

MARCH 2019

GREECE

A Mythical Land for All Seasons

In this issue:

TRIP PLANNING TIPS

Most popular questions asked!

NEW TOURS

Santorini, Crete, Meteora,
Peloponnese, and more

ATHENS CITYBREAKS

WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS



TASTY TRIPS Gastronomy Tour Options

FIT & FIESTY Adventure & the Outdoors

IMMERSIVE HOLIDAYS & EVENTS



In this issue, I hope to inspire you to take the next step to making your dream vacation a reality. Perhaps to give you a wider perspective of this world-renown hotspot. And to shine the light on some lesser visited gems that deserve your presence.

In this edition, you will see some of the best new tours & experiences on offer. Together with a wide network of local partners, the sky is the limit to making every trip unique and personalized.

Be a traveller and not a tourist in this land so famous for it's historical landmarks, beautiful islands with azure waters, mesmerizing sunsets... and magical summer nights.

- Alison Francis
Destination Specialist @Vivaellada



TRIP PLANNING FOR 1ST TIMERS

Where shall I visit in Greece?

There is no simple answer to this, mainly because Greece is not a 1-trick-pony.

A few factors play in.

Is this your first visit?

Do you want to visit the popular 'highlights' or venture 'off the beaten track'?

Who are the travellers? (kids/youths/couple/seniors/fitness level/interests) and budget.

If it's a once in a lifetime trip, the itinerary would be tailored to cross-out your bucket list items. Most organised groups, tend to visit, Athens, Santorini, Mykonos islands and Delphi and Meteora monasteries on the mainland, which can all be done within 8-10 days.

However, there is so much to see and do and it will be a waste to just skim the surface.

Note that there are over 200 inhabited islands to explore and so many villages and towns throughout the mainland to discover as well, don't limit yourself.

If it's a trip with a group of friends and you enjoy nightlife and active holidays. then Mykonos, Paros, Ios, Zakynthos are popular choices.

Save Santorini & Folegandros for that romantic trip. If you are traveling with young kids and require family friendly resorts and light sightseeing, perhaps waterpark type fun!

Head to Crete! Corfu! Rhodes!



Travel season.

Summer, June-September: For the beach & watersports, party goers, sun worshippers.

Island getaways - both active and the more quiet hideaways.

Mid-Season April, May & Oct: Best for Nature & Adventure trips, Sightseeing, Historical, City breaks, Edu-holidays

Winter November- March: Mainland trips - mountain resorts, Ski towns, Charming villages, City break *Not all islands are fully functioning in winter season, lesser ferry connections and many businesses close for the season. Greece is now an all year destination, with many winter choices!

Travel dates, season and number of days.

Minimum 1 week is required to visit 3 locations. But if you are coming from afar and paying a decent amount for flights, 10-12 days would be a better target.

Your interests.

It is possible to incorporate your interests into your trip, example if you are a diver or a budding chef or an architect. Incorporating these small details will make your trip more meaningful and unique. There are many new trends in travel example, Ecotourism, Agrotourism and wellbeing travel, as well as social conscious type experiences, alternative tours for those who want to avoid the masses.



Type of accommodation.

Apartment & Villas, Boutique hotels, historical hotels, family-friendly resorts, in all categories and budgets.

Size of group? Number of adults & kids, room allocation (doubles/twin/family sharing rooms), group relationship – family, friends, in laws.

For example, many hotels situated on the Santorini cliff side, do not permit young children and some areas are not so suitable for elderly as they are a little tough to walk about with many stairs. Some families need kitchen facilities to prepare some basic food.

Mix & match your experience by changing it up a little – example, stay at a cozy boutique hotel in Athens, experience farm-style living in the Peloponnesse, a Spa hotel in Crete, a few days onboard cruising the Aegean and splurge for a cave room with caldera view in Santorini.

Tours and flexibility of itinerary

Private tours, give you flexibility with your time and can cater to your individual interests. While it may be a little more costly, if you are a small group of travellers it actually might work in your favor and turn into some savings (trade secret). It may include Driver, vehicle, tour guide, activities, cruise/boat hire... etc.

Organized tours are usually for those who prefer a complete program and in many cases all-inclusive package and fully escorted. This sometimes covers a lot of ground for lower cost, the downside being that it is very structured and you will be travelling with other passengers who you do not know.

Self tour and self drive trips offers the most freedom. *Preferably if you are travelling with a co-driver, if you are going long distances. Car rental is quite affordable and they drive on on the left side. The experience will encourage you to really explore and interact with locals, hence great take-home value.

Meals

Experience the world famous Greek Food, and the Mediterranean diet. A lot of choices for vegetarians, and meat eaters alike. Quality local produce and options for all budgets. It is increasingly easy to offer choices for other international cuisine, those with allergies or health as well as religious requirements.



