



The Greek Islands: Mykonos, Santorini & Crete

GREECE 2: With Donna Kirkland

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12 days | 14 days with Athens extension Depart Friday, September 19, 2025
Return Tuesday September 30, 2025 (With Extension Thursday October 2, 2025)

It's nearly impossible to get a true taste of Greek culture without sampling its flavorful isles. Experience their relaxed lifestyle and meet friendly locals as you discover the character and history unique to each island. Absorb Hellenic heritage in ancient Athens (with a chance to return and explore some more when you stay with us for the Athens extension) before anchoring on the beaches of lively Mykonos. Continue your island-hopping as you cruise on the Aegean Sea to the volcanic shores of Santorini before soaking in Crete's legendary landscapes.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 wine tasting
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 ferry transfers
- 1 on-tour flight

Included highlights

- Acropolis
- Parthenon
- Windmills in Mykonos Town
- Akrotiri excavations
- Village of Pyrgos
- Ruins of Knossos
- Heraklion Archaeological Museum

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep hills and stairs.

**The information is intended as a sketch based on availability and other factors that may require changes.*

The Greek Islands: Mykonos, Santorini & Crete GREECE 2 2025

12 days | 14 days with Athens extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day (Fri. Sept 19, 2025)

Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

Athens → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Athens (Sat. Sept 20, 2025)

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Greece! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens (Sun. Sept 21, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast

Nothing can prepare you for the sheer sense of awe you'll feel when you come face-to-face with Athens—where ancient architecture and artifacts coexist with modern life. Meet up with your dedicated local guide, who will introduce you to the highlights of this bustling capital.

- Pass by the Panathenaic Stadium, built entirely out of marble—the only such stadium in the world.
- Continue to Syntagma Square—home to the neoclassical Greek Parliament building—and admire the plaza's imposing marble steps, fountain, and lush shade trees.
- Admire the Arch of Hadrian—built to honor the Roman emperor—and imagine how its Pentelic marble stones were carted more than 11 miles from Mount Pentelikon in 131 A.D.
- View the remains of the sixth-century Temple of Zeus and gaze up at its 16 ornate Corinthian columns.
- Drive through Plaka. Situated at the foot of the Acropolis, this district is one of the oldest parts of Athens and is known as “the Neighborhood of the Gods” due to the dozens of monuments strewn throughout it.
- Set off on a walking tour around the ancient Acropolis—site of the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion. You may have seen these enduring icons of antiquity in books and films; now, you're stepping through the work of craftsmen who quarried and honed these marble blocks thousands of years ago.

Enjoy a free evening or add an excursion to a local taverna where you'll enjoy dinner and a show of Greek folk dance and music.

+ Greek Folklore Show & Dinner

Mykonos → 2 nights

Day 4: Ferry to Mykonos & sightseeing tour (Mon. Sept 22, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

We're off to the islands! Travel by ferry to Mykonos and join your Tour Director on a walk through Mykonos Town's labyrinthian streets, bursting with cafes, galleries, and shops.

- See the iconic white windmills of Mykonos Town—built as early as the 16th century and originally used to mill wheat and barley—and watch their thatched roofs dance in the sea breeze.
- Delight in Little Venice—perched right alongside the Aegean and inspired by its Italian namesake—where colorful, sun-splashed residences seem to melt into the water, their balconies hanging over the sea.
- Pass the Church of Panagia Paraportiani, eminently photographed for its Byzantine-era, whitewashed facade and intriguing curves.

Sit down this evening for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 5: Free day in Mykonos (Tue. Sept 23, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast

Choose to spend your free day crystalline waters of Mykonos on a catamaran cruise with included lunch. You'll have free time to spend as you please, either exploring the island of Rhenia, swimming, or soaking up the sun. Not joining the excursion? Use your free day in Mykonos to hit the cobblestones. If visiting the island's famous beach clubs isn't your speed, head back to Little Venice for a stroll along the Old Harbor; hike down to Armenistis Lighthouse, one of the oldest in Greece; or get lost in Matogianni Street's shops and galleries and surrender to the soft, salty air on The Island of the Winds.

