

ARRIVE

LUXURY TRAVEL

Greece

JUNE 28–JULY 6, 2019

Prepared for John & Jane Doe

GREECE

FRIDAY, JUNE 28–SUNDAY, JUNE 30

DAY 1–3, ATHENS

Whether it's your first time visiting or your umpteenth there is always something fresh and new to experience. The city is undergoing a cultural rebirth, rediscovering itself in the process and reevaluating what is important for its people and its future. Regardless of one's interests and tastes there is something here for everyone. Athens throughout the ages has always been a destination for those wanting a historical experience. With the Acropolis being the city's natural center and the Parthenon perched above looking at Piraeus and the surrounding mountains, the city is filled with historical remnants of its glorious past.

TRANSPORT

Arrival/Departure Transfer with Mercedes E-Class Taxi from Athens Airport to Hotel

ACCOMMODATIONS

Four Seasons Astir Palace Hotel, Apollonos 40, Vouliagmeni 166 71, Greece

EXCURSION/ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Half Day Athens City Tour

This tour perfectly combines the city's highlights: the historic city center, the Acropolis and the New Acropolis Museum. Your private VIP licensed guide will meet you at your hotel and begin with an introduction about the city's history. A luxury vehicle will drive you through Syntagma Square, the Parliament, and the monument of the Unknown Soldier. Then you will make a stop at the Panathenaic Stadium. Continuing to University Street you will see the Academy of Athens and the National Library. En route to the Acropolis you'll pass the National Gardens and the remains of Temple of Olympian Zeus and Arch of Hadrian. You will then be dropped at the foot of the Acropolis and ascend the Acropolis Hill; a breathtaking view of the city below will unfold. Last, but not least the tour ends with a visit to the New Acropolis Museum—which is situated within a 10-minute walk from the Acropolis Hill.

Included: Licensed English-speaking guide, private luxury transportation, entrance fees, VAT

Discovering Ancient & Modern Athens Walking Tour

A wonderful combination tour to see the unmissable, like the awe-inspiring Acropolis and the evocative Ancient Agora, but also to explore the emerging neighborhoods that are buzzing, where art and style are getting to make their own marks and where the food you'll eat is, thankfully, as authentic as ever. You will visit the archaeological sites from the Acropolis to the Agora, where cover topics of history, philosophy and politics. When you've finished with the archaeological sites, you'll walk around the neighborhoods of Monastiraki, the colorful flea market, and Psiri and keep an eye out for street art—your guide will know where—as well as cool new design shops and vintage clothing stores. Check out both the pre-war and the post-war buildings and the concentration of hardware and specialty stores in the area which happily co-exist with brand-new funky little bars. Then, you'll head into the traditional "belly of the city," the bustling Varvakios Market, the biggest and most popular fish, meat and vegetable market in the whole of Athens and explore the main spice street of Athens too. Enjoy the food tastings along the way—you'll see that here, too, there's a choice between tradition and novelty. You'll get to try extra virgin olive oils, thyme honey, cheeses from various parts of Greece, cured meats, olives and more!

Finally, you'll head to Plaka, the oldest part of Athens, here you can explore if there's a compromise between history and modernity as you explore an area that is trying to offer more than just souvenirs. During the tour you will have lunch in a traditional tavern at the foot of the Acropolis, serving delicious Greek food. **Included:** English-speaking guide, food tastings, coffee or refreshment during coffee break, entrance fees, VAT



SUNDAY, JUNE 30–WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

DAY 3–6, ELOUNDA

Elounda, one of Greece's most exclusive summer destinations, noted for its coves, rocky coastlines, the fishing harbor, the sunken city of Olous and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. But what is amazing here is the impressive selection of luxury hotels, resorts and restaurants.

TRANSPORT

Arrival/Departure Transfer with Mercedes E-class Taxi from Elounda to Heraklion port

ACCOMMODATIONS

Elounda Gulf Villas (SLH), Mesa Pigadakia, Schisma Elountas, Elounda 720 53, Greece
<https://www.eloundavillas.com/en/>

The family owned and operated Elounda Gulf Villas & Suites clings to the cliff face overlooking the Aegean Sea and the Gulf of Mirabello with views towards Spinalonga Island. All the suites at Elounda Gulf Villas have a balcony or terrace close to the main pool of the hotel. Each of the villas has a spacious living room with fully equipped kitchen, large sea view terrace with private pool and jacuzzi.



EXCURSION/ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Explore the Hinterland

A relaxed short-day tour that navigates the area's quieter and authentic hinterland, a stone's throw away yet in complete contrast with the lively and crowded resorts that stretch out along the coastline. Our exploration will take us through rural villages, hilly landscapes, abandoned settlements and mills, atmospheric monasteries and white churches while mingling with locals in a quest to understand the island's traditional way of life, that is both slow and laborious. Our visits will include the villages of Houmeriako and Vrysses, the Monastery of Kremaston, the agricultural small town of Neapoli and the village of Fourni. Here we will enjoy a homemade Cretan meal in a cozy family-owned taverna set in the village's picturesque square, under the welcoming shade of a huge sycamore tree. We will return in the hotel in the early afternoon, taking in the sweeping panoramic views over Mirabello Bay.

