



The famous shipwreck on Zante Island



GREECE

GREEK ISLANDS EXPLORER (TOUR CODE: 12001)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Athens

TRAVEL PERIODS

16 Apr 23 - 01 Oct 23

EXPERIENCE

Beach
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Be fascinated by the archaeological sites in Athens & Olympia, the stunning crystal clear blue water of Zakynthos, Mykonos and Santorini!

Highlights

- Discover **Athens** boasting many modern and ancient monuments like the Temple of Zeus, the Old Stadium, Syntagma Square, the Parliament and the Tomb to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the Library, and the National Gardens
- Sample some **local specialties** of Athens during your gastronomy walking tour such as Greek *Souvlaki* & Greek doughnuts with honey & syrup, traditional spinach pie!
- Visit the **Archaeological Museum of Olympia** is a must! It has some of the most important works of Classical art such as the sculpted decoration of the temple of Zeus, the statue of Nike and the famous statue of Hermes carved by Praxiteles
- Don't miss the beach with the **famous shipwreck** that has become **the trademark of Zakynthos!** The rusty body of the abandoned ship in the middle of a fine white sand beach belonged to an outlaw cargo packed with illegal cigarettes
- Discover **Zakynthos**, also known as Zante, an island of great exotic beauty, with white fine sand beaches, endless green forests, cliffs and isles which has a lot to offer!
- Explore **the stunning island of Mykonos** that has 45 different sandy beaches with crystal clear blue waters to be discovered!

Enjoy the diverse atmosphere of Athens combining the remarkable archaeological sites of Acropolis and House of Parliament and the Panathenaic Stadium, the place from where the Olympic Flame starts its journey to the cities of the Olympic Games. Tour the archeological sites of Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic Game.

Next sail to Zakynthos; a lavishly green island with sandy beaches in secluded coves where the tranquil waters are deep blue.

Sail to Mykonos with its magnificent beaches, white washed villages, local food and great shopping! Prepare to be enchanted in Santorini with stunning views and snow white washed houses perched on the edge of the cliff overlooking the Aegean sea.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Athens at the Acropolian Spirit Hotel - 4 *
- 3 nights in Zakynthos Island at the Contessina Hotel - 4*
- 2 nights in Mykonos at the Petinos Beach Hotel - 4*
- 2 nights in Santorini at Cliff Side Suites - 4*
- Domestic flight ticket from Zakynthos to Athens in economy class, including one piece of luggage per person
- Economy boat ticket from Killini Port to Zakynthos Island
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Athens to Mykonos Island
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Mykonos to Santorini
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Santorini to Piraeus Port
- Private transfers in Athens, Zakynthos, Mykonos & Santorini Island
- Daily Breakfast
- Full-Day Private Tour of Athens including the Acropolis & the Acropolis Museum followed by Walking Food Tour
- Half-Day Private Tour of Olympia including the Olympia Archaeological Site & Museum with transfers included
- Semi-Private Shipwreck Tour & Cruise of Zakynthos Island including Professional English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees Athens: Acropolis, Acropolis Museum
- Entrance fees Olympia: Archaeological Site & Museum

Freedom of Choice Days

Freedom of Choice



Our Freedom of Choice program offers flexibility, by allowing you to choose from different options on pre-selected days.

Our per person price includes one tour on each Freedom of Choice day, as follows:

- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 10

Expand the itinerary below for more details.

Please note, if more than one room is selected during the booking process, our team will contact you afterwards to discuss options.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Athens International Airport Athens

Welcome to Athens the birthplace of Western Civilization, the Capital of Greece!

Upon arrival at Athens International Airport meet with your English-speaking escort and transfer to your hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.



Day 2

Athens

After breakfast, wander **the landmarks of Historic Athens including the Acropolis and the New Acropolis Museum** focused on the findings from the Acropolis.

Ancient yet modern, classic yet creative, traditional yet constantly changing... Athens is a city of memorable contrasts. The past and the present of Athens unfolds before your eyes while driving around the city's highlight spots and monuments like the Temple of Zeus, the Old Stadium, Syntagma Square, the Parliament and the Tomb to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the Library, and the National Gardens.

