

# The Greek Islands: Mykonos, Santorini & Crete

+ ISTANBUL EXTENSION

THE  
TRAVEL CLUB



**14**

DAYS

17 DAYS WITH EXTENSION

## Take in the rich culture and history of Greece's storied islands.

It's nearly impossible to get a true taste of Greek culture without sampling its flavorful isles. Experience the relaxed lifestyle and vibrant locals that color all the islands, discovering the character and history unique to each locale. Absorb Hellenic heritage in ancient Athens before soaking in Crete's legendary landscapes. Cruise the Aegean to the volcanic shores of Santorini and anchor on the beaches of lively Mykonos.

**Go Ahead**

Start planning today **1.617.338.1111**

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# Overview

## Your tour includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily, 5 three-course dinners with beer or wine
- Multilingual Tour Director
- Private deluxe motor coach
- Guided sightseeing and select entrance fees

## Your tour highlights

- Ancient Athens' world-famous Acropolis
- Cruising the shimmering waters of the Aegean
- The ancient ruins and quaint towns of Crete
- Sunbathing on the Turquoise Coast
- The black-sand beaches and sunsets of Santorini
- The warm and welcoming Greeks

## Where you'll go



### OVERNIGHT STAYS

- 1 night • Overnight Flight
- 3 nights • Athens
- 3 nights • Mykonos
- 3 nights • Santorini
- 2 nights • Crete
- 1 night • Athens

### MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE FOR THIS TOUR

**18 – 35**

With our Right Size Advantage, your group will never get in the way of your experience.

### ABOUT YOUR HOTELS

Our 3- and 4-diamond accommodations are handpicked to ensure quality and comfort.

# Itinerary

## Overnight Flight | 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

## Athens | 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Athens

*Included meals: Dinner*

Welcome to Greece! Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens

*Included meals: Breakfast*

A local guide introduces you to the highlights of this bustling ancient capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Tour the ancient Acropolis, site of the Parthenon and the Temple of Athena Nike
  - Visit the 6th-century Temple of Zeus
  - View the classically inspired Old Royal Palace, home of the Greek Parliament
  - Pass through Syntagma Square to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Enjoy a free afternoon in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Cape Sounion

### Day 4: Free day in Athens

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Delphi

## Mykonos | 3 nights

### Day 5: Transfer to Mykonos

*Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Travel by ferry to Mykonos, and enjoy a guided tour of the island when you arrive.

- See the iconic windmills in Mykonos Town, built as early as the 16th century
- View Little Venice, the charming neighborhood right along the Aegean Sea
- Enter the Church of Panagia Paraportiani and admire its unique architecture

### Day 6: Free day in Mykonos

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Mykonos soaking up the sun and unique island culture, or add an excursion.

+ Mykonos Cooking Class & Lunch

### Day 7: Free day in Mykonos

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Enjoy another day exploring Mykonos at your leisure or add an excursion.

+ Delos

## Santorini | 3 nights

### Day 8: Transfer to Santorini

*Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Take a ferry to Santorini, then enjoy free time to discover the island's a volcanic black-sand beaches, cliff-lined shores and stunning whitewashed architecture.

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Santorini

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Today, take in the local sights on a guided tour of Santorini.

- Visit the prehistoric settlements unearthed at the Akrotiri excavations
- Ride to the top of Profitis Ilias Mountain for panoramic views of the whole island
- Stop in the small, picturesque village of Pyrgos

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Enjoy a free evening in Santorini or add an excursion.

+ *Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner*

**Day 10: Free day in Santorini**

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Santorini or add an excursion.

+ *Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch*

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**Crete** | 2 nights

**Day 11: Transfer to Crete**

*Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

This afternoon, take a ferry to Crete, the largest of the Greek islands.

**Day 12: Free day in Crete**

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Crete or add an excursion.

+ *Chania*

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**Athens** | 1 night

**Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Heraklion & transfer to Athens**

*Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Before returning to Athens, enjoy a guided tour of Heraklion.

- Visit the ruins of Knossos, where King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in a labyrinth, according to the myth and see the Heraklion Archaeological Museum

This afternoon, fly to Athens to say goodbye to your group at a farewell dinner.

