



Athens, Paros & Santorini with Gamma Phi Beta Alumnae

9 days | 12 days with Nafplio & the Athens Riviera extension

Cobblestone streets, arched, whitewashed facades, cobalt-colored roofs, and rustic windmills are just a few of the picturesque Greek landscapes you can expect to find on this tour. Walk through ancient history and open-air museums in the capital, Athens. Then, revel in the serenity and diversity of the Greek Islands on the isles of Paros and Santorini—daydreams come to life in a hundred shades of blue. And be sure to add the extension to Nafplio and the Athenian Riviera. You'll build a more complete and vibrant picture of Greece—one tinged with cerulean and emerald to complement those white-washed walls.



Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 wine tasting
- 2 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 ferry transfers
- 1 on-tour flight

Included highlights

- Acropolis
- Paros wine tasting
- Akrotiri ruins
- Village of Pygos
- Santorini caldera cruise

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep hills and stairs.

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

Athens → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Athens

Included meals: welcome dinner

Close your eyes and take in the smell of orange blossoms and olive trees—you're in Greece. Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens

Included meals: breakfast

Nothing can prepare you for the sheer sense of awe you'll feel when you come face-to-face with Athens, where ancient architecture and artifacts coexist with modern life. Meet up with your dedicated local guide, who will introduce you to the highlights of this bustling capital.

- Pass by the Panathenaic Stadium, built entirely out of marble—the only such stadium in the world.
- Continue to Syntagma Square, home to the neoclassical Greek Parliament building, and admire the plaza's imposing marble steps, fountain, lush shade trees, and the elite ceremonial guards known as the Evzones.
- Reflect on the Arch of Hadrian, built to honor the Roman emperor, and imagine how its Pentelic marble stones were carted more than 11 miles from Mount Pentelikon in 131 A.D.
- View the remains of the sixth-century Temple of Zeus and gaze up at its 16 ornate Corinthian columns.
- Set off on a walking tour around the ancient Acropolis—site of the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion. You may have seen these enduring icons of antiquity in books and film, but now you're stepping through the work of craftsmen who quarried and honed these marble blocks thousands of years ago.
- Walk through the Plaka and enjoy free time to wander the narrow streets and charming

shops. Situated at the foot of the Acropolis, this district is one of the oldest parts of

Athens and is known as “the neighborhood of the gods” due to the dozens of monuments strewn throughout.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Plaka, a neighborhood largely unbothered by time and modernity, with distinctive red-tiled rooftops, outdoor cafes, and colorful street vendors. Prefer to taste your way through Athens? Add an excursion and remember to say *kali orexi*—local speak for “have a good appetite.”

+ Food of Athens Walking Tour

Paros → 2 nights

Day 4: Ferry to Paros & wine tasting

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner

This morning, head to Piraeus—Athens' principal port—and board a ferry bound for the golden beaches and whitewashed villages of Paros. A few hours later, you'll dock in Parikia and take some free time to explore the island's capital. Tonight, after freshening up at your hotel, make your way to the village of Naousa for a special, singularly Greek evening.

- Visit the family-owned Moraitis Estate and learn about the production of red and white wines as you tour part of its 25-acre vineyard.
- Sit down for a five-part wine tasting—featuring Monemvasia, malagousia, and other varietals produced on-site—served alongside a multi-course dinner.
- Return to Naousa and wind down with a leisurely walk before transferring back to your hotel for the evening.

Day 5: Free day in Paros

Included meals: breakfast

See where your feet take you on this fully free day. Historic marble quarries, isolated monasteries, and other delights reward the curious. If you're looking to relax instead of wander, Paros boasts some of the best beaches on the Aegean Sea. Can't decide? Ask your Tour Director for suggestions — they know all the best spots and can even coordinate with your bus driver to make getting there effortless.

Santorini → 2 nights

Day 6: Ferry to Santorini

Included meals: breakfast

You've seen the photos—now get ready to star in them yourself. Take a ferry to Santorini and enjoy a free afternoon on the island. You can admire the steep cliffs that plunge into the Aegean and the island's iconic caldera, dotted with whitewashed buildings. You can eat your way through traditional dishes—like moussaka, a hearty eggplant dish, or tomato fritters—then use your free time to explore unique pebbly beaches and crystal clear waters.

Looking to expand your palate? Get to know the island's unique vineyards when you choose to join the excursion to a local winery, complete with a tasting and accompanying lunch.

Please note: For an additional cost, you can book a visit to the village of Oia through your Tour Director. The visit will either take place on the evening of day 6 or the morning of day 8, depending on ferry and flight schedules.

+ Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Santorini & caldera cruise

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Your guided tour of Santorini will take you from dramatic black-sand beaches to jagged cliff-lined shores and back—a stark contrast to the island's beloved whitewashed buildings and sprays of bright fuchsia bougainvillea vines.

- Visit the archaeological excavations at Akrotiri, a settlement buried in volcanic ash, where richly pigmented Bronze Age frescoes and other Minoan artifacts survived a devastating volcano eruption in the 16th Century BCE.
- Head to the Caldera Viewpoint in Fira and take in the sweeping panoramas of the submerged volcanic crater, where the deep blue Aegean meets the island's dramatic cliffs in one of Greece's most iconic vistas
- See Mount Profitis Ilias, the highest point on all of Santorini and home to the Prophet Elias Monastery which sits perched atop the summit.
- Stop in small, picturesque Pyrgos, where you'll weave through the steep streets of this slightly off-the-beaten-path village.

