

Endless Blue Naxos-Koufonisi-Amorgos

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For most people the Cycladic islands, are synonymous with the term, "The Greek Islands. White washed houses, turquoise blue seas, olive groves and sun parched landscapes. It is here where man lived in harmony with the environment for thousands of years and we believe that hiking in Cycladic islands offers you a unique opportunity to connect with their past and present. Step by step you will get to know the secrets of the islands, each of them stamped with its own unique character. The trip starts in Naxos, the largest and one of the most extraordinary islands of the Cyclades if one can be in a position to choose. It is an island with incredible landscape interchanges, Venetian castles and traditional villages perched on the cliffs of its mountains. After spending three days there we will take the ferry to Koufonisi, the small diamond of the Cyclades, which lies within between Naxos and Amorgos. Life goes on slowly here, in a microcosm living with its own relaxed rhythms, right in the middle of the Cyclades. Different sense of time, different behaviors, different dimensions. Last destination on our trip will be the island of Amorgos, marked by tradition and history. The mountainous island is still a well-kept secret destination, and a hiker's paradise. If you are searching for "Original Greece" you should definitely visit Amorgos.

Trip Highlights



- Hike in the mountains of Naxos, a place of picturesque landscape ornamented with shepherds, goats, and tiny, solitary, whitewashed churches
- Swim at the beautiful long beach of Pori in Koufonisi, where the sand is satin white and the sea a dazzling turquoise
- Take in some of the most breathtaking views of the Aegean Sea at Amorgos
- Savor fresh fish from the daily catch, at a local tavern by the sea

Map



Tour Details

Days/Nights: 9 days / 8 nights

Theme: Hiking & Trekking/ Cultural

Single supplement: Cost based on request. Availability limited.

Condition grading: Moderate

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Naxos and welcome dinner

Your trip begins in Naxos. As the ferry arcs toward the island you catch the first glimpse of the Portara, a marble gateway on the headland, all that remains of an ancient temple to Apollo.

Your guide will wait for you in the port and he will escort you to your hotel. In the afternoon, after a brief orientation meeting, we'll set off to explore the old town of Naxos. To conclude the day, we will have our first dinner together in a traditional Greek restaurant.

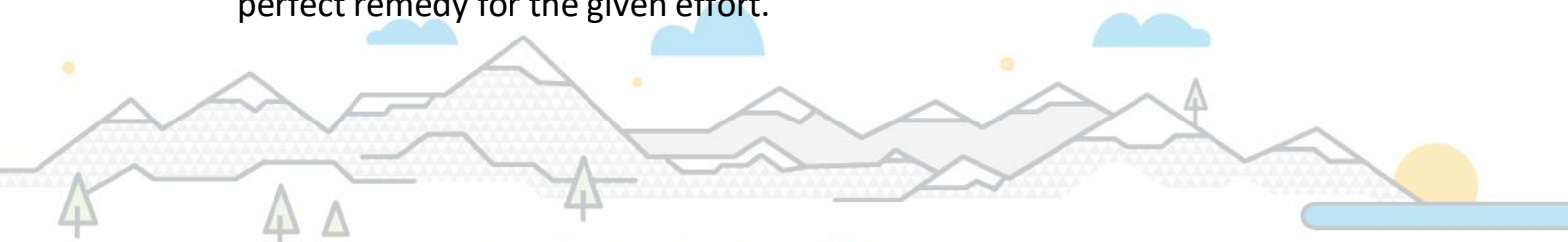
Overnight in Naxos in a boutique hotel

Dinner included

Day 2

Hike from Kouros statue to Chalki

There are countless hiking opportunities around [Greece](#), thanks to its diverse and rugged terrain, and one of the best islands for this kind of activity is Naxos. Today you will start your hike from the spot where the two "small" Kouroi (male statues) of Naxos have lain down, for 2600 years now. Continue onwards to the Upper Castle, the former Venetian stronghold, passing olive groves interspersed with elements of the phrygana and maquis, and enter one of the most beautiful villages of the island, Chalki. A traditional meal in a local tavern will be served as a perfect remedy for the given effort.



Overnight in Naxos in a boutique hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 7,5 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 282 m & 207 m

Driving distance:

Naxos town to Kouros statue 10 km / 25 min

Chalki to Naxos Town 17 km / 35 min

Day 3

Hike Mount Zeus

The island is home to the highest mountain in the Cyclades, Mount Zeus and the hike to the top of it, is probably the most epic one in the region. Mount Zeus has important historical significance because in ancient times, the local Greeks believed that the cave on the northwest flanks of the mountain was the birthplace of the god Zeus. When climbing it you'll get the distinct feeling that Greek mythology is actually rooted in reality. Afternoon is free, and the best way to spend it is to relax on one of the beaches around the main town and refresh your body in the clear and scented waters of the unparalleled Aegean Sea.

