Experience Cyclades Tinos-Naxos-Santorini

Table of Contents

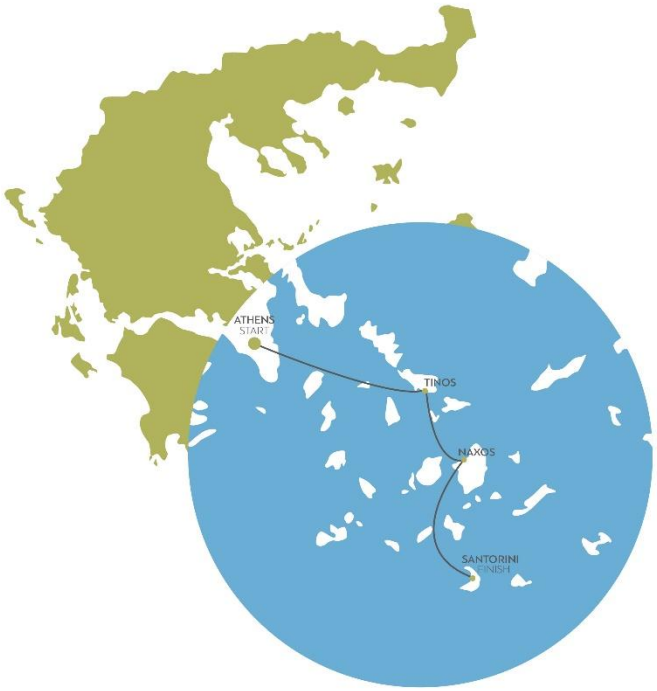
Trip Highlights, Map, Tour Details, Itinerary, What's included, Itinerary Changes, Terrain, Condition Grading, Starting point and getting there, Food, Weather, Gear checklist, Currency & Banking, Passports, Visas

The Cycladic islands are the prototypical "Greek islands". Whitewashed 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. We believe that island hopping is the best way to connect with this past and get to know the islands, each of them stamped with its own unique character.
The trip starts in Athens, and after visiting the Acropolis, we will hop in our ferry to Tinos, a wonderland of natural beauty, dotted with more than forty marble-ornamented villages found in hidden bays, on terraced hillsides and atop misty mountains. Next stop is Naxos, the biggest and one of the most beautiful islands of the Cyclades, if one can be in position to choose. It is an island with incredible landscape interchanges, Venetian castles and traditional villages perched on the cliffs of its mountains.
Final stop is Santorini and probably you know how it looks like. Photos of vibrant blue waters overlooked by whitewashed stone homes nestled above multicolored cliffs are constantly fueling wanderlust around the world.

Trip Highlights

- What, no mousaka??...Expect slow food and slow pace of life in Tinos
- Hike in the mountains of Naxos, a place of goats, shepherds, and tiny, solitary, whitewashed churches
- Wander through whitewashed villages in Santorini, while enjoying breathtaking views to the caldera and the volcano
- Sail the blue waters of the caldera of Santorini, with amazing views to the cliffs that loom overhead

Map



Tour Details

Dates: May to October
Days/Nights: 9 days / 8 nights
Single supplement: Cost based on request. Availability limited.
Condition grading: Moderate

Itinerary

Day 1
Arrival in Athens and welcome dinner
Often referred to as the cradle of Western civilization, Athens has been continually occupied by people for the last 7,000 years. You can't move without bumping into an ancient ruin or building, which evokes imagery of the Greek gods or the thoughts of their philosophers.
In the afternoon we will meet at our hotel for an introductory talk and after a walk around Plaka, the oldest neighborhood of Athens, we will have our first dinner together in a traditional restaurant. Of course, Greek cuisine plays a starring role and we have spent many hours digesting countless delicacies during the research of this important aspect.

Overnight in Athens in a boutique hotel
Dinner included

Day 2
Visit Acropolis and take the ferry to Tinos
No matter how many photographs you've seen, nothing can prepare you for seeing the Acropolis in person, standing proudly above Athens after thousands of years. Accompanied by a specialized guide, you will explore this remarkable archaeological site, discovering the history, architecture, and fascinating stories behind its iconic monuments. As you walk among these ancient structures, you will gain a deeper understanding of the

civilization that shaped not only Athens but also much of the Western world. In the afternoon, we will drive to the port of Rafina, where we will board the ferry to Tinos, a beautiful Cycladic island known for its traditional villages, rich cultural heritage, and distinctive landscapes.
In Tinos, all the fascination is hiding in the more than forty extraordinarily well preserved villages, in the stone huts, in the architectural details of the unique dovecotes, in the “handmade” terraces that cover the whole island.

