

*Cyclades :*  
*Naxos,*  
*Amorgos*  
*Santorini*



# SUMMARY

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Greece • Cyclades



Self guided hike



12 days



11 nights



Semi-itinerant trip



Nothing to carry



2 / 5



CYCLP0005

## HIGHLIGHTS



Hiking holidays in 3 splendid Cycladic islands from mountainous Naxos to wild Amorgos and mythical Santorini

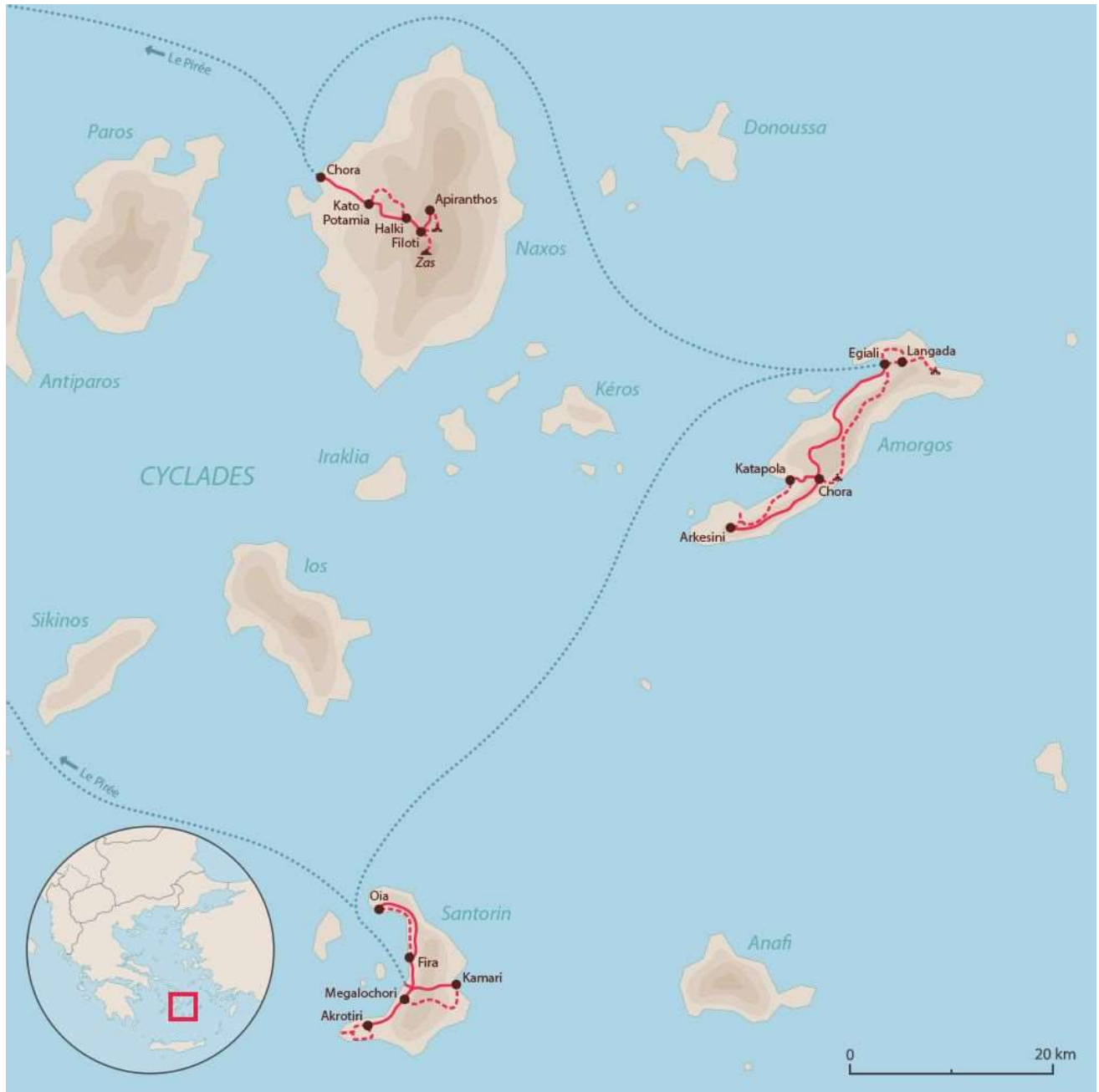


A simple paradise where an authentic everyday life prevails



A good mix of walking, swimming, relaxing and visits of sites

# MAP



# PROPOSED ITINERARY

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Born in the mythical waters of the Aegean, these are three very different islands, in the matter of geology, landscape, and history. Naxos, the largest, is also the most wooded. Composed of granite, marble and limestone, bordered by beautiful sandy beaches near its attractive capital, Chora (6500 inhabitants), it is home to Mount Zas (1001 m), the highest peak of Cyclades islands.

Amorgos is located further east. This long though narrow rocky island, lying in the sea is less populated. This fascinating island offers austere and grandiose scenery promise of sumptuous treks. This austerity is softened by the charm of the villages and the hilltop capital, Chora, with typical Cycladic architecture. Amorgos is also known for the extraordinary image of his monastery Chozoviotissa, stuck in the cliff. An image that many European people discovered in 1988 in the movie "The Big Blue". Many scenes of Luc Besson's film have been shot in Amorgos.

Santorini, the most famous of the Cycladic islands is a totally different one due to its volcanic geology. Marked by the colossal volcanic eruption that destroyed the Minoan civilization in the island, it is renowned for the sumptuous sunsets on its caldera, and the white and blue scarf of the localities of Fira and Oia, perched above a thick layer colored ash that plunge into the sea. This is one of the main tourist attractions in Greece, to the point where the postcard of the white villages and blue-domed chapels has become one of the emblems of the whole country.

