

Full Itinerary

ANCIENT GREECE & SANTORINI.



TALK TO OUR WELL
TRAVELLED TEAM OF
EXPERTS

0844 3350 197

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00
GMT



JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Ancient Greece & Santorini

DURATION:

12 days/11 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to arrive into Athens
Airport [ATH] on Day 1 and depart from
Santorini Airport [JTR] on Day 12

PICKUP LOCATION:

Athens Airport [ATH]

OVERVIEW

24 Jun - 05 Jul, 2027

Greece is the birthplace of Western civilisation and also known for its beautiful islands. Explore some of the country's most famous historical sights, like the Acropolis and the hanging monasteries of Meteora before sailing across the azure waters to stunning Santorini

Travel back in time and visit all the places you have heard of during your history lessons at school. You now have the chance to walk among the ancient ruins at the world's most famous excavation site, the Acropolis. Admire up close, the majestic ruins of the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike and the most venerated of them all, the Erechtheion. We travel inland to visit the precipitously built hanging monasteries of Meteora.

Often described as one of the most beautiful islands in the world, we can't miss out on a trip to the island of Santorini. Here you can stroll through cobbled streets and past whitewashed houses and iconic blue-domed churches on this stunning volcanic island in the Aegean Sea. On the last day of this memorable journey, we sail along hidden rocky coves and sandy beaches and will be given plenty of time to snorkel and swim in the clear azure waters that surround the island.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Welcome to Athens

DAY 2 - Discover ancient Athens

DAY 3 - Visit the Acropolis and Piraeus

DAY 4 - Full day tour of Evia Island and Chalkis

DAY 5 - Delphi and Meteora

DAY 6 - Meteora and the Hanging Monasteries

DAY 7 - Return to Athens via Trikala

DAY 8 - Ferry to Santorini

DAY 9 - Half day tour of Santorini

DAY 10 - Sunset Cruise

DAY 11 - Akrotiri Archaeological Site

DAY 12 - Goodbye Greece or extend your stay to Mykonos

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - WELCOME TO ATHENS

Welcome to Athens, a city where ancient legends and modern life blend seamlessly. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted and transferred to your centrally located hotel. As you drive into the city, glimpses of marble temples and sunlit hills begin to set the tone for the adventure ahead.

In the evening, we gather for a welcome dinner. From the hotel's rooftop, the illuminated Acropolis rises above the city—a breathtaking first impression of the cradle of Western civilisation. Over a relaxed meal, meet your fellow travellers and your Tour Director, who will introduce the journey we'll share together.

This is the perfect moment to settle in, slow down, and begin absorbing the beauty and history around you. Your Greek odyssey has officially begun.

Included meals: Welcome Dinner

Accommodation: Acropolian Spirit Hotel, Athens

DAY 2 - DISCOVER ANCIENT ATHENS

This morning, your journey into the heart of ancient civilisation begins. We start at the Panathenaic Stadium, the only stadium in the world built entirely from marble. Feel the smooth white stone beneath your feet as your guide brings to life the excitement of the very first modern Olympic Games.

From here we pass the elegant Prime Minister's Residence, the National Gardens, and Parliament, where we pause to watch the Changing of the Guard—a ceremony of remarkable precision performed in traditional uniform.

Next, we begin a gentle walk through Athens' historic commercial quarter, weaving through narrow lanes and lively squares until we reach the Ancient Agora, once the beating heart of political, social, and commercial life in classical Athens. Standing on these stones, you are literally walking in the footsteps of Socrates and Pericles.

Our walk concludes in Monastiraki Square, one of Athens' most energetic neighbourhoods, buzzing with rooftop cafés, artisan shops, and the aromas of fresh Greek street food.

We then enjoy a curated Greek delicatessen tasting—extra-virgin olive oils, local spirits, and traditional meze—before sitting down to a late lunch at a welcoming Athenian restaurant.

The afternoon is free for leisurely exploration. You may wish to browse the markets of Monastiraki, wander the charming alleys of Plaka, or visit one of Athens' excellent museums.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Acropolian Spirit Hotel, Athens

DAY 3 - VISIT THE ACROPOLIS AND PIRAEUS

This morning, we ascend to one of the most iconic landmarks on earth: the Acropolis of Athens. As you climb the ancient marble slope, the columns of the Parthenon come into view—majestic, timeless, and instantly recognisable. Your guide brings the site to life with stories of gods, philosophers, and the origins of democracy.

We then visit the Acropolis Museum, where thousands of years of art and artefacts are displayed with striking modern design. Glass floors reveal excavation sites beneath your feet, offering a remarkable connection between ancient and contemporary Athens.

Our walk continues into Anafiotika, a tiny, whitewashed neighbourhood tucked beneath the Acropolis cliffs. Built by craftsmen from the island of Anafi, its narrow paths and sunlit walls feel more Cycladic island than capital city—an unexpected, peaceful contrast.

