ESANTORINI GUDE

t

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO

Find the best things to do on the island

LEARN TO VALUE TRAVEL

Get the best bang for

TRAVEL TIPS, TRICKS & HACKS

lake traveling much easier for you

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SANTORINI ITINERARIES

Check out these sample itineraries for your stay in Santorini.







HI, I'M NICK

I'm here to help you make better informed decisions about planning your next adventure!

I was born in the Windy City of Chicago and I've been traveling the world since 2012. In my spare time, I enjoy photography and making inspirational travel films on YouTube for budget-minded travelers like me.

Follow along on my journey to see what I'm up to next on social media and my website, <u>navigatornick.com</u>.

I'll show you how to value travel!

Value traveling is getting the most bang for your travel buck.

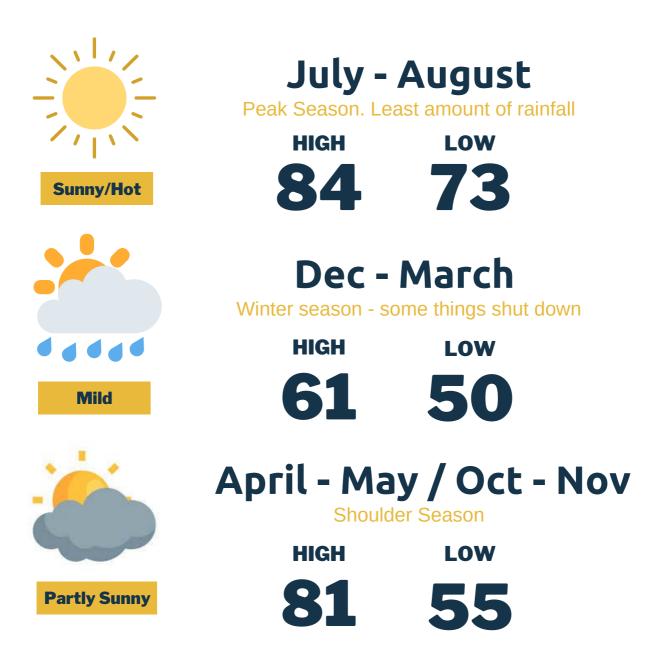
-NAVIGATORNICK



SANTORINI

The best time of year to travel?

It's no secret. Santorini is stunning. It's considered by many to be one of (if not) the most beautiful islands in the world. People come to Santorini to see its breathtaking caldera views. And the sunsets -the best in the world!



SANTORINI WHAT TO EXPECT

Language: Greek

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Credit Cards & ATMs: Many Santorini shops, restaurants, and hotels accept credit cards, but not all. Definitely carry a little bit of cash on you.

Cell Service: If you don't have an international cell phone plan, pick up a SIM card at the airport or <u>purchase an eSIM here</u>.

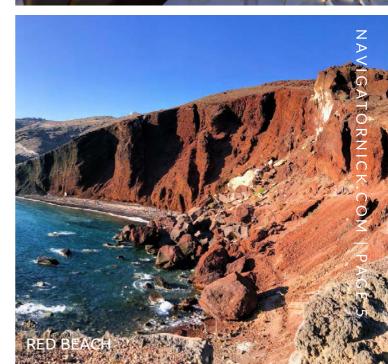
Plugs: The plugs in Santorini are type F, the standard voltage is 230 V, and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. I recommend buying a <u>universal adapter</u> and using a <u>voltage converter</u> for hairdryers and beard trimmers.

Food and Drinks: Santorini and Greece in general is very famous for Souvlaki, Moussaka, Saganaki & Gyros! You will find all of these at most greek restaurants, bars, pubs, etc.

The Arts: Crescent-shaped Santorini (also known as Thera in Greek) is perhaps the most popular Greek destination and a worldwide famous island. Boasting a unique landscape, Santorini is an island immortalized by poets and painters thanks to its celebrated light, multicolored cliffs, and picture-perfect sunsets.







CULTURE, CUSTOMS & SAFETY

Greek is the official language, though considering the large influx of visitors the island receives (as many as 10,000 cruise ship tourists alone come ashore daily), you're more likely to run into English-speaking Greeks than not, especially in tourist areas. Understanding body language here though is key. Be very aware of your gestures. For example, using the thumb and index finger to signal "OK" is offensive, as is holding up your palm to anyone. If you want to wave goodbye, make sure your palm is facing you. As for indicating nodding your head to indicate 'yes' and shaking your head to indicate 'no.' Greeks do it differently. A slight downward means 'yes' while a slight upward nod means 'no.' These gestures are often subtle and quick, making it hard for foreigners to understand.

Greeks are known to be very friendly, especially when meeting new people. When meeting a Greek in a social situation, shaking hands is customary. Two kisses, one exchanged on each cheek, is the norm when with acquaintances. Greeks tend to be very open and become deeply engaged when in conversation. They have also been known to get personal, fast. Lateness is also common here. If you have plans with Greeks, expect them to be at least 15 minutes late.

Shorts and T-shirts are acceptable when walking around the towns or the beaches, some of which are clothing optional. Dress continues to be casual even in restaurants, but Greeks tend to dress up a little more nicely when dining out in the evenings. Other than on the beach, never waltz into a restaurant or public space in your bathing suit or barefoot, even along a beachfront promenade.

When eating at a restaurant, a service charge may be included. If bread is presented at your table, and you touch or eat it, it will be charged to your bill. There is also a charge for water, which is usually bottled. Tap water here is not safe to drink. Tipping isn't commonplace. Also, keep in mind the plumbing system in Santorini is not stellar – when at a hotel or restaurant, throw any used toilet paper in the wastebasket rather than flushing it down the toilet.

SAFETY

Santorini is considered a safe destination. You can feel comfortable walking around the streets both day and night. Pickpocketing is few and far between here. In terms of getting around, there are not many sidewalks in Santorini, so be careful when walking the streets as you may need to dodge the occasional wayward, speedy scooter. Use caution when navigating Santorini's beaches as well. Most of, if not all of the beaches, are composed of small rocks rather than sand, and during the summer, can become too hot for bare feet to touch. Bring your sandals to wear on the sand or water shoes to avoid burns.

THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING THE SANTORINI GUIDE



WATCH THE SANTORINI TRAVEL FILM



SETTING A BUDGET TO VALUE TRAVEL

What is value traveling? Value traveling is getting the most bang for your travel buck. In other words, it's about maximizing your travel expenses and valuing your experiences.

Establish a budget, even if it's a loose one.

Santorini is an expensive place to travel to, there is no getting around it. The primary expenses on your journey will typically include accommodations, activities, and airfare.

Accommodations

For instance, certain areas of Santorini tend to be more budget-friendly than others.

Let's explore the concept of value travel when it comes to selecting your accommodations in Santorini.



Check out this amazing caldera view from what is considered a budget friendly hotel called The Kavalari Hotel. <u>Learn more about</u> <u>The Kavalari Hotel</u>



Note: Don't sacrifice on clean sheets and location, but you can save money if you sacrifice on amenities.

Activities

What's a great trip to Santorini without a <u>catamaran tour</u> or a visit to Amoudi Bay?! You don't need to book an activitey every day, that will help with your budget too, but you could book a few throughout your stay using GetYourGuide. Here's why I love GetYourGuide!

- 100% refund policy, if plans change
- Skip the line tickets for main attractions
- Mobile vouchers no need to print
- Last-minute availability

Airfare

Save big on airfare by going to Santorini in the shoulder seasons, March through April and September through October. The weather will be pleasant and less crowds, a perfect opportunity for an excellent getaway!

Once you've estimated your trip's flight, accommodation and activity cost, start considering the cost of transportation.

Rental Cars

Use <u>DiscoverCars.com</u> to search, save and compare -up to 70% off, of your favorite rental companies like Enterprise, Hertz, AVIS, Budget & many more.

BEST THINGS TO DO SANTORINI!



1. WINE TASTING TOUR

From \$160 per person

BOOK HERE

TASTE THE WINES PRODUCED ON THE ISLAND OF SANTORINI ON A 4-HOUR TASTING TOUR WITH A LOCAL WINE EXPERT. VISIT THE ISLAND'S BEST WINERIES TO EXPLORE THE VINEYARDS AND HEAR ABOUT THE DIFFERENT GRAPE VARIETIES.



2. CATARAMAN SAIL CRUISE From \$115 per person

BOOK HERE

SAIL WITH A SMALL GROUP IN THE MORNING OR SUNSET HOURS AROUND THE SANTORINI CALDERA ABOARD A LUXURY CATAMARAN WITH AN OPEN BAR. SNORKEL, SWIM IN HOT SPRINGS, AND ENJOY A FRESHLY PREPARED GREEK MEAL.



3. ATV EXPERIENCE

From \$195 per person

BOOK HERE

DISCOVER THE THE BEAUTIFUL AND VERSATILE LANDSCAPE OF SANTORINI WITH A GUIDED ATV-QUAD TOUR. LISTEN TO LOCALS SHARE THEIR LOVE FOR THE AMAZING CYCLADIC ISLANDS AS THEY YOU THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LOCATIONS AND VIEWS ON THIS SPECTACULAR ISLAND.



3. PRIVATE DRIVER

From \$205 per person

BOOK HERE

SEE THE TOP SIGHTS OF SANTORINI ON A PRIVATE TOUR BY MERCEDES MINIBUS AND EXPLORE THE ENTIRE ISLAND AT YOUR OWN PACE. CUSTOMIZE YOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TOUR ACCORDING TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS.

