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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

13 Day Greece Highlights - Athens, Crete, Santorini, & Mykonos



CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 7-10 Day ITINERARY

The islands are the main characteristic of Greece's morphology and an integral part of the country's culture and tradition. Greek sovereign land includes **6,000** islands and islets scattered in the Aegean and Ionian Seas, of which only 227 islands are inhabited. This is a truly **unique phenomenon** for the European continent.

The **Greek Archipelago** takes up 7,500 km of the country's total 16,000 km coastline, offering a highly diversified landscape: **beaches** stretching over many kilometers, sheltered **bays** and **coves**, sandy beaches with sand-dunes, pebble beaches, coastal **caves** with steep rocks and dark colored sand typical of volcanic soil and coastal wetlands.

Many of these **Greek beaches** have been awarded the blue flag under the **Blue Flags of Europe Program**, providing not only swimming, but also scuba diving, snorkeling, water skiing, sailing and windsurfing.

Some of the **oldest European civilizations** developed on the Greek islands (Cycladic, Minoan civilizations, etc.), so therefore the islands have unique **archeological sites**, a distinctive **architectural heritage** and the fascinating **local traditions** of a centuries-old and multifaceted civilization.

The ideal climate, safe waters and small distances between ports and coasts, have made the Greek islands extremely popular among Greek and foreign visitors.

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13 Day Greece Itinerary: Athens, Crete, Santorini, Mykonos

Arrival Athens

Upon arrival in Athens, you will be met with a VIP Escort in the customs area. Your private English-speaking Liaison will assist you through customs and immigration, and escort you through the airport to the baggage claim area. Once there, you will meet your private English-speaking driver who will assist you with your luggage and transfer you from Athens Airport to Athens City and your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed with a VIP welcome check-in. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodations. It will all be waiting for you upon your return from a morning stroll and local area walking tour to get familiar with your surroundings. Meet your English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your tour.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will offer suggestions in the area en-route.

You will be returned to your hotel where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

Day 1: Athens: Full Day City Tour



Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.

Along the Saronic Gulf stands Athens, the capital of Greece and the birthplace of Western Civilization. Named after the Greek goddess Athena, Athens has been a center of democracy, philosophy, art and architecture for over 7,000 years.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

Step through history on a private overview tour of Athens' ancient sites, including the Parthenon, Keramikos, Agora, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Arch of Hadrian and the Kalimarmaro.

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Visit the National Archaeological Museum. Afterwards, stop by Athens' Central Market for an authentic browse through the source of Greece's fresh cuisine and spices.

Conclude your day with shopping in the Kolonaki District, a trip to the Kaisairini Monastery, or a visit to Voukourestiou Street, renowned for its vast selection of jewelry stores.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

Day 2: Athens/Greece – Acropolis

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.



Atop Athens' tallest hill, dominating the city below, stands the ancient temple complex built by Pericles in the 5th century B.C., known as the Acropolis. Explore the ruins of the iconic Parthenon, the temple that once served as a treasury for the Greek government.

Marvel at the Porch of Maidens, named for its six caryatids, carved female statues, which replaced the traditional architectural columns of the structure.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

Nearby stands the most intact temple of the time, the beautifully preserved marble Temple of Hephaestus, known as the Theseum, believed to have been the home of the Greek hero Theseus.

Once a monumental Doric temple, was destroyed the colossal monument known as the Roman Temple of Zeus, yet its fifteen limestone columns remain as striking ruins. Complete your day with a trip to the new Acropolis Museum, which houses sculpture and artifacts with this Golden Age of Athens.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

Day 3: Athens/Cape Sounion: Temple of Poseidon, Lavrion

Breakfast in the hotel.

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After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.



On the southernmost tip of Attica, drive through Athens' cosmopolitan suburbs along the Saronic Gulf to Sounion. On a promontory surrounded by water lies the ancient temple honoring Poseidon, the mythological god of the sea.

Built in 440 B.C., the temple is believed to have been the site where mariners left gifts for the god to protect them from evil. Framed by the blue color of the sky, the temple's white marble portico and six columns of the temple remains a spellbinding site over two millennia later.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

Venture towards the nearby coastal town of Lavrion, home of Greece's oldest amphitheater, overlooking the sapphire Aegean Sea. With a history dating back to 3200 B.C., it was home to Greece's first silver mines and refineries.

Walk alongside enormous cisterns and ore washeries to experience a side of Greek history unexplored by the masses.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

Day 4: Crete: Athens – Spinalonga

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Transfer from Athens Hotel to Airport.

Athens- Crete

Flight from Athens to Heraklion

Upon arrival at the port, meet your private English-speaking driver for your Transfer from Heraklion Airport to Elounda Hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed by the concierge with a VIP welcome check-in. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodations. You will meet your

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private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.



