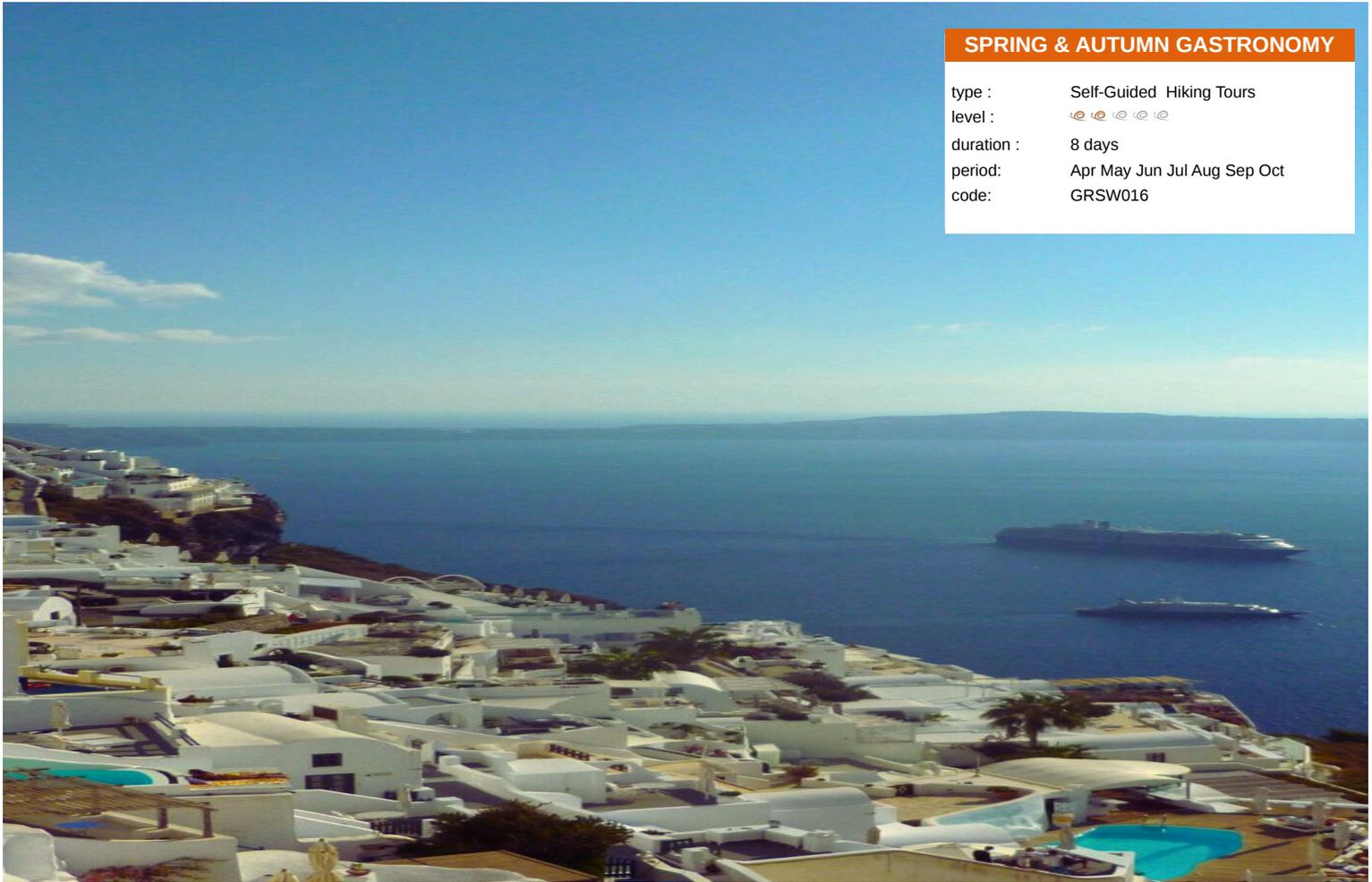


SPRING & AUTUMN GASTRONOMY

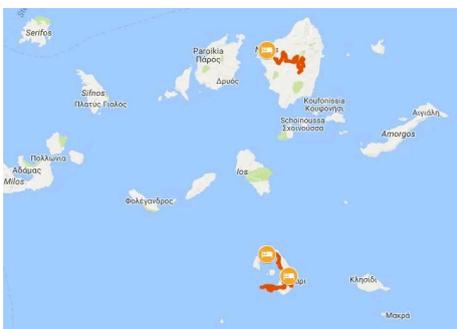
type : Self-Guided Hiking Tours
 level : 
 duration : 8 days
 period: Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
 code: GRSW016



The Cyclades: Naxos & Santorini - Greece

The Cyclades: Naxos & Santorini

8 days, price from € 638



This journey includes two among the most beautiful islands of the Cyclades: **Naxos**, the island of contrasts, and **Santorini**, which do not need presentation. One week though green olive-orchards and the sharp contrast of deep blue **Aegean Sea**, which you will be able to enjoy from the summit of **Mount Zas**.

You will discover the beauties of **Naxos**, the place where as the **Greek myth** tells Theseus abandoned Arianna: in this island, the biggest of the Cyclades, a lively night life coexists with heartfelt traditions.

Santorini feels like no other place on heart: the whitewashed cube-shaped houses and bright blue doors and windows is famous worldwide. You will discover its secrets walking slowly through the narrow paved streets and steep cliffs, result of an explosion of the Thira Volcano thousands of years ago.

