

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Greek Isles

Crete, Mykonos & Santorini



CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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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. From Mykonos to Delos and beyond, we draw on local connections to provide you with insider access and show you Greece at its best.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- 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

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

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.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Knossos

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.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION

DAY 2 »

Crete / Rethymnon

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.

MEALS: B,L, D

OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION

DAY 3 »

Naxos

After breakfast, 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.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: NAXOS

DAY 4 »

Mykonos / Delos

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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: NAXOS

DAY 5 »

Santorini / Fira & Oia

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.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: OIA

DAY 6 »

Santorini

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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: OIA

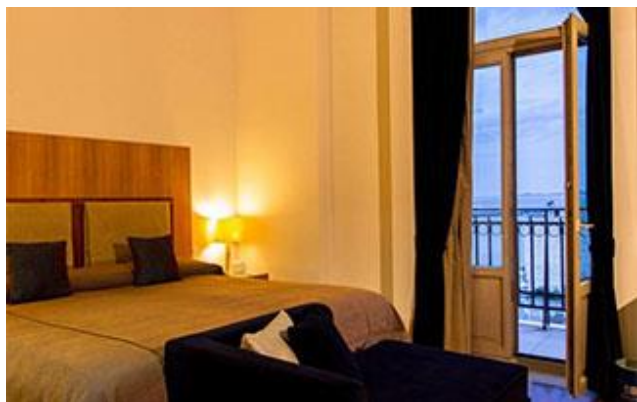
DAY 7 »

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

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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of GDM Megaron Heraklion**
START CITY: **Heraklion, Crete**
START TIME: **9:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of Fanari Villas**
END CITY: **Oia, Santorini**
END TIME: **12:00 PM**