

GREECE

Paros · Santorini · Milos · Athens · Delphi · Meteora

14 days · 2 travelers · islands + mainland + mountains

OVERVIEW

Paros 3 nights	Santorini 1 night	Milos 5 nights	Athens + Delphi + Meteora 4 nights
--------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	--

LOGISTICS

Ferry bookings	Book all ferries in advance. We checked the schedules on ferryhopper.com and booked via Seajet directly. Summer is peak season — popular routes sell out.
Getting around	Paros: Bus is sufficient. Santorini: Uber. Milos: Bus and walk. Athens: Metro and Uber. It is easier to rent a car / ATV on the islands, but we have heard many horror stories re accidents and decided against it.
Monasteries	Women: long sleeves, no short skirts. Men: no shorts.
Money	Greece is mostly card-friendly; don't think we used cash in any circumstance
Best beaches	Paros: Golden Beach. Milos: Sarakiniko (morning), Firiplaka (afternoon), Kleftiko (boat only).
Don't miss	Milos boat tour. Sarakiniko at sunrise. Acropolis at golden hour. Meteora / Delphi.

DAY 1

Arrive in Athens → Paros

- Land in Athens early morning
- Take the metro (~€9) to Rafina port — about 1 hour from airport
- Catch the ferry to Paros — ~ 3.5 hours
- Check into hotel
- Evening: wander Parikia old town, visit the Holy Shrine of Virgin Mary and the archaeological museum. Dinner near Parikia port, early night.

Logistics

- **Ferries:** The ferries are the most stressful part of our trip. We booked Seajets, which should be the most efficient option. They are very strict about the student discount - you have to be a student in Greece!
- **Bus:** The bus to the Rafina port is outside the airport near the car rental area. Cross the street and the orange sign.
- **Hotel:** Would recommend staying by the Parikia port since the main bus stop is right there so it's more convenient to get around. We stayed at Hotel Viva Margarita. It's small and cozy. The host is

super friendly and gave us a rundown of the entire island. Would highly recommend for budget travellers!

DAY 2**Paros**

- Morning: Golden Beach — one of the best on the island. Wide, windy, beautiful. We rented a chair at the Beach Project for \$40 and ate at the Golden Beach Hotel.
- Afternoon: wander the old towns along the bus stops: Marpissa, Leftkes, marble quarries of Marathi. explore some villages in the hills — quieter than the coast
- Evening: Dinner by the coast and watch the sunset. We ate at Taverna Mira - it was not great.

The bus system in Paros is genuinely reliable. Pick up a schedule at the port. €2 per ride, runs frequently. Tickets can be bought at the ticket office by the port.

DAY 3**Paros**

- Watch the sunrise — wake up early.
- Morning: Bus to Naoussa, brunch at Christie's 88, visit all the little shops!
- Afternoon: Take the quick boat to Perikopetra Beach. We tanned and laid down on the cliff. Peak.
- Evening: Dinner at Taverna Glafkos (they have free desserts) or Sigi Ikthios (more iconic). Perhaps party.

If you only have time for one thing in Paros besides the beach — go to Naoussa for sunset. The harbor turns gold.

DAY 4**Paros → Santorini**

- Morning ferry to Santorini — 1.5 hours
- Check into Andronis Arcadia in Oia. We booked via i Prefer and their service was amazing.
- Oia village on foot — blue domes, cave houses, the whole thing
- Sunset from Oia castle — crowded, worth it once
- Evening: Dinner at Pacman (It is very overpriced. We were supposed to watch the *iconic* Santorini sunset but instead it was just a bunch of influencers yelling at their boyfriends to take photos for them next to us)

Hotel: Andronis Arcadia is in Oia, the quieter end of Santorini. This is intentional — stay here, not in Fira. The caldera views are better and the crowds are thinner. Santorini is beautiful but extremely touristy. One full day is the right amount, in my opinion.

DAY 5**Santorini → Milos**

- Morning in Oia — work out, breakfast with caldera view
- Ferry to Milos — 2 hours
- Check into Airbnb
- Evening: walk up to Plaka castle for sunset over the bay

Hotel: We stayed at Petrinela's Guesthouse in Plaka. The location is very close to the bus stop, but it's not within walking distance to anything.

