

Santorini

Cyclades // Santorini by Greeka.com

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Index of Santorini

About Santorini	2
Villages	3
Oia	3
Fira	3
Firostefani	3
Imerovigli	3
Akrotiri	3
Megalochori	3
Beaches	5
Red Beach	5
Kamari	5
Perissa	5
Perivolos	5
Vlychada	5
Sightseeing	6
Caldera	6
Romantic Sunset	6
Volcano And Hot Springs	6
Museum Of Prehistoric Thera	6
Take A Donkey Ride	6
Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral	6
Ancient Thera	6
Some Accommodations	8
Tamarix Del Mar Suites	8
Pegasus Suites	8
Santorini Princess	8
Armeni	8
Remezzo	8
Other places of interest	10
Fanari	10
Ampelos	10
Archipelagos	10
Watersports	11
Wave Sports	11
Diving	12
Dive Center Santorini	12

About Santorini

Its incredible scenery attracts thousands of visitors every year to Santorini for vacation, honeymoon and **wedding ceremonies**. The island has also attracted several movie productions, including Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life.

The island of Santorini faces the caldera, the famous submerged volcano crater situated in the middle of a basin with water. In the ancient times, the island of Santorini was called Strogili, which means "round" in Greek and a myth says that it was created in a miraculous way. After a terrible volcanic eruption, the centre of the island sank in the sea, leaving only the crater and the imposing cliffs. From these cliffs, one can admire the most stunning little villages that seem suspended in the sky and the unique wild **nature** of the island.

These villages consist of white typical Cycladic houses with blue painted windows facing the black volcanic rock of the caldera: a sight that has inspired artists and ordinary people, especially in the sunset when the horizon is tainted by the amazing colors of pale red and orange.

The name "Santorini" comes from "Santa Irene", although its official Greek name is Thera. It is located at the south of the Cyclades islands, between Ios and Anafi. The capital is Fira but the most picturesque village of Santorini is Oia. Popular resorts also include Firostefani and Imerovigli. The most famous beach is Red Beach but nice beaches also include Perissa, Kamari, Perivolos and Vlychada.

The most important sight of Santorini is certainly the volcano, whose eruption changed the course of world history. The first eruption of the volcano is estimated at around 1500 BC and archaeologists say it was so strong that the tsunami waves destroyed the Minoan towns in Crete. The last eruption was a few years ago, in 1956, and today the volcano is still alive today. Some legends lead to believe that the destruction of Santorini could be related to the myth of **Atlantis**, the rich town that sunk in a day and night.

Villages of Santorini

Oia

Location: 11 km north west of Fira

Description: Oia, pronounced "Ia", is the most famous of all villages of Santorini. It is world known for its quite life and the fantastic sunset. Obviously the most beautiful and picturesque village of Santorini.

Sightseeing: Museum Of Musical Instruments, Nautical Museum, Romantic Sunset, Thirassia Island

Fira

Location: 10 km from the main port, Athinaios

Description: Fira is the capital of Santorini and the main transport hub of the island. Although it gets very busy in summer, it still offers some of the greatest view to the volcano and the famous caldera of Santorini.

Sightseeing: Archaeological Museum, Bellonio Cultural Centre, Caldera, Catholic Cathedral, Domenican Convent, Folklore Museum, Megaron Gyzi, Museum Of Prehistoric Thera, Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, Take A Donkey Ride, Volcano And Hot Springs

Firostefani

Location: 2 km north of Fira

Description: Firostefani is a small village within a walking distance from Fira. It is like a suburb to the capital of Santorini. It distinguishes for its traditional architecture, the wonderful view and its tourism development.

Sightseeing: Agios Nikolaos Monastery

Imerovigli

Location: 3 km north west of Fira

Description: Imerovigli is like an extension of Fira but it is situated on a higher cliff. Providing some very romantic views, Imerovigli is more quiet than Fira but still enough tourism developed.

Sightseeing: Skaros Rock

Akrotiri

Location: 10 km south west of Fira

Description: Akrotiri is a traditional village located next to famous Red beach and the most important archaeological site on Santorini. Still unspoilt by mass tourism, Akrotiri offers one of the most calm spots on the island.

