

TRIP A

Gems of Greece

Athens, Naxos & Crete

BOOK EARLY
SAVE \$250!

14 Day Group Tour - May 2 to 15, 2026

Hosted by Karen Maluta from Imagine Cruise and Travel



- Acropolis Site & Museum • Naxos & Lesser Cyclades Day Cruise • Kitron Distillery and Tasting
- Knossos Palace • Cooking Class • Pottery Demo • Olive Oil & Wine Tasting
- Cretan Folk dancing & Dinner



DAY 1: Saturday, May 2, 2026

OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

You're on your way to Greece! Get ready to soak in the Mediterranean lifestyle as you explore Greece's beauty, ancient wonders, and lively culture from the capital to the isles.

DAY 2: Sunday, May 3, 2026

ATHENS, GREECE

Arrive in Greece. Transfer to your hotel from the airport and check into your hotel in Athens. Settle in and prepare to be part of the beautiful culture, ancient monuments and neighbourhoods of Greece.

DAY 3: Monday, May 4, 2026

ATHENS

Begin your day in Athens on a panoramic tour through the city, taking in the history of Athens' many landmarks. Next, get to know Plaka, the lively neighbourhood at the foot of the Acropolis, brimming with welcoming restaurants and shops. Here, take time to explore and find a spot for lunch on your own, soaking in your surroundings while indulging in delicious Greek cuisine. Later, explore artifacts recovered from the Acropolis archeological site with a guided visit to the Acropolis Museum. Just steps from where ancient relics were recovered, the "new museum" (as the locals still call it) offers incredible views of the Acropolis. **In the evening,** join your fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner! (B, D)

DAY 4: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

ATHENS

Today, get an up-close look at the iconic Acropolis and its monuments-universal symbols of classical antiquity. Marvel at the ancient history all around as you stroll beside the Parthenon on a guided tour of the incredible archeological complex. Next, stop at a community-minded café and workshop. This café with a mission shines a light on stories of people from the community who have overcome hardships through work and support of the unique art made onsite. After a light lunch at the café, the rest of the afternoon and evening are yours to explore more of Athens independently. (B, L)

DAY 5: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

ATHENS - NAXOS

Get an early start today to set out for the island of Naxos! The journey begins by boarding the ferry with your luggage in hand. Once you've set your luggage down, settle in for views of the sea as the ferry stops at islands along the way. Arrive in Naxos, the prosperous, self-sustaining island and the largest of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea. After getting off the ferry, your first stop is to see the island's emblem, the giant marble gate at the unfinished Temple of Apollo - Portara. Take free time for lunch on your own before settling in at your hotel. Tonight, gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant in the Chora (Naxos Town). (B, D)

DAY 6: Thursday, May 7, 2026

NAXOS - LESSER CYCLADES - NAXOS

This morning, board a sailboat for a full-day cruise to take in the beauty of Naxos and the nearby Lesser Cyclades islands of Koufonisia. After sailing along the eastern shore of Naxos, step off the boat onto the island of Kato Koufonisi with some time to explore. Enjoy a Greek barbeque lunch with local wines as well as the chance to take a dip in the Aegean Sea's turquoise waters. Next, sail to Ano Koufonisi and take time to stroll along the island's beautiful beaches and visit the small village. Sail on, back towards Naxos to Rina Cave, where you may wish to dive in and explore. Arrive back at your Naxos hotel this evening. (B, L)

DAY 7: Friday, May 8, 2026

NAXOS

Today, trade the seaside bustle of the Chora for the mountain villages of Naxos. First, visit the peaceful village of Halki, the former capital of the island, and feel like you've stepped back in time as you stroll its alleys. In the picturesque hilltop village of Apiranthos, take time to explore and slow down among the locals. Later, return to your hotel for some downtime. This evening, sample the local spirits, including Kitron (a liqueur exclusively made on Naxos), served with delicious bites at a third-generation family-owned distillery. Learn about the machinery and distillation process and gain an appreciation for the unique liqueurs made here. (B)


DAY 8: Saturday, May 9, 2026
NAXOS - HERAKLION, CRETE

Enjoy the morning at leisure. Later this afternoon with your suitcase in tow, board the ferry to Heraklion, Crete. After a ferry trip of approximately three hours, arrive to Crete, the largest of the Greek islands. (B, D)

