

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Greek Isles

Crete, Mykonos & Santorini



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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. We draw on local connections to provide you with insider access and show you Greece at its best.

DAY 1 »

Crete - Voni & Knossos

- [Traverse olive groves and vineyards, savoring local wines and authentic Cretan cuisine](#)
- [Uncover ancient mysteries at Knossos, exploring its labyrinthine complex with expert guidance](#)

Immerse yourself in Crete's rural charm as you embark on a scenic countryside walk through the Voni area. Your path meanders through an agricultural valley blanketed with olive groves and vineyards, leading to the charming stone house of our friend where you'll savor local wines and authentic Cretan family cuisine.

The afternoon brings you face-to-face with Crete's ancient past at the magnificently preserved Knossos. Your knowledgeable local guide will lead you through this colossal archaeological site, bringing to life the legend of King Minos and the Minotaur's labyrinth. As you explore the intricate network of over 1,300 rooms, halls, and passages, you'll marvel at vibrant frescoes dating back to 1,700 BC, gaining intimate insights into this ancient wonder.

As evening falls, return to Heraklion where you're free to discover the city's culinary scene, perhaps stumbling upon a hidden taverna serving traditional Cretan delicacies.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

Crete - Rethymnon

- [Discover ancient weaving traditions with nuns at the restored Agia Irini Monastery](#)
- [Create traditional phyllo pastry with George, Crete's last hand-made phyllo baker](#)

Start the day watching local life unfold over a cup of aromatic Greek coffee before a scenic drive to the charming harborside town of Rethymnon and the historic Agia Irini Monastery. Founded in the 10th century and recently restored, this Byzantine gem is now home to a small community of nuns who know our local guides well and so welcome you warmly. Wander with them through the monastery's award-winning restoration, witnessing firsthand how the nuns preserve local traditions of weaving and embroidery.

In the artisan village of Margarites, step into the studio of a local potter for a private demonstration. Watch in awe as he digs his own clay and skillfully works at his wheel, continuing an ancient tradition that has defined this region for centuries. Get your hands muddy with him at the wheel if you'd like.

Your cultural immersion deepens with a visit to our good friend George, who is quite literally the last baker on Crete who still makes phyllo dough by hand. Accompany him in his workroom, as he stretches the tissue-thin dough into billowing sheets. Join George and his wife as they transform the delicate phyllo into mouth-watering baklava, sweetened with local thyme honey. And then indulge in a tasting of this traditional treat.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Mykonos & Naxos

- [Meander through Mykonos' charming streets, uncovering its Venetian history and iconic landmarks](#)
- [Craft artisanal cheeses with George, experiencing Mykonos' sustainable dairy traditions firsthand](#)

Begin your day with a short flight over the iconic blue Aegean Sea to Mykonos, the most glamorous of the Cyclades islands. With your Classic Journeys guide as your well-connected local friend, explore the island on foot, meandering through narrow cobblestone streets flanked by traditional whitewashed buildings adorned with vibrant Cycladic blue accents. Your walk leads you to 'Little Venice', a picturesque quarter that played a crucial role in 14th-century Venetian trade routes. As you admire the colorful facades of homes cascading to the water's edge, your guide will share captivating stories that bring the island's rich history and culture to life. Just steps away, encounter two of Mykonos' iconic landmarks - the famous windmills perched atop a hill, standing as photogenic emblems of the island's agrarian past.

When in doubt of a man's name in Greece, try 'George'. That'll work today as well, when you learn about the heart of Mykonos'

culinary traditions with a visit to George, a multi-generational artisanal dairy craftsman. At his cooperative, which champions sustainable practices and local traditions, you'll don an apron and learn the art of cheese-making firsthand. Taste a selection of local specialties, including their renowned cheeses, yogurt, and Kopanisti. As the day winds down, board a ferry to nearby Naxos. Relax on deck as you watch the setting sun paint the sky in mesmerizing hues of pink and orange.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: NAXOS

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Naxos

- Trek through Naxos' lush countryside, exploring hidden villages and ancient landmarks
- Taste award-winning olive oil and Citron liquor at family-run farms

Discover the unique character of Naxos, an island blessed with fertile soil that sets it apart from its Cycladic neighbors. Today's 'only with Classic Journeys' walk takes you between the mountain villages of Kourounohori and Potamia, offering an intimate look at the island's agricultural heritage. Begin in Kourounohori, known as the "Flower Village" for its charming houses adorned with vibrant blooms. As you leave the village, pause to explore historic landmarks, including the medieval Frangopoulos Tower and an ancient marble quarry. Here, marvel at an unfinished kouros statue, a fascinating relic that offers insight into the island's artistic history.