## D1 • Piraeus

Arrival in Athens. Go to your hotel in Piraeus either by subway or bus (easy and cheap). You can pick up your boat tickets upon arrival; otherwise, you collect them the next morning.



Hotel (<https://piraeusporthotel.com/en/> or equivalent)



Dinner is not included



L'Érechthéion sur l'acropole d'Athènes © Kirk Fisher, Pixabay



Le Pirée © Jeffrey, Flickr

## D2 • Naxos

From Piraeus, ferry to Naxos, the largest island of the Cyclades archipelago. Transfer from the port of Chora to your accommodation. You can also go to your accommodation on foot (15 min) for a first direct contact with the charming town of Naxos (your baggage is transferred with vehicles). Depending on your time of arrival, you can go for a swim or walk to the site of Portara at sunset (Apollo's temple gate dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC) or take a stroll through the ancient venetian citadel.



Hotel ([www.hotelgalini.com/](http://www.hotelgalini.com/) or equivalent)



Dinner is not included



Naxos - Portara and Naxos © François Ribard





Naxos - A street of Chora © François Ribard




### D 3 • Naxos : Halki – Apano Kastro – Kouros of Flerio

Hike in the fertile inland of the island towards the valley of Tragea and its wonderful villages, like Halki, in the middle of olive groves at the foot of the highest mountains in the Cyclades. Via old paved paths, you will go to the Venetian fortress, Apano Kastro, then, to former marble quarries with their huge unfinished statues (Kouros).

 5 hrs of walk

 +400 m

 -300 m

 Hotel ([www.hotelgalini.com/](http://www.hotelgalini.com/) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Naxos - Apano Kastro © François Ribard





Naxos - The Potamia Kouros © François Ribard

### D 4 • Naxos : mount Zas – Ferry to Amorgos


Today, you climb Mount Zas (1,004 m) which is the highest peak in Cyclades islands; it is also called Zeus' mountain! You start in Filoti, a white village built in the slopes of the mountain and main town in the region of Trachea easily reached by bus. Start early in the morning because there is no shade along this route. The panorama is breathtaking. Then, you will keep hiking on old mountain paths to the nice village of Apeiranthos.