**Day 14: Departure**

*Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to explore Istanbul.

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**Post-tour extension**

**Istanbul** | 3 nights

**Day 14: Transfer to Istanbul**

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Transfer to Athens airport for your flight to Istanbul, the city at the crossroads of East and West.

**Day 15: Sightseeing tour of Istanbul**

*Included meals: Breakfast*

A local guide leads a tour of the city's fascinating sights.

- Discover the ancient Hippodrome, which served as the public center of Byzantium for over a thousand years
- Enter the breathtaking Blue Mosque, built by Sultan Ahmet and decorated with exquisite blue Iznik tiles
- See the Topkapi Palace, once the residence of the Ottoman sultans
- Visit Hagia Sophia, the pride of Christendom until the city fell to the Turks in 1453

Enjoy a free evening in Istanbul or add an excursion.

+ *Whirling Dervishes: Sufi Mystics*

**Day 16: Free day in Istanbul**

*Included meals: Breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Istanbul or add an excursion.

+ *Bosphorus Straits Cruise*

**Day 17: Departure**

*Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Extension is available on select departure dates. Space is limited. Minimum of 10 travelers is required.

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# Customize your experience

Create a more personal journey by adding optional excursions that speak to your interests. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose—you're free to do as much or as little as you'd like. Save \$10\* when you book your excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. Please note: Excursions that require advance reservation will only have this discounted price listed. Call or go online to start customizing your tour: **1.617.338.1111**

## Day 3: Cape Sounion | \$45/\$55\*

Journey to the southern tip of the Attic Peninsula to take in the sights of the Poseidon Coast, including sandy beaches, natural and manmade harbors and, of course, the Aegean Sea itself. High above the sparkling shoreline, the Temple of Poseidon dominates the landscape. Of the original structure, 16 elegant Doric pillars remain. Afterward, decide how you'd like to spend your free time. Take a moment to look out from the lofty cliffside vantage point, where you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day. You may also choose to enjoy a coffee, stop in the souvenir shop or stroll through the area. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain.

## Day 4: Delphi | \$89/\$99\*

Journey to the slopes of Mount Parnassus and the town of Delphi, home of the mystical oracle. Embark on a guided tour featuring the Temple of Apollo, where, according to legend, the god Apollo once communicated with mortals. Greece's ancient military leaders customarily left gifts here in hopes of good fortune in battle. After an included lunch, visit the Delphi Museum. Take time to explore the collection on your own, which includes a huge bronze charioteer among its ancient treasures. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain and hills.

## Day 6: Mykonos Cooking Class & Lunch |

\$89/\$99\* (4 hours, afternoon with lunch)

Your first stop is the village of Ano Mera, where you'll pay a visit to the 18th-century Monastery of Panagia Tourliani and enjoy free time to explore the surrounding town square. After you've worked up an appetite in town, make your way to a local farm where you'll craft traditional dishes such as Mykonian pie and tzatziki. Then, pair your creations with a tasting of three different Greek wines for a delicious lunch you'll enjoy with the group.

## Day 7: Delos | \$79/\$89\*

Journey by boat to the island of Delos, rich with mythological history and once one of Greece's most sacred spots. Your guided tour of the island's ancient city will transport you to the time when this was an important center for trade in silk, spices and slaves. You can explore the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Sacred Cave, the Lion Terrace and the House of Dionysus, where you'll find a breathtaking mosaic of the god of wine.

## Day 9: Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner |

\$129/\$139\* (5, departs in the afternoon with dinner)

Board an elegant, fully equipped catamaran and sail in comfort through Santorini's awe-inspiring caldera on this scenic excursion. You'll cruise around the volcanic island of Nea Kamenim for views of the picture-perfect cliffside village of Oia (pronounced "EE-ah"). Situated on the

western end of the island, Oia was once a maritime center and stately captains' houses still sit on its high ridges. Take in the scenery and the sunset (on clear days) as you enjoy a buffet-style dinner of home-cooked Greek specialties on board the boat. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from May through the beginning of October only. It is also dependent upon weather conditions. A welcome drink, glass of wine, and water are included.

