Trip Details

Athens + 3 Island Explorer

Start your 9 day, once in a lifetime experience in Athens, a world capital of cultural and historical heritage before you hit the water to relax and unwind on some of Greece's most beautiful islands. Party till dawn in Mykonos, get lost in the maze of streets; watch the world's most beautiful sunset in Santorini after a long day of swimming and end your tour in breathtaking Ios.

Duration	9 Days	**Group Size**	13-35 People
Destination	Greece	**Age Req.**	18+
Start/Ends in	Athens/Ios	**Trip Theme**	Classic, Island Hopper
Hotels	2 & 3 & 4 Star	**Departs**	April to October

Why You Will Love This Tour

* From the cities to Island paradises, this 9-day adventure hits all of Greece's must-see with private transfers, ferries and breakfasts included during the tour.
* Fall in love with the Greek Capital as you explore iconic sites and learn of the ancient myths and legends from the Acropolis, Temple of Zeus and more on a guided Athens city tour.
* Then we're off to the Islands! Join your guide and get your bearings on included orientation tours at each of the three Greek Islands.
* Enjoy plenty of free time in Mykonos to relax by the beach, check out the windmills, try local seafood or shop the quaint boutiques.
* Sunsets in Santorini are calling! Spend two nights at Greece's famed Island, exploring the idyllic beaches and cliffsides dotted with blue doors and white-washed buildings.
* Tick partying in the Greek Islands off your bucket-list as we head towards the party Island of Ios to spend our days relaxing by beach before fun nights out with your new travel mates.
* Feeling adventurous? Add optional activities to your trip including a day trip to Delos Island from Mykonos or quad biking and volcano exploring in Santorini.

Arrival Details

The group welcome meeting with you guide and other travellers is held around 18:30 at the hotel lobby on Day 1 of your tour, unless otherwise notified.

Meeting Point

The meeting point for this tour is:
The President Hotel
Address : : Kfisias 43 – Athens – Greece 115 23
Phone : +30 210 698 9000
Emergency Number: +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

Making Your Own Way to the Starting Point

The hotel is 700 meters away from Panormou Metro Station. If you are making your way from Athens Airport (ATH), you can use metro line 3 (Blue) to get to Panarmou station (11th station). One-way metro ticket for one person is €10, two persons €18, and three persons €24. The trip from the Airport to Panormou metro station takes around 30 min. The metro departs from the airport every 30 min. between 06:00 and 23:30. You can also use airport taxis. The cost is approximately €38 during the day (05:00-24:00) and €54 at

Finishing Point

The finishing point for this tour is:
Hermes Hotel
Agios Ioannis, Chora, 84001, Ios, Cyclades Islands, Greece
Phone : +30 22860 91471 **Emergency Number:** +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

Highlights

* **Athens:** You will fall in love with the perfect combination of culture, history and the dynamic contemporary life in one of the oldest cities in the world.
* **Ios:** The perfect place for sea, sun & party ! Don't forget to visit the tomb of the famous Greek poet, Homer, before you get lost in the night.
* **Mykonos:** Greece's most famous with blue flag beaches, whitewashed streets and vibrant nightlife. You won't want to leave the 'The Island of the Winds'!
* **Santorini:** The most beautiful sunset in the world… This volcanic island has unique scenery with its multi-colored cliffs and beaches.

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary may be subject to small changes depending on the conditions during the tour. Alternative accommodation of similar standards may be used depending on the group size and hotel availability.

Day 1: Athens

Welcome to Greece! Meet in the lobby around 6:00pm for an informal meeting with your guide and other tour members. Afterwards, join us for an optional group dinner to get to know your new travel mates.

• **Accommodation**
The President Hotel – 4 Star

• **Included Activities**
Welcome Meeting

• **Optional Activities**
Group Dinner

Day 2: Athens

Let's start our tour in Greece's capital, Athens, which is one of the world's oldest cities with history spanning back over 3000 years and is considered the birthplace of Western Civilization. Take a step back in time and explore an amazing array of historical and cultural sites in our city tour including: the National Library, the Academy, Constitutional Square and Parliament, The Temple of Zeus, and of course, the iconic Parthenon and Acropolis. The night is free for you to explore more of this incredible city.