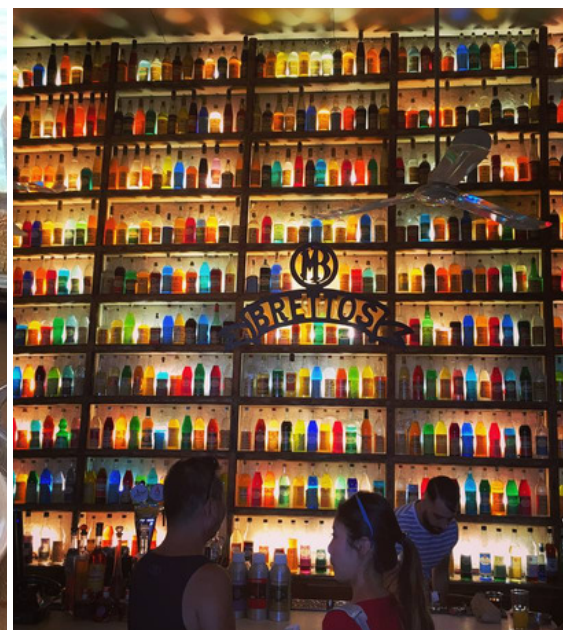
POPULAR GREEK MENU

- Frappé – Iced coffee drink with foamy top
- Ouzo – World popular anise-flavored aperitif
- Dolmades – Stuffed grape leaves
- Gigandes – Giant baked beans
- Horiatiki – Traditional Greek salad
- Melitzanosalata – An eggplant dip
- Saganaki – Fried cheese
- Spanakopita – Spinach pie



- Seafood - various options of fresh grilled / fried seafood
- Gyro & Souvlaki – The most popular fast food option. Grilled meat with tzatziki, potato, tomato & onion, in a pita wrap or on skewers
- Feta – A white cheese made from sheep or goat's milk
- Stifado – A stew, of meat, tomatoes, onions, & herbs
- Moussaka – An eggplant with minced meat dish with béchamel
- Pastitsio – A baked pasta dish with meat and béchamel topping
- Tzatziki – A sauce made out of strained yogurt, cucumbers and garlic
- Yemista – Tomatoes and peppers stuffed with rice
- Youvetsi – Lamb with orzo pasta
- Bougatsa - A sweet pie made of phyllo pastry & custard
- Baklava – A rich dessert with layers of phyllo pastry filled with nuts and honey
- Loukoumades – Fried balls of dough topped with honey
- Greek Yogurt with honey

"Traditional Greek diet is known to be one of the healthiest and tastiest."





NEW IN PORTFOLIO

THEMATIC EXPERIENCES

Options available for Solo, Couples & Groups

SANTORINI TOURS

This volcanic island well deserves it's recognition. To fully appreciate what the island has to offer, be prepared to spend at least 3-4 days (or more).

The full day Santorini Island Tour

Travel in comfort of a coach with guide in tow. Includes visit to archaeological site of Akrotiri, visit to traditional village of Megalochori, a winery, volcanic beaches, snap panoramic photos at the islands highest point (Prophet Elias Monastery) and finish the day watching the famous sunset at Oia. ** other combinations include boat ride to volcanic site at Nea Kameni island instead of Akrotiri.

Sailing Cruises (private / shared)

5 hour catamaran cruise, includes a delicious BBQ /Buffet lunch or dinner. Sail around the island and enjoy the views and various beaches, short stop for swimming and snorkeling as well as a visit to the hot springs.

Wooden Boat Tour to Volcano, Hot Springs, Thirassia & Oia

Includes a sailing tour of the Caldera Lagoon, swim into the Hot Springs and sail until the Island of Thirassia. Enjoy the scenery of the Caldera cliffs all along and reach the picturesque Port of Ammoudi in Oia where you will be dropped off for your visit to the village to appreciate the magnificent sunset!

Historic Heritage Tour, Including the Archaeological site of Akrotiri

The story of myths and reality collide. Akrotiri, this settlement was once destroyed by a huge vulcanic eruption and led to be believed as the lost city of Atlantis. Also visit the traditional village of Emborio with it's well preserved Venetian castle, Museum of Thira and ruins of the church in Perissa that gave the name to the island!



Eat & Walk Tour (Fira town)

An introduction to Greek food and a chance to meet and talk to local sellers. Taste local coffee, pies and street food while enjoying the views of the caldera and hidden paths of Fira town. Sample popular treats and desserts as well as olive oil tasting and local beverages.

Wine Road Tours

Visit family-owned wineries and sample over a dozen wines and learn about Santorini's indigenous grapes and unique vine-growing methods. Spend the day meeting the locals who love and cultivate their land.

ALTERNATIVE TRENDS

- Museum for Lost Atlantis with 9D (coming soon)
- Scuba Dive to see underwater wrecks & caves
- Hiking from Fira to Oia
- Destination Wedding & Honeymoon
- Photography Tours



SANTORINI FEATURED TOUR



GASTRONOMY & “BE A LOCAL” TOUR (7hr)

Visit traditional villages, meet locals, taste unique flavors and enjoy a cooking class!