On the natural fortress of the **Acropolis**, reinforced by the hand of man, stand the Propylaea, the temple of the Winged Victory, **Erechtheion** with the Porch of the Caryatids and, towering overall, and the majestic Parthenon. A winding path leads to the treasure of antiquity. Visible are the relics of the civilization of which we are the proud inheritors. A few meters away from the Acropolis entrance and the Ancient Theatre of Dionysos, the **New Acropolis Museum**, built on pedestrian walkway of Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, looks like hanging between the past and the present of Athens.

Designed by Bernard Tschumi and Mihalis Fotiadis, the **new Acropolis Museum** has a total area of 25,000 square meters, with exhibition space of over 14,000 square meters. Made of stainless steel, glass, marble and concrete, materials typical of the Athenian environment, the new museum has a direct view of the Acropolis. With bioclimatic planning, which gives ideal lighting and heating conditions, the New Museum offers all the amenities expected in an international museum of the 21st century.

Proceed **on foot** to visit different spots taste local products like **olive oil, honey, cheese, wine, vinegar, liquor, and sweets**, all made by small producers from all over Greece. Next, it's a treat from the street, as you sample a **koulouri**, one of the all-time classic snacks on the go and then a cup of authentic Greek coffee in a wonderful old café. After this, get ready to duck into a boisterous visit to the central fish and **meat market**, where butchers and fishmongers compete for the attention of Athens' serious food shoppers. The old **Central Market of Athens (Varvakios Agora)** is located exactly in the

heart of the city, and learn from your guide about the city's culinary history. You'll next visit **specialty food stores to try local produce cold cuts**, and discover some of the hidden stores to purchase tantalizingly **fresh fruit, Greek olives, cheese, ham** and other alluring deli produce, local wine, aged aromatized vinegar, organic olive oil and honey. Around the corner is the famous **spice street of Athens**, lined with traditional herb shops that also carry amazing specialty meats and other traditional delicacies. After that you will end up having lunch, tasting the **famous Greek souvlaki!!** & traditional spinach pie. Finally, a last stop to taste the Greek specialty **loukoumades (Greek doughnuts with honey syrup and almonds)** and return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **3**

Athens Corinth & Ancient Olympia Zakynthos Island

After breakfast, start your journey from Athens till **Corinth** first stop.

Since 1893, it separates Central Greece from Peloponnese, so you will have to cross it to reach the peninsula Peloponnese. Before it was built, if you wanted to go from the Ionian Sea to the Aegean Sea and Saronic Gulf by boat, you had to make a 400km detour! The original idea of a canal emerged at the end of the 7th century B.C, but it couldn't be achieved with the ancient technologies. Instead, the boats were towed on a paved road. Another particularity of **Corinth Canal** is its 2 submersible bridges. Located at each end of the Canal, they must be lowered into the water every time a boat cross. It's quite unique to watch.

Head towards **Ancient Olympia**. Located in the western Peloponnese, Ancient Olympia was one of the most sacred and glorious sanctuaries of the ancient world. And, though only the foundations of many of its structures remain, it is still one of the most evocative of Greece's archaeological sites. Capturing all the spirit of the Olympic Games, it's also the place where the Olympic flame is lit in commemoration of the Games that originated and were held here every four years for a staggering 1,000 years. The most important **building of the Altis (or Sacred Precinct of Zeus)** was the immense 5th-century-BC Doric temple dedicated to the king of the gods. It housed Pheidias' statue of Zeus for more than 800 years. One column of the temple has been restored, allowing you to appreciate its size. Passing through a stone archway, you enter the remains **of the Ancient Stadium**, once housing more than 45,000 spectators. The mind boggles at being able to line up on the track (measuring 192.27m), just as the finest athletes in the land did thousands of years ago. Nearby are the judges' seats.

Leaving behind Olympia, head towards **Kyllini** port to take the ferry to the beautiful Island of Zakynthos. One hour later, you'll reach **Zante Island**.

Overnight stay in Zakynthos Island at the **Contessina Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day 4

Zakynthos Island

After breakfast, start your semi-private **Shipwreck Tour & Cruise of Zakynthos Island** (08.30am - 5.30pm).

From castles and fortresses to blooming hills and sheltered bays, you will be overwhelmed from the astonishing sunsets over the vertical cliffs of the Island. Gifted with crystalline waters and verdant vegetation, Zakynthos distinguishes for its natural beauty and its hospitable atmosphere. The **beach of Navagio (Shipwreck)** was originally known as Agios Georgios but took this name in 1982, when the cargo ship MV Panayiotis smuggling contraband as per local rumours, run aground in that bay. The ship was abandoned and still rests buried in the limestone gravel of the beach that now bears the nickname Shipwreck.

