and have dinner with a private local Chef
- Day 6 visit the famous "village of jars", enjoy a workshop at a ceramic studio, transfer to Heraklion
- Day 7 visit the tomb of a famous Greek writer, the city's Archaeological Museum, and Knossos Palace, explore a local winery
- Day 8 take the high-speed ferry to Santorini, explore Oia by foot, have dinner overlooking the caldera
- Day 9 explore Fira on your own, swim in the geothermal hot springs, farewell dinner
- Day 10 depart Santorini

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$6,595

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,500

TRIP DATES

September 12 - 21, 2025



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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1
Friday
9/12/25

Arrive in Athens, Greece

Welcome to Athens, Greece! Athens, the modern capital of Greece, was the cultural center of the ancient world as well as home to many notable Greeks, perhaps the best-known being the philosopher Socrates, and the playwright Sophocles, author of Oedipus Rex.

During your adventure, you'll get to know your expert Greek guide, who will help you discover the secrets of Athens and of each island you will explore. You'll meet other incredible individuals on your journey. They will help make your experience a fun and personally fulfilling adventure and will cheer you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone and embrace new challenges!

Arrival Information

Arrive at Athens International Airport (ATH) by 3:00 pm today.

Pick-up and Transfer

A group transfer from the airport to the hotel will be provided when most guests arrive (exact time to be determined). Private transfers at other times are available for purchase.

Welcome Dinner

Enjoy a lively welcome dinner where you can connect with your fellow travelers this evening. Share stories and discover the unique reasons each woman in your group is excited to explore Greece, Crete and Santorini.

Accommodations
Elia Ermou

Meals Included
dinner

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DAY 2
Saturday
9/13/25

Athens

Athens is often referred to as the cradle of Western civilization, as it played a central role in the development of democracy, philosophy, literature, and the arts in ancient Greece. The Acropolis is the most iconic symbol of Athens, while the Ancient Agora, a significant archaeological site, was the heart of ancient Athens and served as a marketplace and civic center.

Explore Athens

Begin the day with a visit to the famous Acropolis and Mars Hill. The Acropolis is a prominent ancient citadel located on a rocky outcrop above the city of Athens. It includes several ancient buildings of great architectural and historic significance, the most famous being the Parthenon, a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. The Acropolis is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of classical Greek civilization. Mars Hill, also known as the Areopagus, is a rocky hill located near the Acropolis in Athens. In classical times, it served as a prominent court for legal and political matters.

Continue with a visit to the Acropolis Museum. Its primary purpose is to exhibit and protect the significant archaeological findings from the Acropolis, spanning from the Greek Bronze Age to the Roman and Byzantine periods.

Tasting Tour

For lunch, embark on a tasting tour in the modern market, sampling local delicacies and authentic Greek specialties from traditional neighborhoods.

Ancient Agora

Head to the Ancient Agora, a political and cultural hub of ancient Athens, where great thinkers, priests and statesmen would have crossed paths.

Dinner

Enjoy dinner as a group tonight.

Accommodations
Elia Ermou

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 3
Sunday
9/14/25

Athens

Cape Sounio is a scenic headland located at the southern tip of the Greek Attica Peninsula, approximately 69 kilometers southeast of Athens. It is renowned for its historical and archaeological significance, as well as its stunning natural beauty.

Meet a Greek Theater Actress

Start your day with a conversation with a prominent actress from the Greek theater, gaining insights into the roles of women in both ancient and modern settings.

Cape Sounio

Embark on a scenic drive offering panoramic views of the Saronic Gulf, culminating in the arrival at Cape Sounio. Steeped in myth and ancient history, the Temple of Poseidon, honoring the Greek god of the sea, dominates the southernmost tip of Attica, where the horizon melds with the Aegean Sea.

Explore the adjacent National Park, indulging in a gentle hike that reveals breathtaking vistas of a rugged coastline. Legend has it that the enchantment of swimming beneath the ancient temple surpasses the magic of standing beside it—those intrigued are encouraged to take a refreshing dip!

Return to Athens

Return to Athens in the evening with time to explore the cobblestone streets of the Plaka neighborhood at your leisure. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Accommodations
Elia Ermou

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 4
Monday
9/15/25

Rethymno, Crete Island

Rethymno is a charming city located on the north coast of the island of Crete in Greece. It is the third-largest city in Crete, following Heraklion and Chania. Rethymno has a rich history, a well-preserved medieval old town, and beautiful beaches, making it a popular destination for both history enthusiasts and beach lovers.