Monday - Friday, 10.30am from April-October'19

MEGALOCHORI VILLAGE - A place filled with old world charm, historical mansions, wine canavas and pirate hideaways. Taste the local lifestyle with a coffee & mastic submarine.
Walking tour | Greek coffee | Masticha submarine (local sweet)

EMPORIO VILLAGE - The largest traditional settlement on the island, with stunning windmills on the hillside, whitewashed alleys, blue domed churches and medieval ruins.
Walking tour | Greek Spoon sweet | Local Treats

NOMIKOS ESTATE - We learn about the unique products grown on this island, the traditional methods and how the Mediterranean weather works together to produce world renown quality products. Meet the local experts, then taste the goods!
Local farming | Traditional products standardization unit | Local products degustation |
Interactive milling of fava

KOKKALO RESTAURANT - Get creative with the local ingredients in a cooking class. Learn the skills and recipes from a professional chef, and these are memories and tastes you can pass to your friends and family when you return home.
Cooking lesson | All inclusive exclusive menu | Experiential gastronomy class



Includes:

Hotel pick up/drop off!
All admission fees & entries!
The most Premium product tasting option
in every venue or village!
Surprise gift basket!

Special Gift basket:

Traditional bottles of wine (white & red)
Local handmade products (tomato-capers-aubergine
sauce, tomato jam, sundried tomatoes)
Limited production Santorinian Olive Oil
Wine opener, dropper & stopper

Inquire for price and availability.





CRETE ISLAND PEZA WINE ROADS TOUR

We will pick you from your hotel and off we go towards the Cretan countryside.

Our first stop is at the Lyrarakis Estate. We will wander through the privately owned vineyards and talk about the viticulture of the vines and the grape harvest. Then, we will go to the Estate's cellar and talk about the aging process.

In the tasting area, we will try 5 different wines, from Crete's most awarded winery.

We will continue our tour driving through the region of Peza with its numerous vineyards and olive groves.

After a short drive we will arrive at the charming village of Choudetsi, where our next stop is the elegant Rhous Winery. Here we will be welcomed by the owners-oenologists who will give our guests a tour of their vineyards and the winery. They will explain the entire process of winemaking from the selection of the grapes and the planting of the vines down to the vinification and the bottling. After a short visit to the cellar, where the wine is stored and aged, we will proceed to the tasting room, where we will taste 5 different wines.

Next it is time for lunch in a local family restaurant where you will savor the best from Cretan Cuisine, accompanied by a half a bottle of wine per person.

After lunch and the necessary Raki for the road, we will make our way back to our guests' accommodation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- AC private car or 19-seater bus
- An experienced guide
- Pick up and drop off to the hotel
- Admission to 2 wineries
- Tasting of 10 different Cretan wines
- 3 course lunch incl. half a bottle of wine



METEORA AND MONASTERIES TOUR



Many centuries ago, on these gigantic rocks reaching heights of close to 2,000 feet, one of the most important monastic communities of Greece was formed.

You will be picked up from your hotel in Kalambaka and escorted to this morning Tour of a UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

Enjoy a comprehensive Meteora tour, Transported in a luxury air conditioned vehicle on this tour to visit the cliff-top monasteries. Numerous photo stops at the best panoramic places with short walks during the excursion. Learn about local traditions, history and myths.



PLACES OF INTEREST

- >Kalambaka Town
- >Kastraki Village
- >6 Monasteries
- >Archaeological Sites & Museums
- >Landscape, Wildlife & Surrounding region
- >Outdoor Activities - rafting, hiking

NEW TOURS

- >1-2 Day Meteora tour by Train from Athens
- >Hiking Meteora's Caves
- >Sunset on Meteora Rocks
- >Photography Tour
- >Truffle Hunting in Meteora
- >Bike Tours (mountain bike and ebike)
- >Rock Climbing with guide
- >Private Food & Wine tours

*Contact to discuss Options - For Solo, Couples, Small Groups, Private and Organized Groups.



FEATURED HOTELS

- Deltas Boutique Hotel
- Petrino Guesthouse
- Iridanos Guesthouse
- Grand Meteora Hotel
- Divani Meteora
- Meteora Hotel Kastraki

HIKING THE SPARTAN TRAIL (PELOPONNESE)

Moderate to High fitness required Rustic Dwellings, and closer encounters with nature, the land and the people. The Spartan trail, as part of the European walking route E4 is a meeting point for naturalists, photography lovers, hikers, mountaineers and climbers from all over the world. Beautiful forests, fragrant shrubs, gorges and ravines make hiking here a fascinating experience. The peak of the mountain, prophet Elias boasting at 2407m is one of the biggest natural pyramids in the world.



LOCATION

The Peloponnese in south Greece, No other part combines scenic hiking trails in stupendous mountain scenery overlooking the sea with an incredible wealth of cultural heritage and notable archaeological sites and monuments.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 nights at guest houses & mountain huts
- 5 days of guided hiking on mount Taygetos
- Professional, English-speaking local guide
- All meals included
- Kalamata or Athens Airport transfers
- Local transfers and luggage transfers

Day 1 – Arrive in Sparta

Meet your guide at the airport (Kalamata) for a drive to your hotel in Mystras a suburb of Sparta.

Group briefing followed by a dinner together.