Board a 'caique,' a traditional Greek fishing boat, for a twenty-minute ride to the island of Spinalonga.

Enjoy a guided walking tour of this circular, walled fortress. Carved out of the coast of Crete, this former Venetian fortress fell to the Ottoman Empire in 1715 and later served as a leper colony until 1957.

Admire its spectacular ruins of the island, then wander amongst its pebbled beaches before sailing back to Elounda. Nestled within the Gulf of Mirabello, the enclosed bay is home to one of Greece's most famous relics, the ancient sunken city of Olous that mysteriously sank 12,000 years ago.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

Spend an afternoon exploring this picturesque region and its charming harbor side shops. Drive through the spectacular ravine of Saint George to Kritsa. Surrounded by olive groves, this whitewashed mountain village is acclaimed for its long tradition of spectacular hand-woven and embroidered textiles.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Crete.

Day 5: Crete: Samaria Gorge (easy way)

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.



The Samaria Gorge is a designated National Park of particular natural beauty and enjoys strict protection. It is the longest natural gorge in Europe.

Departing very early in the morning to Chora Sfakion where you will board a local boat to Agia Roumeli.

From there you will walk into the gorge up to the Iron Gates, the narrowest point in the gorge. At the Iron Gates, the gorge is so

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narrow that you can almost touch both sides as they rise up sheer 350 metres above your head. A walk of about an hour (4 klms).

Then returning other 4 kms to Agia Roumeli through the gorge. At Aghia Roumeli stop for lunch and a swim in the Libyan Sea. **Lunch is on board own today.**

Returning to Chora Sfakion through Loutro by boat and from there take the coach back through imposing landscapes.

This is the short hiking version as the long one is crossing the whole Gorge from Omalos mountain which is 17 klms hiking and it is quite tiring and only for very fit and experienced hikers. **(If you prefer the long hike, tell your Travel Consultant in the Creative Planning Session.)**

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Crete.

Day 6: Crete: Aghios Nikolaos, Sitia and Vai.

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.



Just south of Elounda on the island of Crete lies the sapphire waters of Aghios Nikolaos, the picturesque city with its landmark Voulismeni Lake at the center of it. Delight in panoramic views of this enchanting town, then wind through its narrow streets that offer an excellent selection of authentic Greek delicacies and fine jewelry.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

Past Aghios Nikolaos stands Sitia, a peaceful coastal town, built in a semicircle on the western side of the Bay of Sitia. In a guided tour, explore its 15th century Monastery Toplou. This medieval monastery possesses a superb collection of Byzantine artifacts and frescos by the icon painter, Manolis Betinakis.

Conclude your day trip by traveling to the palm-strewn oasis of Vai. Over 5,000 palm trees sway above the beach's golden sands, one of Europe's only natural palm forests in existence.

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Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Crete.

Day 7 Crete: Knossos and Heraklion City

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.



There is no better place to experience the timeless spirit of ancient Greece than the Palace of Knossos – the largest and most spectacular palace of the Minoan civilization.

Feel the spirit of the Minotaur – the half man, half bull – which was said to be locked up within the heart of the palace.

Explore the never-ending maze of rooms where ancient frescoes capture every facet of life, reflecting the presence of civilization since 1900 B.C. Walking through the multi-colored rooms and workshops of the east wing, one can understand why the palace of Knossos was associated with the mythological labyrinth.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

After Knossos drive to the nearby city of Heraklion, home to ancient monuments and examples of major Western civilization.

The city is surrounded by an enormous medieval wall, which used to protect it from enemies and gave the city its reputation as the best-fortified state in the Mediterranean basin. In the central market visitors may find the famous Cretan products such as oil, wine, *raki*, honey and herbs all worth tasting and buying.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Crete.

Day 8 Crete: Crete - Santorini

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer from your Elounda Hotel to Heraklion Hydrofoil Port to meet your ferry to Santorini.

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Crete- Santorini Departure Ferry to Santorini - Hydrofoil from Heraklion to Santorini

Upon arrival at the port in Santorini, you will be met by your private English-speaking driver who will assist you with your luggage and transfer you from the Port to Mystique Hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed by a private VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Santorini.

After lunch, meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the port where you will meet your captain and board your yacht for an enchanting afternoon and evening sailing the Greek isles.

Palia Kameni, Thirassia, Aspronissi



At the southern side of the Cycladic Islands lies the spectacular Santorini Island, a short forty-minute flight from Athens. An island characterized by its blue-domed churches the color of the sky, a shade known as Santorini blue, this Greek destination was formed after a Minoan explosion 3,600 years ago.

