Where to eat, sleep and play for less in the Greek Islands

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INTRODUCTION

Whether you are searching for a romantic getaway, a quiet escape, a week-long party, a luxurious retreat or a shoestring holiday, the Greek Islands beckon with sandy beaches, undiscovered treasures and astonishing contrasts of blue on white.

Inside
GREEK ISLANDS

There’s something for every budget and taste in the waters of the Mediterranean and Aegean:

- Romantic interludes on beautiful Santorini
- History buffs discover the abundance of sites and ruins on Rhodes
- Luxurious Mykonos offers lesser-known delights even for the budget-minded
- The family will love the beaches and friendly locals on Corfu
- Crete offers scenery and solitude
- Adventure-packed excursions on Naxos

Hop from one island to another or pick one beautiful destination and enjoy it to the fullest. Sultry breezes, soft sands and sun-kissed waters await.
"Santorini is the jewel in the crown of all the Greek islands. Finding paradise is as easy as booking a flight and hotel. You can find the fountain of youth in this mythical place, known by many as the lost continent of Atlantis. Make your own mythology here and feel like a god or goddess. It’s a wonderful and healing experience to go and spend a week or two. The scenery is spectacular—unlike any other place in the world. You will come back refreshed and look like a million bucks. Santorini is good for your health and wonderful for your soul."—TripAdvisor Member

ROMANCE

WHERE TO STAY
"Everything was more than perfect at Bellonias Villas—the hotel, the welcome, the general cleanliness, the meal quality. Our honeymoon there was pure happiness. We were in a suite with a private Jacuzzi on our terrace, facing the sea. We’ve never had such a beautiful a vacation."—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France
Bellonias Villas, Kamari Beach, Kamari, 22860 31138, $156 – 289

WHAT TO DO
Discover or rediscover true love while “sailing into Atlantis on board Thalassa. Marvelous, one of the best excursions we’ve ever made! What a beautiful boat, what an astonishing view of the raw beauty of Santorini. Perfect crew, perfect guide, great appetizers and above all, we sailed into the sunset listening to saxophone music. Can’t be topped!”—TripAdvisor Member, Mainz, Germany
Thalassa, Imerovigli, 22860 24024, $60 per person

WHERE TO EAT
“From the minute you step inside Steki tou Nikou, you know that you will have a great meal, good service and great atmosphere. What a wonderful restaurant! Meals were very tasty and the setting spectacular.”—TripAdvisor Member, Athens, Greece
StekI tou Nikou, Imerovigli, 22860 25239, Steaks and entrees $10 – 15; lobster dinner for two: $90

BUDGET PICKS

WHERE TO STAY
Travelers’ Choice winner for Best Bargain, Atalos Villas offers up “friendly and warm” service at a low price. “Besides the free pickup from/to port and airport, the host even drove us around downtown Kamari and pointed out supermarkets, post office and bus stops.”—TripAdvisor Member, Guangzhou, China
Atalos Villas, Kamari, 22860 33174, $72 – 85; $133 in July and August

WHAT TO DO
Discover the Kamari nightlife on the water. “The beach front is over a mile long, so the choice is quite big and varied. We go to the Love Boat for our cocktails—you can sit outside and look out over the beach.”—TripAdvisor Member, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, U.K.
Love Boat, Kamari Beach, Kamari, 22860 32567

WHERE TO EAT
"Almira Restaurant is directly on the waterfront promenade of Kamari Beach. You can sit in the upper level or on the beachside terrace. They also have a lovely covered, glassed-in seating area—very cozy. Order the mezze plate for two, as you get to try all the different meze dishes at once! The portions are large and the prices are right!”—TripAdvisor Member, Canada
Almira Restaurant, Kamari Beach, Kamari, 22860 33477, $12 – 25 ($25 is for large meze platter for two)
**RHODES**

“Greeks take their history very seriously. They do have a lot of it, after all. From the ancient to the medieval to the modern, Rhodes has been home to many different civilizations and empires. Each brought its own unique culture. There are numerous archaeological sites where visitors can get a sense of the grandeur that was Ancient Greece. The Old City is among the largest and most well-preserved medieval settlements in Europe. Further south is the village of Afandou, which was built out of sight from the sea, in order to be unnoticed by pirates. But its beauty is far from invisible.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

**LIVING HISTORY**

**WHERE TO STAY**

“The Spot is a really cool place that gives the feeling of staying in a boutique hotel—without the price. Close to the nightlife and shopping but tucked away in a medieval corridor. From our room, I could hear the faint sounds of the town and the cats on the local rooftops. I could see tops of the medieval stone crafted buildings and really felt like I was far away, on an exotic holiday.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver, British Columbia

**Spot Hotel**, 21 Perikleus St., Rhodes Town, 22410 34737, $73 – 93

**WHAT TO DO**

“To get a sense of the ancient past, head to the Archaeological Museum of Rhodes in the Old City. The collection of statues, sarcophagi, vases, mosaics and ceramics dates from the Hellenistic period to early Christian times. Among the most famous of pieces at this museum is the fifth-century-B.C. statue of Aphrodite of Rhodes.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

**Archaeological Museum of Rhodes**
(Hospital of the Knights), Museum Square, Rhodes Town, 22410 31048, $4

**WHERE TO EAT**

“Nireas has the best mussels, the best saganaki, the best crab cakes and the best grilled vegetables in the world. The food is fresh, simple and really wonderful! The lovely owner is always there, taking care of everything and giving you suggestions for the best dishes and wines. The place is beautiful; the tables are placed under the flowering trees.”—TripAdvisor Member, Curitiba, Brazil

**Nireas Restaurant**, Sofocleous 22, Rhodes Town, 22410 21703, $12 – 20

**BUDGET PICKS**

**WHERE TO STAY**

“Golden Days has a real family atmosphere. We made some good friends there. If you want a relaxing holiday with plenty of sun, good service and pleasant surroundings, go to Golden Days. There’s something for all ages: My two oldest grandsons, 20 and 18, loved it and granddaughters, 5 and 3, had a great time.”—TripAdvisor Member, Scotland

**Golden Days Hotel**, Pernou Street, Afandou, 22410 86900, $36 – 86

**WHAT TO DO**

“Tsambika Beach is great for kids, because it’s really sandy and gently slopes off. Also, there are plenty of beach cafes to choose from for drinks and food.” Surfing and snorkeling fans will find water sport stalls on the beach, as well.—TripAdvisor Member, Blackpool, U.K.

**Tsambika Beach**
Afandou, Free to visit; $10 to rent 2 sun beds and a parasol

**WHERE TO EAT**

“If you want traditional Greek food, you can’t beat Mimakos. The atmosphere was lovely; the waiters, very friendly. A log fire glows gently in the background. Traditional Greek meze is on offer. The owner asked us what meat we liked and then proceeded to bring out plates of starters. This could have been the meal itself. At the price, we can’t wait to return!”—TripAdvisor Member, Cil Sherman, U.K.

**Mimakos Taverna**, Rhodes-Lindos Avenue, 18th km., Afandou, 22410 51333, $15 – 20
MYKONOS

“During the last few decades, Mykonos has become a favorite vacation destination for some of the world’s wealthiest travelers. Many celebrities—Greek and international—keep summer homes on the island and can be seen passing through town. With white sand beaches, crystal blue water and buildings scattering the island’s hills, the look is very clean. There are many museums and ancient historical sites around the island, and the red roofed churches scattered about add a unique flavor. The culture is driven by wealth, and because of this, things tend to be expensive. But some of the finest dining and indulgences in the world can be found here.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boulder, Colo.

LUXURY

WHERE TO STAY

“We have extremely high standards and expectations and were not disappointed in the slightest by Petasos Beach Hotel. The room overlooked the pool and sea. Modern and contemporary furnishing, comfortable king-size bed, crisp sheets, fluffy towels and a full size bath and shower. Excellent staff, friendly and professional, with a genuine interest in making your holiday truly memorable.”—TripAdvisor Member, Morzine, France

Petasos Beach Hotel & Spa, Platys Gialos, 22890 23437, $267 – 467

WHAT TO DO

“There’s much more to do than just soaking up the sun and swimming in the cool water. Mykonos is one of the best places in the Aegean for scuba diving. There are numerous dive sites with a great deal of diversity, including reefs, rocks and wrecks. There are also quite a few dive companies operating on the island.”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

Lucky Scuba Divers, Paradise Beach, $55 – 140, 69360 23000

WHERE TO EAT

“The food at Atlantida was the best we had on the island, including Mykonos Town. We ate there four or five times. The bruschetta is amazing—the best tasting tomatoes! They have a huge menu, so it was hard trying to decide what to order. We tried a bit of everything. House white wine was good and reasonably priced.”—TripAdvisor Member, Red Deer, Alberta

Atlantida, Platys Gialos, 22890 26618, $15 – 50

BUDGET PICKS

WHERE TO STAY

La Veranda “is a terrific value. You pay pension price, yet you get a comfortable, cozy and sparkling clean room with bath, all in a beautiful setting, with a gorgeous swimming pool and stunning views. In a town that’s known as a late night, noisy place, La Veranda is a quiet oasis, just minutes away from all of the fun.”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

La Veranda Pension, Enoplon Dynameon 10, Mykonos Town, 22890 23160, $89 – 176

WHAT TO DO

Little Venice is “so romantic. Looking at the old houses located on the sea and viewing the amazing sunset on the blue Aegean—the simple white and blue makes you scream, ‘Wow!’ You feel the true beauty of Greece—the positive energy and the simple beauty that touches perfection.”—TripAdvisor Member, Athens, Greece

Little Venice, Mykonos Town, Free to wanderers

WHERE TO EAT

“Cheap restaurants are harder to come by, but Nikos Taverna is a good option for reasonably priced Greek food. Most of the restaurant is outside, and on a warm night it is very pleasant. You almost always have to wait for a table, but the food is good and worth the wait. If you’re lucky, Petros the pelican will be there trying to steal fish from the outdoor display.”—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia

Nikos Taverna, Harbor, Mykonos Town, 22890 24320, $10 – 30
**FAMILY FUN**

**WHERE TO STAY**

“Sea Breeze Hotel and Restaurant cannot be beaten for location, quality or value. The staff are very friendly, with a good sense of humor. Suitable for families with children and romantic couples alike. The rooms are very comfortable, with seaview balconies. It is run by a friendly, close-knit family. Believe me, you won’t find any better.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

*Sea Breeze Hotel & Restaurant, Agios Gordios Beach, Agios Gordios, 26610 53214, $40 – 213*

**WHAT TO DO**

“There’s a fantastic long stretch in the dead center of Sidari Beach. It’s clean and has lovely golden sand going right out into the water. A great beach for young kids, too. Children can go quite far out and still be up only to the waist. The most gentle shelving beach you can imagine!”—TripAdvisor Member

*Sidari Beach, Sidari, Free*

**WHERE TO EAT**

“Orchard Restaurant is a treat of a find. Excellent selection of traditional Greek dishes, and Corfiot specialities. We had incredible stuffed vine leaves, Greek sausage, and stamna and barely had room for baklava after. The setting is beautiful, with fruit trees, and little waterfall, and well kept gardens. You would be mad not to make the trip here!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

*Orchard Restaurant, Peroulades Melitsa, Canal D’amour, Sidari, 26630 95921*

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**BUDGET PICKS**

**WHERE TO STAY**

Spend your vacation “up on the mountain, down to the sea! The position of Pantokrator Hotel is unique: on a steep mountain distant from town, but near the beaches. It’s difficult to get to without a car, but the panorama is stunning. The pool is attractive, but the sea of Barbati situated at the foot of the mountain is even better. The pearl of Corfu.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rome, Italy

*Pantokrator Hotel, Barbati, 26630 91005, $53 – 169*

**WHAT TO DO**

Stretch those legs for an energetic hike up Mount Pantokrator and visit “the Pantokrator Monastery, situated on the highest Corfu peak, 963 meters above sea level. The views are stunning—on a clear day, you can spot Italy, continental Greece and Albany.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bucharest, Romania

*Mount Pantokrator, Near Barbati, Free to hike*

**WHERE TO EAT**

Dionysos “is now our favorite! The people are great. Everything is fresh and well presented. It’s good value, and the place is clean and tidy.”—TripAdvisor Member

*Dionysos, Barbati Road, 26630 91314, $15 – 55*
“Crete is a remarkable and complex combination of places, landscapes, people, customs and smells. Crete has the laid-back and friendly Greek outlook on life. Cretans are genuine people who will almost always take time to chat with tourists. Outside of the main cities, you’ll find a crop of small, family-owned restaurants and bars which offer tourists a traditional Cretan atmosphere and a chance to blend in with the locals. Crete is also an amazing place to explore ancient culture. From the ancient ruins at Knossos to off-the-beaten-track historical sites, you’ll find masses of history and points of interest.” —TripAdvisor Members

**RELAXATION**

**WHERE TO STAY**

“Get away from it all at Koutsounari Traditional Cottages. We stayed in a cottage that brought us back to how noble Cretans lived their lives. Collections, art pieces and excellent service are some of the highlights of Koutsounari.” —TripAdvisor member, Nicosia, Cyprus

**Nakou Village Koutsounari Traditional Cottages**, Elenis Nakou 1, Nakou Village, Ierapetra, 28420 61815, $60 – 113

**WHAT TO DO**

“The beaches on the south of Crete are the best of the island—some parts might have pebbles, but 90% is sandy. Gray but clean. Don’t forget to go on a cruise to Chrissi Island, the best but most forgotten island of Greece. Golden sand beaches there.” —TripAdvisor Member, Crete

Ierapetra Beaches and Chrissi Island, Excursions depart from Ierapetra, Free

**WHERE TO EAT**

“All I can say is that the food/service/ambiance” at Ferryman Taverna “is top-notch. Very memorable—we’d return to Crete just to eat there again. We just loved it!” —TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Ferryman Taverna, Akti, Elounda, Crete, 28410 41230, $25 – 40

**BUDGET PICKS**

**WHERE TO STAY**

“The Little Inn, in the village of Kokkinos Pirgos, on the south coast in the Heraklion district, is a real pearl! I like the closeness to the sea and the mountains, the relaxed atmosphere and the options: Go for day excursions to nearby villages or spend the day on the beach or take a bicycle ride up in the mountains. The Little Inn is something out of the ordinary.” —TripAdvisor Member, Stockholm, Sweden

**Little Inn, Kokkinos Pirgos**, Heraklion, 28920 52455, $60 – 113

**WHAT TO DO**

The Palace of Knossos is “a must-see for any traveler to Crete. Knossos was originally thought to have existed only in mythology. Legend has it that King Minos ruled from here. I would suggest an early-morning or a late-evening visit, especially in the summer months, to avoid the crowds and the midday sun.” —TripAdvisor Member, Cumbria, U.K.

**Palace of Knossos**, Heraklion, $8; Free to students from the E.U.

**WHERE TO EAT**

“If you are interested in eating delicious, regionally-sourced foods, Parasies is amazing. Their smoked pork apaki appetizer was so mouth-watering that we literally battled for the last piece. The view of the sea, the friendliness of the staff, and the outdoor seating under lights created a relaxing evening in a bustling, noisy city.” —TripAdvisor Member, New York

Parasies, Platia Istorikou Mouseio, Heraklion, 28102 25009, $13 – 20
NAXOS

“The biggest of the Cyclades,” Naxos is “like every Greek island rolled into one. It has everything you’re looking for. Some of the best beaches in Greece, and the paralia (seafront area) has many nice restaurants and bars. Do explore the Old Town and have a trip around the island, including some of the small mountain villages.” Naxos is an adventurer’s delight: “Outdoor sports and activities are popular, especially those that involve the ocean. Windsurfing, sailing, fishing, swimming and beach volleyball are all very popular. And for those who want some time away from the water, the island also offers opportunities for golf, basketball, tennis, mountain biking and hiking.”—TripAdvisor Members

WHERE TO STAY

“Our room at Naxos Royal Beach Hotel overlooked the sea. Very clean and spacious and comfortable. The pool, bar and restaurant are very nice, with good service, towels stocked daily, a landscaped outdoor space and garden. The port and Naxos center are reachable by foot in 10 minutes. The sea and the beach are 50 meters away, and the panorama is stirring.”—TripAdvisor Member, Pisa, Italy

Naxos Royal Beach Hotel, Chora, Naxos Town, 22850 26650, $112 – 252

WHAT TO DO

“The Portara is well worth the time and effort to visit. It draws crowds at sunset for good reason. Watching the setting sun through this ancient monument is awe-inspiring. The huge blocks of white Naxos marble have stood for a millennium. They are a source of great pride to the local residents and should not be missed.”—TripAdvisor Member, Florida

The Portada, Free

WHERE TO EAT

“Meze was our favorite restaurant in the Greek islands, and the cheapest too! We enjoyed everything and were more than satisfied with every dish. At the end of the meal, the owner gave us each a shot of ouzo. I gave a tip and told the owner of our appreciation, which led to three more free ounces of ouzo each and a free desert!”—TripAdvisor Member, Fort McMurray, Alberta

Meze, Naxos Port, Naxos Town, 22850 26401, $10 – 25

WHERE TO STAY

“Our room at Naxos Royal Beach Hotel overlooked the sea. Very clean and spacious and comfortable. The pool, bar and restaurant are very nice, with good service, towels stocked daily, a landscaped outdoor space and garden. The port and Naxos center are reachable by foot in 10 minutes. The sea and the beach are 50 meters away, and the panorama is stirring.”—TripAdvisor Member, Pisa, Italy

Naxos Royal Beach Hotel, Chora, Naxos Town, 22850 26650, $112 – 252

WHAT TO DO

“The Agia Anna Beach was wonderful—lovely golden sand with crystal clear water. You could see the fish nibbling at your feet! The area was so nice very laid back with friendly people and some great little restaurants and bars.”—TripAdvisor Member, Invercargill, New Zealand

Agia Anna Beach, Free

WHERE TO EAT

“We discovered the Cedar Cafe a few years ago, and from that moment, it’s been our beach bar. Very friendly owners, nice people, superb chill-out music, incredible food and gorgeous cold beer. The place to be in Naxos!”—TripAdvisor Member

Cedar Cafe, Plaka Beach, 22850 41005, $6 – 13

BUDGET PICKS
Spend Less, 
SEE MORE

TEN WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GREEK ISLANDS VACATION

1. “If you want to get away from the tourists and spend time in a wonderful village, try May and September for the best months to go. And early in the day or late afternoon/early evening are the best times” to take in the sights. Off-peak visits usually mean lower prices, too!—TripAdvisor Member

2. To travel among islands, “the ferry system is standard even for the Greeks. Some ferries have cabins for overnight accommodations. Many islands are far apart, and having your own cabin is definitely a plus. However, if money is tight, you can hunker down on the decks with sleeping bags.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chattanooga, Tenn.

3. Linger “in harborside cafes full of locals out for the evening. You get the feeling they opened these establishments for their own dining and snacking pleasure—and if you’re well-behaved, they’ll let you share them.”—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

4. “Eat at the local tavernas. Aim for the one that attracts most of the crowd. Open yourself to local food.”—TripAdvisor Member

5. “Make an excursion every day somewhere on the island, no matter where your location.”—TripAdvisor Member

6. Play it safe on the beach: “Ask about the existence of jellyfish and wear plastic shoes when you walk in the sea.”—TripAdvisor Member

7. If you prefer safety in numbers, “join a tour group. Ask your hotel for details. You’ll have a wonderful time and will be in a safer, more controlled environment with people guiding you. You’ll still see lots of places off the beaten track.”—TripAdvisor Member

8. Many villages “have beaches, so take your umbrella, towels, suntan lotions and plenty of water with you on every journey.”—TripAdvisor Member

9. Breathe that ocean air. “Sunbathing on a beach is more effective than swimming pools. You’ll get a glorious tan to keep for months to come.”—TripAdvisor Member

10. Be adventurous. “Don’t sit next to the swimming pool for two weeks with a drink in one hand and a paperback in the other. You didn’t work hard for a year for this.”—TripAdvisor Member

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