



Food & Wine: A Taste of Greece

11 days | 15 days with Santorini & Athens extension

See how historic traditions and modern-day culture have swirled together to create Greece's current food and wine scene. Start in Thessaloniki, the country's culinary hub, before making your way down to Athens to explore some of the nation's ancient wonders. Then, continue on to Crete where the area's flavorful cuisine comes to life inside the local markets. From mainland wine regions to island vineyards, you'll experience the wonders of Greek wine while indulging in locally sourced, fresh foods on this small group Food & Wine Tour.



Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 2 wine tastings
- 1 liquor tasting
- 4 tastings
- 1 cooking class
- 4 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights

Included highlights

- Thessaloniki
- Epanomi wine tasting
- Acropolis
- Palace of Knossos
- Iraklio wine tasting
- Cretan market visit
- Archanes women's co-op
- Greek cooking class

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep hills and stairs.

Group size

12-22

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Thessaloniki today.

Thessaloniki → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Thessaloniki

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Greece! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Thessaloniki & wine tasting

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, wine tasting

Set out on a guided tour to get to know Thessaloniki, the second-largest city of the former Byzantine empire and a modern-day hub for Greek culture.

- View the Rotunda, which was built for Roman Emperor Galerius in the 4th century.
- Pass by the Hagios Demetrios and Hagia Sophia churches.
- See the Roman-style city walls that were constructed during the early 3rd century.
- Walk along the seaside promenade to view the White Tower of Thessaloniki, one of the city's central landmarks.
- Stop to try some local olives.
- Visit the Ladadika district and enjoy free time to explore at your leisure.

This afternoon, head south to the Epanomi wine region and visit the Ktima Gerovassiliou winery.

- Follow a guide on a short walk through the vineyard to see Malagousia and Assyrtiko grapes that are used to create the winery's signature red and white Epanomi wines.
- Tour the production area.
- Explore the on-site museum to see well-preserved artifacts that are essential to the history of Greek winemaking including bottles, barrels, and corkscrews.
- Sample some of the wines during a tasting.

Day 4: Free day in Thessaloniki

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Thessaloniki or add an excursion

+ Ruins of Vergina & Naoussa Wine Tavern Lunch

Athens → 2 nights

Day 5: Athens via Volos

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Travel from Thessaloniki to the seaside city of Volos. Located on the Pelion Peninsula, this area is known for its culinary scene. During an included lunch, you'll try *mezedes*, or small plates, and *tsipouro*, an anise-flavored brandy. After, continue on to Athens and spend a free evening in the city or add an excursion.
+ Michelin-Starred Dinner in Athens

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Athens

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

A local guide introduces you to the ancient highlights and traditional flavors of this bustling capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Set off on a guided walking tour of the Plaka District and the markets of Monastiraki neighborhood.
- Stop to sample a variety of cheeses and *loukoumades*, a type of sweet fried dough.
- See the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion on a walking tour of the Acropolis.

Enjoy free time in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Mount Lycabettus Dinner

Heraklion → 1 night

Day 7: Flight to Crete & sightseeing tour of Heraklion

Included meals: breakfast, dinner, tasting, liquor tasting

Today, fly to Crete and take a guided sightseeing tour of Heraklion, the largest city on the island.

- Enter the city's Old Market to sample traditional cheeses from villages around Crete.
- Visit the ruins of Knossos, where King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in a labyrinth, according to the myth.

Tonight, sample some of Greece's most well-known liquors including Ouzo, Metaxa, and Raki. Then, enjoy an included dinner of Cretan specialties and regional wine.

Chania → 2 nights

Day 8: Chania via Iraklio wine country

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting, wine tasting

Travel through the Iraklio wine country on your way to Chania today, and make several stops along the way.

- Pay a visit to the village of Archanes and step inside a workshop where local women prepare traditional baked goods and preserves.
- Sample some of their homemade jams and baked goods.
- Tour a Cretan vineyard and enjoy an included lunch and wine tasting featuring varietals produced from Kotsifali, Mandilaria, and Malvasia grapes.

Then, continue on to Chania where you'll take a guided tour.

- Step inside the Chania Cathedral Trimartiri and Etz Hayyim, the only synagogue on the island and a symbol of the city's ages-old Jewish community.
- Pass the Mosque Yiali Tzami as you walk along the old Venetian harbor.
- See the famous Egyptian lighthouse.

Day 9: Cretan cooking class

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Today, head to a local cooking school where you'll prepare regional dishes alongside a professional chef. Then, enjoy drinking Greek wine and eating the foods you cooked for lunch. Later, enjoy a free evening in Chania or add an excursion.

+ Crete Olive Oil Tasting & Dinner

Athens → 1 night

Day 10: Flight to Athens

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Fly to Athens this morning. Tonight, gather with your group to celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner.

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to explore Santorini and Athens.