Be introduced to this enchanting island on a cruise through its enormous lagoon alongside its steep, breathtaking cliffs.

Set sail from Vlihada Marina from the lava cliffs of Red Beach to Palia Kameni, where you can swim and snorkel in the azure waters. Cruise alongside the caldera with a stop at a volcanic hot spring as your private chef prepares a gourmet Greek barbecue, paired with local Santorini wines.

After dinner, sail past the islands of Thirassia and Aspronissi.

Day 9 Santorini: Mesa Gonia, Panagia Episkopi, Megalochori

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide, in the lobby of your hotel for your tour today.

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Uncover the secret villages and wineries of this legendary island with a private guided day trip of Santorini.

Begin with a tour of Mesa Gonia, a ghost village deserted after the earthquake of 1956.

Nearby stands the oldest church on Santorini, a Byzantine church, known as the Panagia Episkopi. Built by the Emperor

Alexios A' Kominos in the 11th century, it is the long-time home of the Panagia Glykofilousa, one of the most valuable religious icons in the world.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

After lunch, you will proceed with the tour. Atop a high plain sits the village of Megalochori. Visit the Gavalas Winery, one of Greece's oldest vineyards, for a tasting of their full-bodied whites, produced from Santorini's native Assyrtiko and Aidani grapes.

After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Santorini.

Day 10 Santorini: Megalochori Village

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide, in the lobby of your hotel for your tour today.



Enjoy an authentic taste of local life with a visit to the colorful neo-classical square of Megalochori. Built in the 17th century, the village retains an old-world charm, and locals gather to play tavli or backgammon as they have done for generations.

Meander through its maze of cobblestone streets before a cooking experience at the acclaimed Fegera Restaurant.

There, be instructed by the restaurant's chef on the preparation and cooking of a traditional Greek meal, which you will later enjoy, paired with local wines for **lunch**.

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After lunch, you will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day. You are free to enjoy the spa in the hotel, relax on property or continue to explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Santorini.

Day 11 Santorini: Santorini to Mykonos

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your private Departure Transfer from your Hotel to Santorini Port, where you will meet the ferry for your trip to Mykonos.

Hydrofoil High Speed Ferry from Santorini to Mykonos.

Upon arrival in Mykonos, you will meet your private English-speaking driver who will assist you with your luggage and transfer you from Mykonos Hydrofoil Port to your Hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

You will continue on with your driver and professional local guide for your tour today.

Old Port, Little Venice



In the Cycladic Islands, snow-white windmills dot the idyllic landscape on the island of Mykonos.

Constructed during the 16th century by Venetian settlers to grind wheat, they serve as a symbol of the island's agricultural past.

Enjoy a private guided tour of this radiant island, known for its sparkling beaches and sophisticated feel. Begin in Mykonos' old port, featuring its signature whitewashed houses, then travel to Little Venice, named for its architectural resemblance to Venice, Italy, where balconies hang over the sea.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

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After lunch, explore various archaeological places of interest, before a trip to the island's acclaimed 15th century bakery, where breads and sweets are still baked in its ancient wood-fired ovens.

Shop at local boutiques and conclude your tour with a tasting of traditional Greek delicacies paired with a chilled glass of local ouzo.

You will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure to relax in the hotel or continue to explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Mykonos.

Day 12 Mykonos: Dragonisi Island, Ancient Delos

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide, in the lobby of your hotel for your cruise tour today.



You will board your private yacht and sail just southeast of Mykonos, where there stands the uninhabited private island of Dragonisi.

Encounter its caverns, spectacular natural rock formations created over thousands of years, where rare monk seals frolic. Spend a morning discovering this island and swim in its crystalline waters.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make recommendations for dining in the area.

Then by private boat, visit Ancient Delos, the Island of Light in the Cyclades archipelago. There, the goddess Lito found a safe haven to bear her twin children, Apollo and Artemis, after being hunted by Hera, the wife of Zeus.

A UNESCO World Heritage, Delos' architectural splendors are exemplary and include over 50 acres of exquisite monuments, including the sanctuary of Dionysus, funerary statues and a terrace of seven marble lions often compared to Egyptian sphinxes.

Return to your hotel and check out. Your private English-speaking driver will transfer you from your Mykonos Hotel to the Airport for your flight to Athens.

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Mykonos- Athens

Flight from Mykonos to Athens.

Upon arrival in Athens, meet your private English-speaking driver in the baggage claim area For your Private Arrival Transfer from Athens Airport to Athens City Centre Hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

You are at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

Day 13 Mykonos: Athens & Flight Back Home

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your Private departure Transfer from your Athens Hotel to the airport to meet your international flight back to the US and forward to home.

End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!