

GREEK ISLAND HOPPER



Santorini - Mykonos - Athens, Greece

US Departure Date: **June 12, 2027**

Santorini Land Tour Start Date: **June 13, 2027**

Athens Return Date: **June 20, 2027**

9 Days from: **\$2998**



START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow VCU Young Alumni?

The VCU Alumni Alumni Travel Program, designed for recent grads in their 20s and 30s, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning, enrichment and enjoying a connection back to VCU. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 50 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/vcu and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Bass
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations
Virginia Commonwealth University

Travel insurance is compulsory. Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate. If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or visit this link: <https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/get-a-quote.html?partner=AESU3922>

WHAT'S INCLUDED

HEY SUN SEEKER!

You have been dreaming about sun-kissed beaches, breath-taking coastal views, or to be more specific: the Greek Islands of Mykonos and Santorini. Get ready to discover archaeological treasures, history and culture – not to forget, delicious mediterranean foods. Unearth myths and legends of ancient Athens, visit the magnificent Acropolis, and wander the paths of Plato, Socrates and Sophocles. This is your bucket list trip and now is the time to make dreams come true!

9-DAY TOUR OF SANTORINI, MYKONOS, AND ATHENS

Transportation and Lodging

- 7 nights in 3 or 4-star hotels, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- All ground transportation by private motor coach as per itinerary
- Airport transfers with purchased AESU group airfare
- Ferries or ships from Santorini to Mykonos and Mykonos to Athens

Meals

- 7 continental breakfasts
- 3 dinners
- 1 lunch

Activities & Admissions

- Santorini walking tour
- Pre-historic settlement and archaeological excavations at Akrotiri
- Admission and guided tour of Akrotiri
- Hill-top town of Pyrgos
- Tour and wine tasting at Venetsanos winery (or similar)
- Guided tour of Mykonos town
- Guided tour of Athens, led by a local historian
- Admission to Acropolis and Acropolis Museum
- Greek music and dancing

Sights & Highlights

- Famous beaches of Santorini and Mykonos islands
- Santorini caldera
- Azure waters of Aegean Sea
- Mount Profitis Ilias mountaintop views
- Hillside village of Pyrgos
- White-washed, blue-domes typical Greek villages
- Amazing sunsets
- Mykonos windmills
- Little Venice (Alekandra)
- Athens Acropolis
- Temple of Zeus
- Plaka District
- Parliament Square
- Olympic Stadium

Optional Excursions (not included in land package price):

- Optional Santorini catamaran sailing cruise
- Optional excursion from Mykonos to Delos

Also Included

A private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour. All service charges and local taxes are covered. Airfare is an additional cost.

EXPERIENCES

This trip has been carefully designed for young travelers and features fantastic inclusions and highlights. For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/experiences



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/ACTIVE

This trip features a full and active itinerary sometimes at a fast pace and offers activities with higher intensity.



HOTELS

Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or rooftop bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$765 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

TOUR DIRECTORS

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. Show your tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$8-10 per person/per day for your tour director and \$4-5 per person/per day for your driver. To learn more visit www.aesu.com/tour-directors

ITINERARY

DAY 1: TRAVEL TO GREECE

Sparkling azure seas and endless golden skies appear on the horizon as our overnight flight transports us back to the origins of civilization, Ancient Greece.

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2: SANTORINI: LAND TOUR START DATE

Kalimera – Welcome to Santorini, “Black Pearl of the Aegean” with its towering red cliffs rising steeply out of the water. Archaeologists have speculated the surrounding waters hold the secret of the lost continent of Atlantis. Meet your tour director and join fellow travelers on a walking tour of the town before our “welcome to the Greek Isles” dinner. Don’t miss the breathtaking caldera sunset before returning to your hotel.

Meals: In-flight | Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare | Welcome orientation | Welcome to the Greek Isles dinner

DAY 3: SANTORINI

Renowned for its amazing natural beauty, Santorini is one of Europe’s must-experience hotspots. It embodies the iconic image of the Greek islands with whitewashed, blue-domed villages clinging to the cliff face surrounded by the sparkling Aegean Sea.

Today we visit the archaeological site of Akrotiri, a Minoan Bronze Age settlement that came to an abrupt end in approximately 1613 BC with a catastrophic volcanic eruption. Beginning in 1967, excavations of the Minoan town revealed buildings, drainage systems, and pottery, but no human remains or gold valuables, indicating locals had time to flee before disaster hit.

We visit Venetsanos winery, carved into the cliffs just above the port of Athinios. After a tour of the winery, we get to taste some of their crisp whites, such as Santorini and Nychteri, Mandilaria red or try a rosé Anagallis then finish off with a dessert wine called Liastos.

Before we return to Oia, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for panoramic views followed by a visit to Pyrgos, a picturesque hillside village set on a volcanic crater at the highest point of the island, offering more stunning vistas to drink in.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: Akrotiri excursion | Admission to Akrotiri | Guided tour of Akrotiri | Island lunch at a local restaurant | Mountain top views from Mount Profitis Ilias | Visit to the hillside village of Pyrgos | Tour and tasting at Venetsanos winery

DAY 4: SANTORINI

In 1500 BC a volcanic eruption sank the center of Santorini, forming one of the most significant geological formations on the planet – the awe-inspiring caldera.

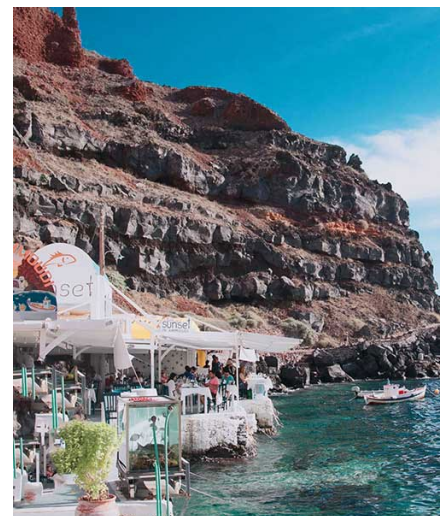
Today is free for you to just relax on a beach or explore. Consider a walking tour along the caldera crater rim, starting in Thira town and continuing through little villages all the way to Oia. Pass steep cliff faces and experience breathtaking views along the way.

Alternatively, join an optional excursion around the active crater of Nea Kameni, and sail along the rugged volcanic shores, where black lava rocks and white pumice combine with deep red lava. Take time to swim in the warm waters heated by the hot springs on the sea floor.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Multi-colored beaches of Santorini

Optional activity: Catamaran sailing cruise



DAY 5: SANTORINI - MYKONOS

We board our ship for an approx. 3-hour trip to Mykonos, a beautiful island named for Apollo's grandson. Mykonos is legendary, known in ancient Greek mythology as the battlefield where Zeus fought the Giants. Join our local expert for a walk through the maze-like old town and explore Little Venice, aka Alefkandra, one of the most romantic neighborhoods.

This is a perfect spot for selfies with elegant old houses situated precariously on the edge of the sea and the famous Mykonos windmills as your backdrop. After our Mediterranean welcome dinner, our tour director takes us to the perfect spot to sit back and enjoy another magnificent Aegean sunset.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Ship from Santorini to Mykonos | Walking tour of Mykonos with local expert | Little Venice/Alefkandra | Mykonos windmills | Mediterranean dinner

DAY 6: MYKONOS

Today you are on your own to comb the sands or bronze your body on Paradise Beach where there are exciting opportunities for all types of fun water sports. Feed the friendly pelicans or lose yourself in the maze of alleys and villas that were built to confuse invading pirates.

If you are up to exploring the surrounding area you may consider joining our optional excursion: sail to Delos, the uninhabited island of Apollo's birth, where carved lions dating from the 5th century stand on cliffs overlooking the sea. Various teams of French archaeologists have been excavating here for more than 100 years.

Back in Mykonos tonight "go native" and learn Greek dancing at a lively harbor taverna.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Mykonos beach time

Optional activity: Excursion to the island of Delos

DAY 7: MYKONOS - ATHENS

With seagulls following our wake we sun ourselves on deck as our ship glides through fabled cobalt blue waters to Athens, leaving behind the international jet setter's favorite island.

Enjoy a free evening to explore the narrow winding paths of the Plaka District – Athens' oldest neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis. Perhaps enjoy some gyros and ouzo in a charming square, then stroll with friends past the myriad of jewelry shops, art galleries, tavernas, cafes and lively clubs – Opa!

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Ship from Mykonos to Athens | Transfer from Mykonos hotel to harbor | Transfer from Athens Piraeus harbor to hotel

DAY 8: ATHENS

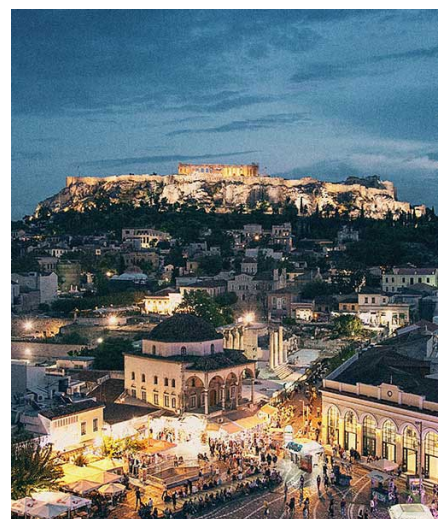
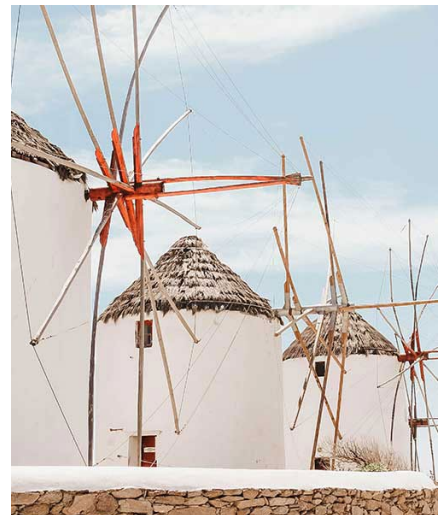
Our local expert will show us the highlights of Athens, including the famous changing of the guard at Parliament Square 'Syntagma,' the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the original Olympic Stadium, and of course, the Acropolis.

Explore the Parthenon and enjoy fabulous views over the city from the rocky citadel. We then visit the famous Acropolis Museum, consistently rated as one of the best museums in the world. It is devoted to the Parthenon and its surrounding temples—the perfect sanctuary for the ancient artifacts found in and around the Acropolis site.

A free afternoon may find us wandering the paths of Plato, Socrates and Sophocles or trying our bargaining skills at the markets of Monastiraki. This evening follow the sounds of traditional bouzouki music and join our farewell taverna dinner in the Plaka District.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Guided tour of Athens Admission to the Parthenon | Admission to the Acropolis Museum | Greek Farewell taverna dinner



DAY 9: FLIGHT HOME

Our Grecian Odyssey ends with breakfast this morning.

Even Odysseus had to come home eventually, so wrap up your memories of sun-filled Greek Isles and make plans to return again soon.

Meals: Breakfast | In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to Athens airport included with purchased AESU group airfare



TOUR MAP

