

The Greek Isles *By Design*



• **The Cyclades** *Southeast of Athens in the heart of the Aegean*

The word Cyclades comes from “circle” or “cycle,” and the islands circle the ancient religious center of Delos, a short boat ride from Mykonos and the sacred birthplace of Apollo. Its temple ruins lie silent now, watched over by a line of marble lions. Take your pick of one or more of the surrounding islands: lighthearted, cosmopolitan and beautiful Mykonos, whose facilities and night life are second to none; Paros, a lovely and lively island, full of domed churches and windmills; big and fertile Naxos, a favorite with history, art and beach buffs; Santorini, site of the lost civilization of Atlantis and ancient ruins, unspoiled villages and long black beaches, and Ios, believed to be Homer’s resting place.

• **The Dodecanese** *In the southeast quadrant of the Aegean*

An illustrious list of conquerors — from Romans to Arabs, to the knights of Saint John — occupied and enjoyed the group of fourteen Dodecanese Islands. Rhodes was and is the dominant member of the group, and travelers still seek out its Crusader city capital, its ancient sites, its long beaches. Second in this island group’s fame is Kos, whose most famous citizen was Hippocrates, the father of medicine; its most sought-after attractions are its pretty mountain villages and glorious beaches. Wonderfully appealing are the picturesque harbor and neoclassical mansions of Symi, just a boat ride from Rhodes.

• **The Island of Crete** *Greece’s largest island in the Mediterranean*

While all island groups served variously as crossroads of many civilizations, none is as old as Crete’s brilliant Minoan, which flourished between 3000 and 1400 B.C. and then disappeared under mysterious circumstances. Left behind were extraordinary artifacts, and visitors come to Crete to glimpse the remains of King Minos’ court at the Palace of Knossos. Here, and at the fabulous Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, you will witness the exuberance of Minoan life in the famous frescoes and pottery that portray the Minoan delight in nature, art, and sports. Epochs fly by when you find, on the same island, village church frescoes in one direction, painted during the Renaissance by El Greco and historic harbors and fine beach resorts in another direction.

• **The Northern Sporades** *In the Aegean, northeast of Athens*

These are the first and foremost relaxed and scientifically lovely holiday islands, with few historical sites to lure visitors away from the taverns, bars and informal nightclubs. Skiathos, closest to the mainland and most developed, is lively and sophisticated; its perimeter rimmed with an astounding 60 beaches, many of them literally golden. Skopelos is steep-sloped and pine-studded, long famous for its wine.

• **The Eastern Aegean Islands** *Northeast of Athens*

At the Easternmost part of the Aegean sea are the islands of Lesbos (Mytilene), Chios, and Samos. These islands played an important role in the development and creation of the Greek State. They achieved prominence around the 2nd millennium B.C. and enjoyed great prosperity, cultural and commercial success as attested by finds from ongoing excavations.

• **The Ionian Islands** *In a sea of their own off western Greece*

Seven principal islands, surrounded by hundreds of minor islets, make up the steep-walled Ionians off the west coast of Greece. Lush, fertile, gentle and sophisticated, the Ionian islands can be dazzling and often seem to be more Italian than Greek. In fact, Venetian occupation left the more telling mark: on islands dotted with Italianesque basilicas, bell towers and artistic icons, and in local dialects filled with Italian words. Corfu is known for its delightful 18th-century town, lush landscape and magnificent beaches.

• **The Saronic Islands** *Just south of Athens’ Port of Piraeus*

The Saronic Islands - Aegina, Paros, Hydra and Spetses - are a hop, skip and hydrofoil ride from Athens; close enough for a one-day excursion, but pleasurable enough for a longer stay. They are, in fact, the Athenians’ own favorite getaways. We know you will be at home on Hydra, whose lively little town rises from the harbor like an amphitheater and whose harbor is full of colorful boats and shops which hold all manner of crafts. You will certainly enjoy staying on Spetses, with fine beaches and like Hydra, with elegant mansions remaining from seafaring days. During your stay on either island, hop a hydrofoil to the Temple of Aphaia on Aegina or the few remaining pillars of the Temple of Poseidon on Paros.

The Greek Isles *By Design*

The Greek Isles Clients may purchase the basic Athens package consisting of a round trip airfare New York/Athens; transfers; 2 nights hotel accommodations at a choice of hotels; buffet breakfast daily; city sightseeing, hotel charges and taxes. Clients may then elect to choose from one or more islands with a stay of 3 nights in each Island. These stays may be extended by adding additional nights. Island packages include transportation and transfers.

Here's How It Works

1. Select your travel dates
2. Choose your hotel in Athens
3. Select the island(s) of your choice
4. Select the hotel(s) on the island(s) of your choice
5. Add transportation from your home city to New York (please inquire for rates)
6. Add the Athens Basic Package cost
7. Add the cost for the Island(s) package(s) (transportation to/from included)
8. Add U.S. and Greek airport departure taxes

The Cyclades

Mykonos
Santorini
Paros
Naxos
Ios

The Dodecanese

Rhodes
Kos
Symi

The Island of Crete

Chania
Hersonissos
Elounda Bay
Agios Nikolaos
Heraklion
Rethymnon

The Saronic Islands

Hydra
Spetses

The Northern Sporades

Skiathos
Skopelos

The Eastern Aegean Islands

Lesbos (Mytilene)
Chios
Samos

The Ionian Islands

Corfu



Mykonos

A Sample "By Design" Tour

Tom and Joan Smith, originating from Chicago, wish to travel to Greece and the Islands from May 20-29, 2005. They choose the Stanley Hotel for their basic 2-night package in Athens and for three nights each, they select the K-Hotels in Mykonos and the Volcano Views on the Island of Santorini†

†Minimum booking requirement is the "Basic Athens Tour Package" with air and 1 Island module or 3 Island modules. Otherwise an administration fee of \$50 per person will be charged.

10 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS COST PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

• Chicago	Add-On Airfare (approx.)	\$ 95.00
• NYC/Athens	Basic Package (Stanley Hotel)	999.00
• Mykonos	3 Nights K-Hotel package	349.00
• Santorini	3 Nights Volcano Views Studios package	489.00
• U.S. & Greek Airport Departure Taxes (approx.)		215.00
Total Cost of Tour		\$2147.00

TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM ISLANDS (INCLUDED IN ISLAND PACKAGES)

By Air

From/To Athens:	Mykonos, Santorini, Crete, Skiathos, Rhodes, Paros, Naxos, Kos, Corfu, Mytilene, Chios, Samos
From/To Mykonos:	Rhodes, Crete, Santorini
From/To Crete:	Rhodes, Santorini, Mykonos
From/To Rhodes:	Crete, Santorini, Mykonos
From/To Mytilene:	Chios, Samos
From/To Chios:	Mytilene
From/To Samos:	Mytilene

By Sea (Hydrofoil, Ferry)

From/To Mykonos:	Paros, Naxos, Santorini, Ios, Crete
From/To Crete:	Santorini, Mykonos, Paros, Naxos, Ios
From/To Rhodes:	Kos, Symi
From/To Skiathos:	Skopelos
From/To Paros:	Naxos, Santorini, Mykonos, Ios, Crete
From/To Chios:	Mytilene, Samos
From/To Mytilene:	Chios, Samos
From/To Samos:	Mytilene, Chios
From/To Ios:	Mykonos, Santorini, Paros, Naxos, Crete