 5 hrs

 +900 m

 -900m

 Hotel ([www.hotelgalini.com/](http://www.hotelgalini.com/) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Naxos - Going down from Mount Zas to Filoti © François Ribard




Naxos - Sunset and Portara © François Ribard

## D 5 • Naxos - Amorgos

If the boat is early in the afternoon, you can enjoy the charm of the alleys in Chora for the last time or take two hours to make a complete visit of the town. Unless you feel like swimming... Boat in the afternoon (or later in the evening) to Amorgos, immortalized by the film "The big Blue". Transfer to your hotel.

 Hotel ([www.askaspension.gr](http://www.askaspension.gr) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Amorgos - Moni Ag. Ioannis Theologos © François Ribard




Amorgos - Path between Tholaria and Aigiali © François Ribard


## D6 • Amorgos


Today, the programme is flexible.

Possible hikes:


1/ A short hike from Aigiali to Lagada and Tholaria. Splendid villages and ancient paths.


 2 to 3 hrs of walk


 +400 m

 -400m


2/ A longer hike: Aigiali – Lagada – Monastery Agios Ioanis Theologos round trip, with an extension to the Chapel of Stavros in a sumptuous mountain environment.

 4 to 5 hrs of walk

 +800 m


 -800m


 Hotel ([www.askaspension.gr](http://www.askaspension.gr) or equivalent)


 Dinner is not included

### D7 • Amorgos : Chora – Moni Chozoviotissa - Aigiali


One of the most beautiful hikes in Amorgos, in a quiet and deserted area of the island. You will start from Chora, the main town of the island, and you will arrive at the superb monastery of Chozoviotissa; it is dazzling white and situated in a quite amazing site clinging to the cliff. Then, you will follow the ridge of the island; an ancient path crosses the island and leads you to Aigiali.

 5 hrs of walk

 +600 m

 -800 m

 Hotel ([www.askaspension.gr](http://www.askaspension.gr) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Amorgos - Moni Chozoviotisas © François Ribard




Amorgos - Descent towards Asfodilitis © François Ribard


### D8 • Amorgos : Katapola - Arkesini




Between the port of Katapola and the small mountain town of Arkesini, the path lingers around forgotten villages and runs near major elements of the island heritage: ancient cities of Minoa and Arkesini, tower of Agia Triada... Everywhere, you enjoy the sea breeze while goats, which are almost wild fauna here, move away when you approach. The route gets as closely as possible to the sea in the neighbourhood of Lefkes and offers you the opportunity to swim if the sea is calm enough.


Depending on the bus schedules, it may be wise to hike the other way around (Arkesini-Katapola). You will then have a transfer with a taxi (not included in the price) to reach the starting point, the tower of Agia Triada. The arrival in Katapola will enable you to hang around at the terrace of a tavern with a cold coffee before catching a bus for Aegiali in the afternoon.

 5 hrs of walk

 +600 m

 -800 m

 Hotel ([www.askaspension.gr](http://www.askaspension.gr) or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Amorgos - Church in Katapola © François Ribard



Amorgos - The beach of Aigiali © François Ribard

## D9 • Santorini : Megalochori – Akrotiri – Loumorades / Oia - Fira


Transfer to the port and crossing to Santorini, usually via Naxos. Transfer to the hotel.


### Possible hikes:


1/ According to your time of arrival, you can take the regular bus to go to the site of Akrotiri in the southern part of the island. This surprising museum shows the ruins of the Minoan city that was destroyed by a volcanic explosion and covered with ashes 1,500 years BC. Almost all the remarkable frescoes are displayed in the museum in Athens but it is an astonishing place to visit. And then, you can do a nice little hike on the hill of Loumorades via the red beach and the modern village of Akrotiri.

