

# ATHENS, SANTORINI

## Included With Every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Tour – Guide and official Guide where needed
- 3 night in in Selected Luxury Accommodations in Athens and 3 nights in Selected Luxury accommodation in Santorini
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Ferry ticket to Santorini
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners as stated in the program
- Entrance Fees and Taxes
- Sightseeing tours and activities as per itinerary one bottle of water dailly

## Exclusions

- International airfare throughout the program
- International airport taxes, airport porter and extra baggage
- Meals other than those specified as included in the itinerary
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (minibar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides/drivers/porters/hotel, restaurant, or boat staff etc.
- Drinks or personal expenses or entrance fees for any extra sightseeing or optional activities
- All services which are not mentioned on the program above
- Optional tours

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# WELCOME TO ATHENS

## Day 1. Arrival in Athens

Pick-up from Athens International Airport. Check in to hotel. Optional Folklore night. Overnight in Athens.

## Day 2. Athens Acropolis and the Parthenon

After having breakfast your exploration of Athenian history begins with a tour into the Acropolis Hill. An ancient, fortified citadel built on a rocky hill which houses several ancient structures constructed in the 5th century BC such as the Erechtheion, the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike and of course the Parthenon. The Acropolis and its monuments are considered as symbols of the classical spirit and civilization and form the greatest architectural and artistic complex passed by the ancient Greeks to humanity. The Parthenon, which was constructed as a temple in honour of the goddess Athena Parthenos, is one of the most famous structures in the world. Its decorative sculptures are regarded as the highlights of classical Greek art and the Parthenon is considered a timeless symbol of Ancient Greece, democracy, and Western civilization. The new Acropolis Museum was built to house all artifacts found on the archaeological site of the Acropolis. Designed by the Bernard Tschumi architecture office, in this modern museum visitors will admire its highlights such as the Caryatids, the Moschophoros, the Temple of Athena Nike frieze and many other brilliant examples of classical art. Following the Acropolis experience, there will be free time for exploring the Athens city centre. Recommended places are the Hellenic Parliament (which was originally built to be used as a Royal Palace), and the alleys of Plaka. Plaka is one of the oldest neighbourhoods of Athens, just below the Acropolis Hill, known for its picturesque neoclassical houses and its authenticity. It is also an area full of restaurants, jewelry stores, tourist shops and cafes. Transfer to hotel and overnight in Athens.

## Day 3. Athens to Santorini

After an early wake-up and breakfast, transfer to Piraeus port and departure for Santorini with SEAJET at 07:40 in the morning. Arrival at the port of Athinios is estimated at 13:15 at midday. Transfer to hotel. The greatest treasure in the Aegean and one of the most magnificent tourist sites in the world is Santorini's crescent-shaped Caldera. Santorini was formed after a massive volcanic eruption around 1600 BCE, an event that reshaped the island's geology. Up until then, Santorini (or Thera) was part of an island named Strogili. During the volcano's eruption, vast amounts of magma were expelled, causing the central portion of Strogili to collapse into the sea. This cataclysmic event was the cause of the formation of the iconic caldera—a submerged crater with Santorini and neighboring islands forming. Santorini being the most photographed location in Greece welcomes thousands of visitors every year who come to enjoy a memorable vacation in the quaint caldera villages. For the remainder of the afternoon visitors will have plenty of time at their disposal for wandering, shopping and creating life-long memories from the sights over Caldera. Overnight in Santorini.

## Day 4. Santorini half-day tour

Following a fulfilling breakfast with the breathtaking view of the azure waves of the Aegean Sea inside the Caldera, we will visit Oia and Fira. Your private chartered bus will depart with your guide who will provide you information about the island and its history. Oia is a village perched atop a beautiful cliff that provides views of the volcano and the island of Thirassia. Though it is centuries old, Oia is mostly known for its breathtaking sunsets that have gained international recognition and have become a trademark for the island and perhaps for the whole country. Every evening, hundreds of people assemble to witness the most breathtaking sunset in Greece as the sun sets over the Aegean Sea. Fira is the capital of the island characterised by the whitewashed buildings on the edges of the cliffs. It attracts many tourists due to its large shopping area, museums, restaurants and cafes with great views and its convenient location in the centre of the island. Transfer back to hotel, overnight in Santorini.

## Day 5. Santorini (optional morning or Sunset catamaran tour)

Breakfast at hotel. Free day to enjoy once again the beauties of the island. However, for those with a sense of adventure and a taste for the good life there is an optional morning or Sunset cruise with drinks and meals. Those who will come aboard are most certainly about to have unforgettable maritime experiences. We will get a chance to sail through the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea and marvel at the magic of the Santorini Sunset and the amazing coastline, creating memories that last a lifetime. The drinks and meals served onboard will enhance your experience. Duration of the tour is 7 hours (14:00–21:00). Return to port and transfer to hotel for overnight in Santorini.

## Day 6. Return to Athens

After the breakfast free time for last-minute shopping and photos and afterwards transfer to the port. Departure at 15:00 and arrival in Athens at 20:40. Transfer to hotel and overnight in Athens.

## Day 7. Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport for the return flight back home.