HOW TO SAVE MONEY IN SANTORINI

- Vacation in the shoulder seasons. The fall and spring are known for warm weather, but not as many tourists take advantage of it compared to summer. You can find some great deals on hotels if you skirt the summer crowds.
- Hungry? Head inland. While the thought of munching on fresh Greek fare beachfront or cliffside is no doubt tempting, these restaurants charge higher prices solely for the location and view. A gyro and fries can be found for just a few euros inland. An easy, quick and cheap lunch!
- <u>Rent an ATV/Moped</u>. These methods of transportation are more affordable, more fun and easier to park! Enjoy!
- Stay on the South coast. <u>Hotels</u> along the caldera in towns like the popular Fira & Oia tend to attract the most travelers, especially honeymooners. You'll find much more reasonably priced rooms in southeastern towns like Kamari and Perissa.
- Happy hour. Drinks get very expensive on Santorini. Drink your fill during happy hour, when they have 2 for 1 drinks and 1 EUR shots.
 - Buy wine at the store You can buy a great bottle of wine from the stores for as little as 4 EUR. It's a lot cheaper than drinking at the bar, so drink before you go out to save money.
- Walk. Many villages have pedestrianonly streets and you can freely explore the beautiful alleys on foot!

- Use Travel Points. The <u>Capital One</u> <u>Venture One</u> card is a fantastic travel rewards credit card with NO fee. However, you need good to excellent credit. If you're really serious about getting into travel reward points, consider using the <u>Chase Sapphire</u> <u>Preferred card</u>.
- Take a Ferry. Search, compare and book ferry tickets for 109 companies on <u>FerryHopper</u> to see what works for you. All ferry itineraries with all ships to the Greek islands, Italy, Spain, Morocco and Turkey are here. Find direct connections or connecting routes and book cheap ferry tickets easily, quickly and with confidence. In just one booking!
- Museums. Go to museums on their free admission days. Check the Odysseus Culture website for details as they vary from museum to museum.
- Student ID. To save on the cost of admission to museums and other tourist attractions, be sure to present a valid student card. The ISIC is typically accepted in places where a foreign student ID is not and can save you a lot of money.
- Bring a water bottle. The tap water in Santorini is not safe to drink so bring a reusable water bottle to save money and reduce your plastic use. <u>LifeStraw</u> is my go-to brand as their bottles have built-in filters to ensure your water is always clean and safe.

Food & Wine Recommendations

Rastoni - \$\$

Rastoni Mediterranean restaurant is located in the capital city of Fira, just up on the famous Caldera cliff and in one of the most central spots. The location is absolutely impressive, as it offers panoramic views of the famous volcano and the breathtaking Santorini sunset!

Caffe Hausbrandt - \$

Looking for the best gelato on the island? Look no further than Hausbrandt. Try their custom flavors of the day while you're winding through the streets of Fira.

Santo Wines - \$\$\$

Maybe the best spot on the entire island for a sunset dining & wine experience. It's a bit pricey but you won't regret it. Reserve a head of time to guaranteed a spot close to the balcony windows or go on a winery tour.

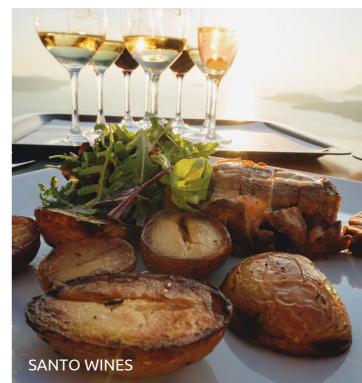
The Good Heart - \$\$

Amazing Family Tavern with Homemade Traditional Products of Santorini. In the middle of nowhere, but worth the drive to experience this family's restaurant.

*EAT ALL THE GYROS ** YELLOW DONKEY IS THE LOCAL SANTORINI BREWERY!









THE GOOD HEART



THE BEST SUNSET BARS IN SANTORINI

Santorini is renowned for its spectacular sunsets, and numerous bars offer breathtaking views for you to enjoy this natural wonder. Here are the top 10 bars in Santorini for sunset views:

1. **Santo Wines (Pyrgos)**: Located in the village of Pyrgos, Santo Wines has arguably the best sunset views in the world while sipping on a glass of their finest wine.

2. **PK Cocktail Bar(Fira)**: Located in the capital, Fira, this bar offers panoramic views of the caldera and is known for its creative cocktails.

3. Venetsanos Winery (Megalochori): Enjoy award-winning Santorini wines and captivating sunsets from this winery's terrace.

4. Franco's Bar (Pyrgos): A serene spot in Pyrgos, Franco's Bar offers a tranquil setting for sunset views.

5. Kapari Wine Restaurant (Imerovigli): This restaurant features a terrace with uninterrupted views of the caldera and a delightful Mediterranean menu.

6. **Mango Bar Restaurant (Perissa)**: Nestled along the Perissa beach, this bar provides an ideal beachfront setting for a relaxed sunset experience.

7. **Sunset Ammoudi Cafe(Oía)**: Perched above Ammoudi Bay in Oía, this charming café offers a serene atmosphere and unobstructed sunset vistas.

These bars offer a range of atmospheres, from vibrant to serene, but all provide unforgettable sunset experiences in Santorini. Remember to arrive early to secure a good spot, especially during the high tourist season.



THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN SANTORINI

Santorini is not only famous for its breathtaking views but also its delectable cuisine. Here are some of the best restaurants in Santorini, Greece:

1. **Ambrosia**: Located in Oía, this fine dining restaurant offers a romantic setting and serves Mediterranean and Greek dishes with a modern twist.

2. **Selene**: Situated in Pyrgos, Selene is known for its creative take on traditional Greek cuisine. It's a Michelin Guide recommended restaurant.

3. **Metaxy Mas**: Found in the charming village of Pyrgos, this rustic taverna serves authentic Greek cuisine with a focus on local ingredients.

4. **Katharos Lounge**: Perched on the cliffs of Oía, this restaurant offers stunning sunset views and a menu with Mediterranean and seafood dishes.

5. **Fino**: Located in Oía, Fino offers a mix of Greek and Mediterranean cuisine with a focus on fresh seafood. The view of the sunset from the terrace is a highlight.

6. Artemis Karamolegos Winery Restaurant: Situated in Megalochori, this restaurant is part of a renowned winery and serves delicious dishes to complement their wines.

7. **1800-Floga**: A popular choice in Oía, this restaurant offers a blend of Greek and Mediterranean cuisine in a historic cave setting.

8. To Psaraki: Located in Vlychada, this seafood restaurant offers a tranquil setting by the sea and serves some of the freshest catch on the island.

9. Lucky's Souvlakis: For a casual and budget-friendly option, Lucky's Souvlakis in Fira serves mouthwatering gyros and souvlaki.

10. **Skala**: Situated in Fira, Skala offers a mix of Greek and Mediterranean cuisine with a wideranging menu and a stunning view.

11. **Kikis Tavern**: Located in Akrotiri, this bakery and café serves delicious pastries, bread, and coffee, making it an excellent spot for breakfast.

These restaurants cater to a variety of tastes, from traditional Greek dishes to creative fusion cuisine. The stunning views and welcoming atmosphere of Santorini make dining here an exceptional experience. Be sure to make reservations at these popular spots, especially during the high tourist season.





VOLCANO & HOT SPRINGS CRUISE

Cruise to the volcanic islands of Santorini's caldera region. Swim in hot springs, admire views from an active volcano and explore the typical villages of Thirassia and Oia. <u>Learn More</u>

2 lunch at amoudi bay

Located below Oía, Ammoudi Bay is a picturesque spot for swimming and enjoying fresh seafood at waterfront tavernas.

3 HIKE FROM FIRA TO OÍA

This scenic hike along the caldera rim provides stunning views of the Aegean Sea. It's a great way to appreciate the island's beauty.

4 visit ancient akrotiri

Often referred to as the "Minoan Pompeii," this ancient archaeological site offers a glimpse into the history of Santorini. The well-preserved ruins are fascinating to explore. <u>Learn More</u>

5 WINE TASTING

Santorini is renowned for its wine, particularly Assyrtiko. Visit local wineries to taste the island's unique wines, and enjoy the picturesque vineyards. <u>Learn More</u>

6 RELAX ON PERISSA BEACH

Known for its black sand, Perissa Beach is a popular destination for sunbathing, swimming, and water sports. Numerous beach bars and restaurants line the shore.

7 CATAMARAN SUNSET SAIL

Sail with a small group in the morning or sunset hours around the Santorini caldera aboard a luxury catamaran with an open bar. Snorkel, swim in hot springs, and enjoy a freshly prepared Greek meal. <u>Learn More</u>

8 HORSEBACK RIDING

Learn to ride a horse and explore Santorini from a whole new perspective, admiring stunning views and the volcanic black sandy beach from the top of your horse with expert guidance. <u>Learn More</u>



RESEARCH AND BOOK FLIGHTS

It's important to check flight prices as soon as you decide you're going to Santorini. **JTR (Santorini Airport)** is the only airport on the island and my second favorite airport in the world because it's so small.

Read More: <u>How to use Google Flights to find the Best Prices</u>

Use Google Flights to search, compare and track flights. Track multiple flight options with just a click of a few buttons.

A question I get often is, "**when should I book?**". There's not a science to booking the right flight, at the right time. However, there are patterns to be aware of.

For example, flights May - August will always be higher, this is peak travel season. USA Holidays will also be higher. Popular festival dates will be higher. Religious holidays will be higher.

Shoulder season is the cheapest time to book (April, September, October). My favorite month to travel to Europe is September! Much of the summer crowds have gone away and the weather is still warm, but not too hot.

Generally, you should book international flights around 90+ days out. Domestic flights should be booked 45 - 60+ days out.





CAR RENTAL - SEARCH, COMPARE & SAVE UP TO 70% OFF

✓ NO HIDDEN COSTS ✓ 24/7 SUPPORT ✓ FREE CANCELLATION

RENTING A CAR

If you enjoy the freedom of being on your own time and avoiding being stuck with a tour group, I highly suggest renting a car. Roads on Santorini are generally well-maintained and easy to navigate, with adequate signage in both Greek and English.

DiscoverCars.com offers no hidden costs, 24/7 support and 100% free cancellation.

You can compare major car brands like Hertz, Budget, AVIS, Enterprise, EuropeCar, Alamo, SIXT and many others.