Suggested Start Time: 10:00am **Includes:** Private transportation, English speaking guide, entrance fees, Stop for a treat at a typical Cretan 'kafenion', lunch

Private Heraklion City & Knossos Palace Tour

Your private guide will meet you at your hotel and make an introduction about your visit to Knossos Palace, located 5km south of Heraklion. Knossos is among the most important archaeological sites in Europe and has been the center of the Minoan Civilization from 1900 to 1400 BC. The Palace of Knossos is the largest in Minoan Crete (lays on a surface of 237.000 ft²) and was devastated by the earthquake of Santorini in 1450 BC. You will also explore the infamous labyrinths and the rooms of the Palace of King Minos. After the visit, you will be transferred to the city of Heraklion, where you will be guided to the newly renovated Archaeological Museum and then take a walk around the central neighborhoods of the city.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3–SATURDAY, JULY 6

DAY 6–9, SANTORINI

Santorini is truly unique not only for Greece but for the entire world. This iconic destination is most known for its breathtaking views of the red and brown layers of volcanic ash that make up its famous cliffs. In fact, everything seems to be perched on these cliffs from its many boutique luxury hotels to its fabulous restaurants. It's no surprise that it consistently shows up at the top of lists for the most romantic vacation spots and islands to visit.

TRANSPORT

Arrival/Departure Transfer with private luxury vehicle from Santorini Airport/Port to Hotel

ACCOMMODATIONS

Canaves Oia Suites, Oia 84702, Thira 847 02, Greece

EXCURSION/ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Santorini Wine Tour

This is our signature tour and your best choice if you want to explore the magic world of the Santorini volcanic wines. Enjoy a stimulating tasting experience under the guidance of our experienced wine experts, visit three selected wineries, learn all about the local grape varieties and the viticulture of Santorini. Taste and admire the real spirit of Santorini with our signature Santorini Wine Roads Tour. This tour is ideal for all visitors as it gives the opportunity to learn in an entertaining way all there is to know about the wine culture of the island!

Included: English-speaking oenologist, wine tastings and winery entrance fees, round trip transfers to/from hotel, info booklet/recipe sheet, light meal & cheese, VAT Excluded: gratuities (optional)

Duration: 4.5 hours (available in the morning or afternoon)

Santorini Sailing Day Cruise

Start with embarkation from Ammoudi and sail close to the caldera cliffs cruising below Oia, Imerovigli, Fira and the Volcano. First stop is at the Hot Springs for 30 minutes of swimming and mud bath in the thermal waters. Then we cruise by Aspronisi, Akrotiri and Indian Rock. The second stop will be at the White Beach for about an hour for swimming, snorkeling and for an on-board barbecue. The menu includes local delicacies with meat, salads, fruits, soft drinks as well as Santorinian wine. Last stop is at the Red Beach for swimming and snorkeling for approximately 30 minutes. The tour ends at the marina of Vlychada.

Traditional Villages, Wine Roads & Ancient Ruins (Pyrgos, Megalochori, Winery & Akrotiri)

After meeting with your guide at your hotel, you will start from Pyrgos, the largest preserved village on Santorini and the island's former capital. Strategically built in the heart of the pre-volcanic hinterland and at the foot of Mt. Profitis Ilias, Pyrgos affords panoramic views. As a typical Fortress Settlement of the Cyclades, on the hilltop you will find ruins of Kasteli Castle, one of the five 'kastelia' on the island. Your guide will take you through the traditional architecture, remains of neoclassical mansions, narrow winding paths leading up the hillside, small white houses, galleries, vineyards, churches with their rich ecclesiastical history of the village. Afterwards we will head towards the local winery of Venetsanos, with stunning views of the caldera cliffs. At Venetsanos Winery we'll spend approximately 40 minutes and taste a variety of 5 different wines (Santorini, Nykteri, Mandilaria, Anagallis Rose and Liastos) along with some assorted snacks. You will have some time to explore the village of Megalochori, a traditional village which is virtually untouched by tourism. There you will see the old houses and wineries with the local architecture, which were built with high walls in order to be protected from the pirates. You will pass through the traditional vineyards where the grapes grow inside a basket to be protected from the strong winds. Our volcanic soil gives to our wines a unique taste. You will also visit one of the traditional churches of Megalochori, Saint George where you can enjoy the magnificent view of Megalochori. Then you will continue to the Ancient Ruins of Akrotiri. Often compared to Pompeii, Akrotiri boasts a much earlier age and preserves amazing ruins dating back to the second millennium BC. Learn about the island's first inhabitants, who arrived there in 3000 BC. Hear from your private VIP licensed guide the story of the fabled city of Atlantis that has been one of the oldest living legends of mankind that remains unanswered. The legend describes a prosperous land that disappeared without a trace and sunk into the sea by the anger of Greek gods.

Santorini Sailing Day Cruise

Take scenic route from Santorini's capital, Fira, to the photogenic cliff-top town of Oia on a guided hike. Follow an old mule trail, learning about the island's long history and stopping for panoramic views of the caldera along the way. It will take you about three hours to reach the end of your destination. The view offered while hiking is excellent, and the caldera looks magical. You will start your walk from Patsouli, a blunt point near the cable car station in Fira and follow Nomikou street that leads to Nomikos center. Here, the street is descending, it is very steep and tiring, but afterwards the pavement continues to angle upwards and you reach the second highest point. Keep in mind, the cliffs are 300 meters above the sea level. But, be patient the path levels as soon as you reach the church Panagia Agion Theodoron. Then the walk dips inland towards the heart of Firostefani, the church of Agios Gerasimos, the catholic church with the cypresses. From Firostefani you continue your walk towards Imerovigli, one kilometer away. In the middle of this route you will see the convent of Agios Nikolaos with its five nuns. As you approach Imerovigli you will have the opportunity to view Skaros, the big rock. When you catch your breath move on towards Oia. At some point the road is ascending and it is very tiring especially if it is hot but reaching Oia will compensate you with enchanting views.

