

# Bouquet of Cyclades: Santorini, Paros and Folegandros

Santorini

Trip code: CYCGP0001

Guided hike

• Hiking • 12 days



Let yourself be enchanted by the magic of the Cyclades. A single archipelago but islands which know how to cultivate their difference! Take Santorini, which was transfigured by a colossal volcanic eruption during the 2nd millennium BC. A tourist island, certainly, but an island famous for the views offered by the edges of its extraordinary caldera. Paros was renowned for the quality of its marble. Behind the coastal towns, you will discover authentic villages and valleys. Folegandros is the m...

## Highlights

1. The contrast between three islands: Santorini sculpted by the volcano, Paros with its lively coastal villages and remote valleys, Folegandros and its wild beauty
2. A program that combines hikes, visits, beaches, and taverns
3. The smile and the welcome of the Greeks

# PROGRAMME

## D1 Santorini

Reception at Santorini airport at 7.45 p.m. Transfer to your hotel and installation. Presentation of the stay. Free dinner.

Night in a hotel in Santorini.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

## D2 Santorini: Pyrgos - ancient Thera - Kamari

From **Megalochori**, rising between the vines to the beautiful village of **Pyrgos**, before reaching the top of the island (Mount Prophet Elias - 567m) and its essential monastery. There follows a panoramic descent to the **site of ancient Thera**. Founded in the 9th century BC, it was the ancient capital of the island during Greek and Roman antiquity (around 1-hour visit). We discover the remains of buildings (theater, church, school ...), columns, carved ashlar ... in front of an exceptional panorama, and in line with the seaside villages of **Kamari** and **Perissa**. Via an old mule track, we descend to the superb Kamari beach (it is said to be the most beautiful beach on the island) passing through the astonishing **Zoodochos Pigi** cave and its chapel. Relax at the beach and transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Santorini.

*Stage : 1 h visit*

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D3 Santorini : Oia - Fira

The classic Santorini hike along the caldera. Short transfer to **Oia**, at the northern end of the caldera. Going up the maze of alleys, we leave the dazzling white houses and their blue shutters to follow a path in volcanic ash-colored with red, yellow, or black to **Fira**, the bustling capital of the island.

Free time to enjoy the small town (archaeological museum, shops). Transfer to the hotel.

Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Santorini.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D4 Paros

Ferry to **Paros** and its famous windmill which stands on the port. It is the guardian of this vibrant city, the old center, where you can stroll among the ruins of the ancient Paros and to the Basilica of "Our Lady of the Hundred Gates" (Panagia Ekatonpiliani) a major Orthodox monument in Greece.

Continue on foot to the hotel.

Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Paros.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D5 Paros : Parikia - Panagia Thapsanon - Agios Minas - Marathi - Naoussa

From **Parikia** to **Naoussa**, we set off for an impressionist discovery of Paros combining windmills, ancient marble quarries, monasteries ... to end in style in **Naoussa**, a charming village in the **typical Cycladic style** in front of an Aegean sea. Naoussa Bay is also famous for its beaches. That of **Kolymbithres** in particular, with its rocks polished by the wind and its creeks with fine sand.

Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Paros.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D6 Paros: Prodhromos - Lefkes - Aspro Horio - Dryos

From **Prodhromos**, on the eastern flank of the island, we walk the "**Byzantine road**" centuries-old path that leads us to Lefkes and then south to the chapel of Agios Nikolaos. A superb route takes over in the valley of Kavouropotamos to **Aspro Horio**, literally: the white village. Then we descend to the village of **Dryos** by the sea. We can continue to **Piso Livadi**, passing through pretty bays including **Chrysi Akti** or the Golden Beach. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Paros.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D7 Antiparos

From **Pounta**, south-west of Parikia, a short crossing (10 minutes) brings us to Antiparos. The main village is built around a 15th-century Venetian kastro(castle), itself built around a tower of which the base remains. We set off to discover this island, towards its **highest point** (the unmissable **Profitis Ilias**, 301 m high). Against a hill, opens the **cave of Saint John**, whose stalactites and stalagmites are covered with inscriptions dating back several centuries. Return to Paros and transfer to Parikia. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Paros.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D8 Folegandros: Chora

