

Eastern Cyclades: Santorini, Naxos and Amorgos

Santorini

Trip code: CYCGP0004

Guided hike

• Hiking • 14 days

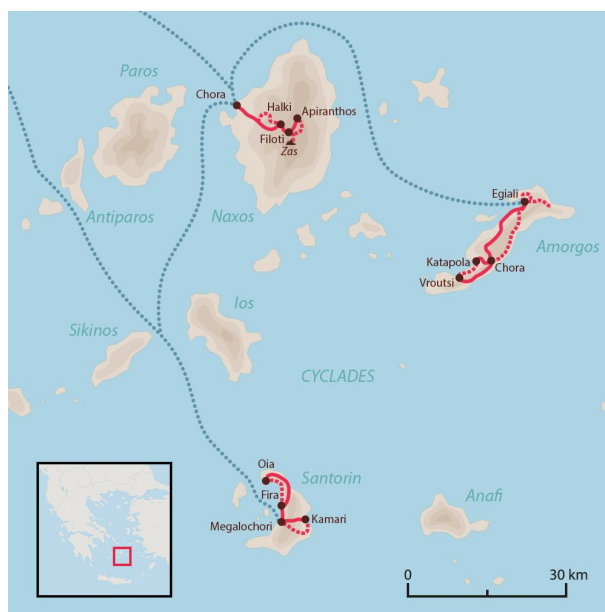


Born in the mythical waters of the Aegean Sea, these are three very different islands in terms of geology, landscape, and history. Santorini is a fascinating volcanic island, sculpted by the eruption that destroyed a good part of the island, around 1600 BC. There remains an archipelago whose main island, Santorini (or Thira) marries the edge of the caldera, at the crest of which stretch the famous towns of Fira and Oia. At the heart of this open ring, the island of Nea Kameni is the chimney o...

Highlights

1. The discovery of 3 major Cycladic islands, very different from each other
2. A program combining hikes, swimming, visits as well as beautiful moments of relaxation on the terraces of taverns
3. A small paradise where reigns an authentic sweetness of life in "Greek-style"

PROGRAMME



D1 Piraeus

Transfer (not included) to the hotel, by metro, bus, or taxi. Meeting with your French guide at the hotel in Piraeus. Night in hotel in Piraeus. Free dinner.

Accommodation : Hotel

D2 Santorini

Ferry to the island of **Santorini**. Depending on the departure dates and the Meltèmi (wind), the ferry is more or less fast! The arrival on Santorini, the most famous volcanic island in the Cyclades, offers a stunning natural spectacle. At the top of the huge caldera that has collapsed on itself, the laces of the houses of **Fira** and **Oia** are hemmed, which stand out at the tops of the other, red and black cliffs against the deep blue of the Greek sky. On our arrival on the island, transfer by minibus (9km) to the hotel. Depending on the time of arrival, stroll through Fira and its lively little streets, and along the caldera. Picnic on the ferry. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Santorini.

Accommodation : Hotel

D3 Santorini : Pyrgos - Profitis Ilias - Ancient Thira - Kamari

From the hotel, we reach the village of **Pyrgos** on foot or by local bus. Crossing this beautiful Cycladic village, before climbing to the top of the island's highest point, **Mount Profitis Ilias** (567 m). Descent to the site of **ancient Thira**, the capital of Santorini during ancient Greece and Roman times. 1 hour of visit (entrance at your expense). We discover the Greek remains of this ancient city (theater, church, school ...), columns, carved ashlar ... Perched on a desolate plateau, it offers a magnificent view of the villages of Kamari and Perissa. The place is superb! Via an old mule track, we then descend to the superb black sand beach of **Kamari**. Relax at the beach and return by bus to Fira. Picnic at noon. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Santorini.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D4 Santorini : Oia - Fira and ferry to Naxos

From **Oia** (pronounced ee-a) to Fira, along the caldera, we set off on Santorini's most popular hike. The day begins with a transfer to Oia, the most beautiful village at the top of the caldera. We walk the alleys between mills, churches with blue domes, and views of the caldera! Further on, the extraordinary hues of oxidized volcanic ash will serve as the background for our photos before arrival in Fira. Private transfer to the port of Santorini and embarkation for Naxos and its capital, Chora. While our luggage will be transferred to the hotel, located 1km from the port, we will take the pulse of this adorable little city with an opulent heritage, including the **Portara** (the door of the temple of Apollo, 6th century BC) magnificent at sunset sun. Picnic at noon.
Dinner in a tavern and overnight in hotel in Naxos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D5 Naxos: Halki - Apiano Kastro - Kouros of Flerio - Potamia

