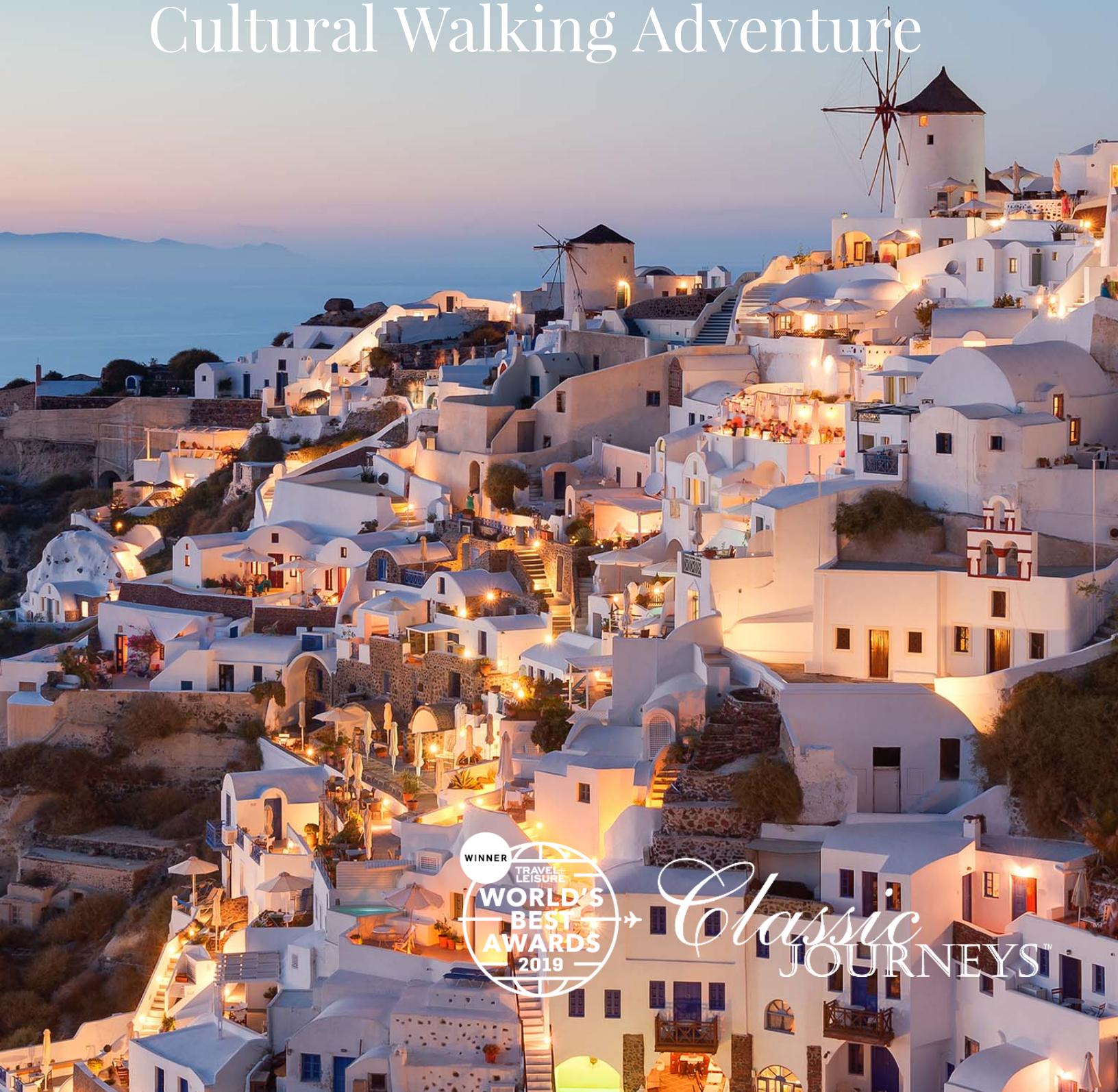


Crete, Mykonos & Santorini

Greek Isles Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
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“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Classical Antiquity & Modern Luxury

Island-hopping in the Aegean is an odyssey beyond anything you dreamed it would be. This remarkable adventure includes spectacular islands in vivid blue seas, the finest sites of antiquity, white beaches beyond compare, and time with locals who welcome you with wide-open arms. You explore Crete with its Minoan ruins, rolling olive groves and Byzantine churches, and Naxos, the greenest of the Cyclades. You also enjoy a leisurely multi-night stay in red-cliffed Santorini, settling into a charming hotel with incredible sunset views of the extinct volcano's caldera. From Mykonos to Delos and beyond, we draw on local connections to provide you with insider access and show you Greece at its best. You meet phyllo bakers, olive growers, archeologists and villagers – the contemporary Greeks who live amid some of the loveliest scenery and finest historical treasures on earth. You'll head home with a deep and very personal feel for this wonderful culture and the islands that have cradled it for millennia.