• **Accommodation**
The President Hotel – 4 Star

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

• **Included Activities**
Athens City Tour

• **Entrance Fees**
Acropolis – EUR 20

Day 3: Mykonos

Rise and shine, we have an early start to catch the ferry from Athens to Mykonos. In the afternoon, you will meet with your tour leader and your fellow travellers to explore Mykonos town, and its white washed

• **Accommodation**
Giannoulaki Hotel – 4 Star

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

• **Included Activities**
Orientation Walk in Mykonos Town

Day 4: Mykonos

The day is yours to soak up the sunshine, swim in the sea or chew through your memory card taking pics of cute windmills and quaint streets. Or discover the birthplace of Apollo by taking an optional tour to Delos Island. Tonight, hit the bars and restaurants and dance the night away!

• **Accommodation**
Giannoulaki Hotel – 4 Star

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

• **Optional Activities**
Delos Island Tour – EUR 50

Day 5: Mykonos, Santorini

Next up: Santorini! After our ferry ride, we will wander through the town of Fira to get our bearings. See why the blue door houses, white church domes make Santorini the iconic postcard town of Greece. Santorini is formed from volcanic activity, and from the caldera witness the most epic sunset and breath-

• **Accommodation**
New Haroula Hotel - 3 Star

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

• **Included Activities**
Orientation Walk in Santorini

Day 6: Santorini

We've got a free day today. Relax on the red or black sand beaches, wander the streets and browse through the shops of the main town or take an optional quad biking tour. Explore the island's volcano and check out an active crater and hot springs in our optional volcano tour. The choices are endless!

• **Accommodation**
New Haroula Hotel – 3 Star

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

• **Optional Activities**
Quad Biking – EUR 35
Volcano Tour – EUR 20

Day 7: Santorini, Ios

Today we are taking to the seas, and heading towards to Ios. Get orientated on a tour around Ios and see its golden beaches and characteristic Aegean houses which are set on the hilltop. Tonight get amongst it, as we hit up the renowned party night life in the evening!

• **Accommodation**
Hermes Hotel – 3 Star

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

• **Included Activities**
Orientation Walk in Ios

Day 8: Ios

Feeling a little under the weather from last nights antics? Nothing a gyros and a dip in the sea can't fix! It's a free day today so laze on the beach, roam the streets of the beautiful town of Chora or swoon over those awesome views.

• **Accommodation**
Hermes Hotel - 3 Star

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

Day 9: Ios

Our trip will end here (11:00am) in Ios. Fill up on your last breakfast with the Travel Talk crew and say goodbye to your new friends.

• **Meals Included**
Breakfast

Inclusions & Exclusions

The tour price covers the following services:

Accommodation:	4 & 3 & 2 star hotels
Port Transfer:	Transfers from the ferry ports to the hotels and from hotels to the ferry ports.
Meals:	8 breakfasts
Transportation:	Economy class ferry
Guide:	Services of experienced Travel Talk local guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism
Sightseeing:	Athens, Mykonos, Santorini, Ios

What is NOT included in the tour price?

- Any flights not mentioned above
- Travel insurance
- Meals not stated above
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips & gestures
- Entrance fees to the sights and museums
- Optional activities
- Other services not stated in the itinerary

Hotels & Accommodation

Solo travellers will be roomed with another solo traveller of the same gender in a twin or triple room, or can upgrade to a solo room by paying the single supplement. You may choose the solo room option when booking online or contact us to arrange a private room. Your tour leader will allocate rooms upon arrival at the starting hotel in accordance with the rooming lists, last minute changes may not be guaranteed.

PRESIDENT HOTEL – ATHENS – 4 Star
Located in the center of Athens and 500 m from Panormou Metro Station, President Hotel offers comfortable accommodation and a beautiful rooftop terrace with a swimming pool.

GIANNOULAKI HOTEL – MYKONOS – 4 Star
Giannoulaki Hotel is a 4 star hotel located in the peaceful area of Glastros, near Mykonos Town (Chora). The hotel is situated in a wonderful spot offering a spectacular view of the Aegean Sea.

NEW HAROULA HOTEL – SANTORINI – 3 Star
New Haroula hotel is located in the centre of Fira, the capital of Santorini. The hotel offers an outdoor pool the rooms and a balcony overlooking the pool or the bougainvillea garden.

HERMES HOTEL – IOS – 3 Star
Hermes Hotel is centrally located, only 700 meters away from the town, night clubs, bars are only stone's throw away, offers an outdoor swimming pool, and it's also 7 minute walk to the beach.

Budgeting

Please note that entrance fees to sights and optional activities are not included in the tour price. Optional activities are not operated by Travel Talk and may require a certain number of attendees to run. Your guide will be happy to inform you further about the available optional activities at the start of your tour. Optional activities are also listed under each day in your tour itinerary.