Day 2 – The Byzantine Town of Mystras

Hike starts from the castle town of Mystras built during the Byzantine period. Visit Byzantine churches, the palace of the last emperor, followed by the trail to the mountain village of Anavriti. Enjoy amazing view of Evrotas valley and the city of Sparta from a high ground. Dinner and overnight in a family owned guesthouse. Meet the host and enjoy the converstations. Trail distance: 12 kilometers

Accommodation: Family owned guesthouse

Day 3 – Hiking the E4 Trail

Today enjoy a 14 km at the trans-European E4 trail through an ancient forests as we move higher. We settle for the night at the mountain refuge at the foothills of the rocky pyramidal peak. The refuge keeper will join us for dinner and share his stories Trail distance: 15 kilometers | Ascend: 1200 meters

Time: 7 hours | Accommodation: Mountain Refuge

Day 4 - Hiking at the Summit

After breakfast we start a difficult and ultimately rewarding hike to the highest peak of the mountain at 2407 meters. Our summit is rewarded with spectacular views of the mountain range,into the Spartan valley of Evrotas and to the Mediterranean Sea. We settle for the night at the mountain hut preparing dinner by ourselves.

Trail distance: 12 kilometers | Ascend: 1100 meters

Time: 8 hours | Accommodation: Mountain Hut

Day 5 – Hiking the Royal Trail

Another serious and rewarding hiking day, towards Mani.

This part of the trail was frequently used by ancient Spartans. It passes through Vasiliki (Royal) forest , the dry gorge of Viros and to the seaside town of Kardamyli, we walk through old coble paths and olive groves revealing a glimpse of the olden way of life. Dinner is served by the sea. Enjoy the fresh local cuisine and wine

Trail distance: 19 kilometers |Descend: 1150 meters

Time: 8 hours | Accommodation: Family Owned Hotel

Day 6 – Departure

Our last day is a relaxing day where either we can take time to swim and explore the town of Kardamyli.

Transfers to your onward Destination

"In the footprints of Ancient Spartans"

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES & EVENTS

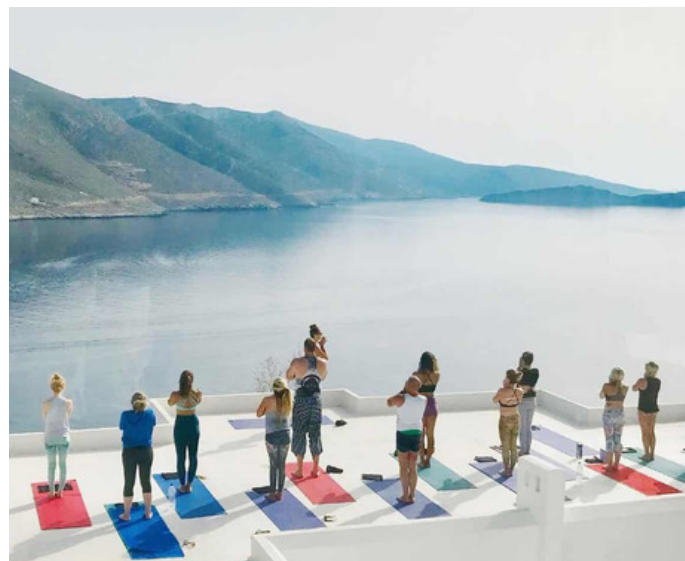
Greece is the ideal choice for corporate and private events. World class reputation and infrastructure for hotels, entertainment and services are on hand for all seasons and budgets. Our reputable network of partners will take care of every minute detail and will be on hand from start to completion.

Team Building and Events

Events for your company can be both motivational, competitive and fun!
5-star hotel venues for seminars and conferences as well as retreat centers to get in touch with nature.

Ideas for you next event:

- >Spartan challenge -trails and activities in nature
- >Treasure Hunts using ipads and apps
- >Modern Olympics races
- >Offroad Challenge on 4x4
- >Poseidon Challenge, activities by the coast
- >Escape room - enhance leadership and problem solving and team work
- >Annual races - Athens Marathon, Ironman, Messinia Golf, Santorini Experience



Aegialis Hotel & Spa

Yoga Retreats & Wellness Escapes

Whether you are a traveller looking to attend a retreat or an instructor looking to host your event.

Yoga & Pilates escapes

- >Venue with indoor & outdoor practice area
- >Specialty meals (vegan/ detox diets)
- >Activities and sightseeing
- >Travel assistance
- >Seminar / Meeting facilities

Our partner hotels and venue hosts are able to offer complete services for a successful retreat.

Impressive spaces for various size groups. Fully equipt with projector, sound system, refreshments and superior hotel facilities including pool, gym and spa!

WEDDING PACKAGES FOR CIVIL, RELIGIOUS & VOW RENEWAL

Our network of wedding planners and specialist services are on hand to assist with all your needs for intimate ceremonies as well as larger venue receptions. From chapels, beach, villas, poolside and more, we go beyond expectations to bring your dream wedding to life.

- Wedding Planner services
- Venue Sourcing
- Pre-ceremony meeting (upon arrival)
- Transfers in various options
- Decoration during ceremony and reception
- Wedding certificate
- Basket with rice or flower petal
- Catering
- Bridal bouquet
- Groom's boutonniere
- Live music & entertainment
- Photographer / Videographer
- Wine or Champagne for toast
- Hotel booking for guests
- and Every lil detail inbetween ...

