

GREECE

ATHENS AND CYCLADES ISLAND GETAWAY (TOUR CODE: 12003)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Athens

TRAVEL PERIODS

11 Apr 23 - 08 Oct 23

EXPERIENCE

Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Explore the Cyclades islands with whitewashed houses & cobbled streets, ancient churches revealing a long-lasting culture, great gastronomy.

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
- The combination of history, white-washed Cycladic houses, exotic beaches and of course good food combined with warm-hearted hospitality grants **Milos** the title of one of the top holiday destinations in Greece.
- **Explore Naxos**, the largest and greenest island of Cyclades in the Aegean Sea. This island has been inhabited since 5.000 BC and carries a vast amount of history on its shoulders: ancient Greek ruins, old churches & monasteries and the Venetian castles.
- Sail from Santorini and visit its many beaches : **Red Beach in Akrotiri**, with the red rocks and the dark pebbles, **the White Beach**, accessible only by boat and **the Mesa Pigadi**, an incredible swimming spot!
- Be fascinated by **Sarakiniko**, an inlet of pure white rock formations sculpted by volcanic eruptions. The beautiful, otherworldly spot is one of the island's many geological wonders and perhaps one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades!

Enjoy a tour of the city including the Parthenon, Constitution Square and the Panathenaic Stadium, the place from where the Olympic flame starts its journey to the cities of the Olympic Games.

Begin your Cycladic island getaway with Paros, a beloved holiday destination, beaches, villages and a 6th century church, Panayia Ekatontapyliani, also called Katapoliani. The name "Ekatontapyliani" means the church with 100 gates ("Ekato Pyles" in Greek), one of which is a secret one!

Next find yourself in the largest and greenest Cycladic Island of Naxos, with beautiful old churches, monasteries, Venetian castles and crystal

clear waters. Sail away to Santorini, legend of the lost city of Atlantis, with stunning sunsets and picturesque sugar cubed buildings.



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

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Athens at Acropolian Spirit Hotel - 4*
- 3 nights in Milos Island at Milos Breeze - 4*
- 3 nights in Naxos Island at Iria Beach - 4*
- 3 nights in Santorini at Cliffside Suites - 4*
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Piraeus Port to Milos Island
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Milos Island to Santorini
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Santorini to Piraeus Port
- Private transfers in Athens, Milos & Santorini Island
- Full day private tour of Athens including the Acropolis & the Acropolis Museum followed by walking food tour
- Private Bus tour of Milos Island (6 hrs) with food tasting
- Semi-Private Catamaran sunset cruise in Santorini Island (5hrs) with dinner included
- Entrance fees Athens: Acropolis, Acropolis Museum.
- Entrance fees Milos: Catacombs

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 of 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 Piraeus Port Naxos

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

Upon arrival in Naxos meet with your English-speaking escort and transfer to your hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Naxos at **Iria Beach Hotel**.

Breakfast



Naxos Koufonissi & Ano Koufonissi Naxos

After breakfast, enjoy a regular boat **cruise to Koufonisi Islands** including lunch on board (8hrs).

Sail to the stunning **Koufonissi islands** renowned for their crystal-clear waters. Starting from the small pier in Agia Anna, after a two hours journey, you will reach the **uninhabited Kato Koufonissi**, where you will stay on anchorage for 2 hours, for swimming/diving from the boat and a delicious barbecue. This time is sufficient to explore the small island and its beautiful beaches like "Nero" on the other side of the island.

Following a 15 minutes sail, you'll arrive at the port of **Ano Koufonissi**, the inhabited island, and stay on the island for three hours. The island will seduce you with the beauty of its beaches, the fresh fish and the beautiful traditional town which you can explore on foot.

Overnight stay in Naxos at **Iria Beach Art Hotel**.

Breakfast



Naxos

Day at leisure to relax and recharge.

Overnight stay in Naxos at **Iria Beach Art Hotel**.