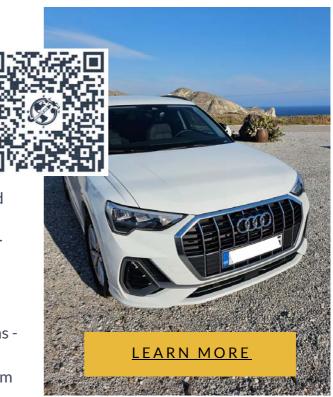
Having your own ride in Santorini will let you explore its different villages and parts of the island that cannot be explored walking or on public transport.

Pick up your car directly from the Santorini Airport and off you go!

The most popular rental car in Santorini is the Ford Fiesta, but travelers tend to also choose the Fiat 500 and the Ford Focus a lot. The most popular car types are economy, compact and mini.

Estimated Pricing - USD

- Convertibles from \$18 per day.
 Station wagons from \$41 per day
- Large cars from \$28 per day Medium cars from \$11 per day. • Vans - from \$19 per day
- Premium cars from \$75 per day Small cars from \$7 per day • SUVs - from \$10 per day



If you plan to rent a car on Santorini, it's recommended that you get an International Driving Permit in advance of your trip. These are issued through agencies like AAA (US), CAA (Canada), the UK post office, and AAA Australia. Cost varies by country from about \$5 to \$25, and IDPs are valid for one year. Greek law requires foreign drivers to carry an IDP in addition to a driver's license.









FINANCIAL TIMES







World Travel Tech Awards - World's Best Car Rental Booking Website 2022

World Travel Tech Awards - World's Best Car Rental Booking App 2022

Magellan Awards Gold Winner 2022

Travel & Hospitality Awards 2021

FT 1000: Europes Fastest Growing Companies - Top 300 Companies 2021

Companies 2020

FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companies - Top 100

Uzakrota Travel Awards - World's Leading Car Rental Website 2022



PLAN YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Once your flight is booked, you should book your accommodations next.

Familiarize yourself with my sample itineraries provided at the back of this guide before finalizing your accommodations. The last thing you want is to book a place that's located far from the main areas you plan to visit.

If you're visiting Santorini for 4+ days, you might consider staying in two different villages, such as the most popular ones like Fira or Oia.

I highly recommend staying in the caldera for at least two nights, if not more! This is the most picturesque area on the entire island and the spot you see in all the postcards with the blue domes. Speaking of the famous blue domes, you can stay right next to them at <u>The Ambition Suites</u>!



Visit my website for a <u>custom Santorini</u> <u>map</u> to choose the best hotel, apartment or VRBO. Base your final decision on location, price, style, features and amenities, in that order. Before booking your accommodation, make sure you know the cancellation policy. And if you think you need it, purchase trip cancellation insurance. My favorite travel credit cards include trip protection, such as the <u>Capital One</u> <u>Venture</u> card or the <u>Chase Sapphire</u> <u>Preferred</u> card.



Another reason to book using your <u>Capital</u> <u>One Venture</u> or <u>Chase Sapphire Preferred</u> card is collecting miles and points for future traveling. That's right, more benefits for you! Every time I travel, I'm already checking my new mileage chart for my next destination.

So, use those travel reward credit cards to get a jump start on your future travels. You may even get a round trip to Barcelona for free by just using your signup bonus miles. I did!

TravelerTip: Santorini is extremely popular and the great hotels and Airbnbs book up fast. Make sure to reserve your room at least six months in advanced.

Generally, hotel rooms don't give discounts but from time to time, I post 10% booking.com coupon codes on my facebook page, <u>HERE</u>.

Read Reviews

Reading reviews online of other travelers is a great idea before booking.

SANTORINI VILLAGES

Santorini is one of the Cyclades islands in the southern Aegean Sea, about 200 km (120 miles) southeast of Greece's mainland. It's the largest of this group of islands, and perhaps its most popular. Santorini was the site of one of the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history. It left a massive caldera.

The island's key villages are **Fira**, **Oia**, **Imerovigli**, **Perissa**, **Kamari and Firostefani**.

Perched on a cliff overlooking the Aegean Sea, the brunt of tourism on the island is centered around these caldera towns noted for their sparklingly white cubic houses and blue-domed churches. They're a picture perfect sight that's been immortalized on many postcards. Santorini is incredibly beautiful, making it a popular destination for honeymooners, cruise liners and a luxury getaway. But, that doesn't mean it's not affordable. Sometimes, because the island is so small, it can get annoyingly crowded so it's important to plan your trip well and know when to go and where to stay.

Traveler Tip: The shoulder season during April, September & October is a great way to save money!

Visit my website for a <u>custom Santorini</u> <u>map</u> to choose the best hotel, apartment or VRBO. Base your final decision on location, price, style, features and amenities, in that order.



NAVIGATORNICK'S









If you've ever seen a postcard from Santorini, this is the town. The famous blue domes in all their insta-worthy glory. Situated on the northwestern tip of the island, Oia is Santorini's most picturesque town and offers some of its best sunset views. It's the most visually striking village on the island and one of its most romantic.

<u>Hotels</u> here are the most expensive not just in Santorini, but in all of Greece. If you want to go all out and have a truly memorable stay, then <u>Oia</u> is probably where you'll want to be. It's worth noting that <u>Oia</u> doesn't get as crowded as Fira but people do flock here every afternoon to catch the sunset. There are plenty of restaurants and high-end boutiques in Oia, not to mention regular bus service that shuttles tourists to and from Fira. You can <u>book a hotel room</u> in Oia through <u>Booking.com</u>.

Amoudi Bay

Amoudi Bay is the hidden jewel of Santorini. And, while finding it can be a little challenging, it's well worth the effort. This harbor has great seaside taverns and also one of the best places to swim in Santorini. Don't miss the offshore Amoudi Rock for some excellent cliff diving.



STAYING IN OIA

LEARN MORE



BUDGET ACCOMODATION

From \$125/night

LOCATED ONLY 0.6 MI FROM THE CENTER OF OIA, SANTORINI'S MOST PICTURESQUE VILLAGE, ENJOY WONDERFUL VIEWS OF THE SUNSET FROM THEIR BEAUTIFUL POOL.



LEARN MORE



VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$350/night

SITUATED IN OIA, 3.2 KM FROM CAPE COLUMBO BEACH, THIS LUXURY SUITES OFFERS AIR-CONDITIONED AND A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST. BOASTING ROOM SERVICE, A SUN TERRACE. THE PROPERTY FEATURES AN OUTDOOR POOL, AND FREE WIFI IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY.





BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$1250+/night

THESE LUXURY PRIVATE SUITES BOAST AN INFINITY POOL OVERLOOKING THE CALDERA. IT'S SITUATED IN OIA, 5 KM FROM CAPE COLUMBO BEACH AND 1.3 KM FROM NAVAL MUSEUM OF OIA. 3.2 KM FROM PORT OF KOUFONISSIA, THE PROPERTY IS ALSO 3.2 KM AWAY FROM SAINT NICHOLAS' CHURCH. FREE WIFI AND A CONCIERGE SERVICE ARE PROVIDED.



LEARN MORE



LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$1,950/night

EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS SERVICE AT THIS HOTEL. SET WITHIN 3.7 MI OF CAPE COLUMBO BEACH AND 1,000 FEET OF NAVAL MUSEUM OF OIA.



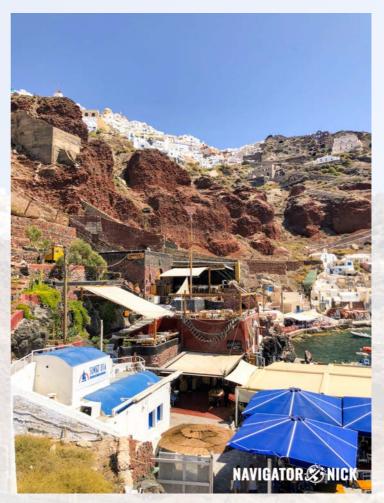
LEARN MORE

QAMOUDI BAY

Welcome to the hidden gem of Santorini - Amoudi Bay, where paradise awaits at the edge of the Aegean Sea. Prepare to be enchanted by the picturesque beauty that unfolds before your eyes. Descend the charming cliffside path, passing whitewashed buildings and vibrant bougainvillea, until you reach the tranquil bay below.

TO REACH AMOUDI BAY, YOU HAVE A FEW OPTIONS:

1. Walking: If you're already in the village of Oia, you can access Amoudi Bay by foot. From the main square of Oia, follow the path that leads downhill towards the coast. The scenic walk will take you approximately 15-20 minutes, and you'll enjoy breathtaking views along the way. Just keep in mind that the path can be steep and uneven in some sections.



2. Driving: If you have a rental car or are using a taxi service, you can drive to Amoudi Bay. There is a small parking area near the bay, but it can get crowded during peak hours. From the main road between Fira and Oia, follow the signs to Amoudi Bay and park your vehicle in the designated parking area. Be prepared for a short walk downhill to reach the bay itself.

3. Public Transportation: Santorini also has a public bus network that serves various parts of the island, including Oia. You can take a bus from Fira to Oia and then walk down to Amoudi Bay as mentioned in the first option. Bus schedules and routes may vary, so it's advisable to check the timetable in advance.

Regardless of the mode of transportation you choose, reaching Amoudi Bay is well worth the effort.

Don't miss the offshore **Amoudi Rock** for some excellent cliff jumping. The plunge is around 22ft off the water so it's not for the faint of heart but the thrill is exhilarating!

The stunning coastal views, charming fishing village, and delectable seafood make it a mustvisit spot on the island of Santorini.



Fira is the capital of Santorini and it's the busiest town on the island. It has the biggest number of hotels, shops, restaurants, and bars, and plenty of nightclubs. If you're looking to party it up in Santorini, then this is probably where you'll want to be. The clubs stay open late and offer a lot of opportunity to hang with locals and other island go-ers. If you fancy a cocktail on the balcony overlooking the Aegean Sea, there are many places for that as well.

