



ANCIENT ORIGINS CRETE AND SANTORINI
DATES: To be confirmed

Those on the extended island tour will leave the hotel at 8h00 to the airport and we fly to Crete at 10 am. Arrangements will be made with our hotel in Athens to leave extra luggage there, since domestic flights have limited luggage allowances.

DAY 11



Knossos palace on Crete

Crete – Knossos

(Breakfast included)

On arrival at the capital Heraklion, we check into the hotel, and we take a bus to Knossos, palace of the Minoan civilization – home of the mythical King Minos

and the Minotaur which was slayed by Theseus. The Palace of Knossos was a multi-storey structural labyrinth, which differed from other contemporary palaces in that it had no defensive walls. Since there are no kitchens, it is believed the palace was a shrine or a ceremonial palace, rather than inhabited on a full time basis. Heinrich Schliemann, the excavator, named the Megaron or Throne Room, King and Queen's chambers, Grand Staircase, Pillar Halls, Lustral Baths, Hall of the Double Axes and the central court. We will see the famous Knossos frescoes depicting life at the palace.

We return to the capital Heraklion. Lunch and dinner at your own cost.

DAY 12



The Minoan palace of Phaistos

Crete- Phaistos

(Breakfast included)

We leave the hotel at 9 am by bus to visit Phaistos. The historian Diodorus Siculus indicates that Phaistos, together with Knossos and Kydonia, are the three towns that were founded by King Minos on Crete. Phaistos was inhabited from about 4000 BC. A palace, dating from the Middle Bronze Age, was destroyed by an earthquake during the Late Bronze Age. Knossos along with other Minoan sites was destroyed at that time. The palace was rebuilt toward the end of the Late Bronze Age.

The first palace was built about 2000 BC. This section is on a lower level than the west courtyard and has a nice facade with a plastic outer shape, a cobbled courtyard, and a tower ledge with a ramp, which leads up to a higher level. The old palace was destroyed three times in period of about three centuries. After the first and second disaster, reconstruction and repairs were made, so there are

distinguished three construction phases. Around 1400 BC, the invading Achaeans destroyed Phaistos, as well as Knossos. The palace appears to have been unused thereafter, as evidence of the Mycenaean era have not been found.

We return to Heraklion, where you have the afternoon free to roam. Lunch and dinner at your own cost.

DAY 13



Santorini

Crete – Santorini

(Breakfast included)

We check out at 9 am and take a ferry boat (2 hours) to the island of Santorini (ancient Thera). Enjoy the hospitality of Poseidon on the Mediterranean Sea. We book into the hotel. You are free to roam and explore for the afternoon and night at your leisure. Lunch and dinner at your own cost.

DAY 14



Wander in the streets of ancient Akrotiri

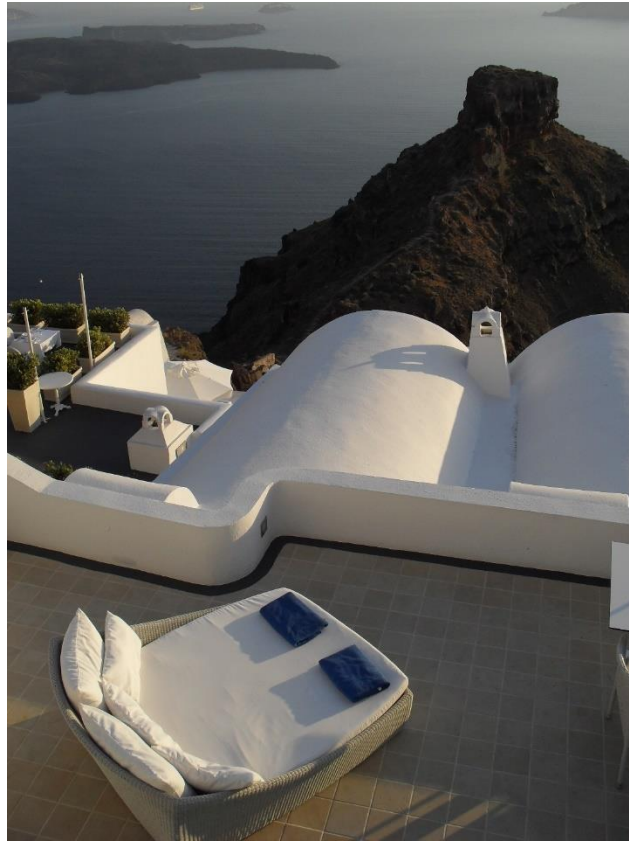
Santorini

(Breakfast included)

We leave the hotel at 9 am and we visit the archaeological site of Akrotiri – Akrotiri was a Minoan site enveloped in ash when the volcano erupted in the 17th century BC destroying the Minoan civilization. Akrotiri is a city preserved where one gets a unique glimpse in the every-day life of its Bronze Age inhabitants. Fresco's, pots, beds, tables, ovens and toys tell the story of an almost fantastical civilization – whom some believe may have been Atlantean – that existed on this magical island.

We return to Fira, the capital of Santorini. Enjoy the rest of your day at your leisure taking in the sights of the island, spend the day at the beach, visit the thermal spa or take a bus to Oia and watch the legendary most beautiful sunset on earth. This day is yours.

DAY 15



Santorini

Santorini – Athens

(Breakfast included)

Enjoy your last morning in Santorini. We meet at a predestined time at the hotel, take the bus down to the port and take a speedboat back to Piraeus / Athens. We check into the hotel.

Dinner at your own cost. Enjoy your last evening in Athens.

DAY 16

(Included Breakfast)

Check out and flights home – transport to the airport in groups

INCLUSIONS

Airport arrival transfer to hotel in Athens

Shared group departure transfers

Accommodation

Breakfast

Transportation on AC buses

Museum and site entrance fees

English-speaking guide & tour leaders

Domestic flights, ferry and boat fares

EXCLUSIONS

Flights to and from Greece

Visa fee
Drinks during meals
A-la-carte lunches
Dinners
Tips
Bottled water
Personal items

6-day Extension

Crete: Heraklion (2 nights)

Hotel:

[Olive Green](#)

or similar

Santorini: Fira (2 nights)

Hotel:

[RK Beach Hotel](#)

or similar

Athens (final night)

Hotel:

[Astor Hotel](#)

or similar

IMPORTANT NOTES

Please read through the enclosed trip notes which has useful information to help you prepare for your trip. Some important points are highlighted below:

- There are currently no Covid-19 entry requirements in Greece. However, we still recommend you to be considerate of other clients for the health and safety of your group.

You are requested to keep good hand hygiene especially during meals.

- If you have not yet organised your travel insurance this must be obtained before you depart your home country.

- As a company moving towards sustainable tourism we are trying to reduce the plastic waste generated on our tours. The biggest contributor is without doubt bottled water. However, we understand that the health and safety of our clients is paramount. We would therefore encourage you to purchase a specialist travel bottle which uses a replaceable cartridge to filter water, and these are available

from online stores (reputable brands include: Water To Go, LifeStraw and WaterWell). Although we will not be supplying bottled water, you can still choose to purchase this locally and your guide can assist you if required.

- Please adhere to the agreed meeting times and the time allocated for site visits so that we can stick to the itinerary and ensure our driver is not working longer than necessary.
- We will be travelling by coach and you are requested to be flexible and considerate with each other in terms of seating arrangements.
- If you have any health issues related to travel please flag this with our local guide and tour leader as soon as possible.
- Tipping: this is covered in the Tipping section in the trip notes.

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