## Day 10: Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch | \$55/\$65\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Santorini's volcanic landscape and nutrient-rich soil nurtures a wealth of outstanding vineyards. On this excursion, you'll tour a local winery, enjoying a film screening followed by a wine tasting. Taste five different varietals, including Vin Santo, a sweet wine made from dried grapes, then enjoy a light lunch overlooking the Aegean Sea.

## Day 12: Chania | \$99/\$109\* (8 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Travel to historic Chania, where a local guide introduces you to the city's Old Town. You'll visit Chania's cathedral before a walk through the Venetian quarter, where you'll step inside Etz Hayyim, the only synagogue on the island of Crete and a symbol of the city's ages-old Jewish community. After exploring the synagogue, spend some time strolling through the indoor market, perhaps sampling local herbs, olive oil, and cheeses. Your guided tour ends at the port where you'll visit an ancient Turkish Ottoman mosque. Lunch is included on this excursion, as well as free time to get to know this beautiful city at your own pace.

## Extension optional excursions

### Day 15: Whirling Dervishes: Sufi Mystics |

\$49/\$59\*

The Whirling Dervishes are devoted adherents of Sufism, a mystical interpretation of Islam. For centuries, they've been known for their sema, the spinning dance that inspired their colorful nickname. The sema is full of symbolism, and you'll gain an appreciation for this distinctive communion with the divine at tonight's performance.

### Day 16: Bosphorus Straits Cruise | \$55/\$65\*

Cruise through the Bosphorus Straits, looking out on decadent Ottoman palaces and imposing medieval castles as you journey through the narrow waterway that separates Europe from Asia. On your way, you'll stop to visit the famous Egyptian bazaar, known as the Spice Market. After returning from your cruise, sit down to a lunch of Turkish specialties. Please note: This excursion is weather

dependent. In some cases, dinner will be offered instead of lunch.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to 3 days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within 3 days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour.

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## The Greek Islands: Mykonos, Santorini & Crete 14 DAYS: Friday, May 11 – Thursday, May 24, 2018

**A GREEK ISLANDS HOLIDAY:** whitewashed, cliff-hugging villages, enchanting seascapes, black sand beaches, ancient ruins and, of course, Mediterranean cuisine—all add up to the trip of a lifetime. This Greek Odyssey begins and ends in Athens: monuments, eclectic markets and lively streets. Visit Mykonos—the most impressive port town in the Cyclades—to soak up the cosmopolitan atmosphere, and Santorini—one of the ten best islands in Europe with scenery and charm off the charts—to watch one of the world's truly beautiful sunsets. Next is Crete, flush with fantastic beaches and turquoise lagoons! Some say visiting Greece is a life-altering experience. Let's find out! **Tour group size:** 18 - 35 travelers. **Tour Pace:** You will walk for about 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep hills and stairs.

### Your tour includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Athens, via a connecting city
- Ferry from Athens to Mykonos, ferry from Mykonos to Santorini, ferry from Santorini to Crete, flight from Crete to Athens
- Twelve nights' three- and four-star accommodations
- Sixteen meals: eleven breakfasts, five dinners with wine or beer
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional Tour Director

### Your tour highlights

- Ancient Athens' world-famous Acropolis
- Cruising the shimmering waters of the Aegean
- The ancient ruins and quaint towns of Crete
- Sunbathing on the Turquoise Coast
- The black-sand beaches and sunsets of Santorini
- The warm and welcoming Greeks

### Features

Athens: tour including Acropolis, Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, Temple of Zeus, Syntagma Square. Free day in Athens. Mykonos tour including Little Venice, windmills and Church of Panagia Paraportiani. Two free days in Mykonos. Santorini tour including Akrotiri excavations, Profitis Ilias Mountain panoramic views and Pyrgos. Free day in Santorini. Free day in Crete. Guided tour of Heraklion including the ruins of Knossos and Archaeological Museum.

**OPTIONALS:** *Athens*—Cape Sounion excursion, Delphi excursion. *Mykonos*—Cooking class and lunch, Delos excursion. *Santorini*—Wine tasting and lunch, Caldera cruise and dinner. *Crete*—Chania excursion.