UNIQUE DESTINATION WEDDINGS IN GREECE

A fairy tale wedding, at the highest point of Ioulida on the **Island of Kea** (pic right), at Villa Lefkothea with the chapel of Taxiarches (pictured left) has hosted weddings for over 4 generations. Additional stay at Kea Village Boutique Hotel for the wedding guests. Perfect venue for family and friends, in a authentic setting, with chapel, courtyard and villa for the couple.

By the vineyards, host the wedding reception at the stone-paved yards with breathtaking views sweeping you off your feet, as you look at the horizon...



Located in **Rethymno Crete** (pic above), the birth place of Xenios Zeus, sits Veneto Boutique Hotel, one of the most historical buildings in the Old town. A classy hotel and restaurant to host your special event. From christenings, weddings and conferences to private gatherings. The menu, the space layout, as well as every little detail is arranged to the highest quality.

The Restaurant is also popular for their "Cretan cuisine cooking courses" and "Wine Tastings". Among other distinctions, Veneto was awarded by Vinetum with golden award for its wine list.

UNIQUE DESTINATION WEDDINGS IN GREECE



Amorgos Island (pic above), one of the magical spots to seal your union. A truly traditional experience combined with all the modern luxuries for your comfort. Your dream Greek wedding with Traditional music, donkey ride, food, dances and Greek cultural heritage in an authentic setting.

Professional planners on hand to take care of your needs and 5-star reception and facilities at the Aegialis Hotel & Spa. Stunning panoramic seaview from you private jacuzzi in the Honeymoon suite. Amorgos is the perfect choice for sightseeing, tasting local delicacies, hiking, scuba and boat tours, traditional painting and cooking lessons. In summer there are ferry connections to Santorini & nearby islands.



Skopelos Island is a choice for those looking for a small authentic Greek Island feel. Famous as the destination where the **Mamma Mia** movie was filmed, it is now one of the most sought after wedding locations in Greece. True fans of the movie go so far as to play Abba songs at their reception, recreate the wedding decor and be the stars of their very own blockbuster movie wedding musical!

Whether you are a fan of the movie or not, there is no denying the islands breathtaking charm and friendly vibe. Best suited for those who want a more traditional style wedding, with many chapels to choose from around the island, the town hall, beach or wedding by the poolside.

You can be guaranteed the ideal 'Greek island wedding' of your dreams.



HONEYMOON FEATURE

KAPARI NATURAL RESORT IMEROVIGLI, SANTORINI



Kapari Natural Resort is an award-winning 5-star boutique hotel with 17 rooms & suites. Each, unique and offers a magnificent view of the caldera.

A 300-year-old, recently restored complex of traditional dwellings and houses, typical of the islands unique architecture, welcomes you with state-of-the-art personal services.

Kapari Honeymoon Suites are very spacious and feature specially designed bedrooms with walk-in dressing rooms, and a comfortable living room with Cycladic style fireplace.

The bathroom features master crafted built-in showers, an indoor Jacuzzi, and either a steam bath or a second outdoor Jacuzzi. A semi-private terrace with direct view of the caldera, completes the offering.

Gastronomic feasts await at the Kapari Wine Restaurant, where you can start your day with a gourmet breakfast and conclude the evening with a romantic dinner as you take in the world-famous Santorini sunset!

Well-located in the charming village of Imerovigli, it is 2 km from Fira, 8 km from Santorini Airport and 10 km from the port.

***Complimentary Honeymoon Package:**

- Mini Honeymoon cake
- Small flower arrangement
- Bottle of sparkling wine & fruits on arrival
- Breakfast in bed
- Honeymoon turndown service
- Nightly petit fours
- Late checkout (subject to availability)

***Wedding certificate of less than 1 year from travel date is required upon booking.**

A scenic view of a turquoise bay with a suspension bridge and a boat. The bridge's cables are visible, and a boat is partially seen on the left. The background features steep, rocky cliffs.

MULTI-DAY ITINERARIES

CITY + MAINLAND + ISLAND COMBOS

for Private & Organised Groups

ATHENS SIGHTSEEING & ACTIVITIES

Acropolis Museum

A guided tour of the New Acropolis Museum is a must, see artifacts from Ancient Greece at the height of its power. The Modernist building itself is a sight to behold, built right about relics you can admire through see through flooring!

3 island 1-day Cruise

Pack in a full day, by visiting 3 islands close to the city of Athens. Cruise to the islands of Hydra, Poros, and Aegina in the Saronic Gulf. Swim in crystal-clear waters off Hydra, admire neoclassical beach houses on Poros, and explore the pine-covered landscape of Aegina.



**"Athens
Top 10 Best European
Destinations for 2017
& 2018" (EBD)**

Athens Mythology Highlights Tour

See Athens' most important landmarks, and learn all about the myths behind them. Visit the majestic Acropolis, the Temple of Zeus, the Ancient Agora and find out their connection to the Greek gods and goddesses

Athens for Kids and Family

Various daily options to entertain the kids while teaching them about the history, myths and legends.

