

Greece Private Journey

ANCIENT ATHENS AND ISLAND EXCURSIONS ON PAROS AND SANTORINI



Wilderness Travel

Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 9 days
Arrive: Athens, Greece
Depart: Athens, Greece
Lodging: 8 nights charming hotels
Meals: Meals as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
Activity: Family Trips, Cultural, Walking, Hiking & Trekking
Trip Level: 1 ② ③ 4 5 6
Walking tours, with optional sea kayaking, hiking, and boating

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Acropolis complex in Athens with a private guide
- Visit two of the most stunning islands in the Cyclades: Paros and Santorini, with their whitewashed villages, blue-domed churches, and island culture
- Customize your days to fit your interests: sea kayak, hike, sail aboard a catamaran, enjoy a cooking class, wine tasting, and more!
- Stay in welcoming hotels and resorts, with optional upgrades

Introduction



ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and enjoy the WT touch on all aspects of the journey.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN DATES

April to June and September to Early October

Immerse yourself in the allure of Greece on this Private Journey combining history, culture, and exciting optional activities. In Athens, explore the iconic Acropolis, savor the city's culinary treasures, and paddle a kayak through crystal-clear waters along the Athenian coastline. On Paros, a postcard-perfect isle of whitewashed villages, options include cooking classes, scenic hikes, or a relaxing day aboard a traditional fishing boat. Your grand finale is picturesque Santorini, with its dramatic caldera, ancient settlements, and stunning sunsets. Overnights are in atmospheric hotels known for their ideal locations and splendid amenities. Each day promises unforgettable experiences steeped in Greek culture and beauty, with endless possibilities to lengthen or shorten your time in each destination, based on your trip interests.

Itinerary



Overnight: Electra Palace (or Royal Olympic Hotel)

With an ideal location in the center of the Plaka, this hotel is the perfect introduction to Athens. Guest rooms are spacious and quiet, with nice views of the area. For full panoramas of the city, head to the rooftop, where sweeping vistas of the Acropolis seem so close you can almost touch it. The hotel also has a rooftop pool and restaurant, as well as a spa and fitness center.

Meals: B, L (Days 2-3)

DAYS 1-3 ATHENS

Arrive in Athens and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at your leisure. The following morning, set out for a tour of the Acropolis and enjoy a private guided tour of its museum, with its fine display of artifacts. The Acropolis is home to some of the best-preserved examples of Greek architecture dating back to the 5th century BC. Its location, perched on a rocky outcrop, reveals sweeping views of the city. You'll have time to wander amid its ruins, including its most famous structure, the Parthenon. After lunch, opt to relax at the hotel or continue your explorations with a foodie tour of Athens. With a guide, visit vibrant markets, sample traditional Greek cuisine from artisans, and explore lesser-visited shops popular with the locals on this insider's guide to the culinary scene of Athens. The next day, you can enjoy a full-day hiking journey in the mountains of Parintha or a sea kayaking adventure to the Temple of Poseidon, where you'll paddle over crystal-clear waters, tracing coastal cliffs and exploring natural arches and caves before relaxing on a secluded beach. If you prefer two half-day activities, options include a cruise on the Athens Riviera aboard a catamaran, with stops for swimming and snorkeling; a hike through olive groves along the Mount Ymittos Byzantine Trail to one of the greatest Byzantine monasteries; and a hike on the hills of Athens to a number of sites including the impressive arch of Hadrian's Gate and the smaller Temple of Zeus, dedicated to the head of the Olympian gods (the main Temple of Zeus still stands in Olympia).

City Tour Details: 4 hours

Food Tour Details: 3 hours

Kayaking Details: 8 hours, no prior experience necessary

Catamaran Details: 5 hours

Hiking Details: 7.5 hours (Parintha), 3 hours (Byzantine Trail), 4 hours (Hills of Athens)

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Senia (or Astir of Paros)

This boutique hotel has one of the best views in Naousa, with wonderfully decorated air-conditioned guest rooms or apartments. Enjoy relaxing on the terrace or take a dip in their infinity-edge pools overlooking the water. The staff is friendly and the hotel offers a nice breakfast with pastries, omelettes made to order, and local produce.

Meals: B, D (Day 4); B, L (Day 5)

Ferry Details: 4 hours (Day 4)

DAYS 4-5 PAROS

A morning ferry ride brings you to Paros, a picturesque island with whitewashed villages, blue-domed churches, and bustling fishing harbors full of wonderful tavernas. Upon arriving, enjoy lunch on your own, explore the fishing village of Naousa, shop for artisanal ware, and relax on the beach or at the hotel. In the early evening, you have the opportunity to experience the heart of Greek culture with a cooking class. Learn how to cook some of the chef's grandmother's delicious recipes such as spanikopita and dolmades (and savor some of your own creations, of course!). The following day, you have two exciting options. The first is a hike beginning with a stroll through the traditional village of Lefkes, with a stop for lunch, then following a Byzantine trail framed by wonderfully aromatic herbs and flowers to a beach. Refresh with a dip in the sea and relax on the beach before returning. The other option is a day cruise on a traditional fishing boat, weather permitting. Explore hidden caves and natural arches off the coast of Mastichari, visit a *ksoklísi* (small blue-domed orthodox church) and the open-air museum of Despotiko, with its temple ruins of Apollo and Hestia, and stop for dips in the sparkling sapphire sea. Lunch is provided on board before returning.

