

## ART IN GREECE Athens - Paros - Santorini (10 Days / 9 Nights)

### Day 1: Athens Arrival

Upon arrival at Athens International Airport the Destination Greece representative will welcome you and escort you to your hotel

### Day 2: Athens - Cycladic Art and Benaki Museums



After breakfast we start with a visit to the Museum of Cycladic Art (MCA). The Museum of Cycladic Art is dedicated to the study and promotion of ancient cultures of the Aegean and Cyprus, with special emphasis on Cycladic Art of the 3rd millennium BC.

It was founded in 1986, to house the collection of Nicholas and Dolly Goulandris. Since then it has grown in size to accommodate new acquisitions, obtained either through direct purchases or through donations by important collectors and institutions.

Today, in the galleries of the MCA the visitor can approach three major subjects; the Cycladic Culture of the Early Bronze Age (3,200 - 2,000 BC), the Ancient Greek Art, from the Bronze Age to Late Roman times (2nd millennium BC - 4th century AD) and the Cypriot Culture from the Chalcolithic Age to the Early Christian period (4th millennium BC - 6th century AD).

We continue with a visit to the Benaki Museum. Its group of collections comprises many distinct categories totaling more than 40,000 items, illustrating the character of the Greek world through a spectacular historical panorama: from antiquity and the age of Roman domination to the medieval Byzantine period; from the fall of Constantinople (1453) and the centuries of Frankish and Ottoman occupation to the outbreak of the struggle for independence in 1821; and from the



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### Day 3: Athens - Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum

Enjoy breakfast and then start on a journey in the ancient past of Greece. We visit the most important sites of the city and the pinnacle of the ancient Greek state of Athens, the Acropolis and Parthenon. Conclude the day with a visit to the unique, world-known, Museum of Acropolis

### Day 4: Athens - National Art Gallery

After breakfast you will be transferred to the National Art Gallery. The National Gallery-Alexandros Soutzos Museum, as it was named upon its merger with the homonymous bequest, now houses more than 15,000 works of painting, sculpture, engraving and other forms of art and it is a treasury of Greek artistic creation from the post-Byzantine period until today. It also comprises a smaller collection of important Western European artworks



### Day 5: Athens - Island of Paros

Morning transfer to the port of Piraeus to embark the ferryboat to the island of Paros. Arrival in Paros and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure for you to explore the art galleries at Chora

### Day 6: Paros

Tour to the Ekatontapiliani church. The temple of Panaya of Ekatontapiliani is situated in Parikia, the capital of Paros Island, a short distance from its port.

It is one of the oldest and the best-maintained Christian temples, which is to be found in Greece. Its real name seems to be "Katapoliani" because it is "towards the city" (kata-polis), that is, towards the ancient city. The name Ekatontapiliani, which is its official name today, is a creation by scholars from the 17th century and whose purpose was to give it

more worth and was thus named like the ancient Hundred Gates of Thebes in Egypt.

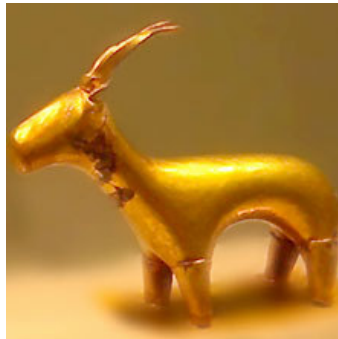
Optional afternoon painting lessons or optional Greek Art lecture

#### Day 7: Paros - Santorini

Transfer to Paros port to embark the ferry to Santorini. Arrival in Santorini and transfer to your hotel. Day at leisure for you to relax and explore the island

#### Day 8: Santorini

Today we will be visiting the Museum of prehistoric Thira, as well as the Archeological museum in Fira.



Noteworthy in the Archeological museum are a fine collection of geometric red and black vases from the fifth century BC. Inscriptions are plentiful among the displays in the museum and a certain amount of Minoan ware is also

on exhibit.

The museum also hosts impressive frescoes, as well as sculptures of the Hellenistic period, Byzantine works of art and even some remains of prehistoric times.

Noteworthy in the Museum Prehistoric Thira among the numerous exhibits from the period when the city at Akrotiri was at its zenith (17th century BC) are the plaster casts of furniture, the household equipment, the bronze vessels, tools and weapons, the objects that bear witness to the practice of metalworking, the sealings, seals and Linear A tablets.

Impressive too are the magnificent wall painting ensembles (wall painting of Ladies and Papyri, wall painting of the Blue Monkeys) and fragments of others (the African, Adorant Monkeys, Bird, floral motifs).

Last, there are numerous and luxurious clay vases including the remarkable pithos with the bull, vases of stone and of clay imported from different parts of the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean, and the gold ibex figurine, a remarkable recent find

#### Day 9: Santorini

Day at leisure for you to explore Oia and its magnificent sunset, or Kamari beach with its mile long black sand beach or Perissa beach and the Akrotiri area. Relax and enjoy what many consider to be the remains of Atlantis



to Athens

#### Day 10: Athens - Departure

Transfer from your hotel to Santorini airport for your flight

#### SERVICES INCLUDED

- ✓ Arrival at Athens Int'l airport. Welcome and briefing by Destination Greece representative. Transfer to your hotel in Athens
- ✓ Accommodation for 4 nights in Athens in a selected, centrally located hotel sharing double occupancy in standard double room on bed and breakfast basis
- ✓ Guided tour to the Cycladic Art and Benaki museums,
- ✓ Guided tour to the Acropolis
- ✓ Visit the National Art Gallery
- ✓ Transfer from Athens to Piraeus port
- ✓ Economy one-way ferry tickets from Piraeus to Paros and from Paros to Santorini
- ✓ Transfer from Paros port to hotel
- ✓ Accommodation for 2 nights in Paros in a selected hotel sharing double occupancy in standard double room on bed and breakfast basis
- ✓ Ekatonpailiani church guided tour
- ✓ Transfer from hotel to Paros port
- ✓ Transfer from Santorini port to hotel
- ✓ Accommodation for 3 nights in Santorini in a selected hotel sharing double occupancy in standard double room on bed and breakfast basis
- ✓ Visit the Archeological Museum and the Museum of Prehistoric Thira in Fira
- ✓ Transfer from hotel to airport
- ✓ Economy one-way air tickets from Santorini to Athens
- ✓ All service fees and local taxes, VAT, 24-hour assistance telephone service

**NOT INCLUDED:** anything not explicitly shown in the services included above