Guided by a specialist, tours can include treasure hunts, arts and crafts, food tasting all tailored for kids! Try the 3D-Tour of the Acropolis!

Temple of Poseidon and Cape Sounion Tour

Evening tour from Athens to Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon. Pass idyllic beaches as you leave Athens for some of the most important ruins of Ancient Greece. Your guide will fill you in on the history as you look out over Poseidon's sea, and the breathtaking sunset.

Alternative Themed Tours

SHOPPING TOUR - visit the flea market, famous shopping streets such as Ermou for brands like Zara, H&M and many local outlets, Antiques and bargain hunting around Monastiraki, Upscale brands in Kolonaki, Outlet malls and other specialty scores, including jewelry, souvenirs and vintage & local crafts.

GASTRONOMY TOUR - walking tours that show you the landmark sights while leisurely sampling local favourites along the way. Food and wine tastings, Cooking + Dinner experience. The range is wide for the budget traveler right down to tasting menus at Michelin restaurants.

WORKSHOPS - Dance, craft making, pottery, yoga and more. Numerous types are held throughout the year and will enrich your travels, while meeting like-minded people.

STREET ART / ARCHITECTURE / PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS - perfect for those artist in you.

CYCLE/eBIKE/SCOOTER/TRIKKE Sightseeing tours on wheels for the more adventurous!

ATHENS 1-Week Program (8 Days)

History, Gastronomy, Culture, Active-Outdoor, Shopping!

Suggested Sightseeing & Activities

- Day 1** Arrive in Athens, Athens Nightlife tour plus traditional dinner & music
- Day 2** Greek Mythology Tour + Acropolis Museum + Dinner in the Sky
- Day 3** Coastal Riviera Cycle Tour + Cape Sounio + Seafood dinner by the coast
- Day 4** Athens Gastronomy (Street Food tour, cooking, wine tasting, visit winery or alternatively visit farm and olive oil tasting)
- Day 5** Sailing Experience to Saronic Island on Traditional motor-sail boat



- Day 6** Athens Alternative tour - Street Art and Photography Tour + Fine-dining
- Day 7** Shopping - Bargain hunting at flea market, Shopping Malls, Strolling the Highstreets (International as well as local Greek designers), and Souvenirs
- Day 8** Reflect and relax, before heading to the airport. Till next time.





DAY 2: Day Cruise to 3 Islands

(Poros – Hydra – Aegina)

Early morning coach transfer to the Port to board the vessel at 07.30 a.m.

Discover the rich history, nature, traditions, local cuisine and cosmopolitan lifestyle of these sparkling gems of the Saronic Gulf. With choice of tours, knowledgeable guides, authentic Greek cuisine, shopping and entertainment. Each glorious island destination opens your appetite for a taste of local cuisine and delicacies. A live orchestra sets the stage for celebration with mood and dance music highlighted by a Greek Folk Dance Show as the sun sets over the sea and your cruise ship enters the harbour.

First stop, the cosmopolitan **Hydra Island**, with its cobblestone alleys, its unspoilt – over the centuries- unique architectural beauty, will make you fall in love at first sight. You will have time to visit the forts, art galleries, impressive mansions and stone houses, and a walk along the picturesque alleys fringed with colorful bougainvilleas in pink, deep purple, white and orange, capture the mood of this car-free island.

Next stop, is the port of **Poros**. A leafy island, with an insuperable natural beauty and thousands of pine trees, expanding from the steep beaches to the sandy beaches, making Poros the island of romance and calmness. We stay at Poros for 50 minutes.

Last stop, is the historical **Aegina**. The biggest island of the Saronic gulf, which took its name by the beautiful nymph that was kidnapped by Zeus. Aegina is well known across the world for the delicious pistachios, the beautiful beaches and the Temple of Afaia. Transfer to Athens

4 DAYS ATHEN, 1-DAY CRUISE, DELPHI & METEORA



Day 1: Athens, Full Day Sightseeing

Welcome to your first day in Athens.

You will be picked up from the hotel and onwards to start the tour of Athens, from visiting the Panathinaiko Stadium, where the first Olympic Games took place, to the famous Acropolis and many more.

In the evening there is the possibility to visit the breathtaking sunset over the Aegean Sea at Cape Sounio and the Temple of Poseidon. After sunset, we can head over to one of the coastal suburbs of Athens for dinner. Return at your hotel. Overnight in Athens



DAY 3: Athens - Delphi - Meteora

This morning, drive to Delphi, located on the slopes of Mount Parnasus, via Thebes, Levadia and the village of Arachova. In a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty Delphi, once believed as the centre, “Naval” of the Earth, is the home of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios. You will visit the Treasury of the Athenians, the temple of Apollo and the Delphi Museum, which hosts valuable pieces of Ancient Greek sculpture such as the bronze Charioteer and the famous athlete Aghias. After lunch depart via picturesque villages and towns of central Greece to Kalambaka.