Breakfast



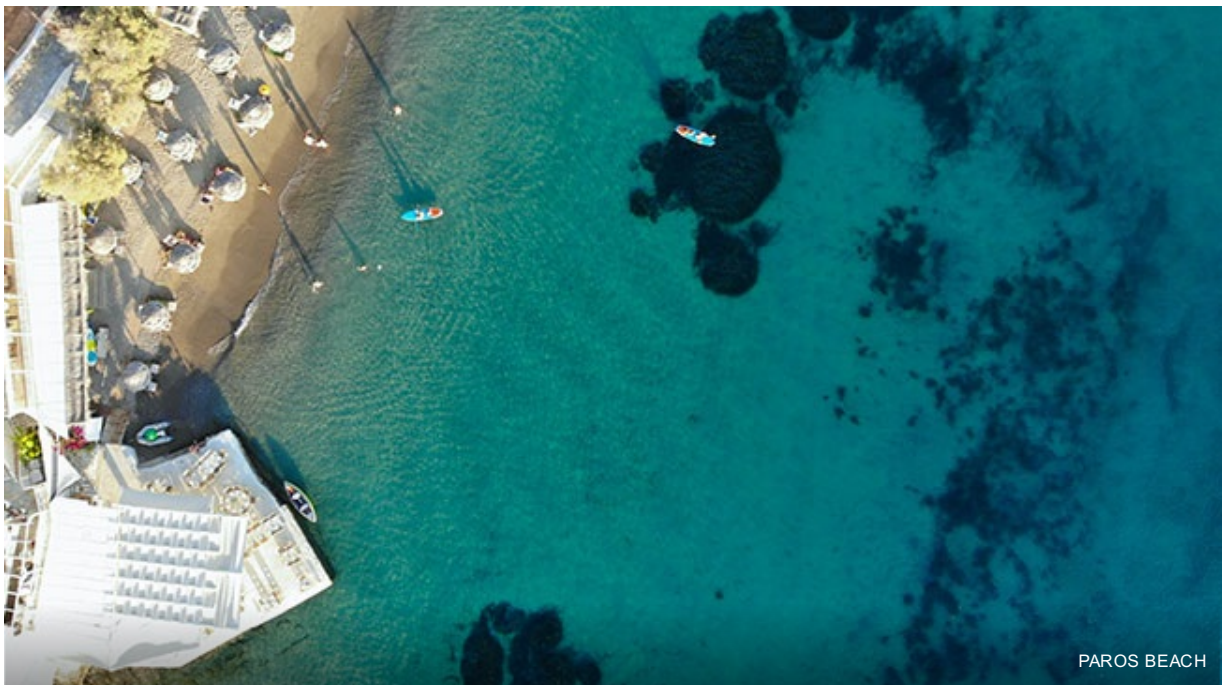
Day **6** Naxos Paros

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

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

Overnight stay in Paros at **Saint Andrea Sea Side Resort**.

Breakfast



Day **7** Paros Antiparos & Despotiko Paros

After breakfast, enjoy a regular **Kaiki cruise around Antiparos & Despotiko** including BBQ lunch on board (7hrs).

Set sail for unforgettable new adventures on board of the traditional **Kaiki**, a fisherman wooden motor yacht, around **Antiparos and Despotiko** Islands. Transfer from your hotel to the port of **Pounta**. Spend an amazing day at the sea on an

authentic “kaiki”. Discover hidden gems of the Aegean Sea only accessible by boat: crystal clear waters will make you feel like you are in paradise! The boat departs at 10:00am from **Pounta port**. The cruise offers a unique aspect of the return to the untamed beauty and life in nature. The below itinerary is indicative since the captain will choose the best spots for each cruise according to weather conditions so you can spend unique moments on board around Antiparos & Despotiko islands.

Discover **Panteronissi**: the turquoise waters will give you the feeling that you are in a huge swimming pool created by Nature herself. The wild morphology of the southeast coast surrounded from cliffs plunging into the sea forming a succession of cave including **the cave of Mastihari**. Several stops for swimming in crystal blue water waters!

During the trip, you will enjoy tasty snacks and for lunch we grill in our BBQ accompanied by salads, tzatziki, pita bread and of course beverage local wine, soft drinks, and mineral water. For dessert you will enjoy delicious fresh fruits. Return to **Pounta port** at 16:45. Transfer back to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Paros at **Saint Andrea Sea Side Resort**.

Breakfast



Day 8

Paros

Day at leisure to relax and recharge!

Overnight stay in Paros at **Saint Andrea Sea Side Resort**.

Breakfast



Day 9

Paros 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 7

Santorini

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure to relax and discover what Santorini has to offer.

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.

Overnight stay in Santorini at the **Cliffside Suites**.

Breakfast, Dinner



CRUISING ALONG SANTORINI

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:

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



Day **11** Santorini

Day at leisure to discover what the stunning island of Santorini has to offer.

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

Breakfast



THE BREATHTAKING ISLAND OF SANTORINI

Day **12** Santorini Athens

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure.

Transfer to Santorini port 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 ISLAND OF SANTORINI

Day **13** 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