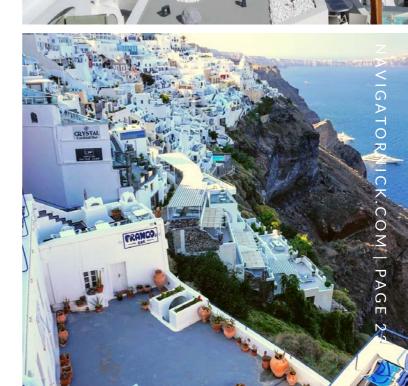
Fira is also the island's transportation hub so local buses going to other parts of the island will start and end here. If you don't have a rental car, then Fira is the most convenient place to stay on the island. Everything is within walking distance and you could easily make Fira your home base for a week.

Consider renting an ATV to get around quicker and make parking easier on yourself. Jus wear a helmet and be safe!

You can book accommodations in Fira through <u>Booking.com</u>.

It can get busy in Fira but it's easy to avoid with some proper planning. The town never feels overrun. The highlight of staying in Fira is doing the hike to Oia along the caldera path (which takes about 3 hours). Some opt for the shorter hike to Skaros rock instead. As always, bring plenty of water and stay hydrated.





STAYING IN FIRA

LEARN MORE



BUDGET ACCOMODATION

From \$120/night

WITHIN 1.5 KM FROM FIRA TOWN IN SANTORINI, THESE APARTMENTS FEATURES A POOL WITH A CHILDREN'S SECTION AND A SUN TERRACE OVERLOOKING THE AEGEAN SEA. IT OFFERS FREE WI-FI IN ALL AREAS AND ELEGANTLY DECORATED APARTMENTS WITH A BALCONY OR PATIO. ENJOYING VIEWS OVER THE SEA, THE POOL OR THE SURROUNDING AREA.





VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$175/night

PERCHED ON THE TOP OF THE CALDERA IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ISLAND, THIS HOTEL ENJOYS PANORAMIC VIEWS OVER THE AEGEAN SEA AND THE OLD PORT. GREAT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST INCLUDED.



LEARN MORE

BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$250/night

ENJOYING AN IMPRESSIVE VIEW OVER THE AEGEAN SEA AND CALDERA, THIS HOTEL IS BUILT ACCORDING TO TRADITIONAL CYCLADIC ARCHITECTURE. IT OFFERS AIR-CONDITIONED ACCOMMODATION WITH FREE WI-FI. THE CENTRAL SQUARE AT FIRA IS ACCESSIBLE WITHIN A 5-MINUTE WALK.





LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$250+/night

FEATURES ACCOMMODATION IN FIRA NEAR CENTRAL BUS STATION AND ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL. SOME ROOMS HAVE A STEAM ROOM. A TURKISH BATH AND A CAR RENTAL SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR GUESTS. THE HOTEL HAS A HOT TUB, ROOM SERVICE AND FREE WIFI.



LEARN MORE

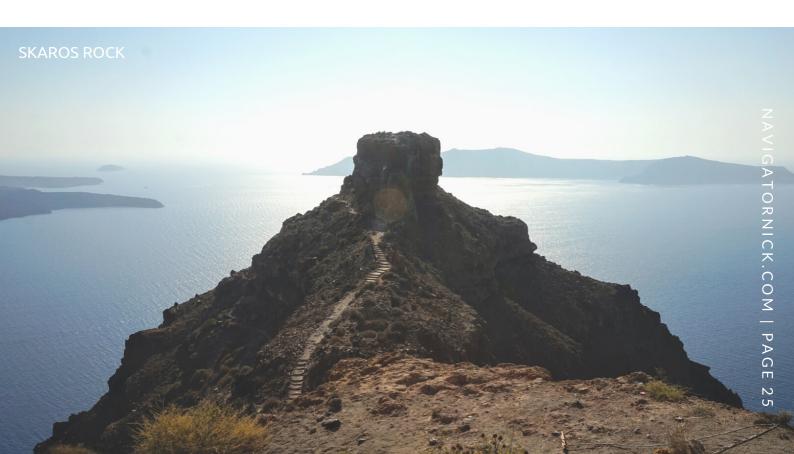


Imerovigli is a picturesque village situated at the north of Santorini, only 3.5 km away from the capital of Fira. It is a continuation of Fira and one of the most beautiful *balconies* of the island, as located on a higher cliff. Imerovigli is the quietest among the four caldera towns and a popular place to stay for honeymooners. Like Oia, it's one of the island's most romantic and offers spectacular views of the sunset.

The name of Imerovigli comes from the word *vigla* which means "view spot". The position of the village provides a clear view of the caldera and the volcano, and during the old times it allowed villagers to see the pirate ships approaching.

Hotels and traditional houses are plentiful in Imerovigli. There are also many restaurants and cafes with stunning views to the caldera.

In front of Imerovigli lies an enormous rock called Skaros. On top of it was a castle that was built during the 13th century but it was abandoned in the early 1800s. The castle housed all the administrative offices of the island. This part of the island collapsed after an earthquake, and only the huge hill of Skaros is left today. Turn to the next page for more information on



STAYING IN IMEROVIGIU LEARN MORE



BUDGET ACCOMODATION

From \$125/night

FEATURES AIR-CON ROOMS WITH AEGEAN SEA OR MOUNTAIN VIEW BALCONIES, CLOSE TO PORI BEACH, 2 KM FROM IMEROVIGLI VILLAGE. THE HOTEL INCLUDES A POOL AND OFFERS FREE WIFI. THE ROOMS ARE DECORATED TRADITIONAL CYCLADIC STYLE. GUESTS CAN FIND SUN BEDS AND UMBRELLAS, WHICH THEY CAN USE FOR FREE.



VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$150/night

THE CYCLADIC-STYLE HOTEL IS SET IN IMEROVIGLI, WITHIN 5 KM OF OIA. IT OFFERS UNITS WITH FREE WIFI AND UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OVER THE AEGEAN SEA. FREE OPEN AIR PARKING AND SECURED PARKING UPON REQUEST. OPENING TO A BALCONY OR TERRACE, THE MODERNLY DECORATED STUDIOS AND APARTMENTS HAVE A KITCHENETTE WITH FRIDGE, COOKING HOBS AND KETTLE.



LEARN MORE



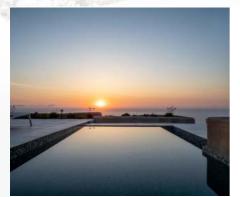
BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$200/night

LOCATED 1.3 KM FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THERA AND 11 KM FROM SANTORINI PORT, THESE SUITES IN IMEROVIGLI PROVIDES AIR-CON WITH VIEWS OF THE SEA AND FREE WIFI. THE HOTEL OFFERS A FLAT-SCREEN TV AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM. SOME UNITS INCLUDE A TERRACE AND/OR A BALCONY.



LEARN MORE



LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$300+/night

AMAZING SEA VIEWS, FREE WIFI AND FREE PRIVATE PARKING, SET IN IMEROVIGLI, 3 KM FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THERA. A TERRACE WITH POOL VIEWS IS OFFERED IN EVERY UNIT. A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE EVERY MORNING AT THE APARTMENT. EXCLUSIVE GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A HOT TUB.

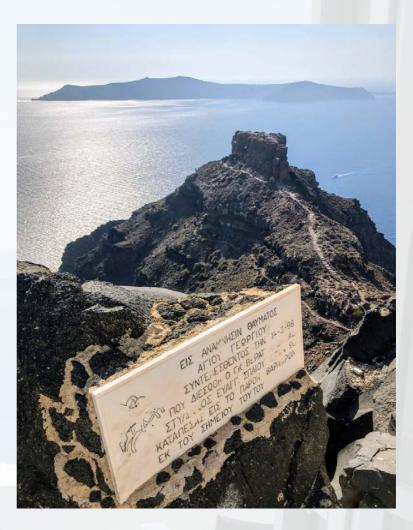


SKAROS ROCK HIKE

Embark on an unforgettable hiking adventure to Skaros Rock in Santorini. Your hike to the Skaros rock starts in Imerovigli and the church of Agios Georgios (Saint George). The church is the perfect place for preparation and relaxation before the hiking.

This iconic landmark perched atop a dramatic cliff offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Aegean Sea and the island's picturesque caldera. As you navigate the winding path (see picture below), you'll be immersed in the island's natural beauty, passing by charming villages and vineyards along the way.

The reward at the end of the trail is truly awe-inspiring, with the opportunity to witness a magical sunset or simply soak in the awe-inspiring vistas.



How to Get to Skaros Rock

The Skaros Rock hike is really pretty straightforward, with one way down and back. The path is clearly marked and begins in Imerovigli, on the stairs that lead down from the <u>Grace</u> <u>Hotel</u> (I can guarantee you'll be staring at their pool enviously as you make the sweaty return journey back up the stairs to Imerovigli!).

How Long is the Hike?

The hike takes about 45 minutes one way from the edge of Imerovigli to the outcrop, but shouldn't be underestimated; it's mostly up and down, and absolutely should be avoided in the middle of the day when the heat is searing (we know this because we made this mistake so you don't have to).

You could also do the Skaros Rock hike as part of your longer Fira to Oia hike -just add another 1-1.5 hours to your total itinerary.

Hiking to Skaros Rock is not just an exploration of nature, but also a journey into the history and charm of Santorini. So lace up your hiking boots (or gym shoes), breathe in the fresh island air, and get ready for an adventure that will leave you with lasting memories.

Best of all, the hike is FREE but make sure to bring plenty of water! Try to avoid hiking this in the middle of the day (I learned the hard way) and please wear proper sun protection!

Akrotiri is located next to the famous Red Beach. It was built at the southeastern side of the island. Akrotiri was originally a Minoan settlement and today is one of the major tourist attractions and the most important archeological site of Santorini. Still unspoilt by mass tourism, Akrotiri offers one of the most calm spots on the island.

The Minoan town was destroyed due to a massive volcanic eruption around 1600 BC. Nowadays, the picturesque streets, the two-story buildings, the lovely murals and plenty of tools witness the way of life of the Minoan civilization.

Today, the beautiful murals of the ancient city of Akrotiri can only be seen in the **National Archaeological Museum of Athens**. Some splendid houses are dotted around the village as well as a traditional windmill. Many tour boats arrive in Akrotiri and tourists are scattered to the nearby beaches of the area. Another place of interest is the **Venetian castle** that dominates the settlement of Akrotiri.