Transfer by bus to the fertile inner valley of Tragea and its superb villages like Halki, in the middle of olive groves and at the foot of the highest mountains of the Cyclades. Following ancient paths, sometimes paved, we go up to the fortress of Apiano Kastro, perched on a defensive site used from antiquity to the Venetian period. It offers an extensive view of the interior of the island to the sea. Further on, there are ancient marble quarries with their colossal statues of Kouros, unfinished before reaching the pretty valley of Potamia.
Picnic at noon. Dinner in an inn.
Night in hotel in Naxos

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D6 Naxos: Filoti - Summit of mount Zas (1001m) - cave of Zeus

Today our hike takes us to the summit of **Zas**, the highest point in the Cyclades (1001m). Departing from **Filoti**, an important town, built on the side of **Mount Zas**, we climb through alleys and then shaded paths to the Agia Marina chapel before climbing the last bare slopes leading to the coveted summit. From Mount Zas, the panorama is sumptuous and promises a rich 360 ° overview as long as the sky is not too foggy! Go back down to Filoti via the cave of Dhias(Zeus) - according to the myth, Zeus was born in this cave...-. Return to Hora by bus. Picnic at noon.
Dinner in a tavern and overnight in hotel in Naxos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D7 Naxos: Filoti - Danakos - Fotodotis Monastery - Apiranthos

Transfer to Filoti, by bus or taxi (depending on the timetable). Here is a very nice hike showing a face of Naxos from the inside, without forgetting, however beautiful panoramic points of view. It slips between rather wooded valleys and gentle hills on old mule tracks. Along the way, we will pass by the old **Fotoditis Monastery**, which looks more like a fortress than a place of worship at first sight! End of our hike in **Apiranthos**, a superb village with its network of picturesque alleys and these small shaded squares. Return transfer from Apiranthos to Naxos town.
Picnic at noon.
Dinner in a tavern and overnight in hotel in Naxos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D8 Naxos, then ferry to Amorgos

The program depends on the boat times for Amorgos, which remain variable. In principle, the departure is scheduled in the evening after dinner, around 11 pm, with arrival at around 1.30 am in **Amorgos**. In the morning, visit the Kastro of Chora (Venetian era). In the afternoon, short transfer to Vivlos for a final hike on Naxos; descent to the sea, and last opportunity to enjoy the beach in Naxos. On arrival of the boat, in Amorgos, we will be greeted by our host, who will take us to **Egiali** in his family hotel, quiet and close to the sea (150m). Amorgos is the easternmost island of the Cyclades, known from the film **The Big Blue**. Picnic at noon.

Dinner in Naxos or Amorgos depending on the schedule of the boat.

Overnight in hotel in Amorgos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D9 Amorgos: Chora - Hozoviotissa Monastery - Aegiali

One of the most beautiful hikes of Amorgos in a quiet and deserted area of the island. The day begins with a transfer to Chora. Crossing this typical Cycladic village then descent to the Hozoviotissa monastery. The image of this white building clinging to the cliff is a highlight of the stay. A beautiful peregrination follows at the top of the shoulder which constitutes the main relief of the island. A few abandoned houses punctuate our walk before the descent to Egiali(aegiali) which really looks like an oasis.

Picnic at noon. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Amorgos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D10 Amorgos : Egiali - Langada - Agios Theologos - Stavros - Pramateftis (720m)

Departing from Egiali, we go up to **Langada** (another magnificent village!) by a splendid paved path. We soon see the blue dome of **Panagia Epanochoriani** but it is not the church punctuating the countryside ...

Higher up, a short detour to the fortified monastery of **Agios Theologos**, at the foot of the Krikkelos mountain, before a magnificent balcony path above the sea which leads us to the chapel of Stavros. A final climb takes us to the top of **Pramateftis** (720m), which offers a marvelous panorama of the relief of the island and the Aegean Sea. Picnic at noon.

Dinner and overnight in hotel in Amorgos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D11 Amorgos: Katapola - Minoa - Lefkes - Kato Meria - Agios Ioannis

Transfer (30 ') to **Katapola**. From Katapola, the main port of the island, we go up towards the **archaeological site of Minoa** before a long crossing towards the south-west of the island. Passing through the small villages of **Lefkes and Aghia Thékla**, and the ancient city of **Arkesini** beautifully perched above the waves. We are far from the tourist sites of the Cyclades with goats as our main companions! Arrive in **Arkesini** to enjoy a good Greek coffee! Return by bus to Aegiali.

Your guide may decide to do this step in the opposite direction from Arkesini, which allows you to visit the imposing ruins of the Agia Triada tower, which can be accessed in the morning. Picnic at noon.

Dinner and overnight in hotel in Amorgos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D12 Amorgos: Egiali - Tholaria - Strombos - Egiali

A final half-day hike above Aegiali, towards the chapel of Strombos and the hilltop village of Tholaria. The afternoon will be devoted to the beach, the sea, relaxation ... Picnic at noon.