Overnight in Naxos in a boutique hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 6 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 400 m & 400 m

Driving distance:

Naxos town to Mount Zeus 22 km / 40 min

Filoti to Naxos Town 19 km / 35 min

Day 4

Stroll in Naxos town and ferry to Koufonisi

The town of Naxos is regarded to be one of the most beautiful towns in the Cyclades, particularly popular for its fine architecture that is



composed of Venetian and Cycladic elements. In the morning explore the impressive Venetian castle that stands on top of it. Later on in the day catch the ferry to Koufonisi. Hidden away between the larger Cycladic islands of Naxos and Amorgos, Koufonisia is made up of two tiny islets, which are separated by a 200-metre sea channel. These two islands combine to form a place of sheer, tranquil beauty. Locals live mainly from fishing – it is claimed that there are more boats than residents – and there are no proper roads and hardly any cars, so everyone either walks or cycles.

Overnight in Koufonisi in a boutique hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Ferry:

Naxos to Koufonisi 14:00-16:30

Day 5

Hike at Koufonisi and afternoon ferry to Amorgos

The sandy beaches that rim Koufonisi's south coast give onto turquoise blue sea of a hue that seems confined to artists' palettes, seemingly impossible in reality; reaching them is a pleasure in itself. Since there are only a few roads, and little traffic, the best way to do that is on foot. So today we will hike from our hotel to the beach of Pori, where you can enjoy a swim before returning.

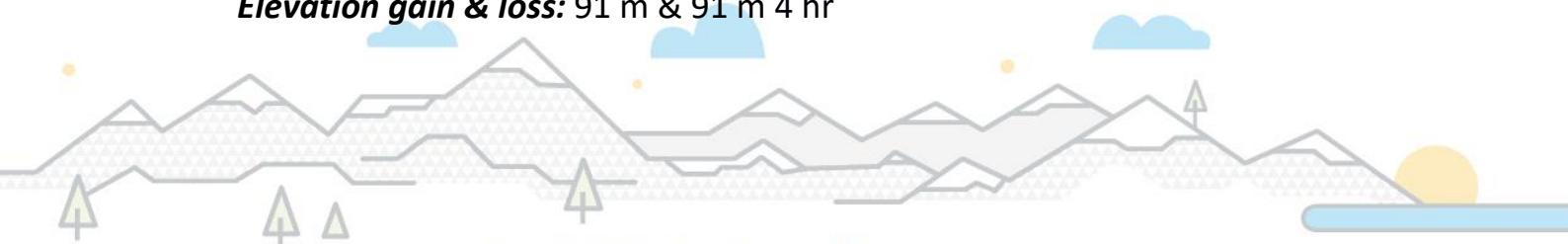
In the Afternoon we will catch the ferry to Amorgos, the most eastern of the Cycladic Islands. The amazing crystal-clear waters of the island's coastline provided a setting for Luc Besson's 1988 film "*The Big Blue*." There's a peaceful atmosphere on this small island, and the few residents are mainly fishermen or farmers.

Overnight in Amorgos in a boutique hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 8 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 91 m & 91 m 4 hr



Ferry:

Koufonisi to Amorgos 16:45-19:20

Day 6

Hike a circular route above Aegiali bay

Amorgos' landscape is famous for its wild herbs that grow in abundance everywhere on the island. Walking along the paths you will experience the calm silence, authentic island scenery and some of the most breathtaking views of the Aegean.

Today head out on the beautiful 8.1-kilometer-loop walk that links the traditional village of Langada with the monastery of Epanochoriani and the village of Tholaria. The cobble stone path takes you high up, in the enclosing circle of hills dotted with small white churches, a patchwork of stone walls and lush vegetation.

Overnight in Amorgos in a boutique hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 7,6 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

