



## GREECE: ATHENS & THE AEGEAN - A CONNECTIONS BOUTIQUE GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Discover an unmatched blend of ancient history and modern wonders in Greece, savouring the relaxed pace of island living and the lively bustle of Athens alike, and indulging in the rich variety of Mediterranean cuisine.

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Small Group Journeys, Connections Boutique Group Journeys



Europe, Greece



10 days from AU\$14,215 pp



24 Guests

## Journey Overview

Discover an unmatched blend of ancient history and modern wonders in Greece, savouring the relaxed pace of island living and the lively bustle of Athens alike, and indulging in the rich variety of Mediterranean cuisine.

### Journey Highlights

- Learn the secrets to great Greek cuisine at a private in-home cooking class in Oropos
- Visit some of the most renowned wonders of the ancient world, including the Acropolis, Parthenon and Palace of Knossos
- Pay an exclusive visit to an organic cosmetics producer to learn about traditional Greek products
- Stroll through the Minoan Bronze Age settlement of Akrotiri (reputed to be Atlantis), admiring its beautiful frescoes
- Admire the majestic Temple of Poseidon, built during the Golden Age of Ancient Athens



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Athens, Greece**

Arrive in Athens and transfer to your hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner.

***NEW Hotel | Meals: D***

### **Day 2: Athens | Temple Of Athena**

Visit the Acropolis Museum, marvelling at artifacts Athenians used in everyday life, as well as finds from the slopes of the Acropolis. Next, stroll the Plaka, filled with flower shops, taverns and charming boutiques. Enjoy lunch at leisure. In the evening, explore the Acropolis, one of the greatest icons of the ancient world, followed by dinner.

***NEW Hotel | Meals: BD***

### **Day 3: Oropos | Hands-On Culinary Experience**

Depart for the ancient town of Oropos, where you meet a local family in their home for an exclusive hands-on culinary experience. Then, explore the fifth-century ruins of the Amphiareion of Oropos.

***NEW Hotel | Meals: BL***

### **Day 4: Crete | Private Cruise To A Former Fortress**

Fly to the island of Crete and check in to your seaside accommodations in Agios Nikolaos, a coastal town that blends bustling city life with local art and a leisurely attitude. Embark on a private cruise to the island of Spinalonga, a protective outpost for the Cretan mainland built in 1579, where you wander the streets of this former fortress community.

***St. Nicolas Bay | Meals: BD***

### **Day 5: Crete | Palace Of Knossos & Lunch At A Winery**

Discover the Palace of Knossos, Crete's most famous historic attraction, then enjoy lunch at a winery. Next, explore the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, home of the world's best collection of Minoan art.

***St. Nicolas Bay | Meals: BL***

### **Day 6: Crete | Visits With Local Artisans**

In eastern Crete today, visit the Byzantine church of Panagia Kera, a 13th-century structure with impressive frescoes. Call on an organic cosmetics producer, and then explore Kritsa, renowned for its traditional weaving, and visit an olive oil maker for a tasting.

***St. Nicolas Bay | Meals: B***

### **Day 7: Santorini | Mythical Atlantis**

Journey to Santorini by high-speed catamaran. Travel north to Fira to enjoy lunch. Check in to your hotel, then continue to Akrotiri, a Minoan Bronze Age settlement preserved in volcanic ash from the ancient eruption of the island. The site has been suggested as a possible inspiration for Plato's story of Atlantis. Explore the beautiful village of Oia and enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

***Vedema Resort | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 8: Santorini | Island Living**

Start your day with the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, home to the island's finest collection of artifacts from the fourth and fifth centuries. Then, embark on an exploration of the life and sites of Santorini before enjoying time at leisure at your resort.

***Vedema Resort | Meals: BL***

### **Day 9: Athens | Breathtaking City Views**

Fly to Athens and visit the Temple of Poseidon, travelling along the shores of Cape Sounion. Take in the gorgeous vistas over the Aegean Sea as you imagine life for the ancient Greeks who built the temple. Travel to your waterfront resort, where you settle in and enjoy some time at leisure. This evening, gather for a special farewell dinner in the hotel's restaurant overlooking the sea.

***Cape Sounio | Meals: BD***

### **Day 10: Depart Athens**

Transfer to Athens Airport and board your onward flight.

***Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

Internal air included: Athens/Heraklion; Santorini/Athens

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:30 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 9.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

## Included with this Connections Boutique Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Boutique Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

## Map



## Accommodation

### Vedema, A Luxury Collection Resort, Santorini



Vedema Resort is a world unto itself. Built around a 400 year old winery in the unspoilt medieval village of Megalohori, this stylish resort consists of 45 pastel-hued townhouses. Larger than the hotel Perivolos in Oia and good for families, its townhouses are constructed in traditional Greek style and domed with distinctive cupolas.

All the villas have marble bathrooms, island-style furnishings and terraces. The 4 villas with private pools are models of fresh minimalism originally inspired by the simple island lodges, and 'barefoot chic' philosophy, found throughout Santorini, while the Presidential Villa is a masterpiece of luxury and style.

This resort is packed with historical features. In particular, the atmospheric 'Canava' Wine Bar is a converted 400 years old catacomb in the middle of Vedema Resort. Utterly unique, it is a cool and authentically Grecian space.

#### Why we like it

- Surrounded by a wall like a fortified town, Vedema Resort is situated in the medieval village of Megalochori
- The resort's townhouses provide views of rolling vineyards, the Aegean Sea and the beautiful sunsets beyond
- The 15th century-styled winery restaurant, ALATI serves an innovative seafood menu

whilst the Pool Restaurant offers light meals and Greek specialties

- At the Asian spa and Resort Spa they embrace and emulate the magic of Vedema - take advantage of the fully equipped Fitness centre featuring Cybex equipment, Sauna and Turkish bath facilities
- The hotel has an outdoor pool and a large outdoor Jacuzzi, as well as hammocks and sun beds among the olive and pistachio trees



## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Sep 4, 2024 - Sep 13, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$15,000 pp</b>	AU\$5,225	Included	Call for Availability

### Sep 18, 2024 - Sep 27, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$15,000 pp</b>	AU\$5,225	Included	Call for Availability

### Sep 25, 2024 - Oct 4, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$14,215 pp</b>	AU\$4,455	Included	Call for Availability

### Oct 2, 2024 - Oct 11, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$14,215 pp</b>	AU\$4,455	Included	Call for Availability

### Oct 9, 2024 - Oct 18, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$14,215 pp</b>	AU\$4,455	Included	Call for Availability

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