

GREECE · ISLANDS · BEACHES · NIGHTLIFE · HISTORY · FOOD

Cyclades (Santorini, Mykonos, Naxos)

The classic Greek island-hopping group, from Santorini's caldera cliffs and Mykonos's beach clubs to the long sandy beaches and mountain villages of Naxos and Paros. Non-stop summer flights reach Santorini and Mykonos in about four hours from London; ferries do the rest. June and September give the best balance of warm sea, wind and prices.

 Read the UK government's travel advice for Greece and entry requirements before you go.

 COUNTRY Greece	 BEST TIME Jun, Sep	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 3h 55m direct ~£170–£520 return	 DAILY BUDGET £75–£380 £££ Expensive
 WARMEST MONTH July (28°C)	 SEA TEMPERATURE 16–25°C coolest–warmest	 TIME ZONE Athens +2h vs UK now	 CURRENCY Euro £1 ≈ €1.19

A Cyclades trip usually links two or three islands by ferry, flying into Santorini or Mykonos and adding Naxos or Paros, which are larger, cheaper and better for sandy beaches. Santorini suits couples paying for a caldera view; Mykonos suits beach clubs, nightlife and a big budget; Naxos suits families, food lovers and walkers; Paros sits between them, with a pretty harbour at Naousa and good ferry links. July and August bring the meltemi, a strong north wind that tempers the heat but can make crossings rough, along with peak crowds and prices. Most hotels and many ferry routes scale back sharply from November to April.

Highlights

- 1

NATURE

Oia and the caldera path

Whitewashed villages cling to the rim of a flooded volcanic crater. Walk the path of roughly 10 km from Fira through Imerovigli to Oia in the morning, and watch sunset somewhere other than Oia's packed castle viewpoint.
- 2

HISTORY

Akrotiri

A Bronze Age town buried by Santorini's eruption around 3,600 years ago, preserved under ash with multi-storey houses, paved streets and drains. A modern roof covers the site; its finest frescoes are in Athens and Fira's prehistoric museum.
- 3

HISTORY

Delos

An uninhabited island that was a sanctuary of Apollo and a great trading port, with the Terrace of the Lions, mosaic-floored houses and a theatre. Boats leave from Mykonos Town's old port in the morning; shade is scarce, so bring water.
- 4

ARCHITECTURE

Naxos Chora and the Portara

The huge marble doorway of an unfinished temple frames sunsets beside Naxos harbour, below a Venetian kastro of lanes and mansions. Nearby Agios Prokopios, Agia Anna and Plaka are among the best sandy beaches in the Cyclades.

5

CITY

Little Venice and the windmills, Mykonos

Balconied houses hang over the water in Little Venice, below a ridge of thatched windmills. The whitewashed lanes of Mykonos Town are best explored early, before cruise passengers arrive, then revisited for sunset drinks.

Where to stay

WHERE TO STAY

Imerovigli, Santorini

The highest village on the caldera rim, quieter than Oia and Fira, with views of Skaros Rock; suits couples with a honeymoon budget.

WHERE TO STAY

Mykonos Town

A walkable old town of bars, boutiques and restaurants, with buses to the south-coast beaches and water taxis along them; suits groups and big spenders.

WHERE TO STAY

Naxos Town

A lively harbour town with a beach on its doorstep and buses to the sandy west coast; suits families, food lovers and anyone watching costs.

WHERE TO STAY

Naousa, Paros

A fishing harbour turned stylish resort, with good beaches nearby and an easy hop to Parikia's ferry port; suits couples and island-hoppers.

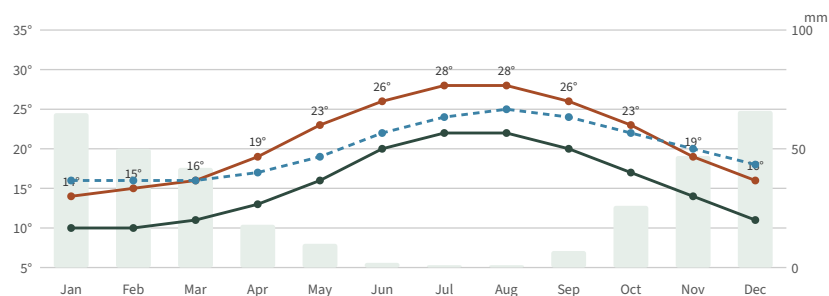
When to go to Cyclades (Santorini, Mykonos, Naxos)

Best time: **Jun, Sep.**



Average climate in Santorini (Fira)

— High °C
 — Low °C
 — Sea °C
 ■ Rain (mm)



How much does Cyclades (Santorini, Mykonos, Naxos) cost?

SHOESTRING

£75

per person / day
≈ €89.28

MID-RANGE

£170

per person / day
≈ €202

COMFORTABLE

£380

per person / day
≈ €452

Per person per day excluding flights. Return flights from London typically cost £170 off-peak and £520 in school holidays.

Visas & entry for Cyclades (Santorini, Mykonos, Naxos)

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Greece, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period without a visa. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

The requirements for working in Greece are different. If you are a touring creative, see details about the Uniform (Schengen) visa.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations

See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Bat Lyssavirus

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Greece

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Wed 28 Oct 2026	Ohi Day
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Sat 26 Dec 2026	Glorifying Mother of God
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Wed 6 Jan 2027	Epiphany
Mon 15 Mar 2027	Green Monday
Thu 25 Mar 2027	Independence Day
Fri 30 Apr 2027	Good Friday

Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Mon 3 May 2027	Easter Monday
Tue 4 May 2027	Labour Day (observed)
Mon 21 Jun 2027	Pentecost Monday
Sun 15 Aug 2027	Dormition of the Mother of God

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Know before you go

Book ferries on the operators' sites or Ferryhopper, and pick the large conventional Blue Star boats on windy days: slower than the catamarans, but far steadier when the meltemi blows.

Santorini and Mykonos are among Greece's priciest places. Base yourself on Naxos or Paros, an hour or two away by fast ferry, and give the famous pair a night or two.

Plugs, money, phrases, emergency numbers and more: see our Greece guide.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.