DAY 9: Sunday, May 10, 2026
HERAKLION

This morning, take a walk around Lion's Square - the heart of Heraklion. Next, head to Knossos Palace for a guided tour of the site, a major centre of Minoan civilization. Among these remarkably preserved ruins, imagine the everyday lives of ancient Minoans and recall legend, as this is considered the mythic place where King Minos kept the Minotaur in his labyrinth. As you travel through the Cretan countryside, take in the sprawling olive groves that have shaped Crete ever since olive cultivation began in Minoan times. In Archanes, visit a women's cooperative café to learn about traditional Cretan dishes and enjoy a hands-on cooking class followed by lunch. Afterward, return to your hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

DAY 10: Monday, May 11, 2026
HERAKLION - RETHYMNON - CHANIA

Leaving Heraklion, head toward Chania today with a couple of stops along the way. Visit Margarites, a pottery village. Among the more than 20 pottery workshops in this village, visit the only one that uses both new and old (wood-fired) baking techniques. After watching a pottery demonstration, you can take the opportunity to shop for unique wares. Continue to Rethymnon with its beautiful old town and enjoy free time for lunch. Later, arrive in the city of Chania and gather for dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 11: Tuesday, May 12, 2026
CHANIA - VOUVES - ANOSKELI - CHANIA

Set out to explore Chania's old Venetian Harbour, the port city's vibrant hub, built in the 14th century. As you stroll along the narrow streets, you may enjoy sips of Greek coffee or try a local pastry. Then, set out for Vouvres to see the world's oldest olive tree, estimated to be an astonishing 2,000-4,000 years old. Continue to a family-run olive mill and winery for a tasting of the oils and wines paired with a light charcuterie lunch. Back in Chania, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B, L)

DAY 12: Wednesday, May 13, 2026
CHANIA

Today, it's your choice! Visit the Archaeological Museum of Chania and explore its treasures on your own -OR- join a guided tour of Aptera's archaeological site. Spend the afternoon in Chania any way you wish. Tonight, gather with your fellow travellers and celebrate the journey. Enjoy dinner and a performance of traditional Cretan folk dances - and join in during a dance lesson! (B, D)

DAY 13: Thursday, May 14, 2026
CHANIA - ATHENS

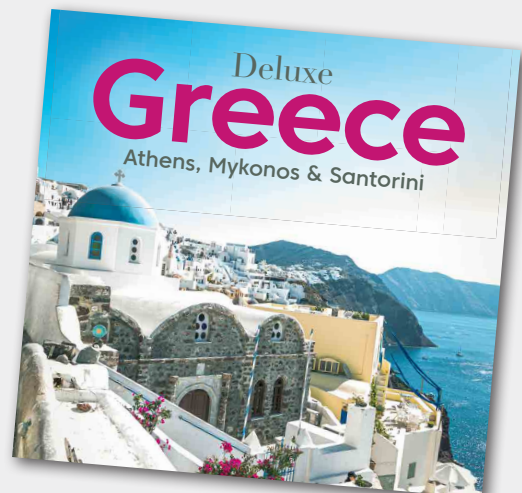
This morning, a short flight takes you back to Athens. Take the afternoon to soak in the city's energy or do some last-minute souvenir shopping. Tonight, gather for a Farewell Drink, toasting to the end of your journey through Greece. Look out over the city and soak in the incredible sight of Acropolis! (B)

DAY 14: Thursday, May 15, 2026
ATHENS

Your tour of Greece Gems ends. Depart for the airport for your return flight home.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

**May 15 to 23
in Athens, Mykonos & Santorini!**



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Gems of Greece

May 2 to 15, 2026

\$9488 CAD

+ \$850 tax

Per person, CAD\$, based on double occupancy.

Single Occupancy: Add \$1450

BOOK EARLY - SAVE \$250!

Deposit \$1500 per person before Oct 15 - **SAVE \$250!**

Final payment due January 31, 2026

EXTEND your stay

May 15 to 23 in Athens, Mykonos & Santorini and

SAVE \$2000!

- Ask Karen for details!



INCLUDES

- Roundtrip International Airfare from Edmonton
- Superior accommodations
- 21 Meals = 12 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners
- Guided sightseeing
- All ferry tickets, domestic flights & hotel transfers
- English-speaking escort guide
- Small group size: min. 15, max. 30 travellers
- Acropolis Museum visit
- Island day cruise in Naxos & Lesser Cyclades
- Wine & olive oil tasting, cooking class, and pottery demo
- Kitron distillery visit and tasting
- Cretan Folk dancing & traditional dinner
- Visits to Knossos Palace and Chania's historic sites

And so much more!

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals and Beverages not mentioned in itinerary.
- Personal expenses.
- Travel Insurance (Cancellation, Medical, Luggage, Life) \$599 per person.
- Tipping + Gratuities to local guides, drivers and hotel staff



Book Early - Limited Spots Available!

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