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Self-Guided Santorini and Naxos

GREECE - TRIP CODE WSNS

WALKING AND TREKKING

Why book this trip?

Explore on foot the heart of Santorini and Naxos - on this self-guided walking holiday. Santorini, a volcanic island 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.

- **Naxos** - Panaramic views from Mount Zas (Mount Zeus), the highest peak in the Cyclades
- **Thira** - Learn the history of Santorini's volcanic past
- **Ancient paths** - Follow historic routes across these picturesque islands



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 7



TRIP STAFF
None



TRANSPORT
Taxi



ACCOMMODATION
7 nights
comfortable hotel



WALKING GRADE:
Easy To
Moderate

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Arrival on Santorini. Ferry to Naxos

Your trip starts at Santorini Airport (JTR) where you will be met by a taxi which will take you to the port for your ferry to Naxos. The ferry journey between the islands takes around two hours. On Naxos you will be met at the port and taken to your hotel. If time allows you can do a 4.4km walk to Chrisostomos from the port (approximately 1.5hrs).

Please note that the ferry to Naxos departs at 15.30 so you will need to arrive to Santorini Airport no later than 13.00.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Grotta (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - 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. If you continue, you come through the villages Potamia. Through lush valleys you walk back via Ano Kastro to Chalki.

Your walk today is 13kms and takes approximately 4.5 hours. The total ascent and descent is +300m / - 350m.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Grotta (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Walk on Naxos

After a short transfer to Kynidaros, enjoy a gentle walk to the small village of Eggares. Explore its picturesque churches and two restored olive presses one of which dates back to 1885. Enjoy lunch in one of the tavernas on the stone-built main square before returning to your hotel. You may wish to visit of the olive press in Eggares on arrival.

Your walk today is 10.3kms and takes approximately 3 hours. The total ascent and descent is +300m / - 400m.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Grotta (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - 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'll 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.

Your walk today is 12kms and takes approximately 4 hours. The total ascent and descent is +650m / - 650m.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Grotta (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Explore Naxos town. Take ferry to Santorini

This morning you have the opportunity to visit the Castle and museum in Naxos town (Chora), or you can relax on the sandy beach of Agios Georgios before catching the ferry back to Santorini at around midday. As the ferry arrives through the submersed volcano crater you will be impressed by the views to 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 have been the source for the legend of Atlantis.

You'll spend the next three nights at your hotel in Akrotiri village in the south west of the island.

Your walk today is 7kms and takes approximately 2.5 hours. The total ascent and descent is +100m / - 400m.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Villa Kalimera (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Walk to ancient Thirakrotiri

Today 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 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.

Your walk today is 13kms and takes approximately 5.5 hours. The total ascent and descent is +580m / - 550m.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Villa Kalimera (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Explore Fira. Follow mule path along 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.

Your walk today is 10.3kms and takes approximately 3 hours. The total ascent and descent is +300m / - 400m.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Villa Kalimera (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Trip ends Santorini

Your trip ends today after a short transfer to Santorini Airport (JTR).



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Greece

Climate

Greece has such a vast geographical difference between the mainland and the islands, and travel is possible at all times of year but the climate can vary depending on when you go. During late spring or early autumn, in the months of April-May or September-October, temperatures are warm and pleasant, usually hovering around 25 degrees. Rainfall is low, but can be erratic during these months. Cooler evenings take the heat off the day. If you have booked a walking holiday, wild flowers bloom during the spring, adding colour to the hiking trails. Summers are hot and dry, with plenty of sunshine and little rain. Temperatures can go north of 35 degrees in July and August. On the islands, restaurants and bars may be busy with cruise ship passengers. While this period definitely gives you a 'summer holiday' feeling, those wishing to explore Greece's ancient sites may find the heat challenging. When travelling in winter, from late November to early March, the villages will be very quiet. Temperatures in Athens at this time are around 10-15 degrees, while the nights will be colder. Hotels in northern Greece in particular are well adapted to deal with cold winters, having proper heating and warm fires to retreat to after a day of exploring. This makes it a good destination for travel between November-March.

| Time difference to GMT | Plugs | Religion | Language |
|------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| +2 | 2 Pin Round | Orthodox | 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 2 litre 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 per person 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

Greece

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 | Beer price | Water price |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| £12.00 - 16.00 | £3.5 | £0.9 |

Foreign Exchange

| Local currency | Recommended Currency For Exchange |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Euro | 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

Recommended airport

Santorini (Thira) Airport (JTR)

Flying to your destination

Santorini Airport (JTR) is served by low cost carriers (including Easyjet) and charter / schedule airlines (including Thomas Cook Airlines, British Airways) from various UK airports including London Gatwick and Manchester.

Arrival and departure information

On arrival you will be meet at Santorini Airport (JTR) and transfered to your hotel on Santorini.

For your departure a taxi transfer will meet you from your ferry from Naxos at the port in Santorini and transfer you to Santorini Airport (JTR).

Please advise Explore of your arrival and departure details at least two weeks prior to your departure.

Please note this reverse itinerary is suitable if you arrive to Santorini after 13.00 on Day 1 and depart after 19.00 on the last day.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety 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, Commonwealth & Development 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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport 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 be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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 receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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


Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against tetanus and polio. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES

| | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Day 2 | 13km | | | 5.5hrs |
| Day 3 | 10.3km | | | 3hrs |
| Day 4 | 5.2km | | | 1.5hrs |
| Day 5 | 4.4km | | | 1.5hrs |
| Day 6 | 10km | 4km | 5km | 3.5/1.5hrs |
| Day 7 | 6.5km | 5.4km | 5.3km | 2.5/2/2.5hrs |

 Optional Walks

Walking grade

Easy to moderate

Trek details

Walks on 5 to 6 days for between 2.5 to 5.5 hours. The walks are in hilly and mountainous regions, mainly on well-kept paths and cobbled mule trails.

Additional Information



Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**