After lunch, we travel to Piraeus, the bustling port of Athens. Once the naval centre of the ancient world, today it remains the heart of Greece's maritime culture. From the harbour, watch ferries glide out toward the islands as your guide shares tales of naval battles, trade routes, and modern life along the Saronic Gulf.

Dinner at a seaside restaurant rounds off the day—fresh seafood, gentle waves, and warm Greek hospitality.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Acropolian Spirit Hotel, Athens

DAY 4 - FULL DAY TOUR OF EVIA ISLAND AND CHALKIS

Today we journey to Evia, Greece's second-largest island, connected to the mainland by two bridges. Our destination is Chalkis, a city steeped in poetry, legends, and surprising natural phenomena.

At the waterfront we witness the famous Evripos Tidal Current, a rare natural wonder where the sea dramatically reverses direction every six hours. Your guide will explain the ancient theories and modern science behind this mysterious effect—once noted by Aristotle himself.

A short city walk leads us past Roman and Byzantine remains, traditional houses, and the Castle of Karababa, which offers sweeping views over the strait. Here, in a charming hilltop restaurant, we take part in a lively Greek cooking class. Under the guidance of local experts, we prepare classic recipes using fresh, regional ingredients before enjoying the meal together.

After some free time to stroll and absorb the island atmosphere, we travel inland to the mountain village of Arachova, known for its stone houses, craft shops, and crisp alpine air.

We arrive at our hotel in the early evening and gather for a relaxed dinner.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Domotel Anemolia Mountain Resort (Arachova)

DAY 5 - DELPHI AND METEORA

This morning begins with a short stroll through the picturesque village of Arachova, famous for its weaving traditions and panoramic views over the valley.

We then make our way to Delphi, once considered the “navel of the world.” As your guide leads you through the ancient sanctuary, you'll explore the Temple of Apollo, the Sacred Way, and the Treasury of the Athenians. The museum's exquisite artefacts—including the celebrated bronze Charioteer—bring to life the spiritual significance of this revered site.

We continue to the lively riverside city of Trikala for lunch, enjoying regional dishes in a relaxed, local setting.

In the afternoon, we arrive at Meteora, one of the most striking landscapes in Greece. Towering pillars of rock rise dramatically from the plain, crowned with centuries-old monasteries. After checking into our hotel, we enjoy dinner at a nearby traditional tavern, soaking in the atmosphere of this remarkable region.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Divani Meteora Hotel

DAY 6 - METEORA AND THE HANGING MONASTERIES

We begin our morning exploring the hanging monasteries of Meteora, ascending to the Great Meteoron—founded in the 14th century—and another monastery where Byzantine frescoes, ancient manuscripts, and dramatic cliffside views reveal why this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Later, we travel through the countryside to visit the Hermit Cave of Agios Theodosios, a peaceful sanctuary once used by monks seeking solitude. Standing here, surrounded by sweeping rock formations, gives you a new appreciation for Meteora's spiritual legacy.

Our next stop is the Liakou Wine Estate, beautifully set among rolling vineyards. A guided tour introduces us to local grape varieties uniquely shaped by Meteora's microclimate. We enjoy a tasting of five carefully selected wines accompanied by artisanal cheeses.

Our day concludes with an exceptionally authentic cultural experience in the farming village of Agios Dimitrios. Here, in the heart of the village square, beloved local cook Mrs. Voula prepares a feast of traditional recipes. As dishes are served, your local host shares stories passed down through generations—an intimate glimpse into rural Greek life that few visitors ever encounter.

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Divani Meteora Hotel

DAY 7 - RETURN TO ATHENS VIA TRIKALA

After a relaxed morning in Meteora, we make our way back to Athens, retracing landscapes that shift from dramatic rock formations to rolling plains and finally to the vibrant capital.

Upon arrival, the rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy. You may wish to unwind at the hotel, explore nearby cafés, or take an evening stroll through Plaka's lantern-lit alleys.

Tonight, we gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect after our days in the countryside and prepare for the island chapter of the journey ahead.

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Acropolian Spirit Hotel, Athens

DAY 8 - FERRY TO SANTORINI

This morning we board the ferry to Santorini, one of the most breathtaking islands in the Mediterranean. As we sail through the Aegean, settle into the rhythm of Greek island life—sea breezes, endless blue horizons, and the gentle rise and fall of the water.

Approaching Santorini is a moment to remember. The volcanic cliffs rise dramatically from the sea, crowned with bright white villages that sparkle in the sunlight. It's a view that has captured the imagination of travellers, artists, and poets for centuries.

Upon arrival, we enjoy lunch at a restaurant overlooking the caldera—the island's iconic volcanic crater. After checking into our hotel, the rest of the day is free to relax, wander, or simply savour the views from your terrace.

Dinner this evening is at a charming local restaurant, where traditional island flavours introduce us to the unique cuisine of Santorini.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Majestic Hotel, Santorini

DAY 9 - HALF DAY TOUR OF SANTORINI

Today we explore some of the most picturesque corners of Santorini. We begin in the postcard-perfect village of Oia, where whitewashed houses and blue-domed churches cling to volcanic cliffs overlooking the caldera. Enjoy time for photos and a gentle walk through its charming lanes.

