



# ELEGANT VACATIONS Presents: Food & Wine: Athens, Mykonos, Santorini & Crete

(2) Athens • (3) Mykonos • (3) Santorini • (3) Crete



## HOTEL (or similar)

Region	Nts.	Hotel
Athens	2	Hotel Titania
Mykonos	3	Hotel Porto
Santorini	3	Hotel El Greco
Crete	3	Hotel Galaxy

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- Hotel accommodation for 11 nights
- Buffet breakfast daily
- All transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned motorcoach
- English speaking guide/escort on all tours with entrance fees
- All meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- Cooking lessons as per itinerary
- Ferry tickets Athens to Mykonos, Mykonos to Santorini & Santorini to Crete in economy class
- Air ticket Crete to Athens including taxes



**DAY 1 | ATHENS** Arrive in Athens, meet your assistant and transfer to your hotel. This afternoon take a walking tour in Plaka including an ouzo tasting at a local tavern. Welcome dinner at "Dionysos" restaurant. A unique location under the shadow of the Acropolis which offers you a warm welcome in Greece. Overnight in Athens. (D)

**DAY 2 | ATHENS** After breakfast, depart for your Athens sightseeing tour including the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum. Our expert guide will take you to see the center of the city, Constitution Square (Syntagma), the House of Parliament, the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier and the National Library. On your way to the Acropolis you will see Hadrian's Arch, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and have a short stop at the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Modern Olympic Games in 1896 were held. At the Acropolis, visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally the famous Parthenon. Your first taste of Athens would not be complete without a visit to the Acropolis Museum, a modern architectural building where, at last, the statues have found their home and admire the wonders and architectural masterpieces of the classical era (Mondays closed). After the tour, join us in tasting Greece and grab your chance to learn how to prepare many of the legendary Greek Dishes, such as the stuffed vegetable dishes, moussaka, the garlicky tzatziki, the delicious aubergine salad, the several renowned Greek pies and desserts. Return to the hotel. Dinner at Kuzina Restaurant, a place where the delicious food is perfectly coupled with the environment in a very inspired mixture of modern and traditional Greek elements. Overnight in Athens. (B,D)

**DAY 3 | ATHENS | MYKONOS** Transfer to the port and take the ferry to Mykonos. Upon arrival, transfer to a local restaurant for lunch. Proceed to the hotel for check-in. In the afternoon enjoy a walking tour that takes you to the spots of history, culture and traditions of Mykonos, as well as through the magic old pirate alleys. Afterwards you learn a lot about Greek wine in a wine tasting accompanied by a mezé plate. Overnight in Mykonos. (B,L)

**DAY 4 | MYKONOS** After breakfast, depart for a half day tour of Mykonos. Discover the highlights of Mykonos on a comfortable city walk to the unique sites like Little Venice and the windmill area, Paraportiani Church and the harbor front. Afterwards the bus tour begins that takes you to the beautiful bays and beaches like Agios Ioannis, Plati Yalos, San Stefanos and Kalafatis as well as to the traditional village of Ano Mera with its picturesque village square and 16th century monastery. After lunch return to the hotel. Tonight enjoy your dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Mykonos. (B,D)

**DAY 5 | MYKONOS** Today depart with a private vehicle and guide towards the Old Port of Mykonos Town from where the local ferries to Delos depart. After a short sailing of 30 - 35 min, arrive at Delos. The tour includes a visit of the remains of the Temple of Apollo, the Sanctuary of Artemis, the Old city and the Theater and a walk down the celebrated Lion Street. Also, in the Museum of Delos, visitors have the chance to admire Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman sculptures, a collection of vessels from all periods as well as items of everyday use. Return back to Mykonos for lunch. In the evening you will be transferred to a local restaurant for dinner. Overnight in Mykonos. (B,D)

**DAY 6 | MYKONOS | SANTORINI** After breakfast, transfer to the port for your ferry to Santorini. Crossing the most popular beaches of Santorini, the Ammos restaurant awaits you to satisfy any of your culinary appetite! After lunch visit Mesa Gonia, the ghost village which was deserted after the earthquake of 1956 and holding tradition, history, and unique architecture. In the evening you will depart to explore the capital of Santorini, the "Fira Town", on a walking tour. With views to the volcano, the magical colors of the sunset and the glorious Aegean Sea, you will enjoy your welcome dinner at Archipelagos restaurant. Overnight in Santorini. (B,L,D)

