

Santorini, Naxos, & Athens, Greece



Time Frame: 9 days + 2 travel days

Destinations: Santorini, Naxos, & Athens, Greece

Travel Day/Day 1

Arrive in Santorini, Greece

Take a red-eye to Athens ATH Airport

Recheck into the airport to take a short flight to Santorini/Thira

Book an airport transfer through your hotel & check in to **Hotel Villa Ilias** in Firostefani, Santorini (*book a junior suite volcano facing room*)

Dinner at Taverna Romantica & then pick up a bottle of wine to enjoy on your balcony for sunset

DAY 2

Santorini, Greece

Breakfast at hotel

Hike from Fira to Oia: 6 miles total (shorter from hotel, ~3 hours with stops for pictures)

- Very few stops for water or bathrooms + little shade, bring water/snacks, sunscreen & hat
- Points to stop at: Three Bells of Thira, Anastasi Church, Church of Christ

Oia: Castle of Oia, blue dome viewpoints, Ammoudi Bay (Dimitri's restaurant, swimming spots, have to hike back up or cab)

Lunch at Souvlaki n' Wrap, Lolita's Gelato, Sunset Oia Cafe freddo espresso

Bus back: Oia to Fira route, exact cash only on bus, \$2pp (timetables at <https://santorinibus.com>)

- Walk back to Firostefani from Fira (15 min)

Dinner at Onar (may need reservations here)

DAY 3

Santorini, Greece

Breakfast at hotel

Sunset Oia Catamaran: 5 hour morning cruise w/ hotel transfer, snorkeling at Red & White Beach, lunch & drinks (booked on GetYourGuide)

- 0930-1430, hotel pick-up at 0835
- Bring passport, towel, swimsuit, hat, sunscreen, tip

Walk to **Imerovigli viewpoints**, Skaros rock & Akra tourlos (short hikes off the trail)

Dinner at Aktaion Restaurant (best moussaka!) + Baklava at Why Not Souvlaki

Naxos, Greece



DAY 4

Arrive in Naxos, Greece

Breakfast at hotel

Check out & transfer from hotel to ferry port (book through hotel)

Take a **Seajets Ferry** from Santorini to Naxos (~1.5 hours, book ahead of time on Ferry Hopper & arrive 1 hour prior to departure)

Lunch at Yasouvlaki & Walk to **Spiros Hotel** for check in

Dinner at Su e Giu Italian & then pick up a bottle of wine at Le Sommelier for sunset

DAY 5

Naxos, Greece

Breakfast at hotel

Walk to **Agios Georgios Beach**: Trata beach club for lunch & rent chairs + towel for 30€ each

Naxos City (Chora) Sightseeing: Portara (Temple of Apollo), statue of Aphrodite, Naxos City archaeological museum (free), Old Town Market below the city center castle

Coffee & pastries at Sitari Bakery

Dinner at Taverna Naxos & sunset at Temple of Apollo

DAY 6

Naxos, Greece

Breakfast at hotel

Rent a car & explore Naxos: Hotel arranged the day before for pick up at hotel

- Temple of Dionysus (\$3pp) → Panagia Drosiani Church (you'll be pressured to donate) → Moni → Profit Elias → Chalki village → Temple of Demeter (\$4pp) → beaches
- Alyko beach, Hawaii beach, Plaka beach, Agios Prokopios beach

Lunch at Paravas, orange pie & espresso at Dolce Vita in **Chalki**

Dinner at Amici pizza

Athens, Greece



DAY 7

Arrive in Athens, Greece

Breakfast at hotel & walk around Naxos Old Town (Chora) or the beach

Check out & have lunch at Cafe Lotta beside the ferry port

Take a **Seajets Ferry** from Naxos to Athens Piraeus Port (~3.5 hours, book ahead of time on Ferry Hopper & arrive 1 hour prior to departure)

Get to airbnb in Athens: Piraeus metro station located next to port → Blue Line metro (M3) heading towards airport (30 min, €2 pp), to Monastiraki station → 5 min walk to apartment

Check in to Airbnb in Leoforos area & grab dinner nearby

DAY 8

Athens, Greece

Athens Food on Foot Ultimate Tasting Tour: 9:30am start at Acropolis metro station upstairs in front of escalator (return at 1345)

Acropolis Museum: €15pp (open 9-5 Mon, 9-8 other days)

Acropolis combo ticket for 5-6:30pm: Timed entry for Acropolis only (15 min before or after slot), rest of sites are valid for 5 days (one visit per location), €32 pp

- **Acropolis pedestrian paths:** Viewpoints from Areopagus Hill (visit Plate with Apostle Paul's Sermon), Philopappos Park

Ice cream at Patisserie Artemis

Dinner at So So Ramen & drinks at Ciel rooftop bar

DAY 9

Athens, Greece

Breakfast at Folk

National Archaeological Museum: €12 pp

Ancient sites around Acropolis: (included in Acropolis combo ticket) Ancient Agora, Hadrian's Library, Roman Agora; (*Skip- Temple of Olympian Zeus, Kerameikos, Aristotle's School*)

Other to do's: Varvakios Market (Central Municipal Market), Church of Panagia Kapnikarea, Syntagma Square (Monument to Unknown Soldier)

- **Food tour takes you to:** Monastiraki Square, Psyri, Plaka (Ermou St, Anafiotika), Monastiraki Sunday flea market, Varvakios Market if not on Sunday

Lunch at Arcadia & gelato at Davinci

Check in for flight tomorrow

Dinner at Pame Tsipouro Pame Kafeneio

Athens, Greece



Travel Day

Travel Back Home

Breakfast at Just Made 33

Check out & **transfer to airport**: Blue Line metro (M3) from Monastiraki station (60 min, **different ticket for metro to airport that is €9 pp)

Hop on your flight home!

Greece Tips

Tips Use type C or F plug adapters.
Cash is really only needed for tips (10% for waiters) & taxis/buses, use ATMs in front of Greek or int'l banks (don't let the ATM convert to USD)
Don't flush anything in toilets (no TP), there will always be trash cans besides toilets
Pickpocketing is common (especially in Athens metro)

Apps to get: Ferry Hopper, download offline google translate & google maps

Get around: Bus system on islands, metro in Athens

Language: Many people speak English but learn basic greetings/thank you in Greek

Hello/goodbye: (ya-su for singular) (ya-sas for plural/formal)

Good morning: ka-li-me-ra

Yes: ne; No: o-hi

Thank you: ef-ha-ri-sto; Please/thank you: pa-ra-ka-lo

Eat *Islands only*- Alcohol is usually brought at dinner without asking → ouzo (clear liquor, has shot glass or whiskey glass to dilute w/ water), dessert wine (shot given with bill)
- Bottled water only (& the lids don't entirely twist off, they stay attached as a holder)
Athens- water is safe to drink, usually free when you sit down (unless fancy restaurant), receipts are brought with each item → you have to ask for a total at the end of your meal
Be patient, they are in no rush (restaurant staff, etc)

Foods to try: Freddo espresso, Moussaka, Spanakopita, Galaktoboureko, Lokumades, Souvlaki, Baklava, Greek Salad, Ekmek Kataifi, Saganaki cheese

Planning Use grecetravelsecrets.com to help plan!

Santorini: Cheaper/less busy to stay outside of Oia, bus is reliable, Imerovigli & Firostefani are most pleasant to walk around & less busy to see sunset, very windy & chilly at night

Naxos: Stay in Chora to be walking distance to pier & all restaurants, very windy

Athens: Stay in Plaka, use metro for airport/ferry port, visit Acropolis in evening for fewer crowds, do a food tour the first day as an orientation to the city