Hiking Details: 3 hours

Cruising Details: 7 hours, with stops for swimming and lunch (Day 5)

Itinerary



**Overnight: El Greco Resort & Spa
(or Splendour Resort Santorini)**

Located just a short walk from Fira, along with shops and restaurants and famous sites, this hotel is an ideal base for exploring Santorini. Guest rooms have nice beds and clean bathrooms. Grab a drink at the pool bar and relax poolside—the hotel has five different pools to choose from, offering both indoor and outdoor options.

Meals: B, D (Day 6); B, L (Day 7)

Ferry Details: 4 hours (Day 6)

DAYS 6-7 SANTORINI

Behold the stunning sight of Santorini's dramatic five-mile-wide caldera as you approach the island on the morning ferry. In the afternoon, head out on an optional activity (listed below) or enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. The next day, visit Akrotiri, a Minoan archaeological site and one of the best-preserved ancient settlements in the Aegean. You can walk amid multi-story buildings decorated with elaborate murals and see their impressive drainage system dating back 4,000 years. After lunch, choose one of the optional activities.

Sunset Sea Kayak & Light Dinner (5 hours): Paddle to Kampia Beach to snorkel in the golden light. As you head back, savor a stunning sunset over the water, then enjoy a post-kayak dinner in a taverna.

Caldera Trail Hike & Sunset (5 hours): From the city of Fira (Phira), with its striking Cycladic architecture—whitewashed flat-roofed houses with blue doors, domed churches, and verandas spilling over with flowers—hike the famous Fira-Oia path, with stops in the lovely village of Imerovigli and to watch the glorious sunset.

Night Hike, Wine Tasting, and Dinner (3 hours): Set out before sunset to walk to the church of Three Bells of Fira, then continue hiking to Imerovigli for dinner at a local restaurant, including sampling four different Santorini volcanic wines.

Cooking Class and Easy Hike (4 hours): From Akrotiri, hike near vineyards with views of the caldera in the distance, ending on a beach where you'll meet your chef who will lead you on a culinary journey with a lovely homemade meal.

Wine and Food Pairing at Sigalis Winery (2 hours): Visit Domaine Sigalas, a winery nestled on the scenic plains in the village of Oia, for an informative (and delicious) wine and food pairing.

Note: If you wish, Naxos can be substituted for Santorini (or added on as an extension). Contact our Greece Specialists for more details.

Itinerary



DAY 8 ATHENS

A short flight from Santorini to Athens grants you most of the day to enjoy at your leisure in the capital city. If you wish, you can opt for one of the afternoon activities listed on Days 1-3 (an “on your own” expense).

Overnight: Electra Palace (or Royal Olympic Hotel)

With an ideal location in the center of the Plaka, this hotel is the perfect introduction to Athens. Guest rooms are spacious and quiet, with nice views of the area. For full panoramas of the city, head to the rooftop, where sweeping vistas of the Acropolis seem so close you can almost touch it. The hotel also has a rooftop pool and restaurant, as well as a spa and fitness center.

Meals: B, L

Flight Details: 50 minutes

Meals: B

DAY 9 DEPART

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your homeward-bound flight.

Pricing

TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy
2025**

\$7,895 (2-6 members)

Single supplement: \$950

Please contact us for future years' pricing

Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option crafted by our Area Specialists to showcase the best of each destination. While many travelers book this tour as is, our specialists can help customize it to fit your interests and travel style. We can adjust the duration, add extensions, include special activities, and customize excursions. Contact us to explore your options!

PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: 25% of trip cost

90 days prior to departure: Balance

Please note that this differs from our standard policy.

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: 25% of trip cost

90 days or less: 100% of trip cost

Please note that this differs from our standard policy.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a private guide
- Accommodations in hotels and resorts
- Meals as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- All ground transportation and ferries from meeting until departure
- Flight from Santorini to Athens

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to guide or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)
- Any activities and services described as an upgrade or optional
- Hotel tax

SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended as accommodations can sell out quickly. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred travel dates and how many people will be in your group so we can check availability and send you a proposal itinerary with pricing. We can hold a provisional booking for one week, after which a deposit is required to secure your spot. Once we receive your deposit, we'll send a Welcome Packet with your confirmation letter, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet. See our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for payment details. If you have any questions, or wish to start the booking process, please call 1-800-368-2794 or email

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Suggested Airport: Athens International Airport
Eleftherios Venizelos (ATH)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: On Day 2, meet your Trip Leader at your hotel at 9:00 am.

DEPARTURE

Date & Time: Day 9, anytime

Suggested Airport: Athens International Airport
Eleftherios Venizelos (ATH)

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Greece. There are many online consolidator websites for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most farflung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a **Level 2-3 (Easy to Moderate)** according to our trip grading system, with optional activities including sea kayaking, hiking, and boating on most days.

GETTING IN SHAPE

For your own enjoyment, we recommend you make a special effort to be in good physical condition for the trip. Daily walking and/or regular hiking (or using a stair-climbing machine at your gym) are excellent preparatory exercises.

WEATHER

Weather in Greece has a typical Mediterranean climate, with warm, sunny summers and mild, rainy winters. Daytime temperatures in the summer peak in the high 80s°F to low 90s°F, while the winter temperature rarely drops below 50°F.

CUISINE

The delicious cuisine of these islands comes straight from the land or the sea. Please note that in Greece, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for meals that are included in the itinerary, but most often the evening meal will be at 8:00 pm.

TRANSPORTATION

All transfers are by private vehicle except for some optional activities. Travel between islands is by ferry (or high-speed catamaran, if it is available); ferry rides are likely to be an average of 4 to five hours. Ferry rides may take longer due to weather or schedule changes. We do our best to use the fastest ferries, but this is not always possible. There are many opportunities for swimming on this trip.

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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Wilderness Travel

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