



## Holiday in Greece Itinerary

### Day 1 Athens Sunday, April 3

Arrive at Athens airport in the early afternoon and meet your driver who will chauffeur you to your hotel located in the central Plaka District. In the shadow of the Acropolis and its ancient temples, hillside Plaka has a village feel with narrow cobblestone streets lined with tiny shops and sidewalk cafés. Check in to your Superior room with a view of the august Acropolis. In the evening, gather with your friends to enjoy dinner and live music at Stamatopoulos Taverna, a traditional Greek taverna established in 1882 as a grocery store that served local wine. Still run by the same family, it is now a lively place to dine outdoors on the atmospheric patio. (B,D)

[Electra Palace Athens](https://electrahotels.gr/en/athens/electra-palace-athens) (3 nights) [electrahotels.gr/en/athens/electra-palace-athens](https://electrahotels.gr/en/athens/electra-palace-athens)

### Day 2 Athens Monday, April 4

Explore Ancient Greece with your expert guide as you visit the Acropolis, the ancient citadel located on a rocky outcrop above the city of Athens. The Acropolis contains the remains of several ancient buildings of great architectural and historical significance, the most famous being the Parthenon, the temple devoted to Athena, the goddess of wisdom. Your guide will then take you on a tour of the highlights of Old Town, the Plaka District, reciting tales about its illustrious past. After the tour, your guide will host a 3-course lunch at one of the best traditional restaurants in Athens. This would be a good opportunity to ask him for suggestions of what to see and do on your free day tomorrow. (B,L)

### Day 3 Athens Tuesday, April 5

Sleep in and enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel. You have the day to yourself for shopping, sightseeing, wandering, eating, and imbibing at your leisure. Indulge in a spa treatment at the hotel. Visit the National Archaeological Museum, exhibiting the world's best collection of ancient Greek art, within walking distance of the hotel. In the evening, join your friends at a local Taverna or in the hotel lounge to share stories of your day. (B)

### Day 4 Athens – Santorini Wednesday, April 6

After a leisurely breakfast, depart the hotel for the Athens airport and your short flight to Santorini, Greece's most geologically-dramatic island. Flying south, high above the Aegean Sea, view the dozens of Greek islands dotting the sea. Santorini is located in the southern part of the Cyclades, a group of islands in the Aegean Sea southeast of mainland Greece. On the edge of an ancient volcano's crater, Santorini is renowned for cliff-hanging white villages, blue-domed churches, volcanic sand beaches, and spectacular sunsets. A driver will pick you up at the small airport in Santorini and chauffeur you to the luxurious Erossea Villa, your home for the next 5 days.

Erossea Villa is a spacious and newly renovated “cave” home with modern amenities. Cave homes are traditional Santorini homes that are partially dug into volcanic rock and perched on the rim of an ancient crater. They are famous both for their cubic form and their white color which reflects light. The Erossea Villa, a renovation of several cave homes, has 5 Bedrooms/5 bathrooms dispersed on two levels connected by an outdoor staircase. Each level has its own living and dining area and kitchenette. The top level opens up to a large terrace with spectacular views of the Aegean Sea. The terrace has a heated pool, jacuzzi, sunbeds, and outdoor dining.

The villa is located in the village of Imerovigli, home to some of the most beautiful and traditional cave houses. The village is set at the highest, most central part of the caldera, making it one of the most dramatic “balconies” on the island. It is well-known for its views of the Aegean Sea and spectacular sunsets. There is a main square which leads up to the caldera and the cave settlements. The bus stop is located on this main square. A food market, shops, restaurants and cafés are located just a short walking distance from the Villa.

After settling in to your comfortable room, gather with your friends on the terrace to enjoy local wine and tapas, welcome gifts from your Greek hosts. Spend the early evening wandering the neighborhood, shopping at the nearby market, swimming in the heated pool, soaking in the jacuzzi, lounging on a sun bed, and watching the sunset while sipping wine on the terrace. (B,D)  
[Erossea Villa](http://www.erosseavilla.com) (5 nights) [www.erosseavilla.com](http://www.erosseavilla.com)

#### **Days 5 Santorini Thursday, April 7**

Begin each morning with breakfast freshly prepared by your Greek hostess and served on the terrace. Daily excursions will be suggested, but plans are flexible and optional (except for the guided tour on Day 6). Feel free to make your own plans – this is your Holiday in Greece! Each day is an opportunity to enjoy the amenities of the Villa or visit the shops, cafés, and tavernas of Imerovigli. Check the local, easy-to-follow bus schedule and visit other parts of the island. Today, the suggested excursion is a 2-hour hike from the Villa to one of Greece’s most picturesque towns, Oia. Step out your front door and follow the trail along the rim of the caldera. The hike includes spectacular, cliff-top walking with the sparkling, azure Aegean Sea stretching for miles before your eyes. Once you reach Oia, spend as much time as you like – shopping, dining, and photographing this picture-perfect town. If you don’t wish to go on the hike, you can take the bus or a taxi to Oia to meet your friends. Whenever you’re ready to leave Oia, take the local bus back to Imerovigli. The buses depart about every half hour for the 20-minute direct ride. (B)

#### **Day 6 Santorini Friday, April 8**

Today, with your friends, you will experience a 5-hour tour of scenic and historical highlights of Santorini with a private driver/guide. Visit archaeological sites, castles, and monasteries, and volcanic rock formations. Make stops at two wineries to learn how grapes are grown and wine is produced on the island. The rich volcanic soil gives the varietals their uniqueness. Tour the vineyards and wine cellars and taste local wines paired with local tapas. (B,L)

#### **Day 7 Santorini Saturday, April 9**

A suggested excursion for today is a visit to the city of Fira, Santorini’s capital and main town, a 30-minute walk. On the way, stop at Agios Theodori Church in Firostevani. With its vivid blue dome, bright-yellow bell tower, and breath-taking caldera backdrop, it is the only classic Santorini dome where you can snap a photo of the church with only water behind it. In Fira, stroll the historic streets and neighborhoods and visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thira, displaying items found in the ancient city buried under ash. Return to the Villa by bus, taxi or walkway. (B)

**Day 8 Santorini Sunday, April 10**

Today's suggested excursion is a visit to nearby Skaros Rock, a rocky headland that protrudes out to the Aegean Sea. In earlier days, a majestic castle was located here, ruined in an earthquake in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Legend says the castle was never conquered in its 600 years of existence. To reach the rock, follow the well-defined trail that originates at the Agios Georgios Church and connects Skaros with Imerovigli. Climb the steps to the top – the views are breathtaking. On your last evening in Santorini, you and your friends will enjoy a special experience. A professional chef will prepare a gourmet Greek meal to be served at sunset on the terrace. Under the stars and with candles flickering, share highlights and stories of your Holiday in Greece. (B,D)

**Day 9 Santorini – Athens Monday, April 11**

Depart Santorini on a late morning flight to Athens. Upon arrival, collect your luggage and walk across the street to the Sofitel Hotel, your home for the night. In the evening, gather in the hotel's lounge for a farewell toast to Greece. (B)

Sofitel Athens Airport (1 night) <https://all.accor.com/hotel/3167/index.en.shtml>

**Day 10 Athens – Home Tuesday, April 12**

Walk back across the street and depart Athens Airport for your flight home.

**\$3,650 per person (+\$450 single supplement) includes:**

- Accommodations, meals, tours, admissions as stated in the itinerary
- Services of private drivers and guides + gratuities
- Round-trip flight Athens/Santorini/Athens