### From \$3,939

per person double occupancy

INCLUDES round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees.

From \$4,439 for single reservations. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$450.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston

DAYS 2–4 Saint George Lycabettus Hotel, Athens

DAYS 5–7 San Marco Luxury Hotel & Villas, Mykonos

DAYS 8–10 Orizontes Hotel & Villas, Santorini

DAYS 11–12 Hotel Galaxy Iraklio, Crete

DAY 13 Saint George Lycabettus Hotel, Athens

DAY 14 Return flight to Boston

or similar hotel accommodations



**Overnight Flight 1 night** Day 1: Travel day Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

**Athens 3 nights**

**Day 2: Arrival in Athens** Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to Greece! Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight.

**Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens** Included meals: Breakfast

A local guide introduces you to the highlights of this bustling ancient capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Tour the ancient Acropolis, site of the Parthenon and the Temple of Athena Nike
- Visit the 6th-century Temple of Zeus
- View the classically inspired Old Royal Palace, home of the Greek Parliament
- Pass through Syntagma Square to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Enjoy a free afternoon in Athens or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion - Cape Sounion \$45pp\*** Journey to the southern tip of the Attic Peninsula to take in the sights of the Poseidon Coast, including sandy beaches, natural and manmade harbors and, of course, the Aegean Sea itself. High above the sparkling shoreline, the Temple of Poseidon dominates the landscape. Of the original structure, 16 elegant Doric pillars remain. Afterward, decide how you'd like to spend your free time. Take a moment to look out from the lofty cliffside vantage point, where you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day. You may also choose to enjoy a coffee, stop in the souvenir shop or stroll through the area. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$55)

**Day 4: Free day in Athens Included meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy a full free day in Athens or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion - Delphi \$89pp\*** Journey to the slopes of Mount Parnassus and the town of Delphi, home of the mystical oracle. Embark on a guided tour featuring the Temple of Apollo, where, according to legend, the god Apollo once communicated with mortals. Greece's ancient military leaders customarily left gifts here in hopes of good fortune in battle. After an included lunch, visit the Delphi Museum. Take time to explore the collection on your own, which includes a huge bronze charioteer among its ancient treasures. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain and hills. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$99)

**Mykonos 3 nights**

**Day 5: Transfer to Mykonos Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel by ferry to Mykonos, and enjoy a guided tour of the island when you arrive.

- See the iconic windmills in Mykonos Town, built as early as the 16th century
- View Little Venice, the charming neighborhood right along the Aegean Sea
- Enter the Church of Panagia Paraportiani and admire its unique architecture

**Day 6: Free day in Mykonos Included meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy a full free day in Mykonos soaking up the sun and unique island culture, or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion - Mykonos Cooking Class & Lunch \$89pp\*** Your first stop is the village of Ano Mera, where you'll pay a visit to the 18th-century Monastery of Panagia Tourliani and enjoy free time to explore the surrounding town square. After you've worked up an appetite in town, make your way to a local farm where you'll craft traditional dishes such as Mykonian pie and tzatziki. Then, pair your creations with a tasting of three different Greek wines for a delicious lunch you'll enjoy with the group. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$99)

**Day 7: Free day in Mykonos Included meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy another day exploring Mykonos at your leisure or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion - Delos \$79pp\*** Journey by boat to the island of Delos, rich with mythological history and once one of Greece's most sacred spots. Your guided tour of the island's ancient city will

transport you to the time when this was an important center for trade in silk, spices and slaves. You can explore the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Sacred Cave, the Lion Terrace and the House of Dionysus, where you'll find a breathtaking mosaic of the god of wine. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$89)

### **Santorini 3 nights**

#### **Day 8: Transfer to Santorini      Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Take a ferry to Santorini, then enjoy free time to discover the island's a volcanic black-sand beaches, cliff-lined shores and stunning whitewashed architecture.

#### **Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Santorini      Included meals: Breakfast**

Today, take in the local sights on a guided tour of Santorini.

- Visit the prehistoric settlements unearthed at the Akrotiri excavations
- Ride to the top of Profitis Ilias Mountain for panoramic views of the whole island
- Stop in the small, picturesque village of Pyrgos

Enjoy a free evening in Santorini or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion - Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner \$119pp\*** Board an elegant, fully equipped catamaran and sail in comfort through Santorini's awe-inspiring caldera on this scenic excursion. You'll cruise around the volcanic island of Nea Kamenim for views of the picture-perfect cliffside village of Oía (pronounced "EE-ah"). Situated on the western end of the island, Oía was once a maritime center and stately captains' houses still sit on its high ridges. Take in the scenery and the sunset (on clear days) as you enjoy a buffet-style dinner of home-cooked Greek specialties on board the boat. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from May through the beginning of October only. It is also dependent upon weather conditions. A welcome drink, glass of wine, and water are included. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$129)

#### **Day 10: Free day in Santorini      Included meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy a full free day in Santorini or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion - Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch \$55pp\*** Santorini's volcanic landscape and nutrient-rich soil nurtures a wealth of outstanding vineyards. On this excursion, you'll tour a local winery, enjoying a film screening followed by a wine tasting. Taste five different varietals, including Vin Santo, a sweet wine made from dried grapes, then enjoy a light lunch overlooking the Aegean Sea. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$65)

### **Crete 2 nights**

#### **Day 11: Transfer to Crete      Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

This afternoon, take a ferry to Crete, the largest of the Greek islands.

#### **Day 12: Free day in Crete      Included meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy a full free day in Crete or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion - Chania \$99pp\*** Travel to historic Chania, where a local guide introduces you to the city's Old Town. You'll visit Chania's cathedral before a walk through the Venetian quarter, where you'll step inside Etz Hayyim, the only synagogue on the island of Crete and a symbol of the city's ages-old Jewish community. After exploring the synagogue, spend some time strolling through the indoor market, perhaps sampling local herbs, olive oil, and cheeses. Your guided tour ends at the port where you'll visit an ancient Turkish Ottoman mosque. Lunch is included on this excursion, as well as free time to get to know this beautiful city at your own pace. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$109)

## **Athens 1 night**

### **Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Heraklion & transfer to Athens Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Before returning to Athens, enjoy a guided tour of Heraklion.

- Visit the ruins of Knossos, where King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in a labyrinth, according to the myth and see the Heraklion Archaeological Museum

This afternoon, fly to Athens to say goodbye to your group at a farewell dinner.

### **Day 14: Departure Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

## **SAMPLE HOTELS**

### **ATHENS Saint George Lycabettus Hotel 4-star**

Nestled against the pine-forested slopes of Lycabettus Hill, the St George Lycabettus affords breathtaking panoramic views over Athens to the Acropolis and the Saronic Gulf beyond. Guests are also perfectly positioned right in the pulsing heart of Athens, just steps away from Kolonaki's alluring shops, museums, galleries and eateries.

### **MYKONOS San Marco Luxury Hotel and Villas 3-star**

The luxurious rooms & suites of the San Marco Luxury Hotel & Villas are stylishly and sumptuously designed to offer you the ideal space in which to relax and unwind in total comfort.

### **SANTORINI Orizontes Hotel and Villas 3-star**

Orizontes Hotel & Villas is ideally situated between the town of Fira and Pyrgos village offering breathtaking panoramic views of Santorini Island, the renowned Caldera and Volcano, Fira, Oia, Akrotiri and the crystal clear blue waters of the Aegean. The hotel is build on top of a hill surrounded by vineyards and combines the traditional architecture of the Cycladic islands with modern interior design. Enjoy a relaxing swim in our beautiful swimming pool – one of the largest on the island – overlooking Santorini or explore the picturesque surrounding area.

### **CRETE Hotel Galaxy Iraklio 4-star**

Respectful of its successful history and privileged position in the pantheon of the country's most important tourist contributors, the Galaxy Hotel Iraklio welcomes each and every guest-client with a freshness of hotels with such extensive experience in the field. Fully renovated in 2008, the Galaxy Hotel showcases its distinctiveness in its every facet. Its landscape architecture is deferential of and follows that of the land, while its interior design impresses even the most cosmopolitan of visitors, highlighting the hotel's unmistakable insistence on quality and dedication to the magical combination of aesthetics and functionality.