DAY 4: Meteora - Athens

After breakfast, we visit two of the breathtaking monasteries of Meteora where you can see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art. Perched on huge granite rocks, the monasteries seem to suspend between earth and sky, providing a magnificent view. Enjoy lunch at local restaurant. Return to Athens bypassing Trikala, Lamia and Thermopylae with a stop to visit the memorial of Leonidas and the brave 300 Spartans.

8 DAYS
ATHEN, MYKONOS,
SANTORINI
DELPHI, METEORA



DAY 1 ATHENS

Upon arrival at Athens airport, and transfer to Athens center.
Optional City, shopping & gastronomy tour!

DAY 2 ATHENS – SANTORINI

At indicated time transfer to the port and to board a speed boat for Santorini. The main town of Fira will take your breath away with its white Cycladic houses lining the cliff tops and, in places, spilling down the terraced rock. When the sun sets, the reflection on the buildings and the glow of the orange and red in the cliffs can be truly spectacular. Upon arrival to Santorini proceed to restaurant for a Romantic Santorini style dinner with caldera views.

DAY 3 SANTORINI

After breakfast, start your island tour. A walking tour around its narrow streets of Fira and its typical small white churches with blue domes, restaurants and boutiques. Drive for lunch at the traditional village of Pyrgos, a village found at the highest point of Santorini, with panoramic views of the whole island all the way to the village of Oia. On the hilltop you can find ruins of Kasteli Castle, one of the five 'kastelia' on the island. Then to Oia Village, best known for its breathtaking sunsets. Enjoy your Sunset dinner and after sunset transfer back to your hotel for overnight.

DAY 4 SANTORINI – MYKONOS

At indicated time transfer to Santorini port for your ferry to the Island of Mykonos. Enjoy your free time of the cosmopolitan Mykonos town or Chora. Admire numerous little whitewashed chapels, windmills, little Venice, captains and fishermen houses as well as a charming and ambient labyrinth of stores including restaurants and taverns, bistros and bakeries, bars and clubs.

DAY 5 MYKONOS

Enjoy your day on one of the Islands' beautiful sandy beaches, or take an optional tour to Delos, an islet of the Aegean, an important archaeological site, the legendary birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.

DAY 6 MYKONOS – ATHENS

Transfer to Mykonos port for your ferry to Athens. Upon arrival, free at own leisure.

DAY 7 DELPHI – KALAMBAKA

From Athens we drive to Delphi, located on the slopes of Mount Parnasus. You will visit the Treasury of the Athenians, the temple of Apollo and the Delphi Museum. After lunch depart via picturesque villages and towns of central Greece to Kalambaka.

DAY 8 METEORA – ATHENS

After breakfast, Visit two of the breathtaking monasteries of Meteora where you can see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art. Perched on huge granite rocks, the monasteries seem to suspend between earth and sky, providing a magnificent view.
Return trip to Athens in the evening bypassing Trikala, Lamia and Thermopylae with a stop to visit the memorial of Leonidas and the brave 300 Spartians. Return to Athens for overnight stay or departure

*****This itinerary can also be arranged to visit the mainland first (Delphi, Meteora) and islands after.***



GROUP ITINERARY

15 DAYS ATHENS, CRETE ISLAND IMMERSION with SANTORINI ISLAND

Day 1 Arrive in Athens

Walking tour + Welcome dinner

Day 2 Welcome to Chania, Crete

Transfer to airport for domestic flight to Chania Crete. Chania Tour, visit olive oil farm, including tasting and learning how the olives are cultivated and pressed & enjoy local Cretan dinner

Day 3 Chania

Visit Aghia Triada monastery, Akrotiri and spectacular bay & Cycling tour of Chania

Day 4 Chania

A full day adventure awaits! Samaria Gorge tour, one of the most popular highlights of Crete & boatride to Agiou Roumeli and lunch before returning to hotel.

Day 5 Chania

Private cruise to Gramvousa Island & visit the famous Balos lagoon (pic below), impressive emerald waters and one of the best beaches in all of Greece.

Day 6 Rethymno

A days full of immersive experiences! Aptera Visit, Lake Kournas & Agreco farm visit with lunch and cooking demonstration

Day 7 Rethymno

Preveli Monastery and tour of Fragokastello castle. End the day with food tasting local 'mezedes' with Traditional dance & music!

Day 8 Elounda

Phaestos Visit, lunch at Matala, Knossos

Day 9 Elounda

Spinalonga Island and Agios Nikolaos

Day 10 Elounda

Toplou Monastery, Vai beach, Winery visit

Day 11 Heraklion

City tour & Archaeological museum



Day 12 Crete - Santorini

Catch the morning ferry from Heraklion to Santorini. Spend the afternoon walking around Fira town admiring the views and window shopping, the transfer in time to watch sunset the sunset at Oia while enjoying a romantic dinner and wine tasting or non-alcoholic gastronomy tastings.

Day 13 Santorini

Half day Island tour. Discover traditional villages, gastronomy tasting and visiting the red and black sand beaches unique to the island! Optional Visit to Akrotiri archaeological tour /Sunset cruise

Day 14 Santorini – Athens

Back to Athens by ferry or air. Alternative evening tour to visit hidden streets and alleys of Athens, art galleries around town and spend the evening in nearby areas of Gazi, Psyri, or Koukaki sipping a cocktail. Modern fine - dining experience or Dinner in the sky, with a unique view of Athens!

