



Greece: From Athens to the Islands of Crete and Santorini

DURATION | 10 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Level 1 - Easy Pace

Trip Overview

Welcome to Greece! Experience a captivating 10-day journey through this ancient land, blending historical marvels, rich culture, and exquisite cuisine. Your adventure begins in Athens, where you'll dive into its vibrant history by exploring landmarks like the Acropolis and Mars Hill, and enjoy local delicacies. Meet a Greek theater actress and visit the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounio. Next, fly to Crete to discover Chania's old town, meet a local fashion designer, and savor a cooking class in Rethymno. In Heraklion, explore the "village of jars," participate in a ceramics workshop, and visit the Archaeological Museum and Knossos Palace, topped with a wine tasting experience. Conclude your trip on Santorini, exploring Oia and Fira, enjoying caldera-side dining, and relaxing in geothermal hot springs. This Greek odyssey promises an unforgettable blend of history, culture, and gastronomy, leaving you with lasting memories.

Trip Highlights

- Explore Athens' iconic Acropolis and Ancient Agora, diving deep into the city's rich history. Meet a leading Greek theater actress and gain insights into the world of Greek drama.
- Travel to Cape Sounio and Crete, where you'll engage with local fashion designers and indulge in a private chef's culinary creations. Experience the charm of Chania's old town and enjoy a hands-on cooking class in Rethymno.
- Discover the beauty of Santorini, wandering through the picturesque towns of Oia and Fira. Unwind in the island's geothermal hot springs and savor the stunning views and serenity of this enchanting destination.

Map View



Arrival: Arrive in Athens, Greece (ATH) on Day 1 by 3:00 PM.

Departure: Depart from Santorini, Greece (JTR) on Day 10 at any time.



Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Arrival in Athens

Arrive at Athens International Airport (ATH) by 3:00 pm today, where a group transfer to your hotel will be arranged once most guests have arrived. Private transfers are available for purchase if needed. This evening, join a lively welcome dinner to meet your fellow travelers, share stories, and discover the unique reasons each of you is excited to explore Greece, Crete, and Santorini.

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Astor Hotel



Astor Hotel

The Astor Hotel Athens offers the perfect blend of comfort, location, and classic Athenian charm, an ideal home base for exploring one of the world's most historic cities. Located in the heart of Athens, just steps from Syntagma Square, the Astor places you within easy walking distance of the Acropolis, Plaka's winding streets, Monastiraki's vibrant markets, and the city's renowned museums. Its central location makes it effortless to experience both ancient landmarks and modern Greek culture. Guest rooms are bright, comfortable, and thoughtfully appointed.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, bathrobes, cable TV, coffee/tea maker, air conditioning, Wi-Fi



Trip Itinerary



Day 2

Discover Athens

Begin your day with a visit to the iconic Acropolis and Mars Hill, exploring ancient buildings of immense historical significance, including the Parthenon. Continue to the Acropolis Museum to view a collection of artifacts from the Acropolis site. For lunch, savor local delicacies and Greek specialties. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon before participating in an engaging conversation with a renowned Greek theater actress, gaining insights into the role of women in ancient and modern Greece.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Astor Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Insights and Scenic Views

Start your day with a visit to the Ancient Agora, a key cultural and political center of ancient Athens. Lunch will be at your leisure. In the afternoon, take a scenic drive to Cape Sounio, where you'll visit the Temple of Poseidon and enjoy a gentle hike with stunning coastal views. Optionally, take a refreshing swim beneath the ancient temple. Gather for an early dinner before returning to Athens, where you can explore the charming Plaka neighborhood at your own pace.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Astor Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Chania and Rethymno

Fly from Athens to Chania, Crete, and start your day exploring the Venetian architecture and historic alleys of Chania's Old Town. Meet local fashion designer Elli Lyraraki at her workshop and learn about her creative process and Minoan art influences. Transfer to Rethymno (approximately a one-hour drive) for a guided walking tour of one of Greece's best-preserved Medieval towns. Check into your hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening at your leisure.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Grecotel Plaza Beach House



Grecotel Plaza Beach House

Set along the golden sands of Rethymno's Blue Flag beach, Grecotel Plaza Beach House offers a relaxed seaside escape with the charm of a Cretan village and the comforts of a boutique resort. Just a short stroll or quick ride from Rethymno's picturesque Old Town, the hotel provides easy access to Venetian architecture, lively cafés, artisan shops, and historic landmarks—while still feeling like a peaceful retreat by the sea. With its beachfront setting, welcoming ambiance, and proximity to one of Crete's most enchanting towns, Grecotel Plaza Beach House is a wonderful base for discovering the culture, cuisine, and coastal beauty of Rethymno.

Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Free Time and Cooking Workshop

Spend the day exploring Rethymno at your own pace—visit local landmarks, relax on the beach, or shop. Seek recommendations from your guide for suggested activities. In the evening, join a cooking workshop and dinner hosted by a local private chef, where you will learn to prepare traditional Cretan dishes.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Grecotel Plaza Beach House

Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Psiloritis and Heraklion

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. 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, followed by a delightful lunch with the women from the community. Proceed to Heraklion for an evening tour of the vibrant portside capital. Check into your accommodation before enjoying dinner as a group.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Olive Green Hotel



Olive Green Hotel

Located in the heart of Heraklion city, the Olive Green Hotel stands out as a technologically advanced and eco-conscious establishment. It serves as a model for sustainable practices, merging modern infrastructure with the rich traditions of Crete. The name "Olive Green" reflects the hotel's essence and style. "Olive" signifies the strength, timelessness, peace, and well-being associated with the olive tree, embodying Crete's purity and wild beauty. "Green" highlights the hotel's commitment to ecological principles and modern sustainability standards.

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



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Heritage and Wine in Heraklion

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

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Olive Green Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Santorini's Beauty

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. 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. Check-in at your hotel and take in one of the most breathtaking sunsets in the world before meeting up with the group for a farewell dinner overlooking the caldera.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Orama Hotel & Spa



Orama Hotel & Spa

Orama Hotel is a stylish boutique retreat set just above Fira, offering sweeping views across Santorini's volcanic landscape and the Aegean Sea. Designed in a contemporary Cycladic style, the hotel features bright, minimalist rooms and suites alongside three outdoor pools, lush gardens, and relaxed lounge spaces. Thoughtfully designed for comfort and tranquility, the hotel blends modern luxury with Santorini's iconic island charm.

Amenities: toiletries, hair dryer, refrigerator, safe, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Santorini Exploration and Farewell

Enjoy a slow morning, taking time to explore the winding alleyways and boutiques of Fira on your own. 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. Enjoy dinner on board with your new AdventureWomen friends. Take in another stunning sunset before returning to your hotel.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Orama Hotel & Spa



Trip Itinerary



Day 10

Departure

After an early breakfast, transfer to Santorini airport (JTR) for your departing flight. Connect through Athens for your journey home. A group transfer to the airport will be provided for most guests, with private transfers available for other times if needed.

What's Included

What's 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 days 5 and 9
- 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

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.