Optional Activities

Please note that Optional Activities are not operated by Travel Talk.

Group Dinner	EUR 25
Delos Island Tour	EUR 50
Quad Biking	EUR 35
Volcano Tour	EUR 20

Personal Spending

Greece's currency is the Euro (EUR / €) and credit or debit cards are accepted across all major Islands. However, on the smaller Islanders cash remains king! While every traveller's spending habits may differ slightly, we have estimated the average daily expenses to help with budgeting for your next trip. Here you will find the average cost for a meal or drink and advice for best practice in tipping.

Meals

Lunch at restaurant	US$ 10-15
Dinner at restaurant	US$ 15-20
Sandwich at a stall	US$ 3-5
Crepes	US$ 1-2

Drinks

Bottle of water	US$ 0.6
Coffee	US$ 3-4
Tea	US$ 1-2
Bottle of beer	US$ 4-6

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory in Greece but is appreciated for good service. In up-market restaurants we suggest adding a ~5-10% tip to your bill for good service. Meanwhile, tipping porters or taxi drivers by a Euro or two is also recommended. Your Guide and Driver would also appreciate tipping as a sign of gratitude at the end of your tour.

Shopping

Whether you prefer to shop at markets, boutiques or retail malls – Greece has it all! This popular tourist destination provides travellers with an abundance of options for purchasing timeless souvenirs to reminisce on their trip. While traditionally haggling was once commonplace across Greece, tourism has now brought standardisation to pricing, meaning shoppers can score themselves beautiful Greek handicrafts without the tiresome back and forth of bargaining.

Kompoloi

The Kompoloi, or worry beads, are a staple in Greek tradition, made from a strong of resin beads tied together with string so they can be turned through your fingers as you ponder life. They make for a fantastic souvenir for friends or family as they're sold all over the country and provide a slice of ancient Greek

Mati Talisman

The Evil Eye Talisman, called Mati in Greek, is integral to Greek culture and folklore. The Mati eye is considered to protect its user and their family from evil spirits and jealousy. You'll find it all over the country from souvenir stands to jewellery stores. Prices for a glass Mati charm start at approximately 3 USD.

Ouzo

Popular since the 14th century when Greek monks began to drink the potent substance, Ouzo is an Anise-flavoured, local liquor which can be purchased all over Greece for very cheap! A 7cl bottle of good quality Ouzo starts at about 15 USD.

Essential Information: Greece

Passport & Visas

Greece is part of the European Union and Schengen area, and European citizens do not require a tourist visa. Citizens of the following countries do not require a tourist visa if staying for less than three months: USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan. Passport validity entry requirements change per nationality.

Passport validity entry requirements: The validity of the passport or travel document must be longer than the duration of stay. We generally recommend to have a passport or travel document that is valid for at least 6 months' from your travel date.

This information is provided only as a guidance, we strongly advise that you check with the consulate or embassy as this information can change at any time and with little notice. It is your responsibility to make sure that all the required travel documents are ready when travelling

Travel Advice

We are closely monitoring the latest travel updates to Morocco and follow the advice of the UK Foreign Office (FCDO). For the latest travel advice from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/greece

We recommend all travellers to check their Government National Travel Advisory prior to their departure:

Australia	-	https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/
Canada	-	https://travel.gc.ca/
New Zealand	-	https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/
USA	-	https://travel.state.gov/

Travel Insurance

All passengers travelling with Travel Talk are required to have personal travel insurance before participating in any of our tours. Your guide will collect your travel insurance details on the first day of your trip. It is your responsibility to make sure you have an adequate and suitable travel insurance for you in place, you may read more at https://www.traveltalktours.com/travel-insurance

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our passengers, staff and communities visited is of utmost priority. As we monitor and comply with the official advice from the UK Foreign Office, as well as World Health Organization and government authorities regularly, we have implemented several policies and precautions on our tours for your wellbeing.You may find our Safe Travels Protocols at https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels

Travel Talk Adventures has received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which allows travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols – so consumers can experience 'Safe Travels'.

Please make sure to regularly check your Government's travel advice before travelling and be well-informed of any requirements. Your tour guide will also notify you of the regulations and protocols to follow throughout your trip with us.

Please note that if any traveller is unable to complete the itinerary or possess a potential risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to remove them from all or part of a trip.

Please consult with your doctor for the latest medical travel information and any vaccinations you may need. We recommend that you bring any personal medical requirements and medications with you as these may be difficult to obtain while on tour.