The other highlight of the tour is the visit to the **Blue Caves**, a true wonder of nature. The Blue Caves consist of particular geologic formations giving life to a succession of caves along the North-West coast of the island; here you can enjoy swimming in the crystal-clear waters.

Overnight stay in Zakynthos Island at the **Contessina Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **5**

Zakynthos Island

Day at leisure to relax and recharge!

Overnight stay in Zakynthos Island at the **Contessina Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **6**

Zakynthos Island Athens

After breakfast, private transfer to Zakynthos Airport for your flight to Athens. Upon arrival at Athens International Airport transfer to your hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **7**

Athens Piraeus Port Mykonos

After breakfast, transfer to Piraeus Port for embarkation to the high-speed boat for Mykonos Island.

Upon arrival around 09.30 am in Mykonos, meet with your English-speaking escort and transfer to your hotel.
Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Mykonos at **the Petinos Beach Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **8**

Mykonos

After breakfast, today is at leisure to relax and recharge!

Overnight stay in Mykonos at **the Petinos Beach Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **9** Mykonos Santorini

After breakfast, transfer to port for embarkation to the high-speed boat for Santorini Island.

Upon arrival in Santorini, meet with your English-speaking escort and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Santorini at the **Cliff Side Suites**.

Breakfast



Day **10** Santorini

After breakfast, enjoy one pre-selected activity from our Freedom of Choice options.

Overnight stay in Santorini at the **Cliff Side Suites**.

Breakfast, Dinner

Freedom of Choice Options

- **Indulge in the quaint atmosphere of Santorini's Hidden Gems:**

Follow your guide on a journey through time, while trying to unveil the myths and legends of more than 4000 years of History.

First stop will be the Monastery of Prophet Elias, one of the oldest monasteries and the highest point of the Island. Next stop the **Archaeological site of Akrotiri**, one of the main urban centers of the Aegean. Visit a **traditional canava (home-cellar)** tasting 3 different types of wines of Santorini. Step on an ancient vineyard and get information for the special "terroir" of Santorini wine and the famous white grape variety.

Free time for swimming followed by a "**meze**" style lunch including variety of tapas the majority made from local products such as fava, cherry tomato, round zucchinis, white eggplants and more!!!

After lunch transfer back to your hotel.

OR

- **Semi-Private Catamaran sunset cruise with dinner (5hrs):**

In the afternoon around 15.30hrs, transfer from your hotel to the port and depart for a **semi-private Catamaran ride up to 14 pax**. Your Sunset Cruise includes:

- Welcome drink
- Snorkeling gear
- Towels
- Dinner on board: Seafood, chicken fillet, salads, open bar with local white wine, beers, beverages, fruits (Vegetarian meal available upon request).

Set sail from the picturesque Marina of Vlychada and enjoy sailing along with the magnificent coastal scenery of Santorini. Your first photo shooting stop is at the Red Beach in Akrotiri, one of the most beautiful beaches of the island with the red rocks and the dark pebbles. Move on and reach the White Beach – accessible only by boat – and the Mesa Pigadia swimming spot and snorkel in the crystal-clear blue waters with the rich underwater environment and reefs.

Then sail past the Indian Rock, the Venetian Light House of Akrotiri. Pass by the Aspronisi Island and marvel at the glorious views of the Caldera and the cliff-hanging white houses. Sail around the must-see Volcano coast and stop at its' hot springs, where you can treat yourself to a natural spa in the thermal mixed volcanic mud waters. One more stop follows up, this time to a secluded private bay and plunge in the majestic waters as our attentive crew prepares for you a delicious meal.

At the end of this unique sailing experience, we head back to the Marina of Vlychada.



Day **11** Santorini Athens

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure.

Transfer to Santorini Psort for embarkation to the high-speed boat for Athens. Upon arrival at Piraeus Port around 17.00hrs transfer to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.

Breakfast



THE BREATHTAKING ISLAND OF SANTORINI

Day **12** Athens Athens International Airport

After breakfast, transfer to Athens International Airport for your departure flight back home.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Greek

LOCAL CURRENCY

Euro(€)

- Ferry times are subject to change and they will be re-confirmed with documentation.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package