Akrotiri also has plenty of churches to visit and one of the most beautiful is the church of **Agios Nikolaos**, built right above the impressive redish rocks, on the way to the Red Beach.

The town has some lovely hotels (see photo to the right) and also few local restaurants offering splendid views to the sea. "The Good Heart" comes to mind! YUM!

A favorite spot of locals and tourists alike is watching the sunset at the Akrotiri Lighthouse.





STAYING IN AKROTIRI



BUDGET ACCOMODATION

From \$125/night

SET IN AKROTIRI, 1,5 KM FROM WHITE BEACH, THE SUITES FEATURE FREE WIFI ACCESS AND PRIVATE PARKING, ALL ROOMS ARE EOUIPPED WITH A FLAT-SCREEN TV. THE ROOMS ARE FITTED WITH A PRIVATE BATHROOM. EXTRAS INCLUDE BATHROBES AND SLIPPERS. RED BEACH IS 1.2 KM, WHILE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF AKROTIRI IS 1.2 KM AWAY.



LEARN MORE

VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$175/night

BOASTING A UNIQUE LOCATION ATOP OF AKROTIRI HILL, THE SUITES OVERLOOK THE VOLCANO, THE CALDERA AND ALMOST THE WHOLE OF SANTORINI. FEATURES INCLUDE A POOL BAR-RESTAURANT AND A SWIMMING POOL WITH SUNBEDS AND SUNSHADES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN.







BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$350/night

SITUATED IN AKROTIRI, 1.1 KM FROM KOKKINOPETRA BEACH, THE HOTEL FEATURES A GARDEN, FREE PRIVATE PARKING AND A TERRACE. A HOT TUB AND A BICYCLE RENTAL SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR GUESTS. THE ACCOMMODATION PROVIDES A 24-HOUR FRONT DESK, AIRPORT TRANSFERS, ROOM SERVICE AND FREE WIFI.





LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$1250+/night

THE VILLAS HAVE POOL VIEWS, FREE WIFI AND FREE PRIVATE PARKING, SITUATED IN AKROTIRI, 800 METRES FROM KOKKINOPETRA BEACH. THE VILLA PROVIDES GUESTS WITH A TERRACE, SEA VIEWS, A SEATING AREA, SATELLITE FLAT-SCREEN TV, A FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN WITH AN OVEN AND A TOASTER, AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM WITH HOT TUB.



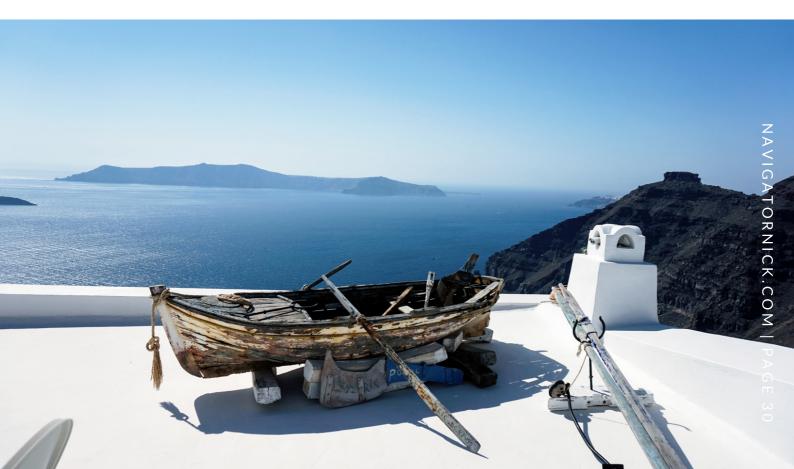




Although Firostefani village is considered a separate settlement, it is actually an extension of Fira, the capital of Santorini. The name "Firostefani" (Fira + Stefani, meaning crown in Greek) derives from its position on the highest part of Fira. Its gifted location on the caldera, on the north part of the island makes it a remarkable site.

The view is quite magnificent, giving visitors a different perspective of the volcano. The wild beauty of the caldera itself along with the volcano view composes a thrilling scenery. A walk around the narrow, quaint paths will sure fill you with joy. You can spend many splendid hours gazing the view, especially when the sun sets. But of course at night the image of the village can amaze you afresh, when the lights make it look like a painting.

There are some white-blue churches dispersed among the beautiful, typical houses that will grab your attention. In this traditional village there are few cozy restaurants and cafes located on marvelous spots which will make you feel welcome. Some shops and mini markets also exist to provide you with the necessary stuff, most of them concentrated on the main shopping street. The big advantage of Firostefani is its proximity to the capital of Santorini; only a step away from the crowded and lively Fira. As a result, it forms the perfect equation. You can combine serenity and relaxation with a vivid night life.



STAYING IN FIROSTEFANI LEARN MORE



BUDGET ACCOMODATION

From \$75/night

LOCATED IN THE BEGINNING OF FIROSTEFANI, ROOMS AND APARTMENTS HERE ARE DECORATED WITH PAINTINGS MADE BY THE OWNER. EACH AIR-CON UNIT IS EQUIPPED WITH A TV, MINI FRIDGE AND HAIRDRYER. SOME ALSO INCLUDE A KITCHENETTE WITH DINING AREA. SOME UNITS ARE LOCATED IN A WINDMILL LIKE TOWER. EXCELLENT LOCATION



LEARN MORE



VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$175/night

LOCATED IN FIROSTEFANI, ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPOTS OF THE FAMOUS SANTORINI CLIFFS, THESE SUITES OFFERS PANORAMIC VIEWS TO THE VOLCANO, THE CALDERA AND THE AEGEAN SEA. OPENING TO PRIVATE VERANDAS, ALL SPACIOUS AND TASTEFULLY DECORATED GUESTROOMS OFFER AIR CON, AND ARE EQUIPPED WITH SATELLITE TV AND BALCONY WITH A VIEW TO THE VOLCANO.





BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$250/night

IT'S LOCATED RIGHT OPPOSITE OF BARCELONA CATHEDRAL.THIS GRAND, NEOCLASSIC HOTEL IS A 5-MINUTE WALK FROM PLAZA CATALUNYA. IT OFFERS FREE WIFI, AND SOME ROOMS HAVE EXCELLENT VIEWS OF THE CATHEDRAL FAÇADE. ROOFTOP TERRACE IS INCREDIBLE.



EARN MORE

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LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$600+/night

THE VILLAS OFFER VIEWS OF THE VOLCANO AND THE FAMOUS SANTORINI SUNSET. THE ELEGANT ROOMS ARE TRADITIONAL CYCLADIC STYLE. MOST OF THE SUITES AND VILLAS INCLUDE INDOOR HEATED PLUNGE POOLS WITH HYDROMASSAGE FACILITIES, AS WELL AS OUTDOOR PRIVATE INFINITY POOL. NAVIGATORNICK.COM PAGE 31

Kamari is a charming coastal village located on the southeastern side of Santorini, Greece. Known for its stunning black sand beach, Kamari offers a unique and picturesque setting that attracts visitors from around the world. The volcanic sand creates a striking contrast against the clear turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea, making it an ideal spot for sunbathing, swimming, and water sports. The beach is lined with a promenade featuring a wide array of restaurants, cafes, and shops, where you can indulge in delicious local cuisine and shop for souvenirs. Kamari also boasts a lively nightlife scene, with beach bars and clubs where you can dance the night away under the starry sky. Whether you're seeking relaxation, beach activities, or vibrant nightlife, Kamari has it all.

Apart from its magnificent beach, Kamari offers visitors the chance to explore its rich history and culture. Just a short walk from the beach is the ancient site of Thera, where you can witness the remnants of a fascinating ancient city. The Archaeological Museum of Thera, showcases a collection of artifacts from the site, providing insight into the island's ancient past. In addition, the village is home to the beautiful Church of Panagia Episkopi, a Byzantine church with impressive frescoes and intricate architectural details. Exploring these historical sites allows you to immerse yourself in the captivating heritage of Kamari.

Additionally, Kamari is well-connected to the rest of the island by public transportation, making it convenient to venture out and discover other gems like the ancient ruins of Akrotiri or the beautiful vineyards that produce Santorini's renowned wines. With its beachfront charm, historical sites, and accessibility to other attractions, Kamari offers a well-rounded and delightful Santorini experience.





STAYING IN KANARI

LEARN MORE



BUDGET ACCOMODATION

From \$100/night

THE ECO-FRIENDLY HOTEL IS LOCATED RIGHT ON THE BEACH OF KAMARI AND BOASTS AN OUTDOOR POOL, A FURNISHED SUN TERRACE AND A RESTAURANT. IT OFFERS AIR-CONDITIONED ROOMS WITH BALCONY, AND PROVIDES FREE WIFI ACCESS IN PUBLIC AREAS.





VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$175/night

OFFERING AN OUTDOOR POOL AND A SUN TERRACE WITH SUN LOUNGERS AND PARASOLS, THE HOTEL IS LOCATED IN KAMARI AND PROVIDES AIR-CON ACCOMMODATION WITH FREE WIFI ACCESS. A BAR IS AT THE GUESTS' DISPOSAL, AND A SANDY BEACH IS ONLY A FEW STEPS AWAY. EACH UNIT COMPRISES A BALCONY WITH A VIEW OF THE GARDEN





BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$235/night

THIS RESORT ENJOYS A SECLUDED LOCATION JUST 2 MINUTES' WALK FROM THE BEACH OF KAMARI. SURROUNDED BY FRAGRANT GARDENS AND LUSH LAWNS, THE 5-STAR RESORT OFFERS 2 SWIMMING POOLS, A SPA AND A POOLSIDE BAR RESTAURANT.