Day 15 Farewell from Athens

Final day! Transfer to airport with stop at outlet mall shopping before departure!



MORE ITINERARY COMBINATIONS

1-3 Nights Athens City Breaks

+ Day trip options : 1 Day Cruise to 3 islands, Delphi Full Day, Meteora by train, Cape Sounio, + 1 Overnight options: Delphi+Meteora, Argolis (overnight Nafplio), Aegina Island, Evia Island.

5 Days Peloponnese History & Culture

Ancient Corinth - Nemea - Nafplio - Ancient Epidaurus - Tripoli - Sparta - Mystras - Ancient Olympia

7 Days Adventure and Nature (land tour)

Athens, Plastiras Lake, Elati, Pertouli, Zagori, Vitsa, Vikos-Aoos National Park, Meteora

8 - 9 Days Athens + Mainland (all year)

Athens, Corinth, Mycenae, Epidaurus, Nafplio, Olympia, Patra, Delphi, Thermopylae, Kalambaka, Meteora

8 Day - 'Footsteps of St Paul' Tour

Thessaloniki, Kavala, Kalambaka, Athens
Highlights (including 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites) -Mt. Athos by sea, Phillipi, Amphipolis, Veria, Vergina, The Monasteries of Meteora, Ancient Corinth and more

11 Day Athens + Ionian - Cyclades Islands

Highlights : Athens Sightseeing, Corinth Canal, Kalavryta, Olympia, Zakynthos Island (Navagio Shipwreck beach), Blue Caves tour, Santorini Island, Mykonos Island, Athens

11 Day Cultural Greece + Corfu

Athens, Epidavros, Nafplio, Mycenae, Olympia, Amfilochia, Preveza, Nikopolis, Igoumenitsa, Corfu, Ioannina, Metsovo, Meteora, Portaria, Thermopylae, Delphi, Galaxides
+optional island Extension (Santorini)

12 Days Best of Greece (mainland + island)

Athens, Thermopylae, Meteora, Kalambaka, Delphi, Olympia, Mycenae, Nafplio, Epidavros, Corinth, Mykonos & Santorini Islands

Island Hopping Combinations

**subject to ferry route and schedule availability*

6+ Days or more

Athens - Mykonos - Santorini
Athens - Mykonos - Paros or Naxos
Athens - Mykonos - Ios
Athens - Mykonos - Milos
Athens - Santorini - Paros or Naxos
Athens - Santorini - Amorgos or Folegandros
Athens - Santorini - Ios
Athens - Santorini - Milos
Athens - Santorini - Crete

9+ Days or more

Athens - Santorini - Folegandros - Milos
Athens - Lefkada - Kefalonia - Ithaki
Athens - Rhodes - Simi - Kos - Kalymnos
Athens - Skiathos - Skopelos - Alonissos
Athens - Paros/Naxos/Mykonos, Santorini, Crete

Cruise Combinations

8 Day Archaeological & History Cruise

onboard a 49 passenger MotorSailer
Highlights include: Mycenae, Delphi, Ancient Olympia, Corinth Canal crossing, Ancient Epidavros, Nafplion, Pylos *FullBoard Meals

3 night cruise

Destinations: Mykonos (Greece), Kusadasi (Turkey), Patmos (Greece), Heraklion (Greece), Santorini (Greece) & Piraeus (Greece)

4 night cruise

Destinations: Mykonos (Greece), Kusadasi (Turkey), Patmos (Greece), Rhodes (Greece), Heraklion (Greece), Santorini (Greece) & Piraeus (Greece)

7 night cruise

Destinations: Mykonos (Greece), Milos (Greece), Santorini (Greece), Heraklion (Greece), Kusadasi (Turkey) & Piraeus (Greece)



GENERAL COUNTRY INFO

Greece /Ελλάδα (Hellenic Republic)

Climate: Mediterranean

Temperature Averages (Celsius)

April, Nov 10-16

May, Oct 15-22

June, Sept 22-28

July, Aug 27-35

*Weather conditions have been known to fluctuate therefore it is advisable to check the forecast a week or two before your travel dates to be certain what to pack.

The international calling code of Greece is +30

Exchange Currency – Euro.

Power plugs and sockets: type C and F.

The standard voltage is 230 V and frequency is 50 Hz.

Generally it is safe to drink water from the tap in Athens and cities on the mainland, it is better to ask when you check in. On Greek Islands it is **not** advisable to drink water from the tap. Bottled water which is fairly cheap is the best option.

Time Greece: GMT +2

Emergency numbers:

-Ambulance Service: 166

-Doctors : 1016

-Duty Hospitals and Clinics, Pharmacies: 1434

-Police: 100, 1033

-Airport Police +30 210 – 3536919

-Tourist Police: 1571, 171

VISA requirements : www.mfa.gr

#From 2021 ETIAS visa requirements : www.etiasvisa.com

VIVAELLADA
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