This afternoon, board a catamaran and sail in

comfort through Santorini's awe-inspiring caldera on this scenic excursion. You'll cruise around the volcanic island of Nea Kameni for views of the picture-perfect cliffside village of Oia (pronounced "EE-ah"). Situated on the western end of the island, Oia was once a maritime center, and stately captains' houses still sit on its high ridges. Spend the afternoon on the open waters as you snorkel in the ocean, sunbathe on the deck of the catamaran, and swim in a natural hot spring that was once the crater of a volcano. You'll enjoy unlimited wine, water, and soft drinks, as well as a buffet-style dinner of home-cooked Greek specialties, on board the boat as you take in the beautiful scenery.

Please note: The visit to the Caldera Viewpoint may take place separately from the sightseeing tour. We recommend packing a bathing suit for the caldera cruise. This caldera cruise is weather-dependent.

Athens → 1 night

Day 8: Flight to Athens

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

This afternoon, fly to Athens and celebrate your trip with your group at tonight's farewell dinner, served with beer or wine. *Kali antamosi*—or "until we meet again."

Flight Home

Day 9: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to visit oceanside Nafplio and the Athens Riviera.

+ Nafplio & the Athens Riviera extension

After all that fun in the Ionian sun, this extension's the perfect counterbalance. Begin in Mycenae, heart of a prehistoric powerhouse, before staying in Nafplio for two nights. Immerse yourself in the city's unique mix of Greek, French, Venetian, and Ottoman cultures—and maybe take a dip in the waters of the Aegean, too. Fall in love with its seaside splendor, then wrap up your trip with one relaxing night on the Athenian Riviera. Still craving history? Don't worry: We make a stop in old Epidaurus, home to a brilliantly preserved theater and one of the most important healing

centers of antiquity.

Nafplio → 2 nights

Day 9: Nafplio via Mycenae

Included meals: breakfast

Return to the Peloponnese and travel to Nafplio, a romantic seaside town with roots stretching back to Classical Greece. Pass by the Corinth Canal once again, then continue on to Mycenae, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was once one of the most important urban centers of Bronze Age Greece.

- Explore Mycenae's citadel, including its main entrance, the Lion Gate. Erected sometime near 1250 B.C. and distinguished by twin lionesses over its threshold, it's the largest surviving prehistoric sculpture in the Aegean.
- Visit another archaeological site of epic provenance: the Treasury of Atreus. Also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon, this beehive-shaped burial ground (or "tholos" in Greek) dates back over three millennia and is inextricably linked to the mythical Trojan War through the kings for which it's named.
- Visit the royal cemetery known as Grave Circle A, which supposedly holds the remains of Agamemnon and his followers—and where treasures like the golden Mask of Agamemnon were unearthed.

Continue on to Nafplio and join your Tour Director on a walk through its charming old town.

- Roam through its bustling, taverna-lined squares and spot the imposing Palamidi, a Venetian fortress perched atop a hill over 700 feet above the city.
 - Learn about Nafplio's history, including how it became the first capital of independent Greece in 1829.
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Day 10: Free day in Nafplio

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Nafplio or add an excursion to Sparta and Mystras, where ancient warrior legends meet Byzantine splendor in the shadows of the Taygetus Mountain.

+ Sparta & Mystras

Athens Riviera → 1 night

Day 11: Athens Riviera via Epidaurus

Included meals: breakfast

Head into the countryside for a guided tour of the Sanctuary of Asklepios, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the ancient Greek city of Epidaurus.

- Learn about its history as a healing sanctuary dedicated to the Greek god of medicine, where people went in search of physical and spiritual healing.
- Move on to the Ancient Theater of Epidaurus, one of the best-preserved Greek amphitheaters in the world and yet another UNESCO-recognized landmark.

Continue to your hotel in the Athens Riviera, then raise a glass and toast your trip with a farewell drink this evening.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Athens airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://www.goaheadtours.com/YLAG> | 1-800-597-0350

Day 3: Food of Athens Walking Tour

From \$99.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Meet a local guide in Monastiraki Square, right in the heart of Athens, for an introduction to its namesake neighborhood's favorite foods. Start near the Varvakios Agora—the city's best-known market—and pop into shops that sell traditional Greek goods. Then, pause to taste a selection of cheeses and meats, paired with raki and wine, before heading to a cafe. Share plates of local specialties with your fellow travelers as you learn about Greek dining customs before capping your outing with a classic dessert and coffee.

Day 6: Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch

From \$89.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the afternoon with lunch)

Santorini's volcanic landscape and nutrient-rich soil nurture a wealth of outstanding vineyards. You'll tour a local winery and learn about how the vines are trained to grow close to the ground, which helps protect the grapes from the strong ocean winds. Then, sit down for a lunch and tasting featuring some of their signature varietals including Assyrtiko and Vin Santo.

Extension excursion options

Day 10: Sparta & Mystras

From \$125.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (8 hours, departs in the morning)

The name Sparta conjures images of bronze-clad hoplites charging across ancient battlefields—but today, a modern town, Sparta, stands on the site of that legendary city-state. Kick your day off by meeting a local guide and touring its streets, learning about Spartan history at landmarks like the Statue of Leonidas and attractions like the Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil. After free time for lunch, ride your bus to Mystras, a UNESCO-recognized fortified town famous for its Byzantine monasteries, churches, and castles. You'll get to wander through some of them—like the Palace of the Despots—before returning to Nafplio.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.