Overnight in Tinos in a boutique hotel
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
Ferry:
Rafina to Tinos 17:30-21:20
Driving distance:
Athens to Rafina port 30 km / 40 min

Day 3
Hike from Volax to Tinos town and enjoy a cooking lesson on the way
We start from the village of Volax, which is like a habitat for hobbits. Cottages crouch among smooth round boulders which tumble down the mountain like giant bowling balls. Nobody knows how these peculiar rock formations evolved. Some say there was a volcanic eruption; others claim that meteorites rained down from the sky. The 20th-century Greek philosopher Cornelius Castoriadis simply concluded that Tinos was "not made by human hand".
From Volax we will hike to the imposing rock of Exombourgo, with its medieval castle on top of it and before we descend towards the town we will visit a local house where are we going to learn how to make traditional Cycladic dishes during a cooking lesson.

Overnight in Tinos in a boutique hotel
Breakfast and lunch included
Hiking distance: 7,6 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 272 m & 511 m
Driving distance:
Town of Tinos to Volax 11 km / 20 min

Day 4
Ferry to Naxos and hike from Melanes to Chalki
Next destination is 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. Of course, this is just the beginning of your adventure here.
After settling in our hotel we will head towards the start of our hike, at the village of Melanes. From there, you'll walk through whitewashed villages and tiered hillsides towards the place where the two "small" Kouroi (male statues) of Naxos lay down, for 2600 years now. We will continue onwards the Upper Castle, the former Venetian stronghold, passing olive groves interspersed with elements of the phrygana and maquis, and aromas of thyme, oregano, sage and other herbs, to end up in one of the most beautiful villages of the island, Chalki.

Overnight in Naxos in a boutique hotel
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
Hiking distance: 10 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 4 hr
Elevation gain & loss: 538 m & 359 m
Driving distance:
Naxos to Melanes 8 km / 15 min
Chalki to Naxos town 25 km / 40 min
Ferry:
Tinos to Naxos 11:30-13:50

Day 5
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. After the hike we will go for lunch in one of the most beautiful villages of the island, Apeiranthos which seems to grow out of the stony flanks of the mountains.
Afternoon is free, and the best way to spent it is to swim in the gorgeous sandy beach in front of our hotel. Swimming in the Aegean after a hike, helps the body to feel refreshed again.

Overnight in Naxos in a boutique hotel
Breakfast and lunch included
Hiking distance: 6 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr
Elevation gain & loss: 420 m & 420 m
Driving distance:
Naxos town to Agia Marina 23 km / 45 min
Agia Marina to Apiranthos 5 km / 15 min
Apiranthos to Naxos town 26 km / 50 min

Day 6
Stroll in Naxos town, ferry to Santorini and hike from Fira to Oia
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 we will explore the impressive Venetian castle that stands on top of it.
Later on in the day we will catch the ferry to Santorini and after settling in our hotel we will hike the picturesque trail between Fira and Oia which is one of the must-do things when visiting Santorini. With breathtaking views and stunning vistas at every turn, the trail is guaranteed to be one of the prettiest you've ever hiked.

Overnight in Santorini in a boutique hotel
Breakfast and dinner included
Hiking distance: 11 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 4 hr
Elevation gain & loss: 410 m & 512 m
Driving distance:
Santorini Port to Oia 15 km / 40 min
Oia to Fira 11 km / 20 min
Ferry:
Naxos to Santorini 11:00-12:20

Day 8
Sail along the caldera
Sailing in the caldera is a highly rewarding experience, permitting you to admire the island from a different perspective and discover a fascinating world of volcanic serenity and unparalleled splendor. You will swim in hot springs next to the volcano known for their therapeutic benefits, have barbecue on board and soak in the spectacular colors of the world's famous Santorinean sunset.

Overnight in Santorini in a boutique hotel
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 8
Say farewell to Greece or continue on your own
Breakfast is at your leisure at the hotel and following that, your Tripin Adventures trip in Greece concludes with independent departures to the airport or other areas of Greece. You can end your trip here or else join us for an extension to the nearby island of Crete, a unique world where civilization is counted by the millennia.

Driving distance:
Oia to Santorini Airport 15 km / 25 min

Breakfast included

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
Entrance fees to the Acropolis archaeological site and Acropolis museum
Tourist guide for the archaeological site of Acropolis and for the Acropolis museum
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:

International air fare
Transfer to and from the airport/port
Medical expenses
Travel or emergency evacuation insurance
Gratuities for leader/guide or driver
Alcoholic beverages and meals other than 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 four 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.

Condition Grading

Moderate
Trips designated “Moderate” are more active and require a bit more endurance. Hikes and treks includes 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: Athens**.**
Getting There & Away: Athens airport Eleftherios Venizelos, is about 27km east of Athens. Athens is connected with direct flights with various cities in Europe, North America and Asia.
Getting around: We can arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel. If you want to come by yourself, the metro and the suburban rail provide quick connections to central Athens (1 hour / 10 euro’ ticket).

The bus option is cheaper though it takes longer (1h 30 min / 5 euro' ticket). You can also take a taxi (1 hour / 35-50 euro').

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 in 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 dinning 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 being in 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 soda 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 in 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

Accesories

- ✓ 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 (low risk)
- ✓ 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 Euros 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