





One of Santorini's famous churches

Quick Facts

Country	Greece	
Currency	Euro (€)	
Language	Greek	
Population	12,000	
Time Zone	EET + 3 hours	

Climate

Summer Av Max	27°C	
Autumn Av Max	18°	
Winter Av Max	15°C	
Spring Av Max	22°C	

Introducing Santorini

[Santorini](#) is a small archipelago of volcanic islands in the south of the Greek Cyclades islands, made up of Thera (the largest island), Aspronisi and Therasia. Santorini is home to almost every iconic image of all that is typically Greek, from white villages set against endless blue oceans to smiling villagers and donkeys used to ferry luggage up its steep cliffs.

The fact that Santorini is now a major stop for most Mediterranean cruise ships should not dismay you – one spectacular sunset later and you will forget the crowds of tourists and be transported into a landscape so surreal you would think it only exists in high-end travel brochures.

Santorini's recent popularity surge has of course made it more accessible for most travellers, opening up an array of boutique and beachfront hotels, with something to suit any budget. The towns of Oia, in the north of the island, and Fira, the capital, are the places to head for stunning white houses built into the hillside and breath-taking blue-roofed churches set against the endless sea.

Oia is a postcard-perfect town. Its blue-domed churches have graced the covers of luxury travel magazines the world over, and its fabulous white terraces with endless ocean views have entertained celebrities, travellers and locals alike for many years.

What to See and Do in Santorini

Volcano and Caldera The islands making up Santorini were formed by an ancient volcanic explosion which sunk the inner cone of the volcano, thus flooding it and leaving it surrounded by steep cliffs. Boat excursions out into the bay between the main island of Santorini and Therasia reveal the layers of volcanic debris making up the cliffs which lead up to Fira. There are also two volcanic islands in the centre of the bay; Palea Kameni, the oldest, and Nea Kameni, whose youngest lavas are only fifty years old.

Akrotiri Akrotiri is an ancient excavation site on Santorini which reveals a well-preserved Minoan city buried by ash and lava, in much the same way as Pompeii was. Interesting though is the lack of human skeletal remains, an indication to archaeologists that the town was most likely evacuated in good time, resulting in little or no loss of life.

Santorini's Black Beaches

The beaches of Perivolos, Kamari and Perissa are famed for their dark, black sand – remnants of the ancient volcanic explosions. The sea water at these beaches is also slightly warmer than at 'paler' beaches due to the sand retaining the sun's warmth.

Oia Two of Oia's most popular tourist offerings are its amazing sunsets and its traditional cave houses. These houses have been carved into the volcanic cliffs on which the town is built, and some are hundreds of years old.

Getting into Santorini

From Santorini Thira Airport (JTR) The cheapest way to reach your resort is by the public airport bus service, which runs every 30 minutes. Shared airport transfers are also a convenient way to travel, and usually in air-conditioned coaches. These can usually be arranged with your hotel.

Taxis are available outside the airport however they may be in high demand during the peak tourist season. Taxis operate on a fixed price for the various resorts and towns.

By Ferry Of the island's two ports, Athinios Port is the one used daily for ferries. The other, the Old Port, is mainly used as an off-shore berth for cruise ships whilst their passengers are transferred to Santorini for a day of sightseeing. Athinios Port is well connected to many of the Greek islands and mainland, including Athens, Mykonos, and Thessaloniki.

Dining in Santorini

Traditional Greek Dishes If your previous experience of Greek cuisine is limited to the 'Greek salad' at your local restaurant, you will be pleasantly surprised when you visit Santorini. Greek dishes use many seasonal ingredients such as zucchini, aubergine and cucumber, as well as locally made specialities like tzaziki and feta cheese. Meat dishes most often use lamb and seafood, and there are always vegetarian options.

Local Cuisine and Customs As with most popular tourist destinations, dining out in Santorini can be a case of finding the few authentic restaurants amongst the sea of tourist-orientated venues. The main trick to this is avoiding restaurants situated directly on the beach and on popular squares – the hard-to-find restaurants where locals eat are, well, hard to find. Try searching down quiet roads or, an easier way, ask a few locals what their favourite restaurant it.

Getting Around Santorini

Most of the towns on the island are well connected by roads, so it is easy to explore by local bus, hire car or taxi. Bicycles are also an option in the spring or autumn (summer would be too hot to cycle around) however bear in mind the often steep hills.

Once inside towns such as Fira or Oia, the best way to explore is on foot as due to their age, most of the squares and ancient houses are only accessible by foot (or donkey!).

The public buses are very reliable and run every half an hour during the summer. Their routes include every village and town on the island, so are a very effective and affordable way of getting around.

Santorini Image Gallery



Our Santorini Favourites...

Hotels

\$\$\$ [Vedema Resort Santorini](#)
Megalohori



\$\$\$ [Zannos Melathron](#)
Pyrgos, GR-84700



\$ [Santo Miramare](#)
Perivolos Santorini



\$ [Aegean Plaza Hotel](#)
Kamari Beach



\$ [Roussos Beach Hotel](#)
Kamari Beach



Restaurants

\$\$\$ [Kapari Hotel](#)
Imeroviglio – traditional cuisine, views, fine dining



\$\$ [Lotza](#)
Nomikou pedestrian, Oia – amazing views, traditional food, smart casual dining



\$ [Aktaion](#)
Firostefani – casual dining, Greek cuisine, shop as well



Don't miss...

Santorini's Vineyards

Why? Surprised to find vineyards on Santorini? The island is well known for its unique tasting desert and white wines, made from the Assyrtiko grape.



Best Experiences

Volcano Sailing

Explore the ancient caldera and volcano by sailing boat and spend time on the two uninhabited islands in the centre of the crater.

Flavours of Greece

Enjoy all the culinary pleasures Santorini has to offer with a cooking class or wine tour.

Oia Sunset

As the best place to see the sunset, Oia can become very crowded. Enjoy the sunset over dinner at a restaurant to escape the crowds.