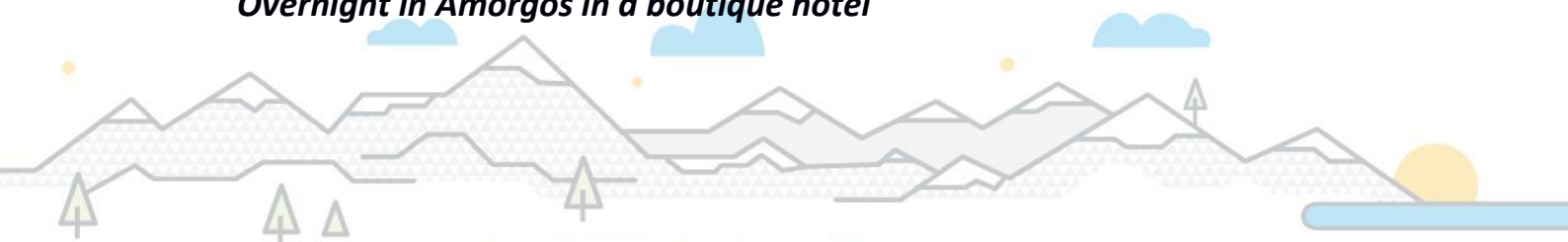
Elevation gain & loss: 350 m & 370 m

Day 7

Hike from Asfondylitis to Chora of Amorgos through Moni Chozoviotissa

From Asfondylitis we will follow cobbled mule paths, all the way to the monastery of Chozoviotisa. Clinging high above the turquoise sea on the island of Amorgos, and nestled like an aerie on a sheer bluff is one of Greece's most extraordinary old Byzantine monasteries and religious gems. From there, we will finish our hike in Chora of Amorgos. At 400 metres above sea level, it is an impressive sight. A rock wrapped with a 13th-century Venetian castle looks down on a clutch of whitewashed houses and churches.

Overnight in Amorgos in a boutique hotel



Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 8 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 4 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 370 m & 317 m

Driving distance:

Aegiali to Asfondylitis 11 km / 20 min

Aegiali to Chora of Amorgos 18 km / 30 min

Day 8

Ferry to Naxos

Hopefully with a slight sense of nostalgia which comes when a nice experience has to come to an end, here your trip with Tripin Adventures concludes.

Early in the morning catch the ferry to Naxos from where you can continue independently and spend some days in Naxos, return to Athens or even follow our Santorini extension program.

Breakfast included

Ferry:

Amorgos to Naxos 7:00-12:00

What's included

Price includes:

All accommodations based on double occupancy

Hotel taxes and service charges

All transportation during the trip

All activities mentioned in the program

Ferry tickets

Services of a guide throughout the tour

Transport and handling of one reasonably sized suitcase and one carry-on per person

Included meals: Breakfast, lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary

Not Included:



Domestic and/or international air fare
Medical expenses
Travel or emergency evacuation insurance
Gratuities for leader/guide or driver
Alcoholic beverages and meals other than those outlined in itinerary
Visas if needed
Other items of a personal nature
Anything not mentioned in above program

Itinerary Changes

We are constantly updating our unique itineraries based on new information and experiences available. The walks, accommodations, and visits listed may be adjusted. The itineraries presented are subject to modification and change by Tripin Adventures. We reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in our judgment, conditions warrant, or if we deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.

Terrain

This trip level is Moderate and is suitable for most people that are in fairly good physical condition. Although the daily distances are not that far, it has been rated moderate as there are quite significant elevation gains and losses. The itinerary includes walking tours in cities and villages, and five days with moderate hikes of 3-5 hours. Although the paths are quite well-kept the terrain often tends to be very stony and rocky. You will mostly be walking on footpaths, mountain trails and on some tarmac roads and be prepared for few steeper passages.

Condition Grading



Moderate

Trips designated “Moderate” are more active and require a bit more endurance. Hikes and treks include occasional steep ascents. Trip members should be experienced hikers in good physical condition, capable of walking 3-5 hours

Starting point and getting there

Starting point is: Naxos.

Getting There & Away: Naxos is something of a ferry hub of the Cyclades, with a similar number of conventional and fast ferries making regular calls to and from Piraeus. There is also a daily flight from Athens.

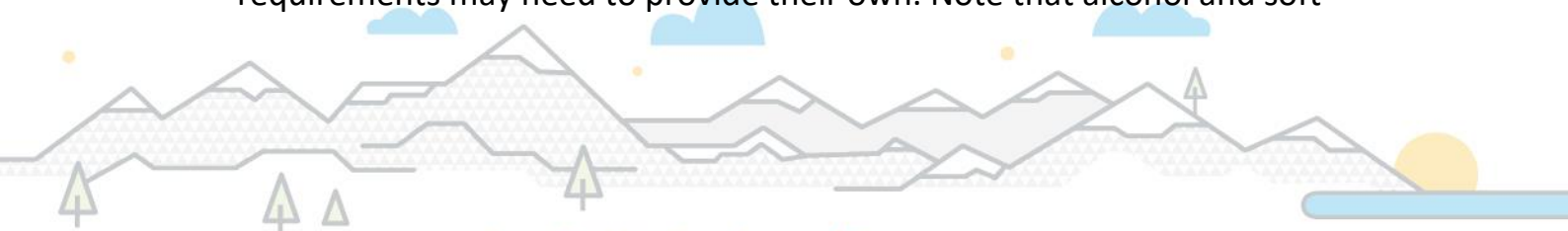
Getting around: The port is located in the main town (chora) and the airport 3km south of it. In any case our guide will wait you either at the port either at the airport and will take you to your hotel.