We continue to the traditional village of Megalochori, known for its quiet alleys, vine-covered courtyards, and classic Cycladic architecture. This is Santorini at its most authentic.

Our next visit is to a local craft brewery, where we sample innovative beers infused with island-grown ingredients. Paired with light bites, this tasting gives a refreshing twist to Santorini's well-known wine culture.

We complete our tour at the iconic Black Beach, formed from volcanic lava pebbles. With the Aegean shimmering before you, enjoy a relaxed aperitif by the sea.

After lunch at a local restaurant, the afternoon is yours to explore or unwind.

Included meals: Breakfast & Light Lunch

Accommodation: Majestic Hotel, Santorini

DAY 10 - SUNSET CRUISE

Today is yours to enjoy at leisure until the afternoon, when one of the island's most unforgettable experiences awaits: a private sunset catamaran cruise.

We set sail along the rugged coastline, where cliffs carved by ancient eruptions plunge into shimmering waters. There will be plenty of chances to swim or snorkel in hidden bays accessible only by boat—crystal-clear, calm, and wonderfully refreshing.

We drift past the surreal landscapes of Red Beach and White Beach, their colours glowing in the fading light. As the sun sinks toward the horizon, the caldera is bathed in molten gold and soft pink.

Onboard, a freshly prepared BBQ dinner is served, accompanied by local wine and relaxed island ambience. This is Santorini at its most magical—an evening you'll never forget.

Included meals: Breakfast & Sunset BBQ on Catamaran

Accommodation: Majestic Hotel, Santorini

DAY 11 - AKROTIRI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

This morning we visit Akrotiri, one of the most important archaeological sites in the Aegean. Often called the “Pompeii of the Aegean,” the Bronze Age city was preserved beneath volcanic ash for nearly 3,500 years. Elevated walkways allow you to wander through remarkably intact homes, storage rooms, frescoed walls, and ancient streets.

We then continue to Red Beach, where dramatic rust-red cliffs descend to deep blue waters—a striking natural contrast shaped by the island’s volcanic origins. After lunch and relaxed time by the sea, we return to the hotel for a leisurely afternoon.

As evening falls, we gather for a final drink and light fare. This informal farewell is the perfect opportunity to share your favourite moments and celebrate the unforgettable journey you’ve experienced together in Greece.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch & Light Farewell Nibbles

Accommodation: Majestic Hotel, Santorini

DAY 12 - GOODBYE GREECE OR EXTEND YOUR STAY TO MYKONOS

This morning, we say goodbye—or *antio*—to Greece. After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight, or continue your adventures with an extended stay on another Greek island.

As you leave, take with you the memories of ancient cities, dramatic landscapes, island sunsets, and the warm hospitality that defines Greece. We hope this journey has been as inspiring as the myths and history woven into its landscapes.

Safe travels—until our next adventure together.

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: None

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meet & Greet at Athens Airport on arrival
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- Transportation throughout in an air-conditioned deluxe vehicle
- All activities, visits and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- English speaking tour guides where applicable.
- Porterage/baggage handling in/out of hotels
- Services of a Big Journey Company Tour Director throughout (subject to minimum numbers)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- ATOL protection
- Flights into Athens Airport [ATH] and departing from Santorini Airport [JTR]
- Transfers on arrival or departure, to/from the airport(s), outside of the tour dates
- Additional food/beverage unless otherwise included in the programme
- Personal expenses
- Personal Travel & Medical Insurance
- Visas (if required)
- Optional excursions
- Gratuities
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Flights:** International flights to/from your chosen destination are not included in this package. The Big Journey Company will be happy to provide a quotation for your flights—please contact us for further details.
- **Vaccinations & Health:** Vaccinations may be recommended depending on your destination. Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up-to-date medical advice.
- **Visas & Entry Requirements:** Entry requirements vary by destination, and a visa may be required. Please refer to the travel tips section for full details. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the necessary travel documentation prior to departure.
- **Medical Needs:** Please inform The Big Journey Company prior to travel of any medical conditions or medications you take that we should be aware of to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- **Accommodation Check-in/Out:** Unless otherwise stated in your itinerary, check-in is after 2–3pm and check-out is before 10am. Please note that hotels may be subject to change to the same or similar standard due to availability.
- **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations made within 90 days of departure are subject to a 100% cancellation fee. Deposits are non-refundable, and balance payments are due 14 weeks prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure adequate travel insurance is in place to protect against the need to cancel your holiday.
- **Minimum Numbers:** The Big Journey Company host will accompany the tour should minimum guest numbers be met. We will confirm this closer to the departure date.
- **Terms & Conditions:** Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation. This does not affect your statutory rights. All offers are subject to availability and space is limited.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

BOOK NOW!

24 JUN - 05 JUL 2027

FROM £6,439 PER PERSON.

Call to Book

0844 3350 197

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00 GMT