+ Santorini & Athens extension

Want another dose of Greece's ancient history and laid-back lifestyle? Take a ferry to Santorini to see it all alongside a local expert. Then, fly to Athens and let the myth-filled streets call you back.

Santorini → 3 nights

Day 11: Ferry to Santorini

Included meals: breakfast

Take a ferry to Santorini, then enjoy free time to discover the island's charming culture and awe-inspiring landscapes.

Please note: For an additional cost, you can book a visit to the village of Oia through your Tour Director. The visit will either take place on the evening of day 11 or the morning of day 13.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Santorini

Included meals: breakfast

Take in the local sights on a guided tour of Santorini, a volcanic isle known for its black-sand beaches, cliff-lined shores, and stunning whitewashed architecture.

- Visit the prehistoric settlements that were unearthed during the archaeological excavations at Akrotiri.
- Ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for panoramic views of the whole island.
- Stop in the small, picturesque village of Pyrgos.

Spend a free afternoon and evening in Santorini or add an excursion.

+ Santorini Wine Tasting & Dinner

Day 13: Free day in Santorini

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Santorini or add an excursion.

+ Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

Athens → 1 night

Day 14: Flight to Athens

Included meals: breakfast

Fly back to Athens today. Sip a farewell drink with your fellow travelers as you celebrate your trip.

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/TGO | 1-800-597-0350

Day 4: Ruins of Vergina & Naoussa Wine Tavern Lunch

\$135/\$145* (8 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Located in between the modern day villages of Palatitsia and Vergina lies the UNESCO World Heritage Archaeological Site of Aigai. With your local guide leading the way, you'll learn about and explore the ruins of the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom. A site of both cultural and political importance, Aigai was where Alexander the Great was declared the king of the Macedonian Empire. After your tour, enjoy free time to visit the Museum of Royal Tombs of Aigai where Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, is buried. Then, pass through the eastern slopes of the Vermio Mountains to visit the Naoussa wine region. Widely regarded as one of Greece's top area's for viticulture, you'll visit a wine tavern and enjoy a lunch of Macedonian specialties paired with wines produced in the Naoussa region.

Day 5: Michelin-Starred Dinner in Athens

\$155/\$165* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Make your way to a Michelin-starred restaurant in Athens, for the incredible opportunity to enjoy some of the city's best gourmet food prepared by world-class chef. The restaurant's contemporary and elegant space boasts an open terrace where you'll relax while enjoying a six-course tasting menu paired with local wine. The expert restaurant staff who will be serving you will provide an explanation for each dish so that you can learn more about the restaurant's approach to their culinary creations—and why its earned them a coveted Michelin star, one of the highest honors a chef can get.

Day 6: Mount Lycabettus Dinner

\$99/\$109* (4 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

This evening, board a funicular up to the top of Mount Lycabettus, the highest point in the city of Athens. Relax and admire the sight of sprawling Athens as you ride up to the hill's summit, roughly 900 feet above the city below. Once there, sit down for an included dinner at Orizontes restaurant, and tuck into Mediterranean dishes as you savor a sunset and one-of-a-kind views of the Acropolis. End the night by riding the funicular back down Mount Lycabettus and returning to your hotel. Please note: Travelers must feel comfortable climbing some stairs to enter the funicular. Additionally, we recommend dressing in business casual attire, but it isn't required.

Day 9: Crete Olive Oil Tasting & Dinner

\$99/\$109* (4.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Head to a local olive oil farm outside of Chania where you'll enjoy an olive oil and wine tasting. Dip into the extra-virgin olive oil with a side of fresh-baked bread, then try five different wine varieties served with a dish of Cretan delicacies. End your night of food, wine, and

fun with a dinner overlooking the stunning vineyard and olive groves.

Extension excursion options

Day 12: Santorini Wine Tasting & Dinner

\$89/\$99* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Santorini's volcanic landscape and nutrient-rich soil nurture a wealth of outstanding vineyards. On this excursion, you'll tour a local winery and learn about how the grape vines are trained to grow close to the ground to protect themselves from the strong ocean winds. Then, sit down for a light dinner and tasting featuring some signature varietals including Assyrtiko and Vin Santo.

Day 13: Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

\$149 (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Board a catamaran and sail in comfort through Santorini's awe-inspiring caldera on this scenic excursion. You'll cruise around the volcanic island of Nea Kameni for views of the picture-perfect cliffside village of Oia (pronounced "EE-ah"). Situated on the western end of the island, Oia was once a maritime center, and stately captains' houses still sit on its high ridges. Spend the afternoon on the open waters as you snorkel in the ocean, sunbathe on the deck of the catamaran, and swim in a natural hot spring that was once the crater of a volcano. You'll enjoy unlimited wine, water, and soft drinks, as well as a buffet-style dinner of home-cooked Greek specialties, on board the boat as you take in the beautiful scenery. Please note: We recommend packing a bathing suit. This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through mid-October only. It is also weather-dependent. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms