

# EXPLORE!

## Self-Guided Santorini and Naxos

8 days

Greece - Trip code WSNS



## Self-Guided Santorini and Naxos

Discover two beautiful islands of the Cyclades, Santorini and Naxos, on this self-guided walking holiday. Santorini, a volcanic island shaped by a dramatic eruption thousands of years ago, is known for its whitewashed houses and black beaches. Naxos is an island of contrasts with some lively resorts co-existing with very traditional rural areas. Exploring on foot takes you to the heart of both of these islands.

### Trip highlights

- ★ Explore two contrasting Cyclades islands - Naxos and Santorini
- ★ Santorini - Stunning volcanic scenery and pretty villages with white washed houses
- ★ Naxos - Walk up Mount Zas (Mount Zeus), the highest peak in the Cyclades
- ★ Thira - Learn the history of Santorini's volcanic past

#### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

##### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### WALKING GRADE:

##### Easy To Moderate

This grade is ideal if you want to enjoy both easy and moderate level walks on the same tour. You'll be walking mainly on good paths and at low altitude, with occasional more demanding ascents or descents.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Arrival to Santorini

Your trip starts on Santorini. You will be met at the airport by a taxi driver and taken to your accommodation in Akrotiri, the village in the south-west of the island where you will spend the first four nights of your holiday. You will be impressed by the steep coloured cliffs of this ancient volcanic island and the whitewashed villages on top. It is said that the eruption that happened here 3,600 years ago, ended the Minoan Civilization. It may also be the source of the legend of Atlantis.



**Accommodation: Hotel Mathios Village** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Walk to ancient Thirakrotiri

This morning a transfer will take you to Perissa, from where you start climbing via an old path to an exposed saddle. This part of the island is one of the very few places that pre-dates the devastating volcanic eruption. First you will walk up to Ancient Thira - the capital of the island in Ancient and Roman times, then descend via an old path to the quiet interior of the island, walking through vineyards and through picturesque villages. Continuing through the volcanic landscape and along a black beach you walk back to Akrotiri village.



**Accommodation: Hotel Mathios Village** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

### DAY 3 - Explore Fira. Follow mule paths along the cliffs to Oia

This morning you'll catch a public bus to Fira, the capital of Santorini. Here you can explore the narrow alleyways of this whitewashed town, built on the top of the volcanic cliffs. You may also wish to visit the museum of prehistoric Thira and the Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon you make the famous walk from Fira to Oia. You will mainly walk along a well maintained mule-path with fabulous views of the lagoon and the spectacular steep cliffs. When you reach the small town of Oia you will be picked up and transferred back to your hotel.



**Accommodation: Hotel Mathios Village** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Around Akrotiri

We recommend that you spend today around Akrotiri. You may wish to relax around the hotel, take a short walk to the nearby lighthouse or visit the archaeological site of Akrotiri - the Greek Pompeii that opened in 2012 after it had been closed for many years.



**Accommodation: Hotel Mathios Village** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Ferry from Santorini to Naxos. Explore Naxos Town

Today you will be taken to the port for your ferry to Naxos. The journey between the islands takes two hours. On Naxos you will be met at the port and taken to your hotel. In the afternoon you may have the opportunity to visit the Castle and museum in Naxos town (Chora), or you can relax on the sandy beach of Agios Georgios.



**Accommodation: Hotel Grotta** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Walk on ancient paths from Chalki to Melanes

You will start today by taking either a local bus or a local taxi to Chalki in the heart of the Tragea plain. From here you will explore the fertile countryside of central Naxos, with olive groves and rich vegetation. There are some olive trees that are over thousand years old! You walk on cobbled paths via the Venetian Fortress, Ano Kastro, to an ancient marble quarry where you find a 10m high statue dating back to the 6th century BC. The walk ends in the nearby village Melanes from where you can take either a taxi or local bus back to the hotel.




