



Greece ...

After All these years!

June 11-June 19, 2010



TravelSmart Partners





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Itinerary



June 11, 2010 Arrive Athens . Afternoon free to rest and explore. In the evening we'll explore my favorite haunts in the Plaka! Overnight at the Divani Palace Acropolis: (www.divanis.com)

June 12, 2010 Depart Hotel for Piraeus and our home for the next 7 days, the **MS APILIOTIS**.

After settling in and meeting our crew, we begin our journey with a stop at Kea. For the rest of the week we visit the following islands, however an exact itinerary is impossible. On Mykonos and Santorini we will need more time than the others. So, rather than exact dates, I'm including a little background and information on each place. No schedule is the goal!

Kea

Kea:The Greek island of Kea is known for many things. It has exceptional beaches and one of the best system of walking paths and trails of any Greek island. Kea is a hiker's paradise with numbered routes that take you through a variety of landscapes to remote coves and the ruins of ancient cities. The restaurants on Kea are among the best in Greece.



Kea is the ancient Hydrossa, home of the nymphs who lived near the many springs and fountains which kept the island lush during pre-historic times. These nymphs were chased off the island by a fierce lion and from this point on

the island became dry and less-fertile and ruled by the star Sirius. The inhabitants appealed to the semi-god Aristaios, son of Apollo and the nymph Kyrini who rescued the island. The highest point on the island was designated as a sanctuary to the rain-god Ikmaios Zeus and from then on things got better.



It is believed that these myths predate those of the Olympian Gods.

Syros

Syros: Lovers of the elusive 'real Greece' pretty much all agree that the island of Syros is a special place. The town of Hermoupolis is the capital of the Cyclades and one of the most architecturally fascinating ports in the Mediterranean, a living museum with some of the most beautiful old buildings in Greece and is one of the most cosmopolitan towns in the Greek islands. Seaside villages like Kini offer low-key holidays on beautiful beaches without the lines of beach chairs and umbrellas, nor the throbbing endless disco beat you will find blasting at the over-exploited beaches on some of the more popular islands. Syros is a real Greek Island, fun to visit any time of the year.



Mykonos

Mykonos: The town of Mykonos is one of the best examples of Cycladic architecture and is a maze of streets and alleys so that you never know where you will end up. But along the way you will see things that may surprise you, from a branch of your favorite boutique that you assumed only existed in Manhattan, to expensive French restaurants, traditional churches, gold shops, tavernas, an internet cafe and a pelican named Peter who would be in his mid sixties had he not been replaced so often. It is quite easy to get lost here but chances are you will find your way out before morning. Check out the Gallery of Yiannis Galati, one of Greece's most famous designer-artists and a lover of the island. Thousands of celebrities have visited his little shop. Across the street at Lalaounis jewelry museum they give away the best maps of the island and in the evenings have a wine tasting.



Paros

Paros :Paros has a deserved reputation for being a friendly island, and the main port of Parikia certainly seems to welcome you with open arms.

Beyond the port the island rises through gentle slopes to Mt Profitis Ilias (770m). White marble made Paros prosperous from the Early Cycladic period onwards – most famously, the *Venus de Milo* was carved from Parian marble, as was Napoleon’s tomb. The other major settlement, Naousa, on the north coast, is a charming resort with a colourful fishing harbour and a developing waterside lounge scene that may one day rival that of Mykonos. On the east coast is the charming low-key resort of Piso Livadi. Deep at the heart of Paros is the peaceful mountain village of Lefkes.



Santorini

Santorini Santorini is like three islands. One side is the caldera with the villages of Thira, Imerovigli, Firastefani and Oia perched so far above the sea that it may as well be a painting. It is virtually impossible to not be impressed with the beauty of these towns.



Akrotiri, on the southern tip is known of course for the famous ruins from the Minoan period. There are the ruins of Akrotiri which some claim is evidence that the people that once

populated the island may or may not have been the civilization of Atlantis. For all Santorini has to offer, it's fine beaches, active nightlife, restaurants, raki (like ouzo but stronger and does not taste like licorice), excellent wines (the volcanic soil and climate make the island one of the best places to grow grapes in the world), it's the volcano that is the star of the island. Take it away and all you have is another island. The black sand beaches, the wine, the raki are all by-products of the explosion that destroyed life on the island and created in it's place a destination that offers what few others do, that is not only fun but profoundly dramatic in scenery. I don't think you could go to another planet and be more impressed then you will be when you see Santorini for the first time.

Folegandros

Folegandros: This unspoiled Cycladic island has been called "an untouched piece of true Greece".

Folegandros has little in the way of package tourist amenities or major roads and those who come to the island looking for organized water-sports, discos and wild nightlife will be disappointed. But a lack of nightlife does not mean a lack of good restaurants and cafes for after all, on a quiet island, once you have walked through the hills in solitude, smelling the wild thyme, oregano and the array of colorful wildflowers in the spring, what better way to end the day than with a nice meal and some good wine? Like its neighbors Sifnos and Milos, Folegandros cuisine has not been gentrified yet.