Weather

Greece is well known for its mild Mediterranean climate with two distinct seasons: hot and dry from April to September or mild and wet from October to March. The summer months of July and August are considered the best and busiest time to visit with temperatures sitting comfortably around the mid to high 30s during the day and rarely ever dropping below 20°C in the evenings. During these months, the days are usually cooled by prevailing north winds, especially on the islands. By late October, ferry services to the islands begin to cut back as facilities close for the winter. These cooler months make for a pleasant time to explore mainland Greece and the capital.

	Athens		Santorini		Mykonos	
Months	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F
January	10	50	12	54	9	48
February	10	51	12	54	9	48
March	13	55	14	56	12	54
April	16	60	16	60	15	59
May	21	69	20	68	19	66
June	26	78	24	75	23	73
July	29	83	26	79	26	79
August	29	84	26	79	25	77
September	24	76	24	74	23	73
October	20	67	21	69	19	66
November	15	59	17	62	14	57
December	12	53	13	55	10	50

Money Matters

Greece's currency is the Euro (EUR / €) and credit or debit cards are accepted across all major Islands. We recommend to carry some cash for small purchases from simple vendors and shops. We recommend you do not exchange bulk sums of money at the airport, as the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the major cities. Your tour leader will be happy to help if you need any assistance.

Please remember that everyone has different spending habits, some prefer to spend more on souvenirs, some on experiences and others on a night out! Make sure to budget your trip to your spending habits for shopping, drinking, and tipping.

Tipping is not compulsory in Greece but is appreciated for good service. In up-market restaurants we suggest adding a ~10% tip to your bill for good service. Meanwhile, tipping porters or taxi drivers by a Euro or two is also recommended. Your Guide and Driver would also appreciate tipping as a sign of traditional gratitude at the end of your tour.

Ferry Timetable

From	To	Departure	Arrival
Athens	Mykonos	07:30	12:45
Mykonos	Santorini	09:50	11:40
Santorini	Ios	11:20	12:05
Ios	Athens	18:00	23:15

Eating & Drinking

While most eat to live, the Greek live to eat! Eating out in Greece is an experience in itself as the tavernas, restaurants and bars come to life with atmosphere after dark. The food in Greece favours simplicity and fresh local produce and eating in a restaurant or taverna is still largely affordable for both locals and tourists, alike. Greeks generally eat quite late in the evening, rarely venturing out before 9.00pm. From the remote villages to famed Greek islands and bustling metropolis of Athens, the variety of dishes and delicacies of the Mediterranean will satisfy even the most demanding traveller's taste buds. We completely understand that searching for unique and authentic dishes can often be overwhelming if you are not a local, so here is a few must-try dishes to get you started in Greece.

Tzatziki: Few sauces are as classic or iconic as this. Tzatziki consists of thick strained yogurt, garlic, olive oil and fresh dill and is served with almost any meal.

Gyros: Greek's answer to fast, cheap, and tasty food! Gyros consists of meat that is roasted vertically on a turn spit that is known as a Gyro. The slices of gyro are then placed inside a pita with various salads including onions, lettuce, tomatoes, and potato chips. Finished with tzadziki, of course.

Moussaka: The popular Greek Moussaka is served in almost all tavernas and consists of layered eggplant, spiced and minced meat and creamy béchamel sauce.

Grilled Octopus: The Greek Islands are arguably the best place in the world to try char grilled Octopus.

Kalamarakia Tiganita: More commonly known as fried calamari, this snackable seafood delicacy is deep-fried rings of squid served hot with a slice of lemon. Perfect for a Santorini sunset snack!

Kokkinisto: A rich stew of beef, pork or chicken cooked with red wine and tomatoes.

Souvlaki: A very popular Greek dish that translates to 'meat-on-a-skewer', Souvlaki is seasoned, spit-roasted meat, generally pork or chicken, served with tzatziki sauce.

Spanikopita: Otherwise known as Greek spinach pie, this Greek starter consists of feta cheese, butter, olive oil and layered pastry, baked until golden crispy!

Choriatiki: Commonly known as the Greek Salad, this side dish is a must for almost every Greek meal. The salad consists of tomatoes, olives, cucumber, and feta with dressing of vinegar, salt, pepper and olive oil served on the side.

Amygdalota: A gluten-free almond cookie that is wildly popular across Greece and often served with a warm cup of Greek coffee.

Loukoumades: Bite-sized of fried doughnut with a Greek twist. These golden puffs are doused in syrup or honey and sprinkled in cinnamon, sugar, walnuts, or chocolate.

The anise-flavoured aperitif known as ouzo is the national alcoholic beverage of Greece. But be warned, it's a quite strong liqueur made famous amongst travellers for its lingering hangover! Ouzo is usually mixed with water and served chilled or over ice. There are many kinds of beer in Greece but if you are looking for a local flavour – try Mythos, Alpha or Fix!

Internet Access

Internet access is common in hotels, cafes and restaurants across Greece and the Greek Islands. Many internet cafes can be found in the cities as well. If your current Mobile SIM provider is from the EU or UK, it may be possible that you can use your data roaming free of charge in Greece. Please consult your mobile provider to find out more. Alternatively, purchasing a Greek SIM card for the duration of your tour may be a cost-effective option. Your guide will be happy to advise on this.

Essentials to Bring

* Face mask/cover and hand sanitiser enough for your personal use throughout the trip – See more at https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels
* Travel Documents: Passport, Visa (if required), flight or transport ticket (and photocopies)
* Travel Talk Tour Voucher (printed or digital)
* Travel Insurance Policy (and photocopy)
* Personal medical kit and medicine
* Money (cash, credit card, travellers' cheques)
* Power Adapter
* Reusable water bottle
* Ear plugs and eye mask
* Sun protection – hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
* Comfortable, closed walking shoes
* Wind/water proof jacket
* Warm clothes, hat, and gloves for cold weather
* Sandals, swimwear, shorts for warm weather

Culture and Traditions

The Greek culture remains heavily influenced by its ancient past. Greeks are particularly proud of their culture, speaking of their nation with intense passion and sense of belonging. Greece is held to be the cradle of Western civilisation, the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, literature, drama, historiography, and the Olympic Games. Since ancient times, the Greek have lived by the expression of 'Kefi' meaning life is meant to be lived to its fullest. Kefi is a way of life and is seen as the 'Spirit of Greece' because despite the hardships the country has faced overtime, the locals actively seek happiness and positivity in daily life through small moments such as a shared meal or through music and dance. It is for this reason that family, music, food, religion and traditions are essential cornerstones to the Greek culture. The Greeks are a friendly, proud and curious people who know how to enjoy life.

Religion, Etiquette and How to Dress

Religion plays an important role in the understanding of daily culture. 98% of the Greeks are Christian Orthodox. Greece is one of the few countries with such a big proportion of Orthodox Christians and you can spot a charming church in almost every plot of land or island. The Church plays a vital role in everyday life and attending weddings, baptisms, and funerals is vitally important, even for people who would not normally attend church, such as the younger people. While Greece is quite modern with its views on casual clothing and it is recommended to wear light, summer clothing; it's important to remember that churches and monasteries will require you to cover your shoulders and legs when visiting. Travel Talk recommends bringing a set of clothing with you appropriate for such occasions and encourages female travellers to have a scarf to wear around shoulders or waist at religious sites.

Solo Travellers

We have many solo travellers joining our tours. Solo travellers will be roomed with another traveller of the same gender. If you would like a private solo room, please contact us.

Rules to Follow

We are committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. We do not tolerate any form of violence (physical or verbal), bullying or harassment involving customers, partners, Travel Talk staff or locals. Sexual relationships between a tour leader and a passenger are forbidden.

We will not tolerate any illegal activity, including but not limited to: use and possession of illegal drugs, trespassing, and disrupting public order. If you consume alcohol, please ensure that you drink responsibly and follow the local laws and regulations.

You must follow the advice of your tour leader and local officials regarding health and safety measures. We operate all tours under Safe Travels protocols for the wellbeing of our passengers, staff and communities visited. Please ensure that you have read the https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels/ and are fully prepared for your trip.

If someone is acting inappropriately regarding these matters, please notify your tour leader immediately or contact us on the emergency contact number provided below.

Your tour leader has the right to remove from the group anyone not abiding by these rules, with no right of compensation or refund. See more at https://www.traveltalktours.com/booking-terms/

Please remember that our travellers come from different parts of the world and will have various needs and preferences. Be understanding and patient with your fellow travellers, and always strive to be on time.

Responsible Travel

We believe that travel is a force for good and show our support through various initiatives and charity organizations, as well as keeping the principals of responsible and sustainable travel at the core of our ethos. These values are engrained in our business culture and the design of our trips just the same. Together with you, we strive to make a positive impact on local people and economies, respecting the local culture, environment, social fabric and customs; encouraging respectful and meaningful cross-cultural exchange.
Read more at https://www.traveltalktours.com/responsible-travel/