Sightseeing: Akrotiri Minoan Site, Lighthouse, Venetian Castle

Megalochori

Location: 6 km south of Fira

Description: Still untouched by tourism, Megalochori keeps its beautiful architecture with the picturesque square, the narrow streets, the Neoclassical mansions and the typical cave houses of Santorini.

Sightseeing: Antoniou Wines, Boutari Winery

Beaches of Santorini

Red Beach

Location: 12 km south west of Fira

Description: Red beach is one of the most beautiful and famous beaches of Santorini. It has black and red volcanic pebbles and hot water.

Kamari

Location: 10 km south east of Fira

Description: The beach resort of Kamari is situated on the southern part of Santorini, right next to Perissa, with the enormous rock called Mesa Vouno between them.

Perissa

Location: 10 km south east of Fira

Description: Perissa is a tourist resort that gets very crowded in summer. An impressive and organized beach, Perissa has black sand on its shore. The remains of Ancient Thera are close by.

Sightseeing: Ancient Thera, Panagia Katefiani

Perivolos

Location: 10 km south of Fira

Description: Perivolos is the longest black sand of Santorini. This is an organized tourist resort with many hotels, taverns and beach bars.

Vlychada

Location: 10 km south of Fira

Description: Vlychada is a nice, organized beach on the southern side of Santorini. It has a small port where fishing boats and yachts moor in summer.

Sightseeing in Santorini

Caldera

Location: Fira

The Caldera of Santorini is undoubtedly one of the natural wonders of Earth. The volcanic explosion that occurred here more than 3,500 years ago changed forever the topography of the Mediterranean coast.

Romantic Sunset

Location: Oia

The sunset of Santorini is probably the most famous in the world. It is gorgeous from every part of the island, but the sunset in Oia is the best. Thousands of couples in love come to Santorini every year to see the sunset or get married with this lovely background.

Volcano And Hot Springs

Location: Fira

The famous volcano of Santorini stands in the middle of the sunken caldera, right opposite the coastline of Santorini. It is located on the island of Nea Kameni and many tour boats go there from Fira. On the neighbouring island of Palea Kameni, there are the hot springs, which are said to have curative properties.

Museum Of Prehistoric Thera

Location: Fira

The Museum of Prehistoric Thera is located in Fira and exhibits findings from the prehistoric times that have been excavated from Akrotiri, the Ancient Thera and other areas on Santorini. Exhibits include ceramics, marble statues, Minoan frescoes from Akrotiri, tools and weaponry.

Take A Donkey Ride

Location: Fira

Taking a donkey ride is one of the most popular activities on Santorini. Particularly, in Fira and Oia, donkey rides are very common. The most famous route is from the old port of Fira up to the town.

Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral

Location: Fira

The Orthodox Cathedral stands in Fira. Originally built in 1827, the church got serious damages from the earthquake that hit Santorini in 1956, so it was rebuilt. It has beautiful frescoes painted by the local artist Christoforos Assimis.

Ancient Thera

Location: Perissa

Ancient Thera is located on top of a cliff. The road there is a bit difficult and windy, but this is one of the must-see sights in Santorini. It is situated between two beautiful beaches, Kamari and Perissa.

Some Accommodations in Santorini

Tamarix Del Mar Suites

Location: Kamari

Class: Luxury

Number of rooms: 23

Type: Hotels, Apartments, Studios, Traditional Houses, Maisonettes, Suites, Junior Suites, Honeymoon

Phone: 0030 22860 31809

Tamarix del Mar is the newest 5 star hotel on the island. It is situated at the foothills of ancient Thira and is just a short walk from the beautiful black sand beach of Kamari. The hotel provides the convenience of modern amenities balanced perfectly with the charm of traditional Greece. Each suite is unique.

Pegasus Suites

Location: Imerovigli

Class: 4 Stars

Number of rooms: 15

Type: Hotels, Apartments, Studios, Traditional Houses, Suites, Junior Suites, Honeymoon

Website: www.pegasussuites.com

Phone: 0030 22860 28336

Pegasus is a new luxurious complex built in 2004. It consists of apartments and suites decorated and furnished in the traditional Cycladic way. In it you will admire our old antiques too. It is located in Imerovigli next to St Nikolaos Byzantine monastery. The altitude there is 330 meters and gives a direct view to the volcano, the Aegean and the amazing Santorinean sunset. Pegasus is only 1 km away from Fira, the island's capital.

Santorini Princess

Location: Imerovigli

Class: 4 Stars

Number of rooms: 22

Type: Hotels, Apartments, Traditional Houses, Bungalows, Suites, Honeymoon

Phone: 0030 22860 25870

Santorini Princess is situated on the enchanting and world famous caldera, 300m above the sea, having the most fascinating and unique view of the volcano and the little islands of the Aegean Sea, and of course the breathtaking sunset. The Santorini Princess Luxury Spa Hotel, is only 2,5 km away from the capital city of Fira. It is a new hotel, built in 2004, following the traditional cycladic architecture, with a single purpose to offer its guests modern convenience and service of high quality.

Armeni

Location: Oia

Class: 3 Stars

Number of rooms: 12

Type: Hotels

Phone: 0030 22860 71439

High on the edge of Caldera in the famous village of Oia, lies Armeni Village Rooms and Suites. Situated in a privileged location, 200 meters above sea level and merely a five-minutes white washed stroll from the center of Oia. Armeni Village combines the Cycladic architectural tradition and the serene scenery of Aegean. A selection of superior rooms, superior family rooms and junior suites built with respect to the traditional cave architecture of Santorini. Private balconies and verandas with unlimited views to the azure waters of the Aegean and the imposing natural setting of the Caldera.

Remezzo

Location: Imerovigli

Class: N/A

Number of rooms: 38

Type: Apartments, Studios, Traditional Houses, Bungalows, Maisonettes, Suites

Phone: 0030 22860 23030

Remezzo is nestled on the cliffside of the island's renowned Caldera with sublime views of Santorini.

The recent (Winter 2005) restoration work was realized in respect to the original local architecture. Vaulted internal spaces, curved edges and glass-brick skylights are some of the studios' and suites' predominant features that create a unique ambience of serenity and comfort.

The whitewashed verandas, private terraces and balconies offer exquisite moments of peace and tranquility while sunbathing after a dive in the swimming pool.

Other places of interest in Santorini

Fanari

Category: Restaurants

Location: Fira

Fanari Restaurant, located on a cliff side overlooking the sea boasts some splendid views of Santorini caldera and the sunset. The menu includes original Greek specialties prepared from locally available ingredients.

Ampelos

Category: Restaurants

Location: Fira

Located next to the main church of Fira with a magnificent view of the caldera, Restaurant Ampelos has a closed dining hall as well as an open terrace surrounded by a profusion of bougainvillea, geraniums and hibiscus.

Archipelagos

Category: Restaurants

Location: Fira

Archipelagos Restaurant is located at one of the most beautiful spots in Fira. Housed in a refurbished 19th century captain's home, that has been carved out of the volcanic cliff, the restaurant offers panoramic views of the island.

Watersports in Santorini

Wave Sports

Location: Perissa

Wave Sports Club is located in Perivolos Beach, Santorini and offers its clientele a friendly atmosphere in a warm and pleasing environment. Wave Sports Club is located at Perivolos Beach, in Santorini; in fact, it is attached to the well-known "Chili" Bar, so it is really easy for you to find.

Diving in Santorini

Dive Center Santorini

Location: Perissa

Diving has become a popular sport in the recent times and many tourists prefer to explore the volcanic island by diving underwater. Santorini Dive Center operates from Perissa Beach as well as Akrotiri and has quick access to all good sites, which can be easily reached from the dive station at the small beach located below the cliffs of Akrotiri.

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A

Akrotiri Village 3
Ampelos 10
Ancient Thera 6
Archipelagos 10
Armeni 8

C

Caldera 6

D

Dive Center Santorini 12

F

Fanari 10
Fira Village 3
Firostefani Village 3

I

Imerovigli Village 3

K

Kamari Beach 5

M

Megalochori Village 3
Museum Of Prehistoric Thera 6

O

Oia Village 3
Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral 6

P

Pegasus Suites 8
Perissa Beach 5
Perivolos Beach 5

R

Red Beach 5
Remezzo 8
Romantic Sunset 6

S

Santorini Princess 8

T

Take A Donkey Ride 6
Tamarix Del Mar Suites 8

V

Vlychada Beach 5
Volcano And Hot Springs 6

W

Wave Sports 11