DAY 1

KNOSSOS

- Walk amid vineyards and olive groves
- Marvel at the excavations of a still-being-discovered site

Your starting point is Heraklion, Crete's capital. Your country walk takes you to the scenic Kounavi Gorge. The path roams through an agricultural valley covered in olive groves and vineyards, and you'll stop at one for a wine tasting. In the village of Archanes, you watch the world go by over a cup of coffee or join your guide for an extended walk. A highlight of any visit to Crete is the magnificently preserved Knossos, where legend says King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in the labyrinth. This site is colossal but, in the company of your experienced guide, you'll get a concise and engaging exploration of the complex of more than 1,300 rooms, halls, passages and frescoes dating to 1,700 BC. Back in Heraklion, you'll sit down to dinner in one of your guide's favorite restaurants.

Overnight: GDM Megaron Heraklion

Meals: D

DAY 2

CRETE / RETHYMNON

- Wander Agia Irini Monastery
- Meet a traditional potter, olive grower and baker

From the city, it's an easy and scenic drive to the harborside town of Rethymnon and the Agia Irini Monastery. Founded in the 10th century, then abandoned in the 1820s, the cloistered Byzantine monastery is now home to a small community of nuns who will greet you with coffee and sweets. You'll also have a chance to wander through their award-winning restoration and see how they work to preserve the local traditions of weaving and embroidery.

You'll also pay a visit to the town of Margarites. There, a local potter invites you into his studio for a private demonstration of how he digs his own clay and works at his wheel in the ancient tradition. You'll also get a warm reception from our friends on their farm where there are about 3,000 olive trees. It's a traditional family operation, and they take you for a very fun and personal visit, complete with a tasting of their award-winning olive oil and raki. The last baker on Crete who makes phyllo dough by hand is 80-something George, and he welcomes you to his workroom where he stretches the tissue-thin dough in big billows. George's wife works with him to turn the phyllo into mouth-watering baklava with the local thyme honey. You can be sure you'll have a taste! Later settle into your boutique hotel before dinner.

Overnight: GDM Megaron Heraklion

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

NAXOS

- Ferry to Naxos
- Walk in the countryside near Kourounohori
- Enjoy a tasting at a local Citron distillery

This morning you'll take to the brilliant blue waters for a morning ferry ride to the island of Naxos. Unlike the usual day-trip visitors, your guide will take you off the beaten path for a countryside walk near the white-washed village of Kourounohori. There, you'll find an ancient marble quarry with a fascinating sight: the unfinished statue of a kouros. Around 600 BC, a sculptor started to carve this classic form, but a structural flaw in the marble made it unusable. Since 1896, a small distillery has been making the local Citron liquor. Five generations later, it's still run by the same family, and they'll welcome you to their workshop that sits on a narrow village alley. You'll learn how it's made and taste the end result that's a favorite of the locals on Naxos.

Overnight: Naxos Island Hotel

Meals: B, L

DAY 4

MYKONOS / DELOS

- Explore the remarkable classical site on Delos
- Enjoy the views and lively village life of Mykonos town

The most glamorous of the Cyclades, Mykonos is your port of call after a brief cruise this morning. But first, you'll visit smaller island Delos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Greek mythology names this spot as the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. It's

also the site of some of the most extensive and important archeological digs in all of the Mediterranean. On a privately guided visit, you'll see Doric temples, an amphitheater, the iconic Lions of Delos and even houses bedecked with mosaics. It's truly one of the great glimpses of ancient life anywhere in the world. Back on Mykonos, you'll have time to explore the vibe-y beach town. Here, the cafes practically spill right into the azure water and a famous rank of windmills stand guard over the scene. Be sure your camera is ready. You're bound to get some amazing shots. After an exciting island day, you'll have a relaxing evening back on Naxos.