Fly to Chania, Crete

Transfer to Athens airport for a morning flight to Chania, Crete.

Chania's Old Town

Surrounded by beautiful Venetian mansions, fountains, and the elaborate churches, wander through the maze-like alleys and cobblestone streets on a walking tour of Chania's Old Town. Take in vestiges of Arab, Byzantine, Venetian, and Turkish occupations.

Meet a Fashion Designer

Meet with Elli Lyrarakis, a local fashion designer and clothing manufacturer, at her workshop. Discover how her creative process is influenced by Minoan art. Elli, who initially studied music and interior design, collaborated with her husband—well-versed in the ancient craft of sandal-making—to establish a modest workshop. Together, they craft a diverse range of handmade leather products, including sandals, wedge-heel shoes, ballerinas, bags, earrings, bracelets, and necklaces.

Transfer to Rethymno

Transfer to Rethymno (approximately 1 hour drive) for a guided walking tour of one of Greece's best preserved Medieval towns.

Check-in and Dinner

Check into your hotel, and enjoy an evening at leisure. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Accommodations
Pearl Beach Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 5
Tuesday
9/16/25

Rethymno

Rethymno provides a perfect blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, making it an attractive destination for those seeking a relaxed and picturesque Cretan experience. The heart of Rethymno is its Old Town, a well-preserved medieval quarter with narrow streets, Venetian architecture, and charming squares. The Old Town is a mix of Venetian, Turkish, and Greek influences, reflecting the city's diverse history. Rethymno also boasts several beautiful beaches, including the long sandy beach of Rethymno itself.

Independent Exploration

Take a day to independently discover the charm of local landmarks, bask in the sun on the beach, or explore the diverse array of shops in town. Additionally, seek recommendations from your guide for a curated list of suggested activities.

Cooking Class and Dinner

Gather in the evening for a cooking workshop and dinner hosted by a local private chef.

Accommodations
Pearl Beach Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, dinner

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DAY 6
Wednesday
9/17/25

Psiloritis

Psiloritis, also known as Mount Ida, is the highest mountain range on the island of Crete in Greece. Situated in the central part of Crete, it stretches from west to east. It is characterized by rugged terrain, deep gorges, and high plateaus. The famous "village of jars" is located at the northern foothills of Psiloritis.

The 'Village of Jars'

Explore the renowned "village of jars," nestled at an elevation of 980 feet on the northern foothills of Psiloritis. Uncover ancient monasteries, towers, pathways, and chapels concealed in caves, forming one of Crete's most breathtaking landscapes.

Village of Margarites

Stroll through the village of Margarites, discovering its rich tradition in crafting household items, ritual vases, and storage vessels. Engage in a hands-on workshop at a ceramic studio to delve into the local craft, followed by a delightful lunch with the women from the community.

Head to Heraklion

Proceed to Heraklion for an evening tour of the vibrant portside capital, accompanied by an orientation to your neighborhood. Check into your accommodation before enjoying dinner as a group.

Accommodations
Marin Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 7
Thursday
9/18/25

Heraklion

Heraklion, also spelled Iraklion, is the largest city and the capital of the island of Crete in Greece. It is a vibrant and bustling city with a rich history, cultural heritage, and modern amenities. Located just outside Heraklion, the ruins of Knossos represent the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete. It is associated with the legend of the Minotaur and the labyrinth from Greek mythology.

Heraklion Visit

Begin the day with a visit to the tomb of the famous Greek writer, Nikos Kazantzakis. Tour the Archaeological Museum's magnificent collection of art and artifacts before continuing to Knossos Palace, a cornerstone of Minoan civilization. Hear varying narratives of a history tracing its origins to the Neolithic era.

Wine Tasting

Heraklion is home to several noteworthy wineries that contribute to the island's rich winemaking tradition. Immerse yourself in the experience by visiting a local winery and savoring a delightful lunch.

Evening at Leisure

Return to Heraklion to spend your last evening in Crete at leisure.

Accommodations
Marin Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 8
Friday
9/19/25

Santorini

Santorini, officially known as Thira, is a stunning and iconic Greek island located in the southern Aegean Sea. Fira (Thira) and Oia are two of the most famous and picturesque villages on the island. They are known for their white-washed buildings with blue domes, narrow cobblestone streets, and breathtaking views of the caldera and the Aegean Sea.

Ferry to Santorini

Depart early in the morning on a high-speed ferry to Santorini. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the island. Lunch will be on your own today.