Your expert guide leads you along hidden paths through groves of olive, fig, and cypress trees. Pass grazing sheep and goats as the aromas of wild herbs fill the air. A warm welcome awaits you at a family-run olive farm, where you'll enjoy a personal tour and taste their award-winning olive oil. Cap off your day with a visit to a small, family-run distillery that has been producing the local Citron liquor for five generations. In their workshop, learn about the traditional production methods and sample this beloved local spirit.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: NAXOS

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Santorini - Fira & Oia

- Hike Santorini's unique landscape, witnessing traditional farming methods and breathtaking caldera views
- Savor a cliffside dinner while watching Santorini's world-famous sunset over the Aegean

Board a hydrofoil this morning for a thrilling journey across the azure waters to Santorini. As you approach, marvel at the island's dramatic cliffs rising a thousand feet above the sea, crowned with dazzling white houses and their distinctive blue roofs. Unlike the cruise ship crowds, you'll take a quieter approach, allowing time to observe the unique vineyards where vines are wrapped into circles close to the ground, protecting the grapes from strong winds. Today's walk showcases Santorini's unique landscape. Follow footpaths past farmers tending their terraced wheat and barley fields with donkeys, just as their ancestors have for generations. Your trail offers breathtaking views of the caldera and its scattered islands before descending towards the sea. Your journey concludes at your boutique hotel, perfectly situated on the caldera's rim in the picturesque town of Oia.

The afternoon is yours to explore at your leisure. Wander through Oia's charming streets, visit local artisans, or simply relax in a cliffside café. As evening approaches, make your way to a cliff-side restaurant for dinner. Here, you'll witness Santorini's crowning glory - a spectacular sunset as the sun sinks into the Homeric "wine-dark" Aegean, painting the sky in a breathtaking array of colors.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: OIA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Santorini

- Cruise Santorini's caldera, exploring volcanic islands on foot and uncovering the Atlantis myth
- Walk to a family vineyard, sampling local wines and toasting the setting sun

Wake to a view entirely filled by the glimmering Aegean Sea - a true "pinch-yourself" moment. Begin your day with a descent to the water's edge via gondola, where you'll board a boat for a cruise into the heart of the volcanic crater. As you glide across the aquamarine waters, your guide will reveal how Santorini's dramatic landscape inspired the myth of Atlantis. Step ashore on a volcanic island for a walk among otherworldly rock formations and vibrant wildflowers, all while enjoying spectacular sea views.

This intimate exploration of Santorini's geological wonders offers a stark contrast to the limited experiences of cruise ship passengers.

Midday, there's time for lunch as well as to explore Fira's exceptional boutiques filled with artisan goods made on the island. This afternoon join your guide for a walk through a vineyard to a family-owned winery. It's often the case that your hosts time the wine tasting to conclude just in time for you to soak in another famous Santorini sunset before gathering for dinner.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: OIA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

Oia

- [Savor a final morning in Oia, soaking in panoramic Aegean views](#)

On your final morning in paradise, savor a leisurely breakfast with panoramic views of the Aegean. Take time for one last stroll through Oia's enchanting streets, perhaps picking up a final memento of your journey.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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



[Liana Beach Hotel & Spa](#)

Situated on the pristine coastline of Naxos, the Liana Beach Hotel is a luxurious property with breathtaking sea views. Enjoy the beachfront access, fine dining, wellness spa, pool and relaxing atmosphere while staying at this upscale retreat.

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

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	2.5	3.5	6
Day 2	3	4	6.5
Day 3	2.5	4	4
Day 4	2	3.5	5.5
Day 5	2.5	3.5	6
Day 6	2.5	4	4.5
Day 7	*	*	*

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Heraklion, Mykonos town, Fira and Oia; as well as well-maintained countryside and coastal trails; vineyard, olive grove and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone; and even crushed lava rock on the volcanic trails. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain with some elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of GDM Megaron
Heraklion
CITY: Heraklion, Crete, Greece
TIME: 9:00 AM
Guests will meet their guide in the lobby of GDM Megaron Heraklion.

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Fanari Villas
CITY: Oia, Santorini, Greece
TIME: 11:00 AM
Guests depart from the hotel at their leisure.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- 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 on us.
- ▶ **INVISIBLE CHECK-IN**
When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.