**Accommodation: Hotel Grotta** (or similar)



Standard Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 7 - Hike to the summit of Mount Zas (Mount Zeus)

Today you will take another public bus or taxi to the village of Filoti to start today's walk. From the village, built at the foothills of Mt. Zas (also known as Mount Zeus), you climb to the summit of this legendary mountain. En route keep an eye out for the cave in which, according to the legend, Zeus the father of all the gods, was nursed by an eagle. Upon reaching the summit you will be rewarded with panoramic views of Naxos and the surrounding islands. After descending back down you have the option to extend your walk to Apiranthos. From Apiranthos you can walk back via the saddle of Mt. Fanari to Filoti, a beautiful walk with breathtaking views! You can take a taxi or public bus back to Naxos Chora from either of these end points.




**Accommodation: Hotel Grotta** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 8 - Ferry from Naxos to Santorini

This morning you will have time to relax in Naxos Town before catching the ferry back to Santorini, arriving through the submersed ancient volcano crater. You will be meet at the port in Santorini and taken to Santorini Airport where your trip ends. Please note that the ferry to Santorini arrives in the afternoon. You will be able to depart from Santorini airport from 19.00.

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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# Walking and Trekking information

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## DAILY DISTANCE

Day 2	13km		
Day 3	10.3km		
Day 4	5.2km		
Day 5	4.4km		
Day 6	10km	4km	5km
Day 7	6.5km	5.4km	5.3km

 Optional Walks

### Walking grade

Easy to moderate

### Trek details

Walks on 5 days for between 1.5 to 5.5 hours. The walks are in hilly and mountainous regions, mainly on well-kept paths and cobbled mule trails.



## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 7



### Transport

Taxi



### Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel

## Trip information

## Country information

### Greece Holidays & Tours

#### Climate

Greece has predominantly hot, dry summers, May - October with temperatures reaching into the mid thirties in July and August. May and October themselves can be less predictable and may have some rain and cooler evenings. Wild flowers bloom in April and May adding much colour to the trails. At the beginning and end of the season the villages tend to be very quiet. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up to date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

#### Time difference to GMT

+2

#### Plugs

2 Pin Round

#### Religion

Orthodox

#### Language

Greek

## Budgeting and packing

### Clothing

Light clothes suitable for walking in warm weather are recommended (July and August can be extremely hot). However early and late in the season (May/June/September/October) also bring warm clothing in case of drops in temperature or the odd shower. A fleece jacket is a good thing to have at any time of year when in the mountains.

### Footwear

Well worn, sturdy walking boots with good ankle support are essential for the walks. We recommend bringing sandals and trainers for relaxing in the evenings.

### Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you may need to carry your luggage at times so don't overload yourself. When travelling on public transport you should always keep your luggage with you.

### Luggage transfer

Included between hotels.

### Equipment

Bring a personal water bottle (at least 2l capacity) and sun protection for use during the walks. You may find a trekking pole useful over the downhill sections. You may also wish to take a swimming costume and towel.

### Tipping

#### Local fees

Public bus from Naxos Chora to Chalki approximately 2€ pp each way Taxi from Naxos Chora to Chalki approximately 20€ each way Taxi from Melanes to Chora approximately 12€ Public bus from Naxos Chora to Filoti approximately 2€ each way Taxi from Naxos Chora to Filoti approximately 25€ each way Taxi from Apiranthos is approximately 35€

#### Country Information

## Greece Holidays & Tours

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Dinner price**

£12.00 - 16.00

**Beer price**

£3.5

**Water price**

£0.9

### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Euro

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

GBP Sterling or US Dollars, cash.

**Where To Exchange**

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports

**ATM Availability**

Cash can be drawn from ATMs from all types of cards in most areas in Greece, including the islands.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

In major restaurants.

**Travellers Cheques**

Banking hours may make exchanging Travellers Cheques more difficult.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Taxi

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

**Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

## Visa Information

Greece: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Greece Holidays & Tours

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against tetanus and polio. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.