LEARN MORE



LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$400+/night

SET IN KAMARI, A FEW STEPS FROM AGIA PARASKEVI BEACH, OFFERS BEACHFRONT ACCOMMODATION WITH AN INFINITY POOL, A GARDEN AND FREE WIFI. THE PROPERTY FEATURES MOUNTAIN AND POOL VIEWS. THE VILLA WITH A TERRACE AND SEA VIEWS

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Q PERISSA

Perissa is a picturesque coastal village located on the southeastern side of the island of Santorini, Greece. What sets Perissa apart is its stunning beach, which features distinctive black volcanic sand. This unique landscape is not only visually striking but also practical, as the dark sand absorbs less heat, making it comfortable for beachgoers even during the scorching summer months. The village itself offers a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, with a variety of accommodations, from cozy hotels to charming beachfront tavernas. The clear blue waters of the Aegean Sea provide an ideal setting for swimming, sunbathing, and engaging in water sports, making Perissa a favored destination for both locals and tourists. For those seeking adventure, the ancient ruins of Thera can be accessed via a hike from Perissa, providing a fascinating historical excursion.

Perissa is known not only for its beach but also for its lively nightlife and dining scene. The village is replete with beach bars and restaurants serving delectable Greek cuisine. Many establishments offer beachfront seating, allowing visitors to enjoy a meal with a view of the sea. The area comes alive in the evenings, with live music, cultural events, and a vibrant nightlife scene that caters to all tastes. Whether you're looking for relaxation on the beach, exploring historical sites, or enjoying the local cuisine and nightlife, Perissa provides a well-rounded and enjoyable experience on the enchanting island of Santorini.



STAYING IN PERISSA

LEARN MORE



BUDGET ACCOMODATION

From \$70/night

VILLAGE OFFERS TRADITIONAL CYCLADIC STYLE ACCOMMODATION WITH VIEWS TO THE SEA, FREE WI-FI ACCESS, ONLY 2 MINUTES FROM PERISSA BEACH. RENOVATED IN 2012, THE STUDIOS AND APARTMENTS ARE TRADITIONALLY DECORATED AND COME WITH KITCHENETTE AND BALCONY OFFERING VIEWS TO THE AEGEAN SEA OR THE POOL.





VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$175/night

SET IN PERISSA AND WITH PERISSA BEACH REACHABLE WITHIN 400 METRES, THIS VILLA OFFERS CONCIERGE SERVICES, NON-SMOKING ROOMS, A SHARED LOUNGE, FREE WIFI THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY AND A TERRACE. OFFERING A BAR, THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN 1.6 KM OF PERIVOLOS BEACH





BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$200/night

HAS GARDEN VIEWS, FREE WIFI AND FREE PRIVATE PARKING, SET IN PERISSA, A FEW STEPS FROM PERISSA BEACH. THE HOTEL PROVIDES GUESTS WITH A PATIO, SEA VIEWS, A SEATING AREA, SATELLITE FLAT-SCREEN TV, A FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN WITH A TOASTER AND A FRIDGE, AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM WITH SHOWER AND BATHROBES



EARN MORE

LEARN MORE



LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$350+/night

FEATURES ACCOMMODATION WITH A BALCONY AND A COFFEE MACHINE, AROUND 70 METRES FROM PERISSA BEACH. IT HAS A GARDEN, MOUNTAIN VIEWS AND FREE WIFI. THIS VILLA HAS 2 BEDROOMS, A KITCHEN WITH AN OVEN AND A MICROWAVE, A TV, A SEATING AREA AND 2 BATHROOMS FITTED WITH A HOT TUB. IGATORNICK.COM PAGE 35

SANTORINI AIRPORT PICKUP

Often, the first question I get about Santorini is, "**How do I get to the city center?**"

The easiest and best option to get to your hotel or the city center of Barcelona is to hire a private driver. This is because, the second you step out of baggage claim, you have somebody waiting for you with your name on a sign. <u>Hire a private driver here</u>.



The last thing you want to do after your long journey is to wait around for a bus or a taxi driver with everybody else.

The cheapest way to get to the main city (Fira) center is via the KTEL bus. The journey takes just 10 minutes if you are lucky to catch it right outside the airport. See the bus map on the next page. Single Ticket: €1.60

Public bus transportation (KTEL) on Santorini Island is efficient and affordable. It is used by locals and tourists alike. Santorini buses are air-conditioned, safe, and reliable – but not always on time.

In some cases, your hotel will arrange for you to be picked up from JTR, but that is a luxury. Ask your hotel to see your options.



Rent a Car

Another option to get to the where you're going is renting a car. It's much easier picking up a rental car at the Santorini airport than in Fira, Oia, or at the ferry port. Use <u>DiscoverCars.com</u> to search, compare and save on your early booking rental car. They offer no hidden costs, 24/7 support and 100% free cancellation.

Traveler Tip: Most rental vehicles in Santorini are only offered in a manual transmission. Automatic transmissions are harder to find and they are more expensive.

Uber and Lyft are not available in

Santorini, but you can hail a taxi. Expect a taxi fare of 20€ to 40€ depending on where you're going.

Taxis are available throughout the island. The main hub is in Fira. NAVIGATORNICK'S



KTEL BUS MAP



LOOKING FOR A PRIVATE GUIDE TO TAKE YOU AROUND SANTORINI?

- Explore seen and unseen gems in Oia
- Visit the lesser-known towns such as Mesaria and Megalochori
- Take a beautiful wine and food tour
- Personal driver, host and tour consultant (I Am Santorini)

-Markos from Santorini!



LEARN MORE





The Ferry system in Greece is the most extensive network in the world and is very efficient and costeffective. <u>Search Now</u>

The main port in Santorini is Athinios, located on the island's southwest side. Athinios is a relatively small port so it can get quite crowded, particularly in July and August. Therefore, make sure that you book your FerryHopper tickets to/from the port of Santorini in advance.

MAIN FERRY COMPANIES

• Blue Star Ferries: Known for their reliability and comfort, Blue Star Ferries offers frequent connections between the mainland and islands such as Crete, Rhodes, and the Cyclades.

• SeaJets: Specializing in high-speed vessels, SeaJets provides quick connections between popular island destinations in the Cyclades, Crete, and the Saronic Gulf.

• Hellenic Seaways: Operating both high-speed catamarans and conventional ferries, Hellenic Seaways covers numerous routes throughout the Aegean and Saronic Gulf.

• **ANEK Lines**: Focusing primarily on routes between the mainland and Crete, ANEK Lines also serves several other island destinations.

• Minoan Lines: Known for their luxurious amenities, Minoan Lines operates routes between the mainland and Crete, as well as international routes to Italy.

READY FOR ISLAND HOPPING?

Plan your island-hopping tour in Greece, Spain, Italy, and other destinations in the Mediterranean easily on <u>Ferryhopper</u>. Hop your way through Mykonos, Santorini and Crete or Tenerife and Gran Canaria, Ibiza, and Mallorca, Ischia and Procida with confidence! Find all ferry connections, browse available schedules and timetables, compare ferry companies and ticket prices, and manage all your island-hopping trips in a single booking!







Q USING FERRIES IN SANTORINI & GREECE

Traveling by ferry from Athens to Santorini is one of the most comfortable and affordable ways to reach the island. There are frequent ferry crossings to Santorini from 2 ports in Athens all year round, and you can choose to travel with a standard or high-speed vessel. <u>Search Now</u>

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	Search

The main port of Santorini, Athinios, is located on the island's southwest side. Athinios is a relatively small port so it can get quite crowded, particularly in July and August. Therefore, make sure that you book your ferry tickets to/from the port of Santorini in advance.

At Athinios port you will find car rentals, grocery stores, cafés, and a few tavernes. The port of Fira exclusively serves cruise ships, so make sure you don't end up on a cruise on your way back to Athens unless that's your plan!

Traveler Tip: You can also get to Santorini from the port of Heraklion in Crete.

Island hopping from Santorini

The port of Athinios in Santorini serves as a great starting point for island hopping in the Cyclades, as well as other islands in the Aegean Sea, such as Crete and the Dodecanese.

Here you can find more information about some of the most popular ferry connections from Santorini:

- Santorini Mykonos ferry: the ferry route from Santorini to Mykonos includes 4 daily crossings of about 2 hours, operated by Minoan Lines, Seajets, Golden Star Ferries and Blue Star Ferries.
- Santorini los ferry: there are more than 14 weekly connections from Santorini to los. The ferry duration ranges from approximately 35 minutes to 1 hour, depending on the type of vessel.
- Santorini Amorgos ferry: there are 1-2 daily ferry crossings from Santorini to Amorgos in the summer months. The trip takes less than 1.5 hours with a high-speed ferry. The route is usually operated by 2 ferry companies: Seajets and Small Cyclades Lines.
- Santorini Paros ferry: the Santorini Paros ferry route has up to 4 ferry crossings per day lasting from 2 hours to 4 hours. The ferry companies that mainly operate on this route are Seajets, Blue Star Ferries, Minoan Lines, and Golden Star Ferries.

On <u>Ferryhopper's Map of ferries</u>, you can find all Santorini ferry routes to easily plan your trip in the Aegean Sea and book ferry tickets! Explore all ferry schedules for the Greek islands to plan your holidays in Santorini for 2022.

Santorini is frequently connected by ferry with the mainland throughout the year. As one of the most popular holiday destinations in the country, there are regular Santorini ferries from 2 ports in Athens: Piraeus and Rafina.

- Piraeus Santorini: from Piraeus to Santorini, ferries are available throughout the year, with up to 6 daily crossings in the summer. The trip duration is 4 hours with a high-speed vessel, which is the best way to travel to Santorini from Athens by ferry.
- Rafina Santorini: you can catch a ferry from Rafina to Santorini mostly during the summer, with 1-2 daily crossings. It takes approximately 5.5 hours to reach the island with a high-speed ferry.

MY FAVORITE TRAVEL CREDIT CARDS



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FUN FOR KIDS!

1. KAMARI BEACH

Kamari Beach is one of the most family-friendly beaches on the island. Its long stretch of black sand is perfect for children to build sandcastles and play in the gentle waves. The beach is lined with restaurants and cafes, making it easy to grab a family meal.

2. KAYAK ADVENTURE

Explore hidden coves and Perivolos Beach with our premium kayaks. Perfect for all levels, our rentals offer freedom and fun on the Aegean waters. Dive into the experience with <u>Kayak Rental</u>.

