

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.”*

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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. 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, 3 lunches and 3 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 »

Voni / Knossos

Today, take a countryside walk to the scenic Voni area. The path roams through an agricultural valley covered in olive groves and vineyards, we will arrive at a stone house to taste local wines and Cretan family food. 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, have some time for dinner on your own.

MEALS: L

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.

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 »

Mykonos / Naxos

A morning flight offers ariel views of the iconic blue sea, and leads to the most glamorous of the Cyclades, Mykonos. With your Classic Journeys guide as your well-connected friend, go exploring on foot at eye level, meandering through the narrow cobblestone streets that are flanked by traditional whitewashed buildings adorned with Cycladic blue accents.

Your walk continues to Little Venice. During the 14th century, this island was an essential part of Venetian trade routes. Your guide shares stories and anecdotes that bring the history and culture alive and reveal the island's rich tapestry behind the colorful facades of the homes that cascade to the water's edge. Just a few steps beyond are two of Mykonos' iconic landmarks. The famed windmills are perched atop a hill and are a photogenic emblem of the island's agrarian past and a foreshadowing of things to come in our explorations.

Our friend George is the latest in a series of generations of artisanal dairy craftsmen. His family began crafting cheese and yogurt from their own herd of animals to sustain their community. Today, his cooperative invites craftsmen from around the island to join him in sustaining the traditions of Mykonos, sourcing milk from carefully selected local herds of sheep and cows, while employing sustainable practices to fashion an array of cheeses, yogurt, and Kopanisti. Roll up your sleeves and put on your apron as you join George to learn firsthand the art of cheese-making, and taste a selection of local specialties.

Later in the day, watch the setting sun paint the sky in hues of pink and orange as you relax on the ferry to nearby Naxos.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: NAXOS

DAY 4 »

Naxos

Unlike other islands in the Cyclades, Naxos has very fertile soil, so Naxians, or Axians as the locals call themselves, aren't solely dependent on the sea. You'll see that firsthand today on an 'only with Classic Journeys' walk between the mountain villages of Kourounohori and Potamia. Set against the backdrop of Naxos' verdant heart, the white-washed village of Kourounohori is perched on the mountainside, seemingly untouched by time. Known as the "Flower Village," its charming one and two-story houses are adorned with flowers, creating a mesmerizing tapestry of colors.

Walking out of Kourounohori, you'll pause to explore historic landmarks, including the Frangopoulos Tower, a relic of medieval heritage, and 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. A flaw in the marble made it unusable to the artisan but a fascinating insight into the art and history of the island for us. With your guide, wander along hidden paths through groves of olive, fig and cypress trees, past sheep and goats, listening to songbirds, and with the aromas of thyme, rosemary, and oregano filling the air. 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.

Toast your day at a small family run distillery that has been making the local Citron liquor for five generations. Still run by the same family, they'll welcome you to their workshop that sits on a narrow village alley. You'll learn how the liquor is made and taste the end result that's a favorite of the locals on Naxos.

MEALS: B, L

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



[Lagos Mare](#)

Lagos Mare Boutique Hotel is an elegant property located in a charming seaside village on Naxos. Enjoy upscale accommodations with modern amenities, a spa, an outdoor pool, and warm Greek hospitality during your stay.

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 Santorini's caldera with ringside seats for sunset. Lovely rooms are decorated in a sparse 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: **11:00 AM**