2/ You can also choose to visit Fira and hike for three hours along the caldera up to Oia. You will have stunning views over the sea and typical white villages. And you will see the successive layers of volcanic rocks that

correspond to the different eruptions of the volcano. You can do this crossing, the other way around (Oia – Fira).

 3 hrs of walk

 +270

 -350 m

 Hotel (<https://hotelstar.gr/en/home/> or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Santorini - Vineyards near Megalochori © François Ribard





Santorini - Oia © François Ribard

## D10 • Santorini : Pyrgos – Old Thera - Kamari

A 3 to 4 hrs hike via the mountain of Profitis Ilias, from Megalochori or Pyrgos, to the ancient Thera, that was the capital city of Santorini at the time of Ancient Greece. This hike uses an ancient path that runs down to Kamari, where you can have a rest on the black beach, reknown as the most beautiful beach of the island.

 3 hrs of walk

 +300

 -510 m

 Hotel (<https://hotelstar.gr/en/home/> or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included



Santorin - Going down to Zoodochos Piyi between Ancient Thera and Kamari © François Ribard




Santorin - Sunset in the Caldeira as seen from Aghio Pnevma chapel in Megalochori © François Ribard


## D11 • Islands of Kammeni


You have the choice between several options.

1/ You can enjoy a day trip to the islands of Kammeni, to the springs of hot water and to Thirassia or you can simply spend the day on one of the beautiful beaches of the island.

2/ You can also decide to hike between Fira and Oia (description above) if you did not do this hike on D9.

 3 hrs of walk

 +270

 -350 m

 Hotel (<https://hotelstar.gr/en/home/> or equivalent)

 Dinner is not included

## D12 • End of the trip

End of your stay after breakfast. Transfer to the airport or to the port of Santorini (included in the price)



© ThePixelman, Pixabay

## Route changes

Sometimes we have to make slight changes to the outlined itinerary and programme as local condition can change due to the weather or to the non-availability of our usual hotel or guesthouse, or in case the Greek authorities forbid the use of a path. Be sure that changes are always done in your interest, for your safety and a better comfort

# FURTHER INFORMATION

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## Level 2 / 5

Moderate. Nothing to carry. Of course, it is necessary to enjoy walking and be in a good physical condition. 3 to 6hrs of walk every day. The maximum difference in height is +/- 900 m in Naxos (mount Zas walk).

## Baggage transfers

You only carry a small daypack with your personal belongings, picnic, water and snacks. You will have to transfer your main luggage during your transfers from / to the airport to your hotel in Piraeus and in Athens.

## Group size

From two people

## Duration

12 days, 11 nights, 8 days of walking.

## Departure period

April to end of October

## Travel documents

This is a self-guided trip. You will have no guide with you. We take care of the booking of hotels and luggage transportation. You will be given a travel pack containing all the necessary documents for your trip: a detailed guidebook with the maps, a list of your accommodations and the vouchers. You will either receive your travel pack before you start or it will be given to you at your accommodation on the first night of your trip.



## Comfort

### Accommodation

In 2\*\* hotels, equipped apartments or comfortable family guesthouses, in double/twin bedrooms with bathrooms. It is possible to have a single room according to availabilities with extra charge.

### Catering

Breakfasts are included. A dinner is 15 to 20 euros p/p. For your packed lunch, you can easily find local products in all the villages. There are several local tavernas and it is a real pleasure to try and find the one you will choose for a meal.

Please let us know when you register if you have allergy or if you need a special diet; we will do our best to adapt your breakfasts.

## Beginning / End

### Beginning

D1 in the airport of Athens.

### End

D8 in the airport of Athens

## Convening notice

You will receive about two weeks before your departure, a convocation precisng the time and place of the transfer from the airport, and the address of the first accommodation.

## Extend your stay

If you wish to visit Athens, we can book your accommodation and organize your stay depending on your wishes.

## Swimming

This program includes several swimming opportunities during or at the end of the hikes. It would be a pity not to make the best of it. However, we would like you to note that you are the only one who can estimate whether it is advisable to swim or not. Hence, these activities are your sole responsibility and entirely at your own risk.