Overnight: Naxos Island Hotel

Meals: B, D

DAY 5

SANTORINI / FIRA & OIA

- Relax on a morning hydrofoil ride from Naxos to Santorini.
- Walk a cinematic coastal path to our cliffside hotel in Oia
- Claim a lounge chair overlooking the sea

A hydrofoil awaits you this morning to whisk you over the incredible blue waters to Santorini. A photographer's and shopper's paradise, Santorini was once the vast crater of the volcano. Its cliffs rise a thousand feet above the sea, and its dazzling white houses with azure roofs cling to the rim. Unlike the cruise ship tourists who arrive on big motor coaches, you'll take the quieter approach that gives you time to see the unique vineyards where close-to-the-ground vines are wrapped into circles to protect the grapes from the wind. Santorini is unique among all the islands, and you'll see the beautiful evidence on today's walk. Farmers venture out from their white villages to work their terraced wheat and barley fields with donkeys. Your footpath offers photogenic views of the islands that dot the caldera. You'll move through a landscape that sweeps down to the sea, and the trail takes you right to the door of your hotel on the rim of the caldera in Oia (pronounced "eee a"). The rest of the afternoon is all yours to shop, visit artisans, or relax in a café. The crowning impression of the day is sunset. So time your dinner at a cliff-side restaurant to watch the red disk as it sinks into the Homeric "wine-dark" Aegean.

Overnight: Fanari Villas

Meals: B

DAY 6

SANTORINI

- Explore a volcanic island from your own private boat
- Choose between a gondola or donkey ride
- Taste the local varietals at a vineyard visit and tasting

It's a true "pinch-yourself" moment to wake to a view completely filled by the glimmering sea. You'll take the gondola down to the water's edge for a boat trip out into the crater of the volcano. As you cruise the aquamarine waters, your guide explains how Santorini inspired the myth of Atlantis. You'll step ashore on an island to walk amid amazing volcanic rocks and wildflowers with spectacular views of the sea. And you will definitely be the envy of those cruise ship passengers who visit Santorini without ever experiencing the history, geology and sea-level beauty. You have two options for how to get back up to the town – board the gondola or ride donkeys along the path up to the top in the way the locals have made the trip for thousands of years. This afternoon, relax by the pool, shop in Oia or join your guide for a visit a nearby family vineyard. Your tasting will wind up in time to soak up Santorini's famous sunset before a farewell dinner.

Overnight: Fanari Villas

Meals: B, D

DAY 7

OIA

- Enjoy some last minute shopping or strolling in Oia
- Part company in Oia

After breakfast, the morning is all yours for the last chance to absorb the scenery or get in some final shopping before parting company to catch your flight home.

Meals: B

DAILY ITINERARY

Greek Isles: Crete, Mykonos & Santorini | Cultural Walking Adventure



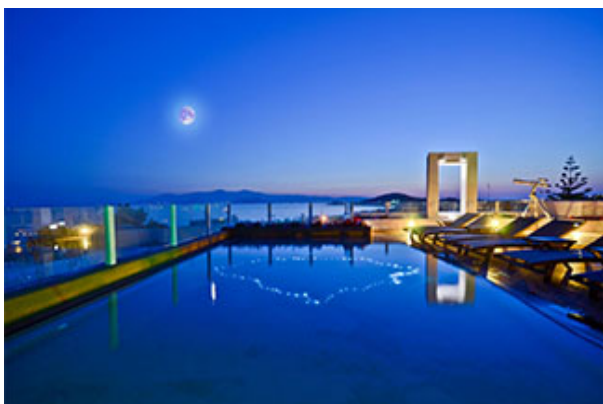
Tour Hotels



GDM Megaron Heraklion

This landmark 5-star hotel is a commanding historic monument in the heart of Heraklion. There's an open-air pool on the roof. High-ceilinged rooms and public spaces are beautifully decorated in a warm modern style.

OVERNIGHT: Heraklion, Crete | **NIGHTS:** 2



Naxos Island Hotel

Naxos Island Hotel is designed in traditional Cycladic style. The hotel is a miniature of Naxos Island where each room retains the features of a village and it is made of marble, emery, and plaster.

OVERNIGHT: Naxos Island | **NIGHTS:** 2



Fanari Villas

The pinch-yourself views at this all-suite hotel are utterly remarkable. The classic-white-washed building sits right on the edge of the Santorini's caldera with ringside seats for sunset. Lovely rooms are decorated in spare classic style.

OVERNIGHT: Oia | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Lobby of GDM Megaron Heraklion, Heraklion, Crete, Greece
END	Lobby of Fanari Villas , Oia, Santorini, Greece
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

What's Included

- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Privileged Access Events
- Wine on Us
- Invisible Check-In

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

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AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference



HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

Samuel Kim
President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Greek Isles...

- Having Santorini to yourself after the cruise-ship day-trippers leave town
- Tasting at a family vineyard and an olive farm, famed for its award-winning oil and ouzo
- Receiving a guided insider's look at the remarkable ruins of Knossos and Delos
- Exploring whitewashed villages and country trails overlooking azure sea
- Exploring with local guides who introduce you to villagers, shepherds, fishermen and potters

"We liked our guide very much and she was extremely knowledgeable, generous, kind and flexible! Her excitement and knowledge about the Minoan period was contagious."

-Joan K., Lexington, MA,