

# AN EXPLORATION OF HISTORY, CULTURE, FOOD & WINE

Join Chef Matt McMillin on an unforgettable journey through the sun-kissed islands of Greece, where ancient history, stunning landscapes, and world-class wines await. This carefully crafted itinerary takes you through the heart of Greece's renowned wine regions, from the charming island of Santorini to the vibrant streets of Mykonos and the rich cultural heritage of Crete. Along the way, you'll taste exceptional wines, explore picturesque villages, and indulge in the finest Mediterranean cuisine. Whether you're a seasoned connoisseur or a curious beginner, this trip offers a unique opportunity to savor the best of Greek viticulture and experience the timeless beauty of the Aegean Islands.



MAY 13 - 24, 2025



monday, may 12, 2025

# DEPART USA

Board your overnight flight from your home city.

tuesday, may 13, 2025

# ARRIVE IN ATHENS, GREECE

After clearing customs, you will be transferred to your hotel; check-in is usually mid- to late afternoon. This evening, experience an exceptional evening during a festive dinner outing at a local restaurant, where you'll enjoy an authentic four-course dinner of Greek specialties with drinks included. Folk dances and authentic Greek entertainment will put you in a special mood reminiscent of "Zorba the Greek."

*Meals Included – Dinner*

*Hotel – Athens Fresh Hotel or similar*

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Athens**

**Four-Course Dinner**

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# ATHENS

Start the day with a city orientation tour featuring the Hellenic Parliament and a picture stop at the Panathenaic Stadium. Built in the second century, the stadium was host to the opening and closing ceremonies of the first modern Olympics in 1896, and it's the only stadium in the world made entirely of marble. We'll also visit the world-famous Acropolis, perched high on a rocky outcrop overlooking the city. Here, you can see the Parthenon, the Erechtheion with its Porch of the Maidens, and the Temple of Athena Nike. Enjoy a panoramic view that includes glimpses of the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Theatre of Dionysus, and the beautifully preserved Temple of Hephaestus. Savor dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

*Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner*

*Hotel – Athens Fresh Hotel or similar*

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Parthenon**

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**Porch of Maidens**

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# MYKONOS

Enjoy a morning of leisure to relax or explore on your own. This afternoon, we'll venture to an organic Mykonian farm for lunch, then visit a brewery before learning to make Greek cocktails near the beach.

*Meals Included – Breakfast, Lunch*

*Hotel – San Marco Luxury Hotel and Villas or similar*

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Mykonian Farm Lunch**

**Brewery Visit**



# MYKONOS - FERRY - SANTORINI

We'll depart Mykonos by ferry to Santorini, known as the "Black Pearl of the Aegean" and, according to some, the site of the legendary lost continent of Atlantis. We'll spend the afternoon getting acquainted with the history and creation of Santorini and stroll along the cobblestone streets to enjoy the local atmosphere. Our group will stop for a visit at the Koutsogiannopoulos Wine Museum for an in-depth look at the history of Santorini wine and culture of the island (with audio guides), followed by a tasting of four different wines. Our next stop will be the Venetsanos Winery, which overlooks the stunning Santorini caldera. We'll enjoy a wine tour, tasting, and light snacks. This evening, we'll head to a specially themed dinner at a local restaurant.

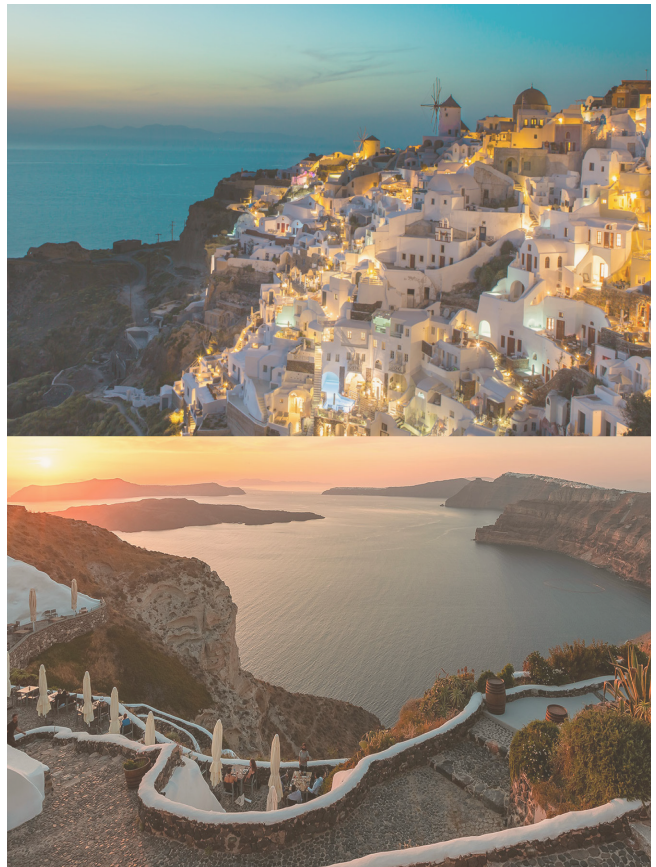
*Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner*