Dinner and overnight in hotel in Amorgos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D13 From Amorgos to Athens

The ferry is scheduled to depart early in the morning at 6:55 a.m. from Aegiali, arriving at 3 p.m. in Piraeus, via the island of Paros. From Piraeus, transfer by metro or taxi to central Athens. Installation at the 2 * hotel around 4 p.m. Late afternoon and evening free. Picnic on the boat and free dinner.

Night in hotel in Athens.

Accommodation : Hotel

D14 Athens - End of stay

Last visits and free walks, dispersal after breakfast (airport transfer not included).

Itinerary

On-site, we may sometimes have to modify somewhat the itinerary indicated: either at the level of the organization (overloading of accommodation, modification of boat rotations) or directly because of the guide (weather forecast, group-level ...). Trust us, these changes are always in your best interest. **Warning!** In the Mediterranean, the weather can change and the boats shifted in their passage. We adapt to the circumstances. All indicated boat times are subject to change.

SOME PRECISIONS

Grade

Easy to medium, no portage. You have to love walking and be in good shape. Hike accessible to fit hikers, motivated by walking and group life. 2 to 5 hours of walking per day. The height difference is variable, between 100 and 720 m (maximum) per day.

Luggage transport

You only carry a small backpack with your daily things, the picnic and the groceries. You will have to transfer all of your luggage from the boat to the vehicle that transports the luggage to the islands, and then to your room (and vice versa). That's all. You carry your luggage in the Athens metro.

Transfers

The boat

We will travel from island to island on the regular ferries that ply the Aegean Sea from Piraeus. These large boats are a guarantee of arrival on the islands. It should be noted that Greek ferries can sail up to force 9/10 depending on their size. It can be very windy at sea without even realizing its effects on the islands. You only need to be in a sheltered cove or bay (or on the right side of the island) to not feel the effects.

Accommodation / Catering

? Accommodation

In hotel, family pension and small type 2 * hotels (with a swimming pool in Santorini), in rooms for 2 to 3 (usually 2), with private bathroom. We can be assigned to several different accommodations but we will of course have the evening meal together. Possibility to book a single room (subject to availability).

? Restoration

Picnic during the hikes, with local products. Evening meal and breakfast served hot (local cuisine). Every evening we will have dinner in local taverns and at the hotel in Amorgos. Meals included from breakfast on D2 to breakfast on D14 (except dinner in Athens on D13). Please let us know when registering any food allergy or special diet; we will do our best to adapt your meals.

Group

6 to 14 participants.

Exceptionally, the group may have one more person, for example, if a couple registers when there is only one place left, or in the event of simultaneous registrations.

Duration

14 days / 13 nights

Travelling season

Sunday to Saturday

Guide

English or English speaking certified mountain guide.

Flights

Flights are not included.

Start / End

? Appointment

Day 1 at the hotel in Piraeus.

? Dispersion

Day 14 After breakfast at the hotel in Athens.

Travel documents

Approximately two weeks before your departure, you will receive a summons specifying the time and place of the meeting, the name and contact details of the guide as well as the address of the first accommodation.

Access

How to reach Piraeus from Athens airport

By Metro

From the airport you must: take the M3 (blue) line to Monastiraki then take the M1 (green) line to the Piraeus stop, the terminus. It takes about 1 hour 30 minutes in all.

Price: between € 6 and € 10 / person for a one-way ticket. The hotel is 800m from the metro station.

https://www.ametro.gr/?page_id=4449&lang=en

By bus

From the airport, there is a direct bus to Piraeus (line X96). The trip lasts about 1h50 and the ticket price is 6 €.

The hotel is 800m from the bus stop.

<http://www.athensairportbus.com/en/bus/tickets.html>

By taxi

Around € 50/70 per trip.

We can book the private transfer for you, consult us.

How to reach Athens airport from the city center

By Metro

The hotel in Athens is a 350m walk from Omonia metro station M2 line (red). You can take this line towards Elliniko, change at Syntagma, and then take the M3 (blue) line towards the airport.

You can also go directly to the Syntagma stop for a direct trip to the airport (15 minutes walk from the hotel). The trip lasts about 1 hour.

By bus

There is a direct bus between Syntagma Square (about 15 minutes' walk from then the hotel) and the airport. You have to take the X95 bus. The journey takes around 1h20 and the ticket costs € 6 / person for a one-way ticket.

By taxi

Around 40/60 €.

We can book the private transfer for you, consult us.

Swimming

A number of our trips are suitable for swimming, during a stage or at the end of the day. It would be a shame not to enjoy. We stress however that your supervisors are not lifeguards; these swims are therefore under your responsibility and at your own risk.

Photos

You take great photos! Do not hesitate to send us a CD, a USB key, a Dropbox or WeTransfer link of your best photos taken during your trip. The fact that you provide us with photos implies that you accept that your photos will be used free of charge on our various media (catalog, website, technical sheet, etc.).

Travel Blog

Do you want to share your best moments of the trip and share your experience with the hiking community? Send us your story and some photos illustrating your comments that we will publish for you on our blog

DATES AND PRICES

Prices include

- framing
- accommodation for 13 nights
- meals from breakfast on D2 to breakfast on D14 (except dinner in Athens on D13).
- boat tickets and transfers during the stay
- baggage transport

Prices do not include

- flights
- airport transfers
- the drinks
- meals in Athens and Piraeus
- site visits
- the insurance
- registration fees
- anything not indicated in "Prices include"

Options, extras and discounts

- single room supplement departures from 04/19, 05/03, 05/17 and 10/11: € 315
- single room supplement for departures from 07/06 and 30/08: € 335
- additional night at bed and breakfast in Piraeus: 50 € / person in a twin room. 80 € in a single room
- additional night at bed and breakfast in Athens: 40 € / person in a twin room. 65 € in a single room
- private transfer Athens airport - Piraeus: on request
- private transfer Athens center - Athens airport: on request

IN YOUR LUGGAGE

Equipment

To hike

- Mountain boots holding the ankle with a good notched sole, presenting a buttress and good waterproofing
- Comfortable "special hiking" socks
- A fleece jacket
- Comfortable pants for walking (technical material that dries quickly)
- Shorts, t-shirts, and technical underwear (quickly drying material)
- A long-sleeved shirt (technical material that dries quickly)
- Walking poles (telescopic), very useful to facilitate walking

Note: synthetic technical clothing is very efficient. New woolen clothes merino have also appeared; they are very efficient and comfortable to wear, and present the advantage of not developing perspiration odors! (Icebreaker brand, Ruka, etc...).

In general, avoid cotton, which cools when wet.

For the midday picnic

- Plastic bowl, box, or plate
- Cutlery (spoon, fork, knife)
- Water bottle with a minimum of 1.5 to 2 l (very inexpensive bottled water is found on all the islands)

Against the sun and the rain

- Sunscreen (high protection) and sunglasses
- Hat, cap, or bob
- A rain cape or a "Goretex" or a hiking umbrella (showers are rare)

After the effort

- A pair of jogging-style sneakers for the evening
- Change of clothes and personal linen
- Kit and towel (mini)
- A swimsuit (it is often possible to swim)
- Water shoes (for pebbles) and beach towel
- A mini-pharmacy: personal medicines, Elastoplast, biogaze or "2nd skin", gauze, disinfectant, medication for seasickness, arnica in granules, and aspirin in case of small injuries ...

This list must be adapted according to the season. Kelifos team is at your disposal for the success of your trip, so do not hesitate to contact us: we will do everything to make your stay a success.

Luggage

- A small comfortable backpack from 30lt to 40lt with a waist belt to carry your things personal and picnic during the day.
 - A main baggage: a backpack, a travel bag in good condition, or a suitcase that is not too bulky.
- One piece of luggage per person; limited to 20kg

DETAILS

The country

Country: Greece

Capital: Athens

Population: 10,757,292 inhabitants

Archipelago: Cyclades

Formalities

Travelers to Greece, including minors, must be in possession of a national identity card or passport (EU nationals).

Health

Bring the European health insurance card, to ask your health insurance fund at least 15 days before departure.

The sanitary conditions are similar to those in most European countries

Phone

Calling code: + 30

Weather

The Cyclades regularly suffer from lack of rain and during the beautiful season, which lasts here almost 6 months, precipitation is scarce or even completely absent from the end of May to the beginning of October.

The Cyclades also benefit from relatively cool summers (for Greece) thanks to the famous "Meltemi", a seasonal wind which during the summer season pleasantly refreshes the atmosphere, but which sometimes gets carried away to the point of immobilizing the boats in the port for a few hours.

Language

Greek, English, and sometimes a little French or German

Currencies

Euro

YOUR SHIP

Nous circulerons d'île en île sur les ferrys réguliers qui sillonnent la mer Egée depuis le Pirée.

Ces gros bateaux sont des gages d'arrivée sur les îles. Il faut savoir que les ferrys grecs peuvent naviguer jusqu'à force 9/10 selon leur taille. Il peut y avoir beaucoup de vent en mer sans que l'on se rende même compte de ses effets sur les îles. Il suffit d'être dans une crique ou une baie (ou du bon côté de l'île) abritée pour ne pas en ressentir les effets.