Ferry to **Folegandros**. Arrival early afternoon or evening. Transfer to the hotel in **Chora**, beautifully perched on a cliff with magnificent panoramas of the **Aegean Sea**. Depending on the time of arrival, visit the area, walk to the Church of Panagia, and the outskirts of Chora. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Folegandros.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D9 Folegandros: Ano Meria - Livadaki - Aspropunta - Angali - Chora

We leave **Ano Meria** for a long hike offering superb views; we discover several bays and beaches as well as the **lighthouse of Aspropunta** and the coastal villages of **Agios Nikolaos** and **Angali**. Wonderful paths and an atmosphere of vastness and end of the world on the program, before returning to Chora. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Folegandros.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

## D10 Folegandros: Ano Meria - Agios Georgios - Ambeli - Ano Meria

We set off to explore the northwestern part of the island. Departing from **Ano Meria**, we descend on superb paved paths to the beach of Agios Georgios where a few clumps of tamarisk provide the most sparse shade. We go back up the **Fournides** hill before descending to **Ambeli** beach. We return to Ano Meria via the chapel of **Agios Panteleimon**.

Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Folegandros.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

### D11 Folegandros - Santorini

Late morning ferry to Santorini. Free afternoon. Possibility to visit the extraordinary site museum covering the ruins of the **Minoan city of Akrotiri** which was destroyed and then covered by ashes during the volcanic explosion of - 1500 BC. Although almost all of the frescoes are on display in the Athens Museum, the **Akrotiri site is a must-see** . It pleasantly completes a circuit to the south of the island of Santorini, on the Loumorades hillside via the red beach and the contemporary village of Akrotiri.

Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Santorini.

*Accommodation : Hotel*

*Main Itinerary :*

### D12 Santorini

Transfer to Santorini airport (transfer schedule depending on your flight back). End of stay.

## Itinerary

We may need to change the route indicated: either at the organization (accommodation overload problem, duplication of groups, changing the state of the ground, landslides, damaged trails, etc.) either directly due the guide (weather, group level, etc.). These changes are always made in your interest, for your safety and for better comfort! On each island the order of the stages can also be changed, without affecting the content of the program.

# 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 720m (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).

## Transfers

We will travel from island to island on the regular ferries that ply the Aegean Sea. 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.

## Group

From 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

12 days, 11 nights.

## Travelling season

From May to mid-October.

## Guide

English or English-speaking mountain guide

## Conmfort

? Accommodation

In a 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).

? Catering

Picnic during the hikes, with local products. Evening meal and breakfast served hot (local cuisine). Every evening we will have dinner in local taverns. Meals included from breakfast on D2 to breakfast on D12.

Please let us know when registering any food allergy or special diet; we will do our best to adapt your meals.

## Start / End

? Appointment

Day 1 at Santorini airport at 7.45 p.m.

? Dispersion

Day 12 After breakfast, at Santorini airport (transfer schedule depending on the departing flight).

## Travel document

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

? By plane

Flights are not included in the price of the stay but we remain at your disposal to book them for you on a regular airline, please consult us. There are direct flights from many European major cities to Santorini. There are also flights with a stopover in Athens from almost all European airports.

Airport transfers

They are included on the basis of the arrival and departure of the majority of the group. If you arrive earlier you can wait for the transfer or make your own way to the hotel (at your own expense). If you arrive after 7:45 p.m., you will be responsible for the transfer and the meeting point directly at the hotel or on the morning of D2 in case of too late arrival. For the airport transfer on D12, it will be scheduled according to the departing flight of the majority of the group.

## 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 would like to point out, 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

## Specify

Sunday to Thursday.

## Prices include

- accommodation for 11 nights
- coaching
- meals from breakfast on D2 to breakfast on D12
- boat tickets and transfers during the stay
- baggage transport
- tourist taxes

## Prices do not include

- flights
- airport transfers outside of scheduled times
- the drinks
- meals not included including dinner on D1
- site visits
- the insurance
- registration fees
- personal expenses
- anything not indicated in "Prices include"

## Options, extras and discounts

Supplements 2021

- low season single room supplement: 490 €
- mid season single room supplement: 540 €
- high season single room supplement: 620 €

# IN YOUR LUGGAGE

## 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.

## 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.



# 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