Hora (Folegandros town) is one of the oldest traditional medieval towns in the Cyclades; the buildings stand close to one another creating the external wall of the castle (kastro). The Hora, closed to car and motorcycle traffic, has a unique centre of three squares in a row, with trees under which to enjoy a drink or a bite to eat in a quiet, romantic atmosphere. It is no exaggeration to describe Hora as one of the most aesthetically picturesque, traditional villages of its kind.

Sifnos

Sifnos: Sifnos is a mountainous island with fertile valleys, beautiful beaches and several towns. It has a long [history](#) and has been inhabited since 3000 BC. For people who are looking for the 'real Greece' and yet still wouldn't mind a little nightlife, Sifnos is the place to go. The Sifniots are also known throughout Greece as being the finest cooks and the local restaurants bear testimony. It has also attracted some of the finest chefs from around Greece and Europe.



Serifos

Serifos : An unspoiled Greek island with some of the most beautiful beaches in Greece, an amazing hora, great food and few tourists. Serifos is an island renowned for its excellent food and relaxed atmosphere. It is a popular summer resort amongst the Greeks, but has not been too commercialized since the mass tourism hasn't reached this little pearl just yet.

According to mythology, the island of Serifos, “the iron island”



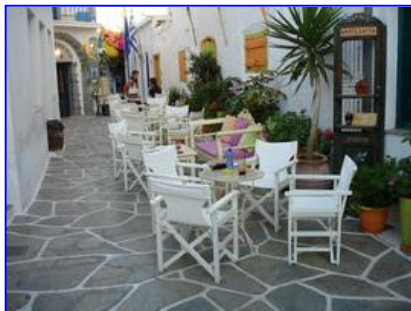
as they used to call it, was inhabited by the giants called Cyclops. The tremendous Cyclops lived in a cave near Psaropyrgos and the construction of huge walls all over the island – whose remains are said to be the walls of Liomandra and White Tower – is attributed to them. Cyclops, the children of Poseidon, were the first to exploit the mineral wealth of the island and to create an early civilization, which they later bequeathed to people.

The capital, Chora, has an ancient citadel, which has been used through history to protect the locals from pirates and foreign invaders. Here, there is also an archaeological museum and a church from the 18th century.



Kythnos

June 19 Kythnos/Athens: The island of Kythnos is the in the Western Cyclades between Kea and Serifos. Just under three hours from Pireaus on a slow ferry, and a little more than an hour by high speed, Kythnos is an island of magnificent beaches, numerous white churches, and a history that goes back to the Melolithic era, around 9000 B.C. The island is said to be named for Kyhno, the leader of the Dryopons who settled the island from Evia though some say the name derives from the ancient Greek word *kefthemon*, meaning *a dark place to hide*, perhaps referring to the deep valleys, caves and mines and even forests which dotted the island during early antiquity. Aristotle referred to the state of Kythnos as being ideal.



Athens

Athens: Return to US or take the opportunity to see more of Athens in this optional 2 night extension. Accommodations are at the Divani Palace Acropolis (www.divanis.com), convenient to all of the major attractions of Athens. Rate includes a double room and Buffet Breakfasts.



A graphic consisting of a light blue rounded rectangle with the text "Terms/Conditions" inside, set against a black oval background.

Terms/Conditions

Total Price: €2446 per person/double occupancy

PLEASE NOTE: PRICES QUOTED ARE IN EUROS

Inclusions:

- 7 Day Private Cruise-limit 8 people
- Number of Hotel Nights: 1
- Transfer from hotel to port and return
- Meals: (Apiliotis only) Half Board
- Porterage one bag/person
- Travel Bag/guide book
- Extensions Available
- Crew of three

Excluded:

Items of a personal nature; non-scheduled meals; alcoholic beverages; insurance; gratuities.

**✓Optional 2 day post-tour stay in Athens, June 19-20:
€310 per room/double occupancy**



Terms/Conditions

- **Booking Information:** A deposit of .35% per person is required at time of registration. Booking of passage is contingent upon acceptance by the traveler of the complete Terms and Conditions governing the tour, copies of which will be provided by TravelSmart upon receipt of the registration deposit.
- Second deposit of .30% is due March 15, 2010.
- Final deposit of .35% is due by May 15, 2010.
- Currency Converter is available at:
www.oanda.com/currency/converter. Please adjust payments to reflect the rate on the day you are sending payment. Hopefully, the dollar will improve by Spring!
- Payments may be made to TravelSmart Partners, LLC by personal check, money order or ACH Transfer. Please contact Ann for details.

Cancellation by traveler: All cancellations must be in writing and are effective as of the day they are received. Prior to passage being booked, deposit is fully refundable. After passage is booked, if cancellation is requested on or before March 15, all refunds will be subject to a \$250.00 per-person penalty. If cancellation is requested thereafter, no refund will be made.

✓ **Trip Cancellation Insurance is available through TravelSmart as well as others and is highly recommended.**



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