*Hotel – Splendour Resort Santorini or similar*

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Koutsogiannopoulos Wine Museum**

**Venetsanos Winery**





# SANTORINI - EXCURSION TO AKROTIRI

Today, we will head to the southern shore of Santorini on an intriguing excursion to the archaeological site of Akrotiri. Led by an expert guide, we'll explore this Minoan Bronze Age settlement that was destroyed in 1450 B.C. by a massive volcanic eruption that buried it in ash. Stop for lunch on your own by Perissa Beach, then we'll proceed to the village of Emporio, with time for exploration. We'll end the day with a tasting of some of the popular wines of Santorini. Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

*Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner*

*Hotel – Splendour Resort Santorini or similar*

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Perissa Beach**

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**Emporio Village**

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# SANTORINI - FERRY - HERAKLION, CRETE

Today, we'll take a ferry to Heraklion, the bustling capital of Crete that boasts multicultural influences and more than 3,000 years of history. We'll join our local guide for a walking tour of the Venetian Walls, Agios Minas Cathedral, and St. Titus Church. While walking along Heraklion's narrow streets, we'll see the area's most famous historic and cultural sites and taste a traditional bougatsa (custard pie) pastry, one of the most popular Greek sweet treats. Dinner tonight will take place at a local restaurant.

*Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner*

*Hotel – TBD, an update will be provided to you as soon as we have the information*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Venetian Walls

### Agios Minas Cathedral



# HERAKLION - EXCURSION TO CHANIA

Our first stop today will be Alexakis Winery for a guided tour of the production facility and the cultivated vineyard, followed by a tasting of five Alexakis wines and Cretan products such as Meligyris honey (a mixture of pine and thyme honey with sage honey) and extra virgin olive oil. We'll then continue on to Chania, Crete's second largest city that's known for its 14th-century Venetian harbor and 16th-century lighthouse. During a foodie tour, we'll taste our way through Chania's backstreets, sampling culinary delights such as syrupy loukoumades (doughnuts); traditional bougatsa pie; and local cheeses, honeys, herbs, and spices. We'll return to Heraklion with the evening at leisure.

*Meals Included – Breakfast, Lunch*

*Hotel – TBD, an update will be provided to you as soon as we have the information*

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Alexakis Winery**

**Chania Lighthouse**

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# HERAKLION

After breakfast, we'll visit Knossos, considered Europe's oldest city and known as the center of the 3000 to 1100 B.C. Minoan civilization. Then, we'll visit a local Cretan olive oil farm to learn about olive oil production and taste olive oil and traditional raki (a Cretan spirit). Tonight, we'll savor a Cretan dinner at a local restaurant.

*Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner*

*Hotel – TBD, an update will be provided to you as soon as we have the information*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Knossos Cretan Olive Oil Farm

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# HERAKLION - INTRA VACATION AIR - ATHENS

Today, we will fly back to Athens and transfer to our hotel with time at leisure before celebrating our journey with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

*Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner*

*Hotel – Hotel Zafolia or similar*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Farewell Dinner

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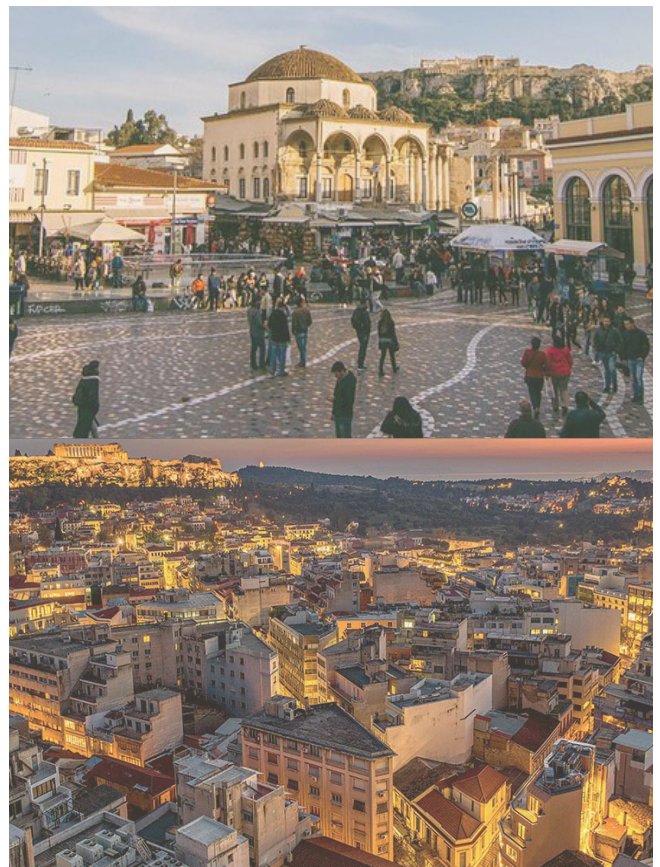
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# DEPART ATHENS, GREECE

Have breakfast at the hotel before you transfer to the airport for your flight home.

*Meal Included – Breakfast*

*While we do our best to outline the planned itinerary, all events listed are subject to change. Whenever adjustments are needed, our tour director will ensure appropriate alternative plans. Impromptu changes can occur due to local issues.*

## mobility guidelines

*While there are not long walking tours or hikes, on select days, the itinerary will require that guests be comfortable on their feet for longer periods of time. We often tour wineries, cellars, and other historic locations that may have uneven cobblestones and stairs. We've endeavored to find a balance so there is ample time to relax and enjoy lunch or a unique site. Your tour director will give you an explanation of each day's activities the day prior, including the amount of activity involved. Please advise us of any mobility issues at the time of booking so we can work with our ground handlers to best accommodate you.*

## inclusions

### INCLUDED

**11 nights' accommodations at superior first-class hotels**

**Sightseeing, tours, activities, and attractions as shown**

**Internal air and ferry transportation as shown in itinerary**

**Breakfast daily, two lunches, nine dinners. Lunches and dinners include two glasses of wine**

**Tour director, Cooper's Hawk host**

**Private coach throughout**

**Taxes**

**Gratuities for tour director and coach driver**

### NOT INCLUDED

**International airfare**

**Meals when not mentioned as included**

**Room service and personal room charges**

**Excess baggage and portorage**

**Local guide gratuities,**

**Trip cancellation and travel insurance**

**Additional pre/post nights**



## rates

**\$7,447**

Double occupancy (per person)

**\$9,157**

Single occupancy

*Space is limited on this tour, and it will be sold on a first-come basis upon receipt of deposit.  
You must have a valid passport for travel to Greece. Your U.S. passport must be valid for six months beyond your return date.  
Please read through the booking terms and conditions for further details and important information.*

## deposit & final payment

**\$2,000 DEPOSIT (NON-REFUNDABLE)**

per person, due upon making reservations

**FINAL PAYMENT**

due by February 28, 2025

*This tour requires a minimum of 20 participants to operate at the prices shown. Falling below 20 participants may create additional costs. A nonrefundable deposit of \$2,000 per person is due upon making reservations, along with a signed Booking Terms & Conditions form. Final payment will be due Feb. 28, 2025. Forms of payment include MasterCard, Visa, or American Express. This tour is nonrefundable.*

## airfare

*Airfare is not included, but we are happy to assist you in securing your air tickets. You need to arrive in Athens, Greece, on May 13, 2025, which means you need to depart the U.S. on May 12, 2025. An arrival transfer will be included. Your first event is a welcome dinner, so we recommend you land by 2 p.m. Your departure home is from Athens on May 24, 2025, at a time convenient for your flight itinerary.*

## land cancellation policy

*Trip cancellation and travel insurance are recommended and will be quoted at the time of booking. Air tickets are nonrefundable from the time of ticketing. No name changes are allowed on air tickets.*

## reservations



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