Food

Simple, nutritious and flavorsome, the food is one of the pleasures of travel through Greece. Rustic Greek Cuisine reflects the history and bounty of its diverse regions and relies on the fresh, seasonal home-grown produce and generally simple, unfussy cooking that brings out the rich flavors of the Mediterranean.

Greece’s relaxed and hospitable dining culture makes it easy to get into the local spirit. Greeks love to eat out and share impossibly big meals family style. Given the long summers and mild winters, alfresco dining is central to the dining experience. Service could be slow by Western standards, but why be in a rush either way.

As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other’s company. There's no obligation to do this though. Wherever possible we will cater for dietary needs for any included meals, but there may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own. Note that alcohol and soft



drinks are not included.

Weather

Spring, summer and fall in Greece are sunny and warm. The daytime temperatures average 25-30 C though temperatures in the 35s are possible in the summer months. Nighttime temperatures cool off slightly to 20° C. Rain showers are rare on the islands, but it's often breezy and rainy on the coast.

Gear Checklist

Greece has a temperate climate. Base your clothing on the “layering system”, if it is hot you can “peel off” layers quickly, if it is cooler and windy you can quickly “dress up”. The lighter you travel, the easier you travel. Use your best judgement and pack as lightly as possible. You will appreciate light luggage towards the end of your trip

Please consider taking along the following items on your trip.

Official Papers

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Airline tickets

Luggage

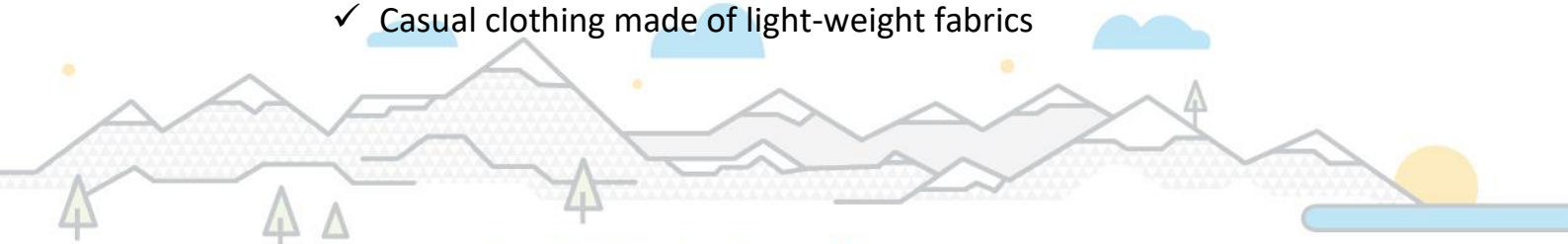
- ✓ Duffel bag or rolling luggage
- ✓ Daypack to carry camera, water bottle and snacks etc.
- ✓ Luggage locks and tags

Outerwear

- ✓ Midweight polar fleece sweater
- ✓ Rain jacket and rain pants, or poncho

Clothing

- ✓ Hiking shorts
- ✓ Casual clothing made of light-weight fabrics



- ✓ T-shirts
- ✓ Long-sleeve shirt
- ✓ Hiking pants, loose and easy to move in
- ✓ Underwear
- ✓ Swimsuit

Clothing Accessories

- ✓ Sun hat or baseball cap

Footwear

- ✓ Lightweight and supportive hiking boots, broken-in with good ankle support
- ✓ Beach sandals
- ✓ Casual, comfortable shoes for evening

Accessories

- ✓ Sunscreen and lip protection
- ✓ Sunglasses and retainer strap
- ✓ Beach towel

Optional Accessories

- ✓ Security pouch or money belt
- ✓ Trekking poles or walking staff
- ✓ Camera, memory and batteries
- ✓ Reading and writing materials
- ✓ Watch with alarm or travel alarm
- ✓ Travel pillow
- ✓ Motion sickness remedies
- ✓ Personal first-aid kit
- ✓ Insect repellent (lowrisk)
- ✓ Electric adapter plug/converter

This is not a fixed list, but more of a guideline, so feel free to add and remove items as you see fit.

Currency & Banking



Greece has adopted the Euro as its currency. The easiest way to obtain local cash is from an ATM. Greek ATMs accept cards bearing the Cirrus, EC, Euro card, Visa and Plus symbols. If you take cash, US or Canadian Dollars can be easily exchanged at banks. Most major credit cards, Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

It is advisable to have some Euro with you upon arrival to be used for a taxi if necessary.

You may want to check the website www.xe.com for current exchange rates.

Passports

You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the conclusion of your trip. Please make sure that you have blank pages in your passport for your visa (if required), entry and exit stamps (one for each). Please make a copy to take with you in the event yours is lost or stolen and keep it separate from your actual passport.

Visas

Currently a Greek Tourist Visa is not required for citizens of Canada, United States, Britain and Australia. If you hold another passport, please check online <http://visacentral.com/visas.php>

