

# Hiking in the Greek Isles

HIDDEN TRAILS AND GOLDEN BEACHES OF THE CYCLADES



Wilderness Travel





## Hiking in the Greek Isles

### TRIP DATES

#### 2024

May 19-31, 2024

June 2-14, 2024

June 16-28, 2024

September 1-13, 2024

September 19-October 1, 2024

#### 2025

May 18-30, 2025

June 1-13, 2025

June 15-27, 2025

September 1-13, 2025

September 15-27, 2025

Greece casts a spell, with its honey-colored isles surrounded by azure seas. In the archipelago of the Cyclades, named for the circle it forms in the turquoise waters of the Aegean, we hike on Tinos, Naxos, and rugged Amorgos, each island its own distinctive realm of bougainvillea-draped villages and cobbled pathways above the sea. As we hike past blue-domed churches, up to cliff-perched monasteries, and to tiny whitewashed villages, the good life of Greece surrounds us. Our Greek Trip Leaders are famously passionate about food, and along the way, they'll introduce us to a mouth-watering array of seasonal and local treats.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1 ATHENS

Arrive in Athens and meet with the Trip Leader at 7:00 pm in the hotel lobby for a trip orientation and a Welcome Dinner at the hotel's rooftop restaurant, with great views of the Acropolis. Overnight at a hotel that's just steps from the pedestrian-only Plaka area...D

## DAY 2 ATHENS / TINOS

We set out for a city tour, visiting the Acropolis and enjoying a guided tour of its museum, with its fine display of artifacts. Later, we head to the port of Rafina and have lunch, then travel by boat to the beautiful island of Tinos. The island's port and capital, Hora (or Tinos Town), is a quintessential Greek harbor town with plenty of color in its tavernas, shops, and cafes. Tinos is a famed Christian pilgrimage site, the "Lourdes" of Greece, and we may see pilgrims praying at the imposing Church of Panagia Evangelistria, inside of which stands a revered icon of the Madonna. Overnight at hotel in Chora...BLD

Travel Details: 1 hour drive to Rafina; 4 hours by ferry to Tinos

## DAY 3 TINOS: EXOMVOURGO

On this island of beautiful beaches and traditional whitewashed hamlets, we hike a kalderimia, or cobbled mule path, to picturesque whitewashed villages including Ktikados. The huge dovecotes (white stone towers built for nesting doves) decorating these old villages are considered architectural masterpieces. We continue our hike on the old Roman road up to Exomvourgo, the great Venetian fortress of Santa Elena, which offers us superb views over the neighboring islands. Within the fortress walls are ruined medieval houses and three churches. We descend by way of the pretty village of Falatados, where we have our lunch, then head back to Chora by private bus, with an opportunity for a refreshing afternoon swim. Overnight in Chora...BLD

Travel Details: 3-4 hours, 6.25 miles, 1,900 feet ascent, 400 feet descent;  
Driving time: 30 minutes

## DAY 4 TINOS: PYRGOS / PANORMOS

From the village of Isteria, we hike to Pyrgos, one of Tinos' most beautiful villages, renowned since ancient times. This is where the marble for some of the most important sculptures and buildings in Greece was quarried and sculpted, including the Parthenon. The village's artisans were renowned for their skill, and the art still thrives here today, in the dozens of small workshops throughout the village that attract craftsmen from all over Greece. We'll explore the narrow alleyways past houses where bougainvillea blooms in brilliant shades of magenta and red against the whitewashed houses. Marble carving is seen everywhere here, in churches, fountains, and cemetery headstones. If time allows, we'll visit the museum of marble, with its fascinating exhibits on how the stone was quarried and carved in Hellenic times. A stop at a café



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	13 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Athens, Greece
<b>Depart:</b>	Athens, Greece
<b>Lodging:</b>	12 nights hotels and country inns
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included except 1 lunch and 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Archaeology, Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking
<b>Trip Level:</b>	<b>1 2 3+ 4 5 6</b> 7 hiking days on moderate to strenuous trails, some steep sections, 3-6 hours a day, van support

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike village to village along island pathways of Tinos, Naxos, and Amorgos
- Savor the delightfully authentic and homemade dishes of each island
- Swim in the beautiful coves of the blue Aegean
- Enjoy a wonderful immersion into the culture and history of Greece with our exuberant Trip Leaders

## Itinerary (cont'd)



*"I will never forget this experience. It was everything I had hoped for: the chance to be outdoors in nature, adventure, fun, and beyond that, an opportunity to lose myself completely in the beauty of the country and the warmth of its people. Your company is great to work with, as always. This was my third and favorite trip so far, and I'm not done yet!"*

*Cathy C., Sonoma, CA*

in the leafy town square will give us the chance to savor a coffee and baklava before heading out for our hike. The trail leads right from the village of Pyrgos, descending in sinuous curves past small farms and terraced fields, leading us down to a broad bay and the exquisite village of Panormia, stretched along the azure blue waters of the Aegean. A swim at the beach is definitely in order before our lunch at a seaside taverna, and we'll cross the island to return to our hotel in the afternoon...BL

Hiking Details: 3 hours, 5 miles, 825 feet ascent, 825 feet descent; Driving Time: 1 hour

### DAY 5

#### TINOS: FALATADOS / LIVADA

We start our hike at Falatados, a picturesque town with a traditional main square, following the kalderimia to the beach at Livada, with a swim stop to enjoy its green rock formations and inviting crystal-clear waters. After lunch, we return to Hora. This afternoon those who are interested can visit the famous pilgrim church of Panagia Evangelistria, whose outline dominates the town. It is fascinating to peruse the courtyards and stalls full of candles and tin holy-water bottles. Inside the church itself is a grand marble staircase leading to a gold-encrusted icon of the Virgin Mary glimmering amid the smoke of candles and incense. Parents from all over Greece bring their children here for baptism in the church's font. Overnight in Chora...BLD

Hiking Details: 3 hours, 5 miles, 1,520 feet descent; Driving time: 1 hour

### DAY 6

#### NAXOS: NAXOS TOWN

Crossing the blue Aegean by ferry, we reach mountainous Naxos, Lord Byron's favorite Greek island, the largest in the Cyclades, with its olive groves and vineyards. Between the 13th and 16th centuries, the Venetian Duchy of the Aegean left a legacy of fortified mansions and towers all across the island, and many villages have distinctive Venetian-style architecture. Our afternoon walk follows the steep, twisting lanes of Naxos' old districts above the modern town. The high-walled kastro, or old fortified section of Naxos, still has one of its original Venetian towers and a magnificent medieval gate, along with splendid mansions with Venetian coats-of-arms. Overnight in Naxos Town...BLD  
Travel to Naxos: 2 hours by catamaran or 3 hours by ferry, depending on the time of departure

### DAY 7

#### NAXOS: MOUNT ZAS / FILOTI

Starting from the Chapel of Aghia Marina, we hike a path up Mount Zas (for Zeus), at 3,284 feet the highest peak on Naxos and the highest point in the Cyclades Islands. Atop of the peak, there are unbelievable views across Naxos and its neighboring islands. Our lunch today is in the lovely old village of Filoti at the end of the Tragea plateau, lush with fruit and olive orchards. We return to Naxos Town by bus in the late afternoon...BLD

Hiking Details: 5 hours, 7.5 miles, 2,050 feet ascent, 2,050 feet descent; Driving time: 1 hour



## DAY 8

### NAXOS: APANO KASTRO

After breakfast we depart by bus to Tsikalario, an old village dating from the 12th century. As we begin our hike, we pass an ancient cemetery from the Mycenaean period, then continue to Apano Kastro, a fortress of antiquity perched on a rocky hilltop with wonderful views of the sea. The remains we see today, including parts of a huge wall, palace, church, and rock-cut cisterns, were originally built by the Venetians in the 13th century. After exploring the fortress, we head downhill to the beautiful village of Potamia (named for the local springs), then soon come to an old quarry with a broken statue of Couros dating back to the early 6th century BC. We transfer back to Naxos Town for lunch and an afternoon guided tour of Naxos Old Town. We visit the Kato Kastro, a medieval-era castle, and arrive at the famous Portara (“Great Door”—an uncompleted temple from 506 BC), from where we can admire a glorious sunset. Dinner is on your own this evening. Overnight at hotel...BL  
Hiking Details: 3-4 hours hiking, 7 miles (morning), 2-3 hours, 4 miles (afternoon), 1,476 feet ascent, 650 feet descent; Driving time: 15 minutes

## DAY 9

### AMORGOS: KATAPOLA / THOLARIA

If there is sufficient free time this morning before we catch our ferry, we recommend a visit to the local archaeological museum. Later, we take a small ferry boat to Amorgos. The ferry stops at various small islands en route to Amorgos, then arrives at Katapola, Amorgos’ port, set in a horseshoe-shaped bay. Here we board a bus to head to the northeast side of the island, where we overnight in the ancient hill village of Tholaria, with its beautiful houses and tiled archways. Tholaria was named for the vaulted tholos tombs built here during the Hellenistic period. Overnight in Tholaria...BLD  
Travel Details: Ferry boat to Amorgos from Naxos: 5 hours

## DAY 10

### AMORGOS: PANAGIA PANOHORIANI / AGIOS THEOLOGOS / LANGADA

Amorgos, easternmost of the Cyclades Islands, is an island of golden beaches and crystal-clear waters. Luc Besson’s *The Big Blue* was filmed here; the shipwreck *Olympia*, which figured prominently in the film, lies to the west of the island. A well-designed network of cobbled mule paths connects villages on this island, and these traditional routes provide us with a wonderful opportunity for hikes. Our hike follows a stone path to the monastery of Panagia Panohoriani, then further up past the frescoed church at Stavros to the Agios Theologos monastery, built in the 8th century and recently restored. We continue along spectacular cliffs above the Aegean for fantastic views, then descend through a lovely village of Langada and to the beach at Egiali for an optional swim. Overnight at Tholaria...BLD  
Hiking Details: 5 hours, 8.75 miles, 1,320 feet ascent, 1,920 feet descent



“This was absolutely one of the best trips I have ever taken in my life. I loved every second of it and did not want to come home!”

*Jenny G., San Diego, CA*





*"I describe this to my friends as a trip in which I hiked and ate my way across the Greek Islands. The food was awesome, the hiking was beautiful, and the leaders were outstanding!"*

*Gwynne W., Lebanon, NJ*

## DAY 11

### AMORGOS: LANGADA / MT. KRIKELOS

Langada is one of the prettiest villages on Amorgos, with whitewashed houses and stone-paved alleyways in a natural amphitheater. From Langada, we hike up to the area of Mt. Krikelos (2,200'), where we find the ruins of one of the oldest windmills in the Cyclades. We descend to Langada for coffee in the village, then continue to the beautiful beach of Levrossos, where we have lunch in a small restaurant and a chance to swim in the sea. Overnight at Tholaria...BLD  
Hiking Details: 4 hours, 7 miles, 1,980 feet ascent, 2,574 feet descent

## DAY 12

### AMORGOS: HOZOVIOTISSAS MONASTERY / AMORGOS TOWN

A short ride by private bus brings us to Xenodochioa, where we begin our hike by following a lovely cliffside footpath that offers incredible views of the blue Aegean. Our trail brings us to the grand monastery of Hozoviotissas, an 11th century fortress in gleaming white. It enjoys a spectacular location, clinging to a towering red cliff 300 feet above the sea. It was originally built around 1017 and renovated in 1088 by the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus. After we visit the monastery, our hike brings us to the old town of Amorgos (Hora), with its windmills, narrow streets, and small chapels. Lunch is in Hora, with a bus ride back to Tholaria. Tonight we gather for our festive Farewell Dinner...BLD  
Hiking Details: 3 hours, 4 miles, 894 feet ascent; Driving time: 1 hour

## DAY 13

### NAXOS / ATHENS / DEPART

We take an early morning ferry, stopping in Naxos, then continue to Athens, arriving in the midafternoon. There is also the option to fly to Athens from Naxos (at additional cost—this would be part of your international air ticket). Depart on homeward-bound flights from Athens...B  
Travel Details: Ferry boat to Athens from Amorgos (via Naxos): 8 hours

Note: If you plan to extend your travels elsewhere throughout the islands, such as Santorini, the Trip Leader will be happy to help plan your ferry journey from Naxos, which is a well-connected, central island.

# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

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## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$5595 (8-12 members)

\$5995 (4-7 members)

Single supplement: \$370

*2025 Trip Cost: Please call for details*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Europe by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Euro. In the late spring of 2023, when we set the rates for our 2024 program, the US Dollar equaled 1.0 Euros. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Euros, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Euro were to rise in value, the land price would rise less than might be expected, and if the Euro were to fall, the drop in trip cost would also be less than might be expected.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides, special guides at archaeological sites
- Accommodations in hotels
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 2 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Wine or beer with dinner
- Entrance fees to sites
- Ground and boat transportation from meeting until departure as noted

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, transfers to/from airports, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors; pre-trip expense of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance or passports; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

## 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](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

# Archaeological Sites of Classical Greece Extension

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Get a glimpse of ancient Greece as you discover the wondrous archaeological sites of Delphi, Olympia, Mycenae, and Epidaurus. This can be done as either a pre-trip or post-trip extension.

## DAY 1

### ATHENS / DELPHI

From Athens, head to the stunning archaeological site of Delphi, set on the terraced slopes of Mount Parnassus and encircled by craggy peaks. Delphi is the home of the legendary Oracle of Delphi, the priestess of Apollo, whose prophecies of the future influenced many decisions, from the most advantageous time for farmers to plant their crops to when decisive battles should be fought. After checking into your hotel, and time permitting, take a walk to a viewpoint for a spectacular vista of Delphi and its haunting setting. (We recommend you arrive in Athens no later than 3:00 pm to meet the transfer.) Overnight at hotel...D

Driving Time: 3-3.5 hours

Walking Details: 2.5 hours, 900 feet ascent/descent

## DAY 2

### DELPHI / OLYMPIA

In the morning, enjoy a guided tour of Delphi, walking along the Sacred Way up to the Temple of Apollo and beyond to the 4th century BC amphitheater, which once held an audience of 5,000. A path through pine groves leads to the stadium, where we can easily imagine heroics of the Pythian Games, the precursors of the Olympics. After lunch, head to Olympia, a sanctuary that was the site of the Olympic Games in classical times. Dinner and overnight in Olympia at hotel...BLD

Driving Time: 3.5 hours

## DAY 3

### OLYMPIA / NAFPLION

In the morning, enjoy a guided tour of the archaeological site in Olympia, with its many treasures, Temples of Hera and Zeus, and the Pelopion, an enclosed small mound of sacrificial ashes. Departing Olympia, head to Vytina village, set on the slopes of Mt. Mainalo (6,516'), for a delicious lunch, then continue to the beautiful coastal town of Nafplion, the first capital city of modern Greece after the Greek Revolution of Independence. This evening, dine at a local restaurant. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Driving Time: 3.5-4 hours

## DAY 4

### MYCENAE / EPIDAUROS

In the second millennium BC, Mycenae was one of the major centers of Greek civilization, a military stronghold that dominated much of southern Greece. After visiting this site, with its fascinating archaeological remains (it was uncovered in 1874 by Heinrich Schliemann, the German archaeologist who also excavated Troy), continue to Epidaurus, a sanctuary dedicated to the legendary healer Asklepios. Epidaurus was the celebrated healing center of the Classical world, and many recognizable ruins of hospitals and spa areas remain. It is also noted for its stunning theater. The 14,000-seat arena still has near-perfect acoustics—you can hear a coin drop in the orchestra section, even from the highest seat! Return to Athens in the afternoon. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Athens at hotel...BL

Driving Time: 3.5-4 hours

## DAY 5

### JOIN THE GREEK ISLES ADVENTURE (OR DEPART FOR HOME)

Begin your WT Greek Isles adventure (if doing this as a pre-trip extension), or depart on homeward-bound flights...B

## 2024 EXTENSION COST

\$2595 (3-7 members)

\$3095 (2 members)

Single supplement: \$225

Costs are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

**Extension Cost Includes:** Expert leadership of Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local, special guides at archaeological sites, 4 nights accommodations, Meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner), ground transportation, local guides at each archaeological site, entrance tickets and fees.

**Not Included:** Meals not specified (BLD) in this itinerary, optional tipping to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, airport transfers, and other expenses of a personal nature (laundry, etc.).



# Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on "Trip Leaders": [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/greek-isles-cyclades-hiking-walking-tour](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/greek-isles-cyclades-hiking-walking-tour)



## DIMITRA PANAGIOTOPOULOU

Dimitra Panagiotopoulou's love of adventure was sparked in childhood as she followed her father and grandfather on hunting expeditions into the Greek woods. After completing her education, she worked as a sales manager at a big company for over a dozen years, but memories of youth and a love of nature motivated her to leave the corporate lifestyle and change her career. As a Trip Leader, she's found her niche. "I have a job I love that allows me to share my knowledge and experiences of nature and history with people from different cultures. It makes me feel alive." Dimitra enjoys music (especially rock!) and a good book. She has a daughter and son and spends her free time knitting clothes for kids and adults.



## KOSTAS VASILEIOU

Kostas Vasileiou was born and raised in Ioannina, Greece, and now lives in the historic village of Kipi in the Vikos Gorge. He holds a professional mountain guide's license from the Alpine Club of Greece and has also led trekking expeditions in Nepal. "Being a Trip Leader puts me in contact with many people from other cultures and lets me learn from other people's way of thinking. On my trips, I try to give people a chance to see the real, unspoiled Greece and to enjoy the warm hospitality of the people. I hope that trip members will come to share my love for the tradition, history, and beauty of Greece." Kostas speaks English and French and studied Byzantine art and Greek history at the University of Ioannina.



## KAROLOS MERLIN

Karolos Merlin, or "Charles" as his English friends call him, has been leading treks through the Greek countryside for more than 20 years. Born to an Austrian mother and Greek father of English origin, he lived in Austria until he was 7, when his family relocated to Greece. After meeting his wife, they spent a few years traveling between Greece and Germany before settling down in Greece to raise their children. They split their time between Athens in the winter and Tinos island in the Cyclades in the summer. Karolos is fluent in Greek, German, and English and can often be found out on the trails on his mountain bike. He has a keen interest in graphic arts, digital mapping, and photography.



## STELA PANAGIOTOPOULOU

After a career managing several companies in Greece, Stela met Trip Leader Konstantinos (Ntinos) Papoulas, who passed along his love of the mountains to her. Like him, she decided to change her life and now helps lead our adventures in Greece. Stela is an artist who loves to paint nature and show people a different perspective of nature in Greece.



### KONSTANTINOS PAPOULAS

Konstantinos (Ntinos), a native of Thessaloniki, studied law and economics in college, and subsequently worked for more than 25 years as a director of the National Bank of Greece. From a young age, though, he loved hiking with his family in the mountainous wilderness of Greece, and several years ago, decided to change his life and turn his love of mountaineering into a profession. He has been guiding groups to the mountains of Greece ever since and truly loves exploring new destinations and sharing his knowledge of the natural world with trip members.



# Accommodations

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## DIVANI PALACE ACROPOLIS

*Athens, Greece*

*Day 1 (1 night)*

Exploring the ancient history of the Parthenon and the museums of Plaka is easy from the Divani Palace Acropolis. Set below the Acropolis, rooms at Divani Palace Acropolis offer modern decor, private balconies, some with views of the Acropolis, and marble details in the bathroom. Begin your day of sightseeing with the breakfast buffet and return in the afternoon to take a dip in the pool or watch the sun set over the Acropolis from the hotel's secret garden bar.



## MR & MRS WHITE BOUTIQUE RESORT

*Tinos, Greece*

*Days 2 to 5 (4 nights)*

Perched on a hillside overlooking the blue Aegean Sea, this hotel is just a short stroll from the beach and a few minutes' drive from the center of town. Blending traditional Cycladic architecture with the natural environment, guest rooms are bright and modern, and feature balconies with iconic views of the sea. Amenities include an outdoor swimming pool and an onsite restaurant serving great breakfasts.



### ALKYONI BEACH HOTEL

*Naxos, Greece*

*Days 6 to 8 (3 nights)*

Set about a minute's walk from the beach of Agios Georgios and ten minutes from Naxos town, this family-run hotel offers a warm, traditional welcome. Guest rooms are bright and airy, and most have sea views or overlook the gardens or swimming pool.