## How to get to Piraeus from Athens airport

### With the train OSE

One departure every hour /10 €

### With the underground

From the airport, you have to take Line M3 (blue) to Monastiraki, then Line M1 (green) to the terminus "Piraeus". Allow about 1hr 30min for the travel.

Price: between € 10 / person / one way. The hotel is 800 m away from the underground station.

<https://www.athensairporttaxi.com/metro/athens-airport-metro>

#### With a bus

From the airport, there exists a direct bus to Piraeus (Ligne X96). The travel lasts about 1hr 50min and costs € 6. The hotel is 800 m away from the bus stop.

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

#### With a taxi

Day time: about € 45

Night time: about € 65.

We can book a private transfer for you. Please contact us.

### How to get to Athens airport from Athens city center

#### With the suburban railway

This is a new train going from the airport to Piraeus. One departure every hour from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM . 10 €

#### With the underground

The hotel in Athens is 350 m from the underground station Omonia, Line M2 (red). You can take this line towards Elliniko; change at Syntagma and then, take Line M3 (blue) towards the airport. You can also go directly to the station Syntagma for a direct travel to the airport (15 minutes by foot from the hotel). All in all, the travel lasts about 1hr and costs € 10.

#### With a bus

There exists a direct bus between the square Syntagma (about 15 minutes by foot from the hotel) and the airport. You have to take the bus line X95. You need 1hr 20min for the travel and it costs € 6 / person / one way.

#### With a taxi

About € 45 / 65.

We can book a private transfer for you. Please contact us.

# KIT LIST

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## Hiking equipment

- Good quality waterproof walking boots with a moulded sole and deep tread and which provide good ankle support are essential for the walking programme on this holiday
- Hiking poles (telescopic) are very useful to ease your walk in the steep or rocky part of the paths

## Picnic lunches

- Bowl, box or plate
- Cutlery (spoon, knife...)
- Water bottle (1,5 to 2 litres per day and per person)

## To protect you from the sun and the rain

- High SPF sun block
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- A rain jacket or an umbrella

## For the evening

- A pair of light sport shoes
- Spare clothes and personal clothes
- A mini toilet bag and a towel
- A bathing suit (it is often possible to swim)

## Clothes

### For hiking

- Comfortable walking socks
- A fleece jacket
- Comfortable hiking trousers (technical material drying quickly)
- Technical shorts, tee-shirt and underwear (material drying quickly)
- A shirt with long sleeves (technical material drying quickly)
- A first-aid kit: personal medication, disinfectant, plasters, blister treatment, antiseptic etc.

Note: Synthetic technical clothing is very efficient. New merino wool clothing has also appeared; they are very efficient and pleasant to wear, and have the advantage of not developing the smell of perspiration! (Icebreaker brand, Ruka, etc ...).

## Baggage

- A small and comfortable daysack (from 30 L) with a waist strap to carry your personal belongings, water and picnic during the day.
- The main baggage that will be transferred every day : a rucksack, a travel bag in good condition or a not bulky suitcase. **Only one bag per person**, 20 kg maximum

# USEFUL INFORMATION

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Country : Greece (Hellenic Republic)

Population : 10 757 292 inhabitants

Capital city : Athens

Archipelago : Cyclades

## Documents

Travelers from the European Union, including children, must have a valid identity card or a passport. Do not forget your social security card (European Health Insurance Card). You can get it from your health insurance company, at least two weeks before your departure.

## Climate

Hot and dry. The weather is usually very pleasant in Cyclades. The north wind (*Meltemi*) is frequent in the Cyclades and with the proximity of the sea it moderates the midday heat; this is the moment during the day when you should avoid walking. In spring and in autumn, take warmer equipment for the night.

## Language

Speaking Modern Greek is a definite advantage to get in touch with a very friendly population. English is universally spoken.

## Currency

Euro = €





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