+ Mykonos Catamaran Cruise & Lunch

Santorini → 3 nights

Day 6: Ferry to Santorini & Oia village visit (Wed Sept 24, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast

You've seen the photos—now get ready to star in them yourself. Take a ferry to Santorini and enjoy a free afternoon on the island. You can admire the steep cliffs that plunge into the Aegean and the island's iconic caldera, dotted with whitewashed buildings. Then, eat your way through traditional dishes—like moussaka, a hearty eggplant dish, or tomato fritters—then use your free time to explore unique pebbly beaches and crystal-clear waters.

Pay a visit to the picturesque village of Oia, perched atop the cliffs of the Santorini caldera. You might just catch a glimpse of the evening sun melting into the Aegean in fiery bursts of pink, orange, and red as you stroll between whitewashed buildings stacked with colorful rooftops.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Santorini & Caldera Cruise (Thur Sept 25, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Your guided tour of Santorini will take you from dramatic black-sand beaches to jagged cliff-lined shores and back—a stark contrast to the island's beloved, blue-domed buildings and sprays of bright fuchsia bougainvillea vines.

- Visit the archaeological excavations at Akrotiri, a settlement buried in volcanic ash, where richly pigmented Bronze Age frescoes and other Minoan artifacts survived a devastating volcanic eruption in the 16th century B.C.
- Ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for panoramic views of Santorini, neighboring island chains, and the blue waters kissing the horizon.
- Stop in small, picturesque Pyrgos, where you'll weave through the steep streets of this off-the-beaten-path village.

Later, hop on a catamaran for a steal-your-breath-away dinner cruise starring the cliffside village of Oia—Santorini's calling card.

Day 8: Santorini wine tasting & Greek wedding show (Fri Sept 26, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, wine tasting

Take a tour of a local vineyard to discover how Santorini's volcanic landscape and nutrient-rich soil nurture a wealth of outstanding wines.

- Learn about how the vines are trained to grow close to the ground, which helps protect the grapes from the strong ocean winds
- Sit down for a light lunch and wine tasting featuring some of their signature varietals including Assyrtiko and Vin Santo

Tonight, experience the fun of a traditional 1940s Greek marriage during an interactive Wedding Show. Follow the story of a post-war family wedding from preparations to the reception during this lively production of music, singing, dancing, and plate-smashing.

Crete → 2 nights

Day 9: Ferry to Crete (Sat 27, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Take a ferry to Crete, the largest of the Greek islands, this afternoon. The birthplace of the ancient Minoan civilization, Crete served as the backdrop for the mythical tales of King Minos, the labyrinth, and the Minotaur. Remnants of Minoan civilization can be found across the island, punctuating a diverse landscape that ranges from lush valleys and dramatic gorges to looming mountains and serene beaches. Expect to be embraced by the locals' friendliness—perhaps alongside a shot of raki, a strong digestif made of distilled grape skins that's offered as a sign of hospitality. Sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

Day 10: Free day in Crete (Sun Sept 28, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast
Looking to uncover centuries of cultural diversity? Choose to join the excursion to Chania, a coastal city on Crete's northwestern shore that has passed between Greek, Venetian, and Ottoman hands through the years. Embark on a walking tour of Chania's Old Town, a historic quarter tinged by Venetian heritage that also happens to boast a thriving Jewish community. You can also use your free day to enjoy Cretan cuisine—grilled seafood and local cheeses like mizithra—at one of the island's many seaside tavernas or stroll along the warm sands of a beach (or three).
+ Chania

Athens → 1 night

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Heraklion &

transfer to Athens (Mon Sept 29, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Board your bus and cruise past Crete's olive-covered terrain en route to Heraklion—an ancient port town that was once the hub of the Minoans, Europe's first civilization. Here, you'll set off on a guided tour.

- Visit the ruins of the Bronze Age palace of Knossos. Part administrative center, part place of worship, it held a special place at the heart of Minoan culture (and was where, according to legend, King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in the heart of a labyrinth).
- See the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, home of the world's preeminent collection of Minoan art and many artifacts taken from the excavation of Knossos and other dig sites around Crete.

Afterward, fly to Athens and celebrate your trip with your group at a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure (Tues Sept 30, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to continue exploring Athens. With a history spanning more than 3,400 years, we know you'll want more time to delve into the Greek capital's ever-evolving cultural landscape. And if you're just craving another plateful of syrupy, sweet fried dough—those pillowy loukoumades—we're right there with you.

+ Athens extension

You've decided to treat yourself to two more days in Athens—and we're ready to help you fill them with more history, archaeology, and tangy, craveable cuisine. Ask your Tour Director for their best tips for exploring Greece's unforgettable capital, then go ahead and discover the city your way (or join our one of our specially curated excursions).

Athens → 2 nights

Day 12: Free day in Athens (Tues Sept 30, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast
Athens has no shortage of incredible restaurants

serving Greek and international fare. You can also spend your day in Athens scoping out the National Garden, a serene, green expanse in the heart of the city with ponds and shady paths that cross through ancient ruins. For a less crowded panorama of Athens, head to Mount Lycabettus, where you can hike or take the funicular railway to the top of the hill. [eir](#) recommendations, too! Or opt for a excursion to Delphi
+ Delphi

Day 13: Free day in Athens (Wed Oct 1, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast
It's your last full day in Athens; let's make the most of it. Join the optional (but highly recommended) visit to the Corinth Canal. This narrow waterway connects the Gulf of Corinth to the Saronic Gulf and was an important navigational route upon its opening in 1893. While it's too narrow for modern vessels, its steep limestone walls provide a scenic contrast to the aquamarine waters below. You'll then continue to the archaeological sites at Epidaurus and Mycenae to walk along some of the best-preserved ancient sites in Greece. If you choose to spend your free day venturing out on your own, why not take in some of the city's street art? Wander through neighborhoods like Exarchia or Psiri and check out their colorful graffiti up close. Looking for another vantage point to admire Athens? Head to the Pnyx, a hill where ancient Athenians gathered for assemblies. You'll get views and a tranquil atmosphere. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers to enjoy a farewell drink.
+ Corinth Canal, Epidaurus & Mycenae

Flight Home

Day 14: Departure (Thur Oct 2, 2025)

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home, souvlaki in hand.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/Z3i | 1-800-597-0350

Day 3: Greek Folklore Show & Dinner

Visit the link above or call for pricing info.

(3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Tonight's festivities take place at a traditional Greek taverna. Take in a live show featuring traditional music and folk dances as you enjoy a meal of Mediterranean specialties.

completed in 1893 and separates the Peloponnese peninsula from mainland Greece. While it's too small for modern boats, the canal symbolizes the vision of these ancient rulers. After, head to the Ancient Theater of Epidauros and learn about one of the world's best-preserved Greek amphitheaters. End the day with a tour of the UNESCO-listed Archaeological site of Mycenae, an important city in the Mycenaean civilization that's linked to Homer's famous Greek epics the Iliad and the Odyssey.

Day 5: Mykonos Catamaran Cruise & Lunch

Visit the link above or call for pricing info.

(5 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Admire Mykonos from the water on a private catamaran cruise that takes you off the beaten path to Rhenia, an uninhabited island surrounded by crystalline waters and home to ancient Greek ruins. You'll have free time to spend as you please, either exploring the island, swimming, or soaking up the sun. Enjoy an included lunch on board served with drinks.

Day 10: Chania

\$119/\$129* (8 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

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 enduring Jewish community. After exploring the synagogue, your guided tour ends at the port, where you'll visit an ancient Turkish Ottoman mosque. Lunch is included on this excursion, as is free time to get to know this beautiful city at your own pace. Please note: Etz Hayyim is closed on Sundays.

(Tues Sept 30, 2025)

Extension excursion options

Day 12: Delphi

\$119/\$129* (11 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Journey to the slopes of Mount Parnassus and the archeological site 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. Then, take time to explore the ancient treasures, including a huge bronze charioteer, on display at the Delphi Museum. Continue on to the picturesque town of Arachova and enjoy a traditional Greek lunch at a local restaurant. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain and hills.

Day 13: Corinth Canal, Epidauros & Mycenae

\$119/\$129* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Begin the day with a visit to the Corinth Canal. Everyone from Julius Caesar to emperor Nero dreamed of building this canal to connect the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf and cut down on the time it took to transport goods by boat. The present-day canal was

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three 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. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms