

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

A LIFE OF MAKING MEMORIES

TWO COUNTRIES

Aegean to Bosphorus

“From the Acropolis to the Bosphorus, by way of a volcanic caldera and an international ferry between two continents”

10

DAYS

2

COUNTRIES

2

CONTINENTS

18

KM FERRY BETWEEN THEM

FROM

\$12,800

PER PERSON

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Overview

Not another European sightseeing package. This is a journey from the ancient heart of Western civilisation to the crossroads of East and West — the Acropolis to the minarets of Istanbul, by way of Santorini's volcanic caldera, the authentic island life of Chios, and a genuine international ferry crossing from Greece into Turkey.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Acropolis, the Parthenon and the Acropolis Museum with a private guide
- Three nights at Canaves Oia, built into the caldera wall on Santorini
- Santorini's volcanic vineyards and a private Assyrtiko tasting
- The 20-minute international ferry from Chios to Çesme, Greece to Turkey
- A guided street-food journey through the Spice Bazaar and Eminönü
- The Ancient Agora — where Socrates walked and democracy was argued into existence
- A private boat to Nea Kameni's smoking crater and the hot springs of Palea Kameni
- Chios — mastic villages, a medieval castle, and an island almost no visitor sees
- Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Basilica Cistern and Topkapi Palace
- A Bosphorus dinner cruise between Europe and Asia

From the Acropolis to the Bosphorus, by way of a volcanic caldera and an international ferry between two continents

The Itinerary

01

ATHENS

Day 1 | Arrival in Athens

Land at Athens International and transfer to the Grande Bretagne, overlooking Syntagma Square and the Parliament. The Acropolis is visible from most of the city, which is the point — you are never allowed to forget what happened here. The evening walks Plaka, the oldest quarter, a warren of neoclassical streets beneath the rock; then Monastiraki and its flea market; then up the steps into Anafiotika, a tiny Cycladic village built into the hillside under the Acropolis by island builders who were homesick. Dinner is Greek, with the floodlit Acropolis in view.

- Hotel Grande Bretagne
- Dinner

02

ATHENS

Day 2 | The Acropolis & Ancient Athens

Up the sacred rock with a private guide to the Parthenon, the temple to Athena that defines the golden age of Pericles and, arguably, Western architecture. From the top the view runs across the whole city to the Saronic Gulf. The Acropolis Museum follows, built above a live archaeological excavation with glass floors over the ruins, holding the original Caryatids and the Parthenon frieze. The afternoon is the Ancient Agora — the marketplace and civic centre where Socrates walked and democracy was argued into being — then the Roman Agora, the all-marble Panathenaic Stadium that hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus, of whose 104 columns fifteen still stand. Dinner is meze.

- Hotel Grande Bretagne
- Breakfast, Dinner

03

SANTORINI

Day 3 | Athens » Santorini

Transfer to Piraeus, the largest passenger port in Greece, and take the high-speed ferry to Santorini — four to five hours with the Aegean islands passing all the way. Your transfer climbs to Oia and Canaves Oia, built directly into the volcano wall of the caldera. The afternoon explores Oia itself: whitewashed Cycladic houses and blue domes stacked down the cliff, narrow streets, boutiques and the caldera viewpoints. The sunset is the reason Oia is famous. As the sun drops into the Aegean the caldera turns gold and red and the whole cliff lights up. Dinner is timed for it.

- Canaves Oia Hotel
- Breakfast, Dinner

04

SANTORINI

Day 4 | Santorini by Sea

A private boat around the caldera — the flooded crater of one of the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history. Nea Kameni first, in the centre: a walk across black lava fields to the smoking crater, where steam still rises. Then Palea Kameni, and the hot springs — warm, iron- and sulphur-rich water that has drawn bathers for centuries and will stain a pale swimsuit permanently. Thirassia follows, a small island that was part of Santorini before the eruption, for a Mediterranean lunch in a traditional village looking back across the caldera. Swimming in the afternoon, often in a cove reachable only by boat.

- Canaves Oia Hotel
- Breakfast, Lunch

05

SANTORINI

Day 5 | Villages & Volcanic Wine

Santorini away from the caldera edge. Pyrgos was the island's capital, and the climb to its Venetian Kasteli gives the widest view on the island. Megalochori is quieter still — Cycladic architecture, bell towers and a Venetian tower, and almost no one. Then the vineyards. Santorini's volcanic soil and relentless wind produce some of the most distinctive wine in Greece, and the vines are trained into low basket shapes to shelter the grapes. A private tasting focuses on Assyrtiko, the island's white grape, with its mineral and citrus edge. Lunch at a local taverna, and a final free evening in Oia.

- Canaves Oia Hotel
- Breakfast, Lunch

06

CHIOS

Day 6 | Santorini » Chios

This is where the journey stops resembling anyone else's. Depending on the season, you travel from Santorini to Chios by fast ferry or by air, usually connecting through another island — and the route itself is a rare look at an archipelago most visitors never cross. Chios is the fifth-largest Greek island, famous for mastic, and it sits just off the Turkish coast. Check in at the Chios Chandris, at the end of a natural bay and walking distance from the town. The afternoon explores Chios Town, its medieval castle built on an ancient citadel, and the old port where the fishing boats and the Turkey ferries share the water. Dinner is Greek, with the island's mastic-flavoured desserts and local wine.

- Chios Chandris Hotel
- Breakfast, Dinner

07

ISTANBUL

Day 7 | Chios » Çesme » Istanbul

To Chios Port for the international ferry to Turkey. The crossing is 18 kilometres and about twenty minutes, with up to five sailings a day — short, but it is the moment the journey changes. Greece recedes behind you and the Turkish coast at Çesme comes up ahead. Through immigration into Turkey. From Çesme you continue to Istanbul either by private car to Izmir Airport, about an hour, and a domestic flight of roughly an hour and fifteen; or, for those who prefer the overland version, by private vehicle with stops along the way. Check in at the Four Seasons at Sultanahmet, a neoclassical building of 1918–19 that was Istanbul's first modern prison and is now one of its most distinctive addresses, arranged around an enclosed garden courtyard. Dinner at AVLÜ, the hotel's Michelin-recommended Anatolian restaurant.

- Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet
- Breakfast, Dinner

08

ISTANBUL

Day 8 | Istanbul, the Two-Continent City

Everything today is within walking distance. Hagia Sophia first: built in the sixth century as a cathedral, converted to a mosque in 1453, and a symbol of the city's layered history for fifteen hundred years. Then the Blue Mosque across the square, with its six minarets and twenty thousand handmade tiles — go early, before prayer times. The Hippodrome was the chariot-racing heart of Constantinople; the Egyptian Obelisk, the Serpentine Column and the Fountain of Wilhelm II still stand on it. Below ground, the Basilica Cistern holds 336 marble columns in the dark, two of them resting on Medusa heads. Topkapi Palace closes the morning — four hundred years of Ottoman sultans, the imperial treasury, and pavilions looking out over the Bosphorus. The afternoon is the Grand Bazaar, four thousand shops of spice, lantern, carpet, gold and ceramic, where haggling is not optional but expected.

- Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet
- Breakfast

09

ISTANBUL

Day 9 | Eating Istanbul

A day built around food rather than monuments. The Spice Bazaar first — the 17th-century Egyptian Bazaar — for lokum in every flavour, Gaziantep pistachios, dried fruit, Turkish coffee, tea, cheese, olives and spice. Then out into Eminönü on foot for the street food that actually defines the city: simit, the sesame ring bread; döner and dürüm; lahmacun and pide; içli köfte; midye dolması, the stuffed mussels sold from trays on the pavement; and baklava to finish, with coffee served alongside a glass of water and a piece of lokum. The afternoon crosses the Galata Bridge into Karaköy, up to the Galata Tower and along İstiklal Avenue. The evening is a Bosphorus dinner cruise, sailing between Europe and Asia with the palaces and mosques lit along both shores.

- Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

10

ISTANBUL

Day 10 | Departure

A relaxed final morning — a hammam at the hotel's Kurna Spa, a last Turkish coffee, or one more run at the Grand Bazaar — then a private transfer to Istanbul Airport.

-
- Breakfast

INVESTMENT

Pricing & Inclusions

PER PERSON SHARING

\$13,500

SINGLE TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT

On Request

Pricing is an estimate subject to confirmation based on season, room category, and final accommodation selection.

SEASONAL PRICING

Nov – Mar	BEST VALUE	\$12,800
Quiet cities, museums without queues		
Jun – Aug	PEAK SEASON	\$15,600
Long days, warm seas, busy sites		
Apr – May, Sep – Oct	SHOULDER SEASON	\$14,100
The sweet spot — mild, bright, uncrowded		

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- » Private transfers and licensed guides in Athens, Santorini, Chios and Istanbul
- » 9 nights accommodation across four properties
- » High-speed ferry Athens (Piraeus) – Santorini
- » Santorini – Chios connection by ferry or flight, as the season dictates
- » International ferry Chios – Çesme, and the onward connection to Istanbul
- » Daily breakfast, plus meals as detailed in the itinerary
- » Acropolis, Acropolis Museum, Ancient Agora and Roman Agora entry
- » Panathenaic Stadium and Temple of Olympian Zeus entry
- » Private boat around the Santorini caldera, including Nea Kameni and the hot springs
- » Private Santorini vineyard tasting with a sommelier
- » Guided Chios town and castle visit

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to Athens and from Istanbul
- City and accommodation taxes, payable locally
- Hammam treatments at the hotel spa
- Lunches and dinners not listed in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, drivers and boat crew

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

Tell us what you have in mind.

This itinerary is a starting point, not a fixed departure. The pace, the lodges, the length, the dates and the party travelling can all be reshaped around you.

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