Guided Tour of Oia

Enjoy a guided walking tour of Oia, a picturesque, white-washed, blue-domed cliff-side town. Afterward, take some leisure time to explore the area at your own pace and enjoy lunch on your own.

Dinner with a View

Following your check-in at the hotel, take in one of the most breathtaking sunsets in the world before meeting up with the group for dinner overlooking the caldera.

Accommodations
Santorini Palace

Meals Included
breakfast, dinner

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DAY 9
Saturday
9/20/25

Santorini

The caldera in Santorini is a geological feature that plays a central role in shaping the island's dramatic landscapes and captivating scenery. Its beauty, combined with the historical and cultural significance of the surrounding settlements, makes Santorini a highly sought-after destination in the Aegean.

Morning at Leisure in Fira

Enjoy a slow morning, taking time to explore the winding alleyways and boutiques of Fira on your own.

Catamaran and Hot Springs

After lunch on your own, proceed to the port for a catamaran sailing cruise around the caldera (contingent on weather conditions). Marvel at the awe-inspiring views of white-washed cliffs from below, and indulge in a refreshing swim in the geothermal hot springs.

Farewell Dinner

Enjoy a festive farewell dinner on board with your new AdventureWomen friends. Reflect on the cherished memories you've created and celebrate the conclusion of an amazing journey through this truly remarkable country. Take in another stunning sunset before returning to your hotel.

Accommodations
Santorini Palace

Meals Included
breakfast, dinner

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DAY 10
Sunday
9/21/25

Santorini/Athens Departure

Bid farewell to your guide, your fellow AdventureWomen companions, and the enchanting landscapes of Greece.

Departure Information

After an early breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the Santorini airport (JTR) for your departing flight. Connect through Athens to your flight back home. A group transfer to the airport will be provided when most guests depart (exact time to be determined). Private transfers at other times are available for purchase.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Elia Ermou

Nestled in the heart of Athens, a mere 800 meters from the Acropolis and the New Acropolis Museum, Elia Ermou Athens Hotel offers accommodation in luxurious and comfortable rooms. Ideally situated on Ermou Street, Athens' bustling commercial hub, guests can relish the spectacular Acropolis view from the Athens View Balcony or unwind with a rejuvenating treatment at the Wellness Center. The charming Plaka and vibrant Monastiraki are a mere 400 meters away.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, flatscreen TV, coffee/tea maker, safe, minibar, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi

Pearl Beach Hotel

Perched along the northern coast of Crete with a commanding view of the Aegean Sea, Pearl Beach is nestled in a lively resort area, just steps away from the beach and a short drive from the heart of Rethymnon town. Positioned on the promenade leading to Rethymnon's historic center, the hotel boasts a sandy beach right in front. Guests can enjoy the private beach area reserved exclusively for them. The hotel's interiors feature bright and fresh decor with plush furnishings. Enjoy a leisurely drink from the poolside bar or unwind in the garden area adorned with palm trees, offering natural shade.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, flatscreen TV, safe, minibar, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi

Marin Hotel

Marin Hotel is a contemporary establishment situated in the heart of Heraklion city, and strategically positioned near every notable sight and monument in the area. Marin Hotel boasts a complete renovation, featuring 44 rooms of various types designed to cater to every guest's needs. The rooms offer an ideal sleeping environment with high-quality pillows and mattresses, complemented by a light and minimalistic style that fosters a sense of relaxation and tranquility.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, flatscreen TV, safe, minibar, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi

Santorini Palace

Santorini Palace stands as the first resort in Santorini, just a few feet away from the Caldera cliff and its captivating panoramic views of the volcano. This hotel seamlessly blends beautiful Cycladic architecture with expansive open spaces, resort amenities, and proximity to interesting sites. Guests can fully immerse themselves in the resort's facilities, unwind in the tranquil atmosphere of the Hotel Spa, lounge by the pool, or stroll along the Caldera's promenade.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, flatscreen TV, safe, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ English-speaking guide (s) throughout the trip, except on day 5
- ▶ One group transfer on arrival and departure
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ Athens to Chania airfare (one way)
- ▶ Fast ferry fare from Crete to Santorini (one way)
- ▶ Drinking water available from taps to refill personal bottles
- ▶ Gratuities for hotel staff and waitstaff

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from Greece
- ▶ Optional activities
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities for main guide and driver

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

- For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.
- For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase **trip cancellation insurance** to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen trips.

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Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

We define “adventure travel” as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a “tour,” in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes trips all over the world for women who want an active, out of the ordinary experience, and meet new friends. **Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!** In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure trips, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!