**DAY 7 | SANTORINI** After breakfast, your day begins with a half day tour to Akrotiri. In Akrotiri, excavations starting in 1967 at the site called Akrotiri ("Upper Thira") under the late Professor Spyridon Marinatos have made Thera the best-known "Minoan" site outside of Crete, the homeland of the culture. The island was not called Thera at the time. Only the southern tip of a large town has been uncovered, yet it has revealed complexes of multi-level buildings, streets and squares, with remains of walls standing as high as 8 meters, all entombed in the solidified ash of the famous eruption of Thera. The site was not a palace-complex such as are found in Crete, but its excellent masonry and fine wall-paintings show that this was certainly no conglomeration of merchants'

warehousing either. A loom-workshop suggests organized textile weaving for export. This Bronze Age civilization thrived between 3000 to 2000 BC, and reached its peak in the period 2000 to 1580 BC. After your tour, you will visit the Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum. Being the only one of its kind in Greece, the Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum occupies a natural cave. It is eight meters below ground, 300 meters long and has a labyrinth-like shape. The Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum presents the history of wine and the life of vine-growers in Santorini since the 1600s. You will have the opportunity to see representations of the history of wine and to taste four of the best wines that the winery produces today, in a specially designed wine-tasting area. Lunch will follow at Feggera restaurant or at the winery in Megalochori. In the afternoon you will visit "Oia", the traditional settlement in the north of Santorini. The village is approximately 150 meters above sea level. Oia was severely damaged in the 1956 earthquake and much work has been involved to implement its restoration. Dinner in the old town of Oia. Overnight in Santorini. (B,L,D)

**DAY 8 | SANTORINI** After breakfast, visit the Monastery of Profitis Ilias which is at the highest point on Santorini. From here you can see the surrounding islands and, on a clear day, the mountains of Crete. The tour ends with a unique cooking lesson and lunch at Selene restaurant. We welcome you at Selene Restaurant with fresh juice, coffee and traditional Greek cookies. Receive an introductory lecture to the cuisine of the Cycladic Islands and particularly of Santorini, as well as, to the unique local products of our island. In the afternoon we'll visit the Art Space Winery, a caved-in old winery that holds the exhibitions of approximately 200 top Greek and foreign artists. In this old winery, dating back to 1861, representative works of art from the sphere of painting and sculpture are on display and visitors have the opportunity to learn about the winemaking tradition in its modern winery. Farewell dinner at the private area of Vinsanto Restaurant. (B,L,D)

**DAY 9 | SANTORINI | HERAKLION** Today you will be transferred to Santorini port and take the ferry to Heraklion. Upon arrival transfer to hotel. Dinner & overnight at hotel. (B,D)

**DAY 10 | CRETE** Let us take you back 4,000 years in time, to the world famous Minoan Palace at Knossos, the home of the legendary King Minos who gave his name to Europe's oldest civilization. Parts of the ancient Palace have been excavated and reconstructed by the British archaeologist, Sir Arthur Evans, and today one can get a clear understanding of the function of the Palace and its complicated and mystical Labyrinth. Led by your experienced and official guide, you will visit the Throne Room, the Royal Apartments, the Central Courtyard with its shrines and other fascinating areas within the Palace, you will learn the history and myths surrounding this wondrous and most interesting site. Then take a tour of the capital city of Crete, Heraklion, where your guide will take you on a short orientation through the historical center. We drive to the famous wine producing area of Scalani, south of Heraklion. The drive features the breath-taking landscape of the countryside and vineyards as old as Minoan times. Visit the modern winery of Boutari, where you will see the updated methods of wine making and sample some of the delicious Cretan wines. Return to the hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure. Dinner & overnight at the hotel. (B)

**DAY 11 | CRETE** Today you will visit the traditional village of Arolithos. You will participate on the following activities: decorating, the wedding bread Practice and final result, Visit of the museum & specialized guided tour for the nutrition objects, Cooking Lesson, lunch, and the activity of Kompoloi. Return to the hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure. Dinner & overnight at the hotel. (B,L,D)

**DAY 12 | CRETE | ATHENS TO USA** This morning you will be transferred to Crete Airport for the flight to Athens where you will be connected to the departure flight home. (B)

(B) – Breakfast, (L) – Lunch, (D) – Dinner

Hotel and Itinerary are subject to change.



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