3. BOAT TOUR

Take a family-friendly boat tour of the caldera. Many tours offer swimming and snorkeling opportunities in crystal-clear waters. Your kids can experience the uniqueness of Santorini's volcanic landscape from the sea.

4. ANCIENT RUINS OF THERA

Visit the ancient ruins of Thera, where your kids can explore the historic site and learn about Santorini's past. The ruins are perched on a hill, and the visit includes a bit of a hike, which can be exciting for older children.

5. DONKEY RIDES

Children often enjoy taking a traditional donkey ride from the old port in Fira to the town above. It's a unique experience that gives kids a glimpse into the island's heritage.







GATHER DOCUMENTATION

At least six months before your departure, make sure your ID and other necessary documents are in order.

Driver's license: Most of the time, you can leave this at home. However, if you are renting a car, you will need to show it to your agency. Also, if you lose your passport, this is a good second form of identification.

Passport: Applying for or renewing a passport typically takes six to eight weeks, sometimes longer. However, you can pay an additional \$60 expedited service fee to get it renewed in two to three weeks, if desired. If you plan to travel outside the U.S., you need a passport. Make sure your passport will not expire for at least six months after your trip is scheduled to end. Some countries also require passports to have one to two blank pages for entry.

Visas: If you're traveling to another country, you may need to apply for a tourist visa. This could require paying a visit, or sending your passport, to a foreign embassy or consulate in the U.S. Application fees typically run from \$50 to \$200. Visit the U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs to learn more. **TSA PreCheck and Global Entry:** Travel Credit Reward Cards like the <u>Chase</u> <u>Sapphire Preferred</u> or <u>Capital One card</u>, give you up to a \$100 credit towards these programs.

Confused about the two programs? Here's the difference: **TSA Precheck** (\$85) puts you in a faster security line at U.S. airports.

Global Entry (\$100) includes TSA Precheck and adds expedited customs screening upon your return from international trips. These programs can help you zip through airport security lines.

Before you apply, give yourself a few weeks to fill out the online application and visit an enrollment center for fingerprinting and an ID check.

You must already have a valid U.S. passport to apply for Global Entry, and you must participate in an interview at a designated enrollment center. Once approved, your status lasts five years. Most interviews last about five minutes, it's very easy!



Packing Cubes vs. Rolling: Which is best?

PACKING

Each adventure requires a different packing list. If you pack last minute, you can skip this section.

Traveler Tip: If you're a film nerd like me, don't forget your <u>DJI mini drone</u> or <u>GoPro</u> at home! Follow this link to my Amazon store to grab the latest <u>GoPro Hero 12</u> <u>Black.</u>



If you want to pack like a pro, I highly suggest to start thinking about it an advanced. This is for a few different reasons. The most important being that you don't want to forget anything, obviously.

Speaking of packing... you won't be able to miss <u>this luggage set</u> at the airport.



A packing cube set, like <u>these on Amazon</u>, can help you save almost as much space as folding. Plus, keep you significantly more organized. And this is why I love packing cubes. It makes my life so much easier on the road.

Traveler Tip: If you stick a travel size fabric softener spray bottle in a plastic ziplock bag in one of your shoes, you can use it at your destination to get out any wrinkles and keep your clothes smelling fresh.

The Secret Packing Cube Hack

Here is what I do. I roll my clothes and pack them in my packing cubes organize by clothing garment. So the basics like pants, shirts, bedtime outfits, etc. Fill in your shoes with items like socks and place them around the packing cubes, where the gaps are. Lastly, not everything needs a packing cube. You may want to lay thick sweaters or jackets flat.

This way, **you get the best of both worlds**. The cubes keep your garments organized and rolling technique allows you to fit more inside the cube. VIOLA!



LOST LUGGAGE...

Who ya gonna call? Ghostbusters?!

The airlines doesn't care about your lost bag, trust me! That's why I always, always, always keep an <u>Apple Airtag</u> in mine.

Don't have an iPhone, no problem, use <u>these</u> instead.





CLOTHES TO PACK

□ UNDERWEAR

□ SLEEPWEAR

□ DRESS SHIRTS

CASUAL SHIRTS

□ T-SHIRTS

□ BRAS

□ JEANS

□ PANTS

□ SHORTS

□ DRESSES

□ SKIRTS

- □ SOCKS
- □ SWEATSHIRTS □ SUITS □ SWIMSUITS

□ SWEATERS

- □ COVER-UPS
- COATS
- □ HATS
- □ GLOVES
- □ SCARVES
- □ PURSES
- UMBRELLA

- □ LEISURE SHOES HIKING BOOTS
- □ SNEAKERS
- □ SNOW BOOTS
- □ DRESS SHOES
- □ SANDALS
- □ BELTS
- □ TIES
- □ JEWELRY
- □ COLLAPSIBLE PACK

- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
- □ CELL PHONE
- □ CELL PHONE CHARGER
- □ MEDICATIONS
- □ ELECTRONIC CHARGERS
- □ EMERGENCY CONTACTS
- COPY OF PASSPORT
- □ PLUG ADAPTER
- □ BEACH TOWELS
- SWIMMING GOGGLES
 - & FINS

TOILETRIES TO PACK

- □ TOOTHBRUSH
- □ FACE LOTION □ TOOTHPASTE □ SUNSCREEN
- □ DENTAL FLOSS

□ DEODORANT

□ SHAMPOO

□ SOAP

☐ MOISTURIZER

- □ CONTACT
 - SOLUTION
 - □ SHAVING SUPPLIES □ FIRST-AID
- □ HAIR BRUSH □ STYLING TOOLS
- □ MAKEUP
- □ FACIAL CLEANSER □ PERIOD PRODUCTS □ VITAMINS

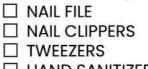
WHAT TO PACK IN YOUR CARRY-ON

□ BOOKS/E-BOOKS □ CHANGE OF CASH □ HEADPHONES □ CREDIT/ATM CARDS **CLOTHES** □ TRAVEL BLANKET □ SNACKS □ INSURANCE CARDS □ ITINERARY □ TRAVEL PILLOW □ EMPTY WATER EYE MASK BOTTLE □ MAPS/DIRECTIONS □ GLASSES □ EARPLUGS □ IN-FLIGHT □ TISSUES □ SUNGLASSES **MEDICATIONS** LIP BALM □ VALUABLES □ HOUSE KEYS □ DISINFECTING □ HAND SANITIZER WIPES □ DRONE BATTERIES □ PASSPORT/VISA/ID □ GUM

TECH & CAMERA GEAR

- GOPRO
- □ DRONE
- □ TABLET
- □ LAPTOP
- CAMERA CHARGERS
- □ BLUETOOTH SPEAKER

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- HAND SANITIZER
- □ BANDAGES

□ INSECT REPELLENT

- □ MAKEUP REMOVER □ PAIN RELIEVERS
- □ NAIL CLIPPERS □ CONTACT LENSES □ TWEEZERS

□ MEDICATION/BC



ONE DAY FOR "CRUISERS"



ENJOY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF SANTORINI IN 1 DAY

12 HOURS IN SANTORINI

Coming to Santorini for only a short bit? Here is what you need to see in a short amount of time!

Day 1 - Book a private guide (IAmSantorini) to see the top sights of Santorini on a private tour. Explore parts of the island at your own pace. Customize your departure point and tour according to your individual needs and interests. *Learn More*





ENJOY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF SANTORINI IN 1 DAY

Day 1 - Enjoy the first stop of the tour at the Santorini Caldera and learn all about the details of its formation.

Then, continue through the scenic countryside to the village of Oia, the most photographed location in Santorini. Explore the village of Imerovigli, situated on a higher cliff with an incredible view.

Make a short stop in Firostefani to see the famous Blue Dome Church, the subject of so many Santorini postcards. Explore the peak of Prophet Ilias, the island's highest mountain, standing 2,000 feet above sea level.

Discover the village of Megalochori or Pyrgos, choose one of them.

Take an optional stop at Akrotiri Archaeological Site if you want to explore the excavations.

Also, you can choose an optional winery and visit Estate Argyros or Venetsanos Winery, to taste the local wine.

Admire the panoramic views, swim at the picturesque red or black sandy beaches, and relax over lunch at the seaside restaurant.



3 DAY ITINERARY SAMPLE



SPEND 3 DAYS EXPLORING SANTORINI

3 DAY SANTORINI ITINERARY

Explore the heart of Santorini. If you only have a long weekend in Santorini, make it worth it. Stay in the caldera and use your humble abode as a home base. Make sure to take in all the views as humanly possible and don't miss a single sunset!

Day 1 - Head straight to Fira to enjoy those postcard views of the caldera. Enjoy lunch in Amoudi Bay, go for a swim and make sure to get back up top to Oia for one of the best sunsets of your life.

Day 2 - Take a catamaran cruise to the most famous beaches, past the volcano and a dip in the hot springs.

Day 3 - Enjoy an adrenaline filled day with an exhilarating ATV or horseback riding tour. Spend the evening relaxing during a sunset wine tour.

Day 1 - For a short stay in Santorini, I would recommend staying in Oia or Fira. Enjoy those postcard views of the caldera before making your way to enjoy lunch in Amoudi Bay. Go for a swim in the bay just around the corner from port or watch the cliff divers from afar. Make sure to get back up top to Oia for one of the best sunsets of your life. It is recommended to get to Oia about 1.5 hours before sunset. Alternatively, you could book dinner reservations a month in advanced with a sunset view.



Day 2 - Climb aboard the 74-foot Ocean Voyager or the 80-foot Tahiti catamaran for a 5-hour cruise around Santorini in the Aegean Sea. Set off on a journey of discovery that will first take you to the hot springs, then the Red Beach, and finally the White Beach. Swim and snorkel and tuck into a delicious meal onboard. Start your adventure with a comfortable hotel pickup and set sail for beautiful **Red Beach** to swim and snorkel for 30 minutes. Continue to a secluded White Beach, only accessible from the sea, for more swimming and snorkeling in the shadow of the towering white cliffs. Onboard the catamaran, savor a barbecue supper of salads and grilled meat and veggie options. Continue sailing inside the crescent-shaped Caldera, close to the volcano, and enjoy a final dip in the Hot Springs, before sailing back to Oia as the day ends with a spectacular sunset.

Day 3 - Discover Santorini with a guided <u>ATV-Quad tour</u> is a great alternative to your average cultural tour. See first-hand and learn about the local beaches and villages. Listen to locals share their love for the amazing Cycladic Island, as you experience beautiful locations and views. During this exhilarating experience, enjoy a delicious lunch of fresh local products, accompanied by ouzo-raki or wine. Enjoy a scenic tour with some of the greatest views of the Aegean sea. Ride between beaches and villages, you will enjoy the sights and sounds of the surrounding area.

(Alternatively, enjoy a horseback riding tour)







5 DAYS IN SANTORINI IS THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF TIME

5 DAY SANTORINI ITINERARY

Explore the heart of Santorini. 5 days is the perfect amount of time in Santorini. With 5 days, you will be relaxed and not struggling to see everything Santorini has to offer. Stay in two different places of the island to really submerse yourself in the culture.

Day 1 - Head straight to Fira to enjoy those postcard views of the caldera. Explore Fira's charming streets, visit local shops, and enjoy the stunning caldera views. Dine at a restaurant with a view of the caldera for your first Santorini sunset.

Day 2 - Enjoy lunch in Amoudi Bay, go for a swim. Explore Oía's picturesque streets, and visit some art galleries. Make sure to see the sunset in Oia for one of the best sunsets of your life.

Day 3 - Enjoy an adrenaline filled day with an exhilarating ATV or horseback ride.

Day 4 - Take a catamaran cruise to the most famous beaches, past the volcano and a dip in the hot springs before a sunset sail.

Day 5 - Hike Fira/Imerovigli to Skaros Rock before enjoying an evening full of wine and the last Santorini sunset.

CONTACT <u>NICK@NAVIGATORNICK.COM</u> FOR A CUSTOM ITINERARY

Day 1 - Head straight to Fira to enjoy those postcard views of the caldera. Explore Fira's charming streets, visit local shops, and enjoy the stunning caldera views. Dine at a restaurant with a view of the caldera for your first Santorini sunset. <u>See sunset</u> <u>bars on page 12</u>

Day 2 - enjoy lunch in Amoudi Bay. Go for a swim in the bay just around the corner from port or watch the cliff divers from afar. Make sure to get back up top to Oia for one of the best sunsets of your life. It is recommended to get to Oia about 1.5 hours before sunset. Alternatively, you could book dinner reservations a month in advanced with a sunset view.

Day 3 - Discover Santorini with a guided <u>ATV-Quad tour</u> is a great alternative to your average cultural tour. See first-hand and learn about the local beaches and villages. Listen to locals share their love for the amazing Cycladic Island, as you experience beautiful locations and views. During this exhilarating experience, enjoy a delicious lunch of fresh local products, accompanied by ouzo-raki or wine. Enjoy a scenic tour with some of the greatest views of the Aegean sea. Ride between beaches and villages, you will enjoy the sights and sounds of the surrounding area.

(Alternatively, enjoy a horseback ride)

Day 4 - Climb aboard the <u>74-foot Ocean Voyager or the 80-foot</u> <u>Tahiti catamaran</u> for a 5-hour cruise around Santorini in the Aegean Sea. Set off on a journey of discovery that will first take you to the hot springs, then the Red Beach, and finally the White Beach. Swim and snorkel and tuck into a delicious meal onboard. Start your adventure with a comfortable hotel pickup and set sail for beautiful Red Beach to swim and snorkel for 30 minutes. Continue to a secluded White Beach, only accessible from the sea, for more swimming and snorkeling in the shadow of the towering white cliffs. Continue sailing inside the crescent-shaped Caldera, close to the volcano, and enjoy a final dip in the Hot Springs, before sailing back to Oia as the day ends with a spectacular sunset.

Day 5 - Hike Fira/Imerovigli to Skaros Rock before enjoying an evening full of wine and the last Santorini sunset. Sip a glass of Vinsanto, a Santorini specialty made from dried grapes, whose sweet taste is renowned throughout Europe. Learn about Santorini's rich viticultural tradition which dates back to ancient times. In between your winery visits, drive through Santorini's impressive countryside admire its scenic villages.

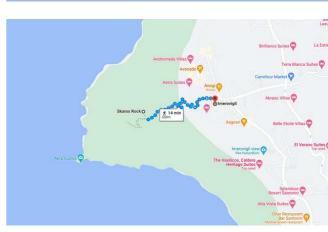






Euttooni







A WEEK IN ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN THE WORLD

7 DAY ULTIMATE SANTORINI ITINERARY

Explore everything Santorini has to offer in this full week itinerary.

Day 1 - Head straight to Fira to enjoy those postcard views of the caldera. Explore Fira's charming streets, visit local shops, and enjoy the stunning caldera views. Dine at a restaurant with a view of the caldera for your first Santorini sunset.

Day 2 - Enjoy lunch in Amoudi Bay, go for a swim. Explore Oía's picturesque streets, and visit some art galleries. Make sure to see the sunset in Oia for one of the best sunsets of your life.

Day 3 - Enjoy an adrenaline filled day with an exhilarating ATV or horseback ride.

Day 4 - Take a catamaran cruise to the most famous beaches, past the volcano and a dip in the hot springs before a sunset sail.

Day 5 - Hike Fira/Imerovigli to Skaros Rock before enjoying an evening full of wine and another fabulous Santorini sunset.

Day 6 - Head to Kamari Beach with its lively atmosphere, water sports, and beachfront bars. In the afternoon, explore the ancient ruins of Thera, perched high on a hill with breathtaking views.

Day 7 - Spend your last full day at Perissa Beach, enjoying sun and sea. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a restaurant with a view, celebrating your memorable week in Santorini.

CONTACT <u>NICK@NAVIGATORNICK.COM</u> FOR A CUSTOM ITINERARY

Day 1 - Head straight to Fira to enjoy those postcard views of the caldera. Explore Fira's charming streets, visit local shops, and enjoy the stunning caldera views. Dine at a restaurant with a view of the caldera for your first Santorini sunset. <u>See sunset</u> <u>bars on page 12</u>

Day 2 - enjoy lunch in Amoudi Bay. Go for a swim in the bay just around the corner from port or watch the cliff divers from afar. Make sure to get back up top to Oia for one of the best sunsets of your life. It is recommended to get to Oia about 1.5 hours before sunset. Alternatively, you could book dinner reservations a month in advanced with a sunset view.

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(Alternatively, enjoy a horseback ride)

Day 4 - Climb aboard the <u>74-foot Ocean Voyager or the 80-foot</u> <u>Tahiti catamaran</u> for a 5-hour cruise around Santorini in the Aegean Sea. Set off on a journey of discovery that will first take you to the hot springs, then the Red Beach, and finally the White Beach. Swim and snorkel and tuck into a delicious meal onboard. Start your adventure with a comfortable hotel pickup and set sail for beautiful Red Beach to swim and snorkel for 30 minutes. Continue to a secluded White Beach, only accessible from the sea, for more swimming and snorkeling in the shadow of the towering white cliffs. Continue sailing inside the crescent-shaped Caldera, close to the volcano, and enjoy a final dip in the Hot Springs, before sailing back to Oia as the day ends with a spectacular sunset.

Day 5 - Hike Fira/Imerovigli to Skaros Rock before enjoying an evening full of wine and the last Santorini sunset. Sip a glass of Vinsanto, a Santorini specialty made from dried grapes, whose sweet taste is renowned throughout Europe. Learn about Santorini's rich viticultural tradition which dates back to ancient times. In between your winery visits, drive through Santorini's impressive countryside admire its scenic villages.

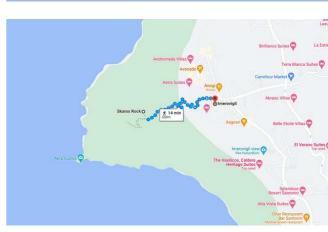






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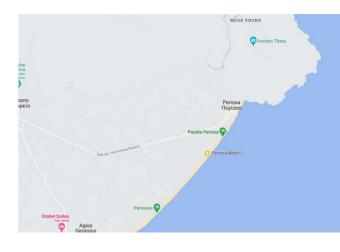




Day 6 - Head to Kamari Beach with its lively atmosphere, water sports, and beachfront bars. This gorgeous black-sand beach is located on the southeast of Santorini, right at the foot of Mesa Vuono Mountain. It's a great place to sunbathe and swim—it's been awarded the Blue Flag for its clean and clear waters after all. There are lots more to do too—there are sun loungers and umbrellas for rent, Greek taverns and bars nearby, and water sports like jetskiing. Just be sure to wear protective footwear as the pebbly terrain can be sharp and hot. It's best to arrive early, especially during the summer, for fewer crowds. In the afternoon, explore the ancient ruins of Thera, perched high on a hill with breathtaking views.



Day 7- Enjoy your last day in Santorini relaxing at Perissa Beach, enjoying the sun and sea breeze. This idyllic beach in Santorini is famous for its black sand, the result of the volcanic activity that created the island. Calm conditions and crystal-clear waters teeming with fish make for excellent snorkeling and swimming. Enjoy a relaxing day of bathing in the Mediterranean sun and stay until the evening to catch the spectacular sunset over the Aegean sea, framed by the Mesa Vouno mountain. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a restaurant with a view, celebrating your memorable week in Santorini.



Q IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Here are some useful contacts for your holiday in Santorini:

- Port Authority of Santorini: +302286022239
- Athinios Port Authority: +302286025015
- Information Office: +302286025940
- General Hospital of Thira: +302286035300
- Santorini Central Clinic (Fira): +302286021728
- Police Station: +302286022649
- Citizen Service Center: +302286360123
- Municipality of Thira: +302286360101
- Public bus service (KTEL): +302286025404
- Santorini International Airport: +302286028400

GET INSPIRED! SANTORINI ACTIVITIES