### VIGLA HOTEL

*Tholaria, Greece*

*Days 9 to 12 (4 nights)*

On the beautiful, mountainous island of Amorgos, we stay at the family-run Vigla Hotel, set on a hill in the ancient whitewashed village of Tholaria overlooking Egiali Bay. Guest rooms are spacious, each with a terrace overlooking the coast, and there's a hiking trail just a few feet away.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Hiking in the Greek Isles* webpage and click on "Accommodations."



# Arrival & Departure

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Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Athens, Greece

**Suggested Airport:** Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport (ATH)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, by late afternoon

**Meeting Place:** You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the group hotel in Athens at 7:00 pm on Day 1.

Trip members are responsible for transferring from the Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport to the meeting place.

We recommend taking a taxi from the airport to the hotel. The regular taxi queue starts from Door 3 of the Arrivals Level and extends up to Door 1. Taxis from the airport to the hotel take approximately 30 to 45 minutes and cost €50.

If you are staying in Athens before or after the trip on your own, we strongly encourage you **not** to use the Metro. Pickpocketing and other crimes are very common in public areas in and around the Metro.

Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport is 20 miles southeast of Athens. A commuter guide to Athens Airport can be found at [www.athensguide.com/airport.html](http://www.athensguide.com/airport.html).

## DEPARTURE

Athens, Greece

**Suggested Airport:** Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport (ATH)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 13, after 6:30 pm

On Day 13, we ferry to Naxos, arriving by approximately 9:00 am, then connect with a ferry to Athens' Pireaus Port, arriving around 3:00 pm. It takes about 1-1.5 hours to get from the ferry to the Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport. If you are staying on in Athens, you can take a taxi to your hotel or head directly to the airport for your homeward-bound flight. Most US-bound flights depart early in the morning, however, so we strongly recommend overnighting at an Athens airport hotel the night the trip ends so you will be near the airport for an early departure the following morning.

You can also fly directly to Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport from Naxos Airport (JNX) rather than take the ferry. This is an "on your own" expense and will be part of your international air ticket. The ferry does not arrive in Naxos until 9:00 am. In some cases, we may need to take a later ferry that arrives in Naxos at 12:00 pm. While it is likely that you can catch a flight at 10:25 am, we recommend scheduling a flight after 1:00 pm to allow for possible delays, time to get off the ferry, transfer to the airport, and check in and go through security.

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## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Greece.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly 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 send us a copy of your airline schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.





# Trip Details

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 3+, Moderate to Strenuous. Hiking times vary from 3 to 6 hours on moderate trails that can be rocky and rugged. Although you carry only a daypack on the hikes, be prepared for steep ascents and descents and some sections that cross uneven terrain and rough or rocky trails. We highly recommend hiking poles on this trip. Some days are a full day of hiking; others involve a half day or more exploring one of the towns on foot. On some days, we taxi or take a local bus to a starting point for our hike and also use a taxi or local transport to return to our night's lodging. Travel between islands is by ferry (or high-speed catamaran, if it is available); ferry rides are likely to be an average of two to five hours. On some days, 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.

Accommodations are in small local hotels chosen for their atmosphere and location. Although the rooms in these pensions are not always of uniform or international size, our leaders always try their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. We enjoy our lunches at small tavernas. Our dinners also feature local food and a chance to sample traditional specialties of the Cyclades. 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 our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 8:00 pm.

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. You should wear sturdy, well-broken-in hiking boots for maximum comfort on the trail.

## WEATHER

Greece has a typical Mediterranean climate, with warm, sunny summers and mild, rainy winters. Daytime temperatures in the summer peak in the high 70s F, while the winter temperature rarely drops below 50F.

## 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 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at [europe@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:europe@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://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.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tinos	57/48	57/48	60/50	65/54	71/59	78/66	79/61	79/51	76/67	70/61	65/66	60/51
Santorini	57/48	57/48	61/50	66/54	72/59	81/66	82/72	81/72	77/68	72/61	66/55	61/52
Rainfall - Inches												
Tinos	2.8	2.3	2.0	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.6	1.9	2.7
Santorini	4.5	3.2	2.6	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0	0	2.4	2.7	4.0



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row

**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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