DAY 6**Milos — Sarakiniko + explore**

- Sunrise at Sarakiniko — go early, before anyone else arrives. White volcanic rock, lunar landscape, completely unlike anything else in Greece. It is very windy, so be prepared.
- Afternoon: rent a car or ATV — essential in Milos, the bus doesn't cover enough
- Plaka village for dinner — tavernas with views over the whole island

Milos is harder to get around than Paros. You need a car or scooter. Book in advance — rental places fill up in summer.

DAY 7**Milos — Boat Day**

- Full-day boat tour: Milos and Polyaigos — 9 to 10 hours
- Departs 8:30am — includes meals and snorkeling
- Polyaigos is the largest uninhabited island in the Cyclades — inaccessible by car
- Kleftiko sea caves — only reachable by boat. This is what Milos is known for.
- Klima fishing village — colorful boathouses built into the water. One of the most photographed spots on the island.
- Tsigrado beach, Firiplaka — stops vary by tour

The boat tour is non-negotiable in Milos. Half the best parts of the island have no road access. Book in advance — this sells out weeks ahead in August. This is [the one we booked](#) and I highly recommend!

DAY 8**Milos — beaches**

- Entire day chilling at the Plinthia Beach. Most people reserve in advance, but by noon time some people have left so you can rent the vacant chairs.

SUGGESTED

- Firiplaka beach — long, sandy, crystal clear water, less crowded than Sarakiniko
- Paleochori beach — geothermal hot springs under the sand. Genuinely warm water.
- Mandrakia — tiny fishing village, good for lunch
- Sunset back at Plaka

DAY 9**Milos — history day**

- Morning: Catacombs of Milos — early Christian catacombs carved into the hillside, completely underrated
- Afternoon: Plaka Archaeological Museum and Ancient theater of Milos — where a replica of the Venus de Milo stands (the original is in the Louvre)
- Evening: Final sunset from the castle

DAY 10**Milos → Athens**

- Morning ferry to Piraeus — 4 hours
- Arrive in Athens mid-afternoon
- Evening: Monastiraki flea market area, dinner in Psyrri neighborhood

Hotel: We stayed at the Intercontinental Athens, and I do NOT recommend. We found a cockroach in our room and had to be moved three times cuz there was something wrong with every room. It's also quite out of the way.

DAY 11**Athens — Acropolis day**

- Morning: Ancient Agora — We got there at 8 am. Try to arrive before the heat and the crowds
- Afternoon: Acropolis Museum — one of the best museums in Europe, should allocate 3-4 hours here

- Evening: Acropolis + Theater of Dionysus — book the late afternoon ticket. The light is completely different. The sunset was beautiful.

Book Acropolis tickets online well in advance. The 6pm slot in August has shorter queues and the golden hour light on the Parthenon is worth the wait.

DAY 12

Athens → Delphi (Day 1 of 2-day tour)

- Depart 8:15am — 2-day Delphi and Meteora tour from Athens
- Delphi: sanctuary of Apollo, the Oracle, the ancient stadium above the temple
- The mountain setting is as impressive as the ruins — 2,500 years of atmosphere
- Overnight near Meteora

Tips: This is the tour we booked: [Delphi + Meteora 2 days Tour](#). Criminally underrated. Dress code for monasteries: women — long sleeves, no short skirts. Men — no shorts. Pack a scarf or light layer in your bag. The monasteries have scarfs for covering but it's good to go prepared. It's in the mountains so it's also quite chilly.

DAY 13

Meteora → Athens (Day 2 of tour)

- Morning: Meteora monasteries — built on top of sandstone pillars, inhabited since the 14th century
- The views from the top are completely unlike anything in the Cyclades — worth the trip alone
- Return to Athens around 6:30pm
- Dinner at CTC Bistro (1 Michelin Star and great vibes!)

Meteora genuinely exceeded expectations. If you're debating whether to add this to a Greece trip — add it. The Cyclades are one kind of Greece. This is another entirely.

DAY 14

Athens — last day

- Morning: Check out — store luggage at hotel
- Afternoon National Archaeological Museum — home of the original Venus de Milo mold, Antikythera mechanism, Mycenaean gold
- Head to the airport

The National Archaeological Museum is free or reduced after 3pm in summer. One of the most important collections in the world and completely uncrowded compared to the Acropolis.