



GREECE

ISLAND HOPPING GREECE BY BIKE, FOOT, KAYAK & SNORKEL 9-DAYS

Island Hopping Greece showcases Greece as an ancient giant endowed with present day adventure. During this 9-day tour we navigate across pristine beaches, stone ruins, mythological mountains and multi-coloured cliffs. After marvelling at the Athens Acropolis, we set sail for rocky isles. Naxos is known as the cultural centre of classic Greece and still bursts with time-honored Greek air. Here we spend our days hiking and mountain biking through surrounding villages. Next we head to the volcanic island of Santorini for snorkelling, kayaking and trekking. We explore the Cyclade underworld and trek to the village of Oia, known for its iconic Greek architecture and spectacular sunsets. The cradle of western culture, Greece is the perfect place to merge past civilizations with high-energy hiking and biking vacations.

Day 1

ATHENS

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival into Athens International Airport, make your way to your comfortable 3-star hotel located in the centre of the city. In the evening you'll be met at the hotel by your guide who will lead you on a walking tour of Athens. Afterwards we'll head to the old part of Athens for a special welcome dinner and orientation. This traditional Greek Tavern overlooks the famed Acropolis.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Dinner



Day 2

ATHENS

SIGHTSEEING

After breakfast we'll set off for a half day city tour of Athens. We'll start with a visit to the Acropolis and the New Acropolis Museum. After lunch we'll walk past Hadrian's Arch to the Panathenaic Stadium, the site of the first Olympic Games in 1896. We'll wander through the National Gardens to Syntagma Square, where you can see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier while also witnessing the changing of the guards. Finally we'll explore Plaka and the Anafiotika district. After that, you have the remainder of the evening free to stroll in the centre of Athens, or sit for a drink on a patio and people watch.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



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Day 3

ATHENS - NAXOS

BIKING

We'll wake with the sunrise and transfer to the port in Athens where we'll catch a ferry to the Greek Isle of Naxos. The journey is about 4-5 hours, traveling at high speed on the Aegean Sea. Upon arrival we'll transfer to a comfortable hotel and have some time to settle in. Then, we will start our cycling fun. We start with a nearly flat part on good surfaced roads before making our first climb. Passing by some ruins of the ancient aqueduct of Naxos, we will soon roll down to the fertile valley of Engares. In the small village, we will have a view of the beautiful church next to the olive museum. If we wish, we can cycle down to the bay of Amiti and its sandy beach. On our way back, we will stay close to the coastline and get a perfect view on to Portara and the entire capital of Naxos island. We'll return to our hotel in the early evening and enjoy a Greek feast in a traditional tavern.

Biking Distance: 25 km / 15 mi

Biking Duration: 2 – 3 hours

Ascent: +250 m / 820 ft

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4

NAXOS

HIKING

Today we switch gears and take to the trails by foot. Our hike starts from The Kouros Statues, which are incomplete statues of young men that were abandoned by the ancient sculptors because they discovered faults in the marble. From here we'll follow the path to Ano Potamia, a picturesque village in the countryside. After a short refreshing stop at the village's spring, we will hike to The Apano Kastro (Upper Castle) where we'll be rewarded with panoramic views of Naxos town, port and the surrounding villages. We'll hike through the village of Halki and then Chalki, where we'll visit Valindra, a small distillery that produces Kitron (the local alcohol drink of Naxos). The dazzling landscape is lush and the trails are magnificent. We end in Chalki and then return to our hotel for a shower before dinner.

Hiking Distance: 6.5 km / 4 mi

Hiking Duration: 4 hours

Ascent: +272 m / 892 ft

Descent: -194 m / 636 ft

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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Day 5

NAXOS

BIKING

After breakfast, we'll gear up with mountain bikes and then cycle on quiet streets and paths through typical Naxian villages. We'll meander along nook and cranny paths that lead us through fertile farmland, with great views of the rugged mountains and some of the best coastline in the Cyclades. We'll ride to the beautiful white sand beach of Mikri Vigla where we'll break for a swim and refreshment, before returning along stretches of sandy beach to our base.

Biking Distance: 40 km / 25 mi

Biking Duration: 3-4 hours

Ascent: +450 m / 1476 ft

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6

NAXOS - SANTORINI

SNORKELLING & KAYAKING

After breakfast, we'll head back to the port to catch a ferry through the Aegean Sea to Santorini. Santorini is a volcanic island, famed for its fabulous sunsets, white buildings and the dramatic views of the surrounding Greek Isles. We'll arrive into the port midday and then transfer to our comfortable 3-star hotel. In the afternoon we'll take to the seas for a snorkelling and sea kayaking adventure exploring the crystal waters, beautiful beaches and rock formations. We'll meet for dinner early evening at an outdoor patio.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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Day 7

SANTORINI

HIKING

Today we're back on foot, hiking 3 hours from Fira, the main town on Santorini, to the village of Oia, famous for its brilliant sunsets. We'll begin from the cable car station, weaving along a gravel road that soon narrows into a trail. We'll have spectacular panoramic views of the traditional Cycladic white houses built along the declining caldera, with a backdrop of the surrounding volcanic isles rising out of the Aegean Sea. Midday we'll break under a shady tree for a picnic lunch to absorb the spectacular landscape. We'll end in Oia, and then can either return to Fira by foot or jump in the vehicle.

Hiking Distance: 10.5 km / 6.5 mi

Hiking Duration: 5 hours

Ascent: +492 m / 1615 ft

Descent: -619 m / 2030 ft

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8

SANTORINI - ATHENS

FREE DAY

We have the morning at leisure to do any last minute shopping, relaxing or exploring on Santorini before catching a flight back to Athens. We'll be met upon arrival and transferred back to our same Athens hotel. We'll meet with our guide for a farewell dinner early evening.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



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Day 9

ATHENS

DEPARTURE

This is the end of your Greek adventure. Depending on your flight time, you may have time to explore this lovely city a bit more before arranging your transfer to the airport for your international flight back home or onward within Europe.

Meals: Breakfast

NOTE about Ascent/Descent numbers:

The ascent/descent numbers are usually generated using Ride with GPS. The numbers are TOTAL ascent/descent for the day and these numbers do not suggest altitude. There are usually multiple small ascents and descents added up throughout the day to reach this total ascent/descent for the day. (While our numbers are generally consistent with Ride with GPS, depending on the mapping technology used, numbers may vary).



TRIP INCLUSIONS

Trip Includes

All accommodation (twin shared), meals as indicated, all internal transportation, 24-speed mountain bikes, one internal flight from Santorini to Athens and English-speaking guides.

Not Included

International airfare, airport taxes, arrival/departure airport transfers*, gratuities, meals not included and items of a personal nature.

**We can book airport transfers on your behalf.*

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