To crown it all, you will enjoy the signature flavours of **Greek kitchen**: dishes based on fresh fish, seasoned with olive oil, a real local specialty.

IMPORTANT: Flight requirements for this itinerary: Arrival before 13:00 at Santorini Airport

Route

Day 1 Arrival in Santorini; boat to Naxos

Your trip starts at Santorini airport where you will be met by a taxi which will take you to the port for your ferry to Naxos. The ferry journey between the islands takes two hours. On Naxos you will be met at the port and taken to your hotel. If the day time allows you to do so, you can make the 1,5 hour walk to Chrisostomos starting from the port. This way you get to know the town and will admire great views over Chora whilst stretching your legs.

If your flight arrives too late for the ferry to Naxos and your outbound flight is after 6 pm, you will stay first in Santorini and then in Naxos.

Day 2 Loop from Chalki, 10 km or 14 km or 19 km

A bus will take you to **Chalki**, located in the center of the **Tragea plain**. Today you explore this fertile inner land of Naxos, with secular olive trees and rich vegetation. You will walk on cobble paths to the majestic statue of an **unfinished Korouros** from the 6th century BC. Along your way you will find the **fortified hamlet of Kastro**. The walk ends in **Melanes**, where a bus will take you back to the hotel.

Distance: 10, 14 or 19 Km

Ascent/descent: +150, 300 or 400/-150 or -300 m

Day 3 Walk from Kynidaros to Eggares, 7 km

After a short transfer to Kynidaros, enjoy a gentle walk to the small village of Eggares. Explore its **picturesque churches** and two restored **olive presses** one of which dates back to 1885. Enjoy lunch in one of the tavernas on the stone- built main square before returning to your hotel. Visit of the olive press in Eggares

Distance: 7 Km

Ascent/descent: +100/-400 m

Day 4 Walk from Filoti to Apiranthos via Mt Zas, 12 km

Today you will take another public bus or taxi to the village of Filoti to start today's walk. From the village, built at the foothills of Mt. Zas (also known as **Mount Zeus**), you climb to the summit of this legendary mountain. Upon reaching the summit, you will be rewarded with **panoramic views of Naxos and the surrounding islands**. After descending back down, you walk through agricultural fields and along a monastery to the village Apiranthos one of the biggest villages on Naxos.

After a relaxing break in a local café, you can take a taxi or public bus back to Naxos Chora.

Distance: 12 Km

Ascent/descent: +650/-650 m

Day 5 From Naxos to Santorini, 7.3 km

Today you will travel from Naxos to Santorini. In the morning you may visit the **Castle** in Naxos town (Chora) and the museum and enjoy a relaxing morning. The hotel bus will take you to the port of Naxos. The ferry usually departs around one o'clock and arrives two and a half hours later on Santorini. As the ferry arrives through the submerged volcano crater you will be impressed by the **views to the steep coloured cliffs** of this ancient volcanic island and the whitewashed villages on top. It is said that the eruption that happened here 3,600 years ago, ended the Minoan Civilization. It may also have been **the source for the legend of Atlantis**. You may walk a short round walk from Akrotiri along the caldera or you visit Akrotiri Ancient Site that is within walking distance from your hotel.

Distance: 7,3 Km

Ascent/descent: +240/-240 m

Day 6 Walk from Perissa to Akrotiri, 13 km

Today a transfer will take you to Perissa, from where you start climbing via an old path to an exposed saddle. This part of the island is one of the very few places that pre-dates the devastating volcanic eruption. First you walk up to **Ancient Thira** - the capital of the island in Ancient and Roman times, then descend via an old path to the quiet interior of the island, walking through vineyards and through picturesque villages. Continuing through the volcanic landscape, you walk back to Akrotiri village.

Distance: 13 Km

Ascent/descent: +580/-550 m

Day 7 Walk from Fira to Oia, 10.3 km

This morning you will catch a public bus to Fira, the capital of Santorini. Here you can explore the **narrow alleyways of this whitewashed town**, built on the top of the volcanic cliffs. You may also wish to visit the museum of prehistoric Thira and the Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon, you make the famous walk from Fira to Oia. You will mainly walk along a well-maintained mule-path with **fabulous views of the lagoon** and the spectacular steep cliffs. When you reach the small town of Oia you will be picked up and transferred back to your hotel.

Distance: 10,3 Km

Ascent/descent: +300/-400 m

Day 8 Holiday ends in Santorini

A transfer will bring you from the hotel to the Santorini airport.

Accommodation

7 nights in bed and breakfast basis (3 nights in Naxos, 4 nights in Santorini)



Hotel Anixis - Naxos
www.hotelanixis.gr



Kalimera Hotel - Santorini
www.kalimerasantorini.com

Practical info



You will travel in and out from Athens airport. If your flight arrives before 14:30 hrs., you will be transferred to Piraeus port and travel on the 17:30 hrs. ferry to Naxos (duration of the ferry is app. 5,5 hrs). If you arrive after 14:30 hrs, you will travel to Athens center by public transport or taxi, and will be transferred to Piraeus the next day in the early morning. You may also book an additional transfer from the airport to Athens with S-Cape. Your transfer from Piraeus port to your hotel in Athens at the end of your trip is included. You will travel by public transport or taxi from Athens to the airport on your departure day.



GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 7 Nights in double room in **/** hotels with breakfast
- Ferry tickets Santorini-Naxos